

# Cashmere Valley Record

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## Chelan-Douglas housing task force opens new grant application process March 31

NCW News  
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Chelan-Douglas Homeless Housing Task Force will begin accepting applications for its 2025-2027 grant cycle starting March 31.

The task force, which serves Chelan and Douglas counties, is preparing to distribute approximately \$6 million in Consolidated Homeless Grant funds for local homeless housing programs. This represents a

significant reduction from the current funding cycle.

Due to the state's budget deficit, the 2025-2027 grant cycle anticipates at least a 20 percent reduction in available funding. The state has emphasized local governments must maintain the level of services and number of beds available in communities.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 2 and must be submitted to Amber Hallberg, Chelan County Community Services Manager. No late applications will be considered.

The two-year grants will run from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Eligible applicants include registered nonprofits, government agencies, and federally recognized Washington state tribes. The task force has indicated a preference for funding existing programs, though this is not a requirement. All projects must comply with Consolidated Homeless Grant guidelines.

The funding will support administrative and operational costs for various homeless services, including

emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rental assistance programs. Limited maintenance costs are also eligible for funding.

The grants are supported by two primary funding sources: the Consolidated Homeless Grant, provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce, and Local Homeless Housing funds generated from document recording fees. The local document recording fee fund supports activities outlined in the

region's five-year homeless housing strategic plan.

During the current grant cycle, which concludes June 30, Chelan and Douglas counties received approximately \$8 million in combined funding through these programs.

*Applications will be available on the Chelan County website beginning March 31. Interested organizations can direct questions to Amber Hallberg at [amber.hallberg@co.chelan.wa.us](mailto:amber.hallberg@co.chelan.wa.us) or 509-667-6881.*

## Upper Valley Quilts of Valor presents first quilt to U.S. Air Force Major Fred Shannon

By TAYLOR CALDWELL  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The recently formed Upper Valley Quilts of Valor chapter awarded its first quilt to retired U.S. Air Force Major Fred Shannon at the Chumstick Grange Hall on March 19.

The chapter, started by local residents Carol Cade and Brenda Reagan, is part of a larger foundation that aims to “cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” To date, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has presented 405,649 quilts handmade by members in over 600 chapters nationwide.

“It’s [a way] to honor my first husband who was a Marine, and we’ve had family members that have been in the Marine Corps, so it’s a way to honor relatives,” said Cade, designated ‘Group Leader’ of the Upper Valley chapter.

Cade presented the quilt to Shannon during a small ceremony with his three children, community members, and fellow veterans in attendance.

“We are here today to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation for your years of service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War, your courage and dedication to our country are truly commendable, and we are forever in your debt,” said Cade.

Shannon enlisted in the Air Force in 1951, eventually becoming an aircraft electrician. He worked on the B-36 deployment and recovery program for in-flight cover aircraft, before inflight refueling was feasible. Later, he earned his navigator wings and became an Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO), a role that specializes in radar detection and countermeasures.

After a tour as an EWO instructor, he was assigned as an EWO in the Strategic Air Command aboard B-52 bombers, flying Cold War deterrent “bombing” missions. By 1967, he was a captain, and was deployed to Vietnam as an EWO on Wild Weasel anti-aircraft suppression missions.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

The Quilt of Valor was handmade by Carol Cade, designated leader of the Upper Valley Quilts of Valor.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Carol Cade holds out the Quilt of Valor for Fred Shannon's son Larry to see. Larry nominated his dad for the award and was joined by his two sisters at the ceremony.

## District 12 Legislators address budget, education, and housing concerns in virtual town hall

By TAYLOR CALDWELL  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OLYMPIA – State District 12 Legislators Senator Keith Goehner, Representative Mike Steele, and Representative Brian Burnett addressed key challenges facing Washington state in a virtual community town hall on March 20. The community meeting included budget issues, education, and housing.

“There’s nothing better than learning from you, hearing from you [about] what’s important. I just want you to know we take that to heart and in consideration to everything that we do,” said Rep. Burnett.

The state’s budget was top of mind during the meeting as lawmakers prepare to negotiate the 2025-27 biennium budget, facing an operating budget shortfall of an estimated \$15 billion over the next four years. The Republican representatives expressed the need to curtail new spending rather than increasing taxes and fees.

“We’re not living within our means...We’re spending more than we have. And again, this is not a revenues issue. This is a spending issue,” said Rep. Steele.

The lawmakers cautioned against the Senate Democrats’ property tax proposal as a means to balance the budget, calling it a “regressive tax.” The proposal would increase in annual property tax growth from the current

1 percent cap to the combined rate of population growth plus inflation.

On the topic of housing, Sen. Goehner, who sits on the related committee, discussed his support for more housing options through his sponsorship of middle housing allowed in Urban Growth Areas (UGA). However, he could not support the proposed rent control cap of 7 percent annually.

“I talked with a number of low income housing people, and they’ve encouraged me to support that, and I’ve told them I can’t support it, because I really do care about low income housing people. Because if this goes in, it’s shown to be across the nation to actually be a deterrent to more housing being built,” said Sen. Goehner.

Education also received significant attention during the town hall, with concerns of budget declines and dwindling resources from a local teacher. The representatives affirmed their commitment to education funding in the budget, as well as exploring additional means of support. Concerns also arose from a retired teacher regarding the need for a permanent cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for closed retirement plans.

“It’s something that I care deeply about. I know it’s something that Sen. Goehner cares deeply about, and I know it’s something that Rep. Burnett

See DISTRICT 12 Page A6



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE REPUBLICANS

Rep. Brian Burnett, Sen. Keith Goehner, and Rep. Mike Steele represent the 12th District.

## Helion opens dialogue with community on fusion power project



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Helion CEO and Founder David Kirtley speaks to a standing-room-only crowd about fusion power.

By TAYLOR CALDWELL  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

WENATCHEE – Approximately 350 people filled the Mission View Elementary gym to learn about the possible construction of the world’s first fusion power plant in Malaga during an information meeting on March 11.

Helion, an Everett-based energy company, is considering a 10-acre site on Chelan PUD property near Rock Island Dam to build the first fusion machine to produce electricity, if successful. The purpose of the power plant would be to fulfill a 50-megawatt power purchase agreement with Microsoft.

“Our goal is not just to provide electricity, but to provide electricity in a way that’s clean and safe, that’s really low cost,” said CEO and founder David Kirtley.

With fusion, the company promises clean and cost-efficient energy without the downsides of existing nuclear power (fission), which runs the risk of an uncontrolled chain reaction and associated nuclear proliferation, and has long-lived radioactive waste.

However, the developing fusion machine, named Polaris, would be the first of its kind to produce electricity at a commercial level. So far, the company has produced six prototypes.

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## Inside The Record this Week

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Letters policy

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

Corrections

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

News tips

Have an idea for a story? Call the Record at 509-731-4392 email news@ward.media

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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!

Imagination Station - DIY Wooden Doorknob Sign  
Cashmere Public Library will host a DIY Wooden Doorknob Sign event on Wednesday, April 2, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.  
"Claim your room with a personalized Doorknob Sign that you design! All supplies provided,"  
For more information please visit, the cashmere Library page

Kittens on Tap  
Yonder East in Cashmere will host Kittens on Tap on March 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. for a Kitten Shower.  
"As kitten season approaches, our friends at the Wenatchee Humane Society are gearing up to welcome newborn kittens, and we want to help them shower with love and support," P.S, there will be kittens to cuddle.  
For more information, visit Yonder East on social media or contact the Wenatchee Humane Society.

Women in History: Our Founding Mothers - A Dessert Theater  
The Greater Leavenworth Museum will host "Women in History: Our Founding Mothers - A Dessert Theater" on March 29 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
"Join us in celebrating Women's History Month with a screening of the 2006 Centennial program titled 'Women of Substance,' highlighting the contributions of women in the first 100 years of Leavenworth."  
For more information, visit the Greater Leavenworth Museum website or contact them directly.

2nd Annual Bloody Maryfest  
Icicle Village Resort will host the 2nd Annual Bloody Maryfest on Sunday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
"Indulge in a morning of delicious fun as we challenge local mixologists to compete for the 'Best Bloody Mary in Town' title. You get to be the judge, taste a flavor-packed concoction from each participating bar, and cast your vote for the champion, all for just \$30,"  
You must be 21+ to purchase a ticket. Each ticket includes one tasting per bar. Additional tastings are available for purchase at \$5 each.  
For more information or to purchase tickets, visit Icicle Village Resort.

"Bassically" at Horan Estates Winery  
Horan Estates Winery

5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

in Wenatchee will host "Bassically" on March 27 at 5 p.m.  
"Join us for an evening of great music, wine, and good vibes!" the event page states.  
For more information, visit Horan Estates Winery on social media or contact them directly.

# Local author Teri Fink wins multiple literary awards

NCW News  
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Local author Teri Fink, who has spent most of her life in Wenatchee, has received several prestigious literary honors for her novels, including the Legacy Fiction Award from the 15th Annual International Book Awards.

Fink's second novel, "The Clovis Dig," which tells the story of an East Wenatchee orchardist who discovers ancient artifacts beneath the orchard, earned the top prize in the Legacy Fiction category. Jeffrey Keen, President and CEO of American Book Fest, which manages the award, said this year's contest yielded thousands of entries from authors and publishers around the world before being narrowed down to the final results.

Her third novel, "The Restless Lake," has been named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Award, which honors the memory of the American philosopher by highlighting excellence in writing and the independent spirit of small publishers. The novel, which chronicles the meeting of a tech executive and an Olympic gold medalist in the wilderness community of Stehekin at the head of Lake Chelan, has also been nominated by Eric Hoffer judges for the Montaigne Medal, recognizing it as one of the most thought-provoking books that "either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought."

Additionally, the audiobook version of Fink's first novel, "Invisible by Day," a historical fiction work in the vein of Downton Abbey, has been named a finalist in The Wishing Shelf Audiobook Awards. Narrator Grace Gray, a professionally trained actress, brings the audiobook to life. The Wishing Shelf is an organization based in the United Kingdom founded by children's author Edward Trayer.

"We always knew Teri Fink was a talented writer, a real pro, which is why we were thrilled to bring her on board," says Fink's publisher Dave Lane of Evolved Publishing LLC. "Nonetheless, the responses to all of her books by award sites, professional reviewers, and book consumers alike have exceeded even our high expectations. Her books leave a lasting impression in the best way for readers."

"I'm thrilled that all three of my novels are receiving recognition," says Fink.

Fink's novels are available in paperback, eBook, and audiobook formats. They can be purchased locally at A Book for All Seasons in Leavenworth, Ye Olde Bookshoppe in Wenatchee, and Riverwalk Books in Chelan. The novels and audiobooks are also sold online wherever books and audiobooks are sold.

INVISIBLE BY DAY

TERI FINK

UNABRIDGED NARRATED BY GRACE GRAY

"Invisible by Day," Fink's first novel that has been named a finalist in The Wishing Shelf Audiobook Awards.

TERI FINK

the CLOVIS DIG

"The Clovis Dig," her second novel that recently won the Legacy Fiction Award at the 15th Annual International Book Awards.

THE RESTLESS LAKE

TERI FINK

"The Restless Lake," Fink's third novel that has been named a finalist for both the Eric Hoffer Award and nominated for the Montaigne Medal.

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WARD MEDIA

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# OBITUARY Julie Castro Reyes

Julie Castro Reyes was born November 25, 1950 to Jose Pablo Reyes and Librada Castro Reyes. She was raised in Talofofo, Guam with her 9 brothers and 3 sisters. Until her family moved to Peshastin, Washington in 1967.

