

Lake Chelan Mirror

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My Merry Christmas Inside Tab
COLORING BOOK & CONTEST

NCW NEWS

Connecting communities across North Central Washington
NCW News | B1 - B2

Chelan City Council selects design firm for recycling center rebuild

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN – Almost five months after the total loss of its recycling facility to fire on July 24, the city council took a step toward rebuilding during its regular bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9. The council approved a professional services agreement with Spokane firm MMEC Architecture of for design of the complex at 23233 US Hwy 97A.

City staff have been working with the city's insurance company and third-party construction consulting firm, J.S. Held, regarding the necessary next steps for rebuilding the facility. Staff has consulted with MMEC to develop a scope of work and fee to complete the design. Design work - not to exceed \$256,400, fully reimbursable by insurance - will begin immediately with the goal to begin construction in the second quarter of 2025.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a professional services agreement (PSA) with RH2

Engineering, Inc., of Wenatchee, for 2025 general engineering services for water, sewer, and stormwater. RH2 has provided general engineering services since March 2022.

The PSA allows RH2 to work on an as-needed basis and will require written authorization defining the specific project task requirements with time and budget limitations.

- Approved MMEC Architects PSA for the Facilities Conditions and Needs Assessment comprised of four phases designed to evaluate, plan, and propose improvements for city facilities, ensuring they meet current and future functional, structural, and code requirements.

Phase One-Assessment
Task 1: Review of existing documentation:

Task 2: Assessment of space and functional needs of city staff and programs.

Task 3: Structural/Building envelope review.

Task 4: Non-structural code compliance requirement.

Phase Two – Recommendations

Task 5: Building potential uses report.

Task 6: Building suitability report.

Phase Three – Conceptual designs

Task 7: Priority list of projects.

Task 8: Conceptual design.

Task 9: Cost estimates and construction phasing.

Phase Four – Final document and presentation.

Task 10: Final report.

Indigent defense services

- Approved a contract with the Wenatchee law firm Kottkamp, Yedinak & Esworthy to provide criminal indigent defense services for the city in the Chelan County District Court.

The city signed an initial three-year contract with Kottkamp Yedinak in 2019 and again in 2022.

The staff report prepared for council members said the contract abides by indigent defense standards established by the Washington Supreme Court and earlier adopted by the city. This year, the Supreme Court has

signaled its intention to revisit those standards which will likely increase costs for indigent defense attorneys. Because the standards are not yet known or when they will become effective, the term of this contract is one year, and the cost is \$113,750.00 for 175 weighted cases (weighted by their complexity). Weighted cases beyond 175 annually are compensated by an additional \$600/case.

Annual compensation of \$113,750 will be paid in monthly installments of \$9,479.16 with a fixed rate of 175 weighted cases per year. An additional \$600 paid per weighted case in excess of 175. Currently, \$75,000 is budgeted for 2025. The city needs to approve a budget amendment of \$38,750 in 2025 to cover the change in terms.

Tax Increment Area (TIA)

- Amended the approved Nov. 28, 2023, motion regarding Ordinance No. 2023-1607 (establishing the East Chelan Tax Increment Area (TIA) to remove the requirement for mitigation agreements to be completed by the

end of 2024 and instead require that mitigation be consistent with RCW 39.114.020 (designation of increment areas).

According to a staff report, previous council action approved Ordinance No. 2023-1607, establishing the East Chelan Tax Increment Area (TIA) in May 2023. In November 2023, the council approved a motion to continue negotiations with emergency service providers - Chelan County Fire District 7 and Lake Chelan EMS - throughout 2024 to allow additional time to evaluate the potential impacts on service levels within the TIA.

On November 28, 2023, the council approved Ordinance No. 2023-1607 with a commitment to develop detailed mitigation agreements with emergency services and a review before the end of 2024 to approve or repeal this ordinance. An update was provided to the council on Nov. 12 regarding the mitigation.

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

Former Chelan hospital to transform into 'Hub Center' with offices, coworking space

By **QUINN PROPST**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN – The former hospital building in Chelan is being repurposed into a mixed-use business building called the Hub Center.

Managed by Coldwell Banker Cascade, the property will provide a variety of workspace options to meet the diverse needs of the community, Property Manager Jolene Baker said.

Renovations are underway, with individual office spaces expected to become available by the spring.

