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Bridgeport Schools battle AI temptations with new academic integrity policy

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BRIDGEPORT – As is the case with schools across the nation, the Bridgeport school district is coming to grips with the influence and temptation of artificial intelligence (AI) on students. It's an issue Bridgeport High School Principal Tamra Jackson addressed last week and told the regular meeting of the Bridgeport School Board on Jan. 29 how she went about it.

"There are programs that we are interested in as a school district, particularly in high school, that are available for access by students, which have become far too tempting," said Jackson. "Writes my paper, it prints out, I put my name on it, and there it is. ChatGPT is one of them."

Jackson used an assigned subject as an example.

"Write a paper on the fall of Communism in the USSR and make it sound like a tenth grader wrote it, and these are the five things that have to be in it," began Jackson. "Type that in, hit return, and it's all right there."

"That still doesn't sound like me, so change the words a little bit here or adapt it, so you just keep giving it directions, and it spits out whatever you want," explained Jackson. "Sadly, it's becoming widely used in Bridgeport and other schools."

Jackson said the beginning of the new semester seems like an appropriate time for the school to send out its remedy to the plague of AI-sourced schoolwork.

"Every student was given this

today," said Jackson, referring to the two-page Bridgeport School District Academic Integrity/Honesty Regulation she shared with the board.

All students were told the motives behind the regulation: What is academic integrity and honesty? What is plagiarism?

The students signed the form and then took it home for parents to sign also.

"They need to be back," stressed Jackson. "Because we're not going to grant any grades until they're back, so any grades that happen this week - if this is not turned in - they're not getting credit. We're not kidding... these come back."

Facing failure of an assignment or failing a class, students have no other option.

"I don't think it will take long to get these back," Jackson predicted.

Jackson brought examples of show-your-work math problems Bridgeport students "solved" using AI.

"They are solving problems in ways that they have never been taught or that teacher never taught, or they're using math book tabulator that they are not using in class."

Jackson related an interesting fact about the new technology that is barely a year old...It doesn't always tell the truth.

"It just won't say 'I don't know,' it will make it up," Jackson said.

She cited an example of a recently disbarred federal prosecutor in the news because he used ChatGPT to write his brief for a judge. When it came to footnotes citing references to

actual cases, the AI program did not know those...so it made them up.

Case closed - for the former prosecutor - as it were.

Jackson said she created her statement from Wenatchee Valley College and Central Washington University.

"This a compilation of the two colleges that we grant college credit from," said Jackson. "This is what their statement is about integrity, honesty, student conduct."

"There are none out there yet," said Superintendent Scott Sattler. "No policies around AI. Everybody's kind of hands-off right now because they don't know where it's going to go."

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Brewster, Bridgeport, and Mansfield on ballots

Voters will decide fates of three EP&O levies

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – Educational programs and operations (EP&O) levies are on the line for three of four Quad City schools this month. Voters are casting ballots to support or oppose the four-year measures for Brewster, Bridgeport, and Mansfield high schools. All three levies are replacements of previously approved by voters in 2020. Ballots must be returned by Feb. 13.

Mansfield

Mansfield's four-year \$200,000 levy will replace the existing levy, which expires on Dec. 31, 2024. The new levy rate will be approximately \$2 per \$1,000 in assessed property value. The expiring 2020 levy was advertised as \$2.29 per \$1,000 in assessed property value.

"This rate averaged \$2.09 per \$1,000 due to an increase in assessed property values," a statement on the Mansfield school district site (mansfield.wednet.edu) said. "When property rates increase, the price per thousand fluctuates, but the amount of collected levy funds is fixed at \$200,000."



COURTESY OF BREWSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

A new bus barn complex is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2024.

The state legislature has limited the amount that districts can solicit through the EP&O levy process to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This has forced many school districts to run specialized levies in areas such as technology, transportation, and capital projects.

Bridgeport

Bridgeport has a good record of levy support for funding measures the school brings before voters. Its

previous 2020 levy passed by 55.5 percent. Four years earlier, its 2016 measure received 61 percent support.

The proposed replacement levy of approximately \$360,000 will be collected in 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. Collection will not begin until the current levy ends in 2024.

In his January newsletter, Superintendent Scott Sattler noted that the four-year levy was chosen for two basic reasons.

1. Each time a levy is run, it costs



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

A crew dismantles a building on Sunset Avenue, where the new Brewster bus barn will be located.

the district in excess of \$6,000.

2. The fact that the second, third, and fourth year of the levy is the same, \$1.69 per thousand, should help assure the voters that the rate will not be increased for collection throughout the four years.

"Bridgeport will receive \$1,200,000 per year in levy equalization should the levy pass," wrote Sattler. "Levy equalization dollars are not available if the levy fails."

In his newsletter, Sattler announced the first construction planning meeting for remodeling the elementary school.

"We have remodeling dollars to remodel the main building of the elementary school (\$6 million)," wrote Sattler. "We are currently chasing more dollars that could potentially replace all the portable buildings (A, B, C, and D buildings)."

See EP&O Page B4

Clothing, food, toys discussed

Governor's proclamation recognizes state school boards



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Superintendent Scott Sattler, right, reads the governor's proclamation to Bridgeport school board members. Also pictured is Business Manager Eddie Morales.

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BRIDGEPORT – For those rare few citizens who forgot to drop a line, make a call, or pay a visit to their local school board members last month

- School Board Recognition Month -- do not despair because Gov. Inslee has your back. The Governor issued a proclamation designating January 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Washington.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Bridgeport school board on Monday, Jan. 29, Superintendent Scott Sattler directed board members' attention to the certificates in front of them as he recited the proclamation language:

WHEREAS, the mission of Washington's public school system is to assure that all students achieve at high levels and possess the knowledge and skills to be responsible members of a democratic society who enjoy productive and satisfying lives; and

WHEREAS, Washington's 295 locally elected school boards and nine elected educational service district

See **PROCLAMATION** Page B4

Groups gather to connect over community needs



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Post Commander Greg Wagg acted as facilitator

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – More than two dozen representatives from cities, churches, and community service organizations came together at the American Legion Columbia Post 97 in Brewster on Jan. 30 to discuss community needs and the resources to meet them in the Quad city coverage area.

The gathering was organized by Navy veteran and Legion member Edward Gossett and facilitated by Post Commander Greg Wagg. The goal of the meeting was to address food banks and related groups in the

Bridgeport, Brewster, and Pateros areas and create a community list of those who can help. The primary aim, as stated in the meeting flyer, is to ensure that "no one falls through the cracks by directing individuals, school counselors, and veterans requesting help to the right resources."

Gossett is the Legion's Public Outreach Coordinator, Financial Officer, and a 22-year retired Navy submarine missile specialist. He now works with the Very Long Baseline

See **GROUPS GATHER** Page B4



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Melody Mullin with the Okanogan County Community Action Council handed out pairs of Bombas socks at the meeting.

Inside The Quad City Herald this Week

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The Quad City Herald 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: terry@ward.media

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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!



Dungeons and Dragons

The Omak Library will host Dungeons and Dragons for ages 8-14 on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Pioneer room.

"Join others in your quest to seek out adventure and glory," the event page states. "Each week will be a new quest to challenge our young adventures. This program is designed for children and accompanying adults. Please plan to attend and be engaged with your child for this program."

Drop-offs will not be permitted for younger children.

The Variety Show

The OVOC Performing Arts in Omak will host a Variety Show on Friday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m.

"Once a year, our stage becomes a vibrant canvas, showcasing an eclectic mix of performances that mirror the diverse soul of our community," the event page states. "The Variety Show is more than just a performance; it's a testament to the vibrant artistic community that OVOC Performing Arts nurtures."

Performers will include musicians, magicians, singer-songwriters, poets, dancers, and more.

For more information, visit ovocmusic.org.

