



From the publisher:
Community Conversations: Building bridges through local dialogue
Community | **A2**



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

Quad City Herald

Serving Brewster, Bridgeport, Mansfield & Pateros area since 1901

A Ward Media Publication
February 12, 2025

Volume 123 • No. 7 • Single Copy **\$1.00**
www.qcherald.com

Community Foundation opens Okanogan Valley Fund grant cycle

NCW News
Ward Media

OKANOGAN — The Community Foundation of North Central Washington has opened applications for its 2025 Okanogan Valley Fund grant cycle, which provides financial support to nonprofits serving Okanogan County.

The grant program, which opened February 1, offers a minimum award of \$2,000 to eligible organizations. Final grant amounts will be determined by the Okanogan Valley Local Advisory Board, with applications due by March 15.

Eligible applicants must be 501(c)(3) public charities operating within Okanogan County school district boundaries, excluding the Methow Valley. While government agencies and faith-based organizations can apply for project-specific funding that aligns with foundation guidelines, K-12 public schools are not eligible to apply directly. However, fiscal sponsorships are permitted if the sponsor holds 501(c)(3) status.

“I’ve spent my entire life in Okanogan County,” said Leeanne Montoya, Local Advisory Board member. “This place is special; you don’t have to go far to enjoy Mother Earth, especially around our beautiful lakes. I’m honored to serve on this board and support nonprofits that preserve what makes our community strong for future generations.”

The fund aims to provide long-term support for charitable initiatives benefiting local residents. A Local Advisory Board consisting of community members oversees the annual grant distributions to ensure alignment with county needs.

The foundation has established a Founders Circle for donors contributing \$5,000 or more to the endowed fund. These contributions support larger grant distributions that will continue in perpetuity.

Established in 1986, the Community Foundation of North Central Washington currently manages \$163 million in assets through more than 690 individual funds. The organization has distributed over \$63 million in grants and scholarships throughout Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties.

Interested organizations can apply through the foundation’s website at www.cfnw.org/okanoganvalleyfund. Questions about the application process should be directed to Jennifer Short, Director of Community Grants, at jennifer.s@cfnw.org.

Local Path to Podium winners head to state middle school championships

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The second annual Path to the Podium is in the books following a successful three-day tournament played by 84 teams in six area gyms from Friday, Jan. 31 through Sunday, Feb. 2.

Organizer Nikki Gebbers used the experience she gained from last year’s inaugural Path to Podium to feature digital live streaming, recruit more volunteers, add sponsors, find referees, and streamline the flow of more than 150 games.

Among the winners, four local teams from Brewster and Bridgeport qualified with first or second place finishes for the 12th annual Washington State Middle School Basketball Championships in Spokane next month. The girls’ teams will play on March 7-9, and the boys on March 14-16.

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



COURTESY OF PATH TO THE PODIUM FACEBOOK

The Brewster sixth grade girls ruled the court with a first-place finish in last weekend’s Path to the Podium. The girls also qualified for the Washington State Middle School Basketball Championships in Spokane on March 7-9.



COURTESY OF PATH TO THE PODIUM FACEBOOK

The Brewster seventh grade boys defeated all comers for first place in the Path to the Podium. They also qualified for the Washington State Middle School Basketball Championships.



COURTESY OF PATH TO THE PODIUM FACEBOOK

The Brewster eighth grade boys cornered first place and will move on to the Washington State Middle School Basketball Championships.



COURTESY OF PATH TO THE PODIUM FACEBOOK

The Bridgeport sixth grade boys placed second in last weekend’s Path to the Podium and qualified to play in the upcoming Washington State Middle School Basketball Championships in Spokane, March 14-16.

Okanogan County Commissioners address revised flood plain ordinance draft



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Okanogan County Planning Director Stephanie “Pete” Palmer

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OKANOGAN – The Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) got their first look at the new draft of the county’s revised Flood Plain Management Ordinance at their Jan. 27 meeting.

County Planning Director Stephanie “Pete” Palmer said the first draft included edits suggested by the state Department of Ecology (DOE) following a community assistance visit to the county. Palmer said she also distributed a copy of the draft to the planning commission. The BOCC will conduct study sessions with suggestions from the planning commission before voting on the proposed changes.

The extent of the revisions to consider is summed up in the response of new District 1 Commissioner Nick Timm.

“It’s a lot of edits,” Timm said.

The DOE visit also included a compliance component.

“We started with 15 sites where they felt that development had happened in the flood plain,” said Palmer. “We found that none had been issued permits through the county.”

As the county resolves those compliance items, the BOCC will address larger areas along the Okanogan River, now included in the new flood plain designations. Advancements in technology have new maps expanding flood zones across the country. Even residents who have lived for decades on property that has never flooded could now find themselves included in a flood zone.

“That’s because the maps are based on risk, not history,” one specialist said. “With more extreme weather events, that risk is only increasing.”

Pateros and Methow River

The new flood plain studies have had consequences for areas besides the Okanogan River.

In 2023, FEMA advised Pateros that portions of the city adjacent to the Methow River were included in its new flood plain analysis.