The first floor is rented out by Roots Community School and they will be there for years, Baker said.

The second floor will have space for private offices and a coworking space. There will be 17 individual office spaces on the second floor. However, some of those offices could be combined to make a larger space for a business, Baker said.

The coworking space will have membership options by the hour, day, or month. Details for the coworking space are still in the planning phase. But the company plans to model the coworking area after a coworking space in Wenatchee.

Baker thinks the coworking space will be a good fit for Chelan.

"It's a new product for the Chelan market," Baker said. "Wenatchee has a couple facilities like that, and they do quite well, it's obviously a bigger



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLDWELL BANKER CASCADE
An artist's rendering shows the plans for the new Hub Center which will be housed in the old Chelan Hospital building.

community. So it will be interesting to see how it works in Chelan."

"But I do think it will be successful," she said. "I think it might be more successful seasonally. I think when tourists are in town, and if you know you have a great spot, you can go work for an hour and get away from the hotel room or the condo, it's a great option."

Both the second and third floors have great views, but the third floor has the best view, Baker said.

"Number one, it (the Hub Center) has amazing views," she said. "But small office space is very hard to find in this market. Coldwell does property management for numerous commercial spaces and small little spots for,

you know, a massage therapist or just something that doesn't need a huge office space. They don't need a big floor plan or footprint. They just need at least, maybe five, 700 square feet. These are perfect spaces for that."

The third floor will offer a larger space for one or two tenants.

"That building's been there forever, and everybody knows the old hospital," she said.

"So it's pretty iconic to be able to have an office space in there. And I think the top floor would be great for, you know, a larger company, even putting, like, a spa in there or

See **HUB CENTER** Page B2

Celtic Holiday Concert returns to Wenatchee with focus on community impact

NCW News / Ward Media

WENATCHEE – The annual Celtic holiday concert series "Christmas in Washington" is set to return to the Wenatchee Valley Convention Center on December 22 at 7 p.m., featuring electric violin virtuoso Geoffrey Castle and an ensemble of performers.

The production, now in its tenth year, combines traditional Celtic music with holiday festivities, showcasing Castle's signature six-string electric violin accompanied by a group of professional musicians. "We're inviting everyone to feel the joy and magic of the season - bringing families and communities closer together through the music," Castle said.

This year's performance includes the Seattle Irish Dance Company's Celtic Dancers, Irish guitarist and

tenor Dan Connolly, and vocalist Emily McIntosh. Local performers, the Stewart Sisters from Cascade Irish Dance, will make a special appearance. The sisters, Isabell and Zoe, recently achieved first and second place respectively at the Western Irish Dance Regionals.

Event Manager Brad Snow emphasized the community-focused nature of the production. "We liked the idea of bringing world class entertainment to communities, and using that as a Fundraiser for our communities," Snow said. According to organizers, proceeds from ticket sales support various local initiatives, including student and youth programs, senior and veteran services, and "A

See **CELTIC HOLIDAY CONCERT** Page B2



COURTESY OF CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON
Members of the Seattle Irish Dance Company perform during a previous Christmas in Washington concert.

Manson Schools honor students for academic excellence

Lake Chelan Mirror / Ward Media

MANSON – A total of 159 students at Manson High School and Manson Middle School have earned academic honors for the first trimester of the 2024-25 school year, according to honor roll lists released by school administrators.

At Manson High School, 29 students achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA to make the Scholastic Honor Roll.

The senior class led the way, with 11 students earning top marks.

The high school recognized three distinct achievement levels beyond the 4.0 category: High Honors (3.70-3.99 GPA), Honor Roll (3.40-3.69 GPA), and Honorable Mention (3.0-3.39 GPA). Twenty-eight students earned High Honors, while 23 made Honor Roll and 29 received Honorable Mention.

At Manson Middle School, the academic excellence continued with 37 students achieving perfect 4.0 GPAs. The eighth grade class (graduation year 2029) had 11 students with perfect grades.

Notable among the middle school achievements was the sixth grade class (graduation year 2031), where six students maintained perfect grades during their first trimester of middle school.

The middle school's overall honor roll distribution showed 27 students earning High Honors (3.70-3.99 GPA), 26 achieving Honor Roll status (3.40-3.69 GPA), and 17 receiving Honorable Mention (3.0-3.39 GPA).

