

The Leavenworth Echo



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Cameron West receives Realtor of the Year award

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Area drug task force sees success in fight on drugs

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Linda Bradshaw named 2024 Royal Lady of the Autumn Leaves

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Linda Bradshaw was officially revealed as the 2024 Royal Lady of the Autumn Leaves during the traditional Royal Lady Gala on Mar. 5. The anointed Royal Lady has a busy year ahead of her, representing Leavenworth in nine different festival parades across the northwest while also attending her home festivities.

“It’s really thrilling to be asked. I mean, I’m representing my hometown,” said Bradshaw.

Bradshaw’s tour will commence at the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival in Wenatchee, followed by Leavenworth’s Maifest. Then, the Royal Lady and her parade team will travel to Spokane, New Westminster, B.C., Portland, Marysville, Cashmere, Olympia, Seattle, and Penticton, B.C., until wrapping up her tour at Leavenworth’s very own Autumn Leaf Festival in September.

While traveling as the Royal Lady may be new territory, Bradshaw has been involved with the Autumn Leaf festivities since 2017, when her best friend Cindy Hassinger was named the Royal Lady. Bradshaw traveled with Hassinger to the different parades, then helped design pins, build the floats, and served on the Royal Bavarian Council in subsequent years.

“It’s fun. It’s exciting...You’re going to different places where you can share what your community is like and you see other people have great communities too. But ours is the best,” joked Bradshaw. “Everybody knows Leavenworth and everybody wants to do the chicken dance with us, and the whole crowd shouts out, ‘We love Leavenworth!’”

When Bradshaw got the call last fall asking her to be the 2024 Royal Lady, she was surprised, but honored.

“It’s not something that you ever campaign for...you just do it because you love it. You love the work, or you love the community, or you love the people. And so when they honor somebody, it’s pretty special,” said Bradshaw.

Since its conception in 1964, the Autumn Leaf Festival has chosen women who have been influential in their service to the community, as a way to honor their involvement and best represent Leavenworth on the road. But as Bradshaw sees it, it’s also a nod to the history of women who helped save Leavenworth, including her mother-in-law, Ella Bradshaw.

Ella was a part of the Vesta Junior Women’s Club of Leavenworth. According to previous Echo reporting, the club formed in 1954, and was influential in passing a levy for a firehall, getting bonds approved to build a new high school, and cleaning up the city park and cemetery. The club helped launch Project L.I.F.E. in 1962, which started the conversation about revitalizing the city with a theme to attract tourism, which the town would decide to be Bavarian years later.

Their largest impact was in 1964, when the club won \$10,000 for the town in a competition sponsored by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and the Sears Roebuck Foundation. The win helped give Leavenworth the economic boost and publicity it needed to get the ball rolling. The win that year coincided



COURTESY OF HEIDI SWOBODA

See **LINDA BRADSHAW** Page **B3** 2024 Autumn Royal Lady Linda Bradshaw.

Downtown Steering Committee deliberates member representation amid business complaints

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The Downtown Steering Committee considered expanding its members to allow more community representation during its meeting on Feb. 27.

At prior meetings, City Administrator Matthew “Selby” proposed the idea of adding two new community members to the committee, due to complaints of oversight from businesses on 8th, 9th, and Commercial Streets. While the complaints were directed to the City and Chamber, Selby said, representation on the steering committee could give them more agency.

“I’ve been hearing from business owners on Commercial who feel like they’re not being listened to, so I would like to honor that by adding two additional numbers. I’m not specifying here that they would come from those locations geographically downtown, but we would recruit to try to get representation from those side streets and commercial businesses,” said Selby.

Currently, the steering committee is made up of three City Council members, two members from Chamber of Commerce, a Mayor’s designee appointed staff member, and two at-large community members with a skillset of benefit, such as experience in urban design, event planning, tourism promotion. The two additions would be defined as “members at-large owning property or operating a business in downtown Leavenworth.”

With the committee’s composition, as well as the current focus on Front Street as the last leg of the master plan, some members pushed back on the idea, including Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and committee member Troy Campbell.

“These two new people are just there to advocate for their street or their block and so they’ve been selected for a very specific advocacy purpose, where everyone else is sort of bringing something to the table with their skill set or providing representation for a larger group,” said Campbell. “Complaints I’ve heard coming out of Commercial Street and those other streets are not something that this committee would solve.”

