



Quad City Herald

Serving the Quad City area since 1901
Volume 122 • No.7

February 14, 2024

www.qcherald.com
Single Copy \$1.00

Mobile pantry visits Bridgeport, plans more stops this month



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

The Chelan Douglas Community Action Council Mobile Pantry, with its staff of AmeriCorps volunteers, visited Bridgeport last Friday, Feb. 9, from 1:30-3 p.m. It will make two more stops this month from 1:30-3 p.m. at 1400 Columbia Avenue on Friday, Feb. 16, and Thursday, Feb. 24.

Fair Advisory Committee refines fees, venues, upgrades for 2024 fair

Committee members needed

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OKANOGAN – The 77th annual Okanogan County Fair is a half year away – Sept. 5-8 - and the Fair Advisory Committee (FAC) is hard at work planning and preparing for one of the county's flagship events.

At its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 1, the FAC addressed topics from admission and camping fees to events and maintenance.

The FAC approved a request from the new fairgrounds manager, Chuck Ford, to order the updated version of ShoWorks and the 2024 license to go with it. On its website, fairsoftware.com. ShoWorks describes its product as "the most popular exhibitor and entries management software used by...state and county fairs across North America...to process registration, judging, premium payouts and auctions for all types of entries."

Some fees will see an increase this year, including:

- \$20 increase in camping fees across the board.
- Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday day tickets are \$12.
- Season passes are now \$40.
- Friday tickets (including concert) are \$20.

Ticket prices for veterans, first responders, and senior citizens remain at \$5.

Ford is also working on grant applications for fairgrounds funding.

Changes in how groups of school children must be supervised during their Thursday Fair Day visit were addressed with the emphasis that previous walkie-talkie monitoring is not sufficient.

The popular mutton bustin' will be among kids' events this year after the Fair earlier received the green light from county risk manager Shelly Keitzman to host its own version. The FAC approved the purchase of safety vests and helmet equipment for the young riders and discussed insurance coverage for the event.

Rodeo options remain under discussion while the committee looks for someone to head up the rodeo subcommittee. The fairgrounds has new corral and chute facilities and has hosted past Pro-West Rodeos. The type and duration of this year's possibilities remain on the fence. A previous meeting included a variety of suggestions for other events, including:

- Motocross
- Lawnmower races
- Paintball
- Dog herding
- Greased pig contest



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Lexis Duarte is the 2024 Okanogan County Fair Queen.

- Calf scramble
- Goat tying
- Team sorting and more.

Racing committee chair Carol Sivak said she has agreed to go with Horse Nations again this year because of the strong following they attract. Sivak said she also wants to apply some surplus funds to set up a racing 501(c)3 nonprofit called OK Equine Fund.

Kid's Zone chair Laura Sorensen said the Bouncy House will be back, and she is working on a Friday Power Wheels event. Power wheels are small battery-powered ride-on vehicles popular with kids.

Oroville High School sophomore and 2024 Fair Queen Lexis Duarte reported on her progress in designing the official pamphlet cover and her goat barn refurbishing project.

A reliable and consistent water source for the fairgrounds has been an FAC concern raised by some members. The county has been awarded a water grant indicating that a new potable well is planned to augment existing drinking and irrigation water needs.

The FAC is currently short three members, and with 16 standing committees, some vacancies are in need of volunteers. Interested parties can contact the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners at 123 Fifth Avenue N., Suite 150, in Okanogan, 98840 or call 509-422-7100.

The next FAC meeting is at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 7, in the Okanogan County Commissioners Hearing Room, 123 N. Fifth Avenue.

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

Path to the Podium proves a weekend wonder for youth basketball

Winners move on to Spokane

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The Path to the Podium, a three-day AAU-sanctioned youth basketball tournament that drew hundreds of families and players to Brewster last weekend, exceeded expectations on all fronts from sponsors and fundraising to attendance and approval.

Before it was over, 79 teams comprised of boys and girls from grades three through eight competed in at least three games apiece at six school gyms from Bridgeport to Pateros. Despite those demanding logistical challenges, the tournament played out on time and on target as a crew of volunteers and referees pitched in to make sure every game

was covered.

Bearbackers nonprofit administrator, Nicole Gebbers, and basketball head coaches Michael Taylor and Kristina Gebbers began planning the tournament months ago. Taylor and Kristina were in the midst of their varsity seasons, so Nicole enlisted a corps of can-do committee leaders to oversee components of the task ahead. Christina Talavera joined Nicole on the head committee with volunteer help from:

- Julio Talavera managed donor contributions and concession details.
- Stephanie Vassar took on the tournament registrations and competition brackets
- Dan Vasser rounded up players,

See **PATH TO PODIUM** Page B4



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Capri Gebbers drives around a Davenport defender.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

The Pateros fourth grade boys' team, Whole Hog, in yellow, mixes it up against Reardan.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Not only did the Brewster fifth grade girls place first in their division, they did so with two sets of twins. Pictured back row from left are twins Kamillah and Isabella Hurtado (5th), Capri Gebbers (4th), Jamie Talavera (5th), and Riley Gebbers (5th). Front row from left, Julissa Garcia (4th), Reese Walker (5th), twins Brielle and Brynn Gebbers (4th), Lea Thompson (5th). Coaches are Johnny and Nikki Gebbers.



COURTESY OF NICOLE GEBBERS

The Brewster seventh grade girls took first on their division. Pictured from left, coach Dylan Gamble, Grace Isenhardt, Celeste Garcia, Maggie Gamble, Kimberly Romero, Addy Boesel, Naiomyee Aparicio, Naomy Soto, and Ima Powell.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Kamillah Hurtado, left, drives to the basket as twin sister Isabella, 16, watches during the fifth-grade girls' game between Brewster and Davenport during the three-day Path to the Podium tournament last weekend.

