



**Mr. Kodiak travels
'Through the Eras'
in 15th annual show**
Sports | **A4**



**Connecting communities
across North Central
Washington**
NCW News | **B1**

Film featuring Cashmere, Leavenworth to screen at Seattle International Film Festival



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

The production was filmed in both Cashmere and Leavenworth last summer.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

"Evergreens" is a coming-of-age love story following characters Eve and James as they travel across Washington state.

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

SEATTLE – Washington-based feature-length film "Evergreens," which filmed in parts of Cashmere, Leavenworth, and US-2, will be

screening at the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) on May 19 and 20, with an at-home streaming option to follow.

"Evergreens" is a coming-of-age love story that follows characters Eve, played by Darby Lee-Stack,

and James, played by Edouard Philippinon, on a road trip across Washington state. Inspired by his favorite places to go as a kid growing up in Washington, Spokane-based writer and director Jared Briley starts the pair's story in Spokane,

where they begin their trip through Coulee City, Cashmere, Leavenworth, Index, Seattle, Forks, and the Hoh Rain Forest in the Olympic National Park.

"We always joke that Washington State [is] sort of the third lead

behind the two main actors," Briley previously told Ward Media.

In July 2024, the cast and crew travelled to the upper valley to film scenes at the Outpost Saloon and

See **FILM FESTIVAL** Page **B2**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WRI receives solar power grant from Washington State Department of Commerce

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Commerce has announced 38 grants totaling \$36.6 million to support the planning, design and implementation of clean energy across the state. Included was a \$156,300 grant for rooftop solar power and a backup battery at the Wenatchee River Institute (WRI).

The solar panels are slated to be installed on the roof of WRI's Red Barn by fall of this year. According to WRI Executive Director Canuche Terranella, the organization has a goal of turning the Red Barn into a "resiliency hub," in which the building could provide off-the-grid power in the event of a natural disaster.

Additionally, Terranella hopes the Red Barn's solar power will "be an example to our community that solar can work in eastern Washington." To WRI, the solar panels are an opportunity to

diversify its energy resources as incoming data centers pose an increase in hydropower demand.

"It seems amazing to be able to generate energy for our campus, on our campus, without generating carbon emissions," said WRI Executive Director Canuche Terranella.

The Commerce's Clean Energy Community Grants program aims to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while delivering meaningful benefits to tribes, overburdened communities and vulnerable populations in Washington.

"These projects strengthen energy resilience where it's needed most," said Commerce Director Joe Nguyễn, in a press release. "Investing in local clean energy solutions helps communities stay safe, connected, and prepared for the future."

Funding for solar power projects also included a \$1.3

See **WRI** Page **B2**



Three dancers with Central Washington University's Orchesis Dance Company move in unison during rehearsals for the Spring Orchesis Dance Company Concert, scheduled for May 24 at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts.



A dancer with Central Washington University's Orchesis Dance Company prepares for the upcoming Spring Orchesis Dance Company Concert at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts' Snowy Owl Theater.

CWU's Orchesis Dance Company to perform spring concert at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts

*The Leavenworth Echo
Ward Media*

LEAVENWORTH — Central Washington University's Orchesis Dance Company will present its annual Spring Orchesis Dance Company Concert on May 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Snowy Owl Theater at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts.

The showcase will feature original choreography by

Two Central Washington University Orchesis Dance Company members rehearse ahead of the Spring Orchesis Dance Company Concert. The performance will explore the theme of resilience through a variety of dance styles.

students, alongside four pieces created by faculty and guest artists. Performances will span a variety of styles, including modern, jazz, ballet and tap, and will center on the theme of resilience.

The theme was chosen in collaboration with senior dancer and choreographer Hope Worth as part of her Douglas Honors College Capstone project. Prior to each performance, a video will be shown offering audiences insight into the choreographer's process and explaining how each piece connects to the concept of resilience.

See **ORCHESIS** Page **B2**

Hunger in the Valley: Local food banks see unprecedented demand

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

Editor's note: This article is the first part in a series exploring food insecurity in North Central Washington.

CHELAN COUNTY – In a trend that mirrors statewide statistics, North Central Washington food banks are experiencing historically high numbers as residents struggle to make ends meet. According to the state Department of Agriculture, one in four Washingtonians visited a food pantry last year—a stark indicator of growing food insecurity that's becoming increasingly visible in the region.

"The [Community Cupboard] food pantry is kind of our best indicator of overall how people are doing, and it's

See **HUNGER** Page **B2**



COURTESY OF WRI

The building is known for its "Red Barn Events" that invite the community to explore topics related to people, place, and nature, through speakers, discussions, and films.



