



**Invasive 'murder hornets' found in Washington have been eradicated, officials say**  
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**Connecting communities across North Central Washington**  
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# Cashmere Valley Record

A Ward Media Publication

Serving the Cashmere Valley since 1907  
Volume 117 • No. 52

December 25, 2024

[cashmerevalleyrecord.com](http://cashmerevalleyrecord.com)  
Single Copy \$1.00

## More than 1,700 residents help shape Chelan County PUD' 50-year vision

NCW News  
Ward Media

WENATCHEE, — Chelan County Public Utility District commissioners have completed a year-long strategic planning initiative aimed at guiding the utility through 2075, with officials highlighting strong community participation in the process.

The "Imagine 2075" plan, reviewed by commissioners last week, establishes a new mission to "Provide essential services to empower the community" and envisions creating

"bold, enduring value for future generations."

"It is a commitment to our future generations," said board president Steve McKenna. "It's really important how we use these words and this work honors the past. By embracing this vision, we reaffirm our commitment to being good ancestors and ensuring a sustainable, thriving future."

The strategic document outlines nine long-range goals focusing on energy sustainability, infrastructure resilience, and community engagement. Key objectives include ensuring

stable energy rates while preserving local control, expanding the utility's energy portfolio, and strengthening essential services against severe weather and cyber threats.

Community leader Gene Sharratt praised the planning process at the board meeting, stating, "I've been involved in a lot of strategic planning processes over the course of my career, and I think this is one of best I've ever seen, particularly with community engagement and community involvement. I felt from the onset that your direction was

sincere, it was clear, and it was concise."

The development process involved more than 150 staff members and 50 community partners who identified critical trends and challenges for the next five decades. Employee teams developed four scenario-based future stories, which informed the final goals. More than 1,700 customer-owners participated in a survey to prioritize these objectives.

General Manager Kirk Hudson emphasized that implementing the vision will require significant

organizational changes. "It's one thing to have a vision, it's another thing to implement it," Hudson said. "I want to make sure there's a clear understanding, it's not going to be business as usual. There will be a transformation that occurs within the organization."

The utility will develop a strategic plan with measurable goals and timelines in 2025 to implement the vision. The draft plan received approximately two dozen public comments through an online survey over a three-week period.

## Cashmere FFA crowned state apple judging champions



COURTESY OF CASHMERE FFA

Cashmere FFA Apple Judging Team 1 came in first place at the State FFA Apple Judging Contest in Yakima. From left to right are FFA State Officer Ashley Landt, Gloria Smith, Amelia Flick, Sophia Batanoiu, Abigail Kim, and Tony Bumgarner.

Cashmere Valley Record  
Ward Media

CASHMERE — The Cashmere FFA team earned top honors at the State FFA Apple Judging Contest in Yakima, with first and third place team finishes and landed four individuals in the top ten.

Gloria Smith was the individual State Champion and won the \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the Apple Education Foundation.

This success follows an equally

impressive performance at the district level, where Cashmere FFA teams finished first, second, and fourth, with eight students landing individual top-ten spots.

For both competitions, contestants had to identify fruit varieties from a list of 14 apples and pears in addition to common fruit blemishes such as codling moth, indenture, leaf roller or scale to name a few, Cashmere FFA Advisor Rusty Finch said.

Students also had to be familiar with sections of the Private

Applicators Manual, calculate projected harvest dates and identify almost 30 different insects and mites that impact the fruit industry.

Contestants had to determine the internal pressure of an apple as it relates to storage and shipping. There were 36 teams and over 160 members that competed at the state event in Yakima.

"We would like to thank Jake Lyons, Tarrah Gerber and Aranza

See CASHMERE FFA Page A3

## 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

See COFFEE & WAFFLES Page A3

## Dog sledding tours open near Lake Wenatchee



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

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



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Senior dogs Panda (right) and Sasquatch (left) lead the team.

