

# The Leavenworth Echo

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**Invasive 'murder hornets' found in Washington have been eradicated, officials say**  
Community | A2



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

## Washington State nominates Cascade High School students for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Cascade High School students Cruz Martinez and Caroline Menna were nominated for the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognition award, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

"Being selected as a nominee for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is an incredible honor. It represents not just the work I've done, but also the support I've received from my family, teachers, and community. And the recognition is all that much sweeter because I get to share it with my classmate and friend Cruz," said Menna in an email to Ward Media.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program annually recognizes and honors the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Students are nominated across the country based on academic achievement, artistic excellence, or accomplishments in career and technical education, with candidates identified through standardized test scores, nominations by state superintendents, or recognition programs like YoungArts. Last year, out of 3.7 million students expected to graduate, 5,700 candidates qualified

for scholar recognition awards.

Martinez and Menna were among 20 students, 10 male and 10 female, nominated by Washington State for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) carefully evaluated nominees based on academic excellence, commitment to learning, engagement in activities and service, leadership, resiliency in overcoming challenges and potential for a productive future.

"Being a selected nominee allows me to see that all the efforts that [are] put into my academics, extracurriculars and being a good community member do not go unseen," said Martinez in an email to Ward Media.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Office will send letters towards the end of January inviting each state's qualifying candidates to apply for the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidate list will be posted online the week of Jan. 20, according to the U.S. Presidential Scholars website.

After submitting their candidacy materials, students will be evaluated by a review commission based on their academic achievement, personal

See **CASCADE STUDENTS** Page **B3**



COURTESY OF ISABEL MENNA

**U.S. Presidential Scholars Program nominees Cruz Martinez and Caroline Menna hold letters of congratulations from OSPI.**

## City decides on utility rate increases for 2025

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Utility customers within city limits will see a rate increase in 2025 in order to make significant upgrades to an aging system.

"We have very old infrastructure that has reached its design life," said Public Works Director Andi Zontek-Backstrum during a special meeting with the City Council on Dec. 17 to decide rates before the new year.

In 2023, 22 percent of the water produced was lost due to leakage, over double the Department of Health's under 10 percent recommendations. Zontek-Backstrum raised concerns that system issues could result in backflow and potential contamination, as well as lack of fire flow when needed.

Surface water was also a cause for concern regarding the city's combined sewer and stormwater systems in the Ski Hill basin. Manholes with open flow channels are at risk of cross contaminating sewer and stormwater in the event of stormwater surcharge or a sewer backup.

"This is a big issue, and it's something we need to address," said Zontek-Backstrum.

For water, the 7,500 gallons per month per meter allowance was removed. Residential monthly base rates will see an increase of about 3 percent, or \$77.36 to \$79.52 for a three-quarter inch meter. Consumption rates start at 98 cents per thousand gallons for the first 4,000 gallons used and incrementally increase.

Multifamily monthly base rate will see an increase from \$17.87 to \$23.56 per residential unit inside city limits. The consumption rate was slightly lowered, at a flat rate of \$1.14 per 1,000 gallons.

For commercial water uses, monthly base rates will see an approximate increase from \$45.48 to \$57.18 for a three-quarter inch meter. The flat consumption rate is \$1.44 per 1,000 gallons.

For sewer, there are slight increases for multifamily monthly rates, from \$35.52 per dwelling unit to \$37.99 per dwelling unit, and commercial, from \$68.60 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of water used to \$80.61 per ERU. Stormwater monthly rates will increase from \$6.16 to \$6.28 for residential and multifamily and commercial low impact. Solid waste rates have varying changes.

Financial Director Chantell Steiner presented a number of examples during the meeting to illustrate average increases. A single family home with a three quarter inch water meter will see about an average of \$12.14 increase in monthly rates for water, sewer and stormwater. A multifamily structure with 30 units would see an average increase of \$9.36 per unit. However, a six-unit multifamily structure would pay about \$13 more per unit.