Julie went on to raise her daughters, Tracy Ann Kerr and Stacy Darlene Oliver, and her son, Jason Gilbert Kerr primarily in Guam.

She later moved to Hawaii before settling back in Wenatchee, Washington in 2002.

In 2003, Julie connected with John Marshall Boyce III through family. She quickly became his inseparable. After months of traveling all of the United States together, they returned to Wenatchee. In 2005, Julie and John were married. She gained a son, Marshall Boyce. They shared many special memories with the family over holidays, games nights or just because.

Over the years, Julie worked various jobs, but her favorite was as a cake decorator at the Fair Market, where she baked many birthday cakes for her grandchildren. Once retired, Julie enjoyed fishing at the lake with her kids and grandchildren. Cooking for many family parties or any friend craving delicious Chamorro food. She made sure everyone left with a full belly. Julie enjoyed road trips, scary movies, playing slug bug and camping trips with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her laugh and smile were infectious. She left a mark everywhere she went.

Most of all, Julie enjoyed being a grandma to 13 beautiful grandchildren: Jesus, Ramon, Shena, Kayla, David, Jannie, Julie, Michelle, Joseph, Robert, Jason Gilbert, Jordan, and Jason Lee. Eventually, she was promoted to great-grandma (or Gigi) of 21 great-grandchildren. She even had bonus grandchildren and great-grandchildren who she loved just as much.

After more than 20 years battling cancer, Julie quietly went to be with God in early morning of February 19, 2025.

Julie is preceded in death by her parents, Jose Pablo Reyes and Librada Castro Reyes, her siblings Jose Reyes, Enrique Reyes, Edward Reyes, Ralph Reyes, Mary Jean Reyes, her sons Joseph Kerr and Jason Gilbert Kerr.

Her beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of her children: Tracy Ramirez (Dryden, WA); Stacy Kerr (Wenatchee, WA); and Marshall Boyce (Whiteville, NC); her 13 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren; and her husband John Marshall Boyce III. She leaves behind 5 brothers, 2 sisters, many cousins, nieces and nephews, and friends who became family.

Please join us in celebrating her life on May 4 at 12 p.m. at the Dryden Gun Club, located at 9214 Otis Rd, Cashmere, Washington.

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

NCW Libraries

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



WARD MEDIA

‘Bringing the community to your door’ isn’t just our slogan... *It’s our purpose*

**The Leavenworth Echo**

**Cashmere Valley Record**

Upper Valley Empty Bowls to close 2025 season with auction and soup supper

The Leavenworth Echo  
Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH – Upper Valley Empty Bowls will have its annual soup supper on March 27, wrapping up another season of fundraising for Upper Valley MEND’s Community Cupboard.

The annual fundraiser invites community members to paint bowls during its “glazing days” in January, which are glazed and returned during the soup supper in spring. The fundraiser also showcases and auctions bowls created by local artists.

The online artist bowl auction is currently live, featuring 21 bowls and platters designed and created by local artists and potters. The bowls will be on display throughout downtown, including Kris Kringl, Der Sportsmann, Ganz Klasse! Posy Handpicked Goods, The Plant Ally, A Book for All Seasons, Inside & Out, Mountain Modern, and Remedy Forest & Home. The auction is open until 10 p.m. on March 26.

The Community Soup Supper is on March 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Feshhalle. Those who painted a bowl earlier this

year can come pick up their bowl and enjoy soup made by local restaurants. The event will include a raffle for bowls painted by talented local students. Those who missed the glazing days can still join for the soup supper. Tickets for the dinner and raffle can be found on the organization’s website.

All auction and ticket proceeds will go to the Community Cupboard. Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and craftspeople around the world to care for and feed the hungry in their communities.



UPPER VALLEY EMPTY BOWLS  
“My Friend” by Paul Elkins is one of the bowls and platters in the online artist auction.

State Parks expands same-day camping reservations to all campgrounds

NCW News  
Ward Media

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is opening up more camping opportunities for visitors by expanding its same-day reservation option to all parks with reservable campgrounds.

Visitors will be able to secure a campsite instead of traveling to a park and gambling on the availability of a first come, first served site. Campers can book a same-day reservation until 2

p.m. on their intended day of arrival. This change is specific to campground reservations and does not apply to roofed accommodations, vacation rentals, yurts and day-use facilities (like picnic shelters).

First come, first served camping is still available for unreserved sites after 2:30 p.m.

State Parks launched its same-day reservation pilot program in September 2023 at Cape Disappointment, Deception Pass and Millersylvania state parks. Due to its success, it was expanded in 2024 to an additional

24 parks. To date, the program has brought in more than 7,000 same-day reservations for sites that might otherwise have been vacant.

This system-wide improvement will provide more opportunities for more campers to experience a night in a state park, and it will improve the experience for day-of planners. Additionally, this change will help the agency fill sites with last-minute cancellations.

State Parks is primarily funded by earned revenue, with 64% of its funds coming from fees,

purchases, donations and other revenue and 36% coming from state general funds. Camping and roofed accommodations account for 40% of the agency’s earned revenue and 23% of its total funding.

**How to make a reservation**

Customers have two options for booking a same-day reservation:

- Online at washington.goingtocamp.com
- By calling 1-888-CAMPOUT (1-888-226-7688)

Deadline approaching for studded tire removal

NCW News  
Ward Media

OLYMPIA – Spring is arriving in the Northwest, and with it comes Washington’s deadline to remove studded tires.

Studded tires must be removed by the end of the day Monday, March 31 to avoid a potential fine of \$137. Automotive centers are expected to be busy the

weekend before the deadline, so the Washington State Department of Transportation encourages travelers to plan ahead.

**Studded tire regulations**

Studded tires are legal in Washington from Nov. 1 to March 31. There is no individual exception or “out of state waiver” to the studded tire dates. Tickets could be

issued by the Washington State Patrol as soon as Tuesday, April 1. WSDOT does not issue tickets. Washington and Oregon share the same March 31 removal deadline, but other states may have different rules. All drivers—including visitors—must follow Washington’s motor vehicle laws while in the state.

Weather and road conditions

State law gives WSDOT the authority to extend the deadline when circumstances call for it. While late-season snow is possible in mountain passes, there are no statewide forecasts warranting a deadline extension. For mountain travel, WSDOT recommends drivers use approved traction tires and carry chains to

have handy if necessary. WSDOT crews will continue to monitor weather and roadway conditions and respond quickly to any spring snow.

“Studded tires cause between \$20 million to \$29 million in damage to Washington’s state-owned roads each winter, in addition to damaging city and county roads,” said WSDOT Maintenance Operations Manager James Morin . “There are many alternative traction options available. We encourage drivers to consider non-stud, winter-tread tires, which provide excellent traction without the road damage caused by metal studs.”

More information about studded tire regulations in Washington is available online.

NCW Libraries, Write On The River launch 14<sup>th</sup> annual high school writers competition

NCW News  
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — NCW Libraries and Write On The River are now accepting submissions for their 14th annual High School Writers Competition, offering cash prizes for original fiction by students in grades 9-12 across five counties in North Central Washington.

The competition, which opened March 14, welcomes entries from students in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, Grant, and Ferry counties, including public, private, home-schooled, and Running Start students. Write On The River will award a total of \$200 in cash prizes to three winners selected for excellence in original short fiction.

Eligible submissions must be the student’s original work, between 500-2,000 words, previously unpublished, and created without artificial intelligence assistance. Students may submit one piece annually, and there is no entry fee. The submission deadline

is April 11.

The competition was established and continues to be sponsored by New York Times bestselling author Chelsea Cain, who visited Wenatchee in 2011 as a speaker at the Write On The River Conference. The organization focuses on connecting regional writers with educational opportunities in fiction, nonfiction, and publishing, while fostering a vibrant writing community in North Central Washington.

NCW Libraries serves the region through 30 library locations, digital resources, a Mail Order Library, and a Community Bookmobile, with a mission to connect residents with resources that promote individual growth and community development.

Interested students can find complete guidelines and submission information at [www.writeontheriver.org](http://www.writeontheriver.org) or [www.ncwlibraries.org/writerscompetition](http://www.ncwlibraries.org/writerscompetition), where works by past winners are also available for reading.

Chelan County Sheriff’s Report



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

March 14

13:22:41 Property, 5980 Goodwin Rd  
14:21:46 Assist Agency, 4705 Kelly Rd, Monitor  
19:47:48 Domestic Disturbance, 426 Cottage Ave, Cashmere  
21:12:43 Civil, 316 Chapel St, Cashmere

March 15

02:37:56 Noise, 4566 Old Monitor Rd, Monitor  
08:31:10 Animal Problem, 7030 Olalla Canyon Rd, Cashmere  
13:55:44 Welfare Check, Bridge St & Old Monitor Rd, Cashmere  
15:24:03 Disturbance, 426 Cottage Ave, Cashmere  
22:43:42 Harass/Threat, 4544 Old Monitor Rd, Monitor

March 16

09:11:42 Harass/Threat, Cashmere  
09:36:32 Suspicious, 300 Aplets Way, Cashmere  
10:51:26 Harass/Threat, 229 Independence Way, Cashmere  
15:22:54 Traffic Offense, 6000blk Webster Way, Cashmere  
15:46:35 Harass/Threat, 302 Fisher St, Cashmere  
16:45:35 Assist Public, 817 Pioneer Ave, Cashmere  
19:24:04 Fraud/Forgery, 107 Riverfront Dr, Cashmere  
23:22:01 Domestic Disturbance, 60 Ledford Ln, Cashmere

March 17

11:48:09 Assist Public , 2595 Easy St, Monitor  
13:07:34 Suspicious, 4544 Old Monitor Rd, Monitor  
19:37:06 Accident No Inj, 6800blk Stine Hill Rd

March 18

0:34:53 Suspicious, 207 Riverside Dr, Riverside  
10:20:13 Welfare Check, 426 Cottage Ave, Cashmere  
10:33:34 Parking/Abandon, 100blk River St, Cashmere  
11:42:55 Welfare Check, 7201 N Dryden Rd; Peshastin  
12:40:22 Accident No Inj, 329 Tigner Rd, Cashmere  
14:06:41 Property, 101 Woodring St  
14:08:20 Suspicious, 212 River St  
15:22:39 Harass/Threat, 101 Pioneer Ave, Cashmere  
16:36:56 Missing Person, 5413 Binder Rd, Cashmere  
17:05:11 Sex Offense, 308 Evergreen Dr, Cashmere  
18:35:17 Disturbance, 104 Paton St, Cashmere 21:53:39 Alarm,119 Cottage Ave, Cashmere

March 19

11:15:16 Animal Problem, 5505 Titchenal Way, Cashmere  
11:15:21 Assist Public , 3263 Allyn Ln, Monitor  
12:24:25 Harass/Threat  
17:16:44 Suspicious, 119 Cottage Ave, Cashmere  
17:48:27 Animal Problem, 6400 Sunburst Ln, Cashmere

March 20

09:07:44 Alarm, 111 White Birch Pl# C, Cashmere  
14:12:19 Civi, Cashmere, Cashmere  
15:11:20 Accident No Inj, 300blk Tigner Rd, Cashmere  
17:20:31 Fraud/Forgery, 403 Aplets Way, Cashmere 22:15:51 Alarm, 117 Aplets Way, Cashmere



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 <p><b>Jonathan Lopez</b> 5<sup>th</sup> grade</p>	 <p><b>Weston Waters</b> 6<sup>th</sup> grade</p>
 <p><b>Coen Binger</b> 7<sup>th</sup> grade</p>	 <p><b>Mason Dodrill</b> 8<sup>th</sup> grade</p>
 <p><b>Skyler DeJesus</b> Tech Stars</p>	 <p><b>Braxton Gjullin</b> Estrella Espanola</p>
 <p><b>Grant Perkins</b> Academy Stars</p>	 <p><b>Wynn Anderson</b> Academy Stars</p>