Inside The Quad City Herald this Week

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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.



Douglas County Sheriff February 2

7:53:43 Warrant, Sr 173 & Perkins Rd, Bridgeport
8:11:31 Cps/Aps Refer, 400 Fairview Ave, Bridgeport
15:03:45 Cps/Aps Refer, 1345 Douglas Ave, Bridgeport
16:45:53 Assist Agency, 929 Maple St# 163, Bridgeport

February 4

3:01:48 Assist Public, 1636 Fisk Ave# 4, Bridgeport

February 7

11:10:03 Alarm, 24 Rd 15 Nw, Mansfield
15:37:05 Domestic Disturbance, 2332 Monroe Ave, Bridgeport
16:04:18 Assist Public, 2504 Monroe Ave, Bridgeport

February 8

09:42:16 Assist Public, 1709 Fisk Ave, Bridgeport
09:48:21 Theft, 44 Washburn Ave, Bridgeport
12:56:41 Assist Public, 1918 Columbia Blvd, Bridgeport
17:04:03, Civil, 116 1st St, Bridgeport Bar

February 3

14:32:55 Vehicle Prowl, W Main Ave, Brewster
14:50:49 Unknown Problem, S 4th St, Brewster
22:50:07 Domestic Dispute W Indian Ave, Brewster

February 4

19:45:42 Agency Assist, Moe Ct, Bridgeport

February 5

09:12:35 Agency Assist, Hospital Way
20:20:41 Agency Assist, Highway 97 & Mckinley Ave, Brewster

February 6

07:08:28 911 Abuse, W Griggs Ave, Brewster
09:32:10 Alarm Burglary, Highway 97, Brewster

February 7

02:15:05 Suspicious, W Ferry Ave, Brewster

Okanogan County Sheriff February 2

14:38:46 Animal Abuse, Monse Bridge Rd, Brewster

February 3

09:44:50 Drugs, Starr Rd, Pateros
12:20:15 Suspicious, Half-Sun Way, Bridgeport
12:57:24 Vehicle Prowl, Methow Pl, Pateros
14:53:59 Threatening, Beach St, Pateros

February 4

00:09:26 Citizen Assist, Beach St, Pateros
01:47:59 Accident Hitrun, W lves St, Pateros
10:38:04 Suspicious, Monse Bridge Rd, Brewster

February 6

01:51:07 Dui, Highway 17, Bridgeport

February 7

02:15:05 Suspicious, W Ferry Ave, Brewster

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Letters to the Editor

Support for the Brewster School District Replacement Levy

The purpose of this letter is to voice my strong support for the upcoming Brewster School District replacement levy, which plays a crucial role in sustaining and enhancing educational experiences for our students. This levy supports a variety of essential programs and services that contribute to the overall well-being and academic success of our students.

School levies support initiatives beyond basic education. Many of the levy dollars support college in

the classroom and elective classes that the state does not consider "basic education." Levy dollars support Special Education, ensuring that our schools have the resources available to provide the necessary resources and staff to support students with unique learning needs. Reducing class sizes and providing additional staffing for classrooms are also ways that levy money supports student learning. These measures are instrumental in creating an environment that fosters academic excellence. Smaller class sizes allow for more personalized

attention, while college in the classroom programs open doors for advanced learning opportunities.

The levy also contributes to the vibrancy of our school community by supporting sports, band, extracurricular activities, after-school programs, and field trips. These experiences are integral to a well-rounded education, fostering teamwork, creativity, and a sense of community among students. They contribute to the development of important life skills beyond the classroom.

In conclusion, the Brewster School District replacement levy is not just a financial necessity; it is an investment in the future of our

community. By supporting Special Education, college in the classroom, reduced class sizes, sports, band, additional staffing, extracurricular activities, after-school programs, technology, field trips, and transportation, we are ensuring that our students receive a well-rounded and enriching education.

I urge the community to rally behind this important initiative and vote in favor of the Brewster School District replacement levy. Together, we can continue to provide our students with the educational foundation they need to succeed.

Randy J. Phillips
Brewster

Annual PIT count uncovers increased unsheltered homelessness

Quad City Herald
Ward Media

WENATCHEE – The latest Homeless Point in Time Count reveals a shift in homelessness trends in Chelan and Douglas counties. The count, conducted on Jan. 25, shows a 16.5% rise in the unsheltered population alongside a nearly 8% drop in sheltered individuals compared to last year.

This year's count found 141 people experiencing homelessness outdoors or in unfit habitation, marking an increase of 20 individuals from the previous year's 121. Conversely, the number of those in emergency shelters or temporary housing solutions, such as the RV Safe Parks and hotel/motel voucher programs, decreased to 341 from 368.

Douglas County Commissioner Marc Straub emphasized the value of the Point in Time (PIT) count for resource allocation, stating, "As decision makers, the PIT count provides invaluable information on how best to use available resources to address homelessness in our two counties to move the needle in a meaningful way."

Echoing the sentiment, Chelan County Commissioner Kevin Overbay highlighted the timeliness of this data for strategic planning. The Chelan-Douglas Homeless Housing Task Force will utilize the PIT count findings to set priorities and projects for the coming years, aiming to address the root causes of homelessness in the region.

"This is timely information, as the Chelan-Douglas Homeless Housing Task Force is now beginning work toward establishing priorities and projects for the next five years," Overbay said. "Using the PIT Count numbers, our aim is to determine the root cause of homelessness in our area. Do we make a larger investment in low-cost tools, such as diversion monies, to help move unhoused people into permanent housing options quickly? Do we also need to create a centralized case management system that works with the region's Coordinated Entry system to better track folks and give us real long-term answers and solutions? These numbers are only a snapshot in time of a larger, more complex issue we are trying to resolve."