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 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,

See DOG SLEDDING Page B3



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

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

### Inside The Record this Week

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**\$1.00**

Phone:  
509-548-5286

[www.cashmerevalleyrecord.com](http://www.cashmerevalleyrecord.com)



# Cashmere Valley Record

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### On the Internet

Website: [www.cashmerevalleyrecord.com](http://www.cashmerevalleyrecord.com)  
E-mail: [news@ward.media](mailto:news@ward.media)

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### Circulation

509-293-6780

### Deadlines

Calendar Listings:	Noon, Friday
News Submissions:	Noon, Friday
Letters to the Editor:	Noon, Friday
Display Advertising:	5:00 p.m., Thur.
Legal Notices:	Noon Friday
Classified Ads:	Noon Friday

### Subscriptions

Print and online (yearly)	\$45.00
Online-only Subscription	
12 Months	\$45.00
6 Months	\$22.50
3 Months	\$12.50
1 Month	\$5.00
1 Week	\$1.50

The Cashmere Valley Record does not refund subscription payments except to the extent that it might fail to meet its obligation to publish each week, in which case the cost of the issues missed would be refunded as an extension. Subscriptions may be transferred to another individual or organization.



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The Cashmere Valley Record welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be accompanied by the author's name, a home address and a daytime phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy and fairness. No letter will be published without the author's name. Thank you letters will only be printed from nonprofit organizations and events. We will not publish lists of businesses, or lists of individual names. Email your letters to [letters@ward.media](mailto:letters@ward.media).

### Corrections

The Cashmere Valley Record regrets any errors. If you see an error, please call 509-548-5286. We will publish a correction on this page in the next issue.

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Have an idea for a story? Call the Record at 509-548-5286 email [news@ward.media](mailto:news@ward.media)

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### Services

Back issues are available up to one year after publication for a small fee. Archive Research \$25 per hour

Cashmere Valley Record (USPS 092-600) is published every Wednesday by Ward Media LLC, 29 S. Wenatchee Ave., Suite A, Wenatchee, WA 98801 Telephone: 509-548-5286 Periodical postage paid at Leavenworth, Wash. (and additional mailing offices) Postmaster: Send address corrections to: Cashmere Valley Record 131 S. Apple Blossom Drive #109, Chelan, WA 98816

### Classified Weekly Rates

\$15.00 for first 30 words .10 for each additional word over 30 words Borders, bold words, headlines, logos and photos subject to additional charges.

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

If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at [quinn@ward.media](mailto:quinn@ward.media). We'll showcase the five most captivating events of the week, giving your event the recognition it deserves. Even if your event isn't among the top five, it will still be added to our events calendar and featured online. Don't miss this chance to make your event shine!

5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

### LEGO build

The Cashmere Library will host a Pop-up Imagination Station - LEGO build - Serving Food build challenge on Thursday, December 26 from 3:30-5 p.m.

"Come build your favorite LEGO creation and put it on display at the Cashmere Library," the event page states.

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

### Teen Murder Mystery

The Wenatchee Library will host a Teen Murder Mystery Party on Sunday, December 29 from 1-3 p.m.

"Come join us as we work to solve yet another murder mystery," the event page states. "It's the end of the

world as we know it, and our mismatched group of survivors has banded together to survive a zombie apocalypse. When one of their party members turns up dead, they all turn on each other as they race to survive the zombies outside... and each other. Will you be the killer? Will you be innocent? Or will you be the next victim?"

For more information and to register, visit [ncwlibraries.org](http://ncwlibraries.org).

### Live Music with Hans Joseph

Union Hill Cider will host live music by Hans Joseph on Friday, December 27 from 6-8 p.m.

"Friday night music with local talented musician, Hans

Joseph," the event page states.

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

### Noon Year's Eve Party

The Wenatchee Library will host a Noon Year's Eve Party on Tuesday, December 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Ring the new year in early with crafts, treats, and more," the event page states. "This party is perfect for kids who can't stay up until midnight (and their grown-ups too!)"

