

The Leavenworth Echo

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Upper Valley News Since 1904

A Ward Media Publication

 leavenworthecho.com



For **WARD Thinking:**
The strength of kindness
to strangers | **A2**



Backpack program continues to feed students in the area, despite challenges



A group of volunteers gathers every Wednesday to pack food for students and their families.

TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The United Methodist Church’s backpack program has been feeding students for almost a decade, but late last winter it lost the critical help of its

program leader, Dean Groby. Yet nearly a year later, the program is still going strong, feeding 55 students and their families across the school district.

For years Groby led the program, handling all of the logistics such as meal planning and bi-weekly

shopping. However, Groby had to step down at the end of last winter due to health reasons, and later passed away. This school year is the first full year without Groby leading the way.

“He did all of it and we just would come and pack and be happy as little clams. Now, we have to take

up the slack. But the people have really stepped up to do it, so that’s probably our biggest change really, and truly, we’ve just kept it rolling,” said Judy Weaver, a long-time volunteer.

See **BACKPACK** Page **B3**

Public shares concerns over Chelan PUD acquisition of Peshastin Water District

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PESHASTIN – On Jan. 17, Chelan PUD held a public forum at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary to update the community on its progress regarding its acquisition of Peshastin Water District (PWD). The forum included updates on its proposed capital improvement plan, financial options, and rate adders.

Due to existing debt and necessary capital improvements, the PUD developed two internal loan plans, referred to as the replacement loan and the new capital loan. PUD would use the replacement loan to cover external debts PWD currently owes, which should not affect customers, since payments would be supported by existing rate revenue.

The second proposed internal loan would provide the PUD construction cash for new capital projects, which would be supported by rate adders to the monthly bills of customers. In Sept. 2022, the estimated cost of the projects was \$3.1 million, and the rate adder was estimated at \$38 a month per residential customer.

After receiving feedback from prior meetings, Chelan PUD presented a refined capital improvement plan that would focus on PWD’s highest priority upgrades, such as a new well, the replacement of a booster pump, and a meter upgrade. Under the refined plan, PUD removed improvement projects that are common to existing PUD improvement needs.

The refinement reduced the estimated cost to \$2.67 million. At the request of PWD, Chelan PUD included a consideration for the water rights valuation, which was estimated at \$1 million. In doing so, the proposed rate adder was brought down to \$17 a month per residential customer, \$33 a month per commercial, and \$1,780 a month per industrial customer.

However, customers will transition to paying PUD rates, which are slightly lower than PWD rates. For example, an average-use residential customer is paying \$67 a month at the PWD rate, but would pay \$63 a month under PUD rates. With the \$17 a month rate adder, the customer would pay a difference of \$13 more per month. Average commercial customers would pay \$34 more per month, and industrial customers would pay \$1,230 more per month.

Local growers who pay the industrial rates expressed the rate adder would only add more financial strain to an industry already facing financial challenges.

“Our goal is to stay here, to keep packing fruit here and keep employing the people in this area that we can and so yeah, every every bit of cost is our concern,” said Ray Schmitten, Blue Bird Inc. President.

In reaction to the rate adders, some members of the public expressed disappointment towards the transfer of assets to PUD without compensation.

“It would be pretty awesome though, for the community to see that PUD was investing in our community instead of the other way around, where I think it feels like we’re investing in the PUD,” said a community member during the meeting.

In response, Chelan PUD Water and Wastewater Manager Ron Slabaugh clarified that Peshastin residents would continue to benefit

See **CHELAN PUD** Page **B3**

Get to know your new City Council Members

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Shane Thayer, Travis McMaster and Rhona Baron are the newest additions to Leavenworth’s City Council, attending their first meeting on Jan. 9, 2024.

Shane Thayer

Thayer is a life-long resident of Leavenworth, which he sees as an advantage for his new role on City Council.

“I feel like my biggest strength is being a lifelong resident of Leavenworth for 40 years, and just having really strong ties with a lot of community members, especially local business owners here in town and having been employed by some of them,” said Thayer.

As newly elected Vice Chair of Upper Valley Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA), Thayer’s biggest priority for this year is securing the future of the city pool.

“The six-year levy is up this year, and so that levy is going to be put



COURTESY OF CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Meet City Council’s newest members: **Shane Thayer, Travis McMaster and Rhona Baron.**

to a vote for the community to pass again, and without that levy in the future, the pool is kind of in dire straits,” said Thayer.

His other priorities include ensuring utilities are expanded and available for the community’s future growth and exploring innovative ways to secure more affordable housing.

“I’d like the community to know that I’m really passionate about

working and collaborating with the City Council, the Mayor and City Staff to make Leavenworth a better place for everyone,” said Thayer.

In his free time, Thayer enjoys hiking in the Enchantments and mountain biking in town, specifically local bike trail Rosie Boa.

Travis McMaster

Living in the heart of downtown, McMaster spends everyday

interacting with tourists, residents, and business owners. McMaster also has experience launching and running brands, which he says helps him better understand Leavenworth’s use of Bavarian marketing to promote commerce and tourism.

One of McMaster’s goals is to make Front Street a complete pedestrian

See **MEMBERS** Page **B3**

Residents invited to Community Engagement Night Jan. 30

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The City of Leavenworth is encouraging residents to attend the quarterly Community Engagement Night on Tuesday, Jan. 30. The open-house style gathering will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Leavenworth Festhalle.

“Community engagement nights are a valuable opportunity for residents to participate in the development and well-being of their community. By attending these quarterly events residents can contribute valuable feedback, learn about upcoming projects, engage with City staff, and build stronger relationships with their neighbors,”

said Kara Raftery, Communications and Special Projects Manager for the City of Leavenworth. Representatives from the city, Leavenworth Rotary Club, Department of Ecology, Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Waste Loop, and Cascade Medical will be speaking on projects pertaining to the community.

The City of Leavenworth will speak on projects such as Skill Hill Drive Phase 2, Urban Growth Area (UGA) expansion, Front Street Park restroom and stairway expansion, Glacier Parking Lot improvements, the 2024 scrub seal, library and community space reuse of Osborn Elementary School, and general Public Works updates.

Residents will also get the

opportunity to hear about composting initiatives from Waste Loop and updates from Cascade Medical.

The event will be an informal community gathering, with individual tables for each presenter or topic. Each table will have a representative assigned to answering questions.

“Engagement night is the perfect opportunity to talk with knowledgeable individuals that can provide additional insight on current project and/or planning efforts,” said Raftery.

Food and light refreshments will be provided during the event. A space will be designated for children with activities to keep them occupied while parents circulate the tables. Raftery says no preparation is needed, but

encourages residents to review the upcoming topics and prepare questions or feedback.

“The purpose of these community engagement nights is to actively engage with City staff and other agency representatives in-person. Our goal is to listen to your questions or concerns, learn about your priorities, and inform you about various ongoing or upcoming project/planning efforts,” said Raftery.

The list of projects and attendees are subject to change without notice prior to the event. The event is located at the Leavenworth Festhalle, 1001 Front Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Inside The Echo this Week

5 Things to do this Week.....	A2	Dr. Louise.....	A3	Outdoors Report.....	B1
Business Directory.....	A2	ForWARD Thinking.....	A2	Sheriff’s Report.....	A3
Community Calendar.....	A3	Kid Scoop.....	B3	Advertising Flyers:	
Classifieds.....	B2	Legislative Coverage.....	B4	Safeway, Dan’s Food Market	

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Letters policy

The Leavenworth Echo welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be accompanied by the author's name, a home address and a daytime phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy and fairness. No letter will be published without the author's name. Thank you letters will only be printed from non-profit organizations and events. We will not publish lists of businesses, or lists of individual names. Email your letters to letters@ward.media.

Corrections

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

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\$15.00 for first 30 words. **10** for each additional word on 30 words Borders, bold words, headlines, logos and photos subject to additional charges.

Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at quinn@ward.media. We'll showcase the five most captivating events of the week, giving your event the recognition it deserves. Even if your event isn't among the top five, it will still be added to our events calendar and featured online. Don't miss this chance to make your event shine!

Red Barn Event - Composting in Our Community

The Wenatchee River Institute and Winton MFG will host Composting in Our Community on Thursday, Jan. 25 from 7-8 p.m. at the Red Barn.

"Winton MFG creates compost from Leavenworth's food and yard waste and has been for over a year," the event page states. "Join them as they share what that has looked like in the community, at the facility, and plans for the future."

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a community social with beer and wine available for purchase. The presentation will start at 7 p.m.

For more information visit wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

Winter Karneval: Fasching Pub Crawl

"Come join us this Jan. 26 through Jan. 28 (Friday through

Sunday) for Leavenworth's Winter Karneval as we honor a German tradition dating back to the thirteenth century, commonly referred to as 'Fasching,' the event page states.

"Similar to Mardi Gras, grab a masquerade mask at one of Leavenworth's participating locations then make your way through town collecting beads at each stop," the event page states.

For more information visit leavenworth.org/winterkarneval/.

Snowshoe stroll along Icicle Creek

The Wenatchee River Institute will host a Snowshoe Stroll on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 1 - 3 p.m.

"Begin the year with new discoveries," the event page states. "Starting from the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, join Wenatchee River Institute naturalist guides on a one-mile snowshoe

trail along beautiful Icicle Creek. Make sure to dress in warm layers."

All skill levels are welcome, with snowshoes, gaiters and poles provided.