For a small commercial account with no grease, their monthly average increase would be approximately \$34.65. A large restaurant with a one inch meter would have an average \$285.97 monthly increase. A medium to large restaurant with a two inch meter would see a \$292.65 increase. A 100-room hotel would see a \$583.61 increase.

"You guys are going to definitely get some pushback when we roll this out. And I don't think you're going to get as pushback from those single family residences as you're going to get from these businesses," said Steiner. "Andi is right. We are in dire need, and we need to move forward, but I want you to see the magnitude of all the different effects on the different users."

See **UTILITY RATE** Page **B3**

## Leavenworth Coffee and Waffles opens



COURTESY OF NICK PANKOW

**The Pankow family, who owns Leavenworth Coffee Roasters, stands in front of their recently opened coffee and waffle shop, Leavenworth Coffee and Waffles.**

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The newly opened Leavenworth Coffee and Waffles lives up to its name, serving locally roasted coffee and creative, one-of-a-kind waffles.

Leavenworth Coffee and Waffles is owned and operated by Leavenworth Coffee Roasters owner, Nick Pankow. Pankow and his family took over the roasting company roughly four years ago, steadily growing the business through subscriptions and local

retail. When the space previously occupied by Sandy's Waffle Haus became available, Pankow decided to open a storefront.

"We've been here for just under four years, we found our home in Leavenworth, right? So it's like now, we're bringing our contribution to the city," said Pankow.

While Leavenworth Coffee and Waffles is technically a separate entity from Leavenworth Coffee Roasters, the coffee and waffle shop

See **COFFEE & WAFFLES** Page **B3**

## Dog sledding tours open near Lake Wenatchee

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PLAIN – Dirty Face Dog Mushing, a new dog sledding business near Lake Wenatchee, offers trail rides that combine outdoor adventure with an educational experience, welcoming guests of nearly all ages and abilities.

The sled can accommodate two people at a time, and carry up to 400 pounds. With the exception of pregnant women and children under two years old, the tour welcomes guests with diverse needs, including individuals on the autism spectrum and those who use wheelchairs.

"I've had a lot of people, when I've taken them out on tours, be like, 'This is a once in a lifetime

experience.' It's cool, too. It doesn't matter your age or anything. This is a pretty friendly experience to anyone...And we are very understanding, and we'll take it slow," said owner Bella Gilreath.

Gilreath has spent the last three and a half years working with dogs, primarily in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where her mushing experience inspired her to open her own business in her hometown at 23 years old.

During her time in Jackson Hole, Gilreath not only honed her skills but also shared her passion for mushing with her friend Lavi Capusan, who now helps operate Dirty Face Dog Mushing.

"When we got out there and

See **DOG SLEDDING** Page **A4**



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA  
**Pika is one of the newest additions to the team, but the strongest.**



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA  
**Senior dogs Panda (right) and Sasquatch (left) lead the team.**



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

**The faces behind Dirty Face Dog Mushing, Lavi Capusan and Bella Gilreath.**

## Inside The Echo this Week

5 Things to do this Week.....	A2	Community Calendar.....	A3	NCW News.....	B1
Business Directory.....	A3	Classifieds.....	B2	Sheriff Report.....	A3
Cascade Scoreboard.....	A4	Kid Scoop.....	B4	Advertising Flyers:	
Church Guide.....	B1	Sports.....	A4	Safeway, Dan's Food Market	

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**Live Music by The Welter Brothers**

Stevens Pass will host Foggy Fridays: Live Music by The Welter Brothers from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, December 27, from 4-6 p.m.

"Join us at Stevens Pass in the Foggy Goggle for Foggy Fridays, where we have these amazing musicians scheduled," the event page states.

For more information, visit [stevenspass.com](http://stevenspass.com).

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

**Wenatchee Wild vs. Kelowna Rockets**

The Wenatchee Wild will face the Kelowna Rockets on Tuesday, December 31, from 5-7 p.m. at the Town Toyota Center.

