

# The Leavenworth Echo



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leavenworthecho.com

**From the publisher**  
**Navigating the murky waters of media bias.** What truly constitutes bias in our modern media landscape? | **A2**

**Unprecedented collaboration drives local stream restoration**  
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## Reflecting on an inferno: 30 years since the devastating 1994 fires surrounded and threatened Leavenworth



Onlookers in Tumwater Canyon experience equal parts fear and awe at the beginning of the Hatchery Creek Fire in 1994. The highway was closed shortly after this photo was taken.



Smoke envelops Leavenworth in July 1994 as structural protection engines line Highway 2. The city was evacuated for almost a week that summer as it was directly threatened by the Rat and Hatchery Creek fires.

By **CAROLINE MENNA**  
Ward Media Intern

LEAVENWORTH—Three decades ago this summer, in the waning days of July and early August, Leavenworth was evacuated. Its water treatment plant was shuttered for days, the Icicle Irrigation District canals ran dry for more than a week, both mountain passes were closed, and the Governor and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, arriving by helicopter, surveyed sites around the community to assess the need for federal and state relief measures.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of a series of wildfires, dubbed the Hatchery Complex, that posed an existential threat to Leavenworth and the Lake Wenatchee areas. Chelan County Fire District #3 Fire Chief Kelly O'Brien, who is also celebrating a 30th anniversary as a firefighter in District #3 and was only 24 at the time, recalls that, prior to the fires, "we knew that it was going to be a tough year. There was an earlier fire down Valley around Dryden that jumped the highway. We knew then

See **1994 FIRES** Page **A8**

## Community garden blossoms in the heart of Leavenworth



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Volunteer **Claudia Cockerham**, alongside her fellow Cascade Garden Club members, has spent countless hours bringing the garden back to life and maintaining it all season.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

The community garden sits on the corner of 12th and Commercial. The lot was donated for education and stewardship purposes by the first female mayor of Leavenworth, E. Lorene Young.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Cascade Garden Club's **Claudia Cockerham** and **WRI's Joshua Schaub** spend many mornings together pulling weeds and managing squash bugs.



See **STORY** Page **A10**

TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

A sunflower growing inside the Mountain Sprouts Children's Community plot attracts pollinators.

## National Night Out comes to Leavenworth



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

The Chelan County Sheriff's Office displayed its helicopter and jet skis during the event, which are utilized primarily for search and rescue missions and marine patrol.

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Chelan County Sheriff's Office organized Leavenworth's first National Night Out on Aug. 6 at Icicle River Middle School.

"We just want to show the community that we are of the people, for the people. It's our motto, and we want to give an opportunity to interact with us and just know that their Sheriff's Office is here," said Sheriff Mike Morrison.

National Night Out events have

historically been held in Wenatchee, but the event has made its way into smaller towns in recent years. In 2022, National Night Out was hosted in Cashmere, then in Entiat in 2023.

"We understand too, like for our

See **NIGHT OUT** Page **A10**

## Celebrating Leavenworth's Edna Anderson at 106

By **CAROLINE MENNA**  
Ward Media Intern

LEAVENWORTH – In the same year as the Allies and Germans signed the armistice ending World War I and the Spanish Flu swept the globe; during the same month as Leonard Bernstein and Ted Williams were born; on the same day as the Second Battle of the Somme was being waged in northern France, Edna Anderson, née Wise, was born in Chelan's Union Valley community above Lake Chelan.

Now a resident of Leavenworth living at Mountain Meadows, the

See **EDNA ANDERSON** Page **A8**



CAROLINE MENNA / WARD MEDIA

Beaming with more than a century of wisdom, one of Washington State's eldest residents, **Edna Anderson**, will be 106 on August 29.

## Leavenworth's annual block party set for Aug. 22

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The City of Leavenworth will host its annual Community Block Party on Aug. 22, inviting community members to gather, connect with their neighbors, and learn about city initiatives and

community organizations.

The event will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Osborn Playfield and Orchard Street, between Evans and Birch.

The block party will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Local distributor Weinstein Beverage Company will be supplying Pepsi

beverages. The event will also have lawn games, a bounce house, and a mini touch-a-truck. Attendees will get an up-close look at the city's new street sweeper, "Woody Broomsba," and vector truck, "Der Schmutzmeister," as well as a fire truck from Chelan County Fire District #3 (FD #3). Link Transit is

hoping to supply a passenger bus for the mini touch-a-truck.

"Also, be sure to bring your kiddos' swim gear and a towel because we've added an inflatable water slide to the event!" said Kara Raftery, Communications and Special Projects Manager for the City of Leavenworth, in an email to Ward Media.

Attendees will be able to speak with city officials, and learn about the Front Street Restroom and

Stairway Expansion project, Osborn Property Adaptive Reuse project, and the Mayor's upcoming Community Visioning sessions scheduled for this fall.

"The Block Party not only provides a casual platform for people to engage directly with city staff and elected officials but also brings a collective of community partners together

See **BLOCK PARTY** Page **A8**

### Inside The Echo this Week

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# The Leavenworth Echo

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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 [letters@ward.media](mailto:letters@ward.media).

