



From the publisher:
Mountains of possibility,
our shared tomorrow
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NCW
NEWS

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Washington**
NCW News | B1-B2

Quad City Herald

Serving Brewster, Bridgeport,
Mansfield & Pateros area since 1901

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Biosolids contract adds new liability risk

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The contract renewal for disposal of city biosolids drew more than passing interest at the Dec. 19 city council meeting when new language added to the document requires the city to assume liability for what it produces.

The Boulder Park (BPI) Biosolids Contract is a five-year agreement between King County and many communities, including Brewster and Bridgeport, which provide biosolids from treatment plants that are transported to designated farmland on the Waterville Plateau.

“It’s a beneficial use plan to put the biosolids from our treatment plant – and lots of other treatment plants – up on the flat toward Mansfield,” said Public Works Director Lee Webster.

“The issue is new language was added to it that puts the city a little more at risk in terms of liability,” said city attorney Kaitlin Schilling. “The contract now says when you move biosolids away from the city it can still be liable if something goes wrong from where they are placed. Something in the biosolids that creates some kind of damage that might come back on the city.”

Schilling characterized that possibility as “fairly low risk”

but brought the new terms to the attention of the council, nonetheless.

“It is a concern that our office flagged,” said Schilling. “We tried to get the language removed but they said ‘absolutely not, it’s got to stay in.’”

King County subcontracts trucks and equipment for the service, and Webster noted that King County accounts for more than half of the biosolid tonnage collected. Brewster’s portion represents a small part of the total.

“We are looking for options at what we can do,” said Webster. “Worst

See **BIO SOLIDS** Page **B2**



COURTESY OF KINGCOUNTYWTP.COM

A load of biosolids is distributed at the Boulder Park site.

Douglas County PUD unveils railroad bridge PIT tag project



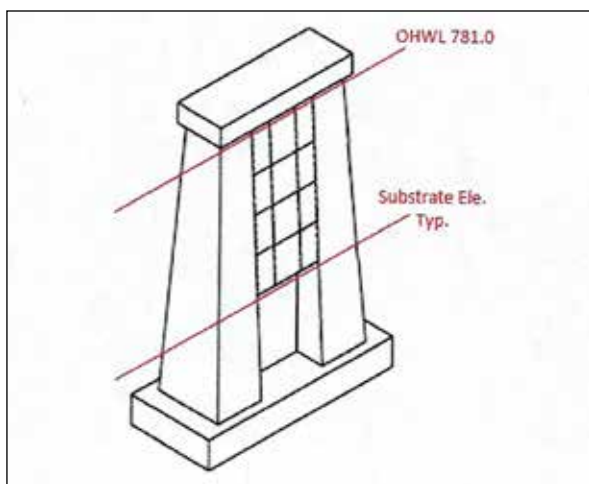
COURTESY OF CITY OF PATEROS

The Douglas County PUD owns the railroad bridge crossing the Methow River at Pateros.



COURTESY OF CITY OF PATEROS

The tag antenna would be installed in the white area shown on this north pier and the other two. The conduit will run along the top of the lower cross member of the I-beam.



COURTESY OF CITY OF PATEROS

A typical railroad bridge pier showing how the antenna assembly would be anchored to the pier.

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PATEROS – The Douglas County PUD is proposing a project to install passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag-detection antennas on the utility’s railroad bridge, which crosses the Methow River at the confluence of the Methow and Columbia rivers.

The PIT tags, attached to the bridge pilings, will monitor fish entering and exiting the river.

Pateros City Administrator Jord Wilson told the Dec. 16 meeting of the city council that he met with Tom Kahler, the PUD’s senior fisheries scientist, to discuss the planned project.

The railroad bridge is the ideal spot to locate the tag array because the Methow’s width is at its narrowest at the bridge, and all fish entering and leaving the river must

pass under the bridge. The tags can monitor the entire river depth at any water discharge, and the design of the bridge piers provides recesses where the antennas can be placed to protect them from debris.

The bridge is supported by three concrete piers where six antenna assemblies can be secured in the 14-foot recesses on each side and positioned to be flush with the concrete face.

The antennas will be assembled at the Boise, Idaho, Biomark facility and transported to the job site.

These are not small units one would associate with fish monitoring devices. The assemblies vary in length from approximately 13 feet to 32 feet. The longer unit will weigh about 2,300 pounds before being submerged, where the weight will be about 1,525 pounds. Once installed with air or foam floats,

the assemblies can be rendered neutrally buoyant.

Earlier this year, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) approached the council about anchoring a large barge equipped with PIT tags. WDFW wanted to place it near the takeout spot on SR153 along the west shore of the Methow River upstream from the mouth. Since the barge is an over-water structure and would anchor in a PUD reservoir, WDFW needed PUD approval to deploy the barge and council approval to use the city launch facilities.

The PUD objected to the placement for stream silt management, boater safety, and liability reasons. Last April, the city council denied the WDFW barge, citing unresolved PUD permitting issues.

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

Pateros council approves five-year park and rec plan

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PATEROS – The city approved its five-year Park and Recreation Plan at its mid-December council meeting to maintain its eligibility for grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

Currently, the city owns and maintains about 7.28 acres of park and recreation property. It maintains another 4.4 acres of open space and right-of-way along Hwy 97, plus nearly an acre at the old city reservoir site.

The city manages an estimated 350-400 trees. More than 250 of those have been planted since Pateros became a Tree City USA Program member in 2013.

In other business, the council:

- Amended the following in the 2024 budget
 - General Fund: \$45,000 for professional services, parks maintenance/water/utilities.

Fire department gear, trash expense.

- trees Fund: \$18,500 for salaries and benefits.
- Water Fund: \$13,000 for professional services, repair, and maintenance.
- Sewer Fund: \$20,000 for professional services, utilities.
- Received a \$343,064 Transportation Improvement Board grant to chip seal Park, Augusta, Edna, and Pearl streets downtown.
- Paid a \$5,000 participation to the North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force for 2025.
- Accepted an agreement with Okanogan County for building inspection services.
- Moved forward with a \$5,000 appraisal of possible sale to an interested buyer.

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

Bridgeport explores new ambulance option



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Tyler Caille gives Bridgeport councilmembers a tour of a Douglas County Fire District 5 ambulance.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

A beneficial feature of this ambulance is a UV light that can be engaged to sweep and disinfect the interior of the box, eliminating the need to disinfect the space by hand.