For more information visit wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

Live music: Carly Klein Schoening

Goose Ridge Winery in Leavenworth will host musician Carly Klein Schoening on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 3 - 6 p.m.

"Carly Klein Schoening is a born performer and has been writing original songs since the young age of six," the event page states. "Music has always been a major part of her life and we are so lucky to be able to showcase her talents in our tasting room."

For more information visit gooseridge.com.



5

THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Planetarium Night Sky Viewing

The Wenatchee River Institute will host a planetarium night sky viewing on Thursday, Feb. 1

From 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Red Barn.

"Join WRI to explore the stars and our solar system," the event page states. "We will start our evening by entering our dome shaped planetarium for a realistic view of our night sky. Witness the sky during different seasons throughout the year, learn winter

constellations and get to know our sun, moon and stars like never before."

"After the planetarium, if the evening gives us clear skies, we'll have an opportunity to have a guided walk with Dr. Cassandra Fallscheer, Associate Professor of Physics at Central Washington University," the event page states.

The cost is \$28 for members and \$35 for non members. For more information and to register visit wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

For WARD Thinking

The strength of kindness to strangers

In the beautiful regions of North Central Washington, our communities are known for their friendly nature and strong neighborly bonds. However, a worrying trend is emerging on social media, where anonymity seems to encourage hostility, especially towards those new to our area or considering moving here.

The character of North

Central Washington is built on inclusivity and friendliness. From the peaceful shores of Lake Chelan to the lively streets of Wenatchee, our region is renowned for welcoming everyone with open arms. As we increasingly interact online, it's crucial that we extend this same friendliness to our virtual conversations.

It's easy to overlook that

there is a real person behind each social media account, often looking for guidance or connection. When someone shows interest in joining our communities, it speaks to the appeal and reputation of our region—a point of pride, not conflict. Each question about moving here should be seen as a chance to show what North Central Washington is all about - a community spirit, caring neighbors, and an unmatched quality of life.

Responding with kindness and helpful information not only casts our communities in a positive light but also



TERRY WARD

Ward Media CEO / Publisher

upholds the values we hold dear. Imagine the difference when harsh words are replaced with useful tips, or criticism with a welcoming message. These simple acts of kindness can turn a stranger's uncertainty into excitement about becoming part of our community.

For those who are new or thinking of moving to our beautiful part of Washington, you are considering a region rich in history, community spirit, and natural beauty. And to our long-time residents, let's remember the impact of our words and their power. In a time where online conversations

often lack the personal touch of face-to-face interactions, let's set a positive example.

Our communities are more than just a group of houses and businesses; they are a place where different experiences, backgrounds, and aspirations come together. Welcoming newcomers warmly not only adds to this community but also reinforces what makes North Central Washington a place we all love to call home.

Let's focus on being ambassadors of kindness and understanding in all our interactions, including online. By doing this, we ensure that the spirit of our communities is not only maintained but also strengthened, in both the virtual and real world.

Leavenworth Women's Exchange hosts luncheon on mental health advocacy

LEAVENWORTH - The Leavenworth Women's Exchange will host its monthly luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Icicle Inn Restaurant, located at 505 Highway 2, Leavenworth. Commencing at 12 p.m., the event features a lunch buffet and costs \$26.50 per person, covering food, beverage, tax, and gratuity.

Highlighting the luncheon are guest speakers Jill Storie and Jacquie Kisling-Ferrier, advocates for the National Alliance on Mental Illness

(NAMI). They will present a program focusing on services available to individuals and families affected by mental health issues.

Reservations are mandatory and can be made by contacting Claire Burlingame at 509-548-7142 before Thursday, Feb. 8. Payments are accepted in cash or check payable to LWE only. Please note that due to the catered nature of the event, cancellations after Feb. 8 will incur the full cost of the lunch.

Washington State moves forward with Presidential primary ballot printing after court ruling

Ward Media / The Leavenworth Echo

OLYMPIA - In a significant development in Washington State's electoral process, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Mary Sue Wilson ruled to proceed with the printing of ballots and voters' pamphlets for the upcoming March 12 Presidential Primary. This decision comes after a legal scrutiny involving the candidate lists submitted by the major political parties.

Judge Mary Sue Wilson's decision upheld the actions of Secretary of State Steve Hobbs, affirming the legality of moving forward with the candidate

lists as submitted. "An order directing the secretary of state to take different action is not supported by the statutes and not supported by the affidavit of the electors," Judge Wilson stated, emphasizing the statutory adherence in her ruling.

In compliance with state law RCW 29A.56, Secretary Hobbs had earlier provided county auditors with the complete lists of Presidential Primary candidates as submitted by the Democratic and Republican parties on Jan. 9. The Democratic Party's list includes Joseph R. Biden Jr., Dean Phillips, and Marianne Williamson, while

the Republican Party's list features Donald J. Trump, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Chris Christie.

Thursday's ruling follows a series of legal challenges concerning the ballot listings, notably the inclusion of former President Donald J. Trump. A prior dismissal by a Kitsap County court on Tuesday set the stage for Judge Wilson's decision, which found that Secretary Hobbs had acted in accordance with his duties.

Unlike other elections in Washington, Presidential Primary voters are required to sign a party declaration on their ballot envelopes for their votes to be counted, a distinctive feature of the state's electoral system.

Clarification

In our recent article titled "Leavenworth had record amounts of visitors over the holiday season," we reported on the visitor data from Thanksgiving to New Year's shared by the Chamber of Commerce. It has been brought to our attention by the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce that the interpretation of footfall data as a direct count of unique visitors requires clarification.

Footfall data, as used by the Chamber of Commerce, tracks the volume of pedestrian traffic, counting each instance a person passes by the cameras set up downtown. This method does not differentiate between unique individuals; thus, a single person can be counted multiple times in different instances. Consequently, the numbers reported should be understood as representing the total footfall - the number of times pedestrians passed by the cameras - rather than the total number of individual visitors to the area.

We apologize for any confusion caused by the initial representation of this data and are committed to providing accurate and clear information in our reporting. Our goal is always to deliver news that meets the highest standards of journalistic integrity and clarity.

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

Children and Youth Program, 6:30-8 p.m., 4th-12th grade, Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene, 509-548-5292.
Alpine Water District, meets at the Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, 1 p.m. Contact Anne Mueller, 425-238-3935.
Senior Center, Lunch, noon, \$8 per meal. RSVP 509-548-6666.
Ukulele Circle, 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get sheet music.
Cascade Medical Board, 4th Wednesday of every month (with a couple exceptions), September 27, October 25, November 15, and December 20, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday

Leavenworth Lions Club, For more info. President Steve Alford, 509-548-4505, or email leavenworthlionsclubwa@gmail.com
Peshastin Community Council meeting, 7 p.m. Peshastin Memorial Hall. (2nd Thurs.)
Caregiver Support Group, 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Cashmere. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)

Friday

Veteran Service Office, For information contact Tony Sandoval, 509-664-6801 or email: tony.sandoval@co.chelan.wa.us
Leavenworth Rotary Club, In person at Kristall's Restaurant at Noon. Call President Mahala Murphy-Martin, 206-227-1576, for more information.
Senior Center: Bingo 6 p.m. Call 509-548-6666. Facebook & website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com

Monday

Upper Valley Free Clinic, open every Monday to evaluate urgent health needs. Downstairs at Cascade Medical, 6:30 -8:00 p.m. Call UVMEND, 509-548-0408 for more information.
Cascade School board meetings, 7 p.m., Agenda can be found at <https://www.cascadesd.org/Page/166>. (2nd & 4th Mon.)
Chelan Douglas Republican Women, Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (1st Mon.)

Tuesday

Peshastin Water District, 5:30 p.m. For meeting location, contact Steve Keene, 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)
Ice & Peshastin Irrigation Districts Meeting Current meeting time is 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)
Cascade Education Foundation, Contact: CEF@cascade.org
LWSC Alpine Committee, 7 p.m., Ski Hill Lodge. Call 509-548-5477. (1st Tues.)
Leavenworth Masons, 7:30 a.m., Zarthan Lodge No. 148, Leavenworth Senior Center upstairs. www.leavenworthmasons.org. (1st Tues.)
Cascade Garden Club, 1 p.m., at a member's home or other venue. Call President Claudia, 509-662-7706. (3rd Tues.)
The Chelan County Cemetery District #2 (Peshastin) meets monthly at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. (2nd Tues.)
Senior Center. Exercise, 11 a.m.-Noon. Tues & Thurs. 509-548-6666. Facebook & Website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com
Music, call Steve, 509-548-7048. (1st and 3rd Tues.)
Greater Leavenworth Museum board meeting 5-7 p.m. Everyone is invited as a guest. Contact info@leavenworthmuseum.org for meeting information. (1st Tues.)

NCW Libraries

Libraries will continue to offer a wide variety of resources and programs online at ncwlibraries.org and its Facebook page. Go to NCWLIBRARIES.ORG or 1-800-426-READ (7323) for more information, and updates.
Leavenworth Public Library. Located at 700 Hwy. 2, Call 509-548-7923 or online leavenworth@ncwlibraries.org Open on Tues., 10-5, Wed., 11-7, Thurs., 10-7, Fri., 10-5 Sat., 10-2. Closed Sun. and Mon.
Peshastin Public Library. Located at 8396 Main St., Peshastin. Call: 509-548-7821 or peshastin@ncwlibraries.org Open Tues., 10-1:30; and 2:30-7, Wed., 10-2, and 2:30-7, Thurs., and Fri., 1-5:30 and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Sun. and Mon.