Storytime

The Pateros Library will host storytime on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 10:30 - 11 a.m. "Join us for an hour of

stories, songs, rhyming, crafts, and fun," the event page states. "Our program will be geared towards pre-school ages, but all are welcome to attend."

For more information, visit nculibraries.org.

Love monsters

The Pateros Library will host a Love Monster-themed after-school activity on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 4 to 5 p.m.

"Join us for a weekly after-school activity," the event page states. "We will cycle through crafts, STEM, board games, and more."

STEAM Fridays

The Omak Library will host STEAM Friday on Friday, Feb. 9 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the children's area.

"Join us the 2nd and 4th Friday for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math)," the event page

states. "Each Friday will be a different activity to help you find a passion in the STEAM world. There is so much to explore, so join us to learn something fun."

For more information, visit nculibraries.org.

Bridgeport wins Mariners Equipment Care Donation Grant

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BRIDGEPORT – For the second time in five years, Bridgeport's baseball/softball program has been awarded a Seattle Mariners Equipment Care Donation Grant for 2024. Varsity baseball coach Jesse Macy announced the \$5,000 grant at the Jan. 29 Bridgeport school board meeting.

"We were notified today," said Macy. "It's money for our programs, and we get to go to a ball game, too."

The Mariners have been awarding annual grants to schools since 2017. Bridgeport received its first Care Equipment Donation Grant in 2020. Brewster has also been a two-time recipient, first in 2019 and again in 2022. Waterville was a 2021 recipient, and Pateros was in 2023.

A committee of Seattle Mariners staff selects 10 high school baseball and softball teams to receive a \$5,000 grant for the upcoming season. These funds have supported baseball and softball student-athletes

across the Pacific Northwest.

"We strive to increase equity, improve participation, and grow competitive play regardless of a student's socioeconomic status," said a Mariners media release. "So far, we've provided a total of \$250,000 to 50 high school baseball and softball programs to help with baseball and softball equipment needs in under-resourced communities."

Any high school in the state of Washington or Oregon is eligible to apply for the

Mariners Care Equipment Donation Grant. Preference is given to schools that demonstrate financial need, including Title 1 school designation and schools whose baseball or softball programs reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the broader school population.

Grant funds can be applied to items that will be used by the players and team, including player equipment, safety equipment, and updates to the field of play. Recipients of a previous Mariners Care

Equipment Donation grant are not eligible for another grant in consecutive years.

Quad area grant awards:

Location	Year
Bridgeport	2024
Pateros	2023
Brewster	2022
Waterville (Mansfield)	2021
Bridgeport	2020
Brewster	2019

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Science on Wheels coming to Bridgeport Elementary

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BRIDGEPORT – The Pacific Science Center (PSC) is coming to Bridgeport Elementary School...well, not the whole Pacific Science Center, but at least the part that's on wheels.

Bridgeport Elementary Principal Jesse Macy told the regular monthly meeting of the school board on Jan. 26, that art teacher Lisa Cutuli submitted a request to get on the PacSci schedule and was granted a slot for a Science on Wheels visit on May 10.

Cutuli later told the Quad that she called PSC and was advised that Bridgeport qualified for its program.

"The program we will receive is called Science on Wheels Engineering," Cutuli said.

Thanks to generous grant support from the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Amazon Future Engineer, SMART Technologies, and Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation, it is provided at no cost.

Students will begin the day

with an assembly where they will learn about electrical, civil, and aerospace engineering in an interactive show for the whole school. Students will also be part of the Interactive Pop-Up Exhibit, where they can construct an arch bridge, manipulate marble mazes, and make wheels turn using engines and gears.

Each class will receive a different workshop in their classroom. Workshops include:

- **Machine Makeover:** Become hands-on inventors and create Lego Duplo Toolo Machines to help solve everyday problems.
- **Super Structures:** Discover what makes a strong and stable building using foam blocks, wooden dowels, and mini foundations.
- **Radical Robots.** How robots can help us solve problems as they explore the world of robotics and become real robot programmers. They will program Kibos to move through obstacles and react to the world around them.

- **Bridge the Gap:** Test the limits of a K'NEX bridge and discover what makes an optimal bridge design through various challenges.
- **Get in Gear:** How mechanical engineers design an amusement park ride so that it spins the fastest.

Science on Wheels travels across the state, bringing engaging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming to grades K-8 with an emphasis on interactive and hands-on programs.

The mobile unit offers both whole-day and partial-day programs in Eastern Washington on a seasonal basis from March to June and September through early November.

Science on Wheels visited the Pateros school in the fall of 2017 and set up an array of interactive exhibits in the school gym.

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MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

A Pateros elementary student interacts with the Eye of the Storm exhibit when Science on Wheels visited the Pateros school in 2017.

Chelan County announces Lodging Tax Capital Grants application period

Ward Media
Quad City Herald

WENATCHEE—The Chelan County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) has opened the application process for lodging tax dollars aimed at funding capital projects. This initiative is designed to support ventures that will draw overnight visitors to the area. Eligible projects include those that focus on the acquisition, development, and improvement of tourism-related facilities.

Under the stipulations of RCW 67.28.1815-1816, funds from the county's lodging tax revenue are allocated for the promotion of tourism and the acquisition and operation of tourism-centric facilities. The current application cycle is specifically targeted at capital expenditures in tourism-related infrastructure.

Capital projects qualify if they involve investment in land, building enhancements, parking facilities, vehicles, equipment, art or historical items, and essential infrastructure like roads, bridges, and water systems. Applications must detail the intended use of funds in these areas to be considered.

The submission deadline is Mar. 15 at 5 p.m. LTAC plans to review the applications during its March session, with funding decisions based on the project's potential to increase tourism, promote overnight

stays, and stimulate the local economy. The available budget for these capital grants totals \$420,000.

Applications are accessible via a fillable PDF form on the Chelan County website, with completed forms to be emailed to the LTAC. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget showcasing organizational and county matching funds, explicitly excluding administrative costs.

Post-project completion, a detailed report is mandatory within 90 days, illustrating the project's community impact, including data on attendance, sales, and publicity. This report should also include receipts detailing the expenditure of the allocated funds.

Lodging tax revenues, sourced from local accommodation providers, support various tourism-related activities and organizations within Chelan County. This includes funding for local chambers, the Cascade Loop, Ohme Gardens, TREAD, and the county's own Visit Chelan County campaign. Grants are distributed annually, with separate application periods for Events, Marketing, and Capital projects.

For more information on the application process and to view the list of successful 2023 capital grant recipients, visit Chelan County's official website.

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POINT OF VIEW

Hydropower is the cornerstone of a reliable, clean energy future

Affordable, plentiful energy is the root of a society that enables economic growth. It's easy to forget our community's biggest asset even though it affects everything we do. Now more than ever, our customers need to understand hydropower's role in the rapidly changing energy landscape, and how we're preparing for the future.

It's no secret that the public utility districts of Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties provide very low electric rates. Thanks to the vision of local citizens who voted to create public utility districts, and the commissioners elected to represent them, our PUDs brought low-cost public-owned hydropower to our region over 60 years ago. Today, these hydropower projects are the backbone of a clean energy economy that supports local residents and attracts new industries. As a bonus, the dams provide recreational opportunities and beautiful parks that make our communities a desirable place to live.

Good News for Hydropower

Hydropower's reputation has seen some highs and lows over the last few years in the regional and national spotlight. The good news is that Washington State's Clean Energy Transformation Act recognizes hydropower as a clean resource that can help meet carbon reduction goals. That's a change from 20 years ago, when our existing hydropower wasn't counted as eligible under the state's renewable energy standard. At the federal level, recent laws providing billions in clean energy incentives treat hydropower more equitably than in the past. These are encouraging signs. Yet most people don't really understand hydropower's crucial role in keeping our electric grid reliable and costs affordable as coal and natural gas generators retire.



