

The Leavenworth Echo

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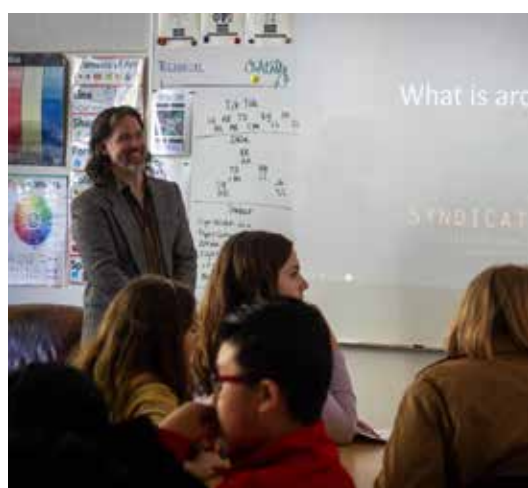
5 things to do this week

Five of the most captivating events of the week | A2

Cascade School District navigates leadership changes, High School and Middle School
Sports | B1



Cascade High School brings back career fair with local emphasis



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Local architect Todd Smith was one of the CHS alumni who spoke at the career fair.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Michael "The Wanz" Wansley who sang the hook on "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, brought his Grammy to inspire students to dream big.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Meleah Butruille, the new dean of Wenatchee Valley College Allied Health, speaks to students about different paths in healthcare.

By Taylor Caldwell
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – On Apr. 17, Cascade High School (CHS) students were given the opportunity to pick the brains of professionals during the school's career fair, which included a professional skier and Grammy Award-winning vocalist.

"We thought because we have this really eclectic community with a lot of depth and breadth to the things that they can do, that we would be a really great candidate for doing [a career fair], and it would give kids a lot of opportunity to learn about different careers and things that they want to do from people who actually live here and actually do it," said CHS College and Career Counselor Amy Rieke.

The career fair featured 33 professionals in a variety of categories, such as a doctor, firefighter, detective, graphic designer, and investment banker. Speakers also came out from local businesses such as Alpine Fitness, Leavenworth Reindeer Farm, and Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort. Students also got the chance to hear about the music industry from Grammy and Diamond Award-winning vocalist Michael "The Wanz" Wansley, who sang the hook for "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis.

About ten speakers were CHS alumni, such as architect Todd Smith of Syndicate Smith, who graduated in 1998, and a general contractor who graduated in 2012.

"It's those connections that we're trying to show, like, "Look, these are not only actual careers for you, but these are actual careers that you can bring back to this town and be part of the workforce and continue to live there...It's a place that everyone wants to come back to," said Rieke.

Before CHS staff started organizing the event, Rieke administered a school-wide survey to better understand which professions students were most interested in pursuing. Professional sports, fire sciences, construction and early education were some of the most popular choices. Due to the nature of the area, students also expressed heavy interest in outdoor jobs.

"We tried to go out and find someone that was either in that career field or loosely tied to that career field," said Rieke.

Rieke recruited an avalanche forecaster and chairlift mechanic, as well as professional skier Ingrid Backstrom.

"It's awesome talking to the kids. It's cool to see people's enthusiasm, and I feel super honored to be here.

I hope that what kids get out of it is just that there's a lot of different ways to be a professional athlete, I think especially with social media. And sports are just so big right now in our society that I think they can really pick and choose and do whatever. There's no one right or wrong way to do it," said Backstrom.

The students were able to attend 25-minute sessions with four professionals of their choosing, and completed an exit review at the end of the day. According to Rieke, Cascade's Career & Technical Education program is collaborating with some of the speakers, such as Executive Chef Micah Windham of Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, to hire and develop a workforce of CHS students and graduates.

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

Pool faces uncertain future with expiration of 6-year levy

By Taylor Caldwell
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The Upper Valley Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA) Board and Friends of Leavenworth Pool (FOLP) held a special meeting on Apr. 17 to discuss ways to secure a financially stable future for the community pool as it nears the expiration of a six-year maintenance and operations levy (M&O).

This fall, the public will have the option to vote to increase the property tax levy to 15 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, maintain the 11-cent levy chosen in 2018, or deny the renewal altogether.

The levy provides the pool with a majority of its funding, which means if the levy renewal does not pass this fall, it could put the pool at risk of permanent closure. The responsibility would be put on the City Council to decide whether to close the pool or divert other city funds to keep the pool in operation.

During the special meeting, PRSA Board and FOLP strategized ways to educate the public and reignite community-wide excitement in the pool. The group discussed hosting community events, such as an opening day cook-off, as well as other local incentives.

"We want to build enthusiasm and culture back around the pool to support the levy. So we can keep on doing it's thing: maintaining. But again, the hope is in the future, that a good culture, a good crowd, is going to go, "Wow, we're really excited about a 25-year plan, or 50-year plan, to take it to the next level," said FOLP member Brian Decker.