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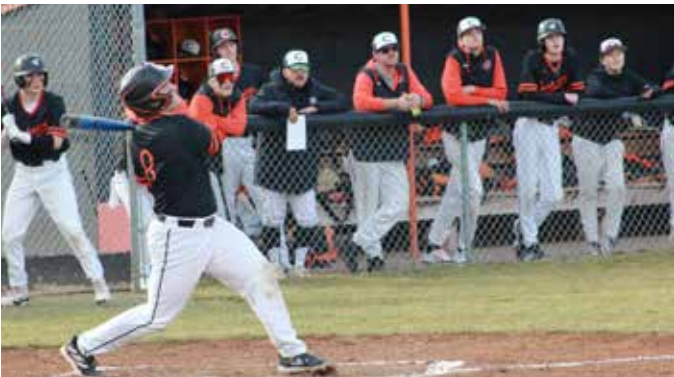


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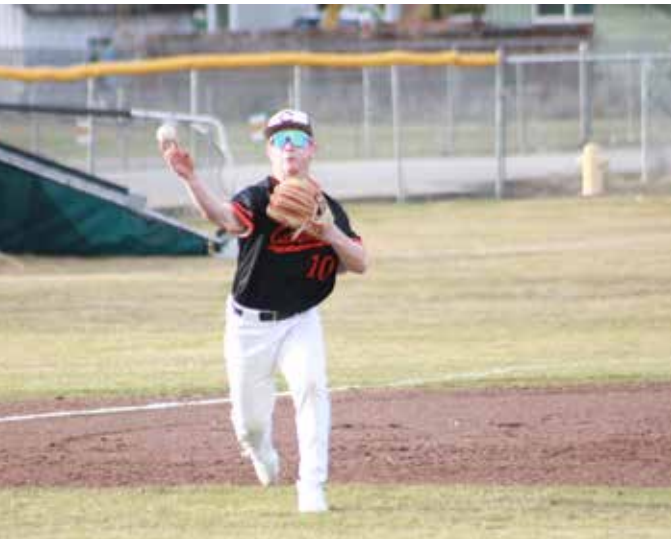
# Bulldogs edge Quincy 2-1 in pitchers' duel behind strong defense



The Bulldogs' Thomas Bergren pops one up during the 2-1 Cashmere win over Quincy.

CASHMERE - In a pitchers' duel where both sides flashed firepower from the mound and plenty of defensive skill, Cashmere outclassed a game Quincy squad in

a nonconference clash 2-1 on March 21. All three runs occurred in the first inning, with only one runner from either team making it to third base the rest of the way.



The Bulldogs' Jacoby Tait fields a grounder to third and throws to first for the out. Cashmere scored two runs in the first inning and that proved enough to beat a stubborn Quincy squad, 2-1.



If you had any doubt whether the Bulldogs took a nonconference matchup against Quincy seriously, just look at the face of pitcher Mac Carlson after recording the 21st and final out on a strikeout. Cashmere won 2-1, with Carlson pitching three sterling innings of relief.

# Bulldogs dominate shorthanded Leopards in 10-0 tennis sweep



CASHMERE - The Cashmere Bulldogs defeated the shorthanded Zillah Leopards, 5-0, 5-0, thanks to dominating performances and a handful of forfeits.

● Albin Eskew putting his forehand to work against Zillah. Cashmere won 5-0 in boys matches and 5-0 in girls matches, earning their second consecutive win against a SCAC opponent.

● Albin Eskew, at right, shakes hands with his Zillah opponent after defeating him in straight sets 6-4, 6-4. Eskew was one of two Cashmere male players who needed to suit up against Zillah, which forfeited three matches, all doubles.



# Bulldogs fall 2-1 to rival Kodiaks in hard-fought soccer battle



CASHMERE - The Cashmere Bulldogs and their old CTL archrivals the Cascade Kodiaks proved that a change in leagues means nothing when it comes to a well established rivalry. Not only did they play in front of a packed house, they put on quite a show, with Cascade winning 2-1.

● Cashmere's JJ Herrera in action against Cascade last March 18. Herrera had the lone goal for the Bulldogs in a 2-1 loss to the visiting Kodiaks in a thrilling non-league clash that delighted a packed crowd at Vale Elementary.

● Ivan Gonzalez shakes off his marker to drive the ball upfield against Cascade. The Bulldogs played a good game but their archrivals from the Bavarian Village had the last word, winning 2-1 in comeback fashion.

● Grey Jacobsen battles Cascade's Grant Burrill (15) during the Cashmere Bulldogs' 2-1 loss to the visiting Kodiaks.

CASHMERE SCHEDULE					
Boys Varsity Soccer					
Thu, Mar 27 4:00: PM	Cashmere	Chelan High School		Away	
Fri, Mar 28 6:00 PM	Cashmere	Warden High School		Away	
Tue, Apr 1 6:00 PM	Cashmere	La Salle High School		Home	
Boys Varsity Baseball					
Sat, Mar 29 12:00 PM	Cashmere vs.	College Place		Home	
Tue, Apr, 1 3:00 PM	Cashmere vs.	Royal		Away	
Boys Varsity Tennis					
Thu, Mar 27 3:00 PM	Cashmere vs.	Royal		Away	
Boys Varsity Track					
Thu, Mar 27 4:00 PM	Cashmere vs.	CTL reunion meet		Home	
Girls Varsity Tennis					
Thu, Mar 27 3:00 PM	Cashmere vs.	Royal		Away	
Girls Varsity Softball					
Sat, Mar 29 12:00: PM	Cashmere vs.	College Place High School		Home	
Girls Varsity Track					
Thu, Mar 27 4:30 PM	Cashmere vs.	CTL reunion meet		Home	
CASHMERE SCOREBOARD					
Boys Varsity Soccer					
Sat, Mar 15 2:00: PM	Cashmere	3	College Place High School	0	Win
Tue, Mar 18 6:00: PM	Cashmere	1	Cascade High School	2	Loss
Thu, Mar 20 6:00: PM	Cashmere	0	Royal High School	2	Loss
Sat, Mar 22 1:00: PM	Cashmere	1	Wahluke High School	2	Loss
Boys Varsity Baseball					
Fri, Mar 21 4:30 PM	Cashmere	2	Quincy	1	Win
Girls Varsity Softball					
Sat, Mar 15 11:00: AM	Cashmere	5	Royal High School	15	Loss
Tue, Mar 18 4:30: PM	Cashmere	18	Brewster High School	1	Win

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# Eastmont District budget update sees staff cuts due to reduced enrollment



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

Although most reductions will take place at the kindergarten and high school levels, even the junior high could see repurposed teachers filling roles elsewhere due to teacher attrition.

By Andrew Simpson  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

EAST WENATCHEE — Interim Eastmont School District Superintendent Spencer Taylor is tasked with delivering difficult news to parents and the community. But a school district’s budget is a tightrope even in the most affluent communities, and all across Washington state there’s been an education funding crisis for years. Taylor notes that the community has become accustomed to budget shortfalls, but is not attributing this one to Eastmont-specific policies. Now, due to reduced enrollment primarily at the two extremes of the grade spectrum, there are unfortunately staff reductions in the works. At the kindergarten level, reduced enrollment can come from a number of factors, but is explained primarily by a decreasing birth rate and the cost of housing in this area. At the high school level, many students are availing themselves of the Running Start program and find themselves in seats at Wenatchee Valley College instead of Eastmont. Infact, the district anticipates a three-point-five percent reduction in enrollment. That looks like it’s going to translate to approximately

10% cuts in administration, which will bear the brunt of the reductions. The district anticipates a five percent reduction in the budget each in both certificated staff (those holding teaching certificates) and classified staff (those not required to be certified, like custodians and bus drivers). The reason for the use of percentages rather than real numbers for expected cuts is that much of the “right-sizing,” as Taylor calls it, will come from restructuring existing roles. Where one person may have been filling a role as a job of its own previously, two or more jobs may be consolidated into one in the future. For example, Taylor is the Executive Director of Elementary Education for Eastmont, but was named Interim Superintendent last December in anticipation of former ESD Superintendent Becky Berg’s retirement at the beginning of this year. He now holds both roles until a new Superintendent is appointed by the school board. The district does not believe there will be a large disruption in class sizes, from essentially no change for elementary levels to slight variations based on department at the secondary level. Many parents have questioned the prioritization of sports

and the purchase of a bus over keeping staff. The district explains that sports funding and transportation spending come from entirely separate funding allocations and can’t be redirected to staffing. The district could not, for example, forego repairs to a district vehicle in order to redirect that money to teacher pay. Priorities are on the mind of the Eastmont Education Association President, as well. Natalie Hoback-Noyd holds a dual role herself, as both the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports Coordinator at Kenroy Elementary and the EEA union leader. “Eastmont Education Association members understand the District’s challenges, although we do not agree with some of the budget items the District has chosen to prioritize,” Hoback-Noyd said. But in addition to being in this for the kids, Hoback-Noyd says the union wants to preserve what they can through collective bargaining. “Our goal is to offer contract concessions to save as many jobs as possible,” she said. You can see their current contract at this link. An additional struggle that Eastmont faces is the fact that the state only funds about 70% of school district positions, and

in practice, actually underfunds the true costs, according to Taylor. The schools are forced to make up the shortfall with levies and other revenues to make sure that educators and administrative staff get required cost of living adjustments. “We are keeping the student experience at the heart of this,” said Taylor. “This is really hard. Eastmont has a great culture, and we try to do our best to support our staff, so our staff can support students, and any time that you’re not able to keep staff, it is really, really hard.” Taylor wants parents and community members to know one thing first and foremost: That all budget decisions are being made with students in mind, and that all contracts are being honored, including the contract with the community that funds their levy. “District budgets are incredibly complicated, and we want to make sure that your questions are answered,” said Taylor. He added that you can contact his office at 509-884-7169 or [taylors@eastmont206.org](mailto:taylors@eastmont206.org), or you can reach Kayla Brown, the executive director of human resources at [brownk@eastmont206.org](mailto:brownk@eastmont206.org). Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or [andrew@ward.media](mailto:andrew@ward.media)

# Second annual bike swap to return at Eastside Cycleworks



COURTESY OF EASTSIDE CYCLEWORKS

The downtown bike shop specializes in bike repair, rentals and retail, with ski offerings during the winter. The storefront will have a one-day sale during the bike swap.



COURTESY OF EASTSIDE CYCLEWORKS

The bike swap will take place in the back parking lot of Eastside Cycleworks, accessible through the store's front entrance.

LEAVENWORTH – The second annual bikeswap hosted by Eastside Cycleworks will return on March 29, offering new and experienced cyclists an opportunity to get a deal on a used bike. Last year, the Leavenworth bike shop collected over 60 used bikes for the swap. This year it is hoping to reach 100. Sellers can drop-off their bikes at Eastside Cycleworks between March 23 and 28. Sellers can set the price for their bicycle, and can choose between receiving a check for 80 percent of the sale value or store credit for 100 percent of the sale value. Reasonable

pricing is encouraged. The swap will accept any kind of bike in safe, rideable condition. Shoppers are encouraged to arrive at the swap early for the best selection and deals. They can enter through the front door of the shop to reach the back parking lot, where the used bikes will be on display. An ID and a credit card will be required to test ride any of the bikes. The bike swap will open at 9 a.m. on March 29. Eastside Cycleworks is located at 215 14th Street in Leavenworth. A one-day sale will also be taking place inside the store during the swap.