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BRIDGEPORT – Douglas County Undersheriff Tyler Caille kept the appointment he made with city clerk/treasurer Judy Brown to bring a new Douglas County ambulance to the Dec. 18 city council meeting. That offered council members a first-hand comparison between the ambulance box the city wants to get refurbished and a new model with the latest impressive technological additions.

The council discussed the need for an ambulance upgrade at its November meeting, which prompted Brown to reach out to Caille to bring both the ambulance and his advice on how to proceed with a purchase or upgrade.

The city’s current ambulance chassis is holding up, but the nearly

two-decade-old box is long overdue for replacement with a newer version that features all the advances in EMS advances.

Mayor Sergio Orozco said the city is researching two options, purchasing a new ambulance through a grant, or finding the funding to retrofit the existing box to bring it up to current standards.

Orozco said upgrading the existing box alone costs \$250,000 or more because the box needs to be sent off for six to eight months for retrofitting. While taking on debt to upgrade or purchase an ambulance, Caille pointed out the big advantage of both options.

“An ambulance is the one thing that at least is revenue-generating,” said Caille. “EMS is the one thing

See **AMBULANCE** Page **B2**

Inside The Quad City Herald this Week

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Obituaries/Deaths:	4 p.m., Friday

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Letters policy

The Quad City Herald 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 non-profit organizations and events. We will not publish lists of businesses, or lists of individual names. Email your letters to: terry@ward.media

Corrections

Quad City Herald regrets any errors. If you see an error, please call 509-689-2507. We will publish a correction

News tips

Have an idea for a story? Call Quad City Herald at 509-548-5286

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Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

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

Pub Live at Campbell's Resort

Campbell's Resort in Chelan will host live music by Dan Quigley on Friday, January 3 from 6-8 p.m.

"Live music every Friday night at Campbell's Pub and Veranda," the event page states.

For more information, visit campbellsresort.com.

Friday Night Trivia at The Cove

The Cove Wine and Games in Chelan will host Friday Night Trivia on Friday, January 3 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

"Enjoy a fun evening after a long work week filled with

brain teasing questions, friendly competition and great prizes," the event page states. "Don't miss out on the fun – come join us for a night of entertainment and challenge paired with your favorite beverage."

For more information, visit insidethecove.com.

Chelan Lanes Throwback Thursday

Chelan Lanes will host Throwback Thursday on Thursday, January 9 from 5-11 p.m.

Throwback Thursday offers discounted bowling and beverages every Thursday evening.

For more information, visit chelanlanes.com.

Pub Trivia

Stormy Mountain Brewing in Chelan will host Pub Trivia on Wednesday, January 8 from 6-7:30 p.m.

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

For more information, visit stormymountainbrewing.com.

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THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Yoga and wine

Larc Hill Vineyard Ranch in Chelan will host a Yoga and Wine event on Sunday, January 4 from 10-11:30 a.m.

"Enjoy a 45 minute all-levels Yoga class with a local Yoga Uncorked Chelan

instructor," the event page states. "We will move, breathe, flow and enjoy some much needed yoga and vino."

For more information, visit larchill.com.

Mountains of possibility, our shared tomorrow

In these early days of 2025, as winter settles across North Central Washington, I'm struck by an overwhelming sense of possibility. From the snow-dusted orchards of the Wenatchee Valley to the wind-swept plateaus of the Columbia Basin, our communities pulse with an energy that speaks to better days ahead.

The story of our region has always been one of bold dreams realized through steady determination. We see it in our children's faces at school science fairs, in our



From the Publisher

TERRY WARD

entrepreneurs opening new businesses downtown, and in our farmers adopting innovative practices that will sustain our agricultural heritage for generations to come. Each day brings fresh examples of how our neighbors turn challenges into opportunities.

This past year showed us, yet again, the remarkable strength that defines North Central Washington. In every corner of our coverage area – from the Upper Valley to Cashmere, from Chelan, Manson, Pateros,

and Brewster to Wenatchee – people stepped forward to lift each other up, to reimagine what's possible, and to build something better together.

Our news team has the profound privilege of sharing these stories of resilience and renewal. We've documented the launch of new community initiatives, celebrated the achievements of our young people, and highlighted the countless ways our residents make this region stronger through their daily acts of kindness and creativity.

Looking ahead, I see so many reasons for optimism. Our communities are growing thoughtfully, our economic

base is diversifying, and our shared commitment to preserving what makes this region special has never been stronger. Yes, we face challenges, but that's nothing new for people who descended from pioneers and dreamers.

We begin 2025 with confidence that North Central Washington's best chapters are yet to be written. This optimism isn't born of wishful thinking – it's grounded in the character of our people and the strength of our communities. Every day, I see evidence that we're not just adapting to change; we're actively shaping it to benefit future generations.

The path forward will require the same grit and grace that have always defined our region. But as I look out over our beautiful valleys and up to our majestic mountains, I know we're ready for whatever comes next. Together, we'll continue writing the remarkable story of North Central Washington.

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

Okanogan & Douglas County Sheriff, Brewster Police Dept Report

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



Douglas County

Dec 22

12:42:58 Traffic Offense 826 Fairview Ave, Bridgeport

Dec 23

19:39:24 Disturbance 145 Osprey Dr, Bridgeport
20:09:22 Accident No Injury Su Hwy 97 Mp 255, Pateros
21:13:03 Welfare Check 1605 Douglas Ave, Bridgeport

Dec 24

0:51:44 Traffic Offense Sr 173 Mp 8, Bridgeport Ba
13:24:26 Noise 705 Raymond Ave, Bridgeport
17:59:08 Fireworks 1926 Columbia Blvd, Bridgeport

Dec 25

0:27:33 Weapons Violation 2210 Tacoma Ave, Bridgeport
10:39:19 Civil 335 E Railroad Ave# 7, Ma
14:59:22 911 228 Walnut St, Mansfield,
16:55:39 911 228 Walnut St, Mansfield,
16:55:59 Suspicious 37 Wilmot St, Mansfield, W
11:01:12 Domestic Disturbance 512 17th St, Bridgeport, W
19:27:09 Assist Agency Sr 173 Mp 4, Bridgeport Bar

Dec 26

8:57:43 Parking/Abandon 620 Sr 173, Bridgeport Bar
13:04:47 Assist Agency 6 McCormack St, Bridgeport Brewster Police Department
Dec 20
10:36:06 Traffic Offense E Griggs Ave, Brewster, Wa O

Dec 22

13:28:32 Threatening Highway 97; Brewster Comments: Recd Call From Male Advising He Is Waiting For Rp To Get Home To Beat Rp Up

Dec 23

15:02:50 Fire Other Unger Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: Flames And Whi & Blu Smoke Between 2 Trlrs Unsure If A Veh Is On Fire

20:09:13 Agency Assist Highway 97, Pateros, Wa
Comments: Dcso Just Called, Poss Coll W/ A Deer

Dec 24

23:30:40 Suspicious Hospital Way, Brewster, Wa
Comments: Rp Advd There Were 3 Gunshots Near Her House Within The Past 5 Minutes

Dec 25

13:20:12 Animal Abuse S Bridge St, Brewster, Wa Comments: Daughter's Cat Was Run Over By The Neighbor Around 1200 Hrs. Rp Has Video Footage. Req Options On If There Is Anything That Can Be Done.