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## Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at [quinn@ward.media](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!

### Cyanotype Workshop

The Wenatchee River Institute will host a Cyanotype Workshop on Saturday, August 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Learn how to create blue photogramprints with this nontoxic, antique, photographic process," the event page states. "Participants will learn about the process through a demonstration and will then be able to make their own series of prints."

All materials, such as acid-free, pre-coated paper, are provided. For more information, visit [wenatcheeriverinstitute.org](http://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org).

### Live R&B

LeRoy Bell and His Only Friends, with special guest James Counts Band, will perform at the Icicle Creek

Center for the Arts on Saturday, August 17, at 7 p.m.

"Get ready for an unforgettable evening in the meadow as LeRoy Bell and His Only Friends and the James Counts Band join forces to deliver a captivating blend of soulful R&B and classic rock," the event page states.

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

### Mountain Melodies Concert

The Eclectic Cloggers will perform a Mountain Melodies Concert on Saturday, August 17, from 8 to 9 p.m. at the South Park Amphitheater at Lake Wenatchee State Park.

"Since 1984, Eclectic Cloggers have been performing traditional Appalachian clog dancing throughout the Pacific Northwest, accompanied by

live old-time music," the event page states.

"Expect to be invited to sing and dance along with members of the group at their family-friendly performances."

For more information, visit [parks.wa.gov](http://parks.wa.gov).

### Eastside Rebuild fundraiser

Eastside Rebuild will hold a Fundraising Campaign Launch Party on Sunday, August 18, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Sage Mountain Natural Foods in Leavenworth.

"Join us for a day of fun and support Eastside Rebuild," the event page states. "We need your help to raise the funds necessary to make a lasting

# 5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

impact. Bring your donations and enjoy a fun-filled day with lawn games, delicious food, and engaging activities."

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

### Community supper

The Leavenworth Methodist Church will host a Free Community Supper

for friends and neighbors on Tuesday, August 20, from 5 to 7 p.m.

"All are welcome to share a yummy meal and good conversation with other community members, seniors, singles, families, and kids," the event page states. "This is a great way to finish off this warm summer."

No RSVP is required.

# Navigating the murky waters of media bias

In an era where trust in institutions wavers and polarization deepens, the specter of media bias looms large over our national discourse. From the halls of Congress to heated debates on social media, accusations of slanted coverage fly fast and furious. Yet as the publisher of local news in North Central Washington, I find myself pondering a more nuanced question: What truly constitutes bias in our modern media landscape?



From the Publisher

### TERRY WARD

each shaped by our own experiences and perspectives. The real challenge, and indeed our solemn duty, lies in recognizing our inherent biases and striving tirelessly to present a fair and balanced view of the world.

This is no simple task. In an age of clickbait headlines and algorithm-driven echo chambers, the pressure to sensationalize or cater to preconceived notions is ever-present. Yet we must resist these siren calls, for they erode the very foundation of informed democracy.

So how do we, as both producers and consumers of

news, navigate these treacherous waters?

First, we must sharpen our critical thinking skills. Learn to distinguish between objective reporting and opinion pieces. Approach sweeping generalizations about "mainstream media bias" with healthy skepticism. Ask yourself: Compared to what? Can I point to concrete examples that support or refute claims of bias?

Second, we must turn the lens inward. Our own preconceptions can color our interpretation of even the most impartial reporting. By acknowledging our personal biases, we open ourselves to a more nuanced understanding of complex issues.

Third, we must recognize

that bias manifests in myriad forms. It's not just about liberal versus conservative slants. Story selection, framing, sourcing decisions - all of these elements can subtly shape a narrative. A truly discerning reader looks beyond the surface, questioning not just what is being reported, but how and why.

At this publication, we remain committed to the highest standards of journalistic integrity. We welcome scrutiny and value the feedback of our readers. If you believe you've encountered biased coverage in our pages, we encourage you to engage with us. Provide specific examples, challenge our assumptions, and help us in our ongoing quest for truth and fairness.

The path forward is not one of blind trust, nor of cynical dismissal. Instead, it requires a shared commitment to media literacy, critical thinking, and open dialogue. Only then can we hope to pierce the fog of bias and glimpse the complex realities that shape our world.

We are all partners in this endeavor. Let us navigate these waters together with clear eyes and open minds.

*Terry Ward is the CEO of Ward Media and the publisher of NCW News, Cashmere Valley Record, Lake Chelan Mirror, The Leavenworth Echo, Quad City Herald, and the Wenatchee Business Journal. He can be reached at [terry@ward.media](mailto:terry@ward.media).*

*Death* Announcements

**Ronald Arvid Hill Sr.**

Ronald Arvid Hill Sr., 86, of Wenatchee, Washington and former resident of Leavenworth, Washington, passed away on July 31, 2024.

Arrangements by Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee and Cashmere.

## Leavenworth seeks volunteer for planning commission

The Leavenworth Echo  
*Ward Media*

LEAVENWORTH - The city of Leavenworth is accepting applications for an open position on its Planning Commission, a key advisory body responsible for shaping the community's future development.