The count, a mandate by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Washington State Commerce, assesses the need for local and national homeless housing services. This year's effort saw participation from 22 agencies, including Chelan Valley HOPE and Upper Valley MEND, to provide a comprehensive demographic snapshot of the homeless population.

Among the unsheltered, 138 adults and three minors were counted, with the minor count remaining unchanged from 2023. The survey revealed varied living situations, including streets, vehicles, and other non-conventional

settings, with 101 participants disclosing their last permanent residence.

The collected data also shed light on chronic homelessness, first-time homelessness, and reluctance or inability to access shelter services due to various reasons, including health issues, overcrowding, safety concerns, and the desire for independence or to remain with partners or pets.

Demographic insights indicate a significant number of the homeless population grappling with mental health disorders, physical disabilities, substance use, and varied age and racial identities, including a small veteran contingent.



COURTESY PHOENIX
Emily Snider of the Women Resource Center's Housing and Supportive Services surveys a man in Wenatchee on Jan. 25 for the Homeless Point in Time Count.

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LEGISLATIVE Coverage

Legislature that could change BAC from .08 to .05

"We need to make tougher laws"

By **ASPEN ANDERSON**
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - To curb traffic fatalities, lawmakers are proposing reducing the legal limit for driving while intoxicated.

SB 5002 amends the legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) for driving a motor vehicle from .08% to .05%. Typically, consuming less than one standard drink per hour maintains most individuals' BAC below .05%.

Former state trooper and primary sponsor Sen. John Lovick, D-Mill Creek, who previously served as a sergeant with a DUI emphasis patrol, called on the Legislature to enact tougher laws.

"We have just tolerated drunk driving for a long time," Lovick said. "If we had a train go off the tracks, and one person died, we would shut down that industry."

Eight hundred eighteen people died on our roads last year, with more than half of the fatalities DUI-related, which is one person every single day dying in Washington because of a drunk driver, according to Lovick.

According to the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC), 32% of deaths from 2017-2021 involved drivers who tested positive for alcohol. In 2023, according to tentative projections, the number increased to 50%.

Lovick said being killed by a drunk driver should not be an accepted risk of driving on Washington's roads, which Lovick added are the most dangerous in the nation.

"Other states are looking to see what we are going to do," Lovick said. "We need to make tougher laws".

Co-sponsor of the bill, Sen. Marko Liias, D-Everett, as Chairman of the Transportation Committee, traveled to Finland this summer and learned that since 1977, Finland has maintained a BAC limit of .05, a measure that prompted locals to abstain from driving altogether when consuming alcohol.

"The single most impactful decision Finland has made to reduce fatalities over the last two generations has been to lower the BAC to .05," Liias said. "We see crashes between .05 and .08, and more fundamentally, we are just trying to change the culture. After you have 3 or 4 drinks,

you become really bad at counting how many drinks you have had."

In 2017, Utah changed BAC to .05, and in 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that 22.1 percent of drinkers said they altered their behavior due to the legislation. The fatality rate, measured as the number of deaths per million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), decreased by 18.3 percent.

Liias points out officers can't stop you unless you're swerving or showing signs of being impaired. While this bill may not change the number of arrests, it could change the culture of drunk driving.

"The police officer does not know your blood alcohol content until they have pulled you over," Liias said. "We should focus on enforcement. We should also remember that the people being killed right now are disproportionately from marginalized communities."

Critics say lack of enforcement is a bigger problem. Washington state is currently 50th in the nation for law enforcement officers per capita.

"You can change the laws all you want, but you are not

going to have people to enforce them," Rep. Eric Robertson (R-Summer) said. "We need to look at who is really causing these fatality collisions. Is it the people between .05 and .07? If an officer can articulate the fact that they say the person was impaired, it does not matter what that number is."

The likelihood of a crash significantly rises for drivers with a BAC between .05 and .079. In fact, the risk of being involved in a fatal collision while driving a vehicle is at least seven times higher compared to those with a BAC of zero.

Lovick said he believes despite enforcement officer numbers, this law would be enforced because of a robust public awareness campaign.

In his previous job as a sergeant, Lovick covered I-5, I-405, and 522, and they advertised a zero-tolerance policy for drunk driving, and in 2004, he said they did not have a single fatality in their patrol area. Talking about it and raising awareness helped. He would tell people, "If you are drinking and you move a muscle, we are going to find you."

When asked why this bill has only garnered 12 sponsors, he said, "People hate change,



COURTESY OF SENATE DEMOCRATS
Sen. John Lovick, is the prime sponsor of a bill to lower the legal blood alcohol level for driving.

but they also hate the way things are." He truly believes that this bill is going to pass this year.

According to the WTSC, drivers experience "cognitive, behavioral, and physical impairment" when their BAC level is at .05. The National Library of Medicine states: "No matter how many drinks it takes to reach .05 BAC, people

at this level are too impaired to drive safely."

The last time Washington changed the legal alcohol limit was in 1999 when they changed the BAC level from .10 to .08.

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



COURTESY OF ASPEN ANDERSON

Washingtonians from all over the state gathered on the north steps at the capitol in Olympia, for a rally planned only a week in advance. Protesters displayed signs that read "We want hearings," and "Follow the constitution."

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

OLYMPIA - A sea of red, white and blue covered the Capitol steps as hundreds of Washingtonians proudly waved American flags and demanded hearings on six initiatives that would roll back taxes, give parents more rights and police more authority.

The initiatives funded by the political action group Let's Go Washington all received the requisite number of signatures to be approved

for consideration but have yet to receive a hearing from the Legislature. In all, 2.6 million citizens signed the petitions.

Republicans say the Constitution demands that initiatives must take precedence over other business and should have hearings now. Democrats say they are concerned about budget impacts and as long as they act on the initiatives this session, Constitutional rules are satisfied.