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

Many high school students have joined the Running Start program, which puts them in Wenatchee Valley College and out of Eastmont's enrollment numbers.



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

At Kenroy Elementary, school administrators took visitors on a tour to show them the state of the nearly 70-year-old building before a bond vote.

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District 12

Continued from page A1

is absolutely behind, and it's something we all believe... That a promise made should be a promise kept," said Rep. Steele.

Additionally, Rep. Burnett discussed his first legislative bill proposal, House Bill 1969, which would provide financial assistance to local law enforcement aviation support units. The bill passed the House floor and is currently under review in the Senate.

"That's just going to help provide some funding for our four agencies in Washington State, which [are] Snohomish, King, Chelan and Spokane, that [have] rotary programs primarily for search and rescue," said Rep. Burnett.

Comments and questions can be left for the legislators via the toll free legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000.

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

Helion

Continued from page A1

Its sixth generation, Trenta, became "the first privately-funded fusion device to reach commercially-relevant fusion conditions."

Helion hosted the informational meeting alongside Chelan County PUD and Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority to answer questions and field concerns from the public about the groundbreaking power project. During the Q&A portion of the meeting, residents raised concerns of the reliability of executing the project, as well as impact on the public utility, property taxes, and the environment.

"There's got to be a cost. There's got to be a form of pollution that we don't understand... How do we harness that unknown?" said audience member Gary Koehler, who referenced the Hanford Nuclear site contamination and the Columbia River dams' impact on salmon populations.

Quilts of Valor

Continued from page A1

During the ceremony, retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Mike Worden, who was a Wild Weasel pilot in subsequent wars, explained the historical significance and legacy of the first generation of Wild Weasels.

"There's probably no specific mission more dangerous...than the Wild Weasel pilots. And I'm really proud to be a kind of descendant of [Shannon]...It takes a lot of courage to go in, and then the walls of missiles start coming up. And nobody, nobody goes without the Weasels right up front. They go in first, and they suppress all the defenses," said Worden.

The Wild Weasel missions were an unprecedented strategy created to combat the new surface-to-air missile (SAM) technology that took out U.S. aircrafts en masse over North Vietnam.

As an EWO, Shannon was placed in the backseat of a modified two-seat fighter jet, with a pilot in the front. The Wild Weasels would enter enemy territory first, intentionally provoking the SAM sites in order to activate their radar and expose their locations. Once the EWO



Taylor Caldwell / Ward Media  
Veterans Larry Shannon, Mike Worden, and Paul Gray stand behind retired U.S. Air Force Major Fred Shannon.

detected the radar, they would guide the pilot to launch anti-radiation missiles at the threat before it could strike them. Through the cat-and-mouse mission, the Wild Weasels placed themselves in the path of risk in order to neutralize the threat for other aircraft.

During the war, Shannon famously led a Wild Weasel flight with his pilot, Lt. Col. James McInerney, in the first air strike against the heavily defended Paul Doumer Bridge in Hanoi, North Vietnam. The two suppressed six active SAM sites while dodging anti-aircraft artillery fire and three missile launches. As a result, not a single aircraft was lost. Shannon and McInerney were awarded an

Air Force Cross, the second highest military decoration, for the mission.

"His generation found some brave few people that would go do this, and actually take a huge threat out that had been unprecedented in history," said Worden. "Now it's worldwide. Foreign countries won't even go in without American Wild Weasel pilots first."

Worden commended Shannon's bravery, expressing gratitude for his role in the development of a strategy that continues to be used by the Air Force.

"It's an honor to be associated with the development of the program that's continued from the past 55 years or so...As the General mentioned, it's a very



Taylor Caldwell / Ward Media  
Carol and Matt Cade present the Quilt of Valor to Shannon.

important part of the air battle today," said Shannon.

During his time in Vietnam, Shannon was also awarded three Silver Star awards and five Distinguished Flying Crosses for his acts of bravery and heroism. His tour ended after he ejected from an F-105 due to an engine fire, breaking his hip. After his recovery, Shannon was an EWO instructor at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico, and later served as an F-111 EWO at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. He retired in 1973.

Shannon, now a 93-year-old East Wenatchee resident, was nominated by his son, Larry Shannon, who learned about the Quilts of Valor through his

own nomination.

"I nominated him for the quilt because he went through quite a bit during his time in Vietnam...I can remember when I first joined the Marine Corps at the end of the Vietnam War. There was a lot of negative publicity about military people in Vietnam. So, Quilts of Valor is a great way of supporting our veterans," said Larry Shannon.

The Upper Valley Quilts of Valor plans to have an information meeting for prospective members at 10 a.m. on April 16 at the Leavenworth Firehall, located at 228 Chumstick Highway.

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



Taylor Caldwell / Ward Media  
The community meeting hosted a panel of leaders from Helion, Chelan County PUD and Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority to answer questions about the potential project.

The company said its power plant footprint would be smaller than the size of a high school campus, its water usage would be comparable to a small hospital (100 to 300 gallons of water per minute), and its air emissions and radiation would be within Department of Health standards. The plant would also have a nitrogen fire suppression system. Additionally, Helion explained its radioactive byproduct tritium had a half-life of only 12.5 years.

"It decays into helium-3. So this becomes like a wine cellar. As it ages, it ages into our fuel. These valves can be opened up. We can pull that helium-3 out and put it back into our machine," said Michael Hua, Helion Director of Radiation Safety and Nuclear Science.

Audience members also

raised the question of both Helion and Microsoft's impact on local taxpayers. Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority Commissioner Donn Etherington said the new construction and raised assessed value from the projects would create "tax relief on your property taxes," earning a round of applause from the gym. Additional concerns were raised with the

large load growth impacting the local power utility.

"One of the things we hear loud and clear from you all is concerns about large load data centers and not using up the surplus hydropower electricity that we have...This is actually potentially helping in that regard, and coming up with an emerging technology that would address large loads. And so that's our interest

here," said Chelan County PUD General Manager Kirk Hudson.

In response to concerns about project abandonment, Kirtley said the company had enough private investment to construct the "buildings and all the generator infrastructure for the facility." As part of the licensing process, the company also had to place the cost of decommissioning the site in

a trust to ensure state-driven clean up was funded, said Hua.

The company is still in the process of permitting and agreements. If all goes to plan, it aims to deliver its first electrons to the grid by 2028, according to Helion Communications Director Jessie Barton.

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Announcements

Miscellaneous

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Employment

Help Wanted



School District is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

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Paid Training Benefits and PTO  
Please call Lori Duncan @ (509) 548-6039 for more information.

Fast Track application process and information can be found on our website at [www.cascadesed.org](http://www.cascadesed.org) EOE

**PUD No. 1 of Okanogan County is seeking to fill the Director of Finance, Accounting and Administration position headquartered in our Okanogan office.**  
Please see [www.okanoganpud.org](http://www.okanoganpud.org) for job description, requirements and submit application with resume. Okanogan PUD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Administrative Assistant Full-time**

Organization: **Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO)**  
TranGO is looking for a full-time Administrative Assistant. This position is hourly non-exempt. Compensation is \$20.33 – 21.99 per hour – DOE. Benefits include health, dental, vision, life insurance, (see website for benefit details) retirement, sick leave, and vacation. Responsible to perform a variety of front desk, clerical, administrative office support functions and customer service duties. Bilingual English / Spanish preferred. Please visit [www.okanogantransit.com](http://www.okanogantransit.com) for required qualifications, application, and job description. A complete application including a resume and cover letter must be submitted in order to be considered for the position. E-mail your completed application to [financehr@okanogantransit.com](mailto:financehr@okanogantransit.com) or mail to TranGO, PO Box 507, Okanogan WA 98840  
Application Deadline: Open until filled. Okanogan County Transit Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

**Road Supervisor Full-time**

Organization: **Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO)**  
TranGO is hiring a full-time Road Supervisor. This position is hourly non-exempt. Compensation is \$30.73 – 33.24 per hour - DOE. Benefits include health, dental, vision, life insurance (see website for benefit details), retirement, sick leave, and vacation. This position assists in overseeing the bus drivers, the maintenance of our transit system, and ensuring the safe and efficient transportation of passengers. Bilingual English / Spanish preferred. Please visit [www.okanogantransit.com](http://www.okanogantransit.com) for required qualifications, application, and job description. A complete application including a resume and cover letter must be submitted in order to be considered for the position. E-mail your completed application to [financehr@okanogantransit.com](mailto:financehr@okanogantransit.com) or mail to TranGO, PO Box 507, Okanogan WA 98840  
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**Finance/ HR Assistant Full Time**

Organization: **Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO)**  
TranGO is looking for a full-time Finance/HR Assistant. This position is hourly non-exempt. Compensation is \$26.20 per hour. Benefits include health, dental, vision, life insurance (see website for benefit details), retirement, sick leave, and vacation. Responsible for assisting in operations in the areas of accounting, finance, budget, procurement, and contracts. Assists in the agency's human resources programs including recruitment, labor relations, compensation and benefit administration, staff development, drug testing program and record keeping in accordance with state, federal, and local laws. Bilingual, English/ Spanish preferred. Please visit [www.okanogantransit.com](http://www.okanogantransit.com) for required qualifications, application, and job description. A complete application including a resume and cover letter must be submitted in order to be considered for the position. E-mail your completed application to [financehr@okanogantransit.com](mailto:financehr@okanogantransit.com) or mail to TranGO, PO Box 507, Okanogan WA 98840  
Application Deadline: Open until filled. Okanogan County Transit Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

**The Bridgeport School District**

has the following opening for the 2025-26 school year: **Secondary Special Education Teacher.** The position is open until filled. Apply on-line: <https://www.bsd75.org/page/employment-opportunities>. For further information, please contact the HR office at 509-686-5656 or email [jobs@bsd75.org](mailto:jobs@bsd75.org). BSD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Public Notices

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CHELAN COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of JAMES T. NICE SR., Deceased.**  
**No. 25-4-00089-04 NONPROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.42.030**

The notice agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the notice agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as notice agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate in the State of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the decedent has not been issued to any other notice agent and a personal representative of the decedent's estate has not been appointed. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the notice agent or the notice agent's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the notice agent's declaration and oath were filed. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the notice agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.42.020(2)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.  
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: March 19, 2025  
The notice agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington on the 7th day of March, 2025, at Wenatchee, Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.  
Signature of Notice Agent  
Notice Agent:  
JENNIFER L. BRYAN  
Attorney for the Notice Agent:  
David J. Bentsen  
Address for Mailing or Service:  
Speidel Bentsen LLP  
7 North Wenatchee Avenue, Suite 600  
P.O. Box 881  
Wenatchee, Washington 98807  
Court of Notice Agent's Oath and Declaration and Cause Number: Chelan County Superior Court Cause No. 25-4-00089-04  
Prepared By: SPEIDEL BENTSEN LLP  
By: David J. Bentsen  
WSBA No. 42107  
7 North Wenatchee Avenue, Suite 600  
P.O. Box 881  
Wenatchee, Washington 98807  
(509) 662-1211  
Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record March 19, 26, and April 2, 2025. #9618

Spread the News about your **COMMUNITY EVENT** online at

[ncw.news/](http://ncw.news/)  
[leavenworthecho.com](http://leavenworthecho.com)  
[cashmerevalleyrecord.com](http://cashmerevalleyrecord.com)  
[lakechelanmirror.com](http://lakechelanmirror.com)  
[qcherald.com](http://qcherald.com)