22:25:52 Fall S Bridge St, Brewster, Wa Comments: Fell From Bed, Cant Get Off Floor. 71 Yof

Okanogan County Sheriff

Dec 20

15:25:34 Accident Noninj Honeybear Ln, Brewster
Comments: Another Semi Driver Just Ran Into Rp's Semi, Took The Front End Off. Both Parties Still On Scene. Non Inj.

23:28:31 Dwls Highway 97, Pateros, Wa Comments: Get The Veh

Dec 21

09:07:13 12/21/24 Animal Missing Unger Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: Male Pit Bull Puppy Has Been Missing For A Couple Days. Has A Blk Collar, But No Tags.

Dec 23

10:02:16 Citizen Assist Midland Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: Wants Info On How To Get A Anti Harassment Order
17:51:05 Animal Problem Stennes Point Dr, Pateros, Wa Comments: Neighbor's German Hephherd And Great Dane Were Just In Rp's Yard. Great Dane Was Acting Aggressively, Has Been Ongoing Issue.

Law enforcement issues immigrant deportation statements



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Brewster Police Chief Marcos Ruiz

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – With the inauguration of Donald Trump less than a month away on Jan. 20, law enforcement offices across the nation are reaching out to their communities to

explain how they intend to address the president's threat to begin immigrant deportation proceedings once in office.

Okanogan County Sheriff Paul Budrow and Brewster Police Chief Marcos Ruiz are weighing in with comments designed to reassure residents

who feel threatened and others seeking clarification of policy.

Sheriff Paul Budrow

"I have been a law enforcement officer for over 40 years and have never conducted

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MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Okanogan County Sheriff Paul Budrow



Enforcement

Continued from page A2

immigration enforcement,” Budrow said in a Dec. 18 Facebook post (facebook.com/okanogancountysheriffoffice).
 “Deportation, immigration, and federal law enforcement issues fall under the jurisdiction of the federal courts and are not part of my elected office or sworn duty.”

While the sheriff noted that his office “will not take enforcement action based on

immigration or alien status,” he also noted that “a person’s immigration status should not and will not be allowed to impede the investigation of crimes in which they may be involved. I say this though regrettably aware that some Washington State laws intend to shield immigration violators from federal enforcement (and) have exactly this effect.”

Budrow said his office “will not impede federal authorities from conducting lawful operations and, if federal officers are believed to be in

danger, we will work to ensure both their safety and our community’s.”

“The first duty and mission of this office is to protect people from crime,” said Budrow. “We will pursue that duty, prosecuting and protecting all persons without bias, whether they are citizens, lawful resident aliens, or violators of federal immigration law.”

Chief Marcos Ruiz

Chief Ruiz issued a statement to The Quad on Dec. 26 in response to questions

regarding the Brewster Police Department’s stance on immigration enforcement.

“Deportation, immigration, and federal law enforcement duties are under the jurisdiction of the federal courts and federal law enforcement agencies,” wrote Ruiz. “The focus of the Brewster Police Department is on criminal violations that affect our community safety and quality of life.”

Ruiz noted that his department has been called upon to assist federal law

enforcement with operations in the community.

“When requested, the role of the Brewster Police Department is primarily to assist with scene security while federal agencies conduct their operations, for the purposes of officer and subject safety,” wrote Ruiz. “These joint operations focus specifically on criminal acts or the safety to our community, not immigration status. It is also worth noting that immigration status should not protect or impede investigation

or prosecution of any person involved in a crime.”

Ruiz encourages those who need assistance to request it. “I would like people to know, no one in our state should fear calling 911 for help due to their immigration status,” Ruiz wrote. “The role of Brewster police officers is to serve and protect everyone. We will always seek to provide that service fairly, and without regard to immigration status.”

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

Community Bulletin Board

Local, Regional Community News & Events

Any non-profit 501(c)-(3) group, person(s). Must provide: full name, city, phone number. Items pertaining to local events that are free or minimum charge. Garage and Yard Sale Ads are paid events, please email: classifieds@ward.media. To submit info call **509-548-5286** or email: ruth@ward.media

Meetings

Mondays

Okanogan County Fair

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

Family and friends Support

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

Tuesday

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

Douglas County PUD

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

Survivors of Suicide Loss

Support Group: Second Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee. Contact: 509-

860-3620, website at: tcfwenatcheevalley.org

Wednesday

American Legion Post #97:

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

American Legion Auxiliary

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

Brewster Chamber of

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

Death Cafe Chelan:

Third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Chelan Public Library, 216 N. Emerson Street; and 5:30-6:30 p.m., Chelan Senior Center, 534 Trow Avenue, Chelan. Contact: Concie Luna at 509-630-2972 or Vita Monteleone at monte419@nwi.net.

TOPS® Chapter Paves the

Way to Healthy Lifestyle: Weekly on Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. TOPS® chapter (weight loss support

group) meetings at Lake Chelan United Methodist Church, located at 206 N. Emerson St. in Chelan. Attendees should use the side entrance of the church between the Lake Chelan Health Express Care Clinic and the church. TOPS empowers people to stop dieting and start creating healthy, enjoyable lifestyle habits that will work for them over the long haul.