COURTESY OF UPPER VALLEY MEND

Community Cupboard volunteer Glen Ferrier and staff member Alexandra Muro repackage bulk eggs into dozen-sized cartons for individual families.

Inside The Echo this Week

5 Things to do this Week.....	A2	Church Guide.....	B1	Sheriff Report.....	A2
Athlete of the Week.....	A4	Community Calendar.....	A3	Sports.....	A2
Business Directory.....	B2	Classifieds.....	B3	Advertising Flyers:	
Cascade Scoreboard.....	A4	NCW News.....	B1	Safeway, Dan's Food Market	

\$1.00



Phone:
509-731-4392



www.leavenworthecho.com

The Leavenworth Echo

© Ward Media, LLC 2025

W

WARD MEDIA

On the Internet

Website:
www.leavenworthecho.com

E-mail:
news@ward.media

Office hours

Hours: 8 am - 5 pm except weekends, 509-731-4392

Contact information

CEO & Publisher

Terry Ward

509-731-3284

terry@ward.media

COO & Co-Owner

Amy M. Yaley

509-731-3321

amy@ward.media

Reporter

Taylor Caldwell

taylor@ward.media

Reporter

Quinn Propst

quinn@ward.media

Multi-media Account Executive

Logan Finley

509-433-7078

logan@ward.media

Administrative Support

Andrea Sanchez-Blanco

509-731-4392

andrea@ward.media

Circulation

509-731-4392

circulation@ward.media

Deadlines

Calendar Listings Noon, Friday

News Submissions: Noon, Friday

Letters to the Editor: Noon, Friday

Display Advertising: 5:00 p.m., Thur.

Legal Notices: Noon Friday

Classified Ads: Noon Friday

Subscriptions

Print and online (yearly) \$50.00

Online-only Subscription

12 Months \$50.00

6 Months \$25.00

3 Months \$15.00

1 Month \$8.00

1 Week \$1.50

The Leavenworth Echo does not refund subscription payments except to the extent that it might fail to meet its obligation to publish each week, in which case the cost of the issues missed would be refunded as an extension.

Subscriptions may be transferred to another individual or organization.



© Ward Media, LLC prints on recycled newsprint with soy ink. Please recycle.

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

Classified Advertising

Classified ads can be placed during normal office hours by calling 509-293-6780 or by emailing classifieds@ward.media

Legal Advertising

Legal ads can be placed during normal business hours by calling 509-293-6780 or by emailing legals@ward.media

Obituaries

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

Services

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

The Leavenworth Echo (USPS 308 160) is published every Wednesday by Ward Media, LLC, 29 S. Wenatchee Ave., Suite A, Wenatchee, WA 98801 Telephone: 509-548-5286. Periodical postage paid at Leavenworth, Wash. (and additional mailing offices). Postmaster: Send address corrections to: Leavenworth Echo, 131 S. Apple Blossom Drive #109, Chelan, WA 98816

Classified Weekly Rates

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

Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at quinn@ward.media. 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!

TedDriven Leavenworth Mai Blumenlauf Run

The Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the TedDriven Leavenworth Mai Blumenlauf Run on May 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

“Join in for a new kind of event that brings the community together, with a focus on family-friendly fun and fitness!”

For more info, please contact: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce

The Travelers Live @ Blue Spirits

Come enjoy live music from The Travelers, a country music trio, at Blue Spirits on May 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

“Experience the sounds of this talented trio, bringing

their unique take on country music for a fun evening out.”

For more info, please contact: Blue Spirits on facebook

Leavenworth Jazz Festival 2025

The Leavenworth Jazz Festival is hosting its 3rd Annual event on May 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. This weekend of live music, swing dancing, and community celebration is all in support of local art programs.

“Come out for a night of incredible jazz, dancing, and fun while supporting the vibrant arts community in Leavenworth!”

For more info, please contact: Leavenworth Jazz Festival on facebook

Hell on Hooves

The Town Toyota Center will be hosting Hell on Hooves on May 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m.

“This exciting rodeo event features barrel racing, bull riding, a beer garden, kids zone, and much more! Get ready for a thrilling night of rodeo action for the whole family.”

For tickets and more info, visit: Town Toyota Center Website

Community Plant Starts Swap

Wenatchee River Institute (WRI) and the Cascade Garden Club will be hosting a free Community Plant Starts



Swap on May 14, 5 p.m to 6:30 p.m at the E. Lorene Young Community Garden, located at the corner of Commercial St. and 12th St. in Leavenworth

“Bring your plant starts to swap, or come by to see what's available to take home. Tables will be set up for swapping,

and everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of whether they have plants to trade.”