Public Notices

**City of Leavenworth Curb Ramp Improvements Bid Information NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**City of Leavenworth, WA - CURB RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**  
**TIB Project No. P-E-850(P07)-1 - City Project #: 2023-023**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Leavenworth at the City Hall Reception Desk, **700 US 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826** or by US Mail: **PO Box 287, Leavenworth, WA 98826** until 2:00:00 PM on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, and will then and there be opened and read for construction of the improvements. Each bid shall be addressed to **"ANDREA FISCHER, CITY CLERK."** Each bid shall be plainly marked **"SEALED BID – DO NOT OPEN, CITY OF LEAVENWORTH, CURB RAMP IMPROVEMENTS"**. All bid proposals shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in a cashier's check or surety bond in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of such bid proposal. Should the successful bidder fail to enter into such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond within the time stated in the specifications, the bid proposal deposit shall be forfeited to the City of Leavenworth. The engineer's range for **Schedule A – Base Bid** for this project is **\$195,000 to \$275,000**. The project generally consists of furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and other miscellaneous items to provide new ADA compliant cement concrete curb ramp improvements. This project includes, but is not limited to, removal of existing sidewalk, curb and gutter, curb ramps, pavement, and subgrade; removal and resetting of existing sidewalk bricks; construction of new cement concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk; cement concrete curb ramps; adjusting catch basins to grade; minor landscaping and restoration; installation of new signs; installation of pavement markings; temporary construction traffic control; and other miscellaneous items necessary to complete this project. Plans and specifications may be viewed at the following locations:  
• City Hall Reception Desk, City of Leavenworth, 700 US 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826  
• Designated website: Quest CDN, visit <https://www.questcdn.com/> Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website for \$22.00 by inputting Quest CDN Number 9563289 on the website's bid posting search page after login. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format, must register for a free Regular membership to be considered a plan holder and receive automatic addenda and bid updates. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. Please contact **Quest CDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632** or [support@questcdn.com](mailto:support@questcdn.com) for assistance in membership registration and downloading digital bid documents.  
For additional information regarding this project, contact Josh Fedora, P.E. at Ardurra Group, Inc., by phone at (509) 860-2426, or email at [jfedora@ardurra.com](mailto:jfedora@ardurra.com).  
The project is being funded by the Transportation Improvement Board funds. The TIB Project No. is P-E-850(P07)-1  
The City of Leavenworth, Washington, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities or informalities in the bid or in the bidding. Responsibility and competency of bidders and their subcontractors will be considered in making the award. All documents received in response to this invitation to bid will become a matter of public record subject to the Washington public disclosure act under chapter 42.56 RCW.  
**City of Leavenworth in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 USC 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21 Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this invitation, disadvantaged business enterprises as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.**  
No bidder may withdraw their bid after the hour set for the opening thereof or before the award of contract, unless said award is delayed for a period exceeding sixty days.  
Published in the Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record March 19 and 26, 2025. #9612

# SUDOKU

	4	3		1				
	6		7			9	2	
1			6					
				9	7			
				4	2		5	
						2	8	4
		1						9
		5						2
7					8	6		

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	5	6	8	4	2	7	3	9
4	9	3	7	6	1	5	8	2
8	2	1	5	7	3	4	6	9
4	8	2	7	1	5	6	3	9
6	3	9	7	1	5	6	8	4
9	6	8	2	4	7	3	5	1
5	1	3	6	8	9	4	7	2
2	7	1	3	6	8	9	4	5
3	4	5	7	2	1	8	6	9

ANSWER:

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# Kid Scoop





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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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# Cooking Up Facts and Opinions



Hey, Eli! Want a chocolate chip cookie? I just made them!

Thanks, Jeff!

YEEEEECK!!

How much salt did you put in these cookies?

Just a glob or two!

Cooking with a recipe that uses measurements everyone understands helps to recreate a food dish that tastes similar each time it is cooked.

Which of the following measurements are always the same factual amount? Do the math. Ones with even answers are facts. Odd answers are opinions.

Standards Link: Math: Identify standard measurements.

**FACTS** are pieces of information based upon things that can be measured, counted or seen by anyone.

**OPINIONS** describe how someone feels or thinks about a thing or event. They can vary from person to person.

### How Much is a Glob?

Ask friends to tell you how big a glob is. Color one space for each person's answer to graph the results.

<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
The size of a pea	The size of a golf ball	A few spoonfuls	About a handful
5 + 5 = Teaspoon	8 + 8 = Quart		
4 + 8 = Tablespoon	1 + 2 = Pinch		
2 + 2 = Cup	7 + 6 = Dash		
7 + 7 = ¼ cup	1 + 1 = Gallon		
3 + 2 = Glob	3 + 4 = Morsel		
9 + 6 = Smidgeon	8 + 2 = Ounce		
5 + 6 = Dollop	3 + 6 = Tad		

# Food Truck Facts

*Heroes on the Go* is a popular sandwich food truck. Read what each customer is saying. Circle the statements that are **FACTS** in GREEN. Circle the **OPINIONS** in RED.



I think they make the very best sandwiches in the world!

They use organic veggies on all their sandwiches.

The *Heroes on the Go* truck stops at this spot every Tuesday and Thursday.

They make a great grilled cheese sandwich that you'll love!

The owner has another food truck named *Cool Wheels* that sells smoothies.

The chili and soups they make are even better than the sandwiches!

There's a *Heroes on the Go* buy one/get one coupon in the newspaper each week.

The turkey sandwiches are \$9.95 each.

The prices at this food truck are not bad at all!

Extra! Extra!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Differentiate between fact and opinion.

### Fun Facts

Look through today's newspaper for five facts. List the facts and circle any you think are fun to know. Whether or not the fact is fun would be your opinion.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.



Standards Link: Science: Observation: Identify similarities & differences in common objects.

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### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:  
**OPINION**  
The noun **opinion** means what one thinks or believes about something or somebody.

In my **opinion**, broccoli is the very best vegetable of them all.

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

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Look at the picture of the ice cream sundae. Write one **FACT** and one **OPINION** about the picture.

**FACT:**

**OPINION:**



Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.

### Double Double Word Search

BALL  
CHEESE  
COOKIE  
CUP  
FACTS  
GLOB  
GRAPH  
OPINIONS  
QUART  
RECIPE  
SALT  
SAME  
SANDWICH  
TIME  
WORLD

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

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

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

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# 7 garden growing basics for beginners

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice

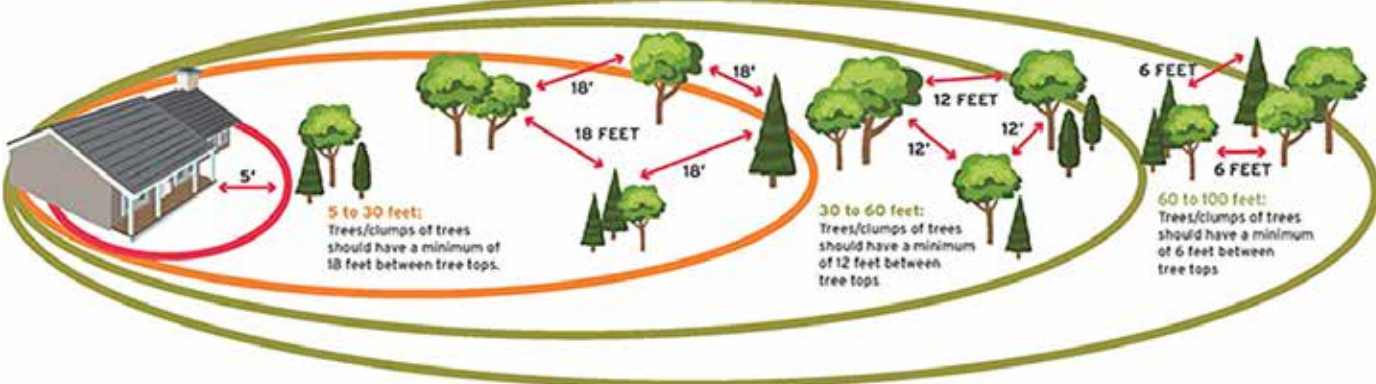
**Create inviting outdoor spaces**  
A few pops of color can help make your yard look superb

**Clever storage ideas for small spaces**  
You can almost always find a spot or two for extra storage

STOCK PHOTO

## Creating a fire-resistant landscape Protecting your home from wildfire

### TREE SPACING



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA)

Proper tree spacing is a key factor in wildfire defense. This diagram illustrates the recommended distances between tree canopies within different Home Ignition Zones. In the **Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)**, trees should be spaced at least 18 feet apart. In the **Extended Zone (30-60 feet)**, a minimum of 12 feet between tree canopies is advised, while in the **outermost zone (60-100 feet)**, trees should have at least 6 feet of separation. Maintaining these distances helps slow fire spread and reduces the risk of flames reaching a home.

For homeowners in wildfire-prone areas, strategic landscaping can be a critical line of defense against encroaching flames. By designing an outdoor space with fire-resistant principles in mind, residents can significantly reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their homes.

### Understanding defensible space

The concept of defensible space, as outlined by the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise program, divides a property into three distinct zones that work together to slow or stop the spread of wildfire. Each zone has specific landscaping and maintenance recommendations to minimize fire hazards.

#### Immediate zone (0-5 feet): your first line of defense

The area closest to your home is the most vulnerable to flying embers, which are a leading cause of home ignitions during wildfires. To safeguard this space:

- Keep roofs and gutters free of leaves and debris.
- Choose non-combustible ground covers such as gravel, stone, or concrete rather than flammable

- mulch.
- Remove all dried vegetation, dead plants, and anything that could serve as fuel.
- Avoid planting shrubs or trees that touch your home's siding, as they can ignite and spread flames to the structure.
- Install metal mesh screens (1/8-inch or smaller) over vents to prevent embers from entering.

#### Intermediate zone (5-30 feet): reducing fire intensity

This area serves as a buffer between your home and the surrounding landscape, helping to reduce the intensity of flames should a fire reach your property. Best practices include:

- Maintaining a well-irrigated and trimmed lawn with grass no taller than four inches.
- Spacing trees at least 10 feet apart to prevent fire from jumping from one to another.
- Removing "ladder fuels"—vegetation that allows fire to climb from the ground to treetops.
- Pruning tree branches 6-10 feet from the ground to prevent flames from reaching the canopy.

- Using fire-resistant plants such as lavender, yarrow, and certain succulents, which contain less resin and sap, making them less likely to ignite.

#### Extended zone (30-100 feet): slowing the fire's spread

In this outermost zone, the goal is to break up the fire's path and slow its advance before it reaches your home. Homeowners should:

- Remove dead trees, branches, and underbrush.
- Keep at least 12 feet of space between tree canopies.
- Stack firewood and other combustible materials at

- least 30 feet from the home.
- Create firebreaks with gravel paths, driveways, or low-growing, fire-resistant vegetation.

### Emergency preparedness: have a plan in place

While creating a defensible space around your home greatly reduces risk, it's essential to have an emergency plan in case evacuation becomes necessary. The Firewise program recommends:

- Keeping an emergency supply kit with important

- documents, medications, and essentials.
- Establishing multiple evacuation routes and practicing them regularly.
- Creating a plan for pets and livestock.
- Staying informed with real-time updates from local fire officials and emergency services.

### Choosing fire-resistant materials

In addition to thoughtful landscaping, selecting the right construction materials for your home and outdoor structures can make a

significant difference in its ability to withstand wildfire. According to the NFPA, the best fire-resistant materials include:

- **Roofing:** Class A fire-rated materials such as metal, clay tiles, concrete shingles, or asphalt composite shingles.
- **Siding:** Fiber cement, stucco, brick, or stone.
- **Windows:** Dual-pane tempered glass, which is more resistant to heat and breaking than single-pane glass.
- **Decking:** Fire-resistant materials such as composite decking, concrete, or tile instead of untreated wood.