"Join us for an exciting night of hockey as the Wenatchee Wild take on their rivals," the event page states. "Get your tickets now and don't miss out on the action."

"Dress in your 80s best," the event page states.

The party will include live music, kids games, a beer garden, and balloon drops at 9 p.m. and midnight. Elaine Eagle will perform from 5:30-7:30, and Whiskey Trail Band will perform from 8 p.m. to midnight.

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

**Village of Lights: Winter Karneval**

The Leavenworth Village of Lights will continue with Winter Karneval all January with Christmas Lights on every day from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and a month of festive activities.



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

"Come join us this January for Leavenworth's Winter Karneval as we honor a German tradition dating back to the thirteenth century, commonly referred to as 'Fasching,'" the event page states. "You can expect to see a blend of familiar activities, like ice carving and fireworks over Martin Luther

King Jr. weekend, along with new entertainment that will be spread out during the rest of the month, making Leavenworth the perfect winter destination all month long."

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

**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

See **HORNETS** Page **A3**



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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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.**

*Happy Holidays!*

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# State land agencies announce 2025 Discover Pass free days

NCW News  
Ward Media  
OLYMPIA — Washington state agencies announced Thursday that visitors will have 12 days in 2025 when they can access state-managed lands without purchasing a Discover Pass, including a new free day celebrating Smokey Bear's birthday.

The free days apply to all lands managed by Washington State Parks, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The program includes major holidays such as New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Junior Day, and Veterans Day.

Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz emphasized the connection between public land access and fire safety. "For decades Smokey Bear has emphasized the importance of fire safety to our communities with his central message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires," Franz said. "As folks are enjoying Washington's public lands on Discover Pass free days next year, and especially on Smokey's birthday, I hope that they'll keep his mission in mind

and recreate responsibly."

The 2025 schedule features dates of historical and cultural significance, including Billy Frank Junior's Birthday on March 9, honoring the Nisqually tribal member who championed Native American treaty rights and environmental protection. Juneteenth, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas in 1865, is also among the designated free days.

**The 2025 Discover Pass free days are:**

- Wed., Jan. 1 - New Year's Day and First Day Hikes
- Mon., Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Junior Day
- Sun., March 9 - Billy Frank Junior's Birthday
- Wed., March 19 - State Parks' 111th Birthday
- Tues., April 22 - Earth Day
- Sat., June 7 and Sun., June 8 - Free Fishing Weekend
- Thurs., June 19 - Juneteenth
- Sat., Aug. 9 - Smokey Bear's Birthday
- Sat., Sept. 27 - National Public Lands Day
- Fri., Oct. 10 - World Mental Health Day
- Mon., Nov. 11 - Veterans

Day

Last year's First Day Hikes event, part of a national initiative by America's State Parks, drew more than 1,700 participants who covered 2,907.2 trail miles across Washington state parks.

The Discover Pass, established by legislation in 2011, typically costs between \$30 and \$35 for an annual pass or \$10 to \$11.50 for a single-day visit. While the free days waive the standard parking fee requirement, they do not apply to Sno-Parks, which require separate permits during the winter season from November through April.

The complete list of 2025 free days includes traditional observances like Earth Day and National Public Lands Day, as well as World Mental Health Day, which recognizes the documented health benefits of spending time in nature, including increased serotonin and dopamine levels and reduced blood pressure.

Officials note that the Discover Pass program continues to support conservation efforts and helps preserve public lands for future generations.

## Dog sledding

*Continued from page A1*

they were hooked up to the sled, I was amazed at how excited they were, and how it was very clear that the dogs could not wait to go and pull the sled...And I think that that's something that gets lost sometimes. You think, 'A dog is just like, my friend, my companion,' but there are dogs that love to work, and these are those dogs," said Capusan.

