



Invasive 'murder hornets' found in Washington have been eradicated, officials say
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Quad City Herald

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Pateros Lights



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Viewed from Lakeshore Park, the City of Pateros' Christmas light display around the multipurpose building makes a statement to outlight the holiday lights in every other Quad city.

Pateros Booster Club lobbies for new school sign

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PATEROS – The Pateros Booster Club wants to update the school sign located at the intersection of Hwy 97 and Lakeshore Drive. For its part, the city would also like to use the sign to advertise events and emergency messages.

That was the issue discussed at the Dec. 16 meeting of the city council by booster club members Ashley Rowe and Erica Ravenstein. Rowe said the club chose TV Liquidator in Los Angeles as the most cost-effective vendor because it allows the buyer to install the sign. The documentation presented to the council shows a total cost quote of

\$18,785 for the double-sided 5 x 7-foot unit with a 40-foot pedestal. It comes with a six-year warranty.

"We have raised \$10,000 and the school has agreed to put in \$10,000," said Rowe. "We got a grant from Ad West for \$2,500 and a couple other grant opportunities to apply for."

The city is being asked to contribute \$5,000 to the project.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kerri Wilson said the city has researched digital signs in anticipation of signage that is part of the upgrades for the mall and Commercial Avenue.

"Most digital signs do not give more than a 10-year lifetime warranty on the inside, and then you have to replace it," said Wilson.

"Six years is pretty normal."

The new sign will replace the existing sign that is on DOT property. The school and city will communicate further, and City Administrator Jord Wilson will reach out to DOT.

"We're excited about it," said Rowe. "We hope it will be good move for the school, we can make it bilingual; there are a lot of perks in doing it."

The council approved the \$5,000 donation from hotel-motel funds with the stipulation that the city can advertise two-day events and emergency messages on it.

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



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Ashley Rowe presents her request to city council on Dec. 16.



Sign Prototype

MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Like heralds from on high two Brewster city workers use a manlifter to install a message we should all take to heart this season.

Senior Center requests handicap access ramp



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Senior Center

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The Brewster-Bridgeport-Pateros Senior Center wants the city to add a safety feature in front of its entry.

Board Treasurer Charlene Knox addressed the Dec. 19 meeting of the city council after an 88-year-old senior in a wheelchair had difficulty getting into his vehicle at the handicap ramp located on the corner at the PUD building.

"If there is any possible way to do a regular handicap spot in front of the senior center instead of handicap loading and unloading only," said Knox, "and change the curb in front of the door where we can get a ramp for safety it would be appreciated."

As it happens, the city is already

addressing its ADA access sites.

"We just recently went through our ordinance to change it so we could add handicap access all along Main Street," said Mayor Art Smyth. "I can't guarantee a ramp right there, but we can certainly set aside a space for that."

In a related item, the mayor responded to the senior center's annual request for city funding.

"The request is for \$2,250 and that has been the same for 10 years," said Smyth, "I would like to give them a COLA (cost of living adjustment) raise. That came out to \$2,925 and I would like to round that up to \$3,000."

The council unanimously approved.

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

Colville Tribes receive \$19.1M federal grant to expand rural broadband access

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

NESPELEM -- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is receiving a \$19.1 million grant to connect 165 people, six businesses, and 20 farms across the Colville Reservation in Okanogan County.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is part of the projects being financed by the fifth round of the ReConnect Program, specifically designed to fund the most difficult high-speed internet projects in the nation, which are in the most rural, remote, and unserved communities.

The USDA has invested approximately \$4.4 billion for 360 ReConnect awards that will bring high-speed internet access to more than 680,000 people in the most rural and remote areas of America. More than \$2.2 billion of this funding, which will benefit an estimated 341,000 people, was made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, established as part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), provided \$42.45 billion in state broadband grants with

the goal of providing all Americans access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service by 2030.

Every state - plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. - was awarded at least \$100 million, with outlying U.S. territories awarded at least \$25 million.

The highest allocation - \$3.3 billion - went to Texas, followed by California, \$1.9 billion, and Missouri, \$1.7 billion. Among the 19 states awarded more than \$1 billion is Washington with \$1.23 billion.

As of August 2024, Okanogan County partners have received more than \$80 million in BEAD funds. The CCT was awarded a first-round funding of \$48 million from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

"The current amount of funding is about one third of what is needed," said Ernie Rasmussen, Executive Director of Bigfoot Telecommunications. "We have since requested another \$95 million."

The first round of funding will allow about 2,200 homes to be served. The tribe has a total of 3,300 broadband serviceable locations."

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

Inside The Quad City Herald this Week

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Corrections

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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. 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!



Damian Livermore

5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Omak Library Book Club

"Do you like to read and discuss books? Join us for this monthly book club meeting hosted by the Omak Public Library," the event page states. "We will have the book ready at the beginning of the month so that you can pick it up and have it read by the last Friday of the month."

The Omak Library will host The Omak Library Book Club on Friday, December 27 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit nculibraries.org.