Thursdays

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

Chelan Cancer Support

Group: First Thursday, 11:30

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

Family Caregivers/Support

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

Other Events/meetings

Brewster Senior Meals:

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

Senior Center Thrift Store:

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

Brewster American Legion

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

Chelan Valley Hope:

Chelan Valley Hope’s Winter Coat Drive is in full swing for the winter season. They are accepting new and gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and new socks. All sizes are needed. Donation bins can be found at the following locations; Chelan Valley Hope, Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, Lake Chelan Health Hospital, Chelan Fire & Rescue, Manson Fire Dept., Chelan Elementary (MOE), Lake Chelan Eagles, North Shore Bible Church, Chelan Public Library, Cashmere

Valley Bank, Lake Chelan Building Supply in Manson, Church of Nazarene, Roots School and Even Keel Roadhouse. If you are in need of warm winter wear please call or visit us at Chelan Valley Hope, open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.(closed Noon to 1 p.m.). Call 509-888-2114 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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Lake Chelan
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January 17-26

Fire & Ice

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From the courts to the mats,
Quad City Herald
is proud to support our student athletes.

Waterville High School

Boys Basketball Schedule					
Sat, Jan 4	4:30 PM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	Davenport		Away
Mon, Jan 6	8:00 PM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	Cascade Christian Academy		Away
Girls Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Jan 3	3:30 PM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	Curlew		Home
Sat, Jan 4	4:30 PM	Waterville-Mansfield vs.	Davenport		Away
Boys Basketball Scoreboard					
Sat, Dec 28	Waterville-Mansfield	28	Moses Lake Christian Academy	58	Loss
Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Fri, Dec 27	Waterville-Mansfield	56	Quincy	25	Win
Sat, Dec 28	Waterville-Mansfield	65	La Center	41	Win

Brewster High School

Boys Basketball Schedule					
Wed, Jan 3	7:30 PM	Brewster vs.	Okanogan		Away
Thu, Jan 4	5:00 PM	Brewster vs.	Cle Elum-Roslyn		Home
Sun, Jan 7	7:30 PM	Brewster vs.	Lake Roosevelt		Home
Girls Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Jan 3	6:00 PM	Brewster vs.	Okanogan		Away
Sat, Jan 4	2:00 PM	Brewster vs.	Cle Elum-Roslyn		Home
Tue, Jan 7	4:30 PM	Brewster vs.	Lake Roosevelt		Home
Girls Wrestling Schedule					
Sat, Jan 4	10:00 PM	Brewster @	Almira-Coule-Hartline		Banks Lake Brawl
Boys Basketball Scoreboard					
Fri, Dec 27	Brewster	77	The Bear Creek School	71	Win
Sat, Dec 28	Brewster	40	Riverside	70	Loss
Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Fri, Dec 27	Brewster	46	Zillah	63	Loss
Sat, Dec 28	Brewster	21	Cashmere	33	Loss

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Fabian Nava
Brewster Boys Basketball
Guard #1



Fabian returned for his senior season and is playing a key role for us. He brings good energy and is willing to handle the ball. He likes to play and make the passes most people don't see. Sometimes he can get a little wild, but honestly we need that sometimes. He is willing to take risks on offense and defense and it can turn the game for us from time to time.

Bridgeport High School Scoreboard

Boys Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Jan 3	6:00 PM	Bridgeport vs.	Entiat		Away
Tue, Jan 7	7:30 PM	Bridgeport vs.	Okanogan		Home
Girls Basketball Schedule					
Fri, Jan 3	4:30 PM	Bridgeport vs.	Entiat		Away
Tue, Jan 7	6:00 PM	Bridgeport vs.	Okanogan		Home

Pateros High School

Girls Basketball Scoreboard					
Mon, Dec 23	Pateros	60	Tonasket	39	Win
Fri, Dec 27	Pateros	56	Liberty Bell	26	Win

Child care and early learning central to debate over how to close WA budget gap

By **LAUREL DEMKOVICH**
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA - Gov. Jay Inslee's budget proposal offered some hope for child care and early learning advocates who were prepared to fight against deep cuts. Inslee's plan would boost child care slots, provider rates and money for early learning facilities. But in an effort to save money, he also proposes delaying the expansion of some expensive programs and subsidies set to take effect next year.

Advocates say it could be much worse, especially given a budget deficit of at least \$10 billion to \$12 billion. No currently filled slots would be affected under Inslee's proposal.

"We're just relieved we're not going backward," said Joel Ryan, executive director of the Washington State Association of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

Inslee's budget is far from a final plan. And it is underpinned by his idea to raise revenue through a new tax on the wealthy and higher taxes on businesses.

Those ideas are certain to get pushback from some lawmakers when they convene in January and begin work on budget legislation. Inslee, meanwhile, is on his way out of office and has limited sway over budget talks. Gov.-elect Bob Ferguson could come to the table with his own ideas about how to approach child care policy and spending.

What's clear though is that without additional revenue or shifting substantial dollars from somewhere else in the budget, the state will likely have to make much deeper cuts than what Inslee proposed.

"The challenge for all of us over the next few months is that this is going to be considered the high mark," said Katy Warren, deputy director of the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP. "There's no going up from here."

Expansion delays

The biggest change Inslee proposes is delaying expansions planned under the Fair Start for Kids Act.

The 2021 law expands and guarantees access to state-paid early learning programs

and subsidized child care for families with lower household incomes. It funded new slots for providers and increased the number of families who can use them.

So far, the investments from that law are working, according to the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

"We're seeing the investments pay off that more families are accessing care that they can afford," agency spokesperson Allison Krutinger told the House Appropriations Committee earlier this month.

Under the Fair Start for Kids Act, eligibility and access are supposed to continue expanding through 2030. But as eligibility expands so do expenses associated with the programs — one of the big drivers of the state's multi-billion dollar deficit.

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program is planned to become an entitlement, guaranteeing access to families below a certain income. This program provides child care and other support services for 3- and 4-year-olds and younger

children in some locations.

Meanwhile, Working Connections Child Care, the state's subsidy program, is supposed to increase eligibility for families with up to 75% of the state median income starting next July.

To save money throughout the next four years, Inslee proposed delaying the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program expansion to the 2030-2031 school year. That delay would save the state about \$146 million through 2027.

Inslee also proposed delaying the subsidy expansion to 2031, a move that would save the state \$119.5 million through 2027.

The delays don't mean cuts to families currently using the programs, but they do mean a longer wait for future families who might have been eligible starting next year, leading to mixed reactions from child care leaders.

"Working parents and child care providers are forced to make unreasonable choices to make child care work with their careers and their bank accounts," Genevieve Stokes, director of Government

Relations for Child Care Aware of Washington, said in a statement.

To some, the delays make sense. Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program and Working Connections providers are struggling to hire staff, leaving many slots unfilled.