Campbell listed some of the complaints were things like wanting more lights or events, which was out of the steering committee’s control. Others pointed out that the committee meetings were public, and the businesses in question hadn’t attempted to make their voices heard as guests. However, many committee members agreed on the importance of representation.

“I see value in that. I don’t think this committee has failed these guys, but it would just be allowing a voice if they so choose to. You know, if they wanted to be here, then they could,” said City Council and committee member Zeke Reister.

The committee also brought up concerns of committee members doing double duty with both chamber and community representation, without clear designation of which role they were occupying, such as Kevin Reike, who owns the Wood Shop / Hat Shop, and is the current Chamber of Commerce President.

“Since I am one of any one of those, I’ve been appointed as each, so it does make sense to kind of start a better record keeping system so we know who’s up for appointment and under what designation moving forward,” said Reike.

Unable to come to a consensus, the group tabled the matter and agreed to revisit it in a couple of months. The next Downtown Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Apr. 23.

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Cascade School District introduces real-time bus tracking app for parents

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Cascade School District is introducing a new app for parents to use as part of its transportation scheduling system. Beginning Mar. 6, the all-in-one Stopfinder app will show real-time information about bus schedules and allow parents to track their child’s bus anytime and from anywhere.

Through the app, parents can opt-in to be notified of schedule

changes, delays, arrivals, or when the bus is nearing their child’s stop. The app also allows for two-way communication between parents and the Cascade Transportation Department through private messaging. While it does allow parents to notify bus drivers of any changes in their child’s schedule, Cascade Superintendent Tracey Edou said that last-minute changes will not work with the new system.

“It’s still important to give plenty of advanced notice,” said Edou during a district board

meeting. The app’s interface is akin to other public transportation apps in terms of schedule displays, but the bus tracking is similar to following a driver’s progress in an Uber or Lyft app.

The new app could help the Cascade Transportation Department streamline communication with parents while managing a vast area of pickups and drop-offs. In terms of area, the department serves one of the largest districts in the state, covering 1,175 square miles. It

travels between Blewett and Stevens Passes, Lake Wenatchee, Chiwawa Loop, and Plain, in addition to the towns of Dryden, Peshastin, and Leavenworth.

Stopfinder can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. However, bus schedules and information may only be accessed by invitation and registration through Cascade School District.

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Proposed Osborn Playground redesign prioritizes inclusivity and accessibility

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

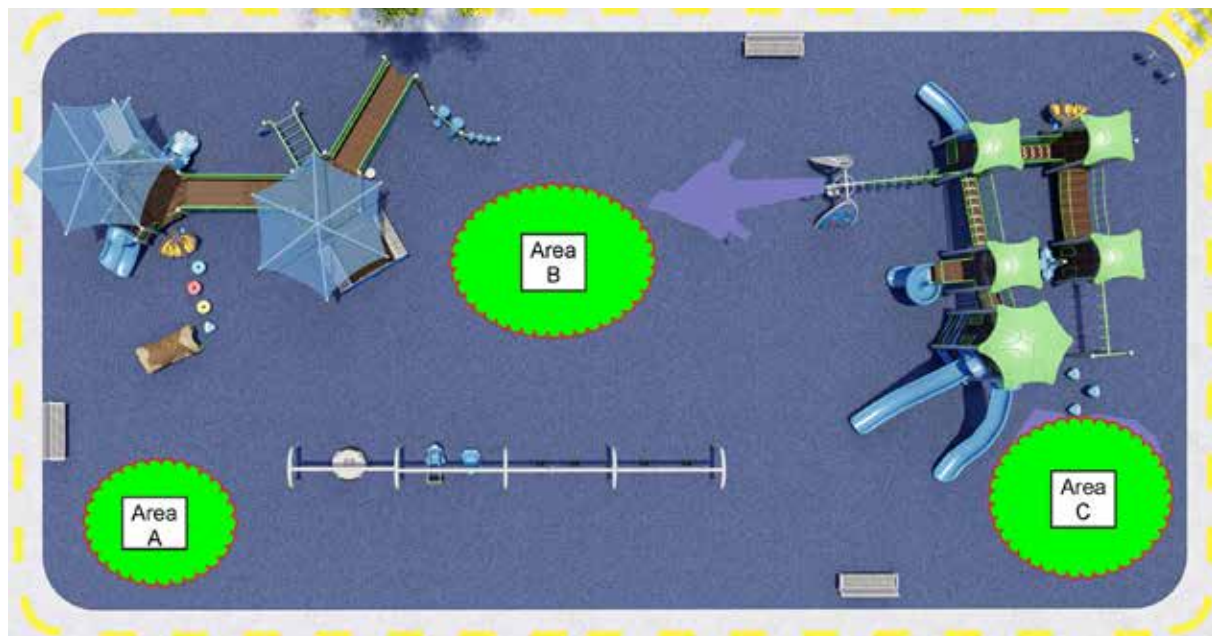
LEAVENWORTH – The Osborn Playground Replacement project is inching closer to ordering equipment for possible construction in early fall, according to an update given at the City Council Study Session on Feb. 27.

