



Connecting communities
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Washington
NCW News | A5

Leavenworth Alphorn recognized as most outstanding Alphorn Association in North America



The Leavenworth Echo
Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH – The Leavenworth Alphorn Association was named Alphorn Association of the Year by the Alphorn Association of North America (AANA). The association earned recognition for its contributions to the alphorn community and its dedication to preserving and promoting the ancient art of the alphorn.

The Leavenworth Alphorns is a volunteer nonprofit community association that promotes the traditional instrument through its Northwest Alphorn Workshop and Retreat, Leavenworth International

See **ALPHORN** Page **A6**



COURTESY OF LEAVENWORTH ALPHORN ASSOCIATION
The Leavenworth Alphorns perform at the Front Street Gazebo.

COURTESY OF [HTTPS://LEAVENWORTHALPHORNS.ORG](https://leavenworthalphorns.org)

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.

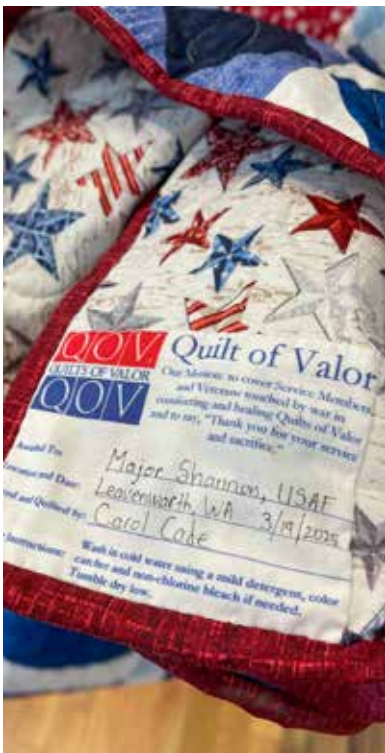
The chapter, started by local residents Carol Cade and Brenda Reagan, is part of a larger foundation that aims to “cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” To date, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has presented 405,649 quilts handmade by members in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



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Veterans Larry Shannon, Mike Worden, and Paul Gray stand behind retired U.S. Air Force Major Fred Shannon.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

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

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

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 Festhalle. 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.

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-

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.

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\$1.00



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Noon Friday

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Print and online (yearly)

\$50.00

Online-only Subscription

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\$50.00

6 Months

\$25.00

3 Months

\$15.00

1 Month

\$8.00

1 Week

\$1.50

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Letters policy

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

Corrections

The Leavenworth Echo 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 Echo at 509-731-4392 email news@ward.media

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Obituaries can be placed during normal business hours by calling 509-548-5286 or by emailing obits@ward.media

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

Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

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

5

THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

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.

Benevolent Night: Mountain Sprouts Children's Community

München Haus will host Benevolent Night in Downtown Leavenworth on April 1 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"München Haus will donate 25% of all sales from 4 pm to 8 pm to our fundraising partner, Mountain Sprouts Children's Community, Meeting the diverse needs of each student through creative exploration of the natural world."

For more information, visit Mountain Sprouts Children's Community.

Make Your Own Glass Fusing Workshop

Boulder Bend Glassworks will host a Make Your Own Glass Fusing Workshop on March 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Design your own glass fusing in a variety of shapes using colorful hand-pulled cane and murrine made at our studio. No plate glass used here. No reservations are required — just drop in anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Most participants take 40 to 90 minutes to design their glass piece. Tickets range from \$50 to \$80."

For more information, visit the Boulder Bend Glassworks website

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.

Second annual bike swap to return at Eastside Cycleworks

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.

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.

Travel delays coming to Icicle Road in April due to repair project

COURTESY OF GABRIELLE SNIDER/USDA FOREST SERVICE

Rockfall debris blocks a section of Icicle Road #7600 near Leavenworth during wintry conditions on December 8, 2014. Boulders and rocks litter the roadway as emergency vehicles respond to the hazard. The upcoming repair project, scheduled to begin April 7, will address chronic rockfall issues and road damage along this steep mountain corridor.

The Leavenworth Echo Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH — Travelers planning to visit the Icicle River corridor recreation area near Leavenworth should prepare for significant travel delays beginning next month due to a major road repair project, officials announced Friday.

The repair work on Icicle Road #7600 will begin April 7 and continue through the end of June, affecting a one-mile stretch between mileposts 4 and 5. This section runs from the Snow Lakes Trailhead to Eightmile Campground, approximately 5 miles southwest of Leavenworth.

