

# Quad City Herald

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A Ward Media Publication  
March 20, 2024

Volume 122 • No. 12 • Single Copy **\$1.00**  
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## Brewster Chamber gets its eggs in a row for Easter

By **MIKE MALTAIS**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

**BREWSTER** – With Easter just around the corner, the Chamber of Commerce met last Wednesday, March 13, to put the final touches on the Easter Egg Hunt that it will host in conjunction with the Brewster Boys and Girls Club (BBGC).

The hunt will be start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, the day before Easter, and be held at the soccer field across from the BBGC. It is free, open to all ages, and includes food, games, and prizes. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo opportunities.

“I filled 560 eggs,” reported BBGC Director Elizabeth Shepherd. “I have 144 more to go.”

Shepherd said she will have a total of 1,000 eggs or more filled with candy and prizes.

“PIFCU went shopping and bought us \$300 worth of stuff and prizes,” said Shepherd. “And they are going to come to the event and volunteer.”

Shepherd added that she is putting together 16 Easter baskets for the lucky winners who find the golden eggs.

The chamber also discussed a scheduled a return engagement of the popular Culpepper & Merriweather Circus on June 9. A site to hold the two performances is still under negotiation.

The Wenatchee Youth Circus (WYC) known as “The Biggest Little Circus in the World” inquire

if Brewster would like to schedule a performance in town this year. WYC performs in East Wenatchee with tours stops at Ephrata and Entiat this summer.

The Chamber revisited advertising in the annual Fishrapper and Recreationland publications.

The August Brewster King Salmon Derby was also on the agenda as chamber members considered the chamber’s role in this year’s event. The derby is just one of more than a dozen events the chamber either hosts, participates in, or promotes in the course of a year. Among them are:

- Path to the Podium basketball tournament (February)
- Easter Egg Hunt (March)
- Mother’s Day (May)

- Culpepper & Merriweather Circus (June)
- Fourth of July parade (July)
- Brewster Salmon Derby (August)
- Jamaica Days (August)
- Mexican Independence Day (September)
- Thunderfest Hydro Races (September)
- Halloween costume contest – Trick or Treat on Main Street (October)
- Small Business Saturday – Best of the Best awards (November)
- Christmas tree lighting – Santa Claus (November).

### Housing Summit

Economic Development Specialist Mason Duke of the Economic Alliance

distributed a flyer promoting an upcoming Okanogan County Housing Summit from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 25, in the 12 Tribes Casino Conference Room. The topic of the meeting is creating and developing partnerships to address workforce housing solutions. Representatives from the USDA, Department of Commerce, Okanogan County Planning Department, and Methow Housing Trust will be among featured speakers.

Registration is required. Contact the Economic Alliance at facebook.com/OKeconomicAlliance.com or call 509-826-5107.

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

## Bridgeport citizens weigh in on law enforcement cost

By **MIKE MALTAIS**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

**BRIDGEPORT** – More than 75 Bridgeport residents turned out for a public meeting last Thursday, March 14, held to encourage public input concerning a steep cost increase for law enforcement services provided to the city through the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO).

Bridgeport relies on the DCSO for its police protection and in the past has negotiated a multi-year contract with the county for those services. Late last year the city council was advised by Sheriff Kevin Morris that those costs would take a significant increase starting this year.

Up until now the cost of DCSO services increased by the greater of either the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or three percent, paid monthly in equal shares. Over the past five years from 2019 to 2023 city expenditures have come up short more than \$15,000 to cover those costs – and two of those years, 2021-2022, saw no contract increase during COVID.

Starting this year the new contract increase from the previous year would be:

2024	11 percent.
2025	10 percent.
2026	9 percent.
2027	8 percent.
2028	8 percent.
2029	3 percent (contract due for renegotiation)

The proposed cost increase to the city is approximately 49 percent over

See **ENFORCEMENT** Page **A2**



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
Douglas County Sheriff Kevin Morris, seated left, undersheriff Tyler Caille, Douglas County Commissioner Mark Straub listened to many audience questions.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
City council member Mike Bjornstad raised issues at the meeting.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
Mayor Sergio Orozco and clerk/treasurer Judy Brown spoke for the city.

## Washington State Bill proposes part-time police roles to boost diversity, retention



COURTESY OF SENATE DEMOCRATS  
Sen. John Lovick studies a proposal at his desk on the floor of the Senate.

By **ASPEN ANDERSON**  
Washington State Journal

**OLYMPIA** - Washington remains 51st in the nation for police officers per capita, and one answer to that problem might be allowing officers to work part-time.

SB 5424, sponsored by Sen. John Lovick, D-Mill Creek, awaits the governor’s signature.

“The idea behind these flexible work schedules is...intended to increase the diversity in Washington law enforcement,” Lovick said. “To increase the presence of female officers and to retain senior officers who have a lot of value to provide but cannot maintain a standard 40-hour work week.”

His goal is to have a 30% increase in female officers by 2030.

Not all officers will qualify for flexible work schedules. This law applies to general and limited authority law enforcement officers and requires an officer to have an unspecified number of years of experience before qualifying.

To protect the workforce from becoming part-time, the flexible work hour program is available for only 3-5 years for each officer.

Until now, officers had to work full-time to maintain a position title, but that is an outdated requirement, many argue.

“This would have been valuable to my family,” said police chief for the City of Algona James Schrimphser. “This has been a long time coming, and this is something that is needed for our profession.”

Chief Michelle Bennett from the Edmonds Police Department said she was forced to retire in 2021 when she became a single parent to four young

See **STATE BILL** Page **A2**

## Women’s Service League hosts annual prom dress giveaway

By **QUINN PROPST**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

**WENATCHEE** – This weekend, area teens, regardless of income, will have the chance to pick out the prom dress of their dreams for free, thanks to the Women’s Service League of North Central Washington.

The Women’s Service League of NCW (WSL) will hold its annual Prom Dress Giveaway on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wenatchee Valley Mall near Sportsman’s Warehouse.

Throughout the year WSL members have collected hundreds of new and gently used prom dresses. WSL members will be on hand to help girls pick out a dress and seamstresses will be on site to do minor adjustments to hems and straps.

Nicole Germain, a WSL member and chair of the Prom Dress Committee, said the event is twofold. Girls can find a dress for the special occasion

without the big price tag and it’s a way to reuse dresses that just end up sitting in the closet.

“Like, how can we give back to the community again, regardless of income, you can get a free dress for prom and feel special and love what you’re wearing and not be worried about the price tag of it,” she said. “But also like, we have lots of women, teenagers have these dresses sitting in a closet that might sit there for a while.”