"The speaker [of the house's] position is that 'take precedence means they don't

Crowd demands hearing on citizen initiatives

have to live by the deadline,' Our position is that they go first," said Jim Walsh, R-Aberdeen.

Rep. Drew Stokesbary, R-Auburn, House Republican Leader, said Democrats aren't in a hurry to take up the initiatives. They have essentially said, "We'll think about it."

"I think it's quite an injustice that the voice of the people is not being heard and when you ask the questions of why they are not hearing us you get no response," Gina Medley, a citizen from Tacoma said.

Democrats say they are studying the budget impact of the initiatives. One rolls back the capital gains tax, another repeals the Climate Commitment Act that critics say pushes up the cost of gasoline. Both have raised millions for state programs.

"I worry about pulling us back and negating all of these incredible policy advancements that we've made," Sen. Emily Randall, D-Bremerton, said. "What the right strategies are to protect these investments I think we are still working on developing."

The other initiatives give police more leeway to start high speed chases, underscore

parental rights in schools and allow people to opt out of the WA Cares long-term health care payroll tax. The final initiative would prohibit state and local governments from creating an income tax.

At the rally Feb. 2, many said they showed up to push back on the narrative that this is one man's goal, a reference to Brian Heywood who was the main funder of Let's Go Washington.

"Nobody put a gun to my head," signature gatherer Matthew Cook said, holding up a sign that read, "people above party." "I did not receive a single penny to sign them. These are giving a voice to Washingtonians that have not been heard."

Walsh said the Legislature has three choices. It could vote the measures into law, ignore the initiatives completely, which would send them to the ballot in November, or

the Legislature could draft alternative proposals. He predicts the outcome will be mixed.

"The worst-case scenario is not that bad. They could be ignored by the majority party and then they go on the ballot in November. The polling shows they're likely to pass," Stokesbary said.

Brandi Kruse, podcast host of "unDivided," led the rally and later shared her predictions.

"For sure these will be on the ballot in November," Kruse said. "I don't anticipate a scenario where Democrats would pass these only because you're talking about some of their key policy victories."

Braden Cisk, a signature gatherer for Let's Go Washington in Kitsap County, said non-partisan voters he spoke to were in support of the measures.

"I found that these resonated

the most with people who are not registered or are apathetic to politics or voting because they feel like their vote doesn't matter," Cisk said. "So, these really caught their attention because again these look like something productive, people on all sides of the political spectrum."

Dawn Land, a mother from the 31st Legislative district, filed an initiative related to the parental rights to know, which fell short of the required number of signatures. Yet, she showed up to the rally in full support of the initiative process.

"They are not hearing us. They never hear us. They don't listen," Land said. "The other side needs to be heard."

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

Hundreds rally for rent caps and affordable housing



MARY MURPHY / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL

Protesters gather at the top of the Capitol's North steps, among them Vancouver residents Jeremy Hopkins of SeaMar Community Health Services and Duana Johnson from Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

By **MARY MURPHY**
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - As budget negotiations begin in the state Legislature, calls for action on affordable housing and rent caps from the annual Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day are expected to ring in the ears of lawmakers.

Hundreds of unhoused individuals, members of non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups gathered late last month to urge lawmakers

See **RENT CAPS** Page B1

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- Matthew 19:26



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Skyler Covington Brewster Boys Basketball Junior - Wing

Let's honor Skyler as the standout Athlete of the Week for Brewster boys basketball. Skyler made a striking entrance to our team this season, and despite being a newcomer, his impact was undeniable from day one of practice. Demonstrating his commitment to excellence, he consistently showcased his competitive spirit and dedication to improvement. Skyler immersed himself in our team's style of play and diligently absorbed the nuances of our expectations for players at both the Varsity and JV levels. Renowned for his

aggressive offensive prowess, Skyler fearlessly attacks the basket, utilizing his impressive athleticism to soar around defenders. While acknowledging areas for growth on both offense and defense, Skyler's relentless work ethic assures us that he will diligently address these aspects moving forward. With his return for another season, Skyler will further refine his skills through participation in our Summer basketball program, setting the stage for a confident and impactful senior year.

Pidi Pamatz Pateros Boys Basketball Senior - Point Guard

Join us in celebrating Pidi, our shining star, as he earns the prestigious title of Athlete of the Week for Pateros High School's boys basketball team. From his freshman year onwards, Pidi has been a pivotal player on our varsity squad, dazzling fans with his ball-handling skills and knack for scoring. But his talents extend far beyond the court; Pidi is also a standout scholar, excelling as a full-time running start student at Wenatchee Valley College while maintaining

a flawless 4.0 GPA. Throughout his high school journey, Pidi has blossomed into a true leader, inspiring both on the hardwood and in the classroom. As he approaches graduation, we eagerly anticipate the remarkable achievements he will undoubtedly accomplish in the future. Pidi, we wish you the utmost success and express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication to our program throughout your high school career.



Scoreboard

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Feb. 7:	Brewster 58, Tonasket 56; Win
Feb. 8:	Pateros 61, Entiat 34; Win
Feb. 8:	Waterville-Mansfield 56, Soap Lake 14; Win
Feb. 10:	Brewster 44, Okanogan 59; Loss
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Feb. 6:	Brewster 62, Tonasket 78; Loss
Feb. 7:	Pateros 18, Soap Lake 89; Loss
Feb. 7:	Waterville-Mansfield 42, Entiat 40; Win
Feb. 9:	Brewster 34, Okanogan 51; Loss

Bulldogs all the way

Lady Bears place second in District 6

By Mike Maltais
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OMAK - Unlike the two regular season games that

they split by five and six points, the District 6 championship collision between the Brewster and Okanogan varsity girls at Omak last Saturday, Feb.