The sledding team is made up of seven Alaskan Huskies: Teddy, Panda, Sasquatch, Pika, Tlingit, Xena, and Buckaroo. According to Gilreath, getting dogs to pull a sled doesn't require much training, but a dog must inherently want to pull in order for it to work. Many of the dogs on the team were not born and raised as sled dogs, but have been rescues who have picked it up naturally.

"[Xena] was found on the

streets, like, really, really, really thin, and then was kind of being bounced around from house to house. [She] just couldn't find the right fit that could help her get the exercise that she needed...And then she ended up with me, and she's just been amazing from day one," said Gilreath.

The team, blending newcomers like Xena with seasoned veterans like Panda - an Iditarod runner - thrives on the unique strengths each dog brings to the dynamic.

"Their personalities do come out on the lines, and you can see the difference in their characters. And [Panda] is just feisty. She knows what she wants, and she yells at the other dogs and lets them know, like, 'Hey, you got to follow me. We're going this way. Get into line,'" said Gilreath.

While the dogs provide the muscle, guiding a sled requires human expertise and teamwork. Gilreath and

Capusan must call the right directions, throw their weight into maneuvering the sled, and constantly interpret each dog's body language.

"I think it's really cool to work with a team of dogs, see what they can do and how smart they are...For somebody that's new to it, like there's so much more to learn than you would think," said Capusan.

The tours aim to be as much of an educational experience as they are an outdoor adventure. While guests spend time with the dogs, Gilreath and Capusan will share the history of the sport, the traits of Alaskan Huskies, and the diet and care that go into ensuring their high endurance athletes stay healthy and supported.

The tours are currently held at Pine River Ranch near Lake Wenatchee. For details, visit [dirtyfacedogmushing.com](http://dirtyfacedogmushing.com).

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



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Gilreath aims to build a business that prioritizes the health of her dogs.

**CASCADE SCOREBOARD**

Boys Basketball					
Sat, Dec 20	Cascade	28	Chelan	70	Loss
Girls Basketball					
Fri, Dec 20	Cascade	33	Chelan	43	Loss
Sat, Dec 21	Cascade	56	Lake Roosevelt	28	Win

**CASCADE SCHEDULE**

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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.

Treasure 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 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



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.

See INSLEE Page B3

## UPPER VALLEY CHURCH GUIDE To Place Information in The Church Guide Call 509-548-5286

Leavenworth	SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH	Plain
<b>CASCADE MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH</b> Office: 509-548-4331 • 11025, Chumstick Hwy. • Please join us Sunday mornings, 9 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service <b>LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 418 Evans Street • 509-548-5619 • 10 a.m. Sunday Service, Pastor Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout • Leavenworthumc.org • leavenworthumc@outlook.com <b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 10170 Titus Rd. (across from middle school). Church: 509-548-7667 • Meetings: Sunday - 10 a.m <b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA</b> "Reconciling in Christ Congregation" • 224 Benton Street • 509-548-7010 • Worship 9:30 a.m. w/coffee following • https://www.flcleavenworth.com <b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, SBC</b> 429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745 • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. • www.leavenworthbaptist.com • Email: info@leavenworthbaptist.com <b>LEAVENWORTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 111 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-5292 • Sunday Worship 9 a.m. • Lead Pastor: Greg Appleby • Youth Pastor Paige Derossett • Worship Pastor-Jacob Mitchell • www.LCN.org	<b>10600 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-4345 • Saturday Services • Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • 509-860-3997</b> <b>SPIRIT LIFE CENTER</b> 210 Benton Street • 509-548-7138 • Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Prayer 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m. • Pastor Russell Esparza <b>Dryden</b> <b>DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. • 509-782-2935 • Sunday Worship at 11 am. Prayer Meeting Wed. at 6 pm. Pastor Bill Clem <b>MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 509-782-2616 • Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sunday School, 9 a.m. • Pastor Mike Moore www.midvalley baptist.org <b>Peshastin</b> <b>LIGHT IN THE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 8455 Main Street • Sunday Worship 10 a.m. • Pastor John Romine www.lightinthevalley.org <b>NEW LIFE FOURSQUARE CHURCH</b> 7591 Hwy. 97 • 509-548-4222 • Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. • Pastors, Darryl and Mindy Wall • newlifeleavenworth@gmail.com FB page: newlifeleavenworth • www.newlifeleavenworth.com	<b>Cashmere</b> <b>PLAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Serving Our Valley Since 1941 • 12565 Chapel Dr. 509-763-3621 Looking for you at 10:30 this Sunday! • plaincommunitychurch.org facebook.com/plaincommunitychurch • office@plaincommunitychurch.org <b>Cashmere</b> <b>CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 303 Maple Street • 509-782-2431 • Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke • www.cashmerepres.org <b>CASHMERE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 213 S Division St - 509-782-3811 • Worship Service at 11:00 AM, Sunday • Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, • 10 AM to 1 PM • Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana <b>CHRIST CENTER</b> Sunday Worship Service at 10 am • Lead Pastor Steve Haney • 5800 Kimber Rd., Cashmere • 509-295-8006 chriscentercashmere.com <b>ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> • 509-860-0736 • 222 Cottage Ave., • 9 am Formation of Faith, 10 am Worship. Combined service with Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Rob Gohl <b>Monitor</b> <b>UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3799 Fairview Canyon - 509-782-2601 Worship Service at 9:00 AM, Sunday Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