For more info, please contact: jschaub@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or Call 509-548-0181 ext. 5

Authors of "Drink Your Garden" to host Happier Hour event in Leavenworth



COURTESY OF BLUE SPIRITS DISTILLING

Belinda Kelly and Venise Cunningham, co-authors of Drink Your Garden: Recipes, Stories, and Tips from the Simple Goodness Cocktail Farm, will appear for a book signing and cocktail event May 10 at Blue Spirits Distilling in Leavenworth.

The Leavenworth Echo Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH — Belinda Kelly and Venise Cunningham, authors of the newly released cocktail cookbook Drink Your Garden, will host a special “Happier Hour” event on Saturday, May 10, at Blue Spirits Distilling Tasting Room & Restaurant in Leavenworth.

The event runs from 4 to 7 p.m. and will feature cocktail specials inspired by the book, a botanical garnish bar, live music from Tony Regan, and author signings. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the authors, sample recipes, and purchase signed copies of the book.

Released on March 25 by Countryman Press, Drink Your Garden: Recipes, Stories, and Tips from the Simple Goodness Cocktail Farm offers more than 100 recipes for garden-fresh cocktails and mocktails. It also includes practical tips for infusion, sustainable techniques, and seasonal ingredient pairings. According to promotional materials, the book is “a vibrant guide to mixing drinks with seasonal ingredients—no green thumb required.”

The event will be held at Blue Spirits Distilling, located at 1310 US Hwy 2 in Leavenworth. For more information, the venue can be reached at (509) 860-2467.

Have an idea for a story?

Call The Leavenworth Echo at 509-548-5286 or email news@ward.media

Leavenworth Library to host Birdfest Poster Contest art show

The Leavenworth Echo Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH — The Leavenworth Library will showcase the top 20 entries from the Birdfest Poster Contest in an art show running from May 6 through June 13 in the Fireside Room.

In addition to the top entries, the exhibit will feature a display of other submissions from local students in Leavenworth. The Birdfest Poster Contest invites students in kindergarten through eighth grade to create original artwork featuring avian subjects. The winning

entry will be used as the official poster for the annual Birdfest celebration.

The art show offers visitors an opportunity to view the creativity and talent of young artists while highlighting the community's connection to the natural environment.

The Birdfest Poster Contest encourages youth participation in the arts while promoting awareness of bird species and conservation efforts. The exhibit will be open to the public during the library's regular operating hours.

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.



April 25

11:06:17 Harass/Threat, 105 Pine St# D, Leavenworth
16:09:41 Accident No Inj, Us Hwy 2 & E, Leavenworth
16:21:11 Trespass, 7651 Saunders Rd, Dryden
18:27:00 Domestic Disturbance, 21325 Sr 207, Leavenworth
18:38:01 Suspicious, Peshastin, Peshastin
18:51:37 Traffic Offense, Sr 207 & Conard Rd, Leavenworth
19:47:54 Civil, Leavenworth, Leavenworth
20:56:27 Assist Agency, 8825 Derby Canyon Rd, Peshastin
20:56:51 Animal Problem, Main St & Pine St: Area, Peshatin
21:02:27 Harass/Threat, 238 Park Ave, Leavenworth
22:54:28 Alarm, 7375 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth

April 26

03:42:37 Assist Agency, Us Hwy 97 Mp 174, Peshastin
08:10:00 Traffic Offense, Us Hwy 2 & Chumstick Hwy, Peshastin
10:29:00 Extra Patrol, Bnsf Xing 084500e, Leavenworth
12:29:59 Suspicious, White Pine Rd & Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
15:03:16 Harass/Threat, 12735 Prowell St, Leavenworth
16:02:38 Assist Agency, 11375 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
16:17:01 Fraud/Forgery, 171 Murphy Highlands, Leavenworth
17:38:33 Accident No Lnj, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
20:05:50 Traffic Offense, 8th St & Commercial St, Leavenworth
21:30:35 Welfare Check, 11798 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth

April 27

11:24:40 Civil, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
14:37:01 Alarm, 17913 River Rd, Plain
14:56:04 Welfare Check, 100 Ward Strasse # A308, Leavenworth

15:08:38 Assist Public, 100 Ward Strasse # A303, Leavenworth
18:03:11 Accident No Inj, Chumstick Hwy & Hinthorne, Leavenworth
19:37:46 Assist Public, 7676 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth
21:13:54 Malicious Misch Icicle Rd Mp 15, Leavenworth