10, was a one-way trip as the dominant Lady Bulldogs kept the trailing Lady Bears in the rearview mirror the entire time.



Morgan McGuire breaks for the basket after stealing the ball from Manson during a playoff game on Feb. 2.

Rent caps

Continued from page A4

to do something about the high cost of housing.

Cheyonna Lewis, a single mother of three, sat on the steps of the Capitol with her youngest son in late January. Lewis was homeless previously and is currently on the brink again.

When one of her sons got in a car accident, the medical bills sent her family into a cycle of waiting instability. While her two oldest sons have been raised to adulthood, she still struggles with the fear of having to "start all over again."

"Where is everyone gonna

go? Everyone can't be outside," Lewis said. "Having to spend more than 50% of your income on housing is insane."

It is estimated Washington will need 1.1 million more homes in the next 20 years, and over half need to be affordable for residents at the lowest income levels, according to the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Housing revenues set aside for COVID-19 relief in Washington are gone, and average rents have nearly doubled from \$989 a year in 2012 to \$1,866 a year in 2022. The current average rental rate is \$1,763, according to the Washington Low Income

Housing Alliance.

At the forefront of the housing agenda are rent stabilization, affordable homes, and homelessness supplies.

HB 2114, sponsored by Rep. Emily Alvarado, D-Seattle, and SB 5961, sponsored by Rep. Yasmin Trudeau, D-Tacoma, proposed companion bills that could limit yearly rent increase to no more than 5%.

Other protections in this bill include requiring a six-month notice before rent increases.

HB 2276, sponsored by Rep. April Berg, D-Mill Creek, and SB 6191, sponsored by Sen. Noel Frame, D-Seattle, create new real estate transfer taxes on properties that sell for more

Crossover game ahead

Bears place third, will play in Wenatchee

By Mike Maltais
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OMAK - The Brewster Bears clinched third place with their District 6 playoff win against Okanogan last Friday night, Feb. 9, and will travel to Wenatchee on Saturday, Feb. 17, to face their crossover opponent from District 7.

In a game that was expected to be more of a back-and-forth battle, the Bears took the lead from the opening gun and never gave it up through the remainder of the contest. Brewster led by seven points at the end of the first quarter and maintained that margin to a 23-16 halftime. The Bulldogs could not get their shots to drop despite several third and fourth opportunities from offensive rebounds. In the first quarter Okanogan was held to just five points.

During the regular season, the Bears lost to Okanogan, 47-46, on Jan. 9, and beat the Bulldogs, 52-48 on Jan. 30.

A second half momentum shift by Okanogan never occurred as the Bears came out strong in the third and ended the quarter with the same six-point advantage, 32-26. Just before the end of the third Mario Camacho, Jr. hit his fourth three-pointer to lead Brewster in that department.

In the third quarter head coach Michael Taylor benched three of his starters in foul trouble. The subs, Henry Miller, Sam Arevalo, and Preston Thompson did a good job holding the line against the Bulldogs, only allowing a point to be shaved off the Bears' lead.

As the fourth quarter wound down Brewster scored nearly 20 points to Okanogan's eight and won going away, 51-34. The Bears will meet Northwest Christian (Colbert) at Wenatchee High School on Saturday, Feb. 17, (time TBD).

Bears fall to Tigers

After dealing defeats of 22 and 12 points to the Tonasket Tigers in their two regular season games last month, the odds appeared to favor the Brewster Bears when the

two teams met in post-season district play here on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The Tigers thought otherwise.

Tonasket open the quarter with back-to-back three pointers to take a brief six-point lead before the Bears hit their first bucket. Tonasket led by those six points, 21-15, at the end of the first and served notice that they came to play.

Brewster battled to within one point during the second quarter, but the Tigers kept sinking shots from three-point land just when they needed them to hold the lead through halftime, 41-35.

Halftime is a twilight zone all its own and has a habit of messing with momentum. It is not unusual for the team trailing going into the locker room to emerge transformed and surge ahead in the third quarter. The Bears began that way sinking six unanswered points to tie the game 41-all and prompt Tonasket's coach to call a timeout to top off the Tigers' tank. Whatever he added must have worked. Tonasket returned to the floor, regained the lead, and never let the Bears get closer than two points for the remainder of the game. Tonasket won by 16 points, 78-62.

As it turned out the threes that the Tigers uncorked to begin the game were not one-and-done. The team hit a total of 14 treys to score more than half their 78 points from beyond the arc.

Tonasket senior guard Jade Ramon led all scorers with 24 points. Brady Wulf paced the Bears with 22, Karden Gebbers scored 12, Cort Gebbers and Mario Camacho added eight apiece followed by Preston Thompson, 5, Grant Baker, 3, and Henry Miller, 2.

BREWSTER: 15-20-19-8 63
TONASKET: 21-20-21-16 78

The win set up a District six championship match between the Tigers and Lake Roosevelt on Feb. 9, that the Raiders won handily by more than 30 points.

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

will play Liberty-Spangle.

Two-point heartstopper

The fun games are the flatliners; those that have much of the crowd at near-cardiac arrest as the final seconds tick off the game clock. That was the scene at Omak Wednesday night, Feb. 7, as the Brewster Lady Bears pulled out a two-point, 58-56 win over Tonasket after trailing the Tigers to the last minute of play.

That outcome looked unlikely as the Lady Bears were four points down, 56-52, with barely more than a minute to play. Then Paige Wulf drilled a three-pointer from the sideline to bring Brewster within one. On the next possession Wulf struck again inside the key to give Brewster the lead with 18 seconds left for Tonasket to score.

The Tigers took a timeout to get the ball to their best shooter, senior guard Jaylo Bello.