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Grant County PUD

Bad News for Hydropower

A recent proposal illustrates this problem and highlights the growing disconnect surrounding hydropower's importance to our everyday lives. In December, the U.S. government filed an agreement in Oregon to resolve an Endangered Species Act lawsuit against federally owned dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Under the agreement, the U.S. government commits to helping tribes build replacement power for the

four Lower Snake River Dams. The goal is to bring the region one step closer to breaching them. Dam breaching is deeply concerning for customers served by utilities (including those in Okanogan and Kittitas counties) who purchase power from the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the hydropower produced by the Lower Snake River Dams. It is also concerning to regional electric grid managers, who understand there are no easy replacements for the consistent carbon-free energy provided by these dams. Unfortunately, utilities were not allowed to provide input into the agreement, and many of the details are still unclear.

Building on the Hydropower Foundation

Talk of dam breaching fails to recognize that we're entering a time of extreme change for the electric grid.

Projected electricity demand is staggering as new industries and public policy shift more energy use to electricity. The Pacific Northwest Utilities Coordinating Council predicts 20 percent electricity load growth in the region over the next 5 years. Meanwhile, state and federal policies increasingly require that electricity be emission-free. This will entail a combination of energy storage, remote renewables, new transmission lines, and more energy innovation. It's more likely that the region will need both massive amounts of new power AND the Snake River Dams. Otherwise, customers statewide would be impacted by less reliability and higher bills like we've seen in other parts of the country.

Our Stewardship Responsibilities

With hydropower and energy issues so frequently in the news, we wanted to assure our customers that we are looking ahead and adapting to change. Our PUDs hosted a Clean Energy Expo in Wenatchee last

month because we expect to need more energy and want to explore innovative sources. We continue to invest in our hydropower projects through modernization and dam safety investments. And we've committed to fish management programs that go above and beyond standard regulatory requirements. For example, just recently Chelan PUD achieved its 20-year standard for having "no net impact" on migrating salmon and steelhead. Both Douglas and Grant PUDs also have similar long-term programs that exceed the requirements of their federal hydropower licenses.

Stewardship is overseeing and protecting something worth preserving. Our communities have a great gift in the public-owned dams - both PUD and federal - on the Columbia River system. With this foundation of reliable, zero-carbon emitting power, we are well-positioned to respond to future change while preserving our public power legacy - and that applies to fish and clean, reliable energy for everyone.

Supply, not demand, is the true driver of our fentanyl crisis

By SAM QUINONES
The Washington Post

Before Mexico's cartel wars, I lived in the country for 10 years. I didn't write much about drugs, focusing instead on immigration. But if asked, I'd have probably agreed with the Mexican line: Demand for drugs from the United States was creating supply.

Now - after years of interviewing people with addiction, their family members, cops, traffickers and dealers, drug counselors, paramedics, ER doctors and nurses, as well as writing two books on opioids, including fentanyl - I believe the opposite: Street fentanyl, indeed all opioids, are about supply creating demand.

Opioids transform our brain chemistry, creating dependency and squelching our basic instincts for survival. But it is relentless supply that perpetuates this demand by making opioids readily available - and getting sober an agony. The most recent provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for a 12-month period that ended in August, estimated that there were 112,000 fatal overdoses nationwide, an increase of almost 3 percent over the 12-month period ending in August 2022.

Supply creating demand is the story of our national opioid

epidemic, with an inundation of pain pills creating a population of addicted consumers that didn't before exist. Take West Virginia: In the 1990s, before it was flooded with opioid pills, it ranked near the bottom of the 50 states when it came to overdose rate. Now, it ranks first.

Or, take the word of members of the Sackler family (who have denied wrongdoing) and Purdue Pharma (which in a settlement pleaded guilty to three felonies), whose internal emails and memos make clear they knew: Supply patients with the pill OxyContin, which includes the opioid oxycodone, and they are likely to use at ever-higher doses for years. In other words, supply creates demand was virtually the Purdue business model.

Fentanyl offers new twists on that story. The drug is a magnificent surgical anesthesia - I've had it in an operation - because it takes patients in and out of anesthesia quickly. On the street, however, fentanyl's short-lasting nature means addicts must use it repeatedly throughout the day to keep withdrawal at bay.

Plentiful fentanyl, meanwhile, drives users' tolerances to towering levels, with brutal withdrawals. This makes kicking fentanyl scary - and is why many street addicts refuse treatment and housing even at the risk of death. A

drug counselor told me that, depending on the moment, their "clients are terrified of two things: dying of fentanyl and being away from fentanyl."

Our street fentanyl is manufactured in Mexico. Traffickers control Mexican ports to such an extent that they can import chemical ingredients from China and elsewhere year-round. Those traffickers have assault weapons, many bought in the United States and smuggled south, which ensure this impunity.

The unrelenting supply the cartels create means fentanyl is now everywhere. It is mixed into counterfeit pills smuggled into the United States by the tens of millions. It is laced into many other drugs, such as meth, marijuana and cocaine. That's why Black people are now dying at a higher rate of opioid overdose than White people - and usually not for any initial demand for it. Many Black drug users die from what they believe is cocaine but is actually cocaine laced with fentanyl.

These vast supplies are also why there's no such thing as long-term fentanyl users. If they remain on the street, they die.

Dealers, meanwhile, know that if customers don't immediately die, they'll be fervent, daily buyers - for a while. Thus dealers seem unchastened when customers overdose: Dead addicts will be replaced



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Officials from Mexico's attorney general's office, at their headquarters in Tijuana in October 2022, unload hundreds of pounds of fentanyl and meth seized near Ensenada. No one was arrested in connection with the seizure.

soon enough.

Expanding drug-treatment capacity should be a national priority, though it's likely many people addicted to fentanyl will still refuse treatment or quickly run back to the drugs, as is common today. Naloxone revives people from overdose and is an essential tool. But it's foolhardy to assume we can repeatedly revive fentanyl addicts, leaving them on the street until they decide to seek treatment and stay; fentanyl or the street will kill them before that happens.

With users so outmatched

by these drug supplies, we need to get them off the street and to a place where they can't leave when the dope tells them they must. One welcome change is that jail is being rethought as a place of recovery - where, after an arrest, people with addiction can get blessed refuge while their brains heal.

It is also essential for the United States to find ways of engaging Mexico to, among other things, track and disrupt the importation of fentanyl's chemical components. In turn, the United States must step

up to curtail the southward supply of assault weapons, sold so easily here, that ensure traffickers can produce the drugs killing so many Americans.

Perhaps first, though, we need to get used to the new ideas about illicit drugs that pervasive fentanyl clarifies - including that supply is creating demand.

Sam Quinones is the author of four books, including "The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth."

Mandatory process proposed to review complaints about school library books

By ASPEN ANDERSON
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - A mandatory process to guide school districts should be required when protests erupt over books that deal candidly with sexual preferences and gender identity.

While proponents of that position argue a policy is crucial to protect LGBTQ+ authors, critics call the idea government overreach and argue "kids" are the only class that needs protecting.

HB 2331, now being debated in the state Legislature, prevents school districts from rejecting or censoring educational materials associated with protected classes. Additionally, the bill requires librarians to maintain culturally diverse books in their collections.

In Washington state, a majority of schools adhere to a 'model policy' for reviewing books when objections are raised. Initially, a teacher or librarian is consulted regarding a book. If a parent objects to a book, alternative material

is provided for their child. If resolution isn't achieved at the classroom level, the next step is the principal's intervention. Should the matter remain unresolved, the book undergoes review by an instructional materials committee (IMC), which is appointed by the school board. The committee makes the final call.