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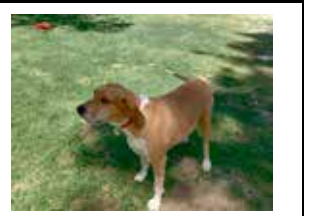
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## Announcements

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**CRYPTO FUN**  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to computers. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = E)

**A. 20 11 5 11**  
Clue: Information

**B. 14 1 14 15 4 13**  
Clue: Storage capacity

**C. 16 10 12 1 22**  
Clue: Containers for storing information

**D. 22 1 4 17 1 4**  
Clue: Provides service to another computer

Answers: A. data B. memory C. files D. server

## Miscellaneous

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## Employment

### Help Wanted

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**Other District Positions:**  
• Substitute Custodians  
• Substitute Teachers  
• Substitute Paraeducators  
• MS/HS Coaches  
**Job postings and applications are available online at:** [www.chelanschools.org](http://www.chelanschools.org)  
Call 509-682-3515 EOE



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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.cascadesd.org](http://www.cascadesd.org)  
EOE

## Legals

### Public Notices

#### OPENING FOR CITY OF LEAVENWORTH PLANNING COMMISSION

The City of Leavenworth is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Leavenworth Planning Commission, Position No. 1 previously held by Janessa Ruckle. The Planning Commission is an advisory body to the City Council providing recommendations for long-range planning and code amendments on topics related to housing, transportation, shorelines and more. The Planning Commission meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers. Interested parties who meet the qualifications are invited to submit a letter of interest via email, mail or in person to City Clerk Andrea Fischer at Leavenworth City Hall (700 US Hwy, 2 I PO Box 287) by 4:00 PM on January 10, 2025. Per LMC, all qualified applicants must reside within the City limits, own property within the City limits or Urban Growth Area (UGA). For more information, please email [Andrea.Fischer@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:Andrea.Fischer@cityofleavenworth.com), Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on December 25, 2024. #9105



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**Geordie Romer - 509-679-8958**  
**Allyson Romer - 509-630-9898**  
**Baily Brown - 425- 407-2692**

## Public Notices

#### CITY OF LEAVENWORTH REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR 2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