Parks Supervisor John Schons presented a design proposal that the Neighborhood Playground Committee has been working on since July 2023.

“Our goal was to redesign a new playground for the Osborn property, and our goal was also to have it fully accessible and inclusive for all levels,” said Schons.

In order to make the park more conducive to mobility devices, the committee made an intentional choice to use poured-in-place rubber surfacing over wood chips, and include inclusive play equipment.

In addition to the inclusive play



COURTESY OF CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

The final playground design will include three additional pieces of equipment in areas A, B and C, based on the results of a survey sent out to school-aged children.

See **OSBORN** Page **B3**

Inside The Echo this Week

5 Things to do this Week.....	A2	Classifieds.....	B2-B3	Advertising Flyers:
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Kid Scoop

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Kid Scoop Together:

Lookalike Leprechauns

Each leprechaun below has a twin. Draw a line between each twin but remember: Leprechauns can be VERY tricky! Look closely.



Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

St. Patrick's Day Exclusive!

"Leprechaun Lips" Tells All!

NEWS FLASH! We found a leprechaun to answer questions about these mysterious little people! He wouldn't really show himself to us. Mostly what we saw during the interview were his lips, oversized sunglasses and his hat.

Q: How do leprechauns get all that gold?

A: We make shoes for the fairies. Silly fairies wear out their shoes quickly because they dance all night. We are always busy making new shoes for them. They pay us with gold. Lots of gold!



Leprechaun's shoe shelf has toppled. Can you match the pairs of fairy shoes?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects; identify matching attributes.

Q: How big are leprechauns?

A: Wee folk are we. Three feet tall at most.

Can you read inches of the newspaper columns that are equal to 3 feet?

How many shamrocks can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Measurement: Use standard measurement. Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level appropriate materials.

Q: How do you catch a leprechaun?

A: It isn't easy. If you should see a leprechaun, get as close as you can without him seeing you.