Under the proposed bill, districts without an IMC would be mandated to form one. Members of the IMC would be appointed by the school district's chief administrative officer with approval from the school board. The committee must consist of professional staff from the district, and, at the school board's discretion, can include parents.

The primary sponsor of the bill, Rep. Monica Stonier, D-Vancouver, said she believes an organized and politicized political movement is pushing to restrict the options for readers in schools. The necessity of this bill, according to Stonier, is that this "model policy," is not always followed when evaluating the

appropriateness of a book.

Since 2021, the number of books that have been banned or challenged saw an exponential increase, according to the American Library Association.

"Limiting texts has historically and unequivocally been used to stifle the facts of history and socially elevate a narrower or limited perspective as a tool to control the thoughts and actions of people," Stonier said. "We cannot prepare our next generation for the local and global challenges we face if we do not teach the truth, whether it be inspiring or shameful."

Librarian advocates Justin McKaughan, Carolyn Logue, and Sarah Logan testified in favor of the bill. Enduring years of attacks, they've been frontline defenders against complaints about instructional materials and now seek an end to targeting books.

They say they curate age-appropriate reading materials so children see their identities reflected in what they read. They believe this bill could shield vulnerable students and

foster greater engagement in school.

"We know that fascism starts when you start pulling stuff off the shelves," McKaughan said.

How schools select books is an historically significant issue and garners considerable attention. On this bill alone, 1,143 individuals signed in to testify, with 350 in support and 788 in opposition.

The main objections to books in libraries revolve around sexual content.

Concerned citizens from across Washington state said books like "Gender Queer," "Flamer," and "This Book Is Gay," cross the line. The books contain explicit depictions of sex acts, including those involving adults and minors.

In 2021, "Gender Queer," became the most banned book in the country. Schools across the country removed this book from their shelves with some labeling it pornographic. It is a graphic memoir about adolescence and gender identity that features a handful of drawings depicting nude characters and various sexual scenarios.

Sarah Garriott, a concerned mother, said thousands of families have exited Washington state public schools, especially during the pandemic. Enrollment has dropped by over 60,000 students, with 60% failing to meet math standards and 50% unable to read at grade level. She contends that this "politically driven legislation" will drive more families away from public education.

"Trying to slip pornography into our children's education at a state level under the guise of trying to protect the LGBTQ community is disingenuous and should outrage and insult every caring gay adult who cares about the innocence of children," Garriott said.

Sharon Damoff, a concerned mother, urged the Legislature to reject the bill due to its emphasis on protected classes. She recalls reading Oscar Wilde in high school not because he was gay but because he was a "funny, brilliant, and insightful writer."

"We should focus on excellent work not the box

someone checks because that is a limiting and childish way to look at people," Damoff said.

Opponents of the bill also say laws already exist against discrimination in all public schools across the state. They question the need for legislation to protect specific classes and are uncertain about its potential impact.

Stonier said if there is sexual content in a book that a parent does not want their child to read, that request should be honored. She believes parents have legitimate concerns about books their children read and this bill does not take away their rights. But she added:

"The value and contribution of our LGBTQIA authors and young readers is under attack, and I am here to say we see you," Stonier said.

If passed, this bill takes effect at the start of the 2025-26 school year.

The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website funded by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation.

LEGISLATIVE Coverage

Diaper changing stations for dads proposed

By ASPEN ANDERSON
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Diaper changing stations traditionally were placed only in women's bathrooms, and Alexandra Johnson, a mother of two from Snoqualmie, thinks that should change.

"What are the implications for our children when they see that mom is the only one providing care?" Johnson asked.

Johnson made her comments in testimony as the state Legislature considers HB 2052, which would require changing stations in all new or renovated public bathrooms, regardless of gender.

"This legislation does two things: It creates more access to safe and sanitary changing stations and then it also creates that access to everyone and anyone who needs to change a diaper," said Lisa Callan, D-Issaquah, the bill's sponsor.

"The passage of this bill would mean a more equal partnership of childcare responsibilities across genders in public," Johnson said.

Johnson explained that during family outings, she often took charge of diaper changing. Not because her husband was not willing, but because other options did not exist.

"The passage of this bill would also allow single dads, two dad households, uncles, grandparents, grandfathers, other caregivers other than women to perform diaper changes in public," she said.

As a nurse, Johnson said she believes improved access to diaper changing stations allow for better care and decrease occurrences of diaper rashes and infections caused by untimely changing.

Callan said she is committed to working with small businesses to make sure the requirement is not a burden.

If approved, the State Building Code Council will adopt the new rules by July 1, 2025. One "safe, sanitary, and convenient," baby diaper changing station will be required in both female and male restrooms or gender-neutral bathrooms.

The bill also requires necessary signage in buildings indicating where to find changing stations.

This legislation expands on the Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation (or BABIES) Act which mandates that all publicly accessible federal buildings must have at least one baby changing table in a restroom on each floor, with clear signage in restrooms without changing tables directing to the nearest one on the same floor, with limited exceptions.

The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website funded by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation.



MARY MURPHY / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL

Should people be required to register to vote and return a ballot? That issue is being debated now in the state Legislature.

Legislation to increase voter turnout feeds election fraud fears

By MARY MURPHY
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - A proposal to make voting mandatory drew criticisms from two thousand people in a Legislative hearing Jan. 25.

"We are already in a moment of extreme distrust in elections, so you should not be doing anything to further that perception," said Sharon Damoff.

Lawmakers mainly dismissed the large number of people signing on to testify, as

Mandatory voting proposed by Democrats

auditors would be in charge of reviewing waivers.

Also, registered voters may return a blank ballot. They do not have to choose a candidate or fill anything in. They are just required to send it back. This was primarily put in place to address concerns of people not wanting to vote for any candidates or initiatives on a ballot.

People who opposed mandatory voting expressed a number of broad criticisms. They worried uninformed people would not take it seriously, that illegal immigrants might be able to vote, that blank ballots could somehow be manipulated or that the process could encourage "ballot harvesting." Hunt emphasized that ballots would go only to eligible voters who were registered.

Alongside the civic duty voting bill is a voter verification bill, SB6269. It sets up a pilot project to test other options for ballot verification other than signatures. County auditors can opt into this and suggest other forms of verification to test, but participation is not required.

If approved, the test would be conducted over the next four years. The Secretary of State (SOS) would be required to submit results in 2028.

"We understand certain communities of voters have ballots rejected at higher rates," Brian Hatfield of the

SOS's office said. Hatfield said the bill would also address voting challenges faced by disabled persons and in general, make voting more accessible.

Sen. Javier Valdez, D-Seattle, prime sponsor, emphasized the test would not affect big elections. Still, people took issue.

El'ona Kearny, ex-Army intelligence officer, current candidate for Governor, and resident of Seattle, spoke against the bill. She described her family's experience of distrusting the verification of their ballots in 2020.

"Forcing our communities to vote only aggravates the problem, making us feel part of a system set on harvesting our votes illegally," Kearny said.

Kearny and others said they wished the state would return to in-person voting.

Supporting the bill were King County Elections and the Latino Community Fund.

If adopted, Washington would be the first in the nation to make voting mandatory. Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, and Minnesota are currently exploring the idea. Twenty-six democracies around the world have a system of mandatory voting, according to Miles Rapoport, Executive Director of 100% Democracy and a former Connecticut Secretary of State.

"We're starting a major

discussion in the country, and I am delighted that Washington is in the forefront of this," Rapoport said.

The bill notes that anyone who "intentionally disenfranchises another voter by completing a waiver in the voter's name commits a misdemeanor," but no penalty is defined.

"We talked about a \$50 fine or five hours of community service," Hunt said. "I just don't know what a workable solution is. We haven't figured out the magic bullet if there needs to be a magic bullet."