“They were using only the data put of the Methow Valley and watershed to predict the flood plain in Pateros,” said City Administrator Jord Wilson. The initial FEMA plan that came out included all the lower fill area from

See **OKANOGAN COUNTY** Page **B4**

Noxious Weed Control adds new intruders to state list

By **MIKE MALTAIS**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OKANOGAN – Not all new residents to Washington State, in general, and Okanogan County, in particular, are welcome. A case in point are noxious weeds that pose a continuous threat to and compete with native and beneficial vegetation. This year two new candidates have been added to the list by the state Noxious Weed Control Board.

Larry Hudson, manager of the county’s Noxious Weed Control Board, delivered his quarterly report to the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners (BOCC) on Jan. 28 and, among other news, named the two varieties to the state list: Round Leaf Bittersweet – known to be in the county – and Marsh Thistle – not yet known to be in the county.



COURTESY OF NW/CB.WA.GOV

Round Leaf Bittersweet is a woody vine spread throughout the temperate U.S. and Canada.



COURTESY OF NW/CB.WA.GOV

Longspine Sandbur is an annual with spiny burs that form mats. Burs have fine hairs with numerous spines per bur.



COURTESY OF NW/CB.WA.GOV

Marsh Thistle is quickly expanding in North America and has a high potential to infest many parts of Washington state.

See **NOXIOUS WEED** Page **B4**

Inside The Quad City Herald this Week

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\$1.00
29 S. Wenatchee Ave,
Ste A, Wenatchee,
WA 98801

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Quad City Herald

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WARD MEDIA

On the Internet

Website:
www.qcherald.com
News E-mail:
news@ward.media
advertising e-mail:
advertising@ward.media

Office hours
Mon. to Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Contact information

CEO & Publisher
Terry Ward
509-731-3284
terry@ward.media

COO & Co-Owner
Amy M. Yaley
509-731-3321
amy@ward.media

Reporter/Photographer
Michael Maltais
michael@ward.media

Reporter
Quinn Propst
quinn@ward.media

Classifieds/Legals
Laura Husa
classifieds@ward.media

Circulation:
Laura Husa
509-293-6780
laura@ward.media

Deadlines

Letters to the Editor: Noon, Friday
Calendar Listings: Noon, Friday
News Submissions: Noon, Friday
Display Advertising: 5 p.m., Thurs.
Legals: Noon, Friday
Classified Ads: Noon, Friday
Obituaries/Deaths 4 p.m., Friday

Subscriptions

Print and online (yearly) \$45.00
Online-only Subscription

12 Months \$45.00
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3 Months \$12.50
1 Month \$5.00
1 Week \$1.50

The Quad City Herald 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.

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 509-731-4392

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Obituaries can be placed during normal business hours by calling 509-689-2507 or by emailing obits@ward.media

Services

Back Issues are available up to one year after publication for a small fee.

Quad City Herald (USPS 241-920) 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 Brewster, Wash. Postmaster: Send address corrections to: Quad City Herald, 131 S. Apple Blossom Drive, #109, Chelan, WA 98816

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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!

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THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Galentine's Day Candle Making

Hard Row to Hoe Vineyards (300 Ivan Morse Road, Manson) will host a candle-making workshop with Gilded Moon on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5-7 p.m. "Design your own unique, fragrant candle perfect for Valentine's Day," the event page states. Tickets are \$65 and include all materials, one custom candle, a glass of sparkling wine, and light appetizers. Limited to 15 participants. Ages 21+.

Valentine's Dinner & Music

Lone Point Cellars (207 S. 7th Street, Brewster) will host a Valentine's Day celebration on Friday, Feb. 14, from 6-8 p.m. "Indulge in a delectable 3-course meal, cocktails, and live music with community-style seating," the event page states. Tickets are \$75 per person, includes dinner and one drink ticket. Advance reservations required. Ages 21+. Limited seating.

A Warm Winter Weekend

The Merc Playhouse (101 S Glover Street, Twisp) will host the Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 15-16, from 7-9 p.m. "Experience Ravel's Piano Trio performed by Artistic Director Kevin Krentz on cello, Helen Kim on violin, and Paige Molloy on piano," the event page states.

Bear Mountain Luge Experience

The Loup Loup Ski Bowl (97 Golf Course Road, Okanogan) will offer natural luge sledding on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15-16, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Experience family-oriented, steerable sleds with single and double options on our groomed trail system," the event page states. Day passes \$25 adults, \$20 children. Equipment rental available. Helmets required. No experience necessary.

Live Music & Country Trivia

Touch of Soul (509 S. Wenatchee Ave.) will host Open Mic Night and Country Music Trivia on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5-8 p.m. "Calling all singers, poets, comedians, and musicians—this stage is YOURS!" the event page states. Free admission. Open mic sign-ups begin at 4:30 p.m. Full menu and bar available. All ages welcome until 8 p.m.

Community Conversations: Building bridges through local dialogue

Our community newspaper serves as a vital gathering place for meaningful local dialogue. We believe that the strongest communities are built on understanding, shared experiences, and the collective wisdom of their residents. That's why we're expanding our commitment to community conversations with enhanced opportunities for you to share your voice.