Other events

The Greater Leavenworth Museum, is open daily from 11-4, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Check their Facebook page or website at leavenworthmuseum.org for updates and information.
Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, 509-548-7641. Trails and grounds are open every day to the public. Please park outside the gate. All animals must be on a leash.
Note: Some meetings or events may be rescheduled due to holidays or other closures. Please call and check with that organization listed.

Please note that if your organization changes dates, or hours please send us your updates to reporter@leavenworthecho.com or call 509-548-5286. Otherwise we are not responsible for any misinformation.

LEGO Masters challenge and Every Bite Counts series at Peshastin Library

PESHASTIN - In an exciting opportunity for LEGO enthusiasts, NCW Libraries is hosting the "LEGO Masters" event, starting Tuesday, Jan. 30, and running through Saturday, Feb. 10. Participants are invited to demonstrate their LEGO building skills at the library during its open hours. The challenge is to create a LEGO character or scene inspired by a favorite book or movie. All creations will be proudly displayed in the library for the month of February.
 Additionally, from Thursday, Feb. 1 to Feb. 22, between 4:15 and 5:00 p.m., the library will host "Every Bite Counts," a four-part series presented by Jackie Reed, a

nutrition educator from the WSU Extension SNAP Ed program. This series offers practical tips on quick and easy meal planning, cooking demonstrations complete with tastings and recipes, and more. The program is primarily targeted at adults and teens, but children's activities will be available concurrently. The sessions will be conducted in both English and Spanish.
 Both programs are free to the public and are part of NCW Libraries' commitment to community engagement and education. Interested individuals can register for these events at www.ncwlibraries.org/locations/peshastin-public-library or by calling (509) 548-7821.

The Whistle



The NIMBY Whistle

By RHONA BARON

The expression "Not In My Backyard" or NIMBY seems to have grown from a movement in the 1970's when communities in the eastern US opposed the construction of nuclear power plants near their homes. Over the years the term has become more nuanced and harsher. NIMBYism still connotes opposition to large scale projects by government or corporations that could decrease quality of life or harm the environment. But for some, NIMBYism refers to attitudes or policies designed to worsen racial segregation, deepen economic inequality, and/or limit the overall supply of affordable housing.

The problem in Leavenworth is that both definitions have been adopted by the community, and no where does the division seem more clear than when elected officials perceive NIMBYism through the lens of social justice, while citizens are genuinely concerned about their quality of life and the

impacts of development on Leavenworth's unique mountain environment. Until the community acknowledges that both perspectives are valid and indeed embraced by citizens, finding collaborative solutions will remain problematic.

Today, The Whistle invites you to explore NIMBYism in the most basic way by suggesting that no one is immune from sending up the NIMBY flare given the right triggers.

In late December I was walking down from my house to the Village of Lights. Visitors were pulling into town, parking farther and farther back into the neighborhoods. The evening was crisp and cheery, inviting a sense of anticipation. Eager to begin the Instagrammable moments, I watched a couple climb from their rig, walk ten feet into a nearby yard and begin taking selfies using the backdrop of a well lit home. A block farther, four people debarked, went 15 feet into a neighbor's yard adorned with several snowy mountain ash

trees and began to click away while shaking snow from the branches, posing again and again. Are you a NIMBY if you don't want your back (or front) yard to become a tourist opportunity?

One resident who lives in an older neighborhood with small homes confessed that she fears her sunny, semi private backyard, a small area with garden and hammock, will be obliterated by a tall multiplex going in next door to the southwest if her neighbor's tiny older home is torn down. Does that make her a politically incorrect NIMBY? There is no proof of racism or insensitivity to socio economic status. From what I can tell, she simply values her sunshine and privacy, typically more available in a single family neighborhood. In fact, the majority of residents surveyed by the city of Leavenworth list single family neighborhoods as their most preferred residential setting.

What about the case of the Multi Family Tax Exemption that allowed extended tax breaks for developers who make a small portion of their development more affordable. This was a hot topic a couple months ago before the council voted in favor. The majority of comments from citizens were against the MFTE. People concerned about their fixed

incomes said it wasn't fair to pay the developer's taxes. The junior taxing districts, such as the Fire District, said the MFTE would negatively impact their funding stream. Should we label these concerns as NIMBYism, enemies of social justice? No.

This month we've watched as the Leavenworth Alpine Park (LAP) requested a roll back of some of their conditions of operations, set in place "for the lifetime" of the operation. Almost two hundred letters were submitted and I've read most of them. Ninety four percent were against loosening the conditions and restrictions on LAP. I was proud to call myself a member of the community as I read the thoughtful, detailed, heartfelt concerns and perspectives of our citizens. Allowing the LAP to take more from the community's perceived quality of life sent up the NIMBY flare. And that's OK. Who would we be without the ability to express our experiences, perceptions and boundaries?

I suggest we cease laying the NIMBY label on people who oppose specific aspects of housing or other forms of development. Let's build a world where we listen to each other first and label second or better yet, not at all. Until next time, keep Whistling. We hear you.

What to rub on sore muscles

My 64-year-old friend Mark loves riding his mountain bike every weekend. In the winter he heads to our local ski area, White Pass, where he "shreds" with his son, Chris. Last week, he asked me, "What can I use for sore knees that isn't a pill?"

There are lots of products available without a prescription that Mark could apply directly to his skin to soothe sore muscles or aching knees. Natural compounds like wintergreen oil, camphor, menthol and capsaicin have been used for decades for muscle pain.

These plant-based compounds are called counterirritants. They stimulate the nerves in your skin, which blunts your pain sensation. When rubbed on sore muscles, they can create intense warmth, soothing coolness, or burning/tingling. Because they are not easily absorbed into your bloodstream, these topical agents can relieve discomfort with a much lower risk of side effects than pain pills.

Other options for Mark include lidocaine and diclofenac. These alternatives work very differently. Lidocaine is a local anesthetic, and diclofenac

(Voltaren®) is an anti-inflammatory agent similar to naproxen (Aleve®) and ibuprofen (Motrin-IB®).

I recommend using a 4% lidocaine roll-on for nerve pain and diclofenac gel for arthritis pain. I avoid suggesting capsaicin because it causes burning and has to be reapplied 2-3 times daily to maintain relief.

Capsaicin is derived from chili peppers. It works by triggering a nerve messenger called Substance P to be released from the area you apply it to.

Substance P acts like a telephone line, carrying messages to your brain that you've got pain in your knee. Capsaicin releases even more Substance P, until it can't send any more messages until it builds back up. For example, when you flush a toilet, the water must be replaced before you can use it again.

When applied for the first time, capsaicin causes a moderately intense burning and tingling sensation, the result of Substance P being released. This is followed by a diminished sensation of pain that persists for up to 8-10 hours.

Eventually, as your body replaces Substance P, you'll feel tingling and burning start to come back. To maintain pain relief, you'll need to reapply capsaicin.

Because capsaicin is made from hot chili peppers, wash your hands immediately after applying it. Touching your eye with capsaicin on your fingers feels just like throwing pepper in it. I recommend using a roll-on applicator for capsaicin to avoid touching the stuff.

Many non-prescription topical analgesics contain at least one plant-based product, such as methyl salicylate (also called wintergreen oil), menthol, which is derived from peppermint oil, camphor, eucalyptus oil, turpentine, and an odorless cousin of methyl salicylate called trolamine salicylate.

Some of the more potent formulations Mark could select from include Aspercreme® Heat Pain Relieving Gel, with 10% Menthol; Tiger Balm® Arthritis Rub, which has 11% each of menthol and camphor; and Ben-Gay® Ultra Strength Pain Relieving Cream, containing



30% methyl salicylate, 10% menthol, and 4% camphor.

What if Mark prefers methyl salicylate products but wants to avoid smelling like wintergreen? He could switch to the odorless Aspercreme® formula containing trolamine salicylate instead of methyl salicylate.

Bayer, the manufacturer of Aleve®, has recently introduced two topical pain relief products: AleveX® as a lotion, spray and roll-on, and Aleve Arthritis Pain® gel. What's confusing is that neither one contains naproxen, the active ingredient in the brand name Aleve®.

This is an example of "brand extension," which is capitalizing on the name recognition of a trademark to market a different active ingredient. My husband finds this misleading and frustrating.