During weekdays, the road will be completely closed to non-emergency vehicles from 8 a.m. to noon and again from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A midday window from noon to 1 p.m. will allow alternating one-way traffic, though motorists should expect delays of up to 20 minutes.

The road will remain open overnight on weekdays between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. and will have no restrictions on weekends.

"It's always best to check for alerts before you go on the Forest webpage or by calling the district office," said Wenatchee River District Ranger Erica Taecker. "The weekday closure will complicate travel to and from several trailheads, campgrounds, and private property in the Icicle River corridor."

The project, which includes road repairs and rockfall mitigation work, is being funded and implemented by the Federal Highways Administration in coordination with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Officials advise campers and hikers to plan accordingly and check for updates before traveling to the area. For more information, contact the Wenatchee River Ranger District at (509) 548-2550.

LEAVENWORTH VACATION HOMES

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

Children and Youth Program, 6:30-8 p.m., 4th-12th grade, Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene, 509-548-5292.
Alpine Water District, meets at the Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, 1 p.m. Contact Anne Mueller, 425-238-3935.
Ukulele Circle, 5:30- 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get sheet music.
Senior Center, Lunch, Noon, \$8 per meal. Call 509-548-6666 by Tuesday noon to make a reservation.

Thursday

Leavenworth Lions Club, Meetings are 1st Thurs. at 6:30pm and 3rd Thurs. at 9 am at Kristalls Restaurant. For more info contact president Tony Maffey at (509)470-6743.
Peshastin Community Council meeting, 7 p.m. Peshastin Memorial Hall. (2nd Thurs.)
Caregiver Support Group, 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Cashmere. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
Parkinson's Support Group Mountain Meadows Assisted Living 320 Park Avenue Leavenworth, WA 98826. Event Date, Last Thursday of every month, time 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Contact Cascade Medical 509-548-3420 x 3873
Find strength in community. Join our People with Parkinson's Support Group for valuable connections, shared experiences, and support. Navigate challenges, celebrate victories, and empower each other on this journey. You are not alone. Join us.
Senior exercise taught by Rehab staff FREE Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12 at the LDS Church, 10170 Titus Rd.

Friday

Leavenworth Rotary Club, In person at Kristall's Restaurant at Noon. Call President Mahala Murphy-Martin, 206-227-1576, for more information.
Senior Center: Bingo 6 p.m. Call 509-548-6666. Facebook & website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com

Monday

Upper Valley Free Clinic, open every Monday to evaluate urgent health needs. Downstairs at Cascade Medical, 6:30 -8:00 p.m. Call UVMEND, 509-548-0408 for more information.
Leavenworth Mosquito District board meeting 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm via ZOOM link posted at https://leavenworthmosquitocontrol.org/notices-updates/
Cascade School board meetings, 7 p.m., Agenda can be found at https://www.cascadesd.org/Page/166. (2nd & 4th Mon.)
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

Peshastin Water District, 5:30 p.m. For meeting location, contact Steve Keene, 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)
Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts Meeting Current meeting time is 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)
Cascade Education Foundation, Contact: CEF@cascade.org
LWSC Alpine Committee, 7 p.m., Ski Hill Lodge. Call 509-548-5477. (1st. Tues.)
Leavenworth Masons, 7:30 p.m., Zarthan Lodge No. 148, Leavenworth Senior Center upstairs. www.leaveworthmasons.org. (1st Tues.)
Cascade Garden Club, 1 p.m., at a member's home or other venue. Call President Claudia, 509-662-7706. (3rd Tues.).
The Chelan County Cemetery District #2 (Peshastin) meets monthly at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. (2nd Tues.)
Senior Center, Exercise, 11 a.m-Noon. Tues & Thurs. 509-548-6666. Facebook & Website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com
Greater Leavenworth Museum board meeting 5-7 p.m. Everyone is invited as a guest. Contact info@leavenworthmuseum.org for meeting information. (1st Tues.)
Senior exercise taught by Rehab staff FREE Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12 at the LDS Church, 10170 Titus Rd.