April 28

07:21:15 911, 14395 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth
09:58:13 Harass/Threat, 10190 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth
10:06:42 Property, 300 Enchantment Park Way, Leavenworth
10:33:17 Juvenile Problem, 3669 Allen Ln, Peshastin
10:40:16 Malicious Misch, 18245 River Rd, Plain
12:50:49 Assist Public, 520 Pine St# Main, Leavenworth
15:29:09 Civil, 76 Oak Orchard Ln, Leavenworth
16:41:22 Suspicious, Icicle Rd & Wilson St, Leavenworth

April 29

11:44:22 Suspicious, Us Hwy 2 & Icicle Rd, Leavenworth
12:48:35 Theft, 940 Us Hwy 2 # E, Leavenworth
14:40:11 Trespass, 14395 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth
17:56:59 Traffic Offense, Chumstick Hwy & Eagle Cree, Leavenworth
18:49:01 Parking/Abandon, 9041 Us Hwy 2, Dryden
20:55:15 Welfare Check, 12735 Prowell St, Leavenworth
21:33:13 Suspicious, 9777 Moon Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
21:44:37 Domestic Disturbance, 911 Commercial St# A, Leavenworth
22:25:31 Disturbance, 213 9th St, Leavenworth

April 30

8:06:09 Suspicious, 9310 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth
10:03:03 Theft, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
17:30:15 Extra Patrol, 500 Pine

St, Leavenworth
19:02:05 Accident No Inj, Chikamin Rd & Chiwawa Rive, Leavenworth
19:42:28 Trespass, 9189 Anderson Canyon Rd, Peshastin

May 1

09:09:22 Vehicle Prowl, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
10:03:04 Welfare Check, 11689 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
10:11:11 Civil, 330 Prospect St# 18, Leavenworth
13:10:28 Property, 9342 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth
16:35:45 Assist Public, Sr 207 Mp 2, Leavenworth
17:28:39 Alarm, 17679 N Shore Dr, Lake Wen
17:31:53 Malicious Misch, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
17:36:44 Civil, 8734 School St, Dryden
19:03:45 Domestic Distur, 8348 Main St# 5, Peshastin
21:59:21 Domestic Distur, 20600blk Sr 207, Leavenworth
22:23:05 Traffic Offense, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth

Find the best qualified local employee

... with the Echo/ Record Classifieds.

WARD MEDIA

Call us at 509-548-5286

back40

ADVISORS LLC

HR Consulting

Quality equipment.

Here when you need extra hands—fractional, interim, or project-based

Colleen Malmassari, SHRM-CP, PHR Founder | HR Consulting

1.509.883.7080 | colleen@back40advisors.com

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@nwl.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.leavenworthmasons.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.)
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.

WVC Foundation to host Alumni Week Celebration May 14-17 at Wenatchee and Omak Campuses

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Valley College Foundation will welcome graduates and community members back to campus this spring for WVC Alumni Week, a four-day celebration taking place May 14–17 on the Wenatchee and Omak campuses.
Under the theme “Knights Unite,” the multi-day event features five free, public gatherings designed to celebrate the legacy and spirit of WVC alumni. The program is supported by presenting sponsor Microsoft, alongside additional community sponsors.

“Alumni Week is a celebration of community, legacy, and the stories that begin at WVC,” said Lupe Brito, WVC Foundation development director. “We’re thrilled to welcome Knights back to campus with events that reflect the creativity, diversity, and spirit of our alumni.”

The week’s schedule includes:

- Snapshot Social — Wednesday, May 14,



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

The entrance sign at Wenatchee Valley College welcomes visitors and alumni ahead of WVC Alumni Week, taking place May 14–17 on the Wenatchee and Omak campuses.

- 5:30–7:30 p.m., Maguire Conference Center, Wenatchee Campus. A networking event offering light refreshments and complimentary professional portraits for attendees.
- LITerary Knight — Thursday, May 15, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Music & Art Center (MAC), Wenatchee Campus. A celebration marking the relaunch of Mirror Northwest, WVC’s student-led literary journal, with live readings by students and faculty.
- AlumKnight Block Party

- Friday, May 16, 3:00–6:00 p.m., Omak Campus. A family-friendly event featuring games and activities such as cornhole, basketball, mini golf, and crafts.
- Knight of the Stars — Friday, May 16, 7:00–9:00 p.m., Wells Hall Theater, Wenatchee Campus. An evening of music and dancing hosted by the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and TRIO Student Support Services.
- Clash of the Cleats — Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Mike Hollis

Field, Wenatchee Campus. A spirited soccer match featuring WVC alumni, with refreshments and activities on the sidelines. All events are free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP and find more information at wvc.edu/alumni.