Instead of naproxen, AleveX® contains 16% menthol and 5.5% camphor, similar to Tiger Balm®. Aleve Arthritis

See DR. LOUISE Page B3

Chelan County Sheriff's Report

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

January 12

09:08 Sex Offense, 10190 Chumstick Hwy
 09:49 Assist Public, 80 Cedric Rd
 11:08 Parking/Abandon, 15491 N Shore Dr
 12:46 Civil, 6802 1st St
 13:43 Assist Agency, 15255 Us Hwy 2
 16:19 911, 185 Us Hwy 2
 17:45 Assist Agency, Us Hwy 2 & N Dryden Rd

January 14

02:10 Domestic Disturbance, 3676 Allen Ln
 03:12 Suspicious, Dryden Park And Ride
 10:06 Trespass, 9342 Icicle Rd
 13:52 Suspicious, 100 Ward Strasse # A208
 15:15 Traffic Offense, 700 Us Hwy 2
 18:59 Traffic Offense, Us Hwy 2 & Ski Hill Dr

January 15

00:52 Traffic Offense, Sherbourne St & Us Hwy 2
 07:36 Accident No Injury, North Rd Mp 1
 14:16 Accident No Injury, 500 Us Hwy 2; City Pool
 14:30 Parking/Abandon, 10170 Main St, Peshastin
 15:19 Suspicious, 116 River Bend Dr, Safeway
 17:51 Property, 843 Front St; The Loft Bar

January 16

09:28 Accident Unknown, 707 Us Hwy 2 # E
 10:02 Runaway, 24602 Spur St
 14:43 Alarm, 20711 Pelton Pl, Lake Wenatchee
 18:43 Disturbance, 11687 Sunitsch Canyon Rd

20:47 Assist Agency, 7789 Fish Hatchery Rd

January 17

00:48 Theft, 116 River Bend Dr, Safeway
 06:48 Parking/Abandon, 2413 Salal Dr, Lake Wenatchee
 10:45 Alarm, 10065 Merry Canyon Rd
 11:53 Accident No Injury, 13400blk Chumstick Hwy

13:25 911.8000 Kinney Rd
 13:36 Sex Offense, 100 Ward Strasse # D360
 15:22 Fraud/Forgery, 9779 Dye Rd
 16:52 Civil, 13637 Chumstick Hwy
 17:07 Hazard, Commercial St & 8th St
 17:32 Hazard, River Bend Dr & Us Hwy 2
 19:00 Domestic Disturbance, 7272 Deadman Hill Rd.
 22:42 Court Order Violation, 8000 Kinney Rd, Dryden

January 18

11:01 Alarm, 920 Front St; Wok About Grill
 13:01 Accident No Injury, 14480 Chumstick Hwy
 13:04 Accident No Injury, Eagle Creek Rd & Chumstick
 14:18 Assist Public, Eagle Creek Rd & Van Creek
 20:45 Hazard, Chiwawa Loop Rd Mp 7, Lake Wenatchee



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Chelan County to conduct annual homeless survey on Jan. 25

Ward Media / The Leavenworth Echo

WENATCHEE – Chelan County and community partners will conduct the annual Homeless Point in Time Count from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, at Lighthouse Christian Ministries in Wenatchee, 410 Columbia St.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development and Washington State Commerce task communities annually with administering a survey to the unhoused population. The information gathered from people who are experiencing

homelessness on the day of the event is used to demonstrate the need for homeless housing services in the community and across the nation, explained Amber Hallberg, Chelan County housing program coordinator and a coordinator of the outreach event.

“Not only is it important at a national level to know what the need is, but it also helps local policymakers make better informed decisions on what direction the community needs to move in with affordable housing,” Hallberg said. “Doing this event each year can likely give us an indication of where we are headed as a

community.”

Surveys conducted by outreach teams aim to collect information on individual’s living situations, including how long someone has been without a permanent home, where they sleep, where they are from and whether or not they had been denied access to a shelter or would go to a shelter if available. Demographic questions are also asked, including age, race, gender, veteran status, the number of children under 18 in the household and if they were fleeing domestic violence.

In addition to the centralized event at Lighthouse Christian

Ministries in Wenatchee, staff from various nonprofits who work with the unhoused population will be going out throughout Chelan and Douglas counties to speak to people on the street and provide them resources. Chelan Valley HOPE in Chelan will cover the Chelan Valley and Northern Douglas County and Upper Valley MEND in Leavenworth will cover the Cascade School District service area and Cashmere. Upper Valley MEND and Chelan Valley HOPE will also have a centralized site for people in their respective locations to be interviewed and get connected

to services.

At this event in 2023, 121 people were interviewed. Of those interviewed, 105 people were unsheltered, meaning they were living outdoors, in a vehicle or RV, in an abandoned building or in a tent or other outdoor area not meant for habitation. In addition, 368 people were recorded staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs or in a hotel through an emergency hotel/motel voucher program.

The local event also allows housing services providers and other service-based nonprofits an opportunity to

communicate directly with people in need of their services while providing resources, including backpacks, gloves, socks, hand warmers, food and more, to people in need who participate in the survey. The backpacks full of supplies are being provided by Community Action Council, in partnership with Chelan County.

The Columbia Valley Community Health Mobile Clinic will be on site at Lighthouse Christian Ministries to provide access to medical professionals for those needing medical, mental health and substance use disorder services.

Newhouse building rises on Olympia’s capitol campus

By ASPEN ANDERSON
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Facing health and safety hazards and experiencing overcrowding, in May 2023 the original Irving R. Newhouse Building on the capitol campus in Olympia was entirely

demolished and construction of a new building began.

Amidst rumors of a potential renaming, Rep. Bryan Sandlin, R-Zillah, representing the 15th District just like the building’s namesake, introduced HCR 4405 to preserve the original name.

“We can take a page out of

his career, each and every one of us to be a bipartisan member of this Legislature. He worked across the aisle very well. He represented his district very well,” Sandlin said.

Irving R. Newhouse served for 34 years, holding office in the House of Representatives

from 1965 to 1980 and in the Senate from 1980 to 1998. During his tenure, he took on various roles including Senate Republican Floor Leader and Senate President Pro Tempore.

Sandlin presented the late senator’s family with a biography, which was prepared by the staff.

“They appreciate the recognition and are honored to keep that name, as well as I am. And I hope everyone will support this.”

The Newhouse tradition in politics continues. U.S. Congressman Dan Newhouse, the son of Irving, presently serves as a representative for Washington’s 4th congressional district.

The building when completed will house Senate members and their staff.

Currently, the bill has 15 bipartisan sponsors. If approved, the new structure will bear the name Irving R. Newhouse.

Completion of the building is anticipated in late 2024.

The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website funded by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Learn more at wastatejournal.org.



ASPEN ANDERSON / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL
A sign on the edge of the construction site shows what the new Newhouse office building will look like.



ASPEN ANDERSON / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL
The Newhouse building is currently under construction as part of the Legislative Campus Modernization for its replacement.

AG Ferguson files lawsuit to stop Kroger-Albertson merger worth \$24.6 billion



ASPEN ANDERSON / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL
Safeway is among the major grocery chains in Washington affected by the merger.

By ASPEN ANDERSON & MARY MURPHY
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Kroger and Albertsons claim a proposed merger worth \$24.6 billion will result in better prices for grocery shoppers, but many fear food prices will go up and jobs could be lost as the stores eliminate competition.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed a lawsuit to stop the merger, which was announced in a Seattle press conference Jan. 15.

“Our job is to make sure there is a level playing field for Washington consumers and that means pushing back against the consolidation of power that destroys free enterprise and harms Washingtonians,” Ferguson said.

Once they merge, Kroger and Albertsons propose to sell 413 stores nationwide, including 104 in Washington. That part of the proposal is meant to counter claims they will control the market if the merger goes through. Kroger

and Albertsons alone have more than 700,000 employees and nearly 5,000 stores across 49 states. Experts say Washington could be one of the most affected states.

“More than half of all supermarkets in Washington are currently owned by either Kroger or Albertsons,” Ferguson said.

After reviewing hundreds of thousands of records, Ferguson’s legal team uncovered internal chats among corporate executives and other employees.

Ferguson said a vice president of marketing with Albertsons wrote: “You are basically creating a monopoly in grocery with the merger.”

“This makes no sense, prices will not go down,” Ferguson said. “Grocery prices are already too high. These companies are merging so they can increase profits, not help Washingtonians with their grocery bills.”

The official merger website claims the companies are keeping everyday prices

affordable on products customers love, want and need while making grocery shopping easy.

And they say the merger is necessary if the grocery companies want to compete against even larger competitors, like Amazon and Walmart.

If approved, the companies say they will develop a “zero hunger, zero waste,” impact plan for hunger relief, donated meals and innovation fund grants.

Kroger owns QFC and Fred Meyer and is based in Cincinnati. It wants to acquire Albertsons, based in Boise, Idaho, which owns Safeway and Haggen grocery stores.

The merger is under consideration by the Federal Trade Commission. A decision is anticipated in August 2024.

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Cascade School District Board Position #3

The Cascade School District is seeking interested applicants for School Director Position #3 recently vacated by Mr. Zachary Miller. Letters of interest will be accepted until February 7th and interviews are scheduled for February 12th. The applicant will then be appointed and serve until the next board election in November 2024.

Requirements are: • Reside in District #3 (Chumstick area, Lake Wenatchee, Plain) • Registered Voter

Send your letter of interest to:
Dr. Tracey L. Edou, Superintendent, Cascade School District #228
330 Evans St., Leavenworth, WA 98826



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Samantha Crossley
Winter Cheer
Freshman

Samantha is a first-year cheerleader. She never lets any opportunity to improve pass her by. She is an exceptional athlete in the gym and a dedicated student in the classroom. Samantha puts in the work at practice, and it shows come game day.



Kodiaks Scoreboard

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 16:	Cascade 34, Quincy 51; Loss
Jan. 18:	Cascade XX, Manson XX; Canceled
Jan. 20:	Jan. 20: Cascade 14, Liberty Bell 55; Loss
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 16:	Cascade 30, Quincy 100; Loss
Jan. 18:	Cascade XX, Manson XX; Canceled
Jan. 20:	Jan. 20: Cascade 29, Liberty Bell 70; Loss

Kodiaks Schedule

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 26:	Cascade vs. Omak, Home at 5:45 p.m.
Jan. 30:	Cascade vs. Cashmere, Away at 5:45 p.m.
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 26:	Cascade vs. Omak, Home at 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 30:	Cascade vs. Cashmere, Away at 7:15 p.m.
BOYS WRESTLING	
Jan. 25:	Cascade vs. Chelan, Away at Omak 6 p.m.
Jan. 25:	Cascade vs. Omak, Away at Omak 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27:	Cascade @ Okanogan Tournament 10 a.m.
GIRLS WRESTLING	
Jan. 27:	Cascade @ Quincy Bring Home Da Beef Tournament 10 a.m.