The vacancy for Position No. 3 on the commission will begin in October 2024, and the appointee will serve the remainder of a four-year term ending in April 2027. The Planning Commission plays a crucial role in developing long-range plans and recommending legislative policies to the City Council.

Commissioners contribute

to realizing the community's vision by formulating goals and policies for the City's Comprehensive Plan. They also participate in updates to the Leavenworth Municipal Code and Shoreline Master Program.

Eligibility for the position is limited to residents within Leavenworth city limits. Interested individuals can submit a letter of interest by 4:00 p.m. on August 28. Applications can be delivered via email, mail, or in person to the City Clerk's office at City of Leavenworth, Attn: Andrea Fischer, City Clerk, 700 Hwy 2 | PO Box 287 Leavenworth, WA 98826 [afischer@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:afischer@cityofleavenworth.com)

**Standing water in tarps, tires and buckets breeds mosquitoes!**

**Please Drain them!**

**Do you live within two miles of Leavenworth? Call us if you see two or more mosquitoes**

**The Leavenworth Mosquito Control District**  
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THE LEAVENWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

# Oktoberfest

## DATES

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

## 16 LIVE BANDS

Die Jungen Weststeirer (AUS)  
Pech und Schwefel (AUS)  
S Bahn (CAN)  
West Coast Prost  
Manuela Horn  
& more!

All bands, dates,  
times, and bios at  
Leavenworth.org

## ADMISSION

\$15 - Friday  
\$30 - Saturday  
\$40 - Combo

## HOURS

6pm to 12am | FRI  
12pm to 12am | SAT  
(Front St. Park closes  
at 10pm both nights)



## FREE

2024 Hat Pins to the  
first 700 registered  
locals through the  
gate on "Local's  
Night"

## LOCAL'S NIGHT

Friday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>

### FREE ENTRY & 2024 HAT PIN!

Last year we welcomed over 900 residents of the Cascade School District for an evening of beer, music, yodeling, chicken dancing and bouncy houses.

To help us better prepare and properly manage the number of tickets we sell to the public, this year we are requiring locals complete and submit an RSVP form for your household.

Once registered, you will be added to our "Local's Guest List" and on the evening of the event, you and your party of registered attendees will need to go through the Local's Entrance Gate. Here each name/address on the list will be matched to your photo ID. If your ID does not reflect your Cascade School District home or business address, you will need to bring a current piece of mail addressed to you at the address.

In addition to free admission, the first 700 registered locals that come through the local's gate will receive a special 2024 Woody Goomsba hat pin to mark this festive occasion!



Visit Us Online

LEAVENWORTH.ORG/OKTOBERFEST

Buy tickets, get entertainer bios & dates, review the 2024 beer menu, and learn more about what is new for this year's Oktoberfest.

## FESTBIER ON TAP

3rd Brew's a Charm

FESTBIER IS THE MOST POPULAR BEER AT OKTOBERFEST

Icicle Brewing, Blewett Brewing, and Doghaus Brewery are once again collaborating on the one-of-a-kind Festbier just for Oktoberfest!

In the spirit of Munich's Oktoberfest celebrating their local beer, ours follows suit by including all three of our local breweries in addition to some delicious imported favorites.

## NO MORE TICKETS

Tap Your Wristband

### ATTENDEES CAN LINK A FABRIC WRISTBAND TO THEIR CARD

The paper tickets used at the festival, and the line you had to wait in to get them, are a thing of the past! This year festival goers can pick up a cashless smartcard fabric wristband upon entry, link it to their debit or credit card. Then simply tap to pay for food, beer and official merchandise at both festival venues. Wristband accounts can also be set up in advance on our website or by using the QR code. Attendees will also have the choice of paying via credit/debit or mobile pay at time of purchase, or use cash to pre-load a wristband.



## FESTIVAL EMPLOYMENT

\$20-\$25 per hour

If you would like to work at Oktoberfest this year, we are currently hiring for all positions. Follow the QR code to LeavenworthChamber.org where you can submit an application.



LOCAL'S NIGHT  
RSVP QR  
CODE

2024 SPONSORS



# Unprecedented collaboration drives local stream restoration



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

The work team added large wood and a beaver dam analog (BDA) in a segment of Chumstick Creek. This slows water flow, which provides a number of different ecological benefits.

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH—Along Chumstick Highway, 300 linear feet of Chumstick Creek, which was about an inch deep two weeks prior, is now about a foot deep in some sections after receiving low-tech process-based restoration.

While seemingly insignificant, this small change is slowing the flow of the creek, which creates safe pools for juvenile fish during high water, increases leaf litter storage for macroinvertebrates to eat, and improves habitat for waterfowl and songbirds. Additionally, it rebuilds sediment on an eroded streambed and recharges groundwater, which enhances water quality and supply for both humans and wildlife.

This stream segment is one of hundreds that have undergone this type of restoration through the collaborative effort of Trout Unlimited, Cascadia Conservation District, and Cascade Fisheries.

Like many other streams

in the area, Chumstick Creek has been straightened and emptied of large wood over the last hundred years due to surrounding farming and development. Plus, many areas are unable to reintroduce beavers, whose dams pool water and naturally slow streams, because of concerns about beavers felling trees near homes and roads.