“So how do we repurpose that so that it’s not just sitting there, you know, taking up space, and not just being like thrown away or going to somewhere it’s not going to use so, you know, we kind of thought let’s set up this amazing event and be a piece of the community that’s missing.”

WSL has been collecting and giving away prom dresses for more than ten years.

“Obviously Women’s Service League is very much about helping women and children,” she said. “And

this very much falls in line with that vision and mission and again, we don’t care about your income. Please come get a dress and feel beautiful at prom.”

Germain said thousands of dresses in various sizes, colors, and styles will be available, as will some shoes and accessories.

Local businesses have donated raffle items for hair, photos, and nails to complete the prom experience.

The event is free and open to all high school students around North Central Washington. Students must show their Student ID to be admitted into the event.

If anyone wants to donate dresses, they can be dropped off at Banner Bank in Wenatchee by

See **PROM DRESS** Page **A3**



COURTESY OF WOMEN’S SERVICE LEAGUE OF NCW  
Miss Greater Wenatchee and Miss East Cascades volunteered at last year’s Prom Dress Giveaway.

## Inside The Quad City Herald this Week

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**\$1.00**

PO Box 1922  
Chelan, WA  
98816-1922

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# Quad City Herald

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WARD MEDIA

### On the Internet

Website:  
www.qcerald.com  
News E-mail:  
news@ward.media  
advertising e-mail:  
advertising@ward.media

### Office hours

Mon. to Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### Contact information

#### CEO & Publisher

**Terry Ward**

509-731-3284  
terry@ward.media

#### COO & Co-Owner

**Amy M. Yaley**

509-731-3321  
amy@ward.media

#### Reporter/Photographer

**Michael Maltais**

michael@ward.media

#### Reporter

**Quinn Propst**

quinn@ward.media

#### Advertising

#### Multimedia Sales Manager

**Sherrie Harlow**

253-255-5920  
sherrie@ward.media

#### Multimedia Account Executive

**Denise Buchner**

406-599-3869  
denise@ward.media

#### Classifieds/Legals

**Laura Husa**

classifieds@ward.media

#### Circulation:

**Laura Husa**

509-293-6780  
laura@ward.media

#### Deadlines

Letters to the Editor: Noon, Friday  
Calendar Listings: Noon, Friday  
News Submissions: Noon, Friday  
Display Advertising: 5 p.m., Thurs.  
Legals: Noon, Friday  
Classified Ads: Noon, Friday  
Obituaries/Deaths: 4 p.m., Friday

#### Subscriptions

Okanogan/Douglas Counties (yearly) print **\$40**  
Okanogan/Douglas Counties (yearly) print & web **\$45**  
In State (yearly) **\$50**  
Out of State (yearly) **\$52**

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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](mailto:terry@ward.media)

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Quad City Herald regrets any errors.

If you see an error, please call **509-689-2507**. We will publish a correction

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Back Issues are available up to one year after publication for a small fee.

Quad City Herald (USPS 241-920) is published every Wednesday by Ward Media LLC PO Box 39, Leavenworth, WA 98826 Telephone: 509-548-5286. Periodical postage paid at Brewster, Wash. Postmaster: Send address corrections to: Quad City Herald, PO Box 1922, Chelan, WA 98816

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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](mailto: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!



### Bridgeport Toddler Rhyme/Story Time

The Bridgeport Library will host Toddler Rhyme/Story Time on Friday, March 22 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

"Join us for a fun hour of stories, songs, rhyming and crafts," the event page states. "This program is geared towards toddlers and pre-school ages, but everyone is welcome."

For more information visit [nculibraries.org](http://nculibraries.org).

### Omak Writing Group

The Omak Library will host the Omak Writing Group on Monday, March 25 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Room.

"Each week we will share our works in progress, challenge yourself with a story

prompt, and talk about the different aspects of writing," the event page states. "This will be a great chance to improve your writing and to get constructive feedback from other writers as well."

For more information visit [nculibraries.org](http://nculibraries.org).

### Entiat Kite Festival

Celebrate the Entiat Kite Festival on Saturday, March 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Entiat Kiwanis Park.

"Family fun fiesta with live music, food, arts and crafts vendors and exhibitors," the event page states.

### Knotty Knitters

The Chelan Library will host the Knotty Knitters on Tuesday, March 26 from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge of yarn arts? Join the lovely group of women who have shared their passion for yarn over the years at Three Wild Sheep," the event page states. "Now meeting in the Library's Community meeting room. Beginners are gladly welcome."

For more information visit [nculibraries.org](http://nculibraries.org).

### Chelan Library Book Club

The Chelan Library Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 28 from 3-4 p.m. in the



**5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK**

community meeting room. "Enjoy casual conversation about books? New to the area and interested in meeting others who like to talk about books? Join us for our library book club as we discuss a new

book each month," the event page states.

This month's book is *Where'd You Go Bernadette?*

For more information visit [nculibraries.org](http://nculibraries.org).

## Enforcement

Continued from page A1

a five-year period.

"This is just the first five years," said city council member Matt Schuh. "What are we looking at past that?"

Law enforcement is funded through a variety of avenues, state sales tax, property taxes, traffic fines, and utility bills. To generate enough revenue to pay for the proposed agreement the only option is to raise taxes on utilities up to

14 percent, according to figures presented at the meeting by city clerk/treasurer Judy Brown.

The proposed cost increase to the city is approximately 49 percent over a five-year period.

That raises another a concern city council member Matt Schuh.

"There is an honest concern about affordability," said Schuh. "Can the citizens afford the increase in the bill to cover the cost of the contract?"

Current annual conservative estimates for utility ratepayers computes as:

2025	\$12.00 per month more than 2024 (annual increase \$140).
2026	\$10.00 per month more than 2025 (annual increase \$118).
2027	\$10.00 per month more than 2026 (annual increase \$123).
2028	\$9.50 per month more than 2027 (annual increase \$114)

That leads to another concern Schuh has related to other city services.

"Can the city afford it and still provide fire and EMS

services?" Schuh wonders. "What about the streets?"

Mayor Sergio Orozco sees more discussion ahead.

"I want to call a meeting with the other mayors to see what they are doing and determine what our next step is from here," said Orozco. "But we're going to try to get more information from our community."

Council member Mike Bjornstad asked for a show of hands of those in the audience willing to pony up

the additional \$41.50 monthly. There were few takers.

"I don't really think anything was really decided last night, but a lot of issues and comments were talked about," said Schuh. "It was a good way to get the conversation going."

The discussion will continue, and citizens are encouraged to contact city hall with any comments or concerns to add to the public's position.

Mike Maltais: 360-333-8483 or [michael@ward.media](mailto:michael@ward.media)

# Goats were stuck in traffic. Dozens of strangers helped milk them.

By CATHY FREE

The Washington Post

Jose Garcia was hauling a load of goats to his California dairy farm when he hit a huge snowstorm as he drove through Utah. Traffic was at a standstill.