Warren said Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program advocates were planning to ask for a delay of that program's expansion because there weren't enough providers ready to handle the influx of new children who would be eligible.

Provider pay

To increase the number of providers across the state, Inslee's budget puts new investments into their rates over the next two years.

He proposes an 18% rate increase for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program school-day providers starting in July. He also includes \$510 million to fund rate increases for providers who take Working Connections subsidies. That would bring their rates up to the 85th percentile of 2024 market rates, a requirement under the Fair Start for Kids Act.

Those investments are a welcome relief to advocates who say increased provider pay is long overdue.

"There are families who really need these critical services," Ryan said. "They can't get it if the workforce leaves."

Along with increases to provider pay, Inslee's proposed budget adds more slots for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program through some restructuring.

He proposes removing 845 unfilled part-day child care slots, which his office said aren't always appealing to parents who work full days. He then converts 250 of those into full school-day slots and adds 500 more, for a total of 750 more slots starting in 2026.

The budget also sets aside \$58.6 million in the capital budget for construction and improvement of early learning facilities.

Ryan credited the Inslee administration for providing support for early learning though he acknowledged it's not everything advocates were hoping for. He said they'd push legislators to limit cuts to current slots and prioritize funding for provider rates.

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.

DNA expert to present modern solutions for family history research at Wenatchee Genealogical Society

NCW news
Ward Media

WENATCHEE - The Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) announced it will host a free public presentation on using DNA analysis to overcome genealogical research challenges. The hybrid event, titled "Breaking Down Brick

Walls with DNA," will take place on Monday, January 13, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Genetic genealogist Kate Penney Howard will lead the presentation, which aims to help researchers address common ancestral research obstacles. The session will focus on using DNA analysis when traditional genealogical methods have been exhausted,

particularly in cases involving unnamed ancestors, immigrants with limited documentation, or mysterious family connections.

"When traditional genealogical techniques fail to give us an answer, we can turn to DNA to find more opportunities to discover clues," according to the event announcement.

The meeting will be

held simultaneously at the FamilySearch Center in East Wenatchee and online via Zoom. In-person attendees can participate at 667 10th Street NE, East Wenatchee. Those wishing to attend virtually can obtain the Zoom access information through the organization's website at www.wags-web.org under "Latest News and Events."

WAGS, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021, maintains a library at 127 South Mission in the Museum Annex Building. The library is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For additional information about the event, interested parties can contact the organization at 509-782-4046.



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Ferguson keeping Batiste as Washington State Patrol chief

By **JERRY CORNFIELD**
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA - Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste will soon be serving under his third chief executive.

Gov.-elect Bob Ferguson on Thursday announced Batiste's reappointment to lead the statewide law enforcement agency, a job Batiste has held for nearly two decades.

Also Thursday, Ferguson announced he's retaining three other members of Gov. Jay Inslee's administration: Joel Sacks as director of the Department of Labor & Industries, Allyson Brooks as director of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and Bill Kehoe

as director of Washington Technology Solutions and the state's chief information officer.

"With our challenges ahead, proven and thoughtful leadership is more important than ever," Ferguson said in a statement. "I am proud that these four individuals will continue their service."

On Friday, he said he was reappointing three additional agency leaders: Drew Shirk as director for the Department of Revenue, Scott McCallum as superintendent for the Washington State School for the Blind and Shauna Bilyeu as executive director for the Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth.

Ferguson has named leaders of more than a dozen agencies

and departments ahead of his inauguration next month.

Ferguson hires

Below are Gov.-elect Bob Ferguson's choices to lead state agencies as of Dec. 20.

- Department of Children, Youth and Families — State Rep. Tana Senn, D-Mercer Island
- Department of Ecology — Casey Sixkiller
- Department of Corrections — Tim Lang
- Department of Social and Health Services — Cheryl Strange
- Department of Labor & Industries — Joel Sacks
- Department of Licensing — Marcus Glasper
- Department of Veterans Affairs — David Puente Jr.
- Department of Agriculture — Derek Sandison
- Department of Revenue — Drew Shirk
- Office of Financial Management — K.D. Chapman See
- Washington State Patrol — John Batiste
- Employment Security Department — Cami Feek
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation — Allyson Brooks
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs — Tim Reynon
- Washington Military Department — Maj. Gen. Gent Welsh

• Director of Washington Technology Solutions — Bill Kehoe

• Washington State School for the Blind — Scott McCallum

• Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth — Shauna Bilyeu

Batiste could be a prominent figure in advancing Ferguson's public safety agenda, which includes securing funding to help cities and counties hire officers and increasing safety on the state's roadways.

Batiste joined the Washington State Patrol in March 1976, earning promotions through the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and deputy chief.

In 2005, then-governor Christine Gregoire appointed him to be the state patrol's 21st chief. Gov. Jay Inslee kept him on when he took office in 2013 and Batiste is set to begin work for Ferguson on Jan. 15, 2025.

The Washington State Patrol has 1,100 positions budgeted for commissioned officers and 1,100 for civilian employees. Of its six bureaus, field operations is the most visible as it is responsible for traffic law enforcement, collision investigation, and motorist assistance on 17,524 miles of state and interstate highways.

The state's crime lab and fire marshal are housed in the

agency. And the Investigative Services Bureau includes the Firearms Background Division, a point of contact for all firearm-related background checks.

Sacks has led the Department of Labor and Industries since 2013. The department oversees Washington's workplace safety laws and workers' compensation insurance program, and enforces the state's wage and hour requirements.

In a release, Sacks said he was honored to join the

Ferguson administration.

"I'm passionate about worker safety, and proud of what we've accomplished. As long as there are people hurt and killed on the job, we have a lot more to do," he said.

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COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste has been reappointed by incoming Washington governor Bob Ferguson.

Mended Hearts Chapter to host CPR training at January meeting

NCW News
Ward Media

EAST WENATCHEE - The Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts chapter will host its January meeting on Monday, January 6, featuring CPR training for heart patients and their caregivers from four North Central Washington counties.

The meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Aging & Adult Care Meeting Room in East Wenatchee and virtually via Zoom. The event is open to residents of Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, and Grant Counties.

Jonah Dobbs, a member

of the Lake Chelan Health Emergency Medical Services team for 10 years, will demonstrate hands-only CPR using training manikins and show proper automated external defibrillator (AED) usage.

The Aging & Adult Care Meeting Room is located at 270 9th St NE in East Wenatchee.