Letters to the Editor: Your Community Pulse Quick observations, thoughtful reactions, and timely commentary – these are the heartbeats of our Letters section. Whether you're celebrating a neighbor's kindness, addressing a local challenge, or offering a fresh perspective on community development, your 250-word letters create ripples of understanding that touch countless lives. Each letter becomes a thread in our community's ongoing dialogue, weaving together diverse viewpoints into a tapestry of local insight.

Community Perspectives: In-Depth Local Analysis Some conversations deserve a deeper dive. Our expanded Community Perspectives section (formerly Point of View) will offer a 500-word canvas for thorough exploration of local issues. Share your expertise on affordable housing, analyze trends in local education, or propose innovative solutions to community challenges. These columns serve as launching points for sustained community dialogue, often sparking follow-up discussions in subsequent issues.

Neighborhood Narratives: Your Stories, Our History New to our pages, this section will celebrate the personal stories that shape our community's character. In 500 words, share your family's multi-generational connection to our town, document neighborhood changes, or highlight unsung local heroes. These narratives help us understand where we've been and envision where we're going.

From the Publisher

TERRY WARD

Constructive Dialogue:

Focus on ideas and issues rather than personal attacks. We encourage respectful disagreement but reject submissions that demean or diminish others.

Local Focus:

Give priority to issues directly affecting our community. While national issues matter, demonstrate their specific local impact.

Fact-Based Discussion:

Support assertions with verifiable facts. Our team will work with you to ensure accuracy.

Fresh Voices:

To encourage diverse participation, we limit submissions to one per person per month.

Follow-up Priority:

Submissions that thoughtfully respond to previous community conversations receive special consideration.

Collaborative Editing:

Our team partner with writers to strengthen their messages while preserving their authentic voice.

How to Participate

Email submissions to: news@ward.media

Include submission category in subject line

First-time contributors: Include brief personal connection to topic

Questions about submission process: terry@ward.media

Your voice shapes our community's future. Every letter, column, and story contributes to a richer understanding of who we are and what we can become together. We're not just printing opinions; we're fostering the conversations that build stronger communities.

Let's talk.

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.

P.E.O. chapter offers scholarships for women returning to college in NCW

LEAVENWORTH — P.E.O. Chapter JF of Leavenworth is now accepting applications for a scholarship program designed to assist women returning to higher education. The scholarship targets women age 30 or above who reside in Chelan or Douglas County. Applicants must be currently enrolled in or returning to a higher education program after a two-year or more absence. Applications for the Fall 2025 academic year must be received by April 30, 2025. Upon confirmation of enrollment, funds will be sent directly to the institution's financial department. Over the past 10 years, the P.E.O. Scholarship has provided more than \$34,000 in support of women in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Eligible institutions include accredited universities, colleges, and technical schools within Washington state. The program also accepts out-of-state accredited online schools. Students may reapply annually until completing their programs of study. Women interested in applying can request detailed information and application forms by emailing the Scholarship Committee at peoleavenworth@nwi.net.

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Quad City Herald

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Community Bulletin Board

Local, Regional Community News & Events

Meetings

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

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

Tuesday
Okanogan County School Retirees’ Association: OCSRA will meet at 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 25 for a general meeting and luncheon at Community Presbyterian Church of Omak, 9 Birch St. S., Omak. Omak Police Officer/Omak School District Resource Officer, Roberto Lopez, will speak. Information: Maralee Bowling, 509-322-3044.
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: douglaspud.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: Changes at Chelan Valley Hope and Lake Chelan Food Bank. We’re

thrilled to announce that construction on the Chelan Valley Hope building addition is complete, and we’ve officially moved into our new space. While we’re settling in, we’re still open and here to serve you as usual. Please note, instead of using the blue door, head to the white door on the right side of the new addition for donations and to meet with a case manager. Our new lobby and offices are designed to ensure the best possible client confidentiality and comfort. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to call us at 509-888-2114. We look forward to welcoming you.

Why a WA lawmaker wants to collect data on cow farts and burps

By JACQUELYN JIMENEZ ROMERO
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA - The latest beef in Olympia? Cow burps, farts, and poops. Washington lawmakers are considering a bill that seeks to gather better data on the scale and scope of methane emissions released by dairies and feedlots in the state. House Bill 1630 is sponsored by Rep. Lisa Parshley, D-Olympia, who was previously a veterinarian and has a Ph.D. in biochemistry. The bill received a hearing in the House Environment & Energy Committee on Thursday. “I think data is a very good way to do policy,” Parshley said. “If you don’t have data, you’re making policy based on assumption.” Methane is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and 37% of methane emissions from human activity come from livestock and agriculture practices, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During a cow’s digestive process, when food breaks down, it produces methane, which cows emit when they belch or fart. Methane can come from manure as well. Like other greenhouse gases, these emissions can contribute