He felt panicked as hours ticked by with snow and high winds swirling around the truck, and no sign of movement on the freeway that evening, March 2.

The goats needed to be milked every 12 hours or their udders would become painfully swollen and possibly infected. "I was right on the 12-hour mark," said Garcia, 40.

He and his uncle, Bartolo Garcia, had planned to find a freeway rest stop where they could milk the 50 goats Jose Garcia had purchased in Minnesota to add to his herd of 500 in Merced County, Calif. They'd been taking turns at the wheel during the nearly 2,000-mile drive.

"I kept praying the traffic would get going, because I knew how uncomfortable the goats were," he said, adding

that he was also hauling 25 young goats that were already weaned.

"They're high producing animals, and they really can't go much beyond 12 hours without milking," Garcia said. "I was getting ready to lace up my boots and milk them in the trailer, when things finally started moving."

They had been stuck in the storm for more than five hours, and Garcia said it probably would have taken several more hours to find an interstate rest stop. He was relieved when he learned there was a livestock supply store in Stansbury Park, Utah, about an hour's drive away.

Lisa Fernandez was preparing to close shop for the day at the Tractor Supply Co. store when Garcia rushed in, visibly worried.

"Have you ever milked a goat before?" he asked her, explaining the situation.

The answer was no.

"He said, 'If you'd like to try, I can show you how,'" recalled Fernandez, assistant manager of the farm supply store.

## State Bill

Continued from page A1

children. Six months later, she returned to the department after finding childcare.

"I desperately wish I did not have to take that six months of time away from the retirement system, as it had pretty negative ramifications," Bennett said. "I know a number of officers who have babies or just had babies who are trying to come back to work. I have folks that are retired that are looking for something to do."

Sue Rahr, the previous executive director of the Criminal Justice Training Center, said she came to testify to put a "human face" on the experience of being a police officer and trying to raise a family. After having her second son, she said she was exhausted all the time and became a lousy employee until she rebounded when her children entered grade school.

"I worried about keeping my job because I did not know what the rules were. There really weren't any," Rahr said. "I have been waiting 38 years to see my profession evolve so that it becomes more manageable for all police officers who are managing family responsibilities."

No one testified against the bill, but some raised concerns about officers' collective bargaining rights.

Collective bargaining covers things like pay, benefits, hours, time off, workplace safety and finding a balance between work and personal life. Monica Alexander, the current executive director for the Criminal Justice Training Center said the bill language should be amended to protect these rights.

"We have single fathers, single mothers, raising children, and maybe this is a great opportunity for them. They can still do their job but have a flexible work shift," Alexander said. "There is a lot of stress in the law enforcement community, and being able to maybe cut their hours down sometimes can give them the break that they need to take care of their wellness."

No police training requirements will change for part-time officers. This bill will take effect 90 days after the session has ended.

"It's time we look at different ways of doing things," Lovick said. "With the current recruitment and retention difficulties our departments are experiencing, we shouldn't be forcing good officers to retire because of inflexible work schedules."

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

She agreed to help him, but he still seemed desperate. He had another request.

"He asked if I knew of anyone else who might want to pitch in because all 50 goats needed milking," she said. "He said he could use any help I could find."

Fernandez and another manager quickly called some of their employees and asked if they would help. One employee posted a notice on the Lake Point Crew private Facebook page, asking for all available hands.

"My boss is trying to find people to help these farmers for about an hour to hour and a half to get these goats through the night," Tosha Carter posted. "Would anyone be interested in helping?"

Within 30 minutes, about 40 people showed up to help on a chilly night, even though the vast majority had never milked a goat before, Fernandez said.

"I sure hadn't milked one, but I was happy to try," she said.

Fernandez said she fetched some buckets from inside the store and grabbed a bunch of supersized soft drink cups to hold the milk. Several people arrived with jars and bottles so they could take fresh goat milk home with them, she said.

Garcia showed her and the other volunteers how to milk the goats in the parking lot and get a steady stream going.

"He said, 'Grab at the top with your index finger and thumb, work your way down and don't yank,'" Fernandez said. "It took

me about 20 minutes to milk the first one, then I started to get the hang of it."

Abigail Ryba, a salesclerk at the store, said the task was easier once she got a good rhythm going.

"The goats seemed a lot happier when we started milking them," she said, noting that some of the goats were milked inside the trailer, while others were milked in the parking lot.

"I've been around goats at a horse rescue where I volunteer, but I'd ever milked one before," Ryba said. "I love working with animals, and all of these goats were super sweet."

"The people who weren't milking goats were comforting them, letting them know it was all going to be okay," she added.

Garcia said he was stunned



COURTESY OF LISA FERNANDEZ  
Volunteers milk one of Jose Garcia's goats in the parking lot of Tractor Supply Co. in Stansbury Park, Utah, on March 2.

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# 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](mailto:classifieds@ward.media). To submit info call 509-548-5286 or email: [ruth@ward.media](mailto:ruth@ward.media)

### Brewster March 20, 22, 25

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

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. March 20: Hawaiian Chicken, Wild Rice, Key West Veggies, Garden Salad, Pineapple, WW Roll, Dessert; March 22: Baked Fish, Pesto Pasta, Normandy Veggies, Tossed Salad, Tropical Fruit, Dessert;

**March 26:** Broccoli, Bacon & Swiss Cheese Quiche, Crunchy Pea Salad, Grapes, Blueberry Muffin; March 27: Chili with Cheese, 1/2 Baked Potato, Green Salad, Peaches, Corn Chips, Dessert; March 29: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Chuck Wagon Corn, Tossed Green Salad, Apple Crisp.

### March 20-23, 25-30

**Senior Center Thrift Store**  
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.

### March 20, April 11

**Brewster bus trips**  
OCTN takes Brewster area resident to Wenatchee, second Thursday of the month. That next trip is April 11. 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, March 20 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.

### March 20, April 3

**American Legion meeting**  
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.

### March 21, 22, 23, 24

**American Legion events - Crab dinner March 23**  
Mark your calendars for March 23, 5-8 p.m., they will be offering a Crab dinner. You will get approximately 2 1/4 pounds of Dungeness Crab with coleslaw and roll. For people that would like to join their family, but don't want crab, there will be a steak dinner available as well. Or you can add a steak to your crab dinner. Presale Tickets Only:

Only 75 crab dinner tickets. Purchase from one of the board members or at the Legion Hall. You can also purchase online - online purchases can be picked up at the American Legion day of the event. Please bring your receipt. Crab dinner \$50.00: <https://square.link/u/bAmbZzIg>; Crab dinner add 8 oz Sirloin \$62.00: <https://square.link/u/hRbb0oqh>; Steak dinner \$15.00: <https://square.link/u/Vtzb2vtq>. sBrewster 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.