The WVC Foundation, established in 1971, supports educational access and student success through philanthropy. Those interested in supporting the foundation may call (509) 682-6410 or visit wvc.edu/foundation.

Dryden, Leavenworth and Peshastin students recognized on WVC Winter 2025 Dean's List

The Leavenworth Echo
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Wenatchee Valley College has announced its Winter 2025 Dean’s List, recognizing students who earned a 3.5 grade point average or higher while completing at least 12 college-level credits during the winter quarter. Several students from Dryden,

Leavenworth and Peshastin earned this distinction for their academic efforts.
From Dryden, Dean’s List honorees included Maizy Groff, Isac Guzman-Muro Sr., Renee Anne Lambert and Juan C. Martinez Nieto.
Students from Leavenworth recognized on the Dean’s List were Dante Aurilio, Harper Baker, Anthony Bohorfoush,

Kikkan Brine, Graham Yohan Campbell, Alice Farrell, Juan Diego Fonseca Lara, Napiqua Rose Gibbs, Erick Kelly, Saori Lopez Barqueno, Anja Lundgren, Raul Mata-Garcia, Olivia Louise Melton, Jakub Nemec, Heather Nieto, Preston Kole Pedefferri, Hawthorne Laird Robbins, Kelsea Sheffield, Danielle Morgan Totman, Autumn J. West and Francisco

Manuel Zarate.
From Peshastin, Jessica Alejandre Melendez, Catherine Graybill and Valeria Oropeza-Oyos were named to the Dean’s List.
The Dean’s List is published each quarter to honor students who demonstrate strong academic performance at Wenatchee Valley College.

Dryden, Leavenworth and Peshastin students named to WVC Winter 2025 President's List

The Leavenworth Echo
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Wenatchee Valley College has announced its Winter 2025 President’s List, honoring students who achieved a 4.0 grade point average while completing at

least 12 college-level credits during the winter quarter.
Students from Dryden, Leavenworth and Peshastin were among those recognized for their academic excellence.
From Dryden, Peyton Jean Brown and Aztlan Oropeza Garcia earned places on the

President’s List. Leavenworth honorees included Brian Conley, Molly Rosalie Elder, Lucas N. Johnson, Averie Lapinski Jr., Jewel Berry Leroy, Tolinda Sumpter, Evan Tompkins, Shawn Vandegraft and Ina Waring-Enriquez.
From Peshastin, Iris Brizeida

Gonzalez-Acevedo and Brennan Wilks were named to the President’s List.
The President’s List is announced quarterly to celebrate students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement at Wenatchee Valley College.

Search and rescue incident at French Creek highlights dangers of early season runoff

By ANDREW SIMPSON
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN COUNTY — Chelan County Sheriff Mike Morrison reported that around 3:30 p.m.

on Monday, April 28, RiverCom received a satellite-to-911 text message from two injured hikers in the French Creek area of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness portion of the Okanogan–

Wenatchee National Forest. Through subsequent messages, RiverCom ascertained that the two hikers were 21-year-old males who potentially had lower body injuries,



CHELAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rescuers are seen at the French Creek crossing in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Public survey seeks community input on salmon recovery efforts in Chelan County

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Several conservation groups working on salmon recovery efforts in Chelan County are requesting public participation in a newly launched survey designed to gauge awareness and perception of local habitat restoration initiatives.
The survey, which is available in English and Spanish, aims to collect feedback from residents to help conservation groups assess the effectiveness

and public reception of ongoing projects. It can be accessed through the Chelan County Natural Resources Department’s website at https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/education-and-outreach-natural-resources.
According to organizers, the survey is expected to take no more than five minutes to complete and will remain open until June 1. Responses will be reviewed in aggregate by participating organizations to help guide future salmon habitat restoration efforts.

Individual responses will remain confidential.
The survey is designed to "gauge public awareness, perception, and preferences in an effort to help participating conservation groups ensure efficiency and efficacy in individual and collective efforts," according to information provided by Chelan County Natural Resources.
Residents are encouraged to share their candid thoughts and perceptions regarding salmon habitat restoration efforts across the county.

including what was described as a broken toe. The two hikers had tried to cross a creek in an unsafe area and gotten swept away by the water.
By the time their messages, which provided a precise location, reached the Sheriff’s Office, they were waiting on shore for assistance. Including CCSO search and rescue deputies and volunteer personnel from Chelan County Volunteer Search and Rescue, 14 people in all were dispatched to locate the hikers.