to global warming. “Monitoring is not going to be looking at individual cows’ farts [or burps], I’m going to call it out because that’s what I’ve been hearing it called,” Parshley said. “We’re not going to ask farms to put things around the cows to measure how much they’re emitting from methane.” Even so, it may prove challenging to pass this gas-related legislation. The bill has received explosive opposition from farmers and Republicans, who worry about the burden of data collection. Critics also question whether it’s a step toward taxing cow toots and adding clean air regulations for dairies and cattle operations. “As a farmer, I’m unsure on how to calculate emissions as farm practices vary greatly across our state, from feed to manure management,” said Leann Krainick, a farmer from Krainick Dairy Farms in Enumclaw. “Putting a number on this effort would be inequitable,” Krainick added. However, Parshley said that new techniques developed by the EPA and others would mean dairy farms or feedlots would only have to report the number of cows they have once a year, and what kind of

manure process they’re using to estimate the methane levels. There are also concerns that if the methane reported exceeds certain amounts, farmers could become subject to the state’s Climate Commitment Act, which requires companies to buy allowances for their air pollution. Committee staff couldn’t provide a definitive answer as to whether that would be the case. The climate law currently excludes dairy farms and feedlots. Parshley said the data her bill seeks to gather could help to guide where the state goes from here on the issue of livestock methane emissions. “If that data says this is not significant, we just monitor. If [the data] says it’s significant, it will help us build accurate policy,” Parshley said. Looking ahead, she said she hopes to build a policy that works toward limiting and capturing the methane because it could financially benefit farmers.

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

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

Jan 31
13:22:13 AtL/Atc, 660 Fairview Ave, Bridgepo Db10 Act
18:55:39 Assist Agency, 173 Mp 8, Bridgeport Bar

Feb 1
17:05:00 Parking/Abandon, 43 Grange Rd, Bridgeport B
17:11:39 Welfare Check 102 E Locust St; Waterville

Feb 2
10:52:26 Domestic Distur76 Gun Club Rd, Bridgeport 20:22:02 Traffic Offense 633 Columbia Ave, Bridgeport

Feb 4
8:22:47 Theft, 104 Bluebird Ln, Waterville
13:07:37 Cps/Aps Refer, 1395 Rd C Nw, Mansfield. W
13:32:00 Domestic Disturbance, 214 Hamilton St, Mansfield
15:38:19 Theft , 467 Ruud Canyon Rd, Waterville

Feb 5
16:08:53 Welfare Check, 7 Highland Pl, Bridgeport

Feb 6
6:14:47 Theft, 2089 Rd 3 Sw, Waterville
11:43:18 Cps/Aps Refer, 100 Sagebrush Rd, Waterville
15:12:32 Accident No Inj, 1220 Kryger St; Bridgeport

16:33:03 Cps/Aps Refer, 200 E Birch St; Waterville

Brewster Police Department

Jan 31
20:11:00 Agency Assist Brewster Grange Rd; Brewster

Feb 1
01:51:14 Agency Assist Highway 97; Brewster, Wa Pc Vs Deer Non- Injury Collision. Rp Is Off On The Nb Shoulder.

Feb 3
13:16:47 Death Unattend E Indian Ave, Brewster, Wa

Okanogan County Sheriff

Jan 31
12:29:36 Recovered Veh Commercial St & S Dawson St, Pateros Comments: Veh Is Unoccupied- Leave Air Open Still Out Remaining On Scene, R/O Is Making Arrangments To Get The Veh Remove From Stolen
14:58:05 Violate Order Monse Bridge Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: M Subj Yelling, Flipping Property Owner Off, 28yom.
19:29:46 Domestic Dispute, Methow Pl, Pateros, Wa Officer: Kim Michael Comments: Unk Fem

Attacked Subj 5- 10 Ago, Ls In Sil Honda Pilot W/ A 2- 3 Yof W/O Carseat. Left Unk Direction Of Travel

Feb 2
13:14:46 Vin Inspection Schnibbe Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: 10 Vehs For Inspection. Rp Avl All Day. Already Filled The Forms Out, Just Needs Signed Off.

Feb 3
13:22:14 Threatening North Star Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: Estranged Husband Sent Text, Threatening To Burn The House Down
21:37:24 Threatening, North Star Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: Husband Has Adv Rp Via Text That A Few Burners Are On At The Res. Rp Adv That He Has Threatened To Burn The Res Down Earlier Today Approx 1330 Hrs. Has Been Home Approx 1 Hr. Unk If Husband Is Attempting To Burn The Res.

Feb 4
17:12:58 Civil North Star Rd, Brewster, Wa Comments: Brother Req Standby, Has Order In Place. Will Have Help To Move Belongings After Approx 1730-1800 Hrs Spoke With The Parties Agreed To Complete The Standby At 1920



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THREE RIVERS FAMILY MEDICINE
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Bears season ends with loss to Liberty Bell



COURTESY OF BREWSTER HIGH SCHOOL

From left, Nick Marciano, Oscar Churape, Fabian Nava, Thomas McCarthy, Skyler Covington, Grant Baker, and Connor Bach were honored on Senior Night. Feb. 4.

By MIKE MALTAIS
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER – The curtain came down on the Bears varsity boys’ regular basketball season Thursday, Feb. 6, following a 74-55 loser-out game to the Mountain Lions at Liberty Bell.

The matchup was a surprise to both teams.