### April 3

#### American Legion Auxiliary to meet

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

### April 10

**Brewster Chamber to meet**  
The next general meeting of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce will be held Wednesday, April 10, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center, 109 Bridge Street. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. For information [brewsterwachamber@gmail.com](mailto:brewsterwachamber@gmail.com) or Mike Mauk, 509-449-0605.

### Chelan Valley Hope March 20-21, 25-28

**Serving Bridgeport, Mansfield, Waterville, Orondo, Chelan, Manson, Chelan Falls, Entiat**  
It's Disability Awareness Month and during this month Chelan Valley Hope would like to bring awareness to inclusion, resources, and accessibility. At Hope, we take several steps to accommodate clients with disabilities and ensure they have equal access to the services and resources offered. Hope offers Sight and Hearing Assistance with the Lions Club. The Cornerstone building has designated handicapped parking along with a handicap-accessible entrance and bathroom. Then, our wonderful team is ready to provide access support for clients with hearing, speech, or learning disabilities. March provides an opportunity to come together to celebrate diversity, promote accessibility, and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. For more information about donations, services, or volunteer opportunities, you may call or visit us Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed Noon to 1 p.m.), and speak with one of our helpful volunteers.

### March 20

**Death Cafe 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. All are welcome. Please join them for coffee and cake. For more information: Contact Concie Luna or Vita Monteleone at [monte419@nwi.net](mailto:monte419@nwi.net).

### Okanogan County March 26

#### Okanogan County PUD meeting

The next meeting of the Okanogan County PUD Board of Commissioners is at 3 p.m. For more information [okanoganpud.org](http://okanoganpud.org)

### April 8

#### Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee

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.

### Douglas County April 2, 16

#### Douglas County PUD meetings

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](http://douglaspu.org)

### Wenatchee April 9

#### Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group

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](http://tcfwenatcheevalley.org)

### April 15

#### Family and friends Support Group

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](http://tcfwenatcheevalley.org)

### Omak May 1 deadline

**OCSRA Scholarship**  
The Okanogan County School Retirees' Association has announced it is offering a \$2,000 college scholarship for an Okanogan County high school graduate. To be eligible, applicants must be at least a college junior working towards initial certification in an education field and must plan to work in public schools. The application deadline is May 1. Applications are available at [wwsra-umts.org/okanogancounty](http://wwsra-umts.org/okanogancounty) For more information, contact Rita Figlenski at [ritafig2@gmail.com](mailto:ritafig2@gmail.com).



COURTESY OF WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE OF NCW

The Women's Service League of NCW will hold its annual Prom Dress Giveaway on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wenatchee Valley Mall near Sportsman's Warehouse.

### Prom dress

*Continued from page A1*

Friday, March 22. For WSL members, one of the best parts of the event is seeing the joy when attendees find their dress.

"When the girl finds that dress and they're just so excited, especially if they've gone through a couple of different ones and they're just not finding it," she said. "And that smile on their face. They're like, 'Yay, I found my dress'. It's just so exciting to see and that we get to give these out for free, like how

much better is that?" Last year, the group gave out 253 free dresses. Girls came from all over NCW, including Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Cashmere, Chelan, Leavenworth, Entiat, Pateros, Bridgeport, Brewster, Omak, Oroville, Omak, Liberty Bell, Quincy, Ephrata, Moses Lake, Waterville, and Mansfield.

The Women's Service League of NCW builds community through the empowerment of women and deliberate volunteer action. WSL was founded in 2008 as the Junior Service League of Wenatchee, but changed its name to reflect its vision of

service throughout the NCW Region. For more information, visit [wslncw.org](http://wslncw.org).

Quinn Propst: 509-731-3590 or [quinn@ward.media](mailto:quinn@ward.media).

### 2024 Prom Dress Giveaway

**Saturday, March 23**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 24**  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Wenatchee Valley Mall**  
315 Valley Mall Pkwy  
East Wenatchee, WA  
**Student ID required for entrance.**

# Shea-Kim duo



Brendan Shea violin  
Yerin Kim piano

**March 29 | 7:00pm**

Buy your tickets: Adults **\$28**, Students **\$10**, Children under 5 years **FREE**. You can purchase tickets online [www.omakpac.org](http://www.omakpac.org) or at Rawsons, Kelley Imaging, Tonasket Interiors.

Compre sus boletas: Adultos **\$28**, Estudiantes **\$10.00**, Menores de 5 años **GRATIS**. Puede comprar boletas por internet [www.omakpac.org](http://www.omakpac.org) o en Rawsons, Kelley Imaging, Tonasket Interiors.



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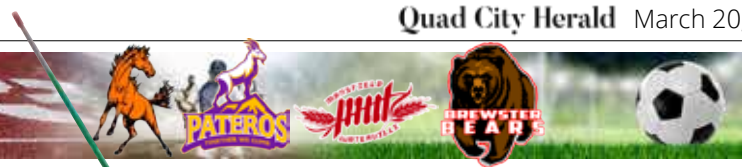
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**Scoreboard**

GIRLS SOFTBALL	
Mar. 12:	Brewster 26, Cascade 5; Win
Mar. 15:	Bridgeport 8, Liberty Bell 12; Loss
Mar. 16:	Brewster 2, Cashmere 12; Loss
Mar. 16:	Bridgeport 25, Oroville 10; Win
Mar. 16:	Bridgeport 8, Oroville 24; Loss
BOYS SOCCER	
Mar. 12:	Bridgeport vs. Cascade, Home, 4 pm
Mar. 14:	Brewster 2, Tonasket 1; Win
Mar. 14:	Bridgeport 6, Oroville 0; Loss
Mar. 16:	Brewster 0, Cascade 7; Loss