NCW Libraries

Libraries will continue to offer a wide variety of resources and programs online at ncwlibraries.org and its Facebook page. Go to NCWLIBRARIES.ORG or 1-800-426-READ (7323) for more information, and updates.
Leavenworth Public Library. Located at 700 Hwy. 2, Call 509-548-7923 or online leavenworth@ncwlibraries.org
Open on Tues., 10-5, Wed., 11-6, Thurs.,10-7, Fri., 10-5 Sat.,10-2. Closed Sun. and Mon.
Peshastin Public Library. Located at 8396 Main St. Call (509) 548-7821 or email peshastin@ncwlibraries.org. Open on Tues., 2-6pm, Wed., 2-6pm. Thurs., 10am-6pm, Fri., 10am-6pm, Sat., 10am-2pm, closed Sun. and Mon.

Meeting Schedules For AA, Alanon, Celebrate Recovery

AA Meetings: Call for the Zoom link to Leavenworth AA meetings: 541-480-8946. Call for the Zoom link to Leavenworth Alanon meetings: 509-548-7939, 509-548-1627, 548-4522, 664-6469, 206-719-3379. Sunday 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St. Tuesday, 7 p.m., Light in the Valley, 8455 Main Street, Peshastin. Wednesday, 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St. Thursday, 1 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St. Friday, 7 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 222 Cottage Ave. **Alanon Meetings**, Call 509-548-7939. **Renewed Celebrate Recovery**. Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene. 111 Ski Hill Drive. Come experience God's grace for all of life's hurts, habits and hang-ups. For more information: CelebrateRecoveryLCN@gmail.com or 509- 596-1510.



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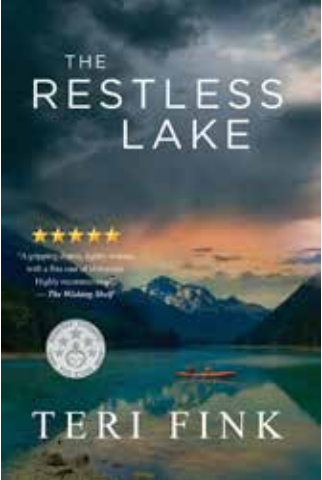
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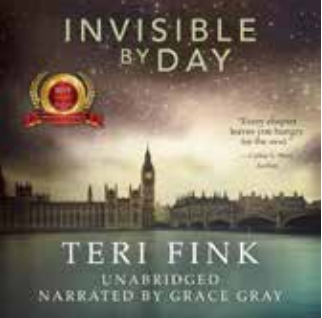
Local author Teri Fink wins multiple literary awards



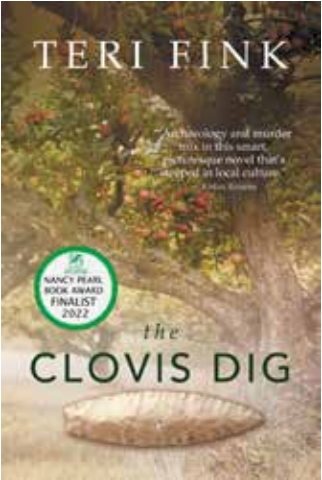
Teri Fink



"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.



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



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

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

09:24:49 Traffic Offense, Benton St & West St, Leavenworth
10:46:20 Harass/Threat, 325 Meadow Dr, Leavenworth
11:55:47 Disturbance, Commercial St & 8th St, Leavenworth
12:10:39 Trespass, 12735 Prowell St, Leavenworth
14:08:02 Property, 700 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
14:30:23 Alarm, 20622 White Pine Rd, Leavenworth
14:59:09 Scam, 22910 Lake Wenatchee Hwy, Leavenworth
23:16:31 Domestic Disturbance, 7375 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth

11:25:57 Accident No Inj, 32495 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
11:33:20 Trespass, 18773 Pine Loop, Plain
12:39:51 Civil, 12735 Prowell St, Leavenworth
13:28:01 g11, 190 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
13:42:53 Trespass, 7272 Deadman Hill Rd, Dryden
16:47:04 Theft, Icicle Rd Mp 6, Leavenworth
18:03:55 Property, 520 Pine St# Main, Leavenworth
19:48:12 Accident Injury, Us Hwy 2 & Simpson Rd, Peshastin

11687 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
09:12:45 Trespass, 617 Front St, Leavenworth
09:22:48 Assist Public, 9023 North Rd, Peshastin
16:00:59 Harass/Threat, 263 Mine St# 108, Leavenworth

March 19

02:22:09 Animal Problem, 11687 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
7:31:33 Theft, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
9:08:45 Suspicious, 3406 Camas Way, Peshastin
10:11:23 Missing Person, 520 Pine St# Main, Leavenworth
10:56:50 Civil, 8734 School St, Dryden
20:33:00 Civil, 24602 Spur St, Plain