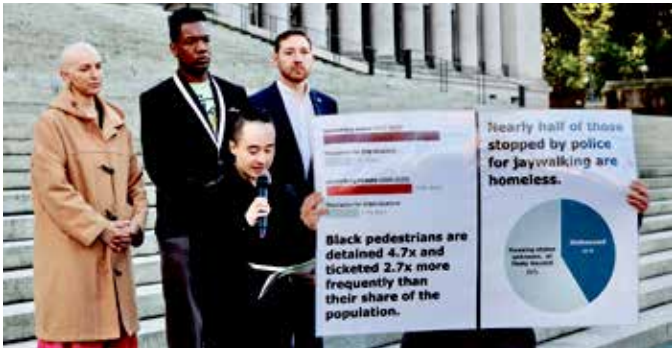
Hunt said they will continue exploring ideas but that countries like Australia who have implemented a fine, rarely have to use it.

"We're struggling with ways to increase voter turnout," Hunt said. "We know that who is on the ballot is a prime driver, but when 62% of people choose not to send in a ballot, that really isn't majority rule. I guess it's a majority saying 'We don't care' but that doesn't help the government. That doesn't help democracy."

Hunt was referring to Thurston County's most recent election for county and port commissioners where the turnout was 38%.

The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website funded by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation.

Jaywalking laws too severe, critics say



ASPEN ANDERSON / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL

Taking their arguments on jaywalking to the steps of the Capitol in Olympia are, from left in the back row: Sen. Rebecca Saldana, community member DeAndre Anderson, Advocacy Director at Transportation Choices Matthew Sutherland, holding microphone, and research partner Ethan C. Campbell. Jan. 23. Transportation Choices held a press conference on the north steps of the Washington State Capitol to unveil a new research report that shows disparate impacts of jaywalking enforcement.

Homeless, Black people make up big percentage of people ticketed

By ASPEN ANDERSON
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - Taking cues from California, there's a push to lighten up on jaywalking fines—a move that hits the headlines for its impact on both the homeless community and Black pedestrians.

In Washington state, Black pedestrians are stopped by police at a rate four times higher than the general population. Forty-one percent of those ticketed for jaywalking in the state are homeless.

Jaywalking is considered a

non-criminal traffic violation, carrying an average fee of around \$70.

In 2023 a "Free to Walk" bill gained 700 initial supporters, with another 200 endorsing the idea this year. If approved, the new bill, SB 5383, would decriminalize jaywalking by restricting police enforcement to instances where pedestrians abruptly enter the path of a vehicle. It does not address speed limits and exempts fully controlled limited access highways from these enforcement limits.

DeAndre Anderson, twice stopped for jaywalking, testified in favor of the bill, urging the House Transportation Committee to consider the bill's impact

on "people who look like me." Anderson encouraged committee members to consider how Black men are profiled in these cases.

On Anderson's 18th birthday, he went to the mall for ice cream before returning home to his high school graduation party. As he entered a crosswalk with the red hand traffic signal flashing, he was detained.

"It's a really hard experience for me to even try to cross streets, because I know that will be another excuse to be harassed," Anderson said. "I have friends that think I am ridiculous because I wait at the crosswalk until the light

See JAYWALKING Page B4

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QUAD CITY CHURCH GUIDE

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"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Preston Thompson **Brewster** Boys Basketball Freshman - Guard/Forward



Celebrating Brewster's Athlete of the Week, we applaud Preston's versatile performance as a swing Varsity/JV player this year. Operating primarily on the wing, his catching and shooting skills stand out, but his true impact lies in his relentless, intelligent, and resilient defense. Transitioning into the high school scene as a Freshman, he quickly grasped the importance of defensive attentiveness, showcasing steady improvement throughout the season. Preston's dedication is

evident as he diligently works on honing his skills each day. Observing the gears turning in his game is promising, and we anticipate that this thoughtful approach will soon transform into instinct, allowing him to read and react to the game with increased speed. As we enter the district and postseason, there's optimism that Preston will make significant contributions to key games, further solidifying his role in our team's success.

Ishmael Mireles **Pateros** Boys Basketball Senior

Ishmael Mireles has played all four years for the Pateros Billygoats. Ish brings athleticism both on the offensive and defensive side of the ball. He is just getting back into basketball shape after having to miss the first part of the season due to a broken foot from Football. Ish is your model player, he does good in the classroom, attends every practice, and is just a good stand-up young man that has a love for the game. I will miss Ish after this year, but it has been a pleasure watching grow into the young man he is today!



Scoreboard

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 30:	Brewster 55, Okanogan 60; Loss
Jan. 30:	Bridgeport 21; Manson 38; Loss
Jan. 30:	Pateros 61, Moses Lake 12; Win
Jan. 31:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Wilbur-Creston-Keller; Canceled
Feb. 1:	Pateros 53, Wilson Creek 9; Win
Feb. 2:	Waterville-Mansfield 72, Riverside Christian 12; Win
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 30:	Brewster 52, Okanogan 48; Win
Jan. 30:	Bridgeport 39; Manson 65; Loss
Jan. 30:	Pateros 34, Moses Lake 66; Loss
Jan. 31:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Wilbur-Creston-Keller; Canceled
Feb. 1:	Pateros 59, Wilson Creek 44; Win
Feb. 2:	Waterville-Mansfield 56, Riverside Christian 67; Loss

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COURTESY OF BREWSTERSPORTS FACEBOOK
Brewster varsity wrestling head coach Shane Kelly has been named Coach of the Year by his peers in the Central Washington League.

Go Mustangs

Brewster boys clinch narrow victory against Okanogan, 52-48; Lady Bears suffer close defeat



COURTESY OF ROY BAKER
Senior Gimena Hurtado and family were honored on Senior Night, Jan. 26.



COURTESY OF ROY BAKER
Senior basketball player Mia Gamble is joined by family members on Senior Night, Jan. 26.

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Writer

OKANOGAN—The Brewster varsity boys' basketball team took a measure of revenge on the road at Okanogan on Jan. 30, with a 52-48 win over the Bulldogs on their home court. But the always dangerous hosts did not go down without a fight, whittling down the Bears' double-digit lead to just four points when time ran out. "We got a good win, although not playing that great at times," said head coach Michael Taylor. "We would much rather be frustrated with a win than with a loss."

The second league meeting of the well-matched teams began reminiscent of their earlier game, in which Okanogan won by a single point, 47-46, in the final minute of play. The Bears and Bulldogs changed leads on the way to a 14-13 Brewster lead. The Bears built a gradual eight-point lead through halftime, 32-24, behind the 16 first-half points of Brady Wulf, and held it all the way through the third quarter, 38-31. "We had opportunities to pull away by double digits, but

Okanogan didn't let it happen," said Taylor. "They made some good runs and kept us close enough to have some chances in the end."

Midway through the fourth quarter, the Bears were up by 14 when the Bulldogs began chipping away the points until they were with five, 48-43, in the closing minute. That is as close as they got as last-ditch fouls sent Wulf to the penalty stripe twice to sink four of his six free throws on the night. "We made a poor decision and threw the ball away at the end of the game but lucked out with a travel call," said Taylor. "I figure we would have had a tough time holding on to the win if that hadn't happened. We both advance to districts to battle it out for seeding to the crossover."

Brady led all scorers with 29 points, followed by Mario Camacho, Jr. with seven, Cort Gebbers with six, Karden Gebbers with four, and three apiece for Grant Baker and Henry Miller.