**Schedule**

BOYS BASEBALL	
Mar. 21:	Brewster vs. Bridgeport; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 21:	Bridgeport vs. Brewster; Away, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 21:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Cascade; Away, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 23:	Bridgeport vs. Oroville; Away, 11 a.m.
Mar. 26:	Brewster vs. Okanogan; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Bridgeport vs. Waterville-Mansfield; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Bridgeport; Away, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL	
Mar. 21:	Brewster vs. Bridgeport; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 21:	Bridgeport vs. Brewster; Away, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 23:	Brewster vs. Tonasket; Home, 11 a.m.
Mar. 23:	Bridgeport vs. Oroville; Away, 11 a.m.
Mar. 23:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Soap Lake; 12:15 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Brewster vs. Okanogan; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Bridgeport vs. Waterville-Mansfield; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Bridgeport; Home, 4:30 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER	
Mar. 21:	Brewster vs. Bridgeport; Away, 4 p.m.
Mar. 21:	Pateros vs. Tonasket; Away, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Brewster vs. Pateros; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 26:	Pateros vs. Brewster; Away, 4:30 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK	
Mar. 21:	Waterville-Mansfield vs. Eastmont; Away, 4 pm
Mar. 23:	Brewster 48th Ray Cross Invitational at Ephrata, 10 a.m.
Mar. 23:	Bridgeport 48th Ray Cross Invitational at Ephrata, 10 a.m.
Mar. 23:	Pateros 48th Ray Cross Invitational at Ephrata, 10 a.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TENNIS	
Mar. 20:	Pateros vs. Lake Roosevelt; Away, 4 pm



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
**Bridgeport sophomore Gisselle Perez releases the javelin on her home field during last Thursday's Bridgeport Jamboree. Perez placed 17th with a distance of 43 feet, five inches.**



**Pateros junior sprinter Gisselle Cenicerros, left, gets out of the blocks during her 200-meter heat at the Bridgeport Jamboree. At right is eighth grade teammate Coco Cronin. Cenicerros finished fifth with a time of 28.87, and Cronin was 24th at 33.30.**



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
**Brewster senior sprinter Dane Hampe runs a 200-meter heat at last Thursday's Bridgeport Jamboree. Hampe placed fifth with a time of 24.95. Holding the blocks for Hampe is junior Isabella Tolen. Tolen finished third in her 200M event with a time of 28.59. The Invite drew 12 schools from 1A to 1B ranks.**

**Quad cities All-League players light up NCW Senior Game**



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
**Pateros Billygoat Ismael Mireles fires from outside the key.**



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
**The Shockers' Marshall Mires, left, brings the ball up court guarded by Chelan's Isaac Wilson.**



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
**Brewster's Brady Wulf sinks a three-point shot from the sideline on the way to scoring 22 points for the Black Team.**



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA  
**Waterville-Mansfield's Jasmine Garcia received a \$250 scholarship from the Chelan County Officials Association.**

By **MIKE MALTAIS**  
Ward Media Staff Writer

**CHELAN** - Brewster's Brady Wulf and Waterville-Mansfield Player of the Year, Jasmine Garcia, were among the best District 6 high school basketball players who came together at Chelan High School on March 10, for an afternoon of high-powered competition and crowd-pleasing excitement.

The All-League players represented a spectrum of court talent from 4A Eastmont in the Columbia Basin Big-9, to Entiat in the Central Washington 1B. Along with Wulf and Garcia were Ishmael Mireles of Pateros, and the Shockers' Marshall Mires, and Armando Baltazar.

Four teams - two boys and two girls - were evenly divided with A and B league

standouts on each. Through a hail of three-point shots, the boys Blue Team maintained a narrow lead though most of the game and, despite being challenged late in the fourth quarter, held on to win, 94-87.

The Raiders' Marchand, CW2B Player of the Year, led all scorers with 25 points and was voted game MVP.

Wulf was close behind Marchand with 22 points

including several from three-point range.

Piepel scored 14 points for the victorious girls Blue Team (71-62) and was named game MVP.

The Chelan County Officials Association awarded a \$250 scholarship to CW2B Player of the Year, Jasmine Garcia of Waterville-Mansfield.

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

**BOYS BLACK TEAM (87)**

Andy Hobson	Eastmond (4A)
Julian Ibarra	Quincy (1A)
Landon Baker	Cashmere (1A)
Isaac Wilson	Chelan (1A)
Xavier Devereaux	Omak (1A)
Brandon Pino	Lake Roosevelt (2B)
Kyler Mitchell	Liberty Bell - (2B)
Treu Landdeck	Soap Lake (1B)
Armando Baltazar	Waterville-Mansfield (1B)
Zane McMillan	Wilson Creek (1B)
Coach: Scott Bierlink, Quincy, Caribou Trail League (CTL) Boys Coach of the Year.	

**GIRLS BLACK TEAM (71)**

Molly Evenson	Ephrata (2A)
Brianna Talley	Cashmere (1A)
Alyssa Larson	Tonasket (2B)
Jaycie Richey	Tonasket (2B)
Cylia St. Pierre	Lake Roosevelt (2B)
Shyanne Marchand	Lake Roosevelt (2B)
Aleena Lafferty	Okanogan (2B)
Shannon Bell	Entiat (1B)
Coach: Korrie Bourn, Liberty Bell, CW2B Girls Coach of the Year.	

**BOYS BLUE TEAM (94)**

Aiden Bews	Quincy (1A)
Ryan Rainville	Chelan (1A)
Chase Marchand	Lake Roosevelt (2B)
Brady Wulf	Brewster (2B)
Jade Ramon	Tonasket (2B)
Ishmael Mireles	Pateros (1B)
Pavlo Stoyan	Soap Lake (1B)
Marshall Mires	Waterville-Mansfield (1B)
Jonah Robertson	Moses Lake Christian (1B)
Coach: Ed Wolfe, Lake Roosevelt, CW2B Boys Coach of the Year.	

**GIRLS BLUE TEAM (62)**

Alessa Soto	Ephrata (2A)
Arabelle Finch	Chelan (1A)
Katie Piepel	Cashmere (1A)
Jaylo Bello	(2B)
Alex Goetz	Okanogan (2B)
Carly Neddoo	Lake Roosevelt (2B)
Jordan Long	Entiat (1B)
Jasmine Garcia	Waterville-Mansfield (1B)
Coach: Pat Loftus, Cashmere, CTL Girls Coach of the Year.	