Live music by Damian Livermore

Lakeside Public House in Chelan will host live music by Damian Livermore on Saturday, December 28 from 6-9 p.m.

"Join us for live music with Damian Livermore on Saturday, December 28 from 6-9 p.m.," the event page states. "The Lakeside Public House features a menu created by Executive Chef Justin Araya, who has put together a unique scratch menu with his twist on some traditional Public House dishes."

For more information, visit sigillocellars.com.

New Year's Eve dinner

Lone Point Cellars in Brewster will host a New Year's Eve Dinner on Tuesday, December 31 from 6-9 p.m.

"Join our tradition and celebrate with us our Welcome 2025, New Years Eve Dinner," the event page states. "Enjoy a three-course meal featuring your choice of Alaskan Baked

Salmon or Smoked Beef Tenderloin. Each guest will receive 3 tickets to our Annual Raffle. Count down East Coast New Years in style with a Champagne toast at 9 p.m."

For more information, visit lonepointcellars.com.

Pub Trivia

Stormy Mountain Brewing in Chelan will host Pub Trivia on Wednesday, January 1 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

"Join your friends and family for the local favorite - Stormy Mountain Pub Trivia," the event page states. "We have fun questions made for all ages - culture, history, sports, and more. Awesome prizes

and as always - free to play."

For more information, visit stormymountainbrewing.com.

Think and Drink Thursdays

Campbell's Resort in Chelan will host Think and Drink Thursdays on Thursday,

January 2 from 7-8 p.m.

"Get your thinking caps on and head to the Pub for trivia night," the event page states. "Quizmaster Spencer will be testing your wits in a variety of categories - so bring your A game."

For more information, visit campbellsresort.com.

Invasive 'murder hornets' found in Washington have been eradicated, officials say

By JACQUELYN JIMENEZ

ROMERO
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA - The hunt for invasive "murder hornets" is over in Washington and the rest of the U.S. after three years without confirmed detections, state and federal officials said last week.

"It is a rare day when the humans actually get to win one against the insects," said Sven Spichiger, Washington State Department of Agriculture pest program manager.

The insects — formally known as northern giant hornets — posed a significant threat to honey bees and other native insects in the Pacific Northwest. They can kill an entire hive in as little as 90 minutes by decapitating the bees.

Officials described the search for the hornets as something like a scene out of a movie. Teams captured one of the 2-inch hornets, attached a small tag to the insect, and tracked it back to its nest by listening to radio transmitter beeps.

The hornet's sting also poses a threat to humans as it can penetrate a beekeeping suit and a swarm of stings can be fatal. In 2013, more than 40 people were killed and over 1,000 were injured in China by the insects.

In North America, they were first spotted in British Columbia, Canada in August 2019 and confirmed in Whatcom County, Washington in December of that year.

Despite these detections

occurring around the same time and location, DNA evidence suggests the hornets found in Washington originated from South Korea while the ones in British Columbia originated in Japan.

Between 2020 and 2021, four nests were spotted inside tree hollows in Washington. This was distinctive, as the hornets tend to nest in the ground.

Spichiger theorized that nesting in trees could have been a trait of the specific hornets that turned up in Washington or a response to flooding at the time they were around.

Eradication efforts, which began in 2019, involved collaboration between state, federal, and international government agencies as well as support from community members. Over half of the confirmed detections came from the public, according to Spichiger.

"If the entire community hadn't stood up and taken action, there is a real good chance that we would just all be living with the northern giant hornet," Spichiger said.

The state continued trapping efforts through this year in Whatcom County. Despite trapping and continued public outreach, no additional hornets have been detected in the area. The last trap was removed from that part of the state on Dec. 5.

There was a "suspicious hornet sighting," in Kitsap County, south of Port Orchard, in October, according to the state Department of Agriculture. But this report was based on an image



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A Washington State Department of Agriculture team is seen after removing hornets from the first northern giant hornet nest detected in the U.S., during October 2020.

provided by a member of the public and the department was unable to get the hornet.

The department will continue trapping in this area as a precaution until 2025. But so far, trapping and community outreach haven't yielded any evidence of northern giant hornets in the area, the agency said.

"Although they are now eradicated from the state, we'll always be keeping an eye out for them and encourage community members to do the same," Spichiger said. "They got here once and they could do it again."

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COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A northern giant hornet seen on an apple.



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A northern giant hornet is fitted with a tracking device.

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Community Bulletin Board

Local, Regional Community News & Events

Meetings

Mondays

Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee: Second Monday, 6 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. Okanogan County Commissioners' hearing room, 123 N. Fifth Ave., Okanogan.

Family and friends Support Group: Third Monday, 7-8:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee. Contact: 509-860-3620, website at: tcfwenatcheevalley.org

Tuesday

Okanogan County PUD: The commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month a at 3 p.m. Information: okanoganpud.org

Douglas County PUD meetings: The commission meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the East Wenatchee office. Information: douglaspubd.org

Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group: Second Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee. Contact: 509-860-3620, website at: tcfwenatcheevalley.org

Wednesday

American Legion Post #97: Current members meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Brewster. Information: Greg Wagg, 206-550-6474.