Those interested in attending either in-person or virtually can register by emailing atthelmsters@hotmail.com or calling 509-293-1603.

Mended Hearts is a national organization that serves heart disease patients and their families.

Over \$438,000 awarded in Legacy Fund Grants in Chelan and Douglas counties

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE - The Community Foundation of NCW has awarded \$438,026 through its new Legacy Fund Grant program to charitable organizations in Cashmere, Chelan Valley, Wenatchee Valley, and the Upper Valley. Organizations supported through these grants address a wide variety of needs, including food security, housing, education, community enrichment, and more. These grants will help strengthen communities and empower organizations to expand their impact across North Central Washington. Celebrations and grant award presentations were held in each community, marking the beginning of this new initiative for local philanthropy.

Local Advisory Boards (LAB), consisting of volunteers representing a broad cross-section of their communities, including long-time and newer residents of all ages and backgrounds, conducted over 60 site visits across Chelan and Douglas Counties. As part of the grant evaluation process, LAB members provide valuable insights and recommendations to ensure

grantmaking decisions align with local priorities. This new process has been well-received within participating communities, engaging residents throughout the region in local philanthropy in a meaningful way.

"I loved learning more about our community and our non-profits - some of which I was completely unaware of" said one LAB member. "Seeing the passion of those who give so much and sometimes seem to work magic with what they have to work with. Their dedication is infectious! It was good to meet with LAB members and see and hear different perspectives."

The creation of Legacy Funds was made possible through generous donations to the Legacy Fund's Founders Circle. Contributions of \$5,000 or more through a bequest, or direct gifts to any Legacy Fund endowment, are honored as a part of the Founders Circle. These gifts create a lasting impact by building a permanent resource for each community in NCW. The Community Foundation adds additional funds to annual grantmaking allocations from CFNCW's Good Grows Here Fund, to ensure communities have

equitable resources. Anyone can join the Founders Circle with a contribution of \$5,000 or more to their community's endowed fund, ensuring these funds remain sustainable for future generations. Gifts can also be made to the annual grantmaking allocation, which directly benefits the community each year by supporting immediate needs and opportunities.

"The place-based Legacy Funds began with a series of generous bequests by donors who cared deeply for their hometowns and wanted them to thrive well beyond their lifetimes" said Denise Sorom, director of philanthropic and program services. "After deciding to restructure our grantmaking program around these local funds, we have seen several more donors stepping up to support this initiative in their communities. Empowering local residents with grant-making decisions makes sense not only for the nonprofits receiving the funds, but for growing awareness and support for the work of local charities throughout our region."

Two more communities will have upcoming Legacy Fund Grant opportunities: Methow Valley Fund grant cycle is currently in progress with a

deadline of January 15, 2025, and the Okanogan Valley Fund grantmaking cycle will open in February 2025. Grants in each community will continue to be awarded annually.

The Community Foundation of NCW remains committed to engaging local residents, fostering partnerships, and inspiring philanthropy to address the unique challenges and opportunities in each community.

For more information about Legacy Funds or Local Advisory Boards, visit www.cfncw.org/legacyfunds.

Legacy Fund Grant Award Recipients

Cashmere Valley Fund - \$26,500

- 9/11 Spirit of America Memorial
- Cashmere Community Church (Essential Items Pantry)
- Cashmere Food Bank
- Cashmere Museum & Pioneer Village
- Christ Center (Soccer Fields and Garden Maintenance)
- Happy Letters Association
- Ridge 2 River Animal Haven

Chelan Valley Fund - \$46,158

- Chelan Valley Housing Trust
- Heritage Heights at Lake

- Chelan
- Lake Chelan EMS
- Lake Chelan Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Lake Chelan Recreation Development Foundation
- Manger Mall
- Manson Library
- Only7Seconds
- Tender Loving Care for Seniors
- Thrive Chelan Valley/ Manson Teen Center

Upper Valley Fund - \$49,368

- Cascade Education Foundation
- Cascade Medical Foundation
- Cascade PTSA
- Friends of Peshastin Library
- Leavenworth Community United Methodist Church (Packing Friendship)
- Leavenworth Summer Theater
- Leavenworth Winter Sports Club
- Mountain Sprouts
- Plain Valley Ski Trails
- Tierra Learning Center
- Upper Valley Connection
- Upper Valley MEND
- Village Art in the Park
- Wenatchee River Institute
- Waste Loop

Wenatchee Valley Fund - \$316,000

- Cancer Care of NCW
- Chelan Douglas Child

- Services
- Common Ground Community Housing Trust
- Communities in Schools
- Garden Terrace Senior Living
- Girls on the Run of Columbia Valley
- Grace Lutheran Church (Packing Friendship)
- North Central Education Foundation
- NCW Arts Alliance
- NCW Community Toy Drive
- NCW Economic Development District
- Serve Wenatchee Valley
- Small Miracles
- TEAMS Learning Center
- The Brave Warrior Project
- Together for Youth
- Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice
- Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center
- Wenatchee Valley Symphony Association
- Women's Resource Center
- Women's Service League

The Community Foundation wishes to recognize the Founder's Circle donors who make these grants possible: Gerald Doyle, Hal and Florence Field, Linda Evans Parlette, Estate of Albert Ratcliffe, Lauren and Ross Peterson, Bob and Pat Ogburn, and Mike and Ann Hammer.

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NCW NEWS CONNECTING COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

WSU Master Gardeners offering free winter classes about garden planning

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The WSU Chelan-Douglas Master Gardener Program will offer four gardening classes at Pybus Public Market in January and February. The winter classes series titled “Productive Winter: A Garden Planning Series” will take place in the market’s Board Room, which has its own entrance on the southeast corner of the building.

All classes begin at 10 a.m., will last 45 minutes to 1 hour,

and are free to the public. Advance registration is not required but is appreciated to ensure enough printed materials are available. Web links to register for classes can be found below.

“Winter offers a chance to figure out what worked in your garden this past year and what didn’t; that information will help you shape a plan for the next growing season,” said WSU Chelan-Douglas Master Gardener Program Coordinator Marco Martinez. “The class series our program is offering will further inform

your decisions and contribute to the best possible outcomes. The information covered in these classes will prove useful whether you’re a beginning gardener or an experienced gardener.”