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Washington's Wildlife Wonders: A boon for recreation and economy

Ward Media / The Leavenworth Echo

OLYMPIA - The 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, recently released, reveals that wildlife-related activities are not just a pastime but a significant economic driver in Washington State. The comprehensive survey, executed with the partnership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, highlights a robust engagement in wildlife recreation among Washingtonians and visitors from other states, contributing significantly to the state's economy.

In 2022, 72% of Washington residents aged 16 and older, totaling 4.4 million people, participated in at least one form of wildlife-related recreation. The state saw 1.2 million individuals engaging in fishing, 292,000 in hunting, and a remarkable 6.2 million in wildlife watching, including 4 million who traveled beyond

their immediate locales for these activities. This widespread participation underscores the state's rich biodiversity and its appeal to outdoor enthusiasts.

"Activities made possible through WDFW's stewardship of fish, wildlife, and ecosystems have a significant impact on Washington's economy," said Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind. "Conserving fish, wildlife, and habitat and providing sustainable opportunities contribute to our way of life and identity while providing jobs and economic opportunities to our residents and generating tax revenue for the state."

These activities have a profound economic impact. Participants spent over \$9 billion on equipment and trip-related expenses, injecting an estimated \$630 million in taxes into the State General Fund. This expenditure surpassed spending on major product categories such as telecommunication services,

new motor vehicles, and hotel accommodations in Washington in 2022, reflecting the significant role of wildlife recreation in the state's economy.

The survey details the diversity of participants, mirroring the state's demographic spread. Fishers and hunters were more likely to engage in wildlife watching than non-participants in these activities. Fishing attracted 17% of state residents, while hunting, away-from-home wildlife watching, and around-the-home wildlife watching drew 4%, 35%, and 71% of residents, respectively. The hunting participation rate among women in Washington was double the national average.

In fishing, 812,000 individuals engaged in freshwater fishing, 388,000 in saltwater, and 222,000 in both. Anglers, predominantly male, spent 12.6 million days fishing, underscoring a youthful skew in participation. Hunting was

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Washington Outdoors Report

Outdoors Roundup
By JOHN KRUSE
Special to Ward Media

Bob Bugert Appointed To The Washington Recreation And Conservation Funding Board

Leavenworth resident Bob Bugert has been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. According to Joshua McKinney with the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), "The board awards about \$200 million in grants every other year to tribes, nonprofits and government agencies to create parks, trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The board also awards grants to conserve the state's natural resource heritage by protecting working farms and forests and wildlife habitat, including places inhabited by plants and animals found nowhere else in the world."

Bugert has quite a bit of experience in the field of conservation, previously serving as the Executive Director of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust which greatly

expanded the trail system in the Western foothills of Wenatchee as well as enacting policies to protect mule deer in this area during the winter. Bugert also spent eight years serving on the Washington State Salmon Recovery Board and recently served as a Chelan County Commissioner. In his spare time, Bugert enjoys time in the outdoors hiking, biking and kayaking.

A Turkey Hunting Opportunity For First Responders:

Craig Dowdy, the owner of YJ Guide Service near Davenport, is giving away six guided turkey hunts this April on the 20th and 21st to first responders as a way of showing appreciation for the work they do. These will be guided hunts, lasting two days, and all meals and accommodations are included. The only cost for participating hunters will be travel to and from Davenport along with the cost of a hunting license and turkey tag.

This is open to both current and retired first responders. To apply, contact Craig and his wife Melodie by email at melodie@yjguideservice.com. Simply give your contact

information (name, address and cell phone number) along with a very brief description of your service as a first responder to include whether you serve in law enforcement, the fire service or in EMS.

Spokane River/Lake Roosevelt Fishing Report

In other news, Craig Dowdy reports he was fishing the Spokane River until the cold snap froze things up to Porcupine Bay. Once the ice melts he'll get back to fishing for burbot and walleye. The fishing was very good right before the cold snap, especially for burbot. Book your trip at www.yjguideservice.com

Columbia River Gorge Fishing

Catch and keep sturgeon fishing may be closed in the Bonneville and The Dalles pools of the Columbia River but as of Jan. 17 it remains open in the John Day pool east of Rufus. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Angler effort was light because of inclement weather conditions in the John Day Pool most of last week. Anglers have landed approximately 45 percent of the annual catch guideline

through Jan. 16. Sturgeon fishing is open seven days per week until the quota is achieved, but anglers should check weather and road conditions before planning a trip through the Gorge."

Catch and release sturgeon fishing continues to be open for anglers on the rest of the Columbia River. Checking in with Gorge Outfitters Supply in Rufus on the 18th, they reported nobody has come into the store with any fishing reports since the cold snap of Jan. 11. When temperatures moderate though, the walleye fishing below John Day Dam should be good.

Washington State Parks Is Hiring

It's the time of year that Washington State Parks recruits for seasonal park aides. This year, they are looking to hire 300 park aides and senior park aides who will work in state parks from April through September.

Park aides perform a variety of duties ranging from registering campers, maintaining trails, cleaning campgrounds and maintaining facilities. They also staff park offices, assist visitors and

help with interpretive and educational programs. Park aides work in one large park or cover an area with several small parks.

According to Washington State Parks, "This opportunity is ideal for recent high school and college graduates, retired workers looking for an encore, military veterans transitioning to civilian employment and mid-careerists taking time to reinvent themselves. Most park aides appreciate the flexibility of seasonal outdoor work and the mix of public interaction and physical labor."

Park aides earn between \$16.90 to \$20.33 an hour, depending on their experience. Senior park aides earn up to \$23.40 an hour. You can find out more and apply at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington. Type in the key word Park Aide into the search bar to find the available opportunities.

Visit Me At The Washington Sportsmen's Show - I'll be exhibiting at the Washington Sportsmen's Show at the State Fair Center in Puyallup from Jan. 31 through Feb. 4. We'll be giving away some knife sharpeners with Work Sharp to some lucky attendees and I'll also be giving a seminar about places in the Pacific Northwest you should be

underscores the multifaceted ways Washington residents enjoy the outdoors and the critical role of wildlife-related recreation in state conservation and economic strategies.

Washington's rich natural resources and diverse wildlife continue to be a significant draw, offering myriad recreational activities that contribute substantially to both the state's economy and the well-being of its residents and visitors.

fishing at in 2024. That seminar takes place Saturday the 3rd in the Blue Fishing Theater from 11 a.m. to noon. You can find out more about Washington State's biggest sportsmen's show at www.thesportshows.com/shows/washington/

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



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON RCO
Robert "Bob" Bugert

Shift to even-year local elections proposed to boost voter turnout

By ASPEN ANDERSON
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Low turnouts for local elections are leading some to advocate for moving those contests to even numbered years alongside national races.

"Young people are part of the communities that are being left behind," said Rep. Darya Farivar, D-Seattle. She is a co-sponsor of a bill in this year's legislative session to move elections to even-numbered years. She is also the youngest legislator in Washington and said this issue is very personal to her.

"This issue is about making sure that we have the best democracy we can possibly have and hearing the voices of absolutely everyone," Farivar said.

Currently, in even numbered years, federal, state, and county offices and state or local ballot measures are on the November ballot. In odd numbered years, state ballot measures, and most local government elections for cities, towns, and special purpose districts are decided.

Zoltan Hajnal, UCSD Professor of Political Science, self-proclaimed as the "world's foremost expert on election times," studied this topic for decades.

"Every study that has looked at this... has found that moving to even-year elections doubles or more than doubles voter turnout," Hajnal said.

Hajnal asserts this increase in voter turnout increases youth share of the vote by over 20 percentage points and this

creates a more racially diverse voting population.

Chris Roberts, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, supports the bill. He points to a significant drop in voter turnout from 67% to 34% from 2022 to 2023.

Oregon is among the 26 U.S. states that either permit or mandate city elections to coincide with statewide elections, resulting in double the voter turnout compared to Washington cities, according to Alan Durning from Sightline Institute, an organization devoted to policies that encourage diversity, equity and inclusion.

Critics, however, argue that moving elections to federal election years would cause local elections to get lost in the noise of bigger campaigns.

"I was at the very bottom of

the ballot," Rep. Sam Low R-Lake Stevens said, reflecting on his 2016 county council race and the difficulty he faced in advertising amidst concurrent presidential and state office elections.

Rep. Leonard Christian, R-Spokane Valley, and Rep. Greg Cheney, R-Battle Ground, argue an off-year election can identify structural weaknesses in your election process and the state is able to justify full-time employees.

Rep. Mia Gregerson, D-Sea-Tac, acknowledges there are drawbacks, but asserts they cannot be the reason why this bill does not pass. "The people of Washington state have been very clear that even-numbered election cycles are something that they want," she says.

Andrew Villeneuve, from

Northwest Progressive Institute, testified in favor of the bill, noting: "This is the only electoral reform available that can as much as double turnout as well as greatly diversifying it."