American Legion Auxiliary #97: Meets the first Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Brewster.

Brewster Chamber of Commerce: Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 12 p.m. at the Senior Center, 109 Bridge Street. Information email: brewsterwachamber@gmail.com

Death Cafe Chelan: Third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Chelan Public Library, 216 N. Emerson Street; and 5:30-6:30 p.m., Chelan Senior Center, 534 Trow Avenue.

Chelan. Contact: Concie Luna at 509-630-2972 or Vita Monteleone at monte419@nwi.net.

TOPS® Chapter Paves the Way to Healthy Lifestyle: Weekly on Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. TOPS® chapter (weight loss support group) meetings at Lake Chelan United Methodist Church, located at 206 N. Emerson St. in Chelan. Attendees should use the side entrance of the church between the Lake Chelan Health Express Care Clinic and the church. TOPS empowers people to stop dieting and start creating healthy, enjoyable lifestyle habits that will work for them over the long haul.

Thursdays

Brewster bus trips: OCTN takes Brewster area residents to Wenatchee, second Thursday of the month. The bus starts picking folks up at their homes at 7:30 a.m. Riders may request destination(s); medical appointments etc. On the third Thursday of each month, riders will be taken to Omak for the day. Riders request their destination(s). Wenatchee: \$12/boarding for General Public, \$6 suggested donation/day for Seniors (60 plus). Omak: \$5.50/General Public, \$2.75 suggested donation Seniors (60 plus). (509) 826-4391 to reserve your seat.

Chelan Cancer Support Group: First Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Lake Chelan Health Hospital. Lunch (purchase from hospital cafe)/meeting in Bragg Room. Meetings are open to anyone impacted by cancer. Including: patients, survivors, caregivers, family members and especially those who are recently diagnosed. It is also open to folks wanting to learn ways to support someone affected by cancer. It's a place where members can offer advice, share coping strategies, and build relationships along their journey. More info: Anne Brooks, 509-682-8718.

Family Caregivers/Support Group: Third Thursday, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, Coldwell Banker Board Room, 216 E. Woodin Avenue, Chelan.

Other Events/meetings

Brewster Senior Meals: The Senior Center serves meals at noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Home delivered meals are delivered those same days. Call 509-689-2815 to reserve meals. For those over age 60 \$5. For those 60 and under \$12.

Senior Center Thrift Store: The Brewster- Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center Thrift Store is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. They are also the Brewster Visitor Information Center and the Brewster Chamber of Commerce meeting room.

Brewster American Legion events: Bingo every Thursday night at 6 p.m. Open to the public. Friday Steak Dinner starts at 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., order from the full breakfast menu. Daily lunch specials except for Mondays and Saturday when they are closed.

Lake Chelan Museum of Wildlife, Natural History & Art Gallery: Will be open Dec. 26, 27, 28, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., each day. January 2025 through March they will be open for school field trips and other community special meetings by appointment. Call Shannon Kollmeyer, 509-670-8081. Located at 21285 Highway 97A, Chelan, north of the Knapp's Hill Tunnel, approximately 10 minutes south of Chelan.

Chelan Valley Hope: Chelan Valley Hope: Whether you are celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Yule (Winter Solstice), Las Posadas, the end of a year, different cultural practices or no cultural practices, Chelan Valley Hope would like to wish you happy holidays and let you know that you are in our thoughts during this holiday season. Hope is closed from December 23-29 for the holiday week. However, the Little Essentials Pantry, located to the left of the front door, is available 24/7. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call us at 509-888-2114. Or visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details: chelanvalleyhope.org. @ ChelanValleyHope.

Okanogan & Douglas County Sheriff, Brewster Police Dept Report



This report is compiled from records provided by the Okanogan & Douglas County Sheriff, Brewster Police Dept. The publisher cannot certify the complete accuracy of the information provided.

Douglas County

Dec 13

9:24:57 Suspicious, 417 Columbia Ave, Bridgeport
 14:07:25 Property, 10blk Moe Rd, Bridgeport Bar
 15:10:16 Cps/Aps Refer, Bridgeport, Wa
 18:16:34 Parking/Abandon, 1243 Douglas Ave, Bridgeport
 21:19:54 Assist Agency, Sr 173 Mp3, Bridgeport Bar
 23:42:45 Traffic Offense, 100blk E Park St, Waterville

Dec 14

4:37:08 Accident No Inj, Rd 15 Ne & Rd B Ne, Mansfield
 15:38:51 Assist Public, 200blk Ponderosa Rd, Waterville
 15:59:36 Hazard, 320 9th St, Bridgeport, Wa
 18:04:10 Domestic Disturbance, 210 Wash St, A, Waterville
 20:34:47 Weapons Violation, 4 Moe Rd, Bridgeport Bar
 Dec 15
 11:39:42 Accident No Inj, 855 Fairview Ave, Bridgepo Rt
 11:39:42 Accident No Inj, 855 Fairview Ave, Bridgepo Rt
 20:16:27 Assist Agency, 217 16th St, Bridgeport, W