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



Hans Joseph

[HTTPS://ICICLERIDGEWINERY.COM](https://icicleridgewinery.com)

### New Years Party at Pybus

Pybus Market will host a New Years Party on Tuesday, December 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. on January 1 2025. "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).

## 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

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



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
A northern giant hornet is fitted with a tracking device.



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
A northern giant hornet seen on an apple.

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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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# Community Calendar

## Wednesday

**Cashmere Rotary Club.** meets at Cashmere Presbyterian Church hall, noon. President Mark Shorb. 509-885-0676.  
**Mission Creek Community Club.** meets every month, 7 p.m. (1st and 3rd Wed.).  
**Cashmere Food Bank.** open 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 3-4 p.m. Cashmere Food Distribution Center, 316 River St., for more information, call Pam. 509-245-6464  
**Ukulele Circle.** Join the Ukulele Circle. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get the sheet music.

## Thursday

**Caregiver Support Group.** 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)  
**Cashmere Sportsman Assoc., (Cashmere Gun Club),** open to the public for trapshooting 7-10 p.m. Private rentals by appointment. Call Brian James, 509-782-3099.  
**Cashmere American Legion Post #64,** 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Highway. Commander Ken Komro, 509-782-4973. (1st Thurs. of every month, August - June).  
**Cashmere American Legion Auxiliary #64,** 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Highway. President Linda Ingraham, 509-679-0243. (1st Thurs. of every month, August - June).

## Sunday

**CHURCH:** See the church page for local service times & events.

## Monday

**Cashmere Wacoka Kiwanis Club.** 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, lower level. 6:30 p.m. Call Pam Leighton, 509-669-3159. (4th Mon.)  
**Tillicum Riders.** 7 p.m. Chelan County Fairgrounds. Call Cindy, 509-662-5984. (1st Mon.)  
**Cashmere City Council.** 6 p.m., City Hall (2nd & 4th Mon. of each month (unless a holiday, then Tues.).  
**Planning Committee Meeting.** 5 p.m. at City Hall (1st Mon. of each month unless a holiday, then Tues.).  
**Cashmere Fire Department.** Business management, 7 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. (3rd Mon.)  
**Cashmere Fire Department.** meeting, 8 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. (3rd Mon.)  
**Cashmere School Board Work Session.** Board work sessions are typically held towards the beginning of the month at 6:30 a.m. with no action taken. For updated info. Visit www.cashmere.wednet.edu  
**Cashmere School Regular Board Meetings.** are typically held towards the end of the month at 7 p.m. with action taken. The schedule for meetings is subject to change to accommodate conflicts in schedule or special circumstances. Visit www.cashmere.wednet.edu for the most up to date info.  
**Chelan Douglas Republican Women.** Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (1st Mon.)

## Tuesday

**Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts.** Current meeting time 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)  
**Peshastin Water District.** meets at 4:30 p.m. Contact: Steve Keene for meeting location. 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)  
**The Chelan County Cemetery District #2,** (Peshastin) meets at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. (2nd Tues.)

## NCW Libraries

**Cashmere Public Library: 509-782-3314**  
**You can order your books online at ncwlibraries.org or call 1-800-426-READ (7323).**  
**Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9-6, Wed. 1-6 and Sat., 10-2.**  
**Closed Sun.** 300 Woodring Street. Call 782-3314, or online at cashmere@ncwlibraries.org  
**Cashmere Museum and Pioneer Village**  
 Call for more information 509-782-3230  
**Chelan County Historical Society Board meets.** 7 p.m., Cashmere Museum, 600 Cottlets Way. Call Nicky 509-782-3230. (3rd Thurs.)  
**Note: Some meetings or events may be rescheduled due to holidays or other closures. Please call and check with that organization listed.**

## Hornets

Continued from page A2

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 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.