During the last renewal vote in 2018, the city asked voters to consider raising the levy from 11 to 14 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, in order to address maintenance needs, such as resurfacing the pool. The voters chose only to renew the levy at 11 cents.

Since then, Steiner says the levy rate has decreased to just under 8 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. This adjustment is due to Washington state's levy limit regulations, which restrict a district's total tax revenue increase to one percent per year. As property values rise, the tax rate is typically adjusted downward to ensure compliance with this one percent limit.

If voters were to approve the renewal at 11 cents, she estimates property taxpayers would see about a 25 percent increase in the M&O levy portion of their tax bills compared to what they are paying this year.

"With this restoration of the 11, we're getting above and beyond the existing annual operations and maintenance costs, including the increased wages, and it's starting to build a small reserve," said Steiner during the special meeting.

However, the pool operates on tight margins, and is continuously incurring expensive maintenance costs as it ages. Currently, city staff believe the pool's pump is likely to fail by the end of the season, which will cost an estimated \$50,000 to \$60,000 to replace, according to Steiner. The city has had to apply for a Recreation Conservation Office grant in order to cover the cost.

"Pools should have a reserve...I really want people to understand that a well functioning, healthy pool has a reserve, [and] has program management along with pool management capabilities," said FOLP member Kurt Peterson.

According to PRSA and FOLP members, the 15 cent rate could not only help the pool build a bigger reserve, but could help the revamp the pool, covering necessary maintenance as well as expanding the fence line, adding shaded areas, and even installing newer pool features, such as a slide.

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

Icicle Bicycle Club enters spring season with focus

By Taylor Caldwell
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Icicle Bicycle Club kicked off the season with its first race in Spokane on Apr. 14. This year, the team is ramping up its training with a greater focus on racing.

"They did great and had great attitudes. The league has 717 registered riders, so the races are big, and they're just a lot of energy. So, it's hard not to have a good time when you come there and get to be part of all that," said Head Coach Mike Bedard.

The club participates in the Washington Student Cycling League, which has five cross-country mountain bike races in the spring

and two races in the fall.

The team faced some technical challenges for its first weekend, such as a broken bike chain for one of its top riders, and scheduling conflicts for others. However, riders did walk away with a few top 10 finishes, such as Ben Todd, who placed tenth out of over sixty high school beginner boys, and Cedar Tremberth who placed tenth out of over fifty 6th grade boys. Other notable finishes also included Forest Saugen placing twelfth of over sixty 7th grade boys, and Lane Bedard placing sixteenth of over fifty 8th grade boys.

"Everyone was really nice. Like, when you pass someone, they'll say nice job, they'll congratulate you

See **BICYCLE CLUB** Page B2



COURTESY OF ICICLE BICYCLE
Icicle Bicycle Head Coach Mike Bedard leads mountain bikers in practice at Ski Hill.

Cascade School District prepares for budget cuts in 2024-2025 academic year



COURTESY OF CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cascade School District Superintendent Tracey Edou, Board Chairman Trey Ising, and high school and middle school choir director Isabella Garcia. To help balance the 2024-2025 district budget, among a series staffing cuts and adjustments, Garcia's choral department is being eliminated. Edou's office and the Board have issued a Modified Staffing Plan to outline the district-wide cuts.

LEAVENWORTH – In January, The Leavenworth Echo reported that Cascade School District (CSD) was facing financial pressure primarily due to revenue decreases, unforeseen inflationary expenses, and enrollment declines (CSD grapples with budget woes amid enrollment declines and inflation challenges, January 31, 2024). Now, as the district approaches its budget season, with a state-mandated deadline in July, it has unveiled the staff a Modified Staffing Plan (the Plan) for the 2024-2025 academic year. The Plan includes deep reductions in personnel across the district's schools and departments.



By CAROLINE MENNA
CHS Publications Group

CSD's revenue shortfalls are partially the result of the cessation of federal COVID relief funds and lower state and federal per-student funding. The district is plagued by persistent enrollment declines due to Running Start, a program that has led to increasing numbers of high school juniors and seniors attending Wenatchee Valley College, and a limited housing market in the Upper Valley for young families.

Substantive jumps in insurance premiums and a ballooning payroll, the latter of which accounts for over ninety percent of the budget,

See **BUDGET CUTS** Page B2

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Wenatchee Valley College President's List for winter quarter 2024

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE - Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) has announced its President's List for the winter quarter of 2024, honoring students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement. To be named to the President's List, students must earn a perfect 4.00 grade point average while completing 12 or more college-level graded credits.

The list includes students from various cities across Washington state, as well as a few from Oregon and North Carolina. Among the honorees are students from Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Brewster, Cashmere, Chelan, Leavenworth, and other neighboring communities.