Dec 16

4:28:10 Accident No Injury, Us Hwy 2 Mp 154, Waterville
 4:30:59 Suspicious, 965 Maple St, Bridgeport,

Dec 17

7:52:44 Juvenile Proble, 1101 Columbia Ave, Bridgeport
 10:51:39 Suspicious, 120 2nd St, Bridgeport Bar
 11:41:47 Cps/Aps Refer, 1712 Fisk Ave, Bridgeport

Dec 19

Brewster Police Dept.
Dec 13
 09:33:44 Theft Other, Highway 97, Brewster Comments: M Took A Chain Saw And Other Items. Trespass From Store
 13:07:26 Fraud, 15th St,

Bridgeport, Wa Comments:

Dec 15

00:33:42 911 Abuse, Hospital Way, Brewster, Wa
 Comments 911 Hang Up From Land Line. Called The Number Back, Phone Connected But Unable To Hear Anything But Static. Line Disconnected After Several Minutes I Spoke Withm Subj; Its His Parents House, He Is House Sitting, Phone That Called 911 Is The One That's Disconnected
 08:22:10 Animal Problem, Methow Ave, Brewster, Wa

Dec 16

10:41:13 Disabled Vehicle, Highway 97 & Old Hwy 97, Brewster Comments: Semi Blocking Nb Lane, Advd Dot

Dec 17

11:50:47 Citizen Assist, Highway 97, Brewster
 15:42:05 Accident Unkinj Sr 173 Hwy, Bridgeport, Wa
 Comments: 2 Veh Collision, 1 Veh On Its Top In Ditch, 1 Veh Blocking Rdwy
 17:51:00 Slideoff, Old Hwy 97, Brewster, Wa
 22:27:24 1 Alarm Fire, S 4th St, Brewster, Wa Comments: No Smoke Detected, Unk If Carbon And Fire Alarm

Dec 18

07:53:31 Domestic Dispute, S 6th St, Brewster, Wa
 Comments: Fem Caller On 911 Was Emotional And Didn't Know Where She Was At. Phone Was Pinning At Loc. Fem Stated In The Middle Of The Call To Cancel During The Open Line Fem Was Aruging W/ Another Fem And A Male. Line Disconnected.

Okanogan County Sheriff

Dec 13

09:06:46 Vin Inspection Lakeshore Dr; Pateros
 Comments: Rp Avl By Phone

Two Vehs Were Donated To The Fd And Used For Training. Fd Has Since Lost The Paperwork And Is Needing To Have Them Removed Now That The Training Is Complete.
 09:33:44 Agency Assist Highway 97; Brewster, Wa Officer: Kim Michael Comments: M Took A Chain Saw And Other Items.

Dec 15

19:04:32 Accident Noninj Brewster Airport Rd; Brewster Comments: Single Veh Collision, Right Side Of The Entrance To The Airport.

15:29:13 Civil, Morning Star Way, Brewster, Wa Officer: Kim Michael Comments: Rp Sold Res At Loc But The Electric Is Still In Ex Husband's Sons Name, Electric Company Advd She Could Not Disconnect Account Because The Son's Advd He Still Lives At Loc Even Though The Res Has Been Empty For Months, Rp Req Options, Rp Is Currently Driving Back Home To Spokane And Avl By Phone

Dec 16

16:43:01 Alarm Burglary Golf Course Dr, Pateros, Wa Comments: Zone 1 Front Door Smash And Crash

Dec 17

11:09:57 Animal Stray Old Hwy 97, Brewster, Wa Comments: Assisting W/ Cows On The Rdwy
 11:50:47 Citizen Assist Highway 97; Brewster
 19:22:51 911 Transfer Highway 97, Brewster, Wa Comments: Whi 4d Pc. No Injuries. In Ditch, Non-Blocking.

Dec 18

06:26:10 Animal Stray, Old Hwy 97; Nb, Brewster, Wa Comments: 2 Blk Cows In The Rdway, Rp Didn't See A Tag. Rp Advd She Is About To Pull Up To A Plow And They Might Move Them Along

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Quad City Church Guide
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Holiday Joy
 MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
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From the courts to the mats,
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is proud to support our student athletes.