"There's nothing that's stopping the water or slowing it," said Alex Harwell, Cascadia CD Resource Specialist II.

Through low-tech process-based restoration, the work is manually done by humans, creating beaver dam analogs (BDAs), post-assisted log structures (PALS), and adding large wood to restore the creek to more historically natural flows.

"It's all to mimic those natural processes that have been missed in the past century or two due to simplifications of streams and to land management practices," said Phillip Klenke, Cascade Fisheries Salmon Habitat Project Manager and Coordinated Resource

Management Facilitator.

Slowing water in streams such as Chumstick Creek is critical during high water flows in the spring. With nothing to slow the water from quickly emptying into the Wenatchee River, juvenile fish get flushed out, streambeds erode into deep and narrow channels, and surrounding land is unable to replenish its groundwater. This leads to drier vegetation, and hot, low flows by late summer, making it less inhabitable for fish and other wildlife.

While the ecological benefits of even 300 linear feet span well beyond fish, completing a project even of such a small scale can be grueling. The organizations must find a willing landowner, then go through the permitting process, which can take up to multiple years before work is able to begin.

"There's a reason for that, but it's also like, no, we need to do more now, because these fish are going extinct now, we're in a drought now. It can be really disheartening," said Harwell.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Trout Unlimited, Cascade Fisheries and Cascadia Conservation District work together through Coordinated Resource Management, which allows them to maximize their resources, coordinate their efforts, and broaden their stream restoration efforts.

Once permitting and funding is complete, the teams manually clear out the streams of noxious weeds, move large logs, and strategically add BDAs. This laborious process requires teams to source fresh tree cuttings, hammer posts into the stream, then weave the branches in to form a manmade beaver dam. Each structure must be maintained year after year, slowing the teams' ability to create more.

"We're really inefficient compared to beavers," said Lisa Foster, Trout Unlimited Restoration Program Director.

For many years, the three organizations operated individually on projects like these, overwhelmed by the amount of work needed to be done. By 2019, they decided to try forming a Coordinated Resource Management group (CRM), in which they could pool their resources and coordinate projects, organizing their efforts to have a broader impact. The idea received support from the U.S. Forest Service, who works closely

with each organization, as well as the Bureau of Reclamation, who funds Klenke's position as CRM Facilitator.

"Last year, our three organizations put in about 300 structures just in one season," said Foster.

Under the CRM group, Klenke, Foster and Harwell are able to coordinate funding, expand labor, and diversify their projects to minimize gaps or overlap. Regular meetings create a space to share what is working, or not working, and adjust accordingly. Additionally, the group is able to leverage their different advantages, such as agreements or partnerships, funding sources, and knowledge bases.

"Trout Unlimited is a national organization. They can pull from other people in their national group. Cascadia is a conservation district, and can levy resources from other conservation districts in the area. Same thing with us. We're one of the 14 regional fisheries enhancement groups in the state, so we have a network

that we can reach out to of people who are doing similar or different things in their parts of the state," said Klenke.

With their unprecedented approach, the group has figured out how to increase its impact with the resources it has. Yet, it's nearing capacity with a large number of degraded streams still in need of restoration. The Wenatchee subbasin has over 230 miles of major streams and rivers and three species of threatened or endangered fish.

"This is an immediate need, and we're working as fast as we can. Having more people, more land to do it on, is what we really need. And more beavers," said Foster.

The project along Chumstick Creek was made possible by a private landowner who signed up for Cascadia CD's Process Based Restoration program, which is grant funded. Those interested in the program can find out more at [cascadiacd.org/programs/beaver-dam-analogs](http://cascadiacd.org/programs/beaver-dam-analogs).

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# PRSA levy reauthorization holds strong in latest ballot count

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN COUNTY - A proposition that supports the Howard Hopkins Memorial Pool maintained over 70 percent approval in the Aug. 9 election update.

Upper Valley Parks and Recreation Service Area (PRSA) Proposition No. 1 would reauthorize a six-year property tax levy that funds 50 percent of the community pool's annual operations budget. The proposition must receive 60

percent of voter approval for reauthorization. If the levy does not pass, the pool could face a significant reduction in operations or the possibility of a permanent closure.

For this election, the PRSA proposed a higher levy rate,

at 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. According to Upper Valley Aquatics Boosters (UVAB), the higher rate would generate around \$463,000 in annual revenue for the PRSA.

This year, the pool's 2024 budget includes \$417,000 in

maintenance and operational costs and emergency repair costs. Capital reserve dollars were used to make up the difference of cost exceeding revenue.

As of 5 p.m. on Aug. 8, the levy authorization received 1,765 votes of approval and

704 rejections. Just over 22,600 ballots had been counted, with an estimated 225 remaining. The next ballot count is anticipated for Aug. 20 at 2:30 p.m.

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# Leavenworth Village Voices to hold benefit concert for Cascade choir program

By **QUINN PROPST**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH—The Leavenworth Village Voices community choir is poised to start its 42nd season of the "Christmas in the Mountains" concert series.

This year the choir will hold a concert to benefit Cascade School District's choir program, has a new accompanist and is looking for new members, LVV President Allison Bergstrom said.