March 20

11:20:04 Vehicle Theft, 2465 Tamarack Crst, Leavenworth
19:57:51 Atf/Atc, Icicle Ridge Th, Leavenworth

March 17

11:10:13 Harass/Threat, 12413 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth
18:57:07 Hazard, Chumstick Hwy & North Rd, Leavenworth
23:15:51 Civil, 24602 Spur St, Plain

March 18

02:41:38 911, 9425 Saunders Rd# A, Peshastin
02:12:38 Animal Problem,

March 15

10:14:10 Assist Public, 520 Pine St# Main, Leavenworth
19:36:03 Harass/Threat, 12735 Prowell St, Leavenworth

March 16

04:53:52 Trespass, 7272 Deadman Hill Rd, Dryden

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.

In fact, 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

See EASTMONT Page A5

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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.

Teri 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.



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PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Kodiaks blanked 16-0 by dominant Sultan squad in home defeat

LEAVENWORTH - The Kodiaks dropped back to .500 after their win over Waterville with a 16-0 home loss to Sultan.

Eli Sauer gets kudos from a Kodiak coach after reaching first base, as one of the few baserunners Cascade had against a sturdy Sultan squad, who came for a visit and left with a 16-0 victory.

Colton Chase pitches for the Cascade Kodiaks against the Sultan Turks on March 20. Sultan won 16-0.

Kodiaks show resilience despite 23-18 slugfest loss to Sultan Turks

LEAVENWORTH - Cascade dropped its second consecutive game in a row to start the season, but it showed plenty of fight against a sturdy offensive output by the visiting Turks of Sultan. Plenty of time for the Kodiaks still, especially if they keep clawing back the way they did against Sultan.

Talía Stein readies her swing during the Kodiaks' 23-18 loss to the visiting Sultan Turks.

Izzy Davelaar scores a run for the Cascade Kodiaks' softball team, which fought hard but ultimately yielded to the visiting Sultan Turks, who prevailed in a slugfest 23-18 on March 20.

Kodiaks rally to edge Bulldogs 2-1 in rivalry soccer match

Arlo Gibbs (5) battles for the ball with a Cashmere player. The Kodiaks showed plenty of heart, overcoming an early deficit and a missed penalty kick to come back and beat the Bulldogs 2-1. Gibbs had the first goal for Cascade, on another PK.

CASHMERE - The Cascade Kodiaks and their Cashmere archrivals proved that the fact that Cashmere plays in a different league now means nothing when it comes to a well established rivalry. Not only did they play in front of a packed house, the game was a thriller, with Cascade overcoming a 1-0 deficit to win 2-1.

➊ Shane Sletty (10) shakes off JJ Herrera during the Kodiaks' thrilling road victory over Cashmere. The Kodiaks overcame a goal by Herrera and a missed penalty kick by Sletty to tie it (via another PK, by Arlo Gibbs) and then to seal the win, thanks to a beautiful goal by Sletty who slalomd past a handful of Cashmere players to sink the ball in the back of the net.

➋ Jaxson Groby (4) tries to keep the ball inbound during the Kodiaks road game against Cashmere. The former CTL archrivals proved that the rivalry is still alive and kicking, playing in front of a packed house, with Cashmere striking first but Cascade coming back to win 2-1.

CHS Freshman beats record for most 3-point shots in one season

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH - Cascade High School Freshman Lola Rieke has set a new CHS record for the most 3-point shots in one season.

Rieke's 56 3-point shots surpasses the 1996 record of 49 held by Megan Franza, a Washington Interscholastic Athletics Association Hall of Fame athlete.

"She works on her shot, she's in the gym, and so she definitely puts in the work, and that proved itself by breaking that record," said Varsity Coach Cody Bench.

Rieke has been a proficient shooter throughout her years of competitive basketball, which began in the third grade. In one of her first high school games, she made six 3-point shots in one game, the most she had ever made. Her own personal record got her thinking about the school record, which is nine.

"My dad has been one of my biggest supporters throughout all of this," said Rieke. "He just gave me this confidence, like, 'You can beat this record. You can go down in Cascade history for basketball.'"

As the season went on, Rieke had yet to beat her game total, but her efforts resulted in an impressive seasonal accumulation. By the time the team headed to districts, Rieke realized she was close to beating the season total record.