After Brewster lost to Okanogan on Feb. 4, the Bears, No. 6 in the CW2B league, were on track to play the No. 4 Bulldogs at Okanogan two days later for a shot at a district slot. Also, on Feb. 4, the No. 1 Mountain Lions playing at Tonasket were expected to defeat the No. 5 Tigers. However, Tonasket upset Liberty Bell, knocking the Mountain Lions from first to third place, moving Lake Roosevelt to first, Okanogan from fourth to second, and Tonasket to fourth.

The last-minute shuffle set up the loser-out game between the new No. 3 Liberty Bell and the new No. 5 Bears.

The league playoffs will

send the top four CW2B teams to the District 5 tournament at Moses Lake High School on Feb. 13-15.

Bulldogs beat Bears

The Bears lost to visiting Okanogan, 67-57, on Senior Night, Feb. 4, but made the Bulldogs work for the victory.

Unlike the first game between the two teams on Jan. 3 where Okanogan won by nearly 40 points, the Bulldogs were actually trailing the Bears midway through the third quarter this time around before narrowly regaining the lead heading into the final period.

Using their height advantage with four players ranging from 6’4” to 6’9” the Bulldogs took a two-point 15-13 first quarter lead off the 13 points by 6’5” Carter Kuchenbuch. Okanogan built its lead to 10 points, 32-22 at halftime.

Midway through the third quarter the Bears scored 14 unanswered points including a three-point shot by Oscar Churape that tied the game,

36-all. Preston Thompson gave Brewster the lead with a free throw and Skyler Covington hit a trey to put the Bears up 40-36. Brewster then missed some key free throws and had only hit one shot as Okanogan closed the gap to lead 42-40 at the end of the third.

The Bulldogs slowly pulled away to a 67-57 win. Okanogan ends the regular season in fourth place in the 2B Central, and the Bears are sixth. The playoffs just ahead will determine which four teams advance to district play in Moses Lake next week.

BREWSTER SCORING

| | |
|---------------|----|
| S. Covington | 15 |
| J. Piechalski | 11 |
| O. Churape | 10 |
| T. McCarthy | 10 |
| S. Arevalo | 6 |
| P. Thompson | 3 |
| F. Nava | 2 |

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

Brewster High School

| Boys Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----|--------------|----|------|
| Tue, Feb 4 | Brewster | 57 | Okanogan | 67 | Loss |
| Thu, Feb 6 | Brewster | 56 | Liberty Bell | 74 | Loss |
| Girls Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
| Tue, Feb 4 | Brewster | 77 | Okanogan | 36 | Win |
| Sat, Feb 8 | Brewster | 56 | Tonasket | 16 | Win |

Bridgeport High School Scoreboard

| Boys Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|----|------|----|------|
| Tue, Feb 4 | Bridgeport | 47 | Omak | 75 | Loss |
| Girls Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
| Tue, Feb 4 | Bridgeport | 15 | Omak | 56 | Loss |

Waterville High School

| Boys Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----|--------------|----|------|
| Wed, Feb 5 | Waterville/Mansfield | 50 | Cascade | 58 | Loss |
| Fri, Feb 7 | Waterville/Mansfield | 53 | Wilson Creek | 60 | Loss |
| Girls Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
| Wed, Feb 5 | Waterville/Mansfield | 61 | Cascade | 24 | Win |
| Fri, Feb 7 | Waterville/Mansfield | 60 | Wilson Creek | 17 | Win |

Pateros High School

| Boys Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|----|----------|----|------|
| Tue, Feb 4 | Pateros | 23 | Oroville | 74 | Loss |
| Girls Basketball Scoreboard | | | | | |
| Tue, Feb 4 | Pateros | 64 | Oroville | 16 | Win |

PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Waterville-Mansfield extends win streak in 61-24 Cascade rout



LEAVENWORTH - Waterville-Mansfield continued its strong season with a resounding 61-24 victory over the Cascade Kodiaks in a snowy night of hoops in Leavenworth last Monday.

The Shockers’ Brooke Kopta, at right, tries to stop a driving Sydney Melody during the Shockers visit to Leavenworth Monday night. The Shockers won 61-24.



Millie Brown looks for an open teammate during Monday night’s game at Cascade. The Shockers earned their eighth win in nine games, defeating Cascade 61-24.

Bridgeport Senior Boys



COURTESY OF BRAD SKIFF/BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Honored during the Senior Night game against Omak on Feb. 4, were from left Mustangs players Yair Lopez, Francisco Baldovinos, Diego Salazar, Oscar Riveria, and Ian Dedios Priest.

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Bridgeport basketball teams battle Omak in doubleheader action

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRAD SKIFF/
BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Mustangs' Oscar Rivera (11) drives for a layup against Omak during a Feb. 4 home game.



The Fillies' Anahi Ruiz-Palacios wrestles for the ball with Omak's Shoka Marchland (23). Also in the frame are Omak's Alexis Gomez (10), Bridgeport's Elissa Rachwitz (23), Milagros Xhurape (35), and Andri Macedo (11).

Brewster Senior Cheer



Bears senior cheer team members include from left, Rebeca Ornelas, Lynnette Apolinar, Kimberly Tinoco, and Maddie Sandoval.