Each year, the choir holds a benefit concert to raise money for a local cause. This year, LVV will hold a benefit concert to support Cascade School District's choir program.

Due to budget issues, the choir program was at risk of being cut. The community stepped in and raised a portion of the funds needed to continue the program. However, there is still more to go to ensure that the program can continue for the entire school year and beyond.

LVV will partner with the Cascade High School choir for the benefit concert. After expenses, all proceeds will go to support the district's choir program.

Midy Wall, who has directed the choir for several years, will also be the new director of the high school choir. Bergstrom said this will create continuity between the groups.

LVV will hold rehearsals on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the New Life Church on US 97 in Peshastin.

The new accompanist Nick Colletto is a keyboardist and music educator from

Ellensburg, Washington. He holds a music composition degree from Central Washington University and has accompanied various school choral programs and church services. Colletto has experience in jazz big bands and musical theater and is currently completing a Master's in Piano Pedagogy on scholarship.

"So we're super excited to have him with us," Bergstrom said.

The choir, known for its Christmas performances, has been working to create more awareness about the choir and to attract more members.

"I think since COVID, we've really been sort of rebuilding," Bergstrom said. "Before COVID, we had 40 members, and we had about 20 last year. And so we have been trying a lot of new things to get our name out there. Let people know we have this community choir, and it's just a great way for people who love music and love to sing to gather and do it in sort of a low-stress way."

The group held several events this summer to help people learn more about it. Anyone who wants to see if the group is a fit can attend the first rehearsal on Monday, August 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the New Life Church in Peshastin.

Bergstrom said the group is a low-stress, non-audition choir.

"So if someone is willing to just commit to coming to rehearsals and can make our performances, which are primarily in December, then they're welcome," she said. "I

mean, it's really just a place where everyone is welcome, and we just want to share the joy of music and, especially at the holiday season with locals and visitors alike.

"So if that is of interest to you, and it's just a great way to meet new people and make friends as well, then we are a group for you," she said.

LVV has three formal concerts scheduled for the 2024 season. However the group also performs in more casual settings like caroling downtown, for retirement homes, bus tours and more.

On Sunday, December 15 at 2 p.m. LVV will perform their most traditional concert with guest artist Bavarian Brass at Leavenworth's Ice Creek Center for the Arts, Snowy Owl Theater. Tickets will be available via the box office.

On Thursday, December 19, at 7 p.m., at Cascade High School in Leavenworth, LVV will hold a benefit concert for the Cascade School District's choir programs. The Cascade High School Choir and Bavarian Brass will join LVV as guest performers. Tickets will be available on the LVV website and at the door.

On Sunday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m., LVV will perform a joint concert with indie-pop group BOSAYA at the Numerica Performing Arts Center in Wenatchee. Tickets will be available at the box office.

For more information about the Leavenworth Village Voices choir visit, [leavenworthvillagevoices.org](http://leavenworthvillagevoices.org).

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



COURTESY OF LEAVENWORTH VILLAGE VOICES

The Leavenworth Village Voices community choir, known for its Christmas performances, is looking for new members.

# Endangered fish species to benefit from Lower Peshastin Creek restoration

NCW News  
Ward Media

PESHASTIN — A major habitat restoration project will soon begin on Lower Peshastin Creek to clean up lead waste and enhance fish habitat where the creek meets the Wenatchee River.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Cascade Fisheries are spearheading the initiative, which will unfold in two phases at the WDFW-managed Dryden Dam Access Site.

Peshastin Creek, crucial for native fish in the Wenatchee watershed, supports three endangered species: upper

Columbia Spring chinook, upper Columbia steelhead, and bull trout. However, past human activities, including highway construction, have significantly altered the creek's natural state.

The first phase, focusing on lead cleanup, is scheduled to commence in late August. Workers will excavate and process approximately 2,000 to 2,500 cubic yards of soil, recycling lead shot and treating contaminated earth on-site. This effort will mitigate risks to human health, water sources, and local flora and fauna.

The second phase, slated for summer 2025, will concentrate

on aquatic habitat restoration. Plans include re-establishing connection to the historical channel, expanding the floodplain area, and installing 34 Engineered Log Jams and 13 wood structures to enhance biodiversity and improve stream conditions.

The project, which has been in development for years, is estimated to cost \$3 to \$3.5 million. Multiple partners, including the Washington Department of Ecology, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Bonneville Power Administration, are providing funding and support.

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**UPPER VALLEY  
 MEND**

1994 fires

Continued from page A1

what we might be dealing with.”

With drought-like conditions impacting the forests and vegetation of North Central Washington for years preceding the fires, the start to the summer of '94 began ominously after a hot, dry spring. Late June saw temperatures consistently in the 90s increasing to well over 100 regularly in July. Then, during the afternoon and early evening of July 24, clouds began to gather as a major thunderstorm rolled northward across the Cascades.

According to a U.S. Forest Service assessment, lightning ignited forty-one fires in the Wenatchee National Forest that evening, stretching local resources. Yet, most of those fires were swiftly suppressed by quick-acting firefighters. Still, despite the influx of manpower and firefighting

assets, the extreme conditions, coupled with high winds, allowed three of the fires to overcome containment efforts.