Here are additional class details (WSU Master Gardener instructor names in parentheses):

Saturday, Jan. 11: Sustainable garden planning basics (Diane Lee)

If your garden is not meeting your needs or you are starting a garden from scratch, you need to draw a plan of the garden

space. Garden planning will give you a clear vision of the overall design and the ability to experiment with different ideas before committing to a definitive plan.

Web link to register for this class: bit.ly/cdmgjan11class

Saturday, Jan. 25: Adaptive home landscaping for changing conditions (Al Murphy)

As we face a changing climate, the chance for wildfire increases in our region. Learn about how to be proactive in protecting your home with fire-resistant and drought-

resistant landscaping.

Web link to register for this class: bit.ly/cdmgjan25class

Saturday, Feb. 1: Create a resilient vegetable garden plan (Mary Fran McClure)

Raised beds are popular for growing a wide range of plants. Get ideas of what works best for your situation, including best location, various types of raised beds, preferred sizes and heights, plus the importance of soil, irrigation and accessibility.

Web link to register for this class: bit.ly/cdmgfeb1class

Saturday, Feb. 8: Basics of a viable vegetable garden (Connie Mehmel)

When it comes to planting vegetables, timing is everything. All plants have a minimum and maximum soil temperature for seed germination, as well as a minimum and maximum air temperature to grow. Whether you start your vegetables from seeds or purchase plants from a nursery, learn how to keep them healthy and productive throughout the growing season.

Web link to register for this class: bit.ly/cdmgfeb8class

Biosolids

Continued from page A1

case scenario we sign the contract and do it until we can do our own composting. That will take some time.”

Webster noted that when Wenatchee renewed its contract last year, the new language was not included in their renewal.

“I don’t know what happened when it came to us,” Webster said.

Council member Pedro de la Cerda wanted to know, in the event that something did come back on the city if it would amount to just a small percentage since Brewster’s quantity of biosolids is so small compared to the aggregate amount.

“That’s part of the issue,” said Schilling. “We don’t know. We are not sure exactly how that would work and how they would pin it back to the city if it’s comingled at the site.”

Webster said the application sites are gridded and marked.

“They know exactly where our biosolids go,” said Webster. “It may say ‘Applied 10 tons from Brewster at site 24X at this time period’ so we’d be liable for that little piece.”

Webster said the city is very diligent regarding its treatment process.

“What bugs me is we do all this work complying with our permit – the guys get an award almost every year for outstanding treatment plant work – but something shows up 10 years from now...and we have to pay for it,” Webster said.

Bridgeport signs on

The Bridgeport City Council changed its BPI contract from an agenda discussion item to an action item. It approved the measure during its Dec. 18 meeting after Public Works Superintendent Stuart Dezellem convinced them the new language will not increase the city’s exposure.

“I am here to get you to try to get you comfortable

with agreeing to execute the contract,” said Dezellem.

Dezellem said he arrived at that conclusion after reading the King County attorney’s response to city attorney Julie Norton.

“This provision is there in the event that we deliver a biosolid with a contaminant that is a hazard compound that would need to be cleaned up and become a superfund site,” Dezellem said.

Unlike biosolid generators from large, industrialized areas, Bridgeport does not pose that threat.

“We have no more liability today than we will tomorrow if we don’t sign this contract,” said Dezellem. “We are producing the same biosolids today as they were 30 years ago.”

Dezellem said the city biosolids are a function of the community and its waste stream.

“We don’t have industrial manufacturing,” said Dezellem. “We don’t have anybody painting cars.”

He reminded the council that Bridgeport’s biosolids disposal predates the BPI project.

“The city has been dumping biosolids before we have even been going to Boulder Park,” said Dezellem. “The city used to take liquid biosolids and dump them on CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) ground at Foster Creek. We had environmental liability then.”

Dezellem said Bridgeport has two options: Using BPI or the Okanogan County landfill, and the latter is an emergency option only.

“They want you to put these biosolids to beneficial use,” said Dezellem. “It makes (the Department of) Ecology happy that you are using them in that fashion.”

He added that BPI knows with high accuracy where each generator’s load is applied.

“They have GPS. They know right where it is located in the field. Every pile is done separately,” said Dezellem.

“They do not comeingle piles.”

Dezellem explained the difference between Brewster’s Class A biosolids that are run through an anaerobic digester and Bridgeport’s Class B biosolids that are not.

Dezellem said the digester adds a purification process that makes those Class A biosolids safe for garden use.

“The oxygen depletion kills the viruses that need oxygen, and those are the ones that are harmful to humans,” said Dezellem. “It leaves the bacteria that live without oxygen, and those normally are not harmful to humans.”

After learning of the difference in biosolids classes, Mayor Sergio Orozco suggested the city look into acquiring an anaerobic digester of its own to further refine its biosolids.

BPI origins

The Boulder Park program, named after the area’s large haystack rocks, has been in existence since the early 1990s as a partnership between several Waterville Plateau farmers and King County. The goal is to provide high-quality biosolids applications for cropland.

More than thirty other agencies across Washington State also participate in the biosolids program.

“Boulder Park Project is one of the largest farmer-owned and operated, multi-farmer biosolids recycling projects in the United States, with more than 60 participating farmers and over 90,000 acres approved for application,” according to the King County Wastewater Treatment Division website, kingcountytwd.com.

The Washington State Department of Ecology strictly regulates the land application of biosolids. The products undergo testing to assess nutrients, pollutants, and pathogens to ensure conformity to safety standards for land applications.

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



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
From left, council members Jackie Hentges, Matt Schuh, and Mike Bjornstad inspect the self-loading stretcher feature that aids EMS workers to get patients into the ambulance.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Douglas County Undersheriff Tyler Caille addresses the Bridgeport city council about the city’s goal to acquire a new or refurbished ambulance.

Ambulance

Continued from page A1

regardless of demographics or your community where funds come back in to supplement your EMS services.”

Caille was a good choice because Douglas County Fire District 5 has both a refurbished box on the original ambulance it purchased in 2004 as well as a new one purchased recently.

“What I always look at is what can we do to make it easier on our volunteers,” said Caille. “We rely on volunteers to make those calls for service when we call 911.”

Caille explained a couple of the more impressive new features that come with a modern ambulance. One is the constant struggle - especially during COVID - to keep everything clean and disinfected after each patient contact.

“Now when we park, we actually have a button we push that drops a UV (ultraviolet) light down from the roof and it auto-disinfects via UV for 20 minutes,” said Caille. “Everything that light touches it disinfects.”