Instead, Kaydence Carrington stripped the ball and was fouled. Carrington took Brewster's inbound pass and again was fouled with 4.4 seconds left. The second infraction was a shooting



foul and Carrington made the second of two free throws to put Brewster up by two, 58-56.

Pepper Boesel stole the ball after Tonasket inbounded and was fouled with 1.2 seconds remaining. She missed both free throws and the Tigers rebounded, but time expired as Tonasket attempted a last-ditch shot from beyond half court.

The Tigers are the one team that seemed to have Brewster's number after handing the Lady Bears two regular season losses, 57-54, on Jan. 2, and 58-52 on Jan. 23. Tonasket took the early lead at Wednesday's third meeting and only allowed the Lady Bears to briefly edge ahead by a point twice in the first quarter before quickly regaining the lead.

Tonasket led by six points, 29-23, at halftime, and were still up by six, 46-40, at the end of the third quarter. The Tigers' largest margin was 10 points.

Wulf led all scorers with 25 points and was one of three Lady Bears in double figures including Morgan McGuire with 13, and Pepper Boesel with 12. Grace Becker added 4, and Carrington, 2.

In the game following Brewster over Tonasket, the Okanogan Lady Bulldogs defeated Lake Roosevelt, 62-36, to advance to the championship game.

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

"By the time I pay just my rent I have 52 dollars left," Johnson said. "I can't think about anything else unless I have rental stability."

Vicki Loveland, from Boise, Wash., was one of eight grandmas who received rent raises of over 1,000 dollars in six months.

"When I describe that to people, they say that's criminal, and I will say, 'that's not against the law though,'" Loveland said.

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

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. 14, 16, 20-21, 23

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. 14: Biscuits & Gravy, Oven Brown Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Juice, Dessert; Feb. 16: Beef Stew, Spinach Salad, Banana, Biscuit, Cereal Bar; Feb. 20: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Caesar Salad, Cinnamon Pears, Garlic Bread Dessert; Feb. 21: White Bean Chicken Chili, Coleslaw, Peaches, Corn Bread, Dessert; Feb. 23: Ham Steak, Scalloped Potatoes, Spinach Salad, Pineapple, WW Roll, Tapioca Pudding/

Feb. 14-17, 19-24

Senior Center Thrift Store
BREWSTER - The Brewster-Pateros-Brigport 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. 14-15, 19-22

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. 21, March 6

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. 15, 16, 18

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. 15, March 14

Brewster bus trips
BREWSTER - OCTN takes Brewster area resident to Wenatchee, second Thursday of the month. That next trip is March 14. 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. 23

Okanogan County School Retirees' Association
OMAK - Okanogan County School Retirees' Association will hold a luncheon meeting 11 a.m., Friday, February 23, at the Community Presbyterian Church of Omak, 9 Birch St. S, Omak. Members will vote on Spring Grant winners. Program: Okanogan High School Sign Language teacher, Jason Brown, and second year students. Information: Carol Payne: 509-826-5068.

Feb. 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. 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 douglaspu.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.

March 6

Brewster Chamber to meet
BREWSTER - The next general meeting of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce will be held Wednesday, March 6, 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.

March 11

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.

March 12

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

March 16

Shamrock Shuffle: CHELAN
- The Shamrock Shuffle is coming. Get your green on and walk, run, or shuffle along with the Lake Chelan Lions Club on Saturday, March 16. This 5K event supports the Lake Chelan Lions Club program to send kids with Type One Diabetes to Camp Stix and promote local awareness about Diabetes for all ages. There will be Best Dressed prizes for male, female, child and dog. All ages are welcome on Saturday, March 16 just prior to the Top Dog Parade in downtown Chelan. Registration will be 8:30-9:15 a.m. in the the covered area at Riverwalk Park, with the run starting at 9:30 a.m. Bring your Kelly Green Beanie you received if you participated last year and receive a 2024 pin to wear on it. New Beanies and pins will also be given out. Register now at EVENTBRITE.com and search Shamrock Shuffle 5K.

DEATH NOTICES

Gerald Simmons

Gerald Simmons, 70, of Methow, Washington passed away on February 3, 2024. Barnes Chapel is handling the arrangements for the family.

Sharlene Ford

Sharlene Ford, 80, of Brewster, Washington and former resident of Wenatchee, Washington passed away on February 6, 2024. Barnes Chapel is handling the arrangements for the family.

Legislation would impose fines for untreated sewage discharge



ASPEN ANDERSON / WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL

Overlooking the Puget Sound in Olympia, stands an acknowledgment honoring Native American tribes.

By ASPEN ANDERSON
Washington State Journal

OLYMPIA - A proposal to fine counties and cities when untreated sewage is released into Puget Sound is part of an effort to save dwindling salmon runs.

The bill, proposed by Rep. J.T. Wilcox, R-Yelm, imposes a 1-cent-per-gallon fee on municipal discharges of untreated sewage into Puget

Sound. The bill, HB 2290, is part of a comprehensive five-bill bipartisan initiative to preserve salmon populations and support the fishing community.

The Department of Ecology did not oppose the bill but suggested other approaches might be more effective.

King County, the biggest offender of sewage discharge into the sound, will pay the most even though all

of its plants already have comprehensive plans and are receiving state assistance to improve their systems, said Colleen Keltz with the Department of Ecology.

She also said water and sewer bills are likely to increase to cover the costs of the fines, and that if plans to fine polluters are put in place, the DOE would prefer they be

See SEWAGE Page B4

Hunter safety education classes to begin in Chelan at Natures Window Museum

*Quad City Herald
Ward Media*

CHELAN, WA — A Hunter Safety Education Class will start on Monday, Mar. 18, and will continue through Friday, Mar. 22. The sessions are to be conducted at Natures Window Museum of Wildlife & Art Gallery, located at 21285 Highway 97A in Chelan. Participants are advised to enter through the designated door on the left side towards the back of the museum.