See **MANSON SCHOOLS** Page B4

Inside Lake Chelan Mirror this Week

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Winter Sports

Chelan, Manson, Entiat

BASKETBALL, WRESTLING



CHELAN ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Luca Faletto

Boys Basketball

After our first two games, Luca Faletto is the boys basketball player of the week. At Ephrata on December 6 he led the team in scoring with 22 points and helped the Goats to a 20 point win-46-66. Then less than 24 hours later, he turned around at home and helped the Goats beat Hoquiam 85-48 by scoring 20 points, snaring 8 steals, grabbing 5 rebounds, and dishing out 3 assists.

Luca's effort and attitude have been outstanding so far this season!

CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL

SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL - BOYS				
Fri, Dec 13	7:30 PM	Chelan 58, Brewster 49	Win	
Sat, Dec 14	5:30 PM	Chelan 57, Colville 47	Win/	

SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL - GIRLS				
Fri, Dec 13	6:00 PM	Chelan 26, Brewster 68	Loss	
Sat, Dec 14	4:00 PM	Chelan 31, Colville 49	Loss	

SCHEDULE BASKETBALL - BOYS				
Fri, Dec 20	7:15 PM	Chelan vs Cascade	Home	

SCHEDULE BASKETBALL - GIRLS				
Fri, Dec 20	5:45 PM	Chelan vs Cascade	Home	

ENTIAT HIGH SCHOOL

SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL - BOYS				
Tue, Dec 10		Entiat 33, Bridgeport 66	Loss	
Fri, Dec 13		Entiat 61, Wilson Creek 52	Win	

SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL - GIRLS				
Tue, Dec 10		Entiat 30, Bridgeport 36	Loss	
Thu, Dec 12	7:30 PM	Entiat 41, Manson 36	Win	
Fri, Dec 13	6:00 PM	Entiat 28, Wilson Creek 37	Loss	

SCHEDULE BASKETBALL - BOYS				
Fri, Dec 20	6:00 PM	Entiat vs. Curlew	Home	

SCHEDULE BASKETBALL - GIRLS				
Fri, Dec 20	4:30	PM Entiat vs. Curlew	Home	

MANSON HIGH SCHOOL

SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL - BOYS				
Tue, Dec 10		Mason 66, Soap Lake 17	Win	
Sat, Dec 14		Manson 55, Omak 60	Loss	

SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL - GIRLS				
Tue, Dec 10		Mason 32, Soap Lake 29	Win	
Thu, Dec 12	7:30 PM	Manson 31, Entiat 36	Loss	
Sat, Dec 14	6:00 PM	Manson 34, Omak 58	Loss	

SCHEDULE BASKETBALL - BOYS				
Fri, Dec 20	7:30 PM	Manson vs. Neah Bay	Home	
Sat, Dec 21	7:30	PM Manson vs. Kittitas	Home	

SCHEDULE BASKETBALL - GIRLS				
Sat, Dec 21	6:00 PM	Manson vs. Kittitas	Home	



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA
Zimri Kelling of Chelan wrestles Omak's Colton Stansbury during the Cashmere Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Kelling pinned Stansbury in the first round of their match.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA
Colten Bowthorpe, top, wrestles fellow Chelan Goat Conner Scaman during the Cashmere Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 14. Bowthorpe outpointed Scaman 11-10 en route to taking first place at 113 lbs. Scaman finished third.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA
Chelan's Maddoc Finch, in the foreground, tries to escape the grip of Cashmere's Jacoby Tait during the Cashmere Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 14. Tait outpointed Finch 14-7.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA
Chelan's Andrew Alcalá, at right, prepares to do battle at the Cashmere Invitational Wrestling Tournament against Eastmont's Nelson Nygard on Dec. 14. Alcalá went on to finish in sixth place at 157 lbs.

Goats top Bears 58-49, girls fall by 40

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The Chelan Goats varsity basketball team spoiled the opportunity for the host Brewster Bears to secure their first win of the season last Friday, Dec. 13.

Chelan took the opening lead in the first quarter and gradual-

ly extended that margin to 32-19 at halftime, but the Bears were not done. Brewster rallied with an 11-0 run and closed within two points, 32-30, at the beginning of the third quarter before Chelan again pulled away.

With Chelan leading 40-31 at the close of the third, the Bears again attempted a comeback, but this time, they could get no

closer than five points before the Goats put the game out of reach, 58-49.