## Coffee & Waffles

Continued from page A1

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 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.  
 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 a 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



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

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

## Cashmere FFA

Continued from page A1

Arroyo for providing product samples to assist in preparing for the event," Finch said.  
 The following Cashmere students competed at the state contest:

### First Place Team (Cashmere 1):

- Gloria Smith (1st individual)
- Sophia Batanoiu (9th individual)
- Abigail Kim
- Tony Bumgarner

### Third Place Team (Cashmere 2):

- Mason Roehl (3rd individual)
- Paige Dart (10th individual)
- Marshall Pell
- Jacob Holladay
- Amelia Flick
- Finn Smith



COURTESY OF CASHMERE FFA

Cashmere FFA Apple Judging Team 2 finished third place at the State FFA Apple Judging Contest in Yakima. Pictured from left to right are FFA State Officer Ashley Landt, Mason Roehl, and Paige Dart.

# WENATCHEE WILD

Walt the Wolf's

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## Chelan County Sheriff's Report

This report is compiled from records provided by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office and RiverCom. The publisher cannot certify the complete accuracy of the information provided.



### Dec 13

4:55:31 Welfare Check, 102 Fasken Dr, Cashmere, W Ca  
 10:48:48 Suspicious, 63 Todd Ln, Cashmere, Wa 5  
 11:54:14 Fraud/Forgery, 4870 Yaksum Canyon Rd, Cas 5  
 12:56:29 Assist Agency, 6210 Sunburst Ln, Cashmere 5  
 14:11:41 Fraud/Forgery, 109 S Douglas St, Cashmere Ca  
 14:26:29 Civil, 8620 Dryden Frontage Rd, T 5  
 21:47:59 Assist Public, 400blk Chicken Farm Ln, Ca

11:05:36 Theft, 300 Sunset Hwy; Crunch Pak  
 18:22:39 Suspicious, 302 N Douglas St, Cashmere

### Dec 16

1:32:48 Domestic Distur, 4750 Mission Creek Rd, Cas  
 7:31:17 Accident No Inj, Goodwin Roundabout, Cashme  
 8:20:06 Accident No Inj, 300blk S Division St, Cash  
 9:05:03 Assist Public, 7724 Nahahum Canyon Rd, Ca  
 9:21:01 Vehicle Prowl, 5950 Sunburst Ln, Cashmere  
 15:26:47 Accident No Inj, 5100blk Old Monitor Rd, Ca  
 16:27:00 Welfare Check, 100blk Titchenal Way, Cash  
 22:01:10 Assist Agency, 5710 Goodwin Rd, Cashmere,

Evergreen Dr; Evergre 5  
 16:02:35 Civil, 3420 Fairview Canyon Rd, C 5  
 17:15:02 Assist Public, 3601 Selfs Motel Rd# 13, 5  
 20:07:26 Theft, 5257 N Cashmere Rd, Cashme 5  
 20:30:30 Traffic Offense, Eels Rd & Us Hwy 2, Cashme Ca

### Dec 19

5:25:52 Parking/Abandon, Us Hwy 2 & Stine Hill Rd,  
 8:18:41 Accident No Inj, 329 Tigner Rd; Cashmere Hi  
 10:12:49 Parking/Abandon, 119 Cottage Ave; Doanes Va  
 11:09:07 Animal Problem, 3887 Pioneer Way; Mcdougal  
 12:44:38 Juvenile Proble, 300 Tigner Rd; Cashmere Mi  
 12:55:56 Parking/Abandon, 209 Perry St, Cashmere, Wa Ca  
 13:15:28 Theft, Kinney Rd & Stine Hill Rd, 5  
 20:05:01 Animal Problem, 106 Mount Cashmere Pl; Are Ca  
 22:13:04 Alarm, 5736 Vale Rd; Happy Crops 5

### Dec 14

0:06:50 Noise, 300blk Peshastin St, Cashm  
 15:18:13 Suspicious, 5735 Airport Rd; Area, Cas