In polling Villeneuve has found a ratio of 2-1 support in favor of even-year elections for localities.

Why has the seemingly impactful shift to even-numbered years for elections, a potential key to boosting voter turnout, been a long time coming?

"The Secretary of State staffer said this is a 50-year tradition. Why would you change it?" Gregerson asked. "I've been thinking about that a lot and trying to figure out what does that mean? And it

just really is pushing against change, right?"

Sponsors of the bill are primarily Democrats, but Gregerson said this is not a partisan issue. Conservative states like Montana, Arizona and Idaho have successfully shifted to even-numbered years.

HB 1932, if passed, mandates specific areas to transition to even-year elections if voter turnout remains below 40% for four consecutive odd-year general elections, starting from the 2025 general election.

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Looking for a little spending money and love to cook? The Leavenworth Senior Center wants to hear from you. We are looking for that special someone who would love to share their culinary skills with us every Wednesday at noon. We serve 30- 40 lunches each week, provide a full-service commercial kitchen, one Kitchen Assistant staff member, and weekly volunteers to help wherever they are needed. This job includes creating a weekly menu, food shopping, and takes approximately 6 to 7 hours per week. Compensation is \$22/hr. Please submit a letter of interest with a brief description of your experience to leavenworthseniors@gmail.com

Bus Driver/Operator – Full Time
Organization: Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO)
TranGO IS HIRING A DRIVER; Full-time (36+ hours per week) positions available now; hourly non-exempt. Compensation is \$21.64-\$23.41 per hour, DOE. Benefits include health, dental, vision, life insurance, retirement (see website for benefit details), sick leave, and vacation. Must have a Commercial Driver's License 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 a position. E-mail your completed application to financehr@okanoganttransit.com, mail it to TranGO, PO Box 507, Okanogan WA 98840, or drop it off at 303 S 2nd Avenue, S, Suite A, Okanogan. Application Deadline: Application review will continue until the position is filled. Okanogan County Transit Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WSU is hiring a full-time SNAP-Ed Program Assistant. This position is with the WSU Extension Food Sense Nutrition Education program in Okanogan County. Bachelor's degree in nutrition or related field or equivalent education and work experience is required. To apply, visit <https://wsu.edu/jobs/> and search position number R-10091. For questions, call Margaret Viebrock, WSU Chelan-Douglas County Director at 509-745-8531. Applications are due February 6. WSU is an EO/AA Educator and Employer.



Real Estate

Rentals

Leavenworth Cute studio in town. Furnished. All utilities included. No pets. No smoking. \$1,125. per month References required. \$1,000. Security Deposit 509-860-4564

Remodeled one bedroom apartment. Washer/ dryer hookup. W/S/G paid. Excellent location in Chelan. Walk to City Park. \$1,090/ month, plus deposits. No Pets. 509-682-5108.

Legals

Public Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CHELAN COUNTY In re the Estate of FEDERICO CARRENO Deceased. NO. 23-4-00444-04 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: January 10 th , 2024 Personal Representative: Monica Carreno Attorney for the Personal Representative: Kyle D. Flick Address for Mailing or Service: 222 South Mission Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Chelan County Superior Court, Cause No. 23-4-00444-04 DATED this 2nd day of January 2024 LAW OFFICE OF KYLE D. FLICK, P.S. By KYLE D. FLICK, WSBA #14963 Attorney for Estate Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on January 10, 17, 24, 2024. #6993

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Upper Valley Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA) is announcing its annual meeting dates for 2024. The Board meets six times annually, with the meetings scheduled for March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12, and November 14. Beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Leavenworth City Hall, 700 US Highway 2. Also available via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/98698954583?pwd=eUVNUUQyZ0ZwzVE9qY0dmWJnU1NWQT09> See the City of Leavenworth website for agenda details when posted at www.cityofleavenworth.com. The public is invited to attend said meetings and make comments. Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on January 24, 2024. #7160

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Public Notices

Superior Court of Washington County of Walla Walla Juvenile Court Dependency of: ISRAEL DREW HAMILTON, DOB: 07/20/2017 No: 23-7-00139-03 Notice and Summons by Publication (Dependency) (SMPB)
To: Jacob Besel, Alleged Father To: To Whom It May Concern A Dependency Petition was filed on October 24, 2023. A Uncontested Fact Finding hearing will be held on this matter on: February 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at: Walla Walla County Courthouse, 315 W. Main St., Walla Walla, WA 99362. You should be present at this hearing. The hearing will determine if your child is dependent as defined in RCW 13.34.030(6). This begins a judicial process, which could result in permanent loss of your parental rights. If you do not appear at the hearing, the court may enter a dependency order in your absence. To request a copy of the Notice, Summons, and Dependency Petition, call DCYF at (509) 524-4900. To view information about your rights, including right to a lawyer, go to www.atg.wa.gov/DPY.aspx. DATED this 26 day of December, 2023. Crystal Jennings DEPUTY CLERK Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on January 24, 31, February 7, 2024. #7135

Public Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY In re the Estate of: DAVID E. SEVERANCE JR, Deceased. NO. 24-4-00127-9 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40
The Administrator named below has been appointed as Administrator of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Administrator or their attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty (30) days after the Administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four (4)months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Dated this 5th day of January, 2024. s/Tracy SchAAF Tracy SchAAF, Administrator Court of Probate Proceedings and Cause No: See Caption Above Date of First Publication: January 17, 2024. Attorney for Administrator: Joshua G. R. Curtis, WSBA No. 42034 Address for Service and Mailing: Beresford Booth PLLC 145 Third Avenue South Edmonds, WA 98020 Published in The Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on January 17, 24, 31, 2024. #7096

Public Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR PIERCE COUNTY In the matter of the Estate of: KATHLEEN RENEE WILSON, Deceased. No. 24-4-00069-3 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030
The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, prior to the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Administrator or the Administrator's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claim against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: January 24, 2024 ADMINISTRATOR: JASON K. WILSON Attorney for the Administrator: Brienne M. Kampbell, WSBA# 34483 KAMPBELL LEGAL PLANNING, PLLC Address for Mailing or Service: 2501 North Alder Street Tacoma, WA 98406 Court of Probate Proceeding and Cause Number: See caption above. Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on January 24, 31, February 7, 2024. #7151

Public Notices

CITY OF LEAVENWORTH On the 9th day of January, 2024, the City Council of the City of Leavenworth, Washington passed the following ordinance. A summary of the contents provides as follows: **Ordinance 1687:** An ordinance of the City of Leavenworth, WA, adopting the City of Leavenworth Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan. A full copy of the ordinance is available at Leavenworth City Hall or will be mailed to you upon your request to Andrea Fischer, City Clerk, City of Leavenworth, PO Box 287, Leavenworth, WA 98826. Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on January 24, 2024. #7150

Public Notices

Superior Court of Washington for Chelan County In the matter of the estate of Lonnie C. Davis, Deceased. No. 24-4-00008-04 Notice To Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)
The person named below has been appointed as administrator of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the administrator or her attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of this Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: January 24, 2024. Joy L. Hall, Administrator Attorney for the Administrator: Joseph C. Brown, Jr., WSBA# 17991 Address for Mailing or Service: J.C. Brown Law Office, PLLC 200 Aplets Way, P.O. Box 384 Cashmere, WA 98815 (509) 782-1111 Court of probate proceeding and cause number: Chelan County Superior Court, Cause Number: 24-4-00008-04 Published in the Cashmere Valley Record and Leavenworth Echo on January 24 January 31, and February 7, 2024. #7146

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CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!
Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = E)
A. 12 9 10 12 23
Clue: Vessel
B. 18 19 10 8
Clue: Opposite of fast
C. 18 3 20 20 16 9
Clue: Liquid kept below boil
D. 1 16 15 17 16 9 3 21 16
Clue: Soften fibers
Answers: A. crock B. slow C. simmer D. tenderize

Check the weathercams on the web before traveling over the mountain passes!
www.leavenworthecho.com www.cashmervalleyrecord.com

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
 Find Kid Scoop on Facebook
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Kindness Is Healthy!

Most people agree that doing kind things for others makes them feel good. Scientists now believe doing kind things for others is also good for you!

Five Weeks of Kindness Experiment

Two scientists at Ohio State University asked students who were feeling worried or sad to do three small acts of kindness twice a week for five weeks. The students did things like:

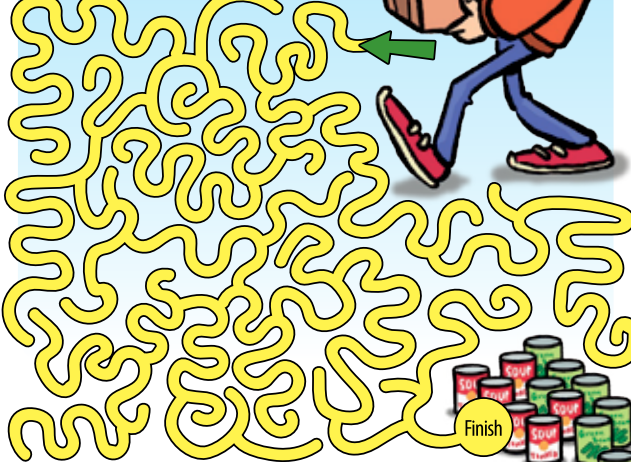


At the end of the five weeks, students reported feeling less worried and much happier. **Being kind makes people feel good!**

Standards Link: Language Arts: Read informational text.