### Protect your property, protect your community

Wildfires are an increasing threat in many regions, but proactive homeowners can take steps to minimize risk. By implementing fire-resistant landscaping and construction techniques, you not only protect your home but also contribute to the safety of your neighborhood.

For more information on fire preparedness, visit [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org) or contact your local fire department for guidance on regional best practices.

## 3 ways to a more comfortable and efficient home this spring

By CATHY MORRIS  
Chelan PUD Customer Energy Solutions

Are you cranking up the heat in winter and blasting the AC in summer—yet still feeling uncomfortable? This can be frustrating and lead to higher electricity bills.

Spring is the perfect time to assess your home's energy usage and make improvements that enhance comfort while lowering costs for years to come.

The best part? It's easier than you think! Chelan PUD's Customer Energy Solutions team recommends starting with these three key areas:

### 1. Air Seal and Insulate

Hot air moves to colder areas through the path of least resistance. If your home isn't properly sealed, conditioned air escapes, making your heating and cooling system work harder—wasting energy and money.

Sealing air leaks and adding insulation is one of the easiest ways to improve efficiency and comfort by slowing down—and even preventing—the conditioned air from escaping your home.

- **Check for air leaks** around windows, doors, walls, and ceilings. Use caulk, weather stripping, or door sweeps to seal gaps.

- **Insulate your attic.** Many Chelan County homes—especially homes built before 1980—do not have proper attic insulation. Use a ruler or tape measure in your attic—look for at least 12 inches of insulation for better resistance against heat and cold.
- **Seal and insulate first** before upgrading heating and cooling systems for maximum savings.

### 2. Give Your Heating and Cooling System Some Attention

With Chelan County's cold winters and hot summers,

about 50% of an electrically-heated home's power bill will go toward heating and cooling the home. Give your heating and cooling system some attention and reap the year-round benefits.

- **Schedule an equipment service.** Make an annual service appointment to have a technician check the charge of refrigerant, clean compressor coils and to make sure that it is running efficiently.
- **Check filters.** Cleaning or replacing furnace filters is an easy way to use less electricity. A clogged filter restricts airflow, making your system work

harder and shortening its lifespan.

- **Consider upgrading to a heat pump.** Heat pumps move heat rather than generate it, making them a cost-effective, energy-efficient way to comfortably heat and cool your home.

### 3. Adjust Your Thermostat Settings

The bigger the difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, the more energy you use. Small thermostat adjustments can help reduce waste and lower costs.

- **Set it right.** Try setting the thermostat at 68°F in winter and 78°F in summer, adjusting gradually for comfort.
- **Lower the temperature when away.** Drop it 2-3°F with a heat pump or up to 10°F with a furnace or

baseboard heater when you're out.

- **Use "Auto" mode on a heat pump** to allow it to switch to auxiliary heating only when necessary, preventing energy waste.
- **Upgrade to a smart thermostat.** These devices adjust temperatures based on your schedule to reduce energy waste and keep you comfortable. Plus, you can control them remotely from your phone whether you're relaxing at home or on vacation.

Ready to get started? Chelan PUD offers cash-back rebates to help you make energy-saving upgrades. Our energy advisors are here to guide you through the process.

Visit [chelanpud.org/save](https://www.chelanpud.org/save) or call Chelan PUD Customer Energy Solutions at (509) 661-8008 for more information.



# 7garden growing basics for beginners

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet.

Maintaining a garden takes some effort, but it's a project even a beginner can tackle with ease. Consider these tips to start growing your at-home garden:

- You'll want to place your garden in an area where you see it often so you're reminded to weed and care for it regularly. Find a flat area you can access easily, where erosion and other pitfalls (including hungry wildlife) won't be a problem.

**2. Choose between ground and containers.** There are pros and cons to gardening in containers vs. the ground, and there's no universal right choice. Rather, the best garden depends on your goals and preferences. A ground garden usually offers more space and may provide a better growth environment for roots. However, a container garden is often

easier to maintain and may be all you need if you wish to grow just a few plants.

3. **Understand the importance of quality soil.** You may think any dirt will do, but keep in mind the soil you plant in will be the primary source of nutrients for your produce. Not only that, but quality soil provides stability so plants can root firmly and grow healthy and sturdy to support their bounty. Quality soil also allows for ample drainage. Organic matter like compost, leaf mold or aged manure all help improve soil quality.
4. **Keep water close.** Lugging water can quickly eliminate the pleasure of tending your garden, so be sure you're situated near a hose. You'll know it's time to water when the soil is dry about an inch below the surface.
5. **Plan for plenty of sun.** A bright, sunny spot is a must, since most vegetables, herbs and fruits depend on six or more hours of sun every day. Remember the sun's path changes throughout the year, and as trees and foliage grow, they may produce more

shade with each growing season.

- 6. Consider what you'll grow.** Starting with veggies you know you like is a smart starting point since you'll be pouring sweat equity into making them grow. Over time, you might add new varieties, but early on, keep your focus on foods you know you like so you can see a meaningful return and avoid waste. You'll also need to consider what you can grow to maturity within your area's growing season. If necessary, you might want to start transplants you can nurture indoors before moving them outside when the temperatures allow.
- 7. Plant according to a calendar.** Knowing how long it takes different foods to mature will help you create a planting calendar. You don't want to harvest everything at once, and if you stagger planting and replant what you can, you'll have a garden that produces food for your family for a longer period of time.

*Find more helpful tips for  
managing your home and  
garden at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).*



# The benefits of dethatching your yard

**Dethatching can be performed with a manual or powered rake, or a rotary broom.**

### StatePoint

Dethatching your lawn has numerous benefits. But if you're not sure what dethatching is or how to do it, you may be wondering if it's really worth all the effort.

To shed light on dethatching, lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark is answering some frequently asked questions.

**What is Thatch?** Thatch is a compacted layer of grass and plant stems, leaves, roots, and other organic debris that builds up faster than it can decompose. It accumulates right below the surface of your lawn and right on top of the soil, at the base of your grasses' blades. Overly thick thatch blocks water and fertilizer from reaching the grasses' roots, causing them to be trapped and vulnerable to heat, drought and stress—further stunting your lawn's health and growth. However, thatch isn't always a bad thing—a layer that's less than a quarter-inch thick is normal and isn't cause for alarm. It actually helps reduce soil compaction and water loss through evaporation, and it

increases tolerance for cold and heat by protecting the growing blades.

**When Should You Dethatch Your Lawn?** For warm-season grasses, it's best to dethatch in the late spring or early summer, and for cool-season grasses it's best to do it in early spring or fall. But before you start dethatching, mow your lawn to half its normal height to avoid tearing up any live grass in the process. Then, take out your rake or dethatcher and remove the thatch.

## How Do You Dethatch?

The process of dethatching is simple. You can purchase a specialized rake, but in a pinch, a regular rake will do. You can also rent a dethatcher to make the job even easier. Your lawn might look a bit ragged afterwards, so you'll need to go over it again—this time just barely skimming the top of your lawn to remove all the loose debris that you just dug up. But before you start, call up your local utility company and have them mark any buried lines to avoid unwanted surprises.

## What are the Benefits of Dethatching Your Lawn?

takes to remove thatch pays huge dividends. Primarily, it exposes your soil to warmth and sunlight, helping carbon dioxide and key nutrients reach your grasses' roots, resulting in deeper growth. It also encourages the effectiveness of fertilizers and reduces water pooling on the surface of your yard by facilitating drainage. And, it helps fight back against invasive weeds that thrive in conditions created by a heavy thatch layer. Best of all, it promotes an overall healthier, greener lawn.

For more insights, watch “The Benefits of Dethatching,” an episode of “Backyard Smart,” an original series from lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark. To watch the video, visit Backyard Life, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark Original Series videos.

*Now that you have the lowdown on dethatching, it's time to get outside and free up your soil. Your lawn will thank you later.*

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# Douglas PUD's DIY Checklist

- ☒ Digging? Make sure to call 811 - Call Before You Dig to mark underground utilities.
- ☒ Pruning? Look up and Live! Ladders and electric lines don't mix.
- ☒ Increasing the electric load in your home with a new hot tub? Call Douglas PUD to determine if your current transformer can supply your needs.
- ☒ Installing a generator in case of a winter storm? Please consult a professional to ensure proper installation and safety to our lineworkers.
- ☒ Prep your home for winter heating season: Close or cover foundation vents, clean furnace filters, seal ducts, windows and doors to stop drafts.
- ☒ Adding some outdoor lighting? Consider fixtures that direct the light towards the ground and minimize light trespass into the night sky.
- ☒ Looking to save time and trees? Sign up for SmartHub paperless billing and auto pay!



More information can be found at [douglaspud.org](http://douglaspud.org) or by calling 509-884-7191





# Make a positive impact by planting a tree

COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Family Features

There are countless ways you can make your environmental contributions felt. If you'd like to join millions of others in the fight for Mother Earth, consider one of the most popular gifts given back to the world each year: planting a tree.

Consider these tips to properly plant a tree in your own yard.

**Choose the Right Tree and Location**

Depending on where you live and your desired outcome, choosing the right tree and planting location are critical factors. Larger shade trees help cool homes in warmer climates, evergreens provide privacy and fruit trees offer a grocery store right in your backyard. Consider your available space along with conditions that will impact the tree itself, such as

soil conditions, sun exposure, drainage and more.

**Dig Safely**

Before digging, remember that proper tree placement requires factoring in underground utility lines, overhead power lines and proximity to sidewalks, driveways and homes. Dial 811, the national call-before-you-dig number, to locate underground utilities and consider contacting an arborist or tree care professional to make sure you've weighed all the important factors.

**Break Ground**

Dig a hole that's roughly 2-3 times wider than the root ball of your tree and equally as deep as the root ball. Be sure the trunk flare (where the trunk expands at the base of the tree) is partially visible when planted. Remove any wrapping or cover from

the root ball and trunk. Lift from the root ball, not the trunk, to place in the hole then straighten vertically and firmly backfill soil around the root ball to stabilize.

**Add Mulch**

Mulching helps maintain moisture and improve soil conditions while controlling weed growth. Place a 2-3-inch layer in a 3-foot radius around the base of the tree without touching the trunk itself.

**Keep Soil Moist**

Make sure your tree has enough water to grow strong by keeping the soil moist. Typically, this means watering just once per week, barring rain, but may require more frequency during especially hot weather.

*Find more tips for giving back to Mother Earth at eLivingtoday.com.*

## Pro tips for maintaining your lawn mower



COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK

Family Features

Most homeowners strive for beautiful yards, but neglecting a key component of lawn maintenance – the lawn mower itself – can lead to issues not only with your lawn but with the machine as well.

A well-maintained mower provides a cleaner cut, which promotes healthier grass growth. Neglecting regular maintenance can result in uneven cuts, scalping and other issues that can damage your lawn. Regular maintenance also ensures your mower operates at peak efficiency, which can extend the lifespan of your mower, saving you

money in the long run by preventing costly repairs or the need for a new machine.

To unlock the full potential of your lawn mower, clean it after each use to prevent buildup of grass clippings and debris, and store it in a dry, sheltered place between uses. Additionally, regular maintenance including checking the oil level, inspecting the air filter and ensuring the blades are sharp can prevent larger issues and keep your mower running smoothly.