Students from North Central Washington:

Brewster: Mareli Arevalo, Evelyn Briseyda Camacho, Magdalena Carrion Buenabad, Jacqueline De la Cruz, Alexandra Diaz, Brisa Glorisel Gutierrez, Yuliana Hidalgo Sr.
Bridgeport: Jeannette Cerda, Bambi Lynn Martinez, Nadia Iris Moreno Rocha
Cashmere: Shannon Brouse, Mya Clark, Madison Fritz, Gabriel Guzman, Ethan Hudgins, Kate Jacobson, Mollie Renee Mott, Monica Yael Oropeza, Miguel Angel Sanchez Jr., Craig C. Smith, Alyssa N. Zapfen
Chelan: Nayeli Chavez Zavala, Avery Evans, Natalie Ann Karcutski, Luis Mendez, Maleigha Peterson, Mariana Isela Sanchez-Mendoza, Kassidy Morgan Wilfong
Dryden: Maizy Groff
East Wenatchee: Mya Korin

Ackerman, Jessalyn Alcazar-Castaneda, Savannah Lizet Aldaba, Mia Alto, Emma Bellinger, Apolinar Blanco, Arlen J. Brazill, Julissa Cardenas, Angelica M. Cruz-Garcia, Jade Curtis, Jenna Daley, Kira Runelle Davis, Breanna Karen Deane, Alexa K. Eckhart, Elaine M. Fox, Wennie Pastera Gault, Grant E. Harris, Breisis A. Heffernan, Noelle Addyson Hill, Yessica Ixtlahuac Ramirez, Samuel Richard Kalkowski, Reese Kautzman, Styx Keese, Joshua Kolbo, Jeffrey A. Kunkel, Ariel Lee, Astrid Diane Lima, Joana Esmeralda Luengas, Grass Lugo-Sanchez, Connor Lyons, Kate Mattern, Eric Mendez, Angela Mendoza, Harlie Miller, Diana Elizabeth Morales-Cruz, Riley L. Morgan, Erandi I. Orozco Sandoval, Emily Gracey Osborn, Bella Rae Otterstetter, Kasey Paquette, Nina Leuyen Pham, Savanna Rose Phillips, Logan Poston, Callissa Jean Rebel, Karen Rivera, Molly Salter, Jade L. Schichi, Cade Michael Schindele, Natalie Brooke Severson, Sarah Rose Sims, Audrey Slagle, Gracelin Swedburg, Ethan James Thrift, Nicholas Royal Tun, Peighton Marie Turner, Sarah Vaughan, Cole Steven Wickel, Jovanna Zamora
Entiat: Jessica Ann Calkins, Alayna May Jaimes, Emma Mitchell, Lorrie Lynn Wise
Leavenworth: Harper Baker, Jasper Bard, Evelyn D. Bueno, Brian Conley, Eden D'Atre, Alice Farrell, Marina Fitzpatrick, Napiqua Rose Gibbs, John Grupp, Keri Heniff, Lorelai Kinnear, Blue Christian Knutson, Averie Lapinski Jr., Sarah Evelyn Love, Brigitta Danae Fader Luevano, Keegan C. Romig,

Danielle Morgan Totman, Ina Waring-Enriquez, Francisco Manuel Zarate
Malaga: Benjamin Titan Cook, Carlie S. Jones, Leslie Tovar
Manson: Celestina Pacheco
Okanogan: Charlee Marie Buchert
Omak: Jordan Dakin Aguilar, Hailey A. Austin, Mykala Lynn Bernsten, Sadie Grantier, Angelica Camacho-Caballero, April L. Condon, Brianne Ezell, Gracie Huberty Sr., Rita L. Kessell, Zaid Nomani, Christine Lynn Patterson, Elizabeth Lynn Porter, Chad Devon Riggan, Paige Wirth
Orondo: Gabby Gonzalez-Moreno, Luis Angel Sanchez
Oroville: Miriam Monserrat Gallardo, Veronica Iniguez, Bonny Lee Langford
Pateros: Shannon K. Hampe, Adamary Jocelyn Loyola, Jenessa Scroggie
Peshastin: Coy Allen Latimer, Bart William Palasty
Waterville: Paige Baker, Karen Y. Larsen, Olivia Grace Smoke
Wenatchee: Mya Adams, Jairo Aguilar-Solorio, Alaina Ahrens, Kieraanne Grace Aldrich, Kana Michelle Anderson, Indigo Rose Ballenger, Robert Lee Bamberger, Lydia Grace Barry, Sara Bender, Erin Westie Bishop, Megan Catherine Blakney, Alyssa Shaye Brownlee, Mia Marie Brownlee, Diana D. Buenrostro, Karyna V. Bukovtsova, Monica E. Bunde, James Byrd, Stella M. Byrd, Samantha Kristina Chambers, Clara Clayton, Courtney Arliss Coe, Hunter James-Daniel Collins, Naima Dahoumane, Genesis Karol De La Cruz, Apollo Michael Decker, Amy Marie Defoe, Sam DeLay,