Deputies trekked around 1.5 miles to the hikers’ location, where they determined that the two men had sustained only minor injuries, but would definitely need assistance getting back across the creek they’d been swept away by. The deputies requested rope equipment, which was brought in to the scene by members of the CCVSAR. Deputies and volunteers worked together to set up a rope system and got the two men back across French Creek, after which the

men were able to hike back out with the rescuers to the trailhead some 6.5 hours after the initial message to 911.
The CCSO advises that creeks can be running very high this time of year, and that even as little as six inches of fast-flowing water can take an adult off their feet. These waters should not be crossed, says the CCSO, or hikers could end up with significant injuries or worse.

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

This ad caught your eye.

The Leavenworth Echo

Imagine what your ad could do.

For more information email advertising@ward.media or call 509-731-3321



We've got Kodiak

PRIDE!

Dan's
FOOD Market

From your fresh, friendly LOCAL grocer. 509-548-5611

Mountain Country Corner

We've got spirit,
yes we do!

843 Front St., Ste.A | 509-548-5312

WARD MEDIA

Fueling Champions

From the court to the mat
Ward Media is proud to support the Kodiaks

Let's go Kodiaks!

State Farm

Bruce Cheadle,
(509) 782-1659

Your team in the game, our team providing care - a winning combination!

CASCADE MEDICAL
PARTNERS IN YOUR HEALTH

ONE SPIRIT, ONE TEAM, ONE WIN!

München Haus
LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON

709 Front St. Leavenworth
509-548-1158
www.munchenhaus.com

PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN JEROME/CHS PUBLICATIONS GROUP

Mr. Kodiak travels "Through the Eras" in 15th annual show; Feeney takes crown

By BENJAMIN JEROME
CHS Publications Group

LEAVENWORTH — One of Cascade High School's most beloved traditions returned with flair this spring as the 15th annual Mr. Kodiak competition brought laughter, creativity, and community spirit to a sold-out audience. The pageant-style fundraiser, organized by the parents of the CHS senior class of 2025, pitted seven senior boys against one another in a multi-part contest judged on showmanship, style, and originality.

This year's theme, "Through the Eras," saw each contestant dress as a famous historical figure, ranging from cavemen to 20th-century icons. The evening began with a lively introduction by local emcee and crowd favorite Clint Strand, as each senior walked out with their escort—a female CHS senior accompanying a Mr. Kodiak contestant on stage during parts of the competition—to the roar of a packed CHS commons.

In one of the opening segments, the boys delivered a series of cheesy pick-up lines, each tailored to their character. "That's a nice-looking dress, but it would look a whole lot better accelerating towards my bedroom at the speed of light," quipped Trail Heyl, dressed as Albert Einstein, to Mia Dries.

The contestants then launched into a choreographed group dance that took the audience on a time-travel journey — from the prehistoric era to a high-energy zoot suit swing number from the 1940s.

For the first time in Mr. Kodiak history, escorts joined in the performance.

"Participating in the dance was a great experience," said Claire Henscheid, escort to Jaxon Groby (who portrayed 1980s fitness icon Richard Simmons). "The escorts don't win anything, they don't get a sash, so the dance was a great way to make it more inclusive in general."

The performance ended with the group dancing the viral 2020s TikTok routine, "Renegade," to thunderous applause.

Next came the always popular talent portion, where contestants displayed their skills, humor, and creativity.

Rhonan Allen, dressed as Dave Grohl, the musician known for founding Foo Fighters and drumming for Nirvana in the 1990s, and accompanied by Anna Reichlin, led an improvisational

storytelling routine, using random words from the audience and help from fellow senior Trail Heyl and Strand.

Ethan Davis, channeling Bob Ross, the beloved painter from the 1980s, and escorted by Alassandra Deguli, gave a comedic live-painting demonstration featuring Strand as his model—and plenty of "happy little accidents."

William Biebesheimer, appearing as George Washington, and accompanied by Teyva Dillon, opened with a comedic monologue poking fun at America's measurement systems, followed by a slick card trick.

Jackson Feeney, escorted by Reese Mathers, portrayed Saturday Night Fever's Tony Manero (John Travolta), and wowed the audience with a musical performance. He played saxophone, guitar, and harmonica while performing an original song about senior year.

Trenton Holland, as Donald Trump, and accompanied by Camila Valentin, turned the event into a mock campaign rally, roasting teachers, and fellow students.

Groby brought the energy of Simmons to life with a full aerobics routine.

Heyl, as Einstein, performed a mock science experiment, complete with exploding foam and wild antics while the 1980s song "Weird Science" blasted from the loudspeakers.