Kindness is Catching!

When you do something kind for another person, it is catching. The person you are kind to will likely go out and do something kind for someone else.



Notes of Kindness

One student at Ohio State spread kindness around the entire campus. She wrote positive and kind words on sticky notes and stuck them to doors, signs, mirrors, and walls around campus.

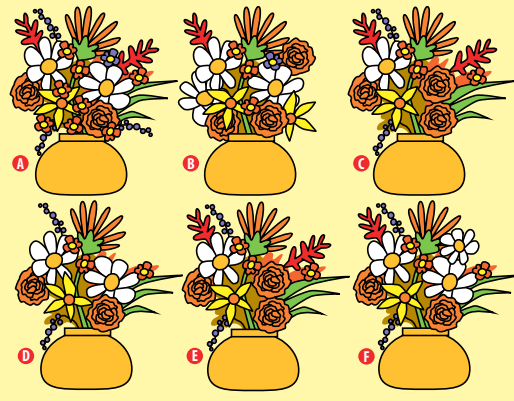
Fill in the missing vowels to discover some kind words to share.



Extra! Extra!
Thanking a Local Hero
 Look for a newspaper article about a person or a group who is helping others in your community. Write them a letter of appreciation and send it to the newspaper's editor for publication.
 Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using letter format.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How kind! Someone surprised the teachers at Main Street Elementary School with flowers. Can you find the two arrangements that are exactly the same?



Double Double Word Search

COOKIE
 DOG
 EDITOR
 FRIEND
 GOOD
 GROCERIES
 HAPPIER
 KINDNESS
 LESS
 NOTES
 OHIO
 PERSON
 SIGNS
 SMILE
 VOLUNTEER

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S	E	I	K	O	O	C	F	S	T
I	F	E	D	I	T	O	R	P	G
G	J	K	H	A	P	P	I	E	R
N	T	B	I	Z	C	K	E	R	O
S	E	T	O	N	I	A	N	S	C
O	M	G	T	Q	D	V	D	O	E
L	Y	I	D	B	O	N	Y	N	R
S	S	E	L	O	O	V	E	O	I
O	I	H	O	E	G	B	H	S	E
V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Helping Others

Look through the newspaper for an article about someone in your community who is struggling. How could you do something kind for this person?

Standards Link: Understand civic responsibility.

Write On!

Kind Things to Say

Write down three kind things you can say to others.

Standards Link: Write descriptively.

Kid Scoop Together Kindness Quiz

Answer these questions after you've read this Kid Scoop page. Have a family member check to see if you answered them all correctly.

1. A study at Ohio State University found out that doing acts of kindness made people feel
 a. lonely
 b. hungry
 c. silly
 d. better

2. When you do a kind act, it often causes other people to do acts of kindness, too.
 a. TRUE
 b. FALSE

3. A student at Ohio State University put these all around the campus:
 a. flowers
 b. apples
 c. sticky notes with kind words
 d. jokes

4. Opening a door for someone is an act of kindness.
 a. TRUE
 b. FALSE

5. To feel happier and less worried, it helps to help others. You can:
 a. smile at someone new
 b. carry someone's groceries
 c. give someone a cookie
 d. walk a neighbor's dog
 e. shovel a snowy sidewalk for a neighbor
 f. give compliments
 g. volunteer to help someone
 h. open doors for others
 i. let someone cut in front of you in line
 j. all of the above!

6. Kindness is catching.
 a. TRUE
 b. FALSE

Standards Link: Write descriptively.



With hundreds of topics, every Kid Scoop printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Members

Continued from page A1

area by removing government signs, properly designating pedestrian areas, raising curbing, and removing the orange barricades for aesthetic purposes.

"Tourism is the lifeblood of our town. This is a fact, no one's debating that. So, it's time to put some of those monies back into making it look like the original vision of this Bavarian town," said McMaster.

McMaster's other priorities include utilizing more options

for affordable workforce housing and improving the town's pickleball courts, which are currently taped onto tennis courts.

"I'm not saying we need to remove all the tennis courts, but I think that we need to start walking down that path to this sport that's good for every age group that lives in our community, kids, older people, so the rec side is important," said McMaster.

McMaster is on the Festhalle Oversight Committee and PRSA. McMaster enjoys spending his free time at Leavenworth's downtown

shops, restaurants and breweries, especially Icele Brewing.

Rhona Baron

Baron has been an active member of the Leavenworth community over the past 40 years. She's the Creative Director of a nonprofit group called Dangerous Women and is the author of "The Whistle" column in the Leavenworth Echo.

"Over the past 40 years living in Leavenworth, I have innovated, served, volunteered and worked in many capacities to educate, enlighten, entertain

and facilitate the health of our community," said Baron.

Baron hopes to be involved with parking, regional solid waste, and housing. She has a special interest in careful recreation of local waterways.

"My first priority is to become familiar with the nature of the work so that I can use my position most effectively," said Baron. "My second priority is to represent the citizens, to listen carefully to their ideas and concerns, and to partner with them on finding solutions."

Baron appreciates Leavenworth

worth for the ability to live in the midst of nature, hike in the mountains, and enjoy the surrounding rivers and lakes.

"Strolling the village to take in our many wonderful amenities, maintaining the warm relationships I have with my neighbors, the easy flow of conversation at the produce section at Dan's, opportunities in the arts, and finally, relishing in my organic yard that's right in town, all these things make me happy," said Baron.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Chelan PUD

Continued from page A1

from the assets, despite the transfer.

"We refer to our customers as customer owners because it's public. The public does own those assets. It's not a takeover. We want to be crystal clear about that. It's a transfer of ownership, management, and operations," said Slabaugh.

The rate adders would be applied for the duration of the 20-year loan. However, future grant funding could help alleviate this obligation, which PUD is looking into.

The acquisition would provide certain benefits to Peshastin customers, such as having more available staff and funds to better respond to emergencies.

PWD and Chelan PUD signed an agreement in Sept. 2023, with plans to complete the acquisition in March 2024. Under the agreement, Peshastin Water District will transfer all assets to Chelan PUD, and PUD will not pay monetary consideration for the assets. Chelan PUD will assume maintenance and operational responsibilities, pay existing debts, and cover system improvements to bring PWD's system to the same standard as other community systems under Chelan PUD.

An official rate hearing was held on Jan. 22. Commissioners will vote on the rate plan and final loan terms on Feb. 5. Questions or comments can be submitted to contactus@chelanpud.org.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Volunteers pack bags with meals and snacks for families to use throughout the week.

Backpack

Continued from page A1

Now, it's a team effort. Weaver coordinates with the schools about numbers. Joyce Schiferl and Donna Whalen plan the menu. Two couples make the bi-weekly shopping trip and prep the food to be packed. Then, every Wednesday, around 10 volunteers gather in the basement of United Methodist Church to pack bags of food for the students.

Each bag contains three breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and snacks. Just before school breaks, volunteers pack bags with twice as much food. Once packed, they are shipped to Peshastin-Dryden Elementary, Icele River Middle School, and Cascade High School for students to pick up.

"I think if you asked the schools they wouldn't see anything. I think we've been able to pick up the pieces and move on because [Groby] had

structured things so well," said volunteer Mary Nelson.

The inconspicuous bags are packed with shelf-stable essentials, and delivered in the main office, so that students can put the bags in their backpacks in private. The students are kept anonymous from even the volunteers.

"We're trying to make it okay for them and not make it a big deal. It's hard to know how to deliver these so that kids aren't embarrassed by picking up their bags and swinging home with them. This is something they can put in a backpack, or they can carry it and it's pretty innocuous. There's kind of some anonymity to it, which I think we've done a pretty good job of," said Weaver.

The volunteers go even further to make students feel like their peers, by adding holiday themed food such as turkey for Thanksgiving and pancake mix for Mother's Day. As often as they can, the group will add what they call "expensive treat snacks," such

as Oreos.

"That way, the kid feels like they're like any other kid at school," said one volunteer.

Although the program is an initiative from the United Methodist Church, not all the volunteers are a part of the church. Some volunteers are Catholic, and others have gotten involved through friends. Many, however, are retired teachers and principals.

"And we all know the impact of not having enough food," said Nelson, who is a retired principal.

Everyone is welcome to volunteer or donate. Volunteers meet at 9 a.m. every Wednesday and are done as soon as 9:30 a.m. The packing takes place in the basement of United Methodist Church, at 418 Evans Street. For more information or to get involved, call the United Methodist Church office at 509-548-5619.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Dr. Louise

Continued from page A3

Pain® gel contains diclofenac, the same ingredient found in Voltaren® gel.

Tylenol Precise Cooling® cream is another example of brand extension. Instead of acetaminophen, this cream contains both 4% lidocaine and 1% menthol.

Here are 4 Tips for Using Topical Non-Prescription Pain Relievers Safely:

1. Apply only to intact skin. Broken skin increases the amount of drug absorbed into

your bloodstream, increasing the risk of side effects.

2. Alternate with different agents.

Using more than one topical analgesic roll-on may increase your relief, but applying them simultaneously can increase the risk of skin irritation. Try alternating them instead.

3. Reapply capsaicin without delay.

Replenish capsaicin when the tingling/burning sensation begins to return. Waiting longer makes the tingling and burning more intense when you use it again.