**QUAD CITY CHURCH GUIDE**

Brewster • Methow • Bridgeport • Pateros

**BREWSTER**



www.cbcbrewster.com  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

**METHOW**

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"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."  
- Matthew 19:26



To place your Church information in the Church Guide call Ruth at 509-682-2213 or email: ruth@ward.media





# CLASSIFIEDS

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Quad City Herald

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## Announcements

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## Employment

### Help Wanted

**PUD No. 1 of Okanogan County is seeking to fill a public information officer position.**  
Please see [www.okanoganpud.org](http://www.okanoganpud.org) for job description and requirements; and submit application with resume. Okanogan PUD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Spread the News about your **COMMUNITY EVENT** online at [ncw.news/](http://ncw.news/)  
[leavenworthecho.com](http://leavenworthecho.com)  
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[qcherald.com](http://qcherald.com)

### Help Wanted

#### Utility Maintenance Worker (Full-Time, Weekends Required)

The City of Leavenworth, an equal opportunity employer, is now accepting applications for the position of Utility Maintenance Worker.  
This position is full-time/permanent, union covered, and requires weekends. Salary range is \$5,073 - \$5,713 per month.  
Requirements:  
Minimum 18 years of age and Washington State driver's license with record acceptable to the City. Position will require a pre employment drug/alcohol screening and physical evaluation. This position requires a CDL which means individuals will be subject to applicable federal regulations, including random drug testing.  
Individuals must be able to work weekends, holidays, and required overtime. Duties involve assistance in basic maintenance and repair of, which includes but is not limited to, garbage and cardboard collection, streets and roadways, sidewalks, ROW maintenance, buildings and structures, municipal water distribution system, sewer and stormwater collection system, cemetery grounds, headstones, restrooms, and which includes but is not limited to the scope of functions and duties listed. The typical schedule is five days per week; although, schedules may vary to support requested needs of the City. Weekend work will be required to accommodate the work demands and service requirements of the City in order to ensure safety, cleanliness, and aesthetic appeal, as well as to meet public needs and standards. The full job description, job application, and instructions on how to apply are available at City Hall, 700 US Hwy. 2, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, online at [www.cityofleavenworth.com](http://www.cityofleavenworth.com), or by contacting us at (509) 548-5275. First review date for submitted application(s) is Friday, March 22, 2024. Position will remain open until filled.

#### Brewster School District is Hiring!

- HS Science Teacher
- HS Part-Time Alternative Teacher
- School Speech & Language Pathologist
- Elementary Teacher Positions
- Principals Opportunities
- Athletic Director

Applications may be obtained on the district website, [www.brewsterbears.org](http://www.brewsterbears.org) or by contacting the district office at 509-689-3418. These positions are open until filled.

### Help Wanted

**BUS DRIVER MAY-NOV BRIDGEPORT EARLY LEARNING CTR**  
\$25.35HR BENEFITS  
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**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.



Douglas PUD has an opening for:  
  
Hatchery Specialist  
  
Details at [www.douglaspu.org](http://www.douglaspu.org) <http://www.douglaspu.org>

## 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

**Brewster Harmony House Apartments**  
1 Bedroom Apartment \$900.00 per month \$300.00 Damage Deposit Water, Sewer, Garbage included Sign up with PUD References Not Pets allowed (509)733-0088

**Bridgeport, WA. Joseph Cove Apartments**  
accepting applications for a two-bedroom apartment with central air, wash/dry hook ups, must be income eligible. For more information call Shannon at 509-686-4731



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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.  
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Seller is licensed Realtor Maui, HI

## Legals

### Public Notices

**PATEROS IRRIGATION DIST**  
Meeting @ 9:00 am March 28, 2024 @ 149 Pateros Mall  
Published in the Quad City Herald on March 13, 2024. #7400

### Public Notices

**Ordinance #532**  
A summary of an ordinance of the Town of Mansfield, Washington, providing for control and management of the water/sewer department in the Town of Mansfield; providing for a rate structure to be effective March 14, 2024, repealing all other ordinances in conflict herewith. This ordinance is being summarized for publication per RCW 25.27.300. Adopted this 13th day of March, 2024 in regular session at the Mansfield Town Hall, Mansfield, Washington. Published in the Quad City Herald on March 20, 2024. #7465



- North Central Washington
- Leavenworth Echo
- Cashmere Valley Record
- Lake Chelan Mirror
- Quad City Herald

*Guess Who?*  
I am an entertainer born in New Jersey on March 18, 1970. I beat-boxed for a hip-hop group in the mid-80s before going on to a successful music and movie career. I was nominated for a Golden Globe for my work in the film, "Chicago."  
*Answer: Queen Latifah*

CRYPTO FUN  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to flowers. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 19 = L)

A. 18 19 2 2 6 15 12 5  
Clue: Flowering

B. 1 24 23 4 19  
Clue: Part of flower

C. 7 2 16 19  
Clue: Dirt

D. 18 24 24 7  
Clue: Buzzing insects

## SUDOKU

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

**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!

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

ANSWER:



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# Spring HOME

## Spring Sanctuary

How to create an outdoor living retreat

### Deck Danger

Signs it's time to repair or replace your deck

### Floors 101

Choosing the best decking material

## Turn your bedroom into a relaxing retreat



Bedrooms are more than places to lay our heads at the end of the day. Bedrooms serve different functions, and not all are conducive to relaxation.

People who use their bedrooms as a work space may

find they're compromising their well-being by introducing activities into the bedroom. The Sleep Foundation says having an office in the bedroom blurs the lines between work and personal

life, which can have serious effects on sleep. Rather, people should be looking to turn their bedrooms into relaxing retreats that offer a respite from the outside world.

- Remove blue-light emitting devices. Computers, tablets, smartphones, and other electronic devices emit blue light, which can compromise natural melatonin production in

the body that contributes to sleep. Such devices should not be used at night in the bedroom.

- Use a neutral color palette. Neutral color palettes evoke a spa feeling. Walls can be painted white, beige or a light shade of gray. This can help the room feel calming and welcoming.
- Declutter the room. A sense of calm can be achieved simply by removing excess clutter. There is some evidence that the brain is more calm near an empty dresser, desk or clothes hamper. Therefore, removing excessive items from the room is a first step to making a nice retreat.
- Add soft lighting. Adjust the intensity and the color of the lighting in the bedroom. It should be subtle and warming. Dimmers enable homeowners to adjust lighting as needed.
- Install an electric fireplace. There is something to be said for the relaxing effects of gazing into the flames of a fire. A crackling (faux-wood) fire is an added layer of indulgence in a bedroom.
- Add an area rug. Even

in rooms with carpeting, an area rug under the bed can further define the perimeter of the bed and add extra plushness underfoot.

- Invest in aromatherapy diffusers. Certain smells can create a relaxing mood. These may be sandalwood, lavender or jasmine. Utilizing their preferred scents, homeowners can employ reed diffusers in their bedrooms to enjoy the aromas of natural oils.
- Used closed storage. Open shelves and visible closet interiors may not hide a mess. Exposure to clutter can contribute to feelings of anxiety. Store items that shouldn't be on display behind closed doors or drawers.
- Bring in luxury linens. Homeowners should not skimp on comforters, sheets, duvet covers, and pillows for their beds. A cozy bed to dive right into can serve as the centerpiece of a bedroom retreat.

Turning a bedroom into a relaxing space can help individuals sleep better and reduce anxiety.

## How empty nesters can repurpose bedrooms in their homes

It can be bittersweet when adult children decide the time has come to move out of the family home. Parents perhaps get their first trial run of this scenario when their children go off to college or enlist in the military. Rooms are left empty, if only for a certain period of time. Eventually, those rooms will remain empty as adult children move out of the house for good.