Jacob Allen and Zach Noid scored in double figures with 16 and 14 points, respectively, to pace Chelan.

Brewster's Fabian Nava, with 14 points, Thomas McCarty with 11, and Jacob Piechalski, 10, led the Bears.

Chelan hit 7-13 from the foul line and turned the ball over 17 times compared to 12-19 shooting and 21 turnovers for Brewster.

Scoring:
Jacob Allen - 16
Zach Noid - 14
Luca Faletto - 8
Tev Uttech - 8
Trevor Faletto - 6
Tanner Orestad - 3

Nolan Harris - 3

Lady Goats fall

The Chelan girls' varsity started out well with the first three consecutive baskets and a 5-0 lead when Brewster responded with its first score on a three-point shot that triggered a 14-point barrage that found Chelan trailing by 10 points, 17-7 at the

end of the first quarter. The home court crowd and advantage continued to work in the Bears' favor through a 42-15 halftime lead.

Try as they might, the Lady Goats could not find the game-changing response to prevent a 40-point, 66-26 final.

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

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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Impact Stream: Empowering Communities in Togo Through Blockchain Technology

By CAROLINE MENA
Ward Media Intern

LEAVENWORTH – In an era where global aid organizations often dictate the solutions for struggling communities, a decentralized non-governmental organization is challenging the norm by empowering citizens to take charge of their own development.

Impact Stream, a trailblazing initiative, has launched a pilot project in the West African nation of Togo that allows local residents to allocate resources where they are needed most. By utilizing a blockchain-based platform, the organization is fostering transparency, collaboration, and sustainability in its community-driven development efforts.

Impact Stream's model is simple but revolutionary: the platform enables individuals to propose and vote on projects that directly impact their communities. In Togo, where access to basic services like clean water, education, and job training is limited, this model is helping to bridge the gap. The first wave of projects included the creation of a technology education center for adults, a youth training program focused on textile and apparel manufacturing, the construction of a community library, a solar-powered clean water access initiative, and the provision of

new equipment for an elementary school.

The organization's commitment to transparency is one of its core values. Through the Impact Stream platform, donors can track their contributions every step of the way, ensuring that funds are used effectively and responsibly.

As Leavenworth hotelier, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Hans Mulders, an Impact Stream board member, explains: "Impact Stream reflects the impact that we want to create on impoverished communities and countries by providing an effective, continuous stream of resources to help them build infrastructure. This transparency allows donors to see exactly how their money is being spent, unlike traditional aid organizations where funds are often pooled together, making it difficult to trace individual contributions."

Mulders, who grew up in Ethiopia, saw firsthand the pitfalls of traditional top-down aid models: "Most NGOs focus on designing solutions for people in need, but that approach often leads to problems. Even well-made infrastructure, for example, can break, but there is no easy way for communities to obtain spare parts or make repairs." Impact Stream aims to change this by providing communities with the technical support necessary

to sustain and repair projects long after the initial funding has been used.

Impact Stream's founder Will Little, a fellow entrepreneur with a passion for impactful philanthropy whom Mulders describes as "the smartest guy in the room," introduced Mulders to the concept of decentralized charitable giving. This vision led to the development of the Impact Stream platform, which leverages blockchain technology to ensure that every project is transparent, accountable, and trackable.

The platform also allows community members in Togo to propose projects and vote on which initiatives should be prioritized. Projects are submitted during a 60-day window, and once the voting period is over, the community decides which project will receive funding first.

The process is built on the principle of inclusivity, allowing those who are directly affected by the projects to have a say in the decisions that will impact their lives.

While Impact Stream is still in its early stages, having recently completed its second year of operation, the organization is steadily growing. They are currently in the process of becoming a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit and are looking for donors who are willing to contribute on a recurring basis. "We are

in constant fundraising mode," says Mulders, emphasizing the need for sustained support to continue these efforts.

One of the most distinctive features of Impact Stream is its commitment to making its software open-source. This means that any organization can use the platform free of charge to implement similar projects in other parts of the world. "Our goal is to help the rest of the world become less stressful," Mulders explains. By providing a platform for decentralized decision-making and transparent funding, Impact Stream is helping create a world where local communities can thrive without relying on traditional, top-down aid models.