The Hatchery Creek fire began high on Icicle Ridge and burned into Tumwater Canyon before jumping the Wenatchee River and Hwy 2. It then headed up Tumwater Mountain and toward Spromberg and Freund Canyons, threatening Leavenworth and the Chumstick corridor.

On Nason Ridge above Lake Wenatchee, the Round Mountain fire menaced residences and other structures in and around Lake Wenatchee State Park, including Kahler Glen. The Tye Creek fire began in the Entiat Valley before moving toward Lake Chelan but, a week later, reversed course roaring over Entiat Ridge toward Plain, joining the Hatchery Creek fire to form a wide-reaching complex.

Worse came to worst on July 29, when a blaze, believed

to have been inadvertently started by two men clearing private land near the Icicle and Rat Creeks, was also ignited. The Rat Creek fire burned down Icicle Canyon, ravaging Wedge Mountain and Mountain Home before streaking down to Blewett Canyon.

Greater Leavenworth was encircled, and the next three weeks included wild scenes of leaping fire, drifting embers, heavy smoke, evacuations, intense suppression tactics, an influx of help from around the region and the country, and national attention.

“We’ve had a lot of big fires, but nothing compared to what we’ve seen here,” Greg Thayer, a fire information officer told The Leavenworth Echo at the time. Despite the conditions, O’Brien remembers the evacuations going “very smoothly,” until Leavenworth resembled a “ghost town.”

Over 9,500 firefighters and other personnel from twenty-

five states joined local crews in the battle, including 1,600 members of the National Guard who joined fire camps at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery and the Lake Wenatchee Airstrip. At the time, it was the largest peacetime mobilization of the Washington National Guard.

At last, in mid-August, cooler, moister weather moved in, allowing firefighters to begin to establish perimeters and control the fires, some of which continued to smolder until the snow fell.

In the end, 187,000 acres of Wenatchee National Forest and private land burned. The Hatchery Creek fire took eighteen homes, the Tye nineteen, and an additional 76 structures were lost. Snow Lake, Eightmile Lake, Stuart Lake, Lower Mad River, and other heavily used trails were severely damaged. Total costs ran to over \$69 million. In addition, the height of the

tourist season was interrupted, causing significant economic stress.

The human effect was also considerable and meaningful. “The fire department [District #3] was fully committed,” averred O’Brien. “Most of our personnel were volunteers who worked their jobs and then worked a fire shift - all under a heavy amount of smoke for weeks. Their efforts are part of the story that doesn’t get told enough. Firefighters never like to see their hometown and neighbors under threat. It was rough. And I was a bit green around the gills. So, it became a real learning experience for me.”

Lasting memories for residents include not only the power of the roaring flames, but also the value of understanding and appreciating the real threat that fire poses to Leavenworth and North Central Washington. The lessons learned from the fiery summer of 1994 continue to

shape the town’s approach to fire prevention and response.

“The biggest thing is fuel reduction,” asserted O’Brien. “Getting rid of fuels from at least 100 feet around homes must be done to prevent wildfires from destroying our communities. We [the fire department] offer free assessments that will help owners make their homes more defensible. Thankfully, today the folks who live here are much more fire aware than we were in ‘94.”

For more information on Chelan County Fire District’s Home Assessment Program: <https://www.chelanfd3.org/home-assessment-program/>

*Caroline Menna is an intern for Ward Media and a rising senior (Class of 2025) at Cascade High School. She will serve as Editor-in-Chief of the Cascade High School Publications Group for the 2024-2025 academic year.*

Reliability, rates at forefront as Chelan PUD eyes big power users

NCW News Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Chelan County Public Utility District (PUD) customers have voiced concerns about reliability and rate affordability as the utility considers a framework for evaluating large power requests.

The PUD received input from about a dozen customer owners through various channels after its Board of Commissioners

sought public comment on a proposed framework to guide responses to large-load requests. These requests come from industries such as data centers, manufacturing plants, and other power-intensive operations.

Mike Bradshaw, the PUD’s director of energy structuring and trading, said many of the issues raised were considered when developing the guiding principles for the framework. These principles focus on

maintaining reliability, stable rates, and local control while treating large-load customers consistently.

The proposed framework offers three options for serving large-load customers:

1. Short-term supply where Chelan PUD procures and resells wholesale energy.
2. Customer choice allowing large-load customers to identify energy sources for PUD purchase and resale.
3. Negotiated contracts that

may include Chelan PUD generation, subject to board approval.

Each arrangement would require board approval and recover power and delivery costs.

The utility continues to receive an increasing number of large load requests, mirroring a national trend in data center growth. In September, commissioners will review a proposed plan to serve Microsoft and updates

to the PUD’s rate schedule for large loads.

Chelan PUD also plans to host three community meetings in late August and early September regarding a proposed two-year extension of previously adopted 3-4% rate increases.

The utility emphasizes that all decisions will prioritize the interests of existing Chelan County customers, focusing on maintaining reliable service and stable rates.

Block party

Continued from page A1

for a one-stop-stop of very useful information and helpful resources for residents,” said Raftery.