Lady Bears faded in fourth. A fourth-quarter Okanogan defensive zone was just enough to interfere with the

Lady Bears' offense and force key turnovers to give the Lady Bulldogs the edge they needed to win their rematch with Brewster, 55-50. Until then, the give-and-take between the league leaders saw the scoring lead change sides throughout the first three quarters, with several ties along the way. Pepper Boesel's back-to-back three-pointers got Brewster off to a fast start, but Okanogan quickly tied the Lady Bears, 6-6, and the race was on. The Lady Bulldogs led 17-15 at the end of the first quarter, but Brewster took a one-point 31-30 lead at halftime. The teams were knotted 31-31 at the end of the third before the combination of turnovers and missed shot opportunities tilted the balance Okanogan's way in the final minutes. Kara Schertenleib led Brewster's three double-digit scorers with 14 points. Morgan McGuire added 13, and Boesel 12. Paige Wulf scored six points, Gimena Hurtado and Grace Becker each had four, and Kayden Carrington had two.

Mike Maltais: 360-333-8483 or michael@ward.media



COURTESY OF JARED HENTON
The Pateros Nannies varsity girls are headed for the Central Washington 1B district basketball playoffs at Waterville on Thursday, Feb. 8, after finishing 7-2 in the league and 16-4 overall for the season. Holding the Pateros P in the center of the photo are seniors Janette Hernandez (22) and Cassidy Wilfong (50).

Community Bulletin Board

Local, Regional Community News & Events

Any non-profit 501(c)-(3) group, person(s). Must provide: full name, city, phone number. Items pertaining to local events that are free or minimum charge. Garage and Yard Sale Ads are paid events, please email: classifieds@ward.media. To submit info call 509-548-5286 or email: ruth@ward.media

Feb. 7, 9, 13-14

Senior meals served Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at Senior Center and home delivery

BREWSTER - The Senior Center is now serving meals at noon at the center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Home delivered meals are delivered those same days. Please call 509-689-2815 to reserve meals. Suggested donations have increased. For those over age 60 is now \$5. For those 60 and under the cost is now \$12. Feb. 7: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, WW Roll, Apple Crisp; Feb. 9: Swedish Meatballs, Egg Noodles, Buttered Carrots, Spiced Salad, Dessert; Feb. 13: Pizza Casserole, Caesar Salad, Fruit Salad, Dessert; Feb. 14: Biscuits & Gravy, Oven Brown Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Juice, Dessert.

Feb. 7-10, 12-17

Senior Center Thrift Store
BREWSTER - The Brewster-Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center Thrift Store is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Check out their great kids section. Donations accepted when they are open. They are also the Brewster Visitor

Information Center and the Brewster Chamber of Commerce meeting room.

Feb. 7-8, 12-15

Chelan Valley Hope
Serving Bridgeport, Mansfield, Waterville, Orondo, Chelan, Manson, Chelan Falls, Entiat CHELAN - Chelan Valley Hope feels especially grateful to be part of such a wonderful and caring community. Thank you to everyone who has donated to Hope. During the recent cold front, volunteers, and other community members all worked hard to make sure the Little Essentials Pantry was filled with food, water, and cold-weather gear. Did you know Hope's Little Essentials Pantry is accessible 24/7? Hope stocks the pantry so families can have access to meals, blankets, water, books, and more. The pantry is located to the left of the building entrance. An estimated 100 plus visitors access the pantry every month! Even more during extreme weather circumstances. If you would like to donate to the Little Essentials Pantry, we currently need food and meal items such as noodles and sauce, bread and deli meat, peanut

butter and crackers, etc. Donations are welcome and can be left during business hours. Or call us at 509-888-2114, and we'll gladly make arrangements.

Feb. 7, 21

American Legion meeting
BREWSTER - American Legion Post #97 current members meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Post. For information call Greg Wagg at 206-550-6474.

Feb. 8, 9, 11

American Legion events
BREWSTER - Brewster American Legion Bingo every Thursday night at 6 p.m. Open to the public. Come early to buy your bingo cards and dinner. Upcoming dinners: Every Friday Steak Dinner starts at 5 p.m., 8 ounce sirloin, baked potato, garlic bread and salad, \$16.50. Every Sunday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., order from the full breakfast menu. They also offer daily lunch specials except for Mondays and Saturday when they are closed.

Feb. 8, Feb. 15

Brewster bus trips
BREWSTER - OCTN takes Brewster area resident to Wenatchee, second Thursday

of the month. That next trip is Feb. 8. The bus starts picking folks up at their homes at 7:30 a.m. Riders may request destination(s); medical appointments etc. On the third Thursday of each month, Feb. 15 riders will be taken to Omak for the day. Riders request their destination(s). Wenatchee: \$12/boarding for General Public, \$6 suggested donation/day for Seniors (60 plus). Omak: \$5.50/General Public, \$2.75 suggested donation Seniors (60 plus). (509) 826-4391 to reserve your seat.

Feb. 13, 27

Okanogan County PUD meeting
OKANOGAN - The next meeting of the Okanogan County PUD Board of Commissioners is at 3 p.m. For more information okanoganpud.org

Feb. 13

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

123 N. Fifth Ave., Okanogan.

Feb. 13

Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group
WENATCHEE - Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee. For information, call 509-860-3620 or visit their website at: tcfwenatcheevalley.org

Feb. 14

Brewster Chamber to meet
BREWSTER - The next general meeting of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center, 109 Bridge Street. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. For information brewsterwachamber@gmail.com or Mike Mauk, 509-449-0605.

Feb. 19

Family and friends Support Group
WENATCHEE - Family and friends Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee. For information, call 509-860-

3620 or visit their website at: tcfwenatcheevalley.org

Feb. 20

Douglas County PUD meetings
EAST WENATCHEE - The next meeting of the Douglas County PUD Commission is at 1:30 p.m. in the East Wenatchee office. The commission now meets the first and third Tuesday of the month. For more information douglaspudd.org

Feb. 21

Death Cafe Chelan
CHELAN: The Death Cafe is a national organization started by Jon Underwood and the Chelan organization meets the Third Wednesday of the month at the Chelan Public Library on Emerson Street, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This month on Wednesday, Feb. 21. All are welcome. Please join them for coffee and cake. For more information: Contact Concie Luna or Vita Monteleone at monte419@nwi.net.

March 6

American Legion Auxiliary to meet
BREWSTER - The American Legion Auxiliary #97 meets the first Wednesday of each month, at the American Legion Hall at 5 p.m.

Okanogan & Douglas County Sheriff, Brewster Police Dept Report

This report is compiled from records provided by the Okanogan & Douglas County Sheriff, Brewster Police Dept. The publisher cannot certify the complete accuracy of the information provided.

January 26

13:28 Suspicious, 105 S Jefferson St, Waterville
17:15 Assist Agency, Bridgeport

January 27

13:55:17 Vehicle Prowl, 16 Central St, Bridgeport
18:28:00 Suspicious, 1501 Jefferson Ave, Bridgeport

January 28

5:53:34 Domestic Distur, 217 E Poplar St, Waterville
22:51:08 Noise, 2400 Tacoma

Ave# 39, Bridgeport

January 29

0:00:36 Suspicious, 1717 Fisk Ave, Bridgeport
2:40:59 Dui, Sr 173 & Auburn St, Bridgeport
18:06:46 Warrant, 600 W Main St, Brewster
09:10:23 Animal Problem, 19 Gun Club Rd, Bridgeport
11:20:50, Civil, 106 Hummingbird Rd, Waterville
17:13:17 Assist Public, 1709 Fisk Ave, Bridgeport
18:56 Assist Agency, 600 W

Main St, Brewster

February 1

11:44:52 Welfare Check, 1637 Fisk Ave, Bridgeport
16:30 Cps/Aps Refer, 1909 Columbia Ave, Bridgeport
Brewster Police Department

January 26

00:29:48 Agency Assist, Highway 97 & Old Hwy 97, Brewster
10:03:31 Animal Stray, Highway 97, Brewster



January 27

22:04:03 Harassment, S Bridge St, Brewster

January 28

17:33:02 Accident Noninj, Old Hwy 97, Brewster,
23:27:55 Warrant Arrest, Brewster Grange Rd & Highway 97, Brewster