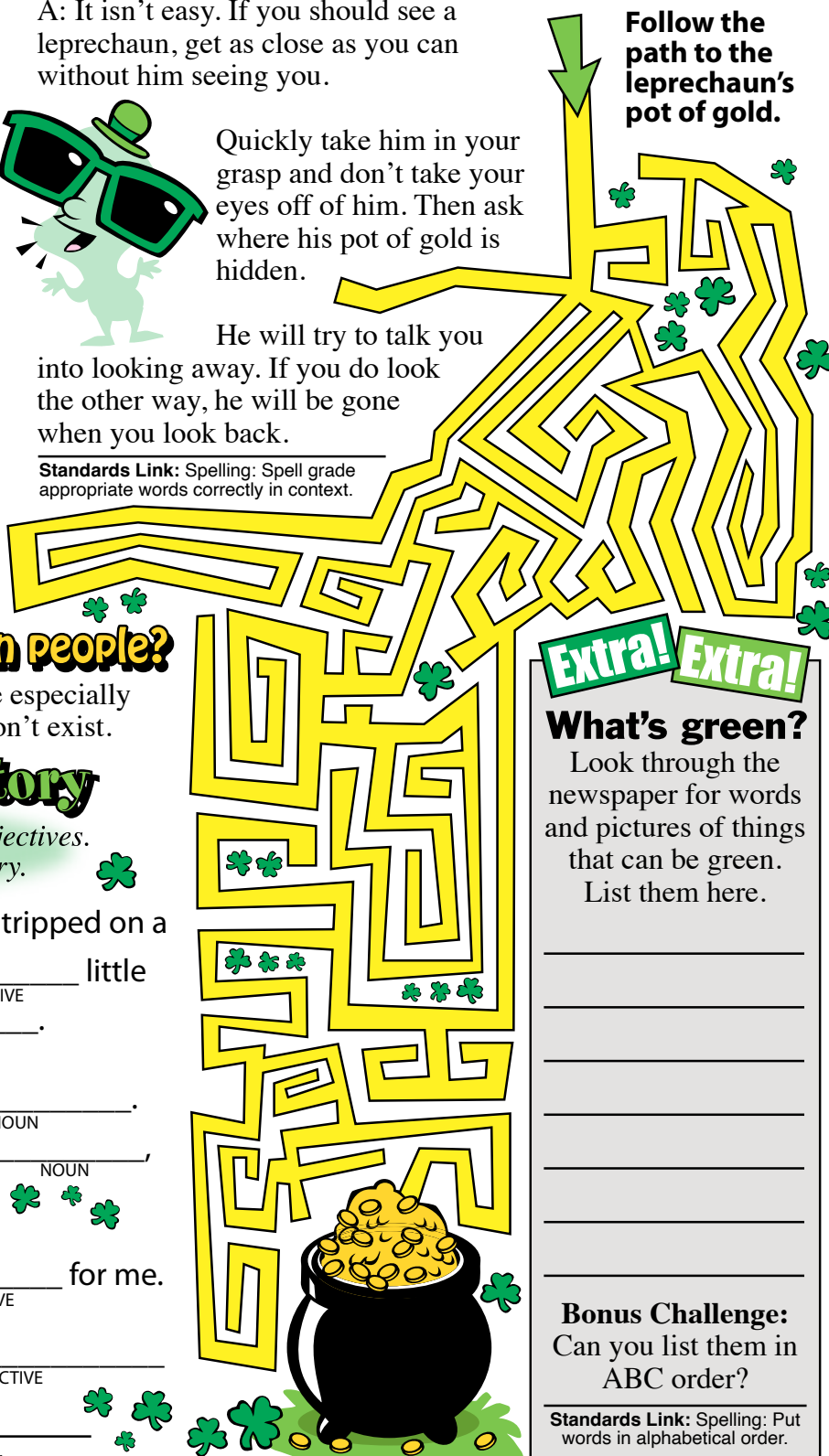


Quickly take him in your grasp and don't take your eyes off of him. Then ask where his pot of gold is hidden.

He will try to talk you into looking away. If you do look the other way, he will be gone when you look back.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade appropriate words correctly in context.

Follow the path to the leprechaun's pot of gold.



Extra! Extra!

What's green?

Look through the newspaper for words and pictures of things that can be green. List them here.

Bonus Challenge: Can you list them in ABC order?

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

Q: Why do leprechauns play tricks on people?

A: We play tricks on people who don't believe in us. We especially like to bother teachers who try to tell children that we don't exist.

Leprechaun Lips Tricky Story

Ask your teacher or a friend for verbs, nouns and adjectives. Use these words to fill in the blanks of this story.

One fine morning, I went for a walk in the woods. I tripped on a _____.

When I looked down, I saw a _____ little _____ with a green _____.

"_____" he said. "My name is _____."

I'm a leprechaun. If you want my _____ of _____ you'll have to _____ me first!"

I tried to _____ him, but he was too _____ for me.

He just laughed and called out to me, "_____"

St. Patrick's Day!"

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing.

St. Paddy's Patterns

Which leprechaun comes next in each row? Circle it.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Relate ideas of an experience.

Double Double Word Search

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

- LAUGHED
- LOOKING
- LIPS
- GOLD
- PAY
- SHOE
- DANCE
- GREEN
- GRASP
- WOODS
- EYES
- EASY
- GONE
- ASK



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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's phrase: **GIFT OF GAB**

If someone has the "gift of gab," it means the person is a good talker. The word *gab* comes from *gob*, the Irish word for mouth.

Katie had the gift of gab, which sometimes got her in trouble for talking too much during school.

Try to use the phrase gift of gab in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

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