### Dec 15

0:06:50 Noise, 300blk Peshastin St, Cashm  
 1:32:48 Domestic Distur, 4750 Mission Creek Rd, Cas  
 9:19:25 Welfare Check, E Parkhill St & Riverfront

### Dec 18

9:49:48 Parking/Abandon, 207 Perry St# B, Cashmere Ca  
 15:23:21 Welfare Check, 600blk Cottlets Way, Cashme Ca  
 15:34:43 Parking/Abandon, 5837



# Sports

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## CHS Band, Cheer keep spirit high during Ki-Be matchup



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

The Cashmere High School Band hit all the right notes during the Cashmere-Kiona-Benton game on Dec. 17. Songs that ranged from timeless classics like Sweet Caroline and modern tunes like Narco were nimbly performed by the youthful performers led by Band Director Kent Chalmers.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

The talented group of musicians in the Cashmere High School Band gave it their rockin' all during the Cashmere-versus-Kiona-Benton game Dec. 17.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

A stuntman from the Cashmere Cheer Squad shows the crowd how it's done when it comes to having school spirit.

## Bulldogs defeat Kiona-Benton Bears



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Tom McDevitt drives past Kiona-Benton's Gabe Ramirez (1) during the Cashmere Bulldogs' 62-41 victory over the visiting Bears on Dec. 17. Cashmere had to work quite a bit harder to overcome the Bears than they did a couple of days earlier when Connell came to town.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Cashmere's Rylan Hatmaker, right, battles Kiona-Benton's Gabe Ramirez during the Dec. 17 matchup between Bulldogs and Bears at Ron Doane Memorial. Cashmere won 62-41, rising to 2-0 at home in conference games.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Cole Norman drives to the basket against Kiona-Benton. Cashmere won 62-41 and their strong season continues. Their only loss was against defending state champs Zillah on the road.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Rylan Nelson in action against Kiona-Benton during Cashmere's clash against the bears Dec. 17. The Bulldogs are now 5-1 on the season and undefeated at home.

## Lady Bulldogs roll past Ki-Be 47-25



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Adysen Bjorklund shoots over the outstretched hand of Kiona-Benton's Yadricia Chayito during Cashmere's 47-25 win over the Bears. Cashmere improved to 3-1 on the season.



SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Allie McKenna struggles to get off her shot against a glut of Kiona-Benton defenders. Cashmere won 47-25 on Dec. 17.

### CASHMERE SCHEDULE

Boys Wrestling				
Sat, Dec 28	9:00 AM	Clark County Events Center		Away
Girls Basketball				
Fri, Dec 27	11:00 AM	Selah		Away
Sun, Dec 28	10:30 AM	Brewster		Away

### CASHMERE SCOREBOARD

Boys Basketball					
Tues, Dec 17	Cashmere	62	Kiona Benton City	41	Win
Fri, Dec 20	Cashmere	70	Naches Valley	45	Win
Sat, Dec 21	Cashmere	51	Royal	89	Loss
Girls Basketball					
Tues, Dec 17	Cashmere	47	Kiona Benton City	25	Win
Fri, Dec 20	Cashmere	51	Naches Valley	43	Win
Sat, Dec 21	Cashmere	44	Royal	49	Loss

CONGRATULATIONS

**Cashmere Middle School**

**Students of the Month!**

**Jayden Alva**  
5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Nairo Chavez**  
6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Ryder Carlson**  
7<sup>th</sup> grade

**Callen Pipkin**  
8<sup>th</sup> grade

**John (Rex) Lake**  
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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

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



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.

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**Dog sledding**

*Continued from page A1*

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

Pika is one of the newest additions to the team, but the strongest.

**Inslee**

*Continued from page B1*

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 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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# 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 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.

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

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

## 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.

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

**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 KID SCOOP 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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# *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.

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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.

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