Keira Faith Demirjian, Isabelle C. Dressel, Margaret Anderson Eifert, Elana Fernandez, Bryant Flores, Claire Jeanine Fogelstrom, Maya Garetson, Victoria Jolin Garibay, Roger A. Garnica, Lucas D. Giard, Galilea Gutierrez, Alma Janet Guzman, Frank Hagan, Ashlyn Nicole Hambelton, Anessa Hanson, Amaya Lorene Herrington, Luke Allen Hunsaker, Virginia Hwang, Molly Jackson, Natalie Ione Jensen, Sienna Kaufman, Abigail Therese Kimmel, Nico Kitos, Darren Lake, Poliana de Souza Lazarini, Christian Lewis Lockman, Yameli Lopez, Kylah Madariaga, Sahalee Mahler, Sara Belen Martinez, Elly Mayfield, Todd S. McCowan, Alicia Renae Miller, Jaime Montano, Ethan Hughes Moore, Diego Morales Guerrero Jr., Jason Michael Morris, Ava Mott, Alina Musevych, Elaina Christine Nemeth, Mariana Ximena Ochoa, Gretchen O'Fenton, Vanessa M. Orozco Rodriguez, Lauren Ottosen, Jaelyn Sue Pace, Alejandro Pedraza Fraga, Mia Elizabeth Port, Zerimar Ari Ramirez, Kristine Rasmussen, Elizabeth Joy Ray, Kadin J. Render, Aftyn Eleanor Rummel, Jocelyn Sanchez, Ava Marie Sawin, Annika Joy Schmekel, Constance M. Simmons, Ava Smeller, Mary Althea Smith, Karen Elisa Spinosa, Joshua James Stolz, Khoa Ta, Ignazio Tafolla, Galileo Torres, Laura Marie Tovar, Layan A. Wachtel, Ryan Walton, Betsy Watters, Sam Webb, Dillon Bradford Willey, Reed Williams, Blythe T. Wittig, Abigail R. Wyatt, Melanie Zaragoza Torres, Julissa Zavala Melendrez

OBITUARY Maria (Toni) Hill

Maria (Toni) Hill, 96, passed away on March 16, 2024 after succumbing to the effects of Alzheimer's and dementia. She was born in Spain on November 7, 1927 and grew up in Madrid during the Spanish Civil War.

Maria started dancing at an early age and would end up a professional flamenco dancer with Jose Greco's dance troupe which led to her meeting her first husband in South Africa. While she stopped dancing professionally after marrying and moving to America she never missed an opportunity to entertain guests with her dancing and castanet skills.

Throughout the following years she lived primarily in New Jersey and Washington state.

After moving to Washington

she initially settled in the Bellevue/Kirkland area before moving to Lake Wenatchee with her third husband. It was during this time that she became close to the Leavenworth community and ultimately settled there after her husband passed. She became very active in and around Leavenworth. Volunteering with the chamber of commerce she helped with many of the events held in town. At the local church she made quilts for the church to auction, helped work in the garden and read passages during services as a deacon.

She is survived by her two sons William and Anthony.

A memorial will be held in Leavenworth in late April/early May.

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Cashmere	Leavenworth
<p>CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 303 Maple Street • 509-782-2431 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke • www.cashmerepres.org</p> <p>CASHMERE COMMUNITY CHURCH 213 S. Division • 509-782-3811 In-person Service, Sunday, 11 a.m. until further notice. Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana cashmerecommunitychurch@gmail.com</p> <p>CHRIST CENTER Sunday Worship Service at 10 am Lead Pastor Steve Haney • 5800 Kimber Rd., Cashmere • 509-295-8006 christcentercashmere.com</p> <p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 509-860-0736 • 401 Elberta Ave., Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist. Services, 10 a.m. • Pastor Rob Gohl</p> <p>ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 509-860-0736 • 222 Cottage Ave., Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist. Services, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Rob Gohl</p>	<p>CASCADE MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH Office: 509-548-4331 11025 Chumstick Hwy. Please join us Sunday mornings 9 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service</p> <p>CORNERSTONE CHURCH Leavenworth Grange Hall 621, Front St. info@cornerstoneleavenworth.com Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.</p> <p>LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 418 Evans Street • 509-548-5619 10 a.m. Sunday Service, Pastor Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout leavenworthumc.org leavenworthumc@outlook.com</p> <p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 10170 Titus Rd. (across from middle school). Church: 509-548-7667 Meetings: Sunday - 10 a.m.</p> <p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA "Reconciling in Christ Congregation" 224 Benton Street • 509-548-7010 Worship 9:30 a.m. w/coffee following Eva Jenson, Pastor https://www.flcleavenworth.com</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, SBC 429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745 Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. www.leavenworthbaptist.com Email: info@leavenworthbaptist.com</p> <p>LEAVENWORTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 111 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-5292 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Lead Pastor: Greg Appleby Youth Pastor Paige Derossett Worship Pastor-Jacob Mitchell www.LCN.org</p> <p>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH 10600 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-4345 Saturday Services • Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. Fred Smith • 509-860-3997</p> <p>SPIRIT LIFE CENTER 210 Benton Street • 509-548-7138 Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Prayer 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m. • Pastor Russell Esparza</p>
Dryden	Monitor
<p>DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. 509-782-2935 Sunday Worship at 11 am. Prayer Meeting Wed. at 6 pm. Pastor Bill Clem</p> <p>MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH 8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 509-782-2616 Worship Service, 10 a.m., • Sunday School, 9 a.m. • Pastor Mike Moore www.midvalleybaptist.org</p>	<p>MONITOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3799 Fairview Canyon 509-782-2601 In-person service, Sunday, 9 a.m. Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana</p>
Peshastin	Plain
<p>LIGHT IN THE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH 8455 Main Street Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Pastor John Romine www.lightinthevalley.org</p> <p>NEW LIFE FOURSQUARE CHURCH 7591 Hwy. 97 • 509-548-4222 Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Pastors, Darryl and Mindy Wall newlifeleavenworth@gmail.com FB page: newlifeleavenworth www.newlifeleavenworth.com</p>	<p>PLAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH Serving Our Valley Since 1941 12565 Chapel Dr. 509-763-3621 Looking for you at 10:30 this Sunday! plaincommunitychurch.org facebook.com/plaincommunitychurch office@plaincommunitychurch.org</p>