The City of Leavenworth (City) is soliciting qualifications from consulting firms (Consultants) to provide professional services to assist the City of Leavenworth in updating its Comprehensive Plan for the 2026-2024 Periodic Update cycle, as required under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The City is seeking consultant support from teams experienced in land use planning and zoning, writing ordinances, housing policy, visioning, climate, demographic analysis, environmental analysis/SEPA, community engagement, and other aspects of comprehensive planning. The expected timeline for the Comprehensive Plan Update is to begin in January 2025, with a completion and adoption timeline of June 2026, or as amended by Department of Commerce authorized extensions. The complete Request for Qualifications (RFQ) document can be found on the City of Leavenworth's request for bids/proposals webpage: <https://cityofleavenworth.com/documents/category/requests-for-bids-proposals>. It is the sole responsibility of the Consultant to obtain any RFQ updates or addenda from the City's website. Submissions shall be sent electronically to Andrea Fischer, City Clerk, at [afischer@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:afischer@cityofleavenworth.com) by 4:00:00 PM on Friday, January 24, 2025. Late or incorrectly submitted submissions will be automatically disqualified from consideration. Any qualifications received after the specified date and time will automatically be rejected and will not receive any further consideration by the City. The City of Leavenworth in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), commits to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, in all of its programs and activities. This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing Maggie Boles, Community Development Director at [mboles@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:mboles@cityofleavenworth.com) or by calling (509) 548-5275. The City of Leavenworth, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat.252.42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all consultants that will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this request for qualifications, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit proposal in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on December 25, 2024. #9156

## Public Notices

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CHELAN IN PROBATE

**In the Matter of the Estate of ORLENE GENELLE ERICKSON, Deceased.**  
**NO. 24-4-00452-04**  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)**  
The Administrator named below has been appointed as Administrator 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 Administrator or the Administrator's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020; 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 11, 2024  
By /s/ Stein Erickson  
STEIN ERICKSON, Administrator  
Address: 225 19th Street NE, Unit 8  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802  
Dated: November 21, 2024  
Attorneys for Administrator:  
GATENS GREEN WEIDENBACH, PLLC  
By /s/ Lindsey J. Weidenbach  
LINDSEY J. WEIDENBACH, WSBA No. 43523  
305 Aplets Way  
Cashmere, WA 98815  
CHELAN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE Chelan County Superior Court  
350 Orondo Avenue, Suite 501  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2885  
Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record and Lake Chelan Mirror on December 11, 18, 25, 2024. #9013

## Public Notices

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CHELAN IN PROBATE

**In the Matter of the Estate of BONNIE CATHERINE BERGUM, Deceased.**  
**NO. 24-4-00446-04**  
**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. 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; 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 11, 2024  
By: /s/Neil Wehmeyer  
NEIL WEHMEYER,  
Personal Representative  
Address: 16750 16th Avenue NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177  
Dated: November 6, 2024  
Attorneys for Personal Representative: GATENS GREEN WEIDENBACH, PLLC  
By /s/Lindsey J. Weidenbach  
LINDSEY J. WEIDENBACH, WSBA No. 43523  
305 Aplets Way  
Cashmere, WA 98815  
CHELAN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
Chelan County Superior Court  
350 Orondo Avenue, Suite 501  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2885  
Published in the Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, and Lake Chelan Mirror on December 11, 18, 25, 2024. #9014.

## Public Notices

#### Notice of Corporate Dissolution RCW 23B.14.030 (3)

Cascade West, Inc., a Washington for profit corporation has dissolved voluntarily by mutual consent of its shareholders and directors. All claims against the assets of the corporation must be made in writing and must include the claim amount, basis and origination date. The deadline for submitting claims is April 11, 2025 (the "Claim Deadline"). Any claims that are not received by the Claim Deadline are barred and will not be recognized by the Corporation. All claims shall be sent to the corporation at the following address:  
Davis Arneil Law Firm, LLP  
617 Washington Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
CASCADE WEST, INC.  
By: /s/  
Steven T. Moore, President  
Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on December 11, 18, 25, 2024. #9048

## Public Notices

#### CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

On the 17th day of November 2024, the City Council of the City of Leavenworth, Washington passed the following resolution. A summary of the contents provides as follows:  
**Resolution 22-2024:** A resolution of the City of Leavenworth, WA, amending rates and fees. A full copy of the resolution is available at Leavenworth City Hall or will be mailed to you upon your request to Andrea Fischer, City Clerk, City of Leavenworth, PO Box 287, Leavenworth, WA 98826. Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on December 25, 2024. #9141