"We performed the acts well under lots of pressure," said Davis. "It was the most stressful thing I've ever done, but after I first spoke into the microphone, it all went away, and it was fine."

Following a brief intermission, the final challenge tested the contestants' wit and poise during an improv question round. Each drew a question from a hat and had to respond on the spot. When

asked where he would time travel, Groby quipped, "To the 1980s, to go to Richard Simmons' house of course!"

While judges deliberated, the audience enjoyed a cake auction, with senior parents contributing homemade desserts to raise money for the senior sober night.

Finally, the contestants returned to the stage for awards. Each received a unique sash that reflected their performance and persona—Holland's, for example, was dubbed "Mr. Trendsetter."

The suspense mounted as the final two—Groby and

Feeney—stood at the front of the stage. With a drumroll, Strand announced Feeney as 2025's Mr. Kodiak.

"Mr. Kodiak was a great experience; it allowed me to express myself," said Feeney. "I got to show my love for music and clothing. I put a lot of work into that. I have been playing saxophone for seven years, and it allowed me to showcase my hard work and talent."

Benjamin Jerome is a senior at Cascade High School, where he serves as Photo Editor with the school's Publications Group.



The 2025 Mr. Kodiak contestants in costume with their escorts ahead of a night of laughter, talent, and time-traveling fun at Cascade High School's 15th annual pageant.



Jackson Feeney celebrates his victory as the 2025 Mr. Kodiak, proudly holding up his trophy alongside escort Reese Mathers after a show-stopping performance at Cascade High School's annual pageant.



PESHASTIN - Cascade put on a good performance at their own Rieke Invitational, taking fourth place among girls and fifth among boys last May 2. More than 35 schools brought

athletes to compete in sunny Peshastin.

● **Cyan Worden, a freshman, running the 1,600 meters at the Rieke Invitational in**

Cascade hosts Rieke Invitational, takes fourth in girls and fifth in boys team standings



Peshastin last May 2. ● **Sophomore Samantha Crossley puts her best foot, actually feet, forward during the Rieke Invitational in Peshastin last May 2 in front**

of the home crowd. ● Freshman Ryder Fiano competes for Cascade at the Rieke Invitational last May 2 in a sunny afternoon of track and field action in Peshastin.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Cole Slette
Boys Socce
Senior



Cole is a four-year starter and one of the team captains. He can play any position on the field but lately has been slotted in at central midfield. His play over the last week helped us record three important wins. He has great soccer skills and vision. He uses these skills to make pinpoint passes. He can play the ball with either foot. He has a cannon for a shot or can loft the ball gentle into the net. Over this last week he recorded 4 assists and 3 goals. When Cole is playing well, he lifts the rest of the team. Well done, Cole!

CASCADE SCOREBOARD

Boys Varsity Soccer					
Tue, Apr 29	Cascade	6	Omak	1	Win
Thu, May 1	Cascade	3	Manson	0	Win
Girls Varsity Softball					
Tue, Apr 29	Cascade	4	Chelan	14	Loss

NCW

NEWS

www.ncw.news

NORTHWEST SWAG WORKS

APPAREL & PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

Your Brand Their Hands

Make your brand a part of their everyday life with premium promotional products. *Let's create something memorable.*

Call us today! 509-731-3624 NorthwestSwag.com

YOUR BRAND HERE

WVC keynote highlights barriers for students of color



COURTESY OF WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE
Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, a professor at U.C. Berkeley and national expert on Hispanic Serving Institutions, delivered the keynote address at Wenatchee Valley College's Dean's Day on April 25, focusing on equity in education and centering student voices.

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, a nationally recognized expert on Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), delivered the keynote address during Wenatchee Valley College's Dean's Day on April 25, urging faculty and staff to elevate the voices of students from historically marginalized communities.

Garcia, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Education, presented "Centering Student Voices at Hispanic Serving Institutions," a lecture focused on closing equity gaps and strengthening HSI identity by prioritizing the lived experiences of Latine and other students of color.

"This event provided a beautiful opportunity to come together as an institution to reorient to our north star—our students," said Vanessa Saldivar, WVC's interim executive director of HSI initiatives. "Dr. Garcia ardently calls us to center our students, especially the roughly half that come from minoritized communities that are actively being targeted by discriminatory policies and hateful rhetoric. This is a critical moment for our community and for our college, as we deepen our understanding of, and our commitment to, our HSI identity."