Cascade Kodiaks Schedule

BOYS BASEBALL	
Apr. 27:	Chelan; Away, 11 a.m.
Apr. 27:	Chelan; Away, 1 p.m.
Apr. 30:	Cashmere; Home, 4:30 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER	
Apr. 25:	Omak; Away, 6 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL	
Apr. 25:	Waterville-Mansfield; Home, 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 27:	Chelan; Away, 11 a.m.
Apr. 27:	Chelan; Away, 1 p.m.
Apr. 30:	Cashmere; Home, 4:30 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TENNIS	
Apr. 24:	Omak; Away, 4 p.m.
Apr. 27:	Manson; Away 11 a.m.
Apr. 30:	Cashmere; Away 4 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS GOLF	
Apr. 25:	Omak; Home, 2 p.m.
Apr. 30:	Chelan; Home, 2 p.m.

Kodiaks Scoreboard

BOYS BASEBALL	
Apr. 16:	Cascade 8, Quincy 9; Loss
Apr. 20:	Cascade 0, North Mason 21; Loss
Apr. 20:	Cascade 4, North Mason 22; Loss
GIRLS SOFTBALL	
Apr. 20:	Cascade 0, North Mason 16; Loss
Apr. 20:	Cascade 0, North Mason 19; Loss
BOYS SOCCER	
Apr. 16:	Cascade 4, Cashmere 0; Win
Apr. 18:	Cascade 3, Chelan 1; Win
Apr. 20:	Cascade 3, Connell 0; Win

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

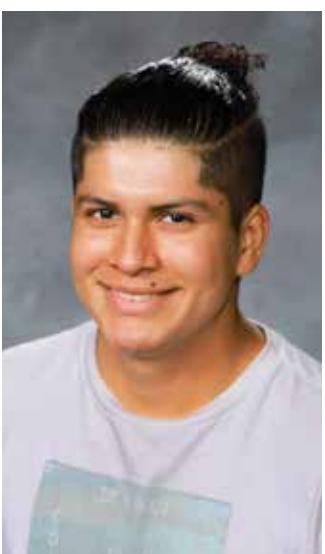
Easton Steinhauer Baseball Freshman



Easton from Day 1 has been coachable, respectful, and very hard working. He has been a great teammate and has had a great start to the season. As the season goes along I'm looking forward to seeing how he develops.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Julian Valdez Outstanding Achievement FBLA, College Acceptance, Scholarships - Senior



Julian has made it to state all three years he has been in FBLA and he is our current President. He's active in sports year round and was just accepted to the UW Engineering Program. Julian is also in the running for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation scholarship. Julian has accomplished so much during his 4 years at Cascade.

Official Recognitions Received:
President of Cascade's Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA).



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CHS seniors dazzle as Kens in Mr. Kodiak 2024 Barbie-inspired contest

LEAVENWORTH—Doors opened at 6:15 p.m., and a sizable portion of Leavenworth and beyond turned out to support the senior class of 2024. This year's Mr. Kodiak theme was based on the Barbie movie, and the all-male contestants each portrayed their own version of the iconic Ken doll.



By JACKSON FEENEY
CHS Publications Group

Were they Kenough? Many onlookers asked as they started to fill the stands. Before the show started, a silent auction offered an array of items, from hats to goody bags, with all proceeds benefiting the senior class's sober party. Steve Pate, who greatly contributed and helped put on this year's Mr. Kodiak, opened the night by thanking everyone who put their time and effort into this wonderful event. "This was not a one man show by no means. We would show up every Monday starting in January for two hours and then these past two weeks it's probably been fourteen hours," said Pate.