Bridgeport High School Scoreboard

Boys Basketball Scoreboard					
Tue, Dec 17	Bridgeport		Oroville		Canceled
Wed, Dec 18	Bridgeport	50	Moses Lake	62	Loss
Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Tue, Dec 17	Bridgeport		Oroville		Canceled
Wed, Dec 18	Bridgeport	51	Moses Lake Christian	53	Loss
Thur, Dec 19	Bridgeport	44	Odesa	51	Loss

Pateros High School

Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Fri, Dec 20	Pateros	52	Neah Bay	30	Win
Girls Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Dec 27	6:00 PM	Pateros vs.	Liberty Bell		Home

Brewster High School

Boys Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Dec 27	12:30 PM	Brewster vs.	The Bear Creek School		Home
Sat, Dec 28	1:30 PM	Brewster vs.	Riverside		Away
Girls Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Dec 27	3:30 PM	Brewster vs.	Zillah		Home
Sat, Dec 28	10:30 AM	Brewster vs.	Cashmere		Home
Boys Basketball Scoreboard					
Fri, Dec 20	Brewster	60	Adna	66	Loss
Sat, Dec 21	Brewster	58	Napavine	65	Loss
Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Fri, Dec 20	Brewster	46	Rainier	47	Win/Loss

Waterville High School

Boys Basketball Schedule					
Sat, Dec 28	5:00 PM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	Moses Lake Christian Academy		Away
Girls Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Dec 27	2:00 PM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	Quincy		Home
Sat, Dec 28	11:00 AM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	La Center		Away
Boys Basketball Scoreboard					
Sat, Dec 21	Waterville-Mansfield	50	Cascade	40	Loss
Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Sat, Dec 21	Waterville-Mansfield	46	Neah Bay	61	Loss

Who let the Lady Bears out for 40-point Chelan win?

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The Dec. 13 matchup between the visiting Chelan Goats of the Caribou Trail League and Brewster Bears varsity basketball teams started off well enough for the Lady Goats. The 1A Caribou Trail League visitors scored the game's first five unanswered points before someone evidently noticed that the Lady Bears were still waiting for somebody to open their cage door.

WHO LET THE BEARS OUT? We may never know, but we do know what can happen when you do...

Pepper Boesel opened the Brewster scoring with a

three-point shot. Freshman Berkley Reagles - who earned her starting spot following a 16-point performance against Reardan three days earlier - was next in line with a trey. Those were the opening volleys of 15 unanswered points interrupted only by the end of the 17-7 first quarter.

The Chelan rim barely had time to cool before Morgan McGuire hit back-to-back threes at the start of the second quarter and a long night for the Lady Goats. By halftime, barring a seismic shift in team momentum, the game was over at 42-15.

But it was not over. The Lady Bears piled on to a 51-22 third quarter and a 40-point, 66-26 victory.

McGuire, Boesel, and Reagles scored in double figures for Brewster. Brynn Eubanks led Chelan with 12 points.

Turnovers were nearly identical with Chelan giving up the ball 18 times and the Bears 17.

BREWSTER SCORING	
M. McGuire	22
P. Boesel	20
B. Reagles	13
G. Becker	6
L. Ramirez	3
H. Aparicio	2

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

American Legion Columbia Post 97 Christmas party



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Brandon Caswell shows off the elk print he selected during the White Elephant gift exchange at the American Legion Columbia Post 97 Christmas party on Dec. 18.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Brewster

Preston Thompson
Boys Basketball
#23 Sophomore



Preston is showing promise as he takes on an expanded varsity role in his sophomore season. While he's still developing his confidence on the court, his enjoyment of the game provides a strong foundation for growth. When he shoots with conviction, he has demonstrated he can be a reliable scoring threat. As his confidence builds through the season, Preston's natural shooting ability will have more opportunities to shine.

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Inslee proposes taxing wealthy residents and businesses to close Washington's budget gap

By **JERRY CORNFIELD AND LAUREL DEMKOVICH**
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA - Gov. Jay Inslee entered office a dozen years ago vowing to not raise taxes as Washington emerged from a devastating recession during which state programs and services were slashed to make ends meet.

Now, with the end of his third term only about a month away, the outgoing Democrat is calling for a new tax on the state's wealthiest residents and a higher tax on businesses. It's his solution to bridging the state's looming multi-billion dollar shortfall without another round of drastic cuts.

"We invest in our people. We don't leave people behind and [most] importantly, we don't go backwards," he told reporters Tuesday as he released details of the final budget he will send to legislators.

That plan outlines \$79.5 billion in spending in the next two-year operating budget — an increase from \$69.8 billion in the current budget cycle. The total does not include spending on transportation or construction projects covered in two separate budget plans.

The governor's proposal would maintain existing levels of most state services and provide cost-of-living increases for tens of thousands

of unionized state employees. To balance spending with expected revenue, Inslee proposed cutting some programs and delaying others, tapping into the state's rainy day savings account and sweeping part of the surplus of one of the state's legacy pension plans.

"I know some people who won't like this budget," Inslee said. "This is a starting point for discussion."

What they're saying

Democrats and progressive groups praised Inslee's budget and his proposed "wealth tax," though some pushed back on the lack of new education spending.

Sen. June Robinson, D-Everett, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the lead Democratic budget writer, called the proposal "thoughtful and future-focused."

"We will carefully consider all options to close the shortfall, minimize disruptions to essential services, and ensure every Washingtonian — regardless of zip code or income — has access to opportunity, stability, and a better future," she said.

Treasurer Mackley, executive director at the progressive Invest in Washington Now group, called the wealth tax "a logical next step to fund critical services like child

care, education and long-term care." The group backed Washington's recently adopted capital gains tax and worked to defeat a measure on the November ballot that sought to repeal it.