Registration is required via the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at [<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/208303>] [<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/208303>]. Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions, including a range day and testing on Saturday, March 23, to qualify for certification. The curriculum of the hunter

education classes encompasses Firearms and outdoor safety, Wildlife management, and Hunter responsibility. To successfully complete the course, students must pass a written examination, demonstrate competent firearm handling skills, and exhibit a constructive attitude.

While there is no minimum age for enrollment in the hunter education course, instructors reserve the right

to request the presence of a parent or guardian for attendees under 12 years of age during all sessions.

All courses are led by instructors certified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, featuring lectures, video presentations, and practical training exercises.

For additional information, contact Rick Hanson at 509-682-2421.

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cashmerevalleyrecord.com

qcherald.com

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Leavenworth Echo
Cashmere Valley Record
Lake Chelan Mirror
Quad City Herald

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Announcements

General Interest

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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

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Employment

Help Wanted

We Are Hiring!
The new and trending Crêpe Café located in the Obertal Mall is seeking teammates to join us in offering an authentic crêpe experience. Develop within the café while learning kitchen, customer service, cashier, and barista responsibilities with the goal of becoming a crêpe specialist, leader, and lifelong learner. Entry-level and management positions are available. Visit us in person or at CrepeCafeSisters.com/Leavenworth and complete an application by clicking on "Apply Now".

HELP WANTED
Responsible Animal Lover to occasionally feed 2 mini donkeys and 1 outside cat. Lower Brender Canyon area Cashmere. For more information please text or call 509-860-4665.



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.

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.

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

Vacation Rentals

\$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

NEW YEAR'S WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- BABY
- BALLOONS
- CALENDAR
- CELEBRATE
- CHAMPAGNE
- CHEERS
- CLOCK
- CONFETTI
- COUNTDOWN
- GAMES
- GOALS
- HAPPY
- INVITATION
- JANUARY
- KISS
- MIDNIGHT
- NEW YEAR
- NOISEMAKER
- PARTY
- RESOLUTION
- STREAMER
- TIMES SQUARE
- TOAST

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking.

ROKCOE

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Cooker

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



COURTESY OF NICOLE GEBBERS

The Brewster third grade boys are first place winners. Pictured from left, Gregor Sullivan, Jackson Gebbers, Barrett Gebbers, Jordi Talavera, Ryker Taylor, David Hurtado, Daxeau Taylor, Scoutson Todd, and Carson Becker.

Path to Podium

Continued from page A1

statisticians, and game clock operators.

- Stephanie Schertenleib monitored the gym managers at each school.
- Naomi Peasley took charge of finding enough game referees.
- Only7Seconds, a nonprofit addressing youth loneliness, had a table with outreach information.

Funds raised from the tournament will help support Bearbackers, the decades-old Brewster-based nonprofit.

“Our mission statement is to support Brewster youth in both academics and athletics,” said Gebbers, who added that Path to the Podium helped the nonprofit’s funding base.

“It opened up a donor line that didn’t exist this year because people did not actually know how well it (the tournament) would go,” Gebbers said.

And well it did, despite some anxiety over all the moving parts when the opening

rounds began with 24 games in six different gyms on Friday night. Early results show the weekend event brought more than 2,000 people to Brewster and an estimated \$81,000 in donations to the nonprofit.

“It’s not really about basketball,” said Gebbers about the young players. “It’s more about spending time with their families, competing, learning to be better adults.”

The state basketball cham-

ionship qualifier for B and small A school teams determined the top two teams in each division that earned the right to advance to Spokane for the next round of games in March.

Plans are already underway for next year’s tournament.

Local winning teams (ticket to state)

First place winners

Brewster fifth grade girls
Riley Gebbers, Kamillah



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Two-year-old Slater Stroyk from Davenport does not let the action on the court distract him from his on-board computer entertainment.

Hurtado, Isabella Hurtado, Lea Thompson, Reese Walker, Jamie Talavera, Capri Gebbers, Julissa Garcia, Brielle Gebbers, and Brynn Gebbers. Coaches Johnny and Nikki Gebbers.

Brewster third grade boys – (no state)

Gregor Sullivan, Jackson Gebbers, Barrett Gebbers, Jordi Talavera, Ryker Taylor, David Hurtado, Daxeau Taylor, Scoutson Todd, and Carson Becker.

Okanogan sixth grade boys

Cale Townsend, Wynn Chamberlin, Wesson Tonasket, Victor Lesamiz, Logan Grooms, Owen Thies, Braven Fonseca, and Mauricio Fonseca.

Brewster seventh grade girls

Coach Dylan Gamble, Grace Isenhardt, Celeste Garcia, Maggie Gamble, Kimberly Romero, Addy Boesel, Naioymee Aparicio, Naomi Soto, and Ima Powell. Coach Dylan Gamble

Okanogan seventh grade boys

Cooper Townsend, Pryce Chamberlin, Wadyn Brown, Beck Widman, Cy Yusi, Colson Kuchenbuch, Jesse Fonseca, Camden Ricco, and Josef Gann.

Second place winners (ticket to state)

- Pateros fourth boys
- Omak fourth girls
- Okanogan fifth boys
- Okanogan sixth girls
- Columbia River sixth boys
- Okanogan seventh girls
- Columbia Rivers seventh boys

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

Sewage

Continued from page B2

statewide, not just focused on Puget Sound.

Wilcox disagrees.

“The best salmon habitat in Washington will never be recovered because of its estuaries that are underneath places like Seattle and Tacoma,” Wilcox said. “We can’t tear down those cities, we can’t restore that habitat.”

He said the bill is Puget Sound specific because, “That’s where we have had this problem.” He lives along the Nisqually River, and said those fish are exposed to more pollution than any other fish.