Senior contestants Juan Alvarado, Scott Lindsay, Dylan Munly, Blue Knutson, Jasper Bard, Peyton Adams, and Thatcher Pate kicked off the event with a choreographed dance to one of the Barbie movie's most popular songs: I'm Just Ken. With flips and humorous gimmicks, the gentlemen were trying their best to impress the Barbies. Not only did the Kens have their own dance routine, so did the Barbies, which added to the energy in the auditorium.

With a round of applause, the event introduced the voice of the valley himself, Clint Strand. Each contestant was expected to answer two pre-determined questions posted by Strand and one random question from the judges. A memorable response was from Pilot Ken, Scott Lindsay, in response to the judge's question "If you had to choose between a car, plane, bus, or walk what one would you take?" Without hesitation Scott answered, "That's easy, I'll just fly my plane."

With many unique responses and Steve Pate auctioning more donations, it was time for the talent contest. Ripe with comedic gold and interesting talents, Juan Alvarado brought everyone back to the mid 2000s with his reference to Napoleon Dynamite and his iconic dance sequence.

Scott Lindsay's performance involved a grand piano and a lengthy monologue about himself as pilot Ken, showcasing both his sense of humor and musical talent.

Later in the evening, Magic Ken, Thatcher Pate, showed off his "magic" skills in a comedic sketch with his Barbie Cassadie Gillespie. "I thought it was a mojo dojo, casa crazy house. I think the crowd thought it was magic," said Thatcher Pate after his performance.

Biker Ken, portrayed by Blue Knutson, rode his penny-farthing, a high-wheel bicycle,



COURTESY OF JACKSON FEENEY/CHS PUBLICATIONS

Did Blue Knutson Predict the Future? This was the burning question on everyone's lips as Blue proudly displayed the coveted Mr. Kodiak Trophy. Mr. Kodiak drew a throng of excited spectators to Cascade High School on Wednesday, April 17. "I am very happy; it took a lot of work, and it paid off. I put in at least fifteen hours of photoshopping. I think I presented it fifteen times to my parents trying to figure it out," said Knutson.

ont to stage and demonstrated his strange, yet accurate, fortune-telling skills with his one-of-a-kind humor that got the crowd buzzing.

Jasper Bard, aka Yoge Ken, and his Babie, Lucy Thomas, put together a dance routine to The Time of my Life from the movie Dirty Dancing. Their dance featured wild and iconic moves.

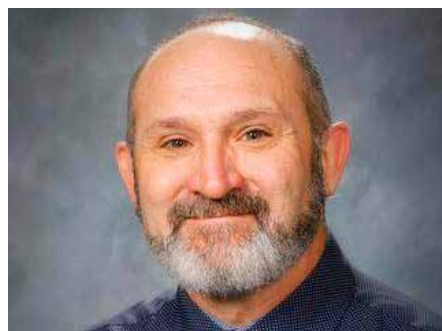
Australian Ken, Dylan Munly, showed the crowd how to tame wild animals from Down Under in a goofy way with a strong Australian accent.

For the final talent of the night from the contestants, Disco Ken, also known as Peyton Adams, sang Just the Two of Us by Bill Withers. The crowd absolutely loved it.

As the judges added up scores and determined the 2024 winner of Mr. Kodiak, The CHS staff demonstrated their dance skills and sense of humor with performance showcasing school scenarios from a teacher's perspective.

After auctioning off a good sum of gifts to support the senior class and waiting for the judges return, Clint Strand called out the contestants and their awards. Finally, with one name left, Blue Knutson came out on top, winning the title of 2024 Mr. Kodiak. "I am very happy; it took a lot of work, and it paid off. I put in at least fifteen hours with photoshopping. I think I presented it fifteen times to my parents trying to figure it out," said Knutson.

Cascade School District navigates leadership changes at High School and Middle School



COURTESY OF CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

James Swanson, current principal at Icicle River Middle School (IRMS), has been named principal at Cascade High School (CHS) beginning the 2024-25 school year. Michael Miller, current IRMS assistant principal, will take the helm at IRMS. Rudy Joya will leave CHS for the Eastmont School District at the end of this year.

LEAVENWORTH - Cascade School District (CSD) is undergoing significant administrative shifts as it navigates both leadership adjustments and budgetary challenges. Earlier this month, Rudy Joya, the current principal of Cascade High School (CHS), announced his departure at the end of this school year. Current Icicle River Middle School (IRMS) principal, James Swanson, will take the helm at CHS beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Following this change, Michael Miller, the current IRMS assistant principal, will move to the principal's office.