## Moving? Are you a Snowbird?

Don't forget to call Laura in Circulation so you don't miss a single issue of your Local Weekly Community Newspaper or your Monthly Business publication!  
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The Leavenworth Echo  
Cashmere Valley Record  
Lake Chelan Mirror  
Quad City Herald  
Wenatchee Business Journal



Inslee

Continued from page B1

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 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.

Coffee & Waffles

Continued from page A1

will still feature the roaster's coffee on its menu. Pankow plans to carry on the "waffle haus" theme by offering specialty waffles.

"Waffles and coffee are great together...Everyone in town does waffles, but no one does just waffles, right? So we will be a waffle-centric restaurant, where everything will be waffled, essentially," said Pankow.

Cascade students

Continued from page A1

characteristics, leadership and service activities, and an analysis of their essay. Approximately 650 semifinalists will be announced in April,

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.

Washington State Standard (www.washingtonstandard.com) is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

The menu offers regular waffles with the option of toppings, or stuffed waffles.

"We'll have all the exciting ones, and all the ones that you know about for sweet and savory, but then we're going to throw in probably monthly specials and weekly specials," said Pankow.

The stuffed waffles range from classics such as a fruit stuffed waffle or bacon, egg and cheese, to innovative flavors, such as pulled pork and coleslaw or pizza.

Kid's Menu half orders are available, as well as an "unwaffle" order for those skipping the carbohydrates, consisting of eggs and a choice of meat.

The coffee and waffle shop offers a casual setting, with orders placed at the coffee bar, and options for dine-in or to-go. The dining space has large, floor-to-ceiling windows that stay open for downtown viewing and bring natural sunlight into the space.

"I'm super excited to activate the space...Having a great building, great neighbors, and really activating the space for the community and for the tourists," said Pankow.

Leavenworth Coffee and Waffles is currently open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food options are available starting at 8 a.m. It is located on the corner of US-2 and Evans Street, at 894 US-2.

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

then further evaluated by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. In May, up to 161 U.S. Presidential Scholars for 2025 will be announced.

In June, scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C. to be presented with the U.S. Presidential Scholars

medallion in a White House-sponsored event. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by executive order of the president

in order to recognize and honor the nation's most distinguished high school seniors. In 1979, it was extended to recognize

students who demonstrate talent in visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, it was extended to recognize accomplishments in career and technical education fields.

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

Utility rate

Continued from page A1

Additionally, the City Council chose the desired System Development Charge (SDC) for each utility. SDC's

are paid by all new utility connections. For water, City Council went with 50 percent of the maximum allowed under state law.

The new rate would increase the SDC rate for a three quarter inch meter from

\$3,898.80 to \$6,685.00. The city chose not to increase the rates for the other utilities.

Lastly, the right-of-way permit fee for the maintenance of an existing sidewalk was dropped from \$100 to \$35, in

order to reduce the burden of businesses required to maintain the footpaths in front of their stores.

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# Christmas Around the World

Nearly everyone celebrates some sort of holiday in the winter. For many people, it's Christmas. Let's take a trip to celebrate with kids around the globe!

## Frohe Weihnachten

### Merry Christmas from Germany

The advent calendar is long part of the German tradition to help children count down 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.

Color one space on the advent calendar below every day through Christmas Eve!

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

## 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.

Can you find your way through the Yule Log maze?

GO!

STOP!

## 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!

Can you find the piñata that's different than the others?

Extra! Extra!

## Gifts from the Heart

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

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Where in the world are these packages being shipped? Use the code to find out!

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

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!

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- After school events & activities
- Check out books, comics, movies, & more

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- Free homework help
- Britannica Library
- Stream books, comics, movies, & more

# *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.



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