The bill’s prime sponsor, Rep. Mary Dye (R-Pomeroy), agreed something must be done.

“The salmon are now on Prozac and birth control and every other pharmaceutical known to man,” she said.

Sewage dumping into Puget Sound is not new. In the 1950s, untreated wastewater flowed into Lake Washington, Puget Sound, and nearby waterways, fouling beaches and polluting the environment.

In 1958 King County voters created Metro, which created two treatment plants by 1966. Water quality improved and in 1994, King County took over, ensuring treatment for 34 jurisdictions.

In 2018, a No Discharge Zone status law was enacted, banning sewage dumping in 2,300 square miles of marine waters and surrounding lakes.

Despite efforts to manage sewage in the Sound, Pacific salmon populations continue to struggle.

Salmon are carrying drugs like Benadryl, cocaine, Prozac, Advil, and birth control in their tissues. These substances, known as “contaminants of emerging concern,” come from

human wastewater and end up in Puget Sound.

Experts say certain pharmaceuticals, like those present in birth control pills, have the potential to impact the growth and reproduction of salmon. This could pose a threat to salmon populations and potentially reduce essential prey for orcas.

Releasing sewage into “state waters” without a permit from The Department of Ecology is prohibited, and violators face civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day, with the penalty amount based on the violator’s history and the severity of the violation. Collected fees are directed to the Salmon Recovery Account.

Questions were raised during discussions on the bill regarding the responsibility for covering civil penalties and uncertainties surrounding accidental negligence. However, no one testified against the bill.

If passed, HB 2290 would require operators of wastewater treatment plants and sewer overflow systems in the Puget Sound watershed to submit annual reports on untreated sewage discharges.

“I am focused on salmon because I represent a bunch of people whose culture depends on salmon,” Wilcox said. “I represent the Nisqually tribe, and a lot of people who have generations of fishing who are not tribal.”

Three other salmon related bills have been proposed to the Legislature. One allows for a sales tax exemption for salmon recovery projects and another addresses avian predation on salmon populations.

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

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FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH
African American Newspapers

First African American Newspaper
Freedom’s Journal was the first African American owned and operated newspaper. The newspaper editors said, “Too long have others spoken for us.” They wanted to write about and for their fellow African Americans. Starting in 1827, Freedom’s Journal helped lead the way for other Black-owned newspapers in the 1800s.
Standards Link: Read informational text about Black history and journalism.

1847
Frederick Douglass started a newspaper called *The North Star* in 1847. This was a newspaper where black people could write about their news, ideas and share opinions.
Use the code to find out what Frederick Douglass said about reading.
A=16 E=12 N=8 U=4
B=15 F=11 O=7 V=3
C=14 I=10 R=6 W=2
D=13 L=9 T=5 Y=1

7 8 14 12 1 7 4
9 12 16 6 8 5 7
6 12 16 13 1 7 4
2 10 9 9 15 12
11 7 6 12 3 12 6
11 6 12 12
— FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Chicago Defender
Cut out each piece and paste the paragraph in the correct order in the space below.
so popular that he became one of African American newspaper.
Abbott started the newspaper about \$7.30 today. His paper was
In 1905, Robert Abbott founded Chicago’s first Black millionaires.
with 25¢. That’s the same as
The Chicago Defender. It was an

SUNDAY CHICAGO BEE
Twenty-one years after Robert Abbott founded *The Chicago Defender*, Anthony Overton, an African American millionaire, started *The Chicago Bee* to compete with *The Chicago Defender*. It was a remarkable business as the staff was mostly women. That was very unusual in 1926. Olive M. Diggs was one of the newspaper’s managing editors. Other female editors included Ida B. Wells. She helped start the civil rights organization known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
What year did Anthony Overton start *The Chicago Bee*?

Simeon Booker Jr.
In 1952, Simeon Booker Jr. became the first Black reporter for a well-known and well-read newspaper that still publishes today. Circle every other letter below to find out the name of this newspaper.
T R H K E U W B A L S V H W I J N
P G S T R O H N Y P A O N S B T
T H

Extra! Extra! Newspaper ABCs
On one page of the newspaper, find and circle every letter of the alphabet that you can. Then connect the letters to create a design. Color your design and share! Have fun!
Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow written instructions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
1964
The Washington Informer is a weekly newspaper published in Washington, D.C. It is owned by a woman and reports on the African American community in the D.C. area.
The publisher is Denise Rolark Barnes. Her father, Calvin W. Rolark, founded the paper in 1964.
Fill in the missing vowels to find out something special about *The Washington Informer*.
THE WASH_NGT_N INF_RM_R P_BLISH_S K_D SC_P!
Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell words correctly.

Double Double Word Search
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?
BEE CENTS FREE IDEAS LEAD NEWS PAPER REPORTER RIGHTS SHE STAFF STAR TODAY WEEKLY WRITE
S T N E C E G Y T P
E H S V M S T A F F
A W U T S L B I F H
S N Y W A E T Q R S
T P A P E R Y D E W
H Q D K D E L A E E
G V O M I O K E J N
I N T S Y C R L P V
R E P O R T E R Y W
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together
Make a Timeline!
Look at the timeline dates below. Next to each one, write something you learned from today’s *Kid Scoop* page on the lines next to each date.
1827 _____
1847 _____
1861 _____
1905 _____
1926 _____
1952 _____
1964 _____

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY
Analyze the News
Work in teams to measure how many column inches your newspaper devotes to news from different groups of people in your community, such as children, seniors, men, women, people of color, etc. Graph your results.
Standards Link: Mathematics: Graph data.

Write On! Leadership
What are three things good leaders do? Make a list and explain how each of these things makes a good leader.

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• Check out books, comics, movies, & more
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• Free homework help
• Britannica Library
• Stream books, comics, movies, & more