"I knew that we had two games [left] for sure...all I needed to do was score two [shots]...and I would beat the record," said Rieke. "I probably had one of the worst games in my entire life, the first game of districts. I had no points...I was completely defeated by that point."

After the game, Rieke practiced shooting for 30-minutes with her dad each day, preparing for the next game against Royal High School. If her team lost, Rieke would not have another chance to meet her goal.

"I made the first one, and I was like, 'Oh my goodness, I tied a record'...And then I made the second one, and I looked up to my dad and smiled. And I was like, 'I did it,'" said Rieke.

Rieke celebrated quietly, withholding the news from her coach and teammates. She eventually notified Athletic Director Tim Barnes, who celebrated her achievement during the winter assembly. To her teammates' surprise, Rieke was presented with a poster of her stats in front of the school.

"They were all so excited for me. They were all so supportive. They saw the big sign and just started clapping," said Rieke. "It means a lot to me...I mean, there's still so much more that I think that I can do. But it feels great to have this momentary win."

Rieke's record is not only a mark of individual achievement, but indicative of an extraordinary comeback by the CHS girls' varsity team. Two seasons ago, the basketball team ceased to exist after a last minute resignation from the head coach. Coming back the following year, the team only won one game. This year, they won 15 games in the standard season. They also placed 5th in the district tournament, and were only one game away from earning a spot in the state tournament.

"It actually speaks volumes

about our team and how much we've improved over the last few years," said Bench. "They worked hard for that...[They] knew the hard work it was going to take to get there, and those kids rose to that challenge."

In the years to come, Bench hopes the team can carry on the momentum for more record breaking success, sowing inspiration in future players.

"Hopefully it lays the foundation for the younger girls that are eager to participate...This hopefully inspires those younger kids to keep working hard so that they can also achieve success and do things that others haven't done before, like break records," said Bench.

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COURTESY OF LOLA RIEKE

In addition to receiving a poster from CHS, Rieke will have her name placed on the record board in the athletic center.

COURTESY OF LOLA RIEKE

Lola Rieke shoots a 3-point shot.

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Boys Varsity Baseball					
Tue, Mar 18 4:30: PM	Cascade	16	Waterville	3	Win
Thu, Mar 20 4:30: PM	Cascade	0	Sultan	16	Loss
Boys Varsity Soccer					
Tue, Mar 18 6:00: PM	Cascade vs.	2	Cashmere	1	Win
Thu, Mar 20 7:00: PM	Cascade vs.	2	Eastmont	1	Win
Boys Varsity Tennis					
Mon, Mar 17 4:00 PM	Cascade vs.	2	Ellensburg	3	Loss
Girls Varsity Tennis					
Mon, Mar 17 4:00 PM	Cascade vs.	1	Ellensburg	4	Loss
Girls Varsity Softball					
Tue, Mar 18 4:30: PM	Cascade	6	Waterville-Mansfield	16	Loss
Thu, Mar 20 4:30: PM	Cascade	18	Sultan	23	Loss

CASCADE SCHEDULE			
Boys Varsity Baseball			
Sat, Mar 29 11:00: AM	Cascade	Eaton	Away
Tue, Apr 1 4:30: PM	Cascade	Chelan	Away
Boys Varsity Soccer			
Thu, Mar 27 6:30: PM	Cascade vs.	Omak High School	Away
Sat, Mar 29 1:00: PM	Cascade vs.	Chelan High School	Home
Boys Varsity Tennis			
Sat, Mar 29 1:00 PM	Cascade vs.	La Salle	Home
Boys Varsity Track			
Thu, Mar 27 4:00 PM	Cascade vs.	CTL Reunion Meet	Away
Girls Varsity Tennis			
Sat, Mar 29 1:00 PM	Cascade vs.	La Salle	Home

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Helion opens dialogue with community on fusion power project

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. 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 ground-breaking 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.

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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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.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

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

Eastmont

Continued from page A3

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.

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 taylor@eastmont206.org, or you can reach Kayla Brown, the executive director of human resources at brownk@eastmont206.org.

Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or andrew@ward.media



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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Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

PHOTOS BY 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.



Carol and Matt Cade present the Quilt of Valor to Shannon.

Quilts of Valor

Continued from page A1

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.

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 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 to 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 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.

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District 12

Continued from page A1

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 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.

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Alphorn

Continued from page A1

Alphorn Festival, youth programs and scholarship, and performances.