Converting a child's bedroom into an area for adults may take some planning. It can

be exciting to regain space, but at the same time, it can be disheartening to convert a child's bedroom once and for all. When the time comes and homeowners are emotionally ready to tackle bedroom conversions, these tips can help the process go smoothly.

- **Repurpose the space for them.** Give a childhood bedroom an adult spin without changing too much. If furniture is in good shape, replace the bedding, change the flooring, swap

out artwork, and remove "youthful" items like toys, trophies and other collectibles. When the child comes home to visit, he or she will still feel comfortable in the space.

- **Create extra storage.** The bedroom can be transformed into a walk-in closet or dressing space. According to Houzz, many clients request this type of dressing room situation. There's a bonus if the

layout allows the space to connect to the owner's suite or bathroom. This is a major overhaul, so homeowners should enlist a professional contractor.

- **Make a fitness center.** A bedroom can be turned into a home gym to make working out more convenient. Homeowners should take inventory of equipment they may have and then figure out where existing and new equipment will go. They

may need to consult a structural engineer to ensure that the flooring can bear the weight of additional equipment.

- **Create a work space.** One of the best ways to transform adult children's bedrooms is to convert the spaces into home offices. Those who have been setting up "desks" at dining room tables or elsewhere may be excited about the prospects of finally having a private, dedicated space

to work from home.

- **Turn it into a craft room.** The bedroom can be converted into a space to explore hobbies and various other interests. A dedicated craft space, a reading nook, a place to store photography equipment, or another function can serve as a useful way to repurpose an empty bedroom.

Empty nesters have many possibilities when it comes to converting their children's old bedrooms into adult spaces.

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# Spring HOME

## Signs it's time to repair or replace your deck

Spring is a season of rejuvenation that compels millions across the globe to quit hibernating and get back to enjoying the great outdoors. Spring also marks a great time to assess a home's exterior, namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come.

Assessing a deck after winter can be eye-opening. Harsh winter weather can take its toll on a deck, and the following are some telltale signs that a deck could be in need of repair or replacement.

- **Wobbly underfoot and in hand:** Wobbly planks and railings are one sign of a deteriorating deck homeowners won't recognize as they hide from winter weather indoors. But these tend to reveal themselves rather quickly when examining a deck after winter. Wobbly planks in the middle of the deck can be inconvenient, but wobbly steps and railings can be dangerous. According to the home improvement resource Angi, wobbly railings can be a byproduct of rot. A local decking professional can assess the extent of the rot in railings and elsewhere and determine the best course of action. If the rot is isolated to an area or two, a simple repair may be all that's necessary. Extensive rot may require a full replacement of the existing deck.

- **Faded paint:** Many homeowners paint their wood decks, and that paint will not last forever. Faded paint can turn an otherwise lovely deck into an eyesore, and paint can fade over the winter. Thankfully, a local painter

can address a faded deck and may recommend some additional strategies to safeguard the deck against fading next winter and beyond.

- **Holes in the wood:** Many a homeowner has encountered curious-looking holes in their deck. This could be a sign of insect infestation. Termites, carpenter ants and carpenter bees are among the various types of insects that can bore holes through wood. Homeowners who notice holes throughout their deck are urged to call a deck professional and/or pest control firm to assess the holes and offer a solution. Though small issues may be addressed with repairs, a deck littered with holes caused

by insects may need a full replacement.

- **Rust:** Wood decks may be made of wood, but they can still exhibit signs of rust, namely in the nails and metal connectors that hold the deck together. If screws have rusted to the point where they are no longer holding the deck together, a full-scale replacement could be in the cards, as the deck could have substantial structural damage. Like other issues that can reveal themselves during a springtime inspection of the deck, rust necessitates a thorough examination by an experienced decking professional.

Many people do not use their decks during winter, which only underscores the significance of a full deck inspection in spring.



## How to create an outdoor living retreat

Al fresco entertaining has taken off in recent years. It's much more common today to find homeowners who want to extend living spaces to the outdoors in meaningful ways that go beyond a few lawn chairs and a stand-alone grill. Dream backyard living rooms mirror similar spaces indoors and contain features like cozy corners, lush furniture and televisions or movie projectors. Plus, they often abut additional outdoor luxuries like fully functional kitchens.

Homeowners have various options when designing outdoor living spaces. Above all else, spaces should be created with the goal of encouraging people to get together. Here are some ideas.

### Poolside retreat

Homeowners with pools and other water features likely want this area to be the star of the entertaining space. Furniture will be more of the lounging variety, with comfortable chaises and spots to catch the sun. If a

swim-up bar isn't possible, a rolling bar cart can be stocked with essentials for cocktails or mocktails for the kids. Furniture near the pool will be exposed to a lot of sun, so look for durable, sun-resistant fabrics.

### Fireside nook

Gathering around an outdoor fireplace or fire pit is a treat when the weather cools down. Mirror the look of the same setup indoors by arranging outdoor sofas so they flank the fireplace. Add some ottomans or side tables for stowing mulled cider or hot chocolate. A mantel above the fireplace can hold pots of greenery or candles that add to the ambiance.

### Consider a custom banquette

Unused corners on a patio or rooftop retreat can utilize a custom-made banquette that provides the functionality of a sofa sectional outdoors. Have a contractor design it to the exact specifications of the area,

and add a rug to ground the space.

### Vary the flooring

Depending on the entertaining space, a balance of soft grass, pavers or other hardscape will be necessary. Certain areas will need to be hard enough for chairs and other furniture, particularly for those who are including an outdoor dining table in the design.

### Create some privacy

Some homeowners are lucky enough to have natural barriers that offer privacy in their entertaining spaces. When there isn't enough, tall shrubs, inexpensive bamboo fencing or trellis can provide a blind that makes an outdoor living area more cozy and private. Consider placing tall, potted plants on rolling casters to improve privacy as the need arises.

Outdoor living spaces are all the rage, and they can add value and functionality to most any home.

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# Spring HOME

## Features to consider for a relaxation-themed bathroom remodel

Homeowners want to view their homes as a respite from all that goes on outside their doors. Indeed, turning a home into a residents-only retreat can ensure everyone looks forward to walking through the front the door at the end of the day.

One of the more popular ways to turn a home into one's own personal retreat is to upgrade the bathroom. A renovated bathroom can completely transform how individuals feel about their homes. The following are some features to consider when

remodeling a bathroom with relaxation in mind.