4. Use roll-on applicators whenever possible.

Roll-ons are more precise and less messy. They avoid getting capsaicin's pepper-based extract on your fingers and accidentally in your eyes.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy, is a 44-year veteran of pharmacology and author of Why Dogs Can't Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely. Get clear answers to your medication questions at her website and blog, TheMedicationInsider.com.

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LEGISLATIVE Coverage

Task force proposed to study impacts of artificial intelligence

By **ASPEN ANDERSON**
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Some fear Artificial Intelligence (AI) might open a dark chapter to a dystopian future. Others say the progress it promises is virtually unlimited.

To find a balance among those concerns, Washington state is considering launching a task force to determine how it can best promote the most beneficial uses while mitigating potential challenges.

Sen. Joe Nguyen, D-White Center, has introduced a bill, SB 5838, that would establish the task force. The bill has 17 Democratic and 2 Republican co-sponsors and the support of Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

"The Legislature is set up to solve yesterday's problems

tomorrow...There's probably, I think, over 150 AI bills across the nation," Nguyen said.

The European Union's 2023 AI law set the stage for global discourse on regulation. The Act introduced a tiered approach to regulate artificial intelligence based on risk levels.

It identifies "unacceptable risk" in AI systems and bans them, with some exceptions for law enforcement. The act prohibits AI technology that engages in "social scoring," which involves categorizing people based on behavior, socio-economic status, or personal characteristics.

"High-risk" AI systems undergo assessments before market entry and throughout their lifecycle, while general-purpose and generative AI, like

ChatGPT, must comply with transparency requirements that require people to disclose whenever they use ChatGPT.

Drawbacks of the regulation include possible limits on innovation and the challenge of defining and categorizing AI systems accurately.

AI legislation has been introduced in 25 U.S. states. Task forces or commissions have been launched by officials in Colorado, Illinois, Vermont, and Virginia.

SB 5838, if passed, would establish a task force this year as long as state budget writers allocate funds — roughly \$1.5 million over the next four years, according to the bill's fiscal note. The task force's 42 members, spanning public and private sectors, will be charged with providing insights on

racial equity, regulatory proposals and innovation support. The task force would include one member each from the Senate and the House.

"Oftentimes, it is difficult to fill workgroups, or task forces that the Legislature passes. This is not one of those cases. In fact, we have to trim it down a little bit," Nguyen said.

Joyce Bruce, the Attorney General's legislative director, testified in support of the bill.

"ChatGPT has become one of the fastest growing AI applications of all time. Washington has been on the cutting edge of innovation and technology," Bruce said.

Seattle ranks second nationally in AI talent concentration. Ferguson emphasized the need to embrace this technology

thoughtfully.

Some, however, worry too much regulation might hurt the ability of firms to develop new products.

"We should not be in the practice of interrupting technology and innovation," said Kelly Fukai, vice president of Government Community Affairs at the Washington Technology Industry Association.

Concerned citizen Eric Pratt echoed those thoughts.

"We might impede on the public's ability to utilize (the technology's) full potential," he said. "When you use words like regulation and task force, it starts to get my concerns elevated...You're trying to take away powerful tools," Pratt said.

The task force is set to convene semi-annually. It

would provide its first report by Dec. 1, 2025, and a final report by June 1, 2027.

Sen. Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island, said she hoped the task force would report more frequently.

"One of the things that we're missing is to have a trusted source providing us with information as a public about what is happening," she said. "I would really like this group to be putting out more frequent reports."

If the bill passes, the task force will first meet Dec. 31, 2024.

The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website funded by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Learn more at wastatejournal.org.

Victims push for legislation against police deception in interrogations

By **ASPEN ANDERSON & MARY MURPHY**
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Amanda Knox, the Seattle resident who spent nearly four years in an Italian prison for a murder she did not commit, offered heartfelt testimony Jan. 8 in favor of a bill that would prevent law enforcement officers from using deception during interrogations.

"I was interrogated overnight by police officers who claimed to have evidence against me, who claimed that there were witnesses who could place me at the crime scene," Knox said. "They lied to me. I did not know they could lie to me... These are people who I was raised to believe that I could trust."

Knox was testifying in favor of HB1062, a bill now being debated in the state Legislature. The measure would make any statement determined by the court to be obtained by deception during interrogation to be inadmissible as evidence. Advocates say they think the bill will help prevent false convictions.

The measure was supported by people unjustly convicted of crimes and social activists pressing for reform. It was opposed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

"Sometimes, it's an unfortunate reality, we have to lie to people to get them to tell the truth," said James McMahan, Policy Director for

the sheriffs and police chiefs association. "This is not good public policy in our view. This does not address our ongoing growing crime problem in Washington."

When Knox was just 20, she was subjected to 53 hours of questioning over five days in a foreign language without legal counsel. She was sentenced to 26 years in prison, served four

years and then was exonerated after DNA evidence of multiple men was found on the victim's clothing.

"I believe that if I had not been lied to by the police, none of this would have ever happened," Knox said.

Rep. Tarra Simmons, D-Bremerton, is a notable sponsor of the bill. In 2011, Simmons was sentenced to 30 months in prison for theft, drug and firearm crimes and was elected as Washington State's first formerly incarcerated lawmaker.

Also testifying in favor, was Ted Bradford, Washington State's first person to be exonerated by DNA results. He was interrogated for 9.5 hours when he was 22 years old and served 10 years.

"I was told many times that 'you are the person that did this.'" Bradford said. "I knew I was innocent...I thought, just give them a statement, give them what they want now... They'll test that evidence, and this will all be over."

Adding support for the bill was the Washington Innocence Project.

"Criminal investigations

are no longer a search for truth, but they are a search for generating material that will lead to a conviction," said Lara Zarowsky, the Executive Director of the Washington Innocence Project, a non-profit organization that supplies free legal and investigative services to those who have been wrongfully convicted.

Certified forensic reviewer David Thompson also testified in favor of this bill. For over four decades, he provided training on interview and interrogation techniques to federal state local law enforcement.

"If we lie about evidence, cameras, fingerprints, DNA, it causes memory distrust. It causes confusion...Why do investigators lie in the first place?" Thompson asked. "It's because the evidence doesn't exist. Otherwise, it wouldn't be deceptive."

Thompson also said he thinks the bill will have broad, positive effects.

"I firmly believe this legislation not only will improve the quality and effectiveness of investigative interviews, but also rebuilds trust and will help resolve

cases," Thompson stated.

Julie Barrett, founder of the Conservative Ladies of Washington, argued this legislation is not needed because if a law enforcement officer intentionally uses deception in a custodial interrogation, it is already inadmissible in court.

James Trainum, a retired detective from Washington D.C. Police Department pushed back against that idea.

"Every single case involving a wrongful conviction that had a false confession, that judge ruled that conviction to be admissible," Trainum said.

If the bill is approved, Washington State will be the 10th state to ban deceptive tactics, according to the testimony by Russell Brown, of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Brown added Washington would be the only state to protect more than just minors from these tactics.

The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website funded by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Learn more at wastatejournal.org.



ASPEN ANDERSON / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL
Testifying in favor of a bill to stop deception in interrogations are, from left: Lara Zarowsky, the Executive Director of the Washington Innocence Project; Ted Bradford, the first person in Washington to be exonerated by DNA evidence; and Amanda Knox, a victim of false conviction.

Legislation to bolster landslide preparedness and safety introduced in Congress

Ward Media / Cashmere Valley Record

WASHINGTON, DC - In a move to enhance national preparedness and response to landslide hazards, U.S. Representatives Kim Schrier (WA-08), Suzan DelBene (WA-01), and Marie Glusenkamp Perez (WA-03) have introduced the National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act (H.R. 7003).

This bipartisan bill, if passed, will reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act through fiscal year 2028, building upon the foundation set by the original act enacted in 2021.

The 2021 legislation empowered the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to establish a National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program. Its core mission is to identify and understand landslide risks,

mitigate losses, protect at-risk communities, and enhance communication and emergency preparedness strategies.

Washington state, a region with a history of devastating landslides, including the 2014 State Route 530 landslide — the deadliest in U.S. history — is particularly vulnerable. The increasing severity and frequency of wildfires across Washington and other western

states exacerbate this threat, leaving burn areas highly susceptible to landslides.

Congresswoman Schrier remarked on the urgency of the bill, recalling the 2014 landslide that claimed 43 lives. "Nearly ten years ago, our community felt the devastating impact of landslides firsthand as the SR 530 Landslide claimed 43 lives, making it the deadliest in U.S. history," said Rep. Schrier. "This bill will make

crucial investments to further our understanding of landslides, improve our preparation for these natural disasters, and ultimately safeguard our communities."

The proposed legislation would enable the USGS to develop a national landslide strategy, a comprehensive hazard and risk inventory database, expand early warning systems for debris flow, and establish

rapid response protocols for significant landslide events. It also aims to improve subsidence and groundwater resource accounting and establish a 3D elevation program.

The bill also provides for grants to support research, mapping, data collection on landslide hazards, and the National Science Foundation may offer grants for landslide research.

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until further notice.
Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana
cashmerecommunitychurch@gmail.com



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www.midvalleybaptist.org

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



LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
418 Evans Street • 509-548-5619
10 a.m. Sunday Service, Pastor
Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout
leavenworthumc.org
leavenworthumc@outlook.com

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Church: 509-548-7667
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"Reconciling Works Congregation"
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Eva Jensen, Pastor
https://www.flcleavenworth.org

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429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745
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Website: www.leavenworthbaptist.com
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