“The Leavenworth Alphorn Association exemplifies the true spirit of the alphorn community,” said AANA Board Chair Sean Slatter, in a press release. “Leavenworth’s passion for protecting and preserving the alphorn is the benchmark for all alphorn organizations. We are honored to recognize the incredible work of the Leavenworth Alphorn Association. We look forward to celebrating their achievements during the 2025 Leavenworth International

Alphorn Festival.”

The AANA’s mission aims to cultivate the growth of the alphorn community across the continent, promoting cultural exchange, performance opportunities, and educational resources for alphorn players and organizations. Its recognition of the Leavenworth Alphorns will include an engraved plaque and a \$2,500 cash award to support its continued work in alphorn performance, education and cultural outreach.

Additionally, AANA will host its first annual gathering at the Leavenworth International Alphorn Festival, connecting players and organizations from throughout North America. The festival is scheduled for May 24 and 25.

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Announcements

Miscellaneous

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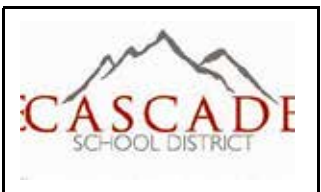
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General Interest

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Employment

Help Wanted



School District is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Bus Drivers

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 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 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 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 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 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 or mail to TranGO, PO Box 507, Okanogan WA 98840
Application Deadline: Open until filled.
Okanogan County Transit Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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 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 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.
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
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leavenworthecho.com
cashmerevalleyrecord.com
lakechelanmirror.com
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 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.
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		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!


Here's How It Works:

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

ANSWER:

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.

The size of a pea	The size of a golf ball	A few spoonfuls	About a handful

5 + 5 = Teaspoon

4 + 8 = Tablespoon

2 + 2 = Cup

7 + 7 = ¼ cup

3 + 2 = Glob

9 + 6 = Smidgeon

5 + 6 = Dollop

8 + 8 = Quart

1 + 2 = Pinch

7 + 6 = Dash

1 + 1 = Gallon


3 + 4 = Morsel

8 + 2 = Ounce

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!

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.

 **Kid Scoop Together**

Cookie Combos

Work with a friend to draw a line to connect each pair of identical cookies. Can you find the one unique cookie?




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

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

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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Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop** printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: kidscoop.com/activity-pages/



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.

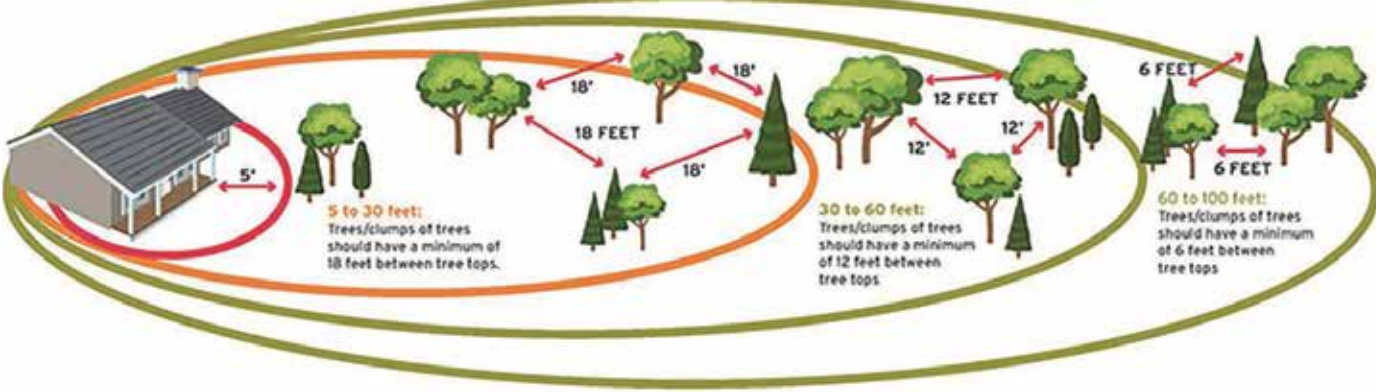
Try to use the word **opinion** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.



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 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

Family Features

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:

- 1. Select a perfect spot.** 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](#).



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH



STOCK PHOTO

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? The time and effort that it

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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- ☒ 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.
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More information can be found at [douglaspu.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 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.



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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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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

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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](#).

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](#).



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