Another advance is an easy load feature that eliminates the challenge of getting a patient into the vehicle.

“There are now devices in the back of the ambulance where the stretcher is powered so you are not physically lifting like we used to,” said Caille. “Once you get to the back of the ambulance it loads the stretcher and up to a 700-pound patient for you.”

Council members gathered outside the conference room to see how the powered stretcher operates and review other features that are now available.

Due to the expense involved with the purchase of a new or refurbished ambulance, Caille recommended a creative approach to securing the needed funding.

“This one was a 100 percent purchase with ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) funds between Douglas County and the Town of Mansfield,” said Caille of the model brought to the council meeting. “Our refurbished one was with 60 percent ARPA funding and 40 percent loan that we took internally through the fire district.”

Brown earlier advised the council that she had discovered an outlet for a federal grant application for purchasing an EMS ambulance.

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

Link Transit adds four new buses to serve Waterville and Mission Ridge

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Link Transit announced plans to expand its regional transportation services with four new specially equipped buses designed to serve Waterville and Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort in North Central Washington.

The new vehicles feature advanced technology, including automatic chains, self-leveling suspension, and engine-braking systems specifically engineered for mountainous terrain. The buses display custom graphics depicting ski slope scenes for mountain routes and farming landscapes for plateau service.

“We are thrilled to add these new buses to the fleet, which will directly improve service and accessibility for the Waterville and SkiLink routes,” said Nick Covey, CEO of Link Transit. “This investment in our infrastructure reflects Link’s commitment to providing high-quality transit services to North Central Washington.”

The transit authority will unveil the first Waterville bus at a public ceremony scheduled for 3 p.m. January 7, 2025, at the Waterville Town Hall garage. The event will include refreshments and opportunities for community members to inspect the vehicle and learn about its features.

The SkiLink service provides fare-free transportation from Columbia Station to Mission Ridge Ski Resort, with an additional stop at Lincoln Park. The service operates on weekends and holidays during the ski season.

Route 25 to Waterville connects Columbia Station to the Douglas County Courthouse, serving East Wenatchee and Orondo via Pine Canyon. The route operates daily, with extended hours Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:12 p.m. and weekend service from 8 a.m. to 6:12 p.m.

Link Transit offers zero-fare service throughout North Central Washington seven days a week.

Quad City Church Guide

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Kid Scoop Together Funny Fill-In

Ask a family member for each kind of word below. Then fill in the blanks to create a very silly story to read aloud!

Our Annual Silly New Year Party

My parents like to host a New Year's Eve party every year. And these _____ parties are hilarious!

Dad likes to wear a party hat made from _____ and _____.

Mom wears a _____ gown covered with sparkly _____.

They greet each of their guests by shouting "_____!"

_____ music plays as everyone _____ begins to dance and _____, Uncle _____.

Ambrose has a _____ voice and likes to _____ loudly.

People bring lots of _____ appetizers and _____ snacks, such as cheesy _____, sweet _____ and spicy _____ on toothpicks. Aunt Clara always fills the punch bowl with _____ which the guests look forward to each year.

As the clock strikes midnight, everyone _____ shouts "_____!" and many _____ are dropped from upstairs onto the surprised and delighted party guests. It's sure a _____ way to start the New Year!

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: CELEBRATE
The verb **celebrate** means to do something enjoyable for a special holiday or occasion.

We always **celebrate** New Year's Eve at my cousin's party.

Try to use the word **celebrate** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

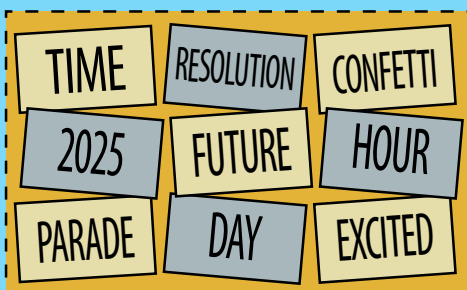


Start 2025 with smiles and laughs with these silly games! Being silly can bring smiles and laughs to your friends and family, too!

New Year Bingo

1. Cut out these bingo cards and give one to each player.
2. Once the game starts, everyone looks or listens for the words on their card.
3. When you see or hear one of these words related to New Year's celebrations, cross it out.
4. After one hour, time's up! The player who crossed out the most words wins!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.



Stinky Sock Game

Seat everyone in a circle. Quickly pass a pair of rolled-up socks around as music plays. When the music stops, the person holding the socks leaves the game. The last person left is the Toe-tally Tops!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.



How many socks do you see here?

New Year Guessing Game

Each player chooses something related to New Year celebrations, like balloons or confetti. The other players ask YES or NO questions to try and guess what it is, asking no more than 20 questions. Each time someone asks a question with a NO answer, they have to dance and cluck like a chicken!



Hey, kid! That is NOT how I dance! What the heck?

Double Dancer

Look closely! Only two of these dancers are exactly the same. Can you find them? Have a friend try, too!



Extra! Extra! Silly Headlines

Clip newspaper headlines and paste them together to create silly news items. For example:

Spaghetti rocket travels to **MOON** hotel

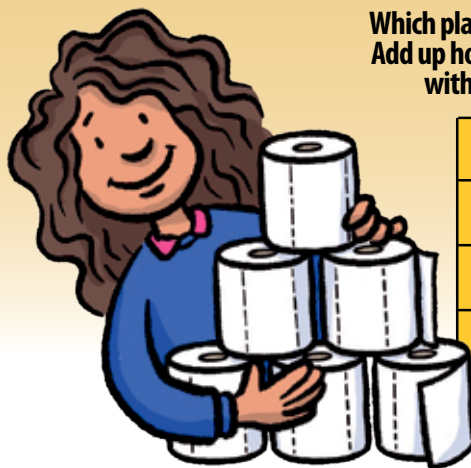
Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Toilet Paper Tower Toss

Make a tall tower of toilet paper rolls. Take turns trying to knock over as many rolls as you can by tossing a rolled up sock at the tower three times.

Which player knocked over the most rolls? Add up how many rolls they knocked over with each turn to see who won.



Aziz	6	4	2
Carlos	3	2	4
Kendra	4	4	5
Anna	1	4	6
Mia	5	2	3

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

- ASK
- BALL
- CLOCK
- DANCE
- GAME
- HOUR
- MIDNIGHT
- MOON
- MUSIC
- PARADE
- PARTY
- SOCK
- TOSS
- TOWER
- YEAR

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WARD MEDIA

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