Waterville-Mansfield falls short in 58-50 Cascade clash



Lukas Fletcher tries to shake off a double-team by the Cascade Kodiaks Monday night. The Shockers fought hard 58-50.



Max Murison gets ready to fire a jumper during the game at Cascade last Monday. Waterville-Mansfield lost 58-50, the second consecutive loss for the Shockers.

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NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Wenatchee Valley College will host African drumming performances and workshops at its campuses this month as part of Black History Month celebrations, featuring ethnomusicologist Javoen Byrd of The Hawk Foundation.

The free events, scheduled for February 18 and 19, will showcase African drumming traditions while supporting the college's student food pantry, Knights Kupboard, through voluntary donations.

Byrd will begin his presentations at the Wenatchee campus on Tuesday, February 18, at 3 p.m. in the Maguire Conference Center located in Mish ee twee. The following day, Wednesday, February 19, he will perform at 6 p.m. in Hazel Allen Burnett Hall on the Omak campus.

Each event will feature Byrd's insights into how African drums served as a form of resilience among enslaved communities in the American South. The program includes a 30-minute interactive drum session open to students and community members, followed by an Afro-folkloric performance combining drums, songs, and dance.

The Hawk Foundation for Research and Education in African Culture, where Byrd serves as executive director, is a Washington-based organization that implements



COURTESY OF WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

Javoen Byrd, executive director of The Hawk Foundation, will present drumming events at Wenatchee Valley College's Wenatchee campus on Feb. 18 and Omak campus on Feb. 19, featuring interactive sessions exploring the historical significance of African drumming in enslaved communities.

West African and African American music in educational programs, team-building

exercises, organizational development, and therapeutic applications.

A family of four is captured in a selfie outdoors. The father, in the center, wears a grey t-shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. To his left is a young boy in a blue baseball jersey. To his right is a woman in a black top, and on the far right is a young girl in a red hooded jacket. They are all smiling at the camera. The background shows a grassy field, trees, and a body of water under a bright sky.

COURTESY OF MISSION RIDGE SKI & BOARD RESORT

Matt Neubauer, newly appointed General Manager of Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort, enjoys outdoor time with his family.

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort announced Wednesday the appointment of Matt Neubauer as its new General Manager, replacing Josh Jorgensen, who served in the role for 13 years.

Neubauer, who brings 16 years of ski industry experience, will take the helm as the resort continues its planned expansion. Jorgensen

will remain involved with the expansion efforts to ensure continuity in the resort's development plans.

A Washington state native, Neubauer's career in the ski industry began in 2008 following a brief stint at NBC. His background includes leadership positions at major Colorado resorts including Keystone and Breckenridge, with his most recent position at Stevens Pass. His expertise centers on Food and Beverage operations.

Neubauer's connection to Wenatchee predates his professional career, having spent time there with his grandparents during his youth. He relocated to the area in 2021 with his wife, who works in the local school district, and their two sons.

“We are thrilled to welcome Matt to the Mission Ridge family,” said Mission Ridge owner and President Larry Scrivanich. “His extensive experience and commitment to fostering community align perfectly with our resort’s mission. I look forward to working closely with him in the future.”

Neubauer expressed his enthusiasm about joining Mission Ridge, stating, "This is truly a dream come true. I'm honored to lead a resort that holds such a special place in our community and in my heart. Together, we will continue to create memorable experiences for our guests and uphold the values that make Mission Ridge unique."

Neubauer holds a degree in Mass Communications from Colorado State University Pueblo, where he played Division II soccer before entering the communications field.



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By AUSTIN DRAUDE
Wenatchee Wild

WENATCHEE – With the Wenatchee Wild in the hunt for a 2024-25 Western Hockey League playoff spot, the club is doing the appropriate advance planning for the postseason, as well as the 2025-26 season to come.

The Wild are excited to announce details for 2025 playoff packages and 2025-26 season tickets, both of which went on sale to the public last week. Playoff packages are available for \$240, which covers the maximum of 16 possible WHL postseason home games. Playoff packages must be purchased in full – any unused funds covering home playoff games that are not played will be applied first to past unpaid season ticket balances, and then as a deposit for 2025-26 season ticket purchases. Single-game ticket prices in the 2025 WHL playoffs are set at \$20 for any seat in the Town Toyota Center seating bowl, making the purchase of a playoff package a significant savings compared to buying playoff tickets game-by-game at the walk-up price. The on-sale date for single-game playoff tickets will be determined after first-round playoff schedules are set.

2025-26 season tickets are also on sale now, with prices starting at just \$492 for a 34-game regular-season home schedule, and senior and military discounts are available for Wild Zone tickets. Most season ticket prices remain unchanged from 2024-25, further enhancing the value of a season-ticket purchase for hockey fans in the Wenatchee Valley. Season tickets can be reserved with just a \$50 deposit, and payment plans are available.