Various community partners will also attend, such as FD #3, Link Transit, Winton Manufacturing, Cascade Fisheries, Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, Friends of Northwest Hatcheries, Greater Leavenworth Museum, Upper Valley MEND, Cascadia Conservation District, Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, and Chelan Douglas Transportation Council.

“We are hoping that if, and that’s a BIG IF, the construction schedule continues as planned and the upcoming weather forecast holds, the Neighborhood Playground Committee will be able to unveil the brand-new playground with a short and sweet ribbon-cutting ceremony during the Block Party,” said Raftery.

The entire block of Orchard Street between Evans and Birch will be utilized for the block party, as well as the grassy area behind Osborn Elementary School. Raftery suggests bringing a blanket or chair for picnic-style seating.

Due to its centralized location, the city anticipates attendees walking or biking to the event, but those driving may park on nearby residential streets or in Cascade School District’s parking lot.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or [taylor@ward.media](mailto:taylor@ward.media)

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Edna Anderson

Continued from page A1

centenarian, one of the oldest living people in Washington State, and perhaps the oldest in the Wenatchee Valley, will celebrate her 106th birthday on August 29.

Born in 1918, Edna’s life has spanned both world wars, the Great Depression, the advent of modern technology, and countless cultural shifts. Anderson was raised by her native Coloradan parents, Fred and Edith (Storey) Wise in Manson as the seventh of nine children, where she and her sisters all became Apple Blossom Queens.

In 1937 she met and soon married Wayne Anderson of Leavenworth. The couple raised their four children, Cheryl, Lynelle, John, and Ron, in Chelan before moving to Leavenworth in 1973 to farm a pear orchard on Ski Hill. Edna also purchased The Little Shop and expanded it over the years into a kitchen and gift store, moving it from 8th Street to the Obertal Mall, where it still exists today under new ownership as the Little Kitchen Shop.

One of Edna’s earliest memories is being taken to school in a horse-drawn wagon by her father whom she fondly remembers with her mother as “just the best parents.” One of

her more searing recollections is when she and her family saw off to war three of her brothers: “We hated to see them go - the whole family did - because we didn’t know what was ahead of us.” Only two returned as her brother John, to whom Edna was closest in age, was killed in 1944. She later took comfort in knowing that before he died, John had received word from Edna that she was expecting her first child, Cheryl. Later, she would name her first son after her beloved brother.

Her wit still at the ready, when asked what her husband Wayne was like, she paused before quipping that “he was like most husbands.” A horseman, bookkeeper,

and Edna’s escort when she reigned as Manson’s Apple Blossom Queen, Wayne died in 1994 at 80.

Three of Edna and Wayne’s children still live in North Central Washington with one in Arizona. Edna is also the proud grandmother of seven and great-grandmother to fourteen.

In addition to the joy her family brings her, Edna enjoys embroidery, especially the tea towels she made to give to family and friends, and canning her own fruit every fall, including her specialty, sweet pickles.

Her advice for living a good life? “Live by the good old book - the Bible.” Anderson’s

longevity is a testament to resilience, community, and the appreciation of life’s simple pleasures.

“We’re going to have a family birthday at my house this year, after a big celebration last year for mom’s 105th,” explains Edna’s daughter Cheryl, who then reflected: “We’re very lucky to have mom for this long, that’s for sure.”

Happy birthday Edna!

*Caroline Menna is an intern for Ward Media and a rising senior (Class of 2025) at Cascade High School. She will serve as Editor-in-Chief of the Cascade High School Publications Group for the 2024-2025 academic year.*

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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. **808-298-1031** Seller is licensed Realtor Maui, HI

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**Guess Who?**  
I am an actor born in New York on August 17, 1943. I started acting in school at the age of 10. My first movie roll came at age 20. I became a legendary actor, winning two Academy Awards. I'm known for my frequent collaborations with director Martin Scorsese.  
*Answer: Robert De Niro*

**DOWN TO BIZ WORD SEARCH**

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

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

- WORDS**
- ACCOUNTING
  - ALLOCATION
  - ASSETS
  - BALANCE
  - BOND
  - CAPITAL
  - CASHFLOW
  - COST
  - EARNINGS
  - ECONOMICS
  - EMPLOYEE
  - ENTREPRENEUR
  - EQUITY
  - EXPENSE
  - FINANCE
  - INPUT
  - LIABILITIES
  - LOAN
  - MANAGEMENT
  - MARGIN
  - NET
  - OUTPUT
  - PAYROLL

**SUDOKU**

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

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:

TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Cascade Ambulance, a Cascade Medical-based ambulance service, gives a vehicle tour to community members.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Miriam Pamatz and Kaila Brownlee from Chelan-Douglas Health District shared information about the county's emergency alert system and how to prepare for an emergency.

**Night Out**

*Continued from page A1*

smaller communities, they don't always want to drive all the way down there, so we do our best...We want to allow them to come in and check it out and see what we have, what we do," said Morrison.

The event also hosted Fire District #3, Cascade Medical's ambulance department, Chelan-Douglas Health District, and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

"[They] just get to see what there is to offer, what our small, little community can do for them in their time of need," said Erin Adams, Medical Supervising Officer at Cascade Medical. "We are all a big, giant team, and we're all here to work together."