Togo was chosen as the pilot location for Impact Stream's work because of the network of trust that Mulders and Little have developed there. The team believes that local knowledge

and collaboration are key to ensuring the success of the initiative. "Togolese helping Togolese with American support," says Mulders, highlighting the importance of local involvement in the process.

In a world where international aid often falls short of its promises, Impact Stream offers a refreshing alternative. By harnessing the power of technology and local leadership, the organization is helping communities in Togo build the infrastructure and resources they need to thrive – while creating a model that can be replicated in other regions. As the project grows and more communities are empowered, Impact Stream is paving the way for a new kind of philanthropy – one that is transparent, sustainable, and community-driven.

For more information and/or to donate to Impact Stream: <https://www.impact.stream>



COURTESY OF IMPACT STREAM
Breaking ground on an Impact Stream funded project in southern Togo that will introduce a water well, equipped with a solar pump, designed to provide reliable and clean water to a local school and the surrounding village communities that currently rely on unsanitary sources.

Caroline Menna is an intern for Ward Media and a senior at Cascade High School, where she serves as Editor-in-Chief of the school's Publications Group.

Teen charged in Chelan gas station robbery

NCW News / Ward Media

CHELAN – A 16-year-old male faces first-degree robbery charges following a November incident at a Safeway gas station in Chelan.

The robbery occurred on November 25 at approximately 9:47 a.m., when a suspect entered the gas station wearing a pink face mask, sunglasses,

and a black shirt, according to Chelan County Sheriff Mike Morrison. The suspect indicated he had a knife and demanded cash from the clerk.

Deputies responded but were unable to locate the suspect due to a delay in reporting the incident, Morrison said.

Investigators later obtained surveillance footage of the robbery. Multiple community

members, including Chelan School Resource Deputy Bushy, positively identified the suspect as a local juvenile male.

The suspect is currently being held at the Chelan County Juvenile Justice Center on first-degree robbery charges.

Due to the suspect's age, his identity has not been released.

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Water Reservoir Project gains federal authorization

Lake Chelan Mirror
Ward Media

WASHINGTON – A new water reservoir project in Chelan secured federal authorization as part of broader water resources legislation, marking a significant step toward addressing the city’s wildfire preparedness and water supply challenges.

The authorization was included in the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024, which passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support.

The provision, championed by Rep. Kim Schrier, D-Wash., authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with design and construction of the East Chelan water reservoir.

“I’ve heard directly from local officials and my constitu-

ents in the Lake Chelan area on how impactful a water reservoir for the east side of town would be,” Schrier said.

“The reservoir would provide a critical, dependable source in case of a wildfire and serve as a water supply for future development in the area while reducing water infrastructure costs.”

The project aims to address critical vulnerabilities in Chelan’s current water system, which relies entirely on booster pump stations to distribute water from Lake Chelan across elevation changes.

Officials say power outages or pump failures could leave the east side of the city without water for firefighting and daily use.

Chelan Mayor Erin McCa-rdle praised the congressional delegation’s efforts.

“We are incredibly thankful for the support of Representative Schrier, Senator Murray, and Senator Cantwell,” McCa-rdle said.

“Their efforts have been pivotal to realizing the inclusion of the East Chelan Water Reservoir project in the bill.”

The authorization is a crucial prerequisite for accessing future funding through the Army Corps of Engineers’ Environmental Infrastructure program.

Without this legislative approval, the project would be ineligible for federal funding through this channel.

Before reaching President Biden’s desk, the legislation must first clear the Senate. Rep. Schrier’s office indicated she will continue advocating for project funding once the authorization is finalized.

Point of View

Continued from page A2

funding for regional capital and transportation projects, including extending Wenatchee Valley’s Loop Trail to Lincoln Rock State Park, completing the West Cashmere Bridge, funding a sewer line beyond East Wenatchee, improving the Saddle Rock trail system, adding buildings to Wenatchee Valley College, and advancing Wenatchee’s Confluence Parkway.

The bills passed and funding secured were never accomplished alone, thanks to the support of my hard-working seatmates, local elected officials, and community groups.

Our region had the greatest impact in Olympia when we came together on issues, partnered with statewide advocacy groups, and spoke with a collective voice. It was very fulfilling to work with large groups of diverse stakeholders to eventually

accomplish something that had been difficult to achieve.