Numerous benefits are available to season ticket holders, including the “Never a Wasted Ticket” program, which allows season ticket holders to exchange unused season tickets for a single-game ticket during the regular season. Season tickets also come with two single-game

“buddy passes” that can be used at any time during the regular season, plus discounts on Wild merchandise, an exclusive gift for season ticket holders, and exclusive events and discounts. Season ticket holders also receive early entry to Town Toyota Center on game nights, and discounts on subscriptions to the WHL Live streaming service to watch home and away games. These are in addition to receiving

the same seat for every home game at a significant discount from purchasing tickets for each game individually.

To purchase playoff packages or season tickets, or for more information, call the Wenatchee Wild front office at 509-888-7825, stop into the Wild front office at Town Toyota Center during regular business hours, or visit wenatcheewildhockey.com.



LOGAN FINI FY/WENATCHEE WIL D

A packed crowd looks on as the Wenatchee Wild take the ice in a recent home game at Town Toyota Center. The Wild announced the beginning of sales for both 2025-26 season tickets and 2025 playoff packages Tuesday morning.

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|----|--|
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| | <i>Clue: Put into an order</i> |
| B. | 5 4 19 20 |
| | <i>Clue: Cull</i> |
| C. | 3 2 26 12 5 |
| | <i>Clue: Storage devices</i> |
| D. | 18 12 24 20 |
| | <i>Clue: Orderly</i> |

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Noxious Weed

Continued from page A1

The state noxious weed website, nwcb.wa.gov describes Round Leaf Bittersweet as a “deciduous, woody vine, which can grow to over 100 feet up vegetation and the landscape.” Its flower is “small, inconspicuous white to pale green or yellow, with five petals.”

Marsh Thistle features “clusters of pink to pink-purple thistle heads at the top and tips of flowering stems,” according to NWCB. “Until it blooms, it lives as a rosette of spiny leaves before bolting into a flowering stalk.”

“They were added as Class A weeds,” Hudson told The Quad. “Those require landowners to eradicate them throughout the entire state.”

Hudson said among the Class A status are those weeds with very few or no known sites in the state.

“They want to jump on any infestation before they become a problem,” Hudson said.

Hudson added three from

the county board’s list that are problematic in rights-of-way and parking lots in Okanogan County. Those are:

- Puncturevine
- Longspine Sandbur
- Spurge Flax

“Okanogan County is the only known county in the state that has it,” said Hudson of Spurge Flax. “We have so much of it here that the state has not required control here, but we want to keep it from spreading to other counties.”

Hudson noted that the three weeds mentioned have been the same that the county board has added for about the past eight years.

Hudson estimates there are 60-70 noxious weed varieties in the county. Of those that require control, Hudson said Scotch Thistle and Musk Thistle are the most difficult.

“They are the ones most widespread of the ones that are required to be controlled in the county,” Hudson said.

The state board puts out a yearly list of noxious weeds and considers suggestions from the public for additions

to that list.

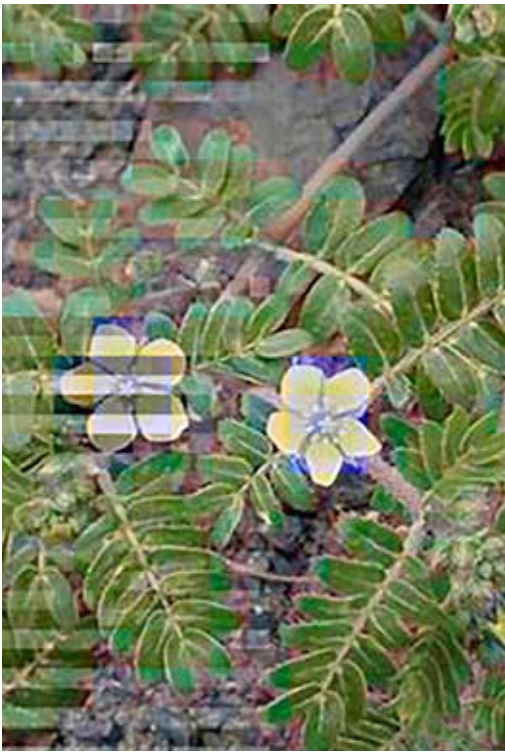
Among the projects the weed board is pursuing are:

- Signage for aquatic invasive species at boat ramps.
- Research on requiring certified gravel for all road projects.
- Noxious weed training videos on its website and whether the videos would qualify for continuing education credits.
- Starting a drone surveying program and possibly a drone spray program for inaccessible areas.

Hudson added that his office is now fully staffed with a new field tech and a new office tech.

The public can propose additions to the noxious weed list through April 10. For more information, visit nwcb.wa.gov/get-involved. To learn more about weed identification or consultation, visit the office at 1234 Second Ave. S, Suite B, Okanogan, email noxiousweed@co.okanogan.wa.us, or call (509) 422-7165.

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



COURTESY OF NWCB.WA.GOV

Puncturevine (aka Goathead) is a nasty, toxic, low-growing summer annual herb with small, five-petal yellow flowers. It has sharp, rigid spines strong enough to puncture bicycle tires or penetrate shoe soles.



COURTESY OF NWCB.WA.GOV

Spurge Flax is a slender, upright weed that grows as one main stem, then commonly branches in the upper part of the plant. The plant turns red in fall. It is not palatable to livestock.