- 1. Change the Oil:** Drain the old oil from your mower and refill it with fresh, high-quality engine oil.
- 2. Replace the Air Filter:** A clogged air filter can reduce

- your mower's efficiency. Replace it with a new one to ensure optimal air flow to the engine.
- 3. Change the Spark Plug:** Remove the old spark plug using a spark plug wrench and replace it with a new one. This ensures reliable ignition and efficient fuel combustion.
  - 4. Sharpen the Blades:** Remove the blades and sharpen them using a file or a sharpening tool. Reattach them securely before mowing.
  - 5. Clean the Deck:** Grass clippings and debris can accumulate under the deck. Clean it thoroughly to prevent rust and ensure smooth operation.
  - 6. Inspect the Belts and Cables:** Check for any signs of wear or damage. Replace any worn or frayed belts and cables to avoid future breakdowns.

*Visit eLivingtoday.com to find more advice to keep your lawn and garden equipment in pristine condition.*

## A how-to guide for deep cleaning your grill

Family Features

A clean grill can enhance the flavor of your food, making regular grill maintenance an essential part of your outdoor cooking routine.

Grills, especially those exposed to the elements, can accumulate dirt, rust and food residue that can affect performance and safety. Plus, residual char and grease can impart unwanted flavors and even lead to flare-ups.

Once you've gathered the right tools – a sturdy grill brush with stainless steel bristles, a scraper, a bucket of soapy water, microfiber cloths and grill cleaner or degreaser – consult this step-by-step guide to keep your grill in pristine condition, ensuring delicious

meals every time.

- 1. Preheat the grill** for 15 minutes to loosen any stuck-on residue then turn it off and let it cool slightly.
- 2. Ensure the gas supply** is turned off before cleaning.
- 3. Remove the grates** and scrub them thoroughly with a grill brush and warm, soapy water. Rinse and let dry.
- 4. Clean burners** by wiping them with a damp cloth.
- 5. Scrape the inside of the grill** to remove any debris and use a vacuum to collect loose dirt and ash.
- 6. Wipe down the exterior** of the grill with a microfiber cloth and grill cleaner.
- 7. Reassemble the grill** once all parts are dry and give it a final wipe down.

*In between deep cleanings, remember to clean your grill grates immediately after cooking while they are still warm to remove food particles and grease. Find more tips for the grill and beyond at eLivingtoday.com.*



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# Create a cozy outdoor space with a backyard firepit

Family Features

A firepit can serve as a warm and inviting backyard retreat, perfect for roasting marshmallows for s'mores or stargazing while wrapped in cozy blankets. Before you can share time around the firepit with loved ones, however, consider these tips to elevate your outdoor space.

Gathering Materials and Tools

Essential materials include bricks, stones or metal parts for the structure, as well as gravel or sand for the base. Fireproof materials are a must to ensure safety and longevity. You'll also need tools such as a shovel for digging the base, a level to ensure even construction and adhesive or mortar for binding materials together. Depending on your design, you may require a metal fire ring, grill grate or mesh cover.

Choosing the Right Design

When it comes to building a DIY firepit, the design you choose can significantly impact the aesthetics and functionality. From classic stone pits to modern metal designs, the options are nearly endless. Think about the size and shape as well. Circular designs are traditional and encourage conversation while square or rectangular pits offer a more contemporary look.

Keeping Safety in Mind

Safety should be your top priority when building and using a backyard firepit. Always place your firepit at least 10 feet away from any structures, trees or flammable materials. Make sure the area is clear of dry leaves and other debris that could catch fire. Consider installing a spark screen to prevent embers from escaping and always

keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby.

Enhancing Ambiance with Seating and Lighting

Creating a cozy atmosphere around your firepit involves more than just the fire itself. Comfortable seating is essential for making your outdoor space inviting. Choose weather-resistant chairs, benches or DIY log stools arranged in a circle to foster conversation. Ambient lighting from string lights, lanterns or solar-powered path lights can elevate the mood and extend the usability of your firepit into the evening. Consider adding citronella candles or torches to keep insects at bay while enhancing the ambiance.

Visit [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com) to find more ideas to enhance your living spaces.



COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK

# Create beautiful, inviting outdoor spaces



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Family Features

With all the beauty Mother Nature has to offer, a few pops of color or other simple embellishments can help make your yard look superb from the curb.

Whether you're looking to enhance your front yard, backyard, porch or patio space, consider these easy and affordable ways to spruce up your outdoor oasis:

Add Mirrors

Just as they do indoors, mirrors can open up small patio spaces and make areas feel larger. Use mirrors made with resin or other waterproof materials so they won't be compromised when exposed to the elements.

Make Bold Statements

Plant your favorite flowers in a giant, bright red or yellow pot or hang a bright colored swing from a tree. Just a

little dab of color can make a statement and brighten the whole space.

Hang It Up

Place hanging baskets around the porch to bring punches of color to your outdoor sanctuary. With the freedom to pick and choose your favorite plants and flowers, these baskets have the added benefit of easy maintenance.

Tie Up a Hammock

Make a relaxing retreat in the comfort of your own yard by hanging a hammock from trees or between posts on your deck.

Consider Time When Planting

If you wish to add color to your landscape, consider the time of day you normally spend in your outdoor space. Early risers may appreciate vibrantly colored foliage that perks with the morning sun. Those who

spend time outdoors in the evening hours can incorporate white or lightly colored plants that take on a silvery sheen in the moonlight.

Add a Birdbath

These garden favorites come in a variety of styles and colors to fit your unique tastes and budget. Birds of all kinds can find an oasis in their new bath and provide you with a beautiful view.

Throw Some Pillows

Outdoor pillows are often available in the same fun designs of their indoor counterparts. Add some throw pillows to your outdoor furniture for a chic yet comfortable update.

*These subtle changes can help beautify your outdoor spaces and cause onlookers to do a double-take – for the right reasons. Find more ideas at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).*



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CHELAN COUNTY





# Budget-friendly ideas to boost curb appeal

COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

### Family Features

Your home’s first big impression is its curb appeal, so if your place is in need of some sprucing up, you may wonder how you can make some updates without breaking the bank.

These 10 ideas are easy on budgets, but they can also make a big impact on your home’s exterior image.

1. **Paint your front door.** As long as your front door is in good condition, there’s no need to replace it completely. A fresh coat of paint can instantly update your home’s facade. Go bold or stick with a classic hue – it’s all up to you.
2. **Dress up the windows.** Add character and charm by enhancing your front windows. You might add wooden shutters, window box planters or both. Also look at the trim around the windows. If it’s chipped and peeling, adding a fresh coat of paint doesn’t just look nice, it can protect your windows from damage, too.
3. **Clean up flower beds.** An unkempt flower bed can drag down an otherwise stunning home. Keep beds tidy and vegetation trimmed, even during the
4. **Install new lighting.** Replacing outdated light fixtures can give your exterior an instant upgrade. There’s no right or wrong style; just choose a color and look that matches the rest of your design.
5. **Replace worn welcome mats.** A cheerful mat at your front door can be an inviting sight for visitors, but those mats inevitably wear with time, and what was once bright and charming becomes dingy and dull. A new mat can help bring back that cheery entry you once cherished.
6. **Pressure wash the drive and walk.** Over time, driveways and sidewalks collect an incredible amount of grime. Pressure washing not only eliminates the filth, but the clean surfaces also add to your home’s visual appeal.
7. **Add new vegetation.** Landscaping is a relatively inexpensive way to introduce more personality to a yard. Aim for a mix of pretty and practical, such as some low flowering

offseason. Watch for weeds and replenish mulch or rock ground cover as needed to keep the beds looking healthy and inviting.

bushes and some trees or bushes that offer privacy and shade.

8. **Keep up with basic maintenance.** When your home is in poor repair, it shows. Pay attention to bent or rusting gutters, imperfections in the roof and other maintenance matters that aren’t just aesthetic; left unrepaired, they can also result in major damage.
9. **Pay attention to details.** Functional items like the mailbox might not seem like much of a design element, but these small details can be a big distraction if they’re not in good condition. Update or replace as needed to keep your aesthetic in sync.
10. **Add seasonal decor.** There’s no need to go all out for every occasion, but some timely decorations that celebrate the holiday or season can make your entry fun and festive. Coordinate wreaths, planters, signs and other accent pieces for a cohesive look that says, “come on in.”

Find more affordable ideas for upgrading your home and garden at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

# Door design tips to enhance tour home’s beauty and value

### StatePoint

When choosing doors for your home, remember that careful selections can improve not only your home’s beauty and value, but also your quality of life. Here are a few door types to consider, along with their benefits:

**Elevate with exterior French doors:** French doors double the design impact, and elevate the front entryway and curb appeal of any home. Manufacturers like ProVia offer customizations on every element of French doors so you can make a truly unique statement. Start by choosing from various styles, materials and finishes. Then, consider the addition of sidelites, transoms and decorative or privacy glass. Given how many

factors you have control over, it’s helpful to use a design tool to configure the door of your dreams. Visit [provia.com/design-center](http://provia.com/design-center) to get started. Rest assured, no matter what your end results look like, there are a few factors you won’t have to worry about with ProVia doors: durability and energy efficiency. Virtually every possible combination of door style, glass, sidelite and transom is built to last a lifetime and is ENERGY STAR certified.

**Protect with storm doors:** Storm doors provide doors and homes with an extra layer of protection from moisture, heat, wind, rain and other elements. Everyone has different requirements though. Fortunately, storm doors can be individually

customized to meet your practical and aesthetic needs. Depending on where you live, factors like the thickness and construction of the storm door can make a big difference in its performance. You’ll also want to investigate your glass and screen options for added fresh air circulation in your home. While storm doors are often thought about more in terms of their functionality, it’s important to keep in mind that varying hardware options, styles and paint finishes allow you to seamlessly blend yours in with the aesthetic of your home.

Bring the outside in with sliding glass patio doors: Want to bathe your home interiors with light and the beauty of your natural surroundings? One of the most effective, low-maintenance ways to do just that is with vinyl sliding glass patio doors. Those from ProVia are tested against the most stringent industry standards for air and water infiltration, wind load resistance, ease of operation and more. This means you’ll have lower heating and cooling costs and increased comfort all while offering your household full, unparalleled views of your outdoor spaces. Customization options, such as the materials and colors of the interior frame and the type of glass you choose, can help you tailor the look and functionality of your sliding glass doors.



STOCK PHOTO

For more design tips, visit [provia.com](http://provia.com). For a true return on your home improvement project, consider how a door replacement can elevate your home’s style while protecting it from the elements.

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# GENERATOR SAFETY

Before you purchase, install and use a generator during a power outage, check for these safety issues:

**BACKFEED:** Never plug a generator into an electrical outlet- this could cause backfeed, which sends electricity from the generator, through the home’s wiring, out through the electric meter and energizes the power lines. **Backfeed can injure or kill a utility worker repairing a power line.**

**TRANSFER SWITCH:** When operating a generator, connecting appliances that are hard-wired to the house’s wiring system requires the use of a transfer switch. The switch will mechanically disconnect the household’s circuit from the utility’s power grid. **A transfer switch MUST be used to avoid backfeed into the utility’s power grid and is required by electric code.**

**INSTALLATION:** Electric code requires that a licensed electrician install stationary generators that are permanently wired to the household’s electrical system. The owner of the generator must acquire an electrical permit, and the unit must be inspected. Please contact WA State L&I for an inspection: 509-886-6500

Okanogan County PUD: 800-922-7011  
[www.okanoganpud.org](http://www.okanoganpud.org)





# A first-timer's guide to kitchen remodeling

STOCK PHOTOS



Family Features

Kitchen upgrades are among the most common renovation projects homeowners tackle. Even so, it's a big project for a first-time renovation, and the final results are sure to be stronger with some detailed planning from the start. Take into account these five tips from the experts at Wellborn Cabinet to help first-time kitchen remodelers achieve the kitchens of their dreams:

## 1. Plan Your Budget

Establish a clear and realistic budget. Factor in costs for materials, labor and some extra for unexpected expenses. Sticking to your budget can help ensure you enjoy the outcome of the project while avoiding financial stress. Your contractor can help you strike a balance between your vision and financial resources. You may also find it helpful to consult with a real estate professional who can ensure your plans are in line with the overall value of your home and neighborhood.