- **Open shower:** An open shower is a visually stunning addition to any bathroom. Such showers give a bathroom a more open look, thanks in part to the fact that these modern features do not feature a door or require the use of a shower curtain. The result is a clean look that many people associate with a luxury hotel. When speaking with a contractor about an open shower install, homeowners can ask about a half-wall to safeguard against water splashing out of the shower. In addition, a heat lamp can

help ensure residents stay warm until they're ready to leave the bathroom.

- **Heated features:** Additional features to keep everyone calm and warm can be considered when upgrading the bathroom. Radiant flooring can ensure everyone's toes remain toasty, and the installation of such a feature can eliminate the need for floor mats and bath mats that some homeowners may not like. Commit further to the heat theme with a heated towel rack, which is another feature associated with luxury hotels that can be just as enjoyable at home.

- **Soaking tub:** An open shower creates an instant feeling of luxury, but few things are more suggestive of relaxation than a soaking tub. A long day at school or the office or a day when winter winds are howling outside is made much better with a good a soak. The National Kitchen & Bath Association notes that luxury bathrooms featuring soaking tubs are wildly popular, and that coveted status is undoubtedly due to the relaxing benefits of a good soak.
- **Skylight:** Even if the goal of a luxury bathroom is to leave the outside world outside, allowing

some natural light inside is a great way to add a little extra calm to the room. Floor-to-ceiling windows may seem appealing in brochures or advertisements, but such features do not create the sense of privacy many people prefer in their bathrooms. One or two skylights can create that sense of privacy and still allow for natural light to enter the room, making this an option that provides the best of both worlds.

These features and more can help homeowners transform their bathrooms into luxurious, relaxing respites from the outside world.



While home buyers typically take their time to examine each room and space inside and outside a home before making an offer, the real estate experts at Trulia note that two rooms in particular seem to merit the closest inspection among prospective buyers. Kitchens and the bathroom in an owner's suite can dramatically increase

the value of a home. Trulia recommends that homeowners consider their neighborhood and identify their target buyers prior to beginning a kitchen or owner's suite renovation, as such variables can provide direction and inspiration when refurbishing these widely valued areas in a home.



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Spring HOME

# Choosing the best decking material

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and that notion is as true when renovating a home as it is when studying a piece of art. Therefore, when homeowners are looking for the best building materials for their home remodels — including backyard decks — their own personal preferences may ultimately dictate the direction they go.

Deck boards and railings can be made from a diverse array of materials, including traditional hardwood, plastic and composite materials. Here's a deep look into some of the more popular decking materials so homeowners can make informed decisions when contracting with a decking professional for the build.

### Hardwood, softwood or pressure-treated wood

In the not-so-distant past, decks were primarily built using some type of wood. Wood is widely available and fairly cost-effective. However, as anyone with a wood deck knows, wood requires frequent upkeep and it can be susceptible to rotting or insect damage. Wood decks also may splinter and deteriorate when exposed to the elements or pool water. Pressure-treated boards are infused with chemicals to help them endure, but that does not make them impervious to wear. Still, the traditional look of a wood deck remains appealing to many homeowners.

### Composite

Composite decking materials are made from a blend of recycled plastic and wood fibers. Since there is so much recycled content, composite decks attract those who are concerned about the environment and

sustainability. Composite decking comes in uncapped and capped varieties. The capped version has an extra layer of protective capping made from high-performance polymers, says TimberTech, a decking and outdoor furniture provider. While composite decks may have similar up-front costs to wood, they will require less maintenance over the years, but they must be scrubbed to avoid mildew growth.

### Plastic

Decks made of polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene or high density polyethylene (HDPE) are collectively referred to as PVC decks. They are made entirely from environmentally safe plastic with no wood in the mix at all. PVC decks are more durable than composite and can last a lifetime. All PVC decks need is occasional cleaning. A potential disadvantage to PVC is it doesn't always look, sound or feel like wood. Also, complex fastening systems can make the boards move as the temperature changes, resulting in squeaking as people walk on the deck. Generally, PVC is more expensive than wood or composite, but that investment

may be worth it for those who never want to worry about deck repair or replacement.

This Old House says there is another plastic decking material made from polystyrene. It is stiff, strong and light, and with the brand Eon, the nonslip surface becomes less slippery when wet so it may be great around pools.

### Aluminum

Aluminum may not be as popular as other decking materials, but it is lighter and stronger than wood, composite, and plastic. Aluminum also is resistant to mold, weather and insects, and it can be recycled. An aluminum deck will last for years, which is why it is one of the more costly decking materials.

Homeowners have many choices when picking materials for their decks. If they want a traditional look and moderate cost, wood may be the way to go. Those concerned about looks and durability may like composite. People who want very durable and long-lasting may want to give strong consideration to plastic or aluminum materials.



# Give your living room a new vibe



An "out with the old, in with the new" mentality can extend to people's visions for their homes. A home in need of repair or renovation can serve as a catalyst to take inventory of personal style and help make interior spaces reflect one's unique vibe.

A living room can grow stale over time and often serves as a catch-call for clothing, blankets, gadgets, and other items. Upon recognizing a living room has seen better days, individuals may decide it's time to give the space a new vibe. That transformation can start with these strategies.

### Organize first

Clutter frequently is the culprit behind a living room that may not give off the vibe individuals desire. As families grow and people add belongings, space may be at a premium. Less is more has never been a more important concept. Remove extraneous items before purchasing new furniture or transitioning to a new design. You may even want to remove everything and start from scratch before reintroducing desirable elements to the space.

### Seek the assistance of professionals

Some people are adept at decorating and designing spaces. But just as you wouldn't perform your own medical procedures, you should leave jobs like interior

design and renovations to the professionals. Hiring a professional interior designer and contractors can really bring a living room together in ways homeowners may have never imagined. These pros can build off of your ideas and truly create a space that may be worthy of a magazine spread.

### Promote wellness

You may want to consider adding natural materials in the design to promote well-being. Eco-friendly furnishings, raw fibers and organic textures will create an environment from sustainable choices. Plenty of plants also can create a welcoming environment that helps you surround yourself with positive energy and the items you love.

### Light it up

One of the easiest ways to transform a room's vibe is to utilize lighting. Change draperies to allow more natural light to shine in. Consider additional windows or skylights if yours is a particularly dark home. If you desire to create a more vivid or cozy ambiance, use a combination of accent, task and supplemental lighting in the space so there are no dim corners.

### Create an industrial or urban vibe

Industrial-chic design celebrates the bones of a building. It's what makes city lofts so appealing, with

their exposed beams and brick. Even those who live in suburbia or out in the country can give a living room this look with subtle nods to the style. Unadorned windows, clean lines on furniture, oversized, gallery-style art, and metal accents can add touches of this popular look to your home.

Revamping a living room doesn't have to be difficult. With an idea in place and some professional touches, an entirely new vibe can be achieved.

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