Meanwhile, Rep. Travis Couture, the top Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, raised questions about the legality of the wealth tax, which he described as, "the largest tax increase in state history."

"This budget is not a serious proposal," he said. "Our state has a spending problem, not a revenue problem."

Inslee notably does not fulfill a request from Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal for \$3 billion for special education, school transportation and staff salary increases.

"We absolutely must continue to expand investments in services for our students with disabilities, a civil rights obligation that has never been amply funded," Reykdal said in a statement. "A budget that merely maintains current service levels without making additional investments will result in more cuts at the local level."

Larry Delaney, president of the Washington Education Association, said Inslee's proposal "misses the mark."

"Students' unmet needs are more urgent than ever and



JERRY CORNFIELD / WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee proposed his final state budget on Tuesday. It calls for a new wealth tax, an increase in business taxes, along with some programs and a closure of a women's prison. The plan will be a starting point for state lawmakers in the 2025 legislative session.

it takes significantly more resources to support their learning," Delaney said in a statement. "We can't keep kicking the can — we need bold leadership that prioritizes our students' education and raises the revenue to meet students' needs."

Republicans, who are in the minority in both chambers of the Legislature, were quick to slam Inslee's plan. Sen. Chris Gildon, the top Republican on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, criticized the tax-and-spend approach.

"Let's be clear: there is a deficit ahead, but it's caused by overspending, not by a recession or a drop in revenue," Gildon said in a statement. "When the cost of doing business goes up, consumers feel it too. His budget would make living in Washington even less affordable."

Lawmakers and the next governor, Bob Ferguson, will consider Inslee's proposal when the 2025 session begins Jan. 13.

Raising revenue

To erase most of the shortfall, estimated to be as high as \$16 billion over the next four years, Inslee called for a new "wealth tax" to generate as much as \$3.4 billion in the next biennium and \$10.3 billion over four years.

His proposal would levy a 1% tax on an individual's wealth above \$100 million. This would cover an array of assets, including cash, bonds and stocks. Inslee estimated the tax could apply to about 3,400 people.

It goes further than an idea pushed by Democratic

lawmakers last session. That bill imposed a 1% tax on intangible assets above \$250 million and would have affected an estimated 700 people.

Inslee acknowledged that taxes "are not considered happy news for anybody." But he said this "fairly modest" one on the incomes of extraordinarily wealthy people will enable the state to continue serving those struggling to afford necessities like food and housing.

The governor's business and occupation tax changes will occur in two phases.

Businesses making over \$1 million a year in a tax category dubbed "service and other activities" would pay a 20% surcharge from October 2025 until December 2026. The surcharge goes away in January 2027. However, at that time, all business and occupation tax rates would be increased by 10%.

Inslee estimates the business and occupation tax changes would net \$1 billion in the biennium and \$2.6 billion over four years.

Inslee siphons large sums from two places to complete his plan.

He's penciled in \$1.6 billion from the state's Budget Stabilization Account, better known as its rainy day fund. That seems unlikely. It takes a supermajority vote in each chamber of the Legislature to tap the fund when there is no declared state of emergency or economic slowdown. This would require support from Republicans who oppose the idea.

The governor has also swept

\$1 billion from a surplus in the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' retirement system known as LEOFF 1. This pension plan is available to law enforcement officers and firefighters hired before Oct. 1, 1977. Inslee said the move will not alter anyone's benefits.

Get out the scissors

Inslee's proposal accounts for about \$2 billion in cuts and savings.

A big budget saver is pausing bonuses that teachers receive if they've gotten certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. For this school year, those bonuses were \$6,324. That pause saves the state about \$151 million.

Inslee also proposes delaying the expansion of child care slots and subsidies for low-income families planned under the 2021 Fair Start for Kids Act.

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program was supposed to become an entitlement program, guaranteeing access to families below a certain income. Inslee's proposal delays that expansion to the 2030-2031 school year. That delay would save the state about \$146 million through 2027.

Under Fair Start, the Working Connections Child Care subsidy program is supposed to expand eligibility to families with up to 75% of the state median income starting next July. Inslee's proposal

See **INSLEE** Page **B3**

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School District is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

- Icicle River Middle School Bilingual Secretary

Fast Track application process and information can be found on our website at www.cascadesed.org EOE

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qualifications, application, and job description. A complete application including a resume and cover letter must be submitted in order to be considered for a position. E-mail your completed application to financehr@okanogantransit.com mail to TranGO, PO Box 507, Okanogan WA 98840, or drop it off at 303 2nd Avenue, S, Suite A, Okanogan.