## 2. Prioritize Functionality

Design with practicality in mind. Ensure there's enough counter space and storage to create an efficient workflow. Consider the kitchen work triangle; that is, be conscious of the travel pattern among the sink, stove and refrigerator. Additionally, look for opportunities to incorporate functional storage in unexpected places. One example is the exposed end of a cabinet run or side of the refrigerator, where there is often wasted space. One example is a shallow cleaning utility cabinet from Wellborn Cabinet that fits a broom, dustpan and everyday cleaning supplies neatly, giving you practical access to frequently used supplies. A variation on this cabinet offers a spice rack designed for easy access to cooking essentials. Other options in the line include an over-fridge cabinet with a combination of shelves, sheet pan or cutting board storage and a trash can-cutting board combination.

## 3. Choose Quality Materials

Consider factors such as durability, maintenance requirements and compatibility with your design aesthetic when selecting materials for your kitchen. You may be tempted to cut corners and stretch your money further, but quality materials are a critical element of successful renovations. Prioritize high-quality materials that stand the test of time. Durable countertops, solid cabinetry and reliable appliances typically save money in the long run, and they'll enhance the overall look and value of your kitchen.

## 4. Hire Professionals

Work with experienced contractors and designers. Their expertise can help you avoid common pitfalls and ensure your remodel meets all safety and building codes. What's more, these professionals have likely encountered and overcome all kinds of challenges,

which means they'll be well-prepared to help you navigate unexpected obstacles and provide a wealth of knowledge from previous clients to help make recommendations for the perfect finished space.

## 5. Stay Flexible

Be prepared for unexpected challenges and delays. Stay adaptable and open to changes and remember patience is key to achieving the kitchen of your dreams. Materials go on backorder and paperwork gets misplaced all the time. Set a realistic timeline for your project that allows for some hiccups and try to avoid becoming too rigidly attached to any single element of the design, so if you have to make a modification, it doesn't feel like a monumental sacrifice. Look for more ideas and inspiration for your kitchen remodel at Wellborn.com.

## Inspiring Ideas for Kitchen Islands

Adding an island to your kitchen offers many functional and aesthetic benefits, and

there are styles to suit every type of kitchen.

**Galley Kitchen Island:** This type of island is more functional than design-forward, conveniently adding extra storage and counter space. This conventional configuration works well in most kitchen layouts, both large and small, and can be constructed to fit almost any kitchen.

**Table-Style Kitchen Island:** If you want a unique addition, an island table is the way to go, whether you opt for a custom-made piece or upcycle an antique. The beauty of a table-style island is that it serves a functional and decorative purpose, warming up a modern kitchen and adding personality.

**Double Kitchen Island:** Incorporating multiple islands – often called a double island kitchen – can improve traffic flow, increase storage space and seating, and create additional space for meal prep, cooking, washing and eating. Plus, islands are ideal for implementing design elements such as complementing materials and finishes, pops of color and unique cabinetry components including door styles and hardware.

**Rolling Kitchen Island:** This convenient solution adds flexibility with extra storage and counter space. You can easily tuck it away to open up more floor space when done, and this portable island can easily roam around the kitchen so you can place it where you need it.

**Two-Tier Kitchen Island:** While you can cook and eat on any island, the two-tier creates a clear boundary where you can cook on one side and eat on the other. This all-encompassing island is perfect for larger families and homeowners who like to entertain.

**Chef's Kitchen Island:** If you want to showcase your cooking

skills or have a private chef cooking for friends and family, a chef's island is a unique solution. Installation requires the appropriate ventilation and electrical, which may be well worth it if you frequently cook for family or friends.

**Round Kitchen Island:** Compared to a typical rectangular island, a rounded option is an eye-catching way to add more seating in your kitchen for entertaining family and friends.

**L-Shaped Kitchen Island:** If you have a lot of space in your kitchen, an L-shaped island can fill the area. The design provides extra cooking space, allowing you to accommodate multiple chefs in the kitchen. You can also add seating for family and friends.

**U-Shaped Kitchen Island:** Best suited for large, open-concept kitchens, a U-shaped island creates storage space and room to install appliances such as a bar fridge, sink or range with prep space left to prepare meals.



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HOME



Family Features

No matter how cramped and cluttered your living space may be, you can almost always find a spot or two for extra storage. It's often just a matter of getting creative and utilizing a few clever solutions.

Consider these simple ideas to create some extra space in oft-used rooms:

Kitchen

- Metal rods with hanging hooks can create storage space on your blank walls. Use them to hang coffee cups, cooking utensils, dish towels or pots and pans.
- Magnetic strips mounted on the wall or the inside of a cabinet door can be a simple way to hang knives and free up counter space normally taken up by a knife block.
- If your countertop is cluttered with small spice containers and oil bottles, elevate them with a decorative cake stand. Place small jars below and

top with pretty decanters and additional spices.

- If you're using prime cabinet space for items you only use once a year, such as holiday cake pans or a big serving bowl you pull out for parties, consider storing them in the attic or a closet instead.

Bathroom

- Instead of hanging just one towel bar on the back of the bathroom door, hang multiple to maximize your drying space.
- Most modern cabinetry has adjustable shelving. If you haven't customized the heights of your shelving to accommodate different sized bottles and containers, give it a try.
- A three-tiered fruit basket might seem perfect for the kitchen, but it's also a handy way to store bathroom essentials right beside the sink.
- Flour and sugar canisters can also be repurposed in the bathroom to keep

makeup, toiletries, cleaning supplies and soaps contained. Make sure to buy bins that stack easily.

Bedroom

- Nix those nightstands and hang small shelves on either side of the bed. This cuts down on the clutter you can keep and makes cleaning underneath a breeze.
- Rolling bins that fit under the bed are perfect for storing linens, out-of-season clothing and children's toys. They're also the perfect way to slide building block projects out of sight without destroying your child's latest masterpiece.
- Closets with a single hanging rod are one of the biggest space-wasters in the bedroom. Double their storage capacity by hanging a second rod or shelf below shorter jackets and shirts.

Find more ideas to maximize your space at eLivingtoday.com.

# Go green with home cleaners

Family Features

If you're among those looking for ways to clean your home while also going green, it may be easier than you think.

Consider these easy and affordable solutions to help you live more environmentally friendly. You may be surprised to find you already have many of these household products on hand.

**Baking soda:** A natural, safe, effective and gentle solution, baking soda can serve multiple home cleaning needs. Make a paste of three parts baking soda to one part water. Rub onto silver with a clean cloth or sponge. Rinse thoroughly and dry for shining serving or decor pieces. Additionally, you

can sprinkle baking soda on upholstery and carpet to get rid of odors.

**Vinegar:** With the acidity to help get rid of dirt and grime around the home, vinegar can be used to clean cloudy glassware. Simply soak paper towels or a cloth in full-strength white distilled vinegar and wrap around both the inside and outside of the glass. Let sit before rinsing clean. To remove lime deposits on your tea kettle, add 1/2 cup distilled white vinegar to the water and let it sit overnight. In the morning, boil the vinegar for a few minutes then rinse with water.

**Lemons:** With a fresh, natural smell, lemons have the acidity to remove soap scum, clean and shine brass and

remove hard water deposits. Just spray some lemon juice on tile surfaces to remove soap scum or hard water deposits. Squeeze lemon juice on a cloth and use to polish brass around the home.

**Houseplants:** Plants serve as natural air purifiers. African violets and ferns are beautiful ways to help clear the air.

Other easy, green ideas for keeping your home clean include opening windows and doors while you clean to improve air quality and taking off your shoes when you come inside, which can help avoid tracking dust, dirt, pollen and more throughout the house.

Visit eLivingtoday.com for more eco-friendly advice.

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# 7 budget-friendly gardening hacks

COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Family Features

Gardening can be a simple way to beautify your yard, relieve stress and save money on your grocery bill, but like any hobby, you can get carried away buying necessary equipment.

Fun, frugal and environmentally friendly, these tricks can help you create a cost-effective garden:

- Use a yardstick and permanent marker to mark inches and feet on the handle of your rake, shovel or hoe. The next time you plant, simply lay the marked handle along the row to create perfectly spaced holes for seeds.
- Line the bottom of a clay pot with a coffee filter to keep soil from leaking out the bottom.
- Use empty plastic water

bottles or clear milk jugs to fill the bottom of large pots. They reduce the weight of the pot and require less soil to fill.

- To test your seeds to see if they're still viable for this planting season, place a wet paper towel inside a zip-top bag, drop in 3-4 seeds and wait a week to see if anything grows.
- One way to help prevent weeds is lining your garden with a layer of newspaper. Just top two or three sheets of newsprint with a layer of pine needles, grass clippings or dried leaves for an eco-friendly and inexpensive weed barrier.
- Keep gardening twine handy. Nail a funnel to your potting bench with the spout pointing downward,

feed the twine through and your string will never go missing. For a more portable solution, place a ball of twine inside a canning jar, make a hole in the lid and feed the end of the twine through the hole. Now, you can take twine anywhere, tangle-free.

- There is no need to buy expensive potting systems for starting seedlings. Place several cardboard toilet paper rolls inside a clean plastic clamshell, like those used for premade salads. Fill each cardboard tube with potting soil and plant. Once your seedlings grow too tall for the clamshell, simply tear off the top lid.

Find more ideas for creating a garden without spending a bundle at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

# 5 tips for choosing gardening essentials

Family Features

Whether you're a new homeowner ready to tackle the landscaping for the first time or a seasoned gardener looking to do some updating, when it comes to gardening, you simply need the right tools to do the job well. Consider these tips when purchasing essentials for your tool shed.

**Shovel:** A shovel with a pointed blade is a good all-around choice for digging, mixing and moving soil. Conversely, a flat-bladed shovel should be used for "cutting" tasks such as straight-side trenches and edging. After narrowing down which style of shovel best meets your needs, check the metal to ensure it's well-constructed and won't bend or break easily. Check fittings such as bolts and screws to ensure the blade and handle are strongly connected and can withstand reasonable pressure. Finally, spend a few

minutes testing out the tool to ensure it fits well in your hand.

**Rake:** With numerous materials and shapes to choose from, finding the right rake can be intimidating. A basic fan-shaped rake with metal fingers is a universally accepted, long-lasting option. Select a model with plenty of give in the fingers if you'll be raking large areas and don't want to damage the ground below. A rake made of firmer metal allows you to work and smooth soil. Purchasing the broadest width you can comfortably handle allows you to cover more ground, which means less work.

Depending on the space you'll be tending, you may also consider purchasing a garden fork, which has fewer tines than a traditional rake and is ideal for aerating, weeding and turning small sections of soil.

**Hoe:** Whether flat or pointed, a hoe is essential for a weed-free garden. Flat versions can also be useful for breaking up

clumps and hard spots on the surface while pointed hoes make quick work of rows and mounds to protect and irrigate your plantings.

**Shears:** A variety of shears are available to accomplish a wide range of garden tasks. Larger shears are ideal for big jobs such as shaping hedges, while smaller pruning shears are meant for snips and sprucing. Quality metal and sharp blades are important features. Be sure to choose a model with a safety latch to lock blades when not in use.

**Gloves:** Even if you eagerly embrace the chance to get your hands dirty, no tool shed is complete without a sturdy pair of gloves. Choose a material tough enough to protect from thorns but pliable enough to allow for free movement. Proper fit is key to avoiding blisters.

Find more gardening tips and advice at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).



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