January 29

02:19:53 Agency Assist, Sr 173 Hwy & Auburn St, Bridgeport
17:04:50 Assault, Hospital Way
18:46:44 Trespassing, W Main Ave, Brewster

January 30

19:48:18 Suspicious, Highway 97, Brewster

January 31

15:00:43 Citizen Ride, S 3rd St, Brewster

January 26

09:11:59 Mal Mischief, W Main Ave, Brewster
Okanogan County Sheriff

Rodeo Trail, Okanogan
11:22:08 Trespassing, S 5th Ave, Okanogan
12:10:10 Warrant Arrest, N 3rd Ave & Pine St; Doc, Okanogan
15:27:19 01/26/24 Domestic Dispute, Monse Bridge Rd, Brewster,
17:01:58 01/26/24 Domestic Dispute S 2nd Ave, Okanogan
18:58:14 01/26/24 Accident Hitrun N 3rd Ave, Okanogan,

January 27

01:01:59 Reckless Endang, Highway 97, Pateros
11:20:10 Utility Problem Highway 97, Pateros

See SHERIFF Page B4

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Announcements Statewide Classifieds

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER!
LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-888-360-1582.

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE
with a \$325 classified listing or \$1600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY.
Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details, 855-635-4229.



STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE!
A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-877-765-1117. You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 money down + low monthly payment options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-888-674-7053.



Upgrading your 'ride'? we can help you sell your old one

Email: classifieds@ward.media
509-293-6780

Follow us on Facebook at:
Facebook.com NorthCentralWashington

Wanted

Leavenworth Mosquito Control District Board member opening
The Leavenworth Mosquito Control District was founded in 2002 with the goal of controlling mosquitoes in the Leavenworth area by using bacterial larvicides. These larvicides are harmful only to mosquito larva and are harmless to other aquatic organisms, mammals, and humans. The five member volunteer board sets a yearly budget, oversees the seasonal district manager who carries out the larvicide applications along with a couple assistants, review and approval of program expenditures, policies and procedures. To be on the board you must:
1) live inside the Leavenworth Mosquito Control District - see the map on our website leavenworthmosquitocontrol.org
2) regularly attend board meetings on the 1st or 3rd Mondays throughout the mosquito control season, March through October, with possibly a few meetings outside of this timeframe. Since 2020 the meetings have been held on Zoom and typically last about an hour or less. If you are interested in joining the board please send a letter of interest to info@leavenworthmosquitocontrol.org, or mail to PO Box 34, Leavenworth WA 98826

Employment

Help Wanted

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.



Administrative Assistant/Receptionist: Chelan Fire and Rescue, located in Chelan, WA, will be accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant/Receptionist position through February 20, 2024. Starting salary of \$56,024.70. A generous benefits package that includes medical/dental, retirement, and life insurance. Application and information are available online to download at www.chelan7.com (Operations-employment/Volunteer). For more information, contact Administrative Office Manager Carol Kibler at carolk@cf7.org or call 509-682-4476.

For Sale

Furniture



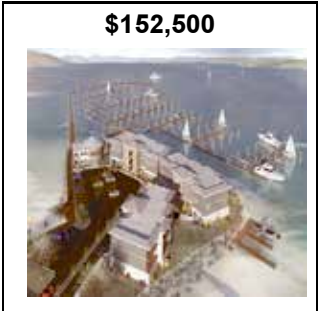
Antique Monterey stamped, Full bed, mattresses, chest of drawers, night stand, vanity/ mirror /bench, \$4,900, OBO, needs restored, (chest restored online \$4k), must pick up in Moses Lake, 509-750-2801.

Real Estate

Rentals

In Chelan: Remodeled 1 bedroom apartment, townhouse style for privacy. New appliances. 1 block to city park. No pets. \$1,050/ month, plus deposits. 509-682-5108.

Boat Slip For Sale



\$152,500
Sunset Marina, Chelan, 40 ft. deep water slip with electric and water to slip. Waste dump. Clubhouse with showers, lounge with TV, bar, and kitchen for members use. Lanai seating with fire pit and barbecue. Slip B10 is best location. Secure parking. **808-298-1031** Seller is licensed Realtor Maui, HI

Legals

Public Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CHELAN
Estate of **LOIS E. MUNSON, Deceased.**
NO. 24-4-00022-04
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
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. 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(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 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
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES:
Daniel Munson
ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Jeffrey T. Fehr
ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE:
Fehr Law Office, PLLC
P.O. Box 1606
Chelan, WA 98816
509-682-4536
Court of probate proceedings and cause no.: Superior Court of Washington in and for Chelan County, Cause No. 24-4-00022-04 Published in the Quad City Herald on January 24, 31, February 7, 2024. #7155

Advertise in the Classifieds
509-689-2507

HOT BREAKFAST WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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

WORDS

- BAGEL
- BISCUITS
- BREAKFAST
- BRUNCH
- BUTTER
- CEREAL
- CREPES
- CROISSANT
- EGGS
- ENGLISH MUFFIN
- FRENCH TOAST
- FRIED
- GRAVY
- GRITS
- HASH
- MORNING
- MUFFINS
- OATMEAL
- PANCAKES
- POACHED
- POTATOES
- SCRAMBLED
- TOAST
- WAFFLES

SUDOKU

2	9							
	8			6		7	1	
		5			3			
		3					1	4
			4			2		
5				9	2	6		8
							5	
1	9				8			
		7		1	4			

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	2	8	1	4	8	2	9	6
7	9	2	6	3	5	8	4	1
6	5	8	7	9	2	8	6	4
8	3	2	6	7	1	4	5	9
5	6	9	1	8	4	3	7	2
2	3	6	8	5	9	3	2	6
8	2	3	6	8	7	1	4	5
8	2	1	4	6	9	3	8	7
7	1	4	6	9	3	8	7	5
3	8	4	5	6	2	9	7	1
6	1	9	8	7	3	5	4	6

ANSWER:



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
 Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com
 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 40, No. 10

February is the month to Love Your Body!

February is Heart Month and Dental Health Month. Use the tips on today's page to exercise your heart and be sweet to your teeth!

Your heart is a muscle. And, like all of your muscles, it works best when you exercise, rest, drink water and eat healthy. Love your heart, and your heart will love you!

Do you feel with your heart?

Are you making pictures of hearts and giving little heart-shaped candies to friends for Valentine's Day? When you make a promise you really, really mean, do you "cross your heart"? Or, do you listen to songs about broken hearts?

We see and hear about hearts everywhere. Long ago, people thought our feelings came from our hearts. Maybe because strong feelings can make our hearts beat faster. Now we know feelings come from the brain, not the heart.

Standards Link: History/Social Science: Understand the purposes of and events honored in holidays.

Broken Heart Puzzle

Cut out these shapes. Can you put them together to make a heart? What does the Valentine message say?



Be Sweet to Your Teeth!

Every day a terrible troublemaker hides in your teeth, waiting to carve holes in them—PLAQUE! (Say it like *plak*, rhymes with *tack*.) You must remove it everyday, or else it will cause your teeth to decay.

How do you get rid of it? Use the secret code to find the names of the Mighty Plaque Fighters and you will learn how to keep your smile dazzling!

MEET THE MIGHTY PLAQUE FIGHTERS!

7-12-12-7-19-25-9-6-8-19

21-15-6-12-9-18-23-22

21-15-12-8-8

25-9-6-8-19

Standards Link: Health: Understand good personal hygiene practices that include caring for teeth.

Draw a heart around the healthy snacks. Draw an X through the unhealthy ones.



Standards Link: Health: Recognize the fitness benefits from various types of foods.