Okanogan County

Continued from page A1

Warren Street to Peninsula and out Dam plays in water flow regulation.

Wilson pointed out that the dam has responded quickly to major water events like the 1972 flood. In May 2018, the county again experienced its worst flooding since ’72. High water levels at the confluence of the Okanogan and Methow rivers did not affect Pateros as Wells Dam adjusted its downstream water release.

FEMA later concurred with Wilson and removed the added flood plain areas in Pateros.

Brewster and Swamp Creek

FEMA also contacted Brewster last year about a potential major event in the Rat Lake/Swamp Creek drainage.

“In the past we have had some rain events that have caused some flooding,” said Director of Finance Misty Ruiz. “There is drainage that goes under some of the businesses and the highway, so it floods right there.”

An expanded flood plain designation took in a large portion of the city, including a PUD facility.

In February 2024, the Brewster

Public Works Director sent an advisory to the Okanogan PUD about “documents from FEMA regarding updated flood mapping...the flood maps place the Brewster substation within the boundary of a 100-year event.”

The city teamed up with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and other resources to come up with a mitigation plan to alter and contain the drainage waters and resolve FEMA concerns. It is now pursuing a \$20 million grant to carry out the plan.

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

Cascadia Conservation District sets February board meeting

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Cascadia Conservation District announced its upcoming Regular Board meeting will offer both in-person and remote attendance options for February 21.

The meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the district’s Wenatchee office, located

at 1350 McKittrick St., Suite B. Due to space constraints, officials are requiring advance notification for those planning to attend in person.

Participants choosing the virtual option can join via telephone or Zoom videoconferencing platform.

The conservation district has directed interested parties to their website, cascadiacd.org, for additional details

and connection instructions. Alternatively, residents can contact the District office directly at 509-436-1601 for more information.

The Cascadia Conservation District, which serves Chelan County and surrounding areas, regularly holds board meetings to discuss conservation initiatives and district operations.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

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Valentine's Day Crafts

How many hearts can you find on this page in three minutes? Have a friend try. Who found the most?

Hearty Mouse

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- construction paper
- glue stick
- googly eyes (optional)
- scissors
- black marker

STEP 1: Cut out a big pink heart.

STEP 2: Fold the heart in half.

STEP 3: Cut out two smaller hearts.

STEP 4: Glue small hearts to make an ear. Glue on a googly eye or draw an eye.

STEP 5: Cut out six little strips to make whiskers. Cut out a squiggly tail.

STEP 6: Glue on whiskers and tail. Use marker to make a black nose.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written step-by-step directions.

Love Bugs

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- glue stick
- scissors
- black marker
- construction paper

STEP 1: Cut out a large and a small heart shape, a large and small circle, and two small strips.

STEP 2: Glue together as shown. Add spots and eyes with marker.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Valentine Butterfly Pencil Topper

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- scissors
- glue stick
- pencil
- construction paper

STEP 1: Cut out heart-wing shape, two medium sized hearts and two small hearts.

STEP 2: Glue a medium and a small heart on each wing.

STEP 3: Make two small horizontal slits at center of heart wings. Insert pencil through slits.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Happy News

Look through the newspaper for one to three pictures, words or articles that make you feel happy.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw a line from each Valentine's Day message to the animal who wrote it.

"You make my heart squeak!"

"I go bananas for you!"

"You make my heart flutter!"

"You're purrrr-fect!!"

"I hope to sea you on Valentine's Day!"

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Valentine's Day Dot-to-Dot

On one page of the newspaper find and circle the letters that spell the words, "Happy Valentine's Day!" Then connect the dots to make a design. Color in the design.

Standards Link: Hand-eye coordination.

Write On! Animal Valentine's Day Messages

If you were an animal, what would be your Valentine wish? A python might want to be your favorite "squeeze." Or a cat might be purrrr-fect for you.

Kid Scoop Together: Silly Valentine Game

All you need is a small bag or bowl and three or more friends to play with!

Directions:

- ♥ Cut out the coupons below.
- ♥ Fold them in half and put them into a bag, bowl or box.
- ♥ One by one, players select a piece of paper from the container.
- ♥ Two at a time, the players start performing their actions, without laughing. The first person to laugh is out.
- ♥ Repeat this until only one person is left in the game.

Scratch your armpit and hop on one leg.

Pretend to sink in a huge bin of stinky socks.

Sing your favorite song as if you are underwater.

Pretend to slip on a banana peel in slow motion.

Sing the ABCs backwards in the style of an opera singer.

Flap your arms like a bird and moo like a cow.

Make a silly face and stand still like a statue.

Balance on one leg while singing *Happy Birthday*.

Lift a pillow, pretending it weighs 1,000 pounds.

Pretend to be a dinosaur stuck in bubble gum.

Rub your tummy and pat your head.

Walk like a robot whose battery is low.

Pick up a pencil with your toes.

Walk like a penguin.

Pretend to swim across the floor.

Touch your nose with your tongue.

Play air guitar while making silly faces.

Pretend to climb a tree that's 1,000 feet tall.

MEDIA PARTNER

EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

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

NCWLIBRARIES.ORG

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