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Legals

Public Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY
IN RE THE ESTATE OF IRVING I. COHEN, Deceased.
NO. 24-4-08655-0 SEA
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
Date of First Publication: December 25, 2024
Personal Representative: Suzanne Morgan Cohen
Attorney for the Personal Representative: John E. Poffenbarger
Address for Mailing or Service: Karr Tuttle Campbell 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3300 Seattle, WA 98104
Court of Probate Proceedings King County Superior Court Cause Number: 24-4-08655-0 SEA
Published in the Quad City Herald on December 25, 2024, January 1, 8, 2025. #9145

Public Notices

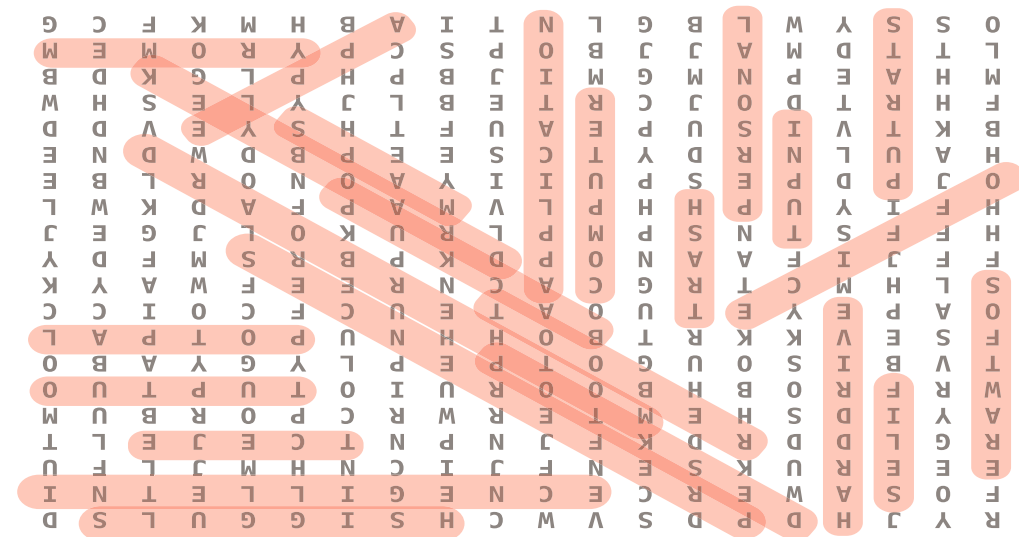
SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CHELAN COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of KEVIN W. HUFF, Deceased.
No. 24-4-00475-04
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of:

(1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
Date of First Publication: December 25, 2024
Personal Representative: Keith A. Huff

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michelle M. Hesse
Address for Mailing or Service: Speidel Bentsen LLP 7 North Wenatchee Avenue, Suite 600 P.O. Box 881 Wenatchee, WA 98807-0881
Court of Probate Proceedings and Cause Number: Chelan County Superior Court Cause No. 24-4-00475-04
KEITH A. HUFF
Personal Representative
Attorneys for Personal Representative: SPEIDEL BENTSEN LLP

By: MICHELLE M. HESSE
WSBA No. 62815
7 North Wenatchee Avenue, Suite 600 P.O. Box 881 Wenatchee, WA 98807
Published in the Quad City Herald on December 25, 2024, January 1, 8, 2025. #9144



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Inslee

Continued from page B1

delays that expansion to 2031. That delay would save the state \$119.5 million through 2027.

Another notable cut is closing the Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, a minimum-security prison in Belfair, south of Bremerton. Shutting the facility will result in \$15.3 million of savings for the state.

The governor's office says the facility has seen a "rapid decline" in residents, specifically those with low-level drug offenses, leading to excess capacity. Once the facility closes, likely by the end of 2025, those living there will move to a reopened unit at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, located in Gig Harbor.

Inslee also proposes closing two residential habilitation centers at Rainier School and Yakima Valley School by 2027. These centers provide care for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Those closures would save about \$18 million.

And still more spending

Although there are cuts and savings, there's also new spending sprinkled throughout Inslee's plan. Not as much as

his last budget, but an increase nonetheless.

There is \$2.6 billion for collective bargaining agreements with state employees. That funding covers 32 agreements that pay for general wage increases, targeted pay hikes for areas with recruitment challenges, and health care premiums.

There's \$33 million for a new juvenile detention facility at Stafford Creek Corrections Center. Inslee announced his intention to open a new facility on the campus of the Aberdeen prison last month. It would house 48 men and help ease overcrowding at Green Hill School where the population has exceeded safe capacity for months.

And there's \$255 million to backfill a drop in collections from the state's document recording fee, which pays for homelessness services. That money would go toward grants to provide housing services for homeless youth, help preserve affordable housing and provide support for homeowners facing foreclosure.

The budget also covers many smaller expenses, like \$5 million for safety at 2026 soccer World Cup games in Seattle, \$3 million to improve accessibility at state buildings and parks, \$20 million to close a gap in funding for crime victims and \$25 million to assist immigrants who do not qualify for federal refugee resettlement services.

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Food pantry seeks help with transport logistics



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

David Burdick is the director of the Brewster Food Pantry.

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PATEROS – The Brewster Food Pantry is facing a crisis delivery of its food resources and is reaching out to city councils for help to fill that function.

Food Pantry Director David Burdick addressed the Pateros council last Monday, Dec. 16, to

explain the problem and seek possible solutions.