SNACKS

My Funny Valentine

Make a Valentine Puzzle for your special Valentine. Cut a heart shape out of some pink or red paper. Write a message on your heart. Then cut the heart into four or five puzzle pieces. Put all the pieces in an envelope and give it to your Valentine!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Valentine Pals

Jill and Phil are pals. They like many of the same things. How many ways can you find that Jill and Phil are the same?



Standards Link: Recognizing similarities and patterns in objects.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Have a Heart!

Look through the newspaper for an example of someone who was "heartless" or totally lacking compassion or caring. Is there a way they can make up for their behavior?

Standards Link: Social Science: Recognize behaviors that demonstrate good character.

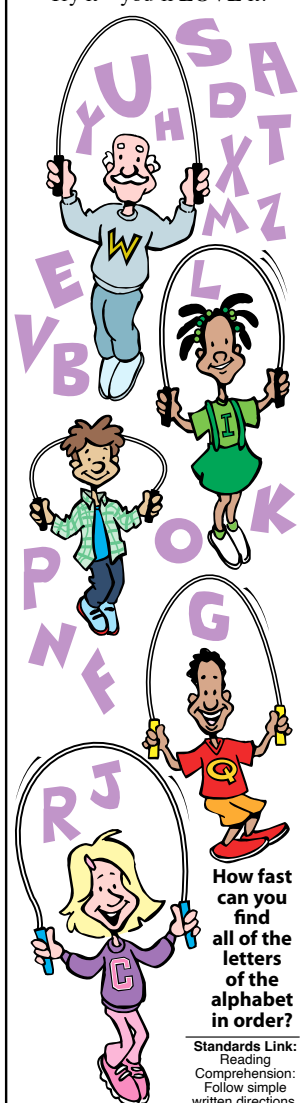
Write On!

Move!

Name three ways kids could get exercise every day.

Kid Scoop Together: Jumping for Joy

Jumping rope is fun and it is good exercise. It is a workout for your legs, your arms and your cardiovascular system (your heart and lungs)! Jumping rope is a sport you can do almost anywhere! Try it—you'll LOVE it!



How fast can you find all the letters of the alphabet in order?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

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/

Proclamation

Continued from page A1

boards are the core of the public education governance system in our state; and

WHEREAS, the districts and regions they lead serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of over \$15 billion, and employ approximately 120,000 people; and

WHEREAS, school directors are directly accountable to the residents in their districts and regions, serving as a vital link between members of the community and their schools; and

WHEREAS, school directors and educational service districts provide a passionate voice of advocacy for public schools and the welfare of school children; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize school directors as outstanding volunteers and champions for public education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Sattler advised student representative Rosalinda Hernandez that she will also receive a certificate to present to the student body.

School Board Recognition Month has been observed for the past 29 years since it was first inaugurated in Washington in 1995.

Sheriff

Continued from page B2

12:50:00 Civil, Robinson St, Okanogan

January 28

00:50:57 Accident Noninj, Old Hwy 97, Brewster
 13:17:27 Animal Vicious, S 5th Ave, Okanogan
 13:59:03 Animal Stray, Unger Rd, Brewster
 15:13:15 Trespassing, S 2nd

EP&O

Continued from page A1

Sattler added that construction of the high school and animal barn is underway.

"As for now, we should be able to take occupancy at the end of October 2024," wrote Sattler. "This means we will plan for starting the 2024-25 school year as we are, with a

Groups gather

Continued from page A1

Array (VLBA) site in Brewster, one in a network of 10 National Radio Astronomy sites spread across nearly 5,500 miles and controlled remotely from the Array Operations Center in Socorro, NM.

Wagg opened the meeting by explaining some of the functions the Legion performs, including Memorial Day

transition into our new high school in October. Keep in mind this is tentative, and things could change."

Brewster

"Levy dollars play a pivotal role in sustaining vital aspects of our educational system, from supporting sports programs and the band to ensuring adequate resources for Special Education," wrote

observances at six area cemeteries, Honor Guard appearances, and placement of the large flags at Locust Grove Cemetery. He added that Legion numbers are declining and urged veterans or family members of veterans to consider joining the Post.

Attendees were encouraged to complete a contact form with their particular services and specialties, so others would know who to call for what

Superintendent Lynette Blackburn on the school website, brewsterbears.org. "These funds also contribute to reducing class sizes, fostering extracurricular activities, advancing technology in classrooms, and maintaining essential facilities."

EP&O funds represent about 11% of the district's overall budget. The breakdown of those funds shows:

- 11 percent (\$170,077) for special education.
- 14 percent (\$216,462) for support services.
- 75 percent (\$1,159,616) for regular instruction.

The levy funds the entirety of the district's general fund spending on athletics and activities; the district's student supervision and security staff and helps pay for staff in every school

Jaywalking

Continued from page A4

changes, but I know better than they do".

The second time he was ticketed, Anderson was crossing the street in Ballard with a friend to get cupcakes. An officer detained them even though there were no oncoming cars.

"I had a long conversation with the Lord in the backseat of that cop car, like what did I do to get here, why is this happening to me," Anderson said. "I know the laws are supposed to be in place to help people, to help us stay safe, but it really does not feel like that."

Ethan C. Campbell, a Research Partner and community advocate at Transportation Choices, spent nearly two years on his jaywalking research report titled "Ticket to Walk: How Jaywalking Enforcement Impacts Washingtonians."

Jaywalking laws originated in the 1910s and 20s as driving became more common. The term "jay" was derogatory, denoting someone unsophisticated or uneducated, which influenced law enforcement practices, according to Campbell. He said jaywalking issues aren't new in Washington. In 1997, a

crucial Washington Supreme Court ruling limited police from conducting warrant checks during jaywalking stops.

"Being detained for crossing the street is a reality for many people in Washington state," Campbell said. "People have been tackled, punched, tased, choked, and held at gunpoint during these stops."

Sen. Rebecca Saladana (D-Seattle), is the primary sponsor of the bill. The "Free to walk" legislation was introduced last year, but was not approved. She has since collaborated with 30 statewide organizations prioritizing "mobility justice."

"It's not making people safer. It's not changing habits. When you give someone a ticket, it does not create a sidewalk," Saladana said.

Taylor Gardner, representing the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, said Washington roads currently pose safety risks, citing rising fatalities and injuries as evidence.

"This standard cannot stop a car when a person decides to step off a curb," Gardner says. Gardner acknowledges the bill allows for a commonsense approach: if jaywalking is done safely and sensibly, it's allowed. The bill doesn't legalize jaywalking but

building in the district.

The current figures show that Brewster district's total tax rate - including the replacement levy and bonds - will be lower than in 2023.

EP&O:	\$2.40 (2023)	\$2.25 (2025)
Bond:	\$2.01 (2023)	\$1.72 (2025)

Mike Maltas: 360-333-8483 or michael@ward.media

in the spring or fall, to discuss needs for the coming winter, again before the summer fire season, and after Christmas to see where everybody is.

"The number one comment people emailed and texted me before the meeting was that nobody talks to each other anymore," Gossett said.

He intends to change that.

Mike Maltas: 360-333-8483 or michael@ward.media

outlines when it can be enforced.

Mark McKechnie of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission said if a bill is adopted, it should apply only to roadways with posted speeds of 30 mph or lower.

He said a record spike in pedestrian deaths occurred between 2021 and 2022. From 2012 to 2022, 61% of fatalities happened outside crosswalks and 85% occurred on roads with speeds exceeding 30 mph.

In January 2023, jaywalking was decriminalized in California under the Freedom to Walk Act. Pedestrians can now cross streets anywhere without penalty.

If passed, this legislation would restrict police enforcement of pedestrian roadway laws and eliminate the obligation for pedestrians to walk facing traffic on shoulders when sidewalks are absent or inaccessible.

If passed, Washington would join California, Nevada, Virginia, Anchorage, Kansas City, and Denver in restricting jaywalking enforcement.

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