Swanson and Miller were appointed last week by Cascade School District Superintendent Tracey Edou, who asserted that the internal transfers were chosen to both mitigate uncertainty in the district during budgetary challenges and protect existing staff

positions. "We're trying to protect people's jobs as much as possible," Edou affirmed, emphasizing that while "these decisions were separate from the budget issues," there is need for cohesiveness amidst ongoing challenges.

Joya, who has been at CHS since 2017, the last two years of which as principal and the preceding as assistant principal, is leaving CHS to become assistant principal at Grant Elementary School in East Wenatchee, citing personal reasons for his decision. "The switch has to do with my five children," he stated. Last August, Joya and his family were unexpectedly presented with the opportunity to adopt the brother of their youngest (adopted) son, a circumstance that prompted his reassessment of career



By CAROLINE MENNA
CHS Publications Group

priorities. "Family and the time commitment of being a high school principal are not compatible in my case," he added.

Swanson, a native of Moses Lake and graduate of Washington State University, comes to CHS after two years in the corner office at IRMS. Before that, he was a middle school principal in the South Whidbey School District and taught in the Wenatchee and Tonasket districts. Swanson's vision for CHS includes fostering a culture of collaboration, trust building, and addressing immediate challenges, such as the gap left by the choral department's elimination. "We're trying to work with outside entities to try to do something [regarding the choir] for this coming year until the budget is solvent," he explained. "One thing I plan

on doing is an audit with the staff and students to see what their current narrative is about the high school and what they would like to continue and what they would like to see slightly different. I'm excited and appreciative of this opportunity and look forward to seeing where we go."

As Miller steps into the role of principal at IRMS, he brings with him twenty years of experience as a middle school assistant principal, nineteen of them at the North Thurston School District in Olympia. Previous to that, Miller taught in Tacoma Public School as a 7th grade English teacher.

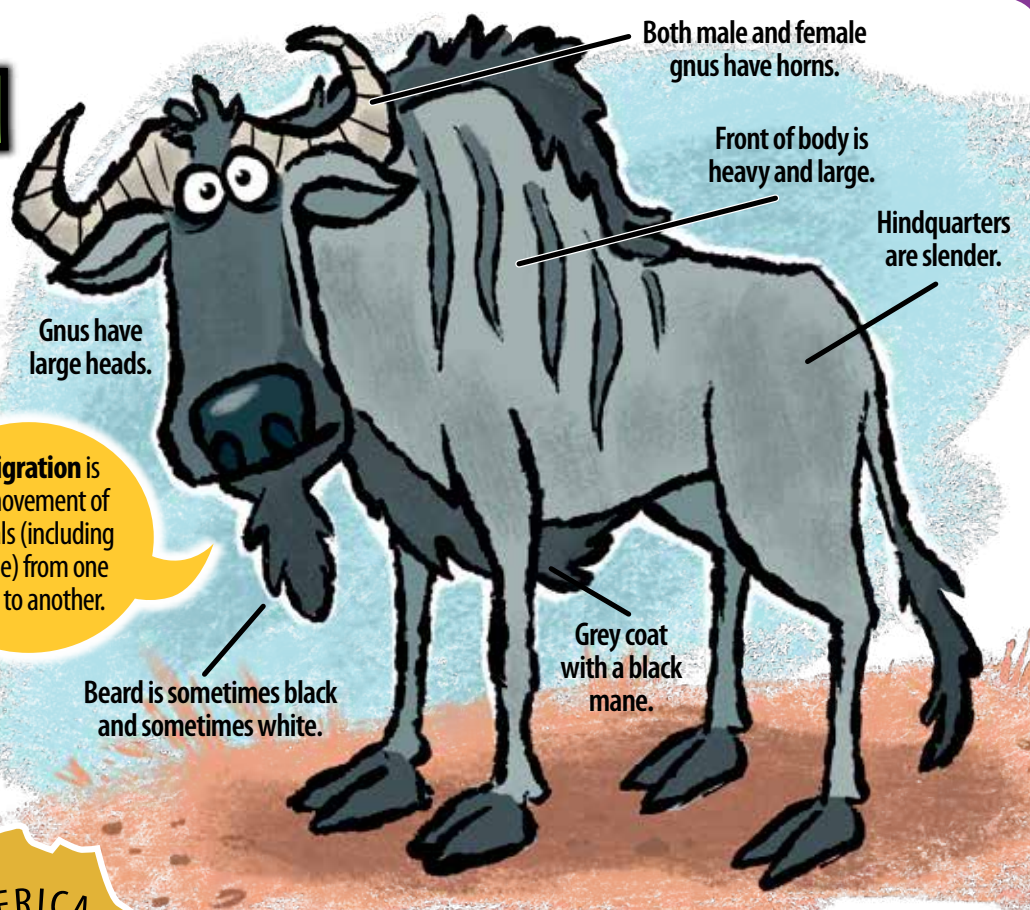
As part of the belt-tightening and staff adjustments recently announced by CSD for next school year, Anika Bibby will remain in her role as assistant principal at CHS, albeit with a reduced schedule. The assistant principal position at IRMS will not be filled.