"As of Nov. 1, we are no longer getting our food delivered to our location," said Burdick. "We need to help cover the cost of hauling or arrange to pick up from Spokane."

In October, the Brewster pantry served 478 households and 1,448 individuals with food

needs. "We are currently operating under the support of Catholic Charities Eastern Washington," said Burdick. "We will have their continued support while operating in our current location."

The pantry is located at 301 S. Fourth Street.

The pantry gets nearly half its food – 48 percent – from The

Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEAP) and another 28 percent from Northwest Harvest. Donations from local businesses and individuals add another one percent.

Northwest Harvest is a state hunger relief agency. Second Harvest operates in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

"Second Harvest lost a big chunk of their financing... and are just delivering locally in the Spokane area now," said Burdick. "They are telling people, 'It's here if you come and get it; we can't afford to haul it any longer.'"

"We need some type of enclosed trailer or box truck to get the food here and try to divide those costs out equally among the food banks," said Burdick. "There are five food banks linked together that share evenly in the food distribution."

Along with Brewster, those food pantries are in Oroville, Tonasket, Omak, and Twisp.

"We were getting two loads a month," said Burdick. "Now we are just getting one."

"Because of cutbacks they are having to look at how many each one serves a week and come up with a mathematical formula," said Burdick. "The new division based on numbers of clients served has dropped Brewster to nine percent."

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

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Kid Scoop Christmas Around the World

Joyeux Noël Merry Christmas from France
In France, some families find a large log to burn. They call it the Yule Log and light it on Christmas Eve using a piece of unburned log from the year before. Some save the ashes from the Yule Log, believing these ashes can ward off sickness and other misfortunes.

Today, instead of burning a Yule Log, many French people make and eat a beautiful chocolate cake in the shape of a log.

Frohe Weihnachten Merry Christmas from Germany
The advent calendar is long part of the German tradition to help children countdown the days until Christmas Eve. The calendar has 24 doors with little surprises inside and starts December 1. Each day, children open a calendar door until Christmas Eve arrives.

God Jul Merry Christmas from Sweden
On December 13th, the eldest daughter plays the role of St. Lucia and serves coffee and sweet rolls to the family. She wears a lighted holly wreath on her head and sings carols.

Feliz Navidad Merry Christmas from Mexico
On Christmas Eve, children celebrate with a piñata. The children are blindfolded and take turns trying to break it with a stick. When it breaks open, there are lots of goodies for everyone!

Gifts from the Heart
Can you find examples in your local newspaper of gifts people can give that don't cost money?

Standards Link: Social Studies: Learn traditions of other cultures.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

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A = 18	I = 12	P = 6
B = 17	K = 11	R = 5
C = 16	L = 10	T = 4
D = 15	M = 9	U = 3
E = 14	N = 8	X = 2
G = 13	O = 7	Y = 1

15 14 8 9 18 5 11
9 14 2 12 16 7
12 4 18 10 1
6 14 5 3
16 18 8 18 15 18
17 14 10 13 12 3 9
12 5 14 10 18 8 15
13 5 14 14 16 14

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Explore the World
Look through the newspaper to find examples of foods, products, words, names, etc., that show a connection between our community and the rest of the world. Clip the items and attach them to the correct region on a map.

Standards Link: Compare everyday life in different places.

Write On! My Family Tradition

What is your favorite family holiday tradition? Write about it!

Kid Scoop Together Christmas Trees

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition over four centuries ago. Christians in Germany brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce.

Race a family member to the Christmas tree!

PLAYER 1

PLAYER 2

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- Britannica Library
- Stream books, comics, movies, & more

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The LAST PAGE *of* 2024

As the year draws to a close, we take this moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible community that has stood by us. In reserving this final page, we dedicate it to express our deepest appreciation for your unwavering support.

Local journalism stands as the heartbeat of our communities. It echoes your stories, celebrates your achievements, and amplifies your voice. It is the thread that weaves us all together, fostering connections and understanding among neighbors.

To our cherished readers, you are the heartbeat of our newspapers - your engagement, loyalty, and trust fuel our dedication to delivering news that matters. Your continued readership empowers us to be the voice of the people, reflecting the essence of our vibrant neighborhoods.

To our advertisers, your partnership has been invaluable. Your support not only sustains our newspapers but also fortifies the local economy, fostering growth and prosperity. Together, we champion the importance of local businesses, showcasing their essence within our pages.

In the spirit of this season, we extend our warmest thanks for entrusting us with the responsibility of keeping our community informed and connected. Your support strengthens the foundation of local journalism, enabling us to continue serving you with integrity, accuracy, and dedication in the years to come.

As we turn the page to a new year, let's carry forward the spirit of unity and support that defines our community. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives and for believing in the power of local journalism.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Ward Media - Dedicated to Serving Our Community

Cashmere Valley Record
The Leavenworth Echo
Lake Chelan Mirror
Quad City Herald



For inquiries or to join hands in supporting local journalism, reach out to us at 509-731-4392.



WARD MEDIA