Garcia's talk, organized and sponsored by El Corazón and the college's Center for Teaching and Learning, was part of a broader effort supported by a Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions

(DHSI) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. DHSI grants are intended to expand educational access and increase academic attainment for Hispanic students.

In her address, Garcia encouraged faculty and staff to reflect on how institutional policies and classroom practices can either perpetuate or dismantle barriers to student success.

She invited educators to "be unafraid educator[s] who work with and for all students."

Garcia's research focuses on equity and justice in higher education, with particular attention to how HSIs operationalize their mission to serve minoritized populations. Her work explores the role of race and racism in shaping higher education and examines the

experiences of those working and studying within HSI environments.

Wenatchee Valley College has been designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. With a student population that is 45 percent Hispanic, the college qualifies for federal support aimed at improving outcomes for Hispanic and underserved students.

Summer Like You Mean It With

WORLD-FAMOUS PERFECTION

✓ The world's most tender, flavorful steaks, extra-aged to perfection.

✓ The juiciest air-chilled chicken, tastiest pork, and so much more.

✓ Every bite is a 100% guaranteed gourmet experience you'll crave.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER

OMAHA STEAKS

SINCE 1917

100% GUARANTEE

You'll love it or your money back!

All-Time Grilling Faves

SAVE 58%

4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)

4 Air-Chilled Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)

4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)

4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)

4 Potatoes au Gratin (2.8 oz.)

4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)

1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)

8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)

75432TME separately \$240.99

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE **\$99.99**

8 FREE BURGERS (\$22 value)

ORDER NOW! » OmahaSteaks.com/GrillFaves1608

1.833.685.0091 Ask for FREE burgers with offer 75432TME

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 75432. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 06/30/25. | 25M8070 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

SAVE \$1,800

SAVINGS INCLUDE A FREE TOILET & BIDET

PLUS

NO INTEREST and NO PAYMENTS for 12 MONTHS*

PLUS

50% OFF INSTALL™

American Standard

HOME SERVICES

Transform your bath with a walk-in tub

1-888-710-1265 SCHEDULE A FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION

*Subject to 3rd party credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. Offers valid thru 6/30/25

SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.

SunSetter

America's #1 Awning

Instant shade—at the touch of a button.

Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.

Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Call 1-866-846-8521 now to SAVE \$350 TODAY!

America's #1 Awning!

UPPER VALLEY CHURCH GUIDE

To Place Information in The Church Guide Call 509-548-5286

Leavenworth

CASCADE MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Office: 509-548-4331 • 11025, Chumstick Hwy.

• Please join us Sunday mornings, 9 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service

LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

418 Evans Street • 509-548-5619 • 10 a.m. Sunday Service, Pastor Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout • leavenworthumc.org • leavenworthumc@outlook.com

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

10170 Titus Rd. (across from middle school).

Church: 509-548-7667

• Meetings: Sunday - 10 a.m

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

"Reconciling in Christ Congregation"

• 224 Benton Street

• 509-548-7010 • Worship 9:30 a.m. w/coffee following

• https://www.flcleavenworth.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, SBC

429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745

• Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

• www.leavenworthbaptist.com

• Email: info@leavenworthbaptist.com

LEAVENWORTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

111 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-5292 • Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

• Lead Pastor: Greg Appleby • Youth Pastor Paige Derossett

• Worship Pastor-Jacob Mitchell • www.LCN.org

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

10600 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-4345 • Saturday Services • Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • 509-860-3997

SPIRIT LIFE CENTER

210 Benton Street • 509-548-7138 • Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Prayer 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 8:30 p.m. • Pastor Russell Esparza

Dryden

DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. • 509-782-2935

• Sunday Worship at 11 am.

Prayer Meeting Wed. at 6 pm. Pastor Bill Clem

MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 509-782-2616

• Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sunday School, 9 a.m. • Pastor Mike Moore

www.midvalley baptist.org

Peshastin

LIGHT IN THE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

8455 Main Street • Sunday Worship 10 a.m. • Pastor John Romine

www.lightinthevalley.org

NEW LIFE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

7591 Hwy. 97 • 509-548-4222 • Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

• Pastors, Darryl and Mindy Wall

• newlifeleavenworth@gmail.com

FB page: newlifeleavenworth • www.newlifeleavenworth.com

Plain

PLAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Serving Our Valley Since 1941 • 12565 Chapel Dr. 509-763-3621

Looking for you at 10:30 this Sunday! • plaincommunitychurch.org

facebook.com/plaincommunitychurch • office@plaincommunitychurch.org

Cashmere

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

303 Maple Street • 509-782-2431

• Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke • www.cashmerepres.org

CASHMERE COMMUNITY CHURCH

213