My greatest accomplishment

People often ask me about my most significant legislative achievement and my answer often surprises them. Rather than any bill sponsored or project funded, I always consider my approach to constituent outreach and customer service as to be my proudest accomplishment. Soon after my election to the Senate, I began a tradition of annual “Listening Tours.” At first, I wasn’t sure whether these would work, but our communities responded so positively that I expanded them every year, which proved both fun and helpful.

I’d also like to thank my staff, past and present, for all of their help in serving you over the years. Many of you may know that my office implemented a process where each constituent who wrote in would receive an email response by staff almost

immediately and handwritten note from me within a couple days. This became the expectation for my office, but it certainly wasn’t easy when we sometimes would receive 200 emails and calls each day, but that was our standard of service to you.

The honor of my professional career

Looking back on my 12 years in Olympia, it seems to have gone by quickly. Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve you as your State Representative and Senator. I am profoundly grateful. You are in good hands with our 12th Legislative District team. I look forward to working with them – and continuing to serve you – as your next Chelan County Commissioner.

Brad Hawkins has served 12 years in the Washington State Legislature. He was elected Chelan County Commissioner for District 3 in November and will begin on January 1.

Celtic Holiday Concert

Continued from page A1

HOME for the Holidays,” a new housing assistance program.

The organization will release a live album titled “Geoffrey Castle’s Celtic Christmas LIVE!” exclusively available for purchase at the concerts.



COURTESY OF CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON

The Stewart sisters of Cascade Irish Dance pose in matching green sequined performance dresses and traditional Irish dance shoes. The trio will make their debut appearance at this year’s Christmas in Washington concert in Wenatchee.

Tickets are available at the door while supplies last, with a special Coca-Cola Family Pass discount offered. Additional information can be obtained through the event website at www.christmasinwashington.com or by calling (509) 881-8811.

Looking ahead, Cascade Irish Dance has announced plans to open a dance school in Wenatchee in 2025.



COURTESY OF CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON

Electric violin virtuoso Geoffrey Castle performs in front of a decorated Christmas tree during a holiday concert. His signature black cowboy hat and embellished coat with glittering accents have become hallmarks of the Christmas in Washington shows.

Washington State Parks launches New Year’s Day hiking events statewide

NCW News / Ward Media

OLYMPIA – More than 30 Washington state parks will host outdoor activities on New Year’s Day 2025 as part of the annual First Day Hikes program.

The initiative, part of a nationwide program by America’s State Parks, will feature various activities including guided hikes, snowshoe excursions, trail rides, polar plunges and scavenger hunts.

Last year’s events drew more than 1,700 participants who covered 2,907.2 miles of trails across Washington’s state parks.

Activities span multiple difficulty levels and locations.

Fort Worden will offer a 2.5-mile trek through historic grounds and scenic trails, while Palouse Falls State Park will host a photo scavenger hunt near Washington’s official state waterfall. Lake Wenatchee plans a guided 2.5-mile snowshoe hike with limited com-

plementary equipment rentals available.

The parks department has prioritized accessibility, with ADA-compliant trails available at six locations: Bridle Trails, Columbia Plateau Trail, Lake Sylvia, Palouse Falls, Seaquest and Wenatchee Confluence.

Other featured activities include a cold-water plunge at Maryhill’s swim beach, a 1.5-mile old-growth forest exploration at South Whidbey, and equestrian trail rides at Bridle Trails State Park.

January 1 marks 2025’s first Discover Pass free day, waiving parking fees at state recreation lands. However, Sno-Park permits remain mandatory at winter recreation areas including Lake Easton, Lake Wenatchee and Mount Spokane.

Most activities require advance registration and have limited group sizes. Registration information is available through the Washington State Parks website at www.ncw.social/2p98e5c6.

Hub Center

Continued from page A1

something like that. There’s tons of options.”

The group recently held an open house in the space so the public could see the progress inside. Baker said they plan to have more opportunities for the public to view the space as it progresses.

Community members have been curious about what is happening in the building. Workers

have gutted the space and community members have seen a lot of activity at the site, Baker said.

“So having this open house is just basically for the community,” she said.

“The community can see what’s going on, all the exciting ‘what’s going to be coming up’, and then we’ll do more open houses as it progresses as well.”

Quinn Propst: 509-731-3590 or quinn@ward.media



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLDWELL BANKER CASCADE
An artist’s rendering shows the plans for the new Hub Center which will be housed in the old Chelan Hospital building.

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