The Great Gnu Migration

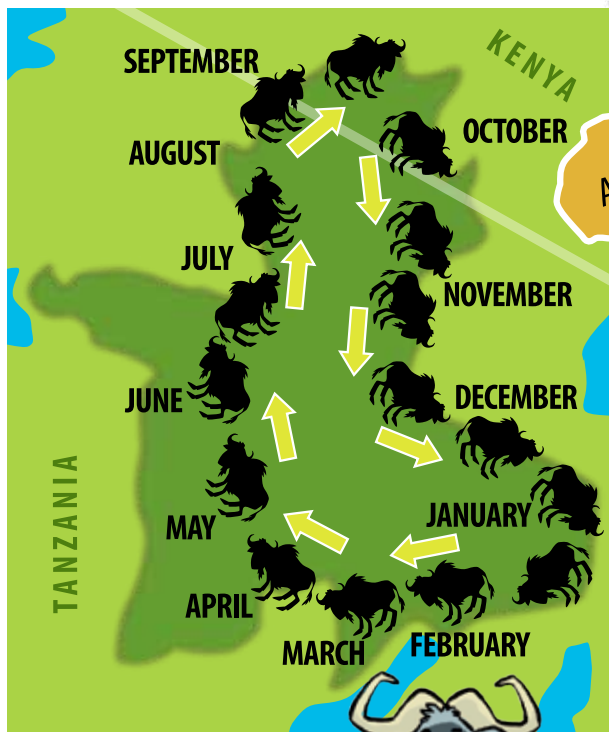
There is an African animal that travels about 1,000 miles every year in what is known as the world's largest animal migration.

This migrating animal is called a **gnu**. They travel in one large herd that has a million gnus! They travel to find food and water. Some people call this enormous migration one of the "Seven Wonders of the Natural World!"

Standards Link: Animals move from place to place for survival.



A **migration** is the movement of animals (including people) from one place to another.



What's a gnu?

It is a member of the antelope family which includes hooved animals with horns that graze. There are about 135 different kinds of animals in the antelope family.

Unscramble the letters to reveal other members of the antelope family.

PHESE

TELACT

TSGAO

The G is silent in the word gnu. It's pronounced like "new."

Find the gnu that's different from all the others.



Extra! Extra! Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A word with a silent letter
- A word that describes a gnu
- An example of the way people travel today

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Baby Gnus

Since gnus travel nearly every day, baby gnus must get up and walk right away. The babies, called calves, start walking within minutes after they are born.

Standards Link: Young animals have features that aid in survival.

Gnu name?

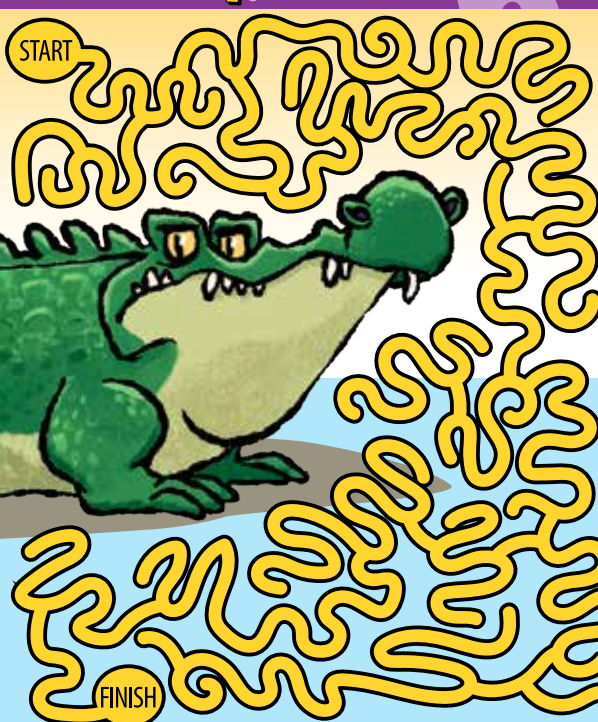
Use the code to discover another name for gnu.

- = B
- = E
- = L
- = T
- = D
- = I
- = S
- = W

W



Kid Scoop Puzzler



Travel Troubles

Gnus face many dangers as they travel. In the grassy plains, they are hunted by predators like lions, cheetahs and hyenas.

Along their migration loop, they cross large rivers filled with crocodiles.

Follow the maze to avoid this hungry crocodile!

Double Double Word Search

- ANTELOPE
- BEARD
- COAT
- FAMILY
- FOOD
- GRAZE
- GNU
- HERD
- HOOVED
- HORNS
- LARGE
- MANE
- MILLION
- NAME
- TRAVEL

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



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 word: **MIGRATION**

The noun **migration** means a long journey from one place to another.

The gnu **migration** happens as these animals search for fresh, green grasses.

Try to use the word **migration** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

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