Attendees got a first-hand look at the Sheriff's Office

helicopter and jet skis, FD #3's fire truck, and Cascade Medical's ambulance. Over the course of the evening, the community had a chance to learn about emergency preparedness from Chelan-Douglas Health District, learn proper booster seat uses from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and speak directly with local first responders.

"We've had people bring us issues they've had, so we can write down what to remember and deal with it later. It's just a chance to meet community members and have positive interaction with them," said Seth Buhler, Chief of Patrol.

The evening was also a learning opportunity for a local citizenship class, which attended with coordinator Norma Gallegos. "This is a great event..."

This is the first time they've been involved with anything that involves the sheriff's department...[They had] no idea that you had 60 deputies, no idea that you had behavioral health, no idea what a chaplain does. So already, from what you said in five minutes, you're covering the Spanish population that has been here for 30-plus years," said Gallegos.

National Night Out is a community-building campaign intended to build relationships between communities and their local police departments. The annual event is typically held on the first Tuesday in August and is hosted in communities throughout all 50 states, U.S. territories, and military bases.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or [taylor@ward.media](mailto:taylor@ward.media)

# Community garden blossoms in the heart of Leavenworth

By Taylor Caldwell  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH - In a quiet lot tucked behind the downtown core, Cascade Garden Club and Wenatchee River Institute (WRI) have created an oasis for people to learn, garden, and seek respite in the E. Lorene Young Community Garden.

The community garden holds 33 raised garden beds, or plots, which are reserved at the beginning of the season through WRI, which owns and manages the property. Each plot holder gets access to an eight by four foot raised bed with an automatic watering system, use of garden tools, and compost donated by Winton Manufacturing. This summer, all of this was available for \$55 per plot, or \$45 for WRI members.

The garden serves all ages and skill levels, from those just starting out, to master gardeners. Each plot is as unique as its gardener, with some dedicating their space entirely to flowers, and others growing an entire pantry worth of vegetables. For crops such as berries and tomatoes, many gardeners use nearby materials to make their own uniquely shaped trellises.

"It's kind of a scavenger garden. What we encourage is to just reuse stuff and make things that are fun, because gardens are kind of hit and miss. You're never sure you're going to have a crop, but you just do it because you like doing it," said Claudia Cockerham, a volunteer through Cascade Garden Club.

Nearly two decades ago, the garden space was a mere vacant lot, owned by the former mayor of Leavenworth, E. Lorene Young. According to WRI's community garden history, she told WRI's former Executive Director Jeff Parsons shortly before her death, "There is one thing I do

not want! I do not want that lot to become a parking lot. Can you promise me that?"

When Young died in 2007, she donated the property for education and stewardship purposes. Five years later, a group of volunteers and donors developed the community garden.

"A big hindrance in forming a community garden is you have to buy a piece of land. So, by not having to purchase land, we've been able to just then build the infrastructure, fencing, and [have been] able to get grants to beautify it with art," said Cockerham.

The garden was made possible by Young, but the dedication of the Cascade Garden Club has ensured its continued success. About six years ago, the community garden lost a majority of its volunteers, and plot holder interest dwindled to just five plots in use, Cockerham recalls. Cockerham and her friend Judy Chavez made a concerted effort to bring it back to life.

"Anybody we could find, we said, 'Take a plot, put some wildflower seeds, whatever, just get something growing... Judy and I each had five plots apiece because there were so many empty ones. And now there's a waiting list...That's success," said Cockerham.

Thanks to the club, the space was transformed into a garden oasis, with pollinator gardens surrounding the plots, donated artwork scattered throughout, a shared herb garden, and shaded seating areas.

"[Plot holders] are responsible for their garden and just right around it, and so everything else is someone else's responsibility. And the Garden Club just takes that on. The plots are looking beautiful, but I think the garden as a whole really looks this nice because they've put in so much time into getting

that going in the beginning of the season," said Joshua Schaub, WRI Community Programs Educator.

The club puts in countless hours each season in order to maintain the space. Volunteers start around May, shoveling any snow if necessary, and preparing the beds. Then every two weeks, about eight volunteers gather in the morning to weed, deadhead flowers, and check irrigation leaks and dry spots. This is in addition to maintaining even more gardens at WRI's River Haus and the Post Office.

"This one kind of has a whole different feel to us, because it's more community [based]. We invite people in and want them to experience it, because it's just a season, you know? It does its thing, and then it's over," said Cockerham.

Although plots are reserved for the season, the garden is something to be enjoyed by all. Visitors are welcome to walk through, admire the garden, and spend time in the common areas.

"The part that I'm always wanting just to emphasize is how it's open to the public. I want to see more people in here just enjoying it, even if they're not a plot holder, taking some of the herbs, or having a picnic in here," said Schaub.

Large parties, drinking, and dogs are not advised. While items grown in plots are off-limits, visitors can take home clippings from the community herb spiral or a book from the Little Free Library.

The garden is located on the corner of 12th and Commercial Streets. Those interested in volunteering or reserving a plot for next year may contact WRI at 509-548-0181 or [info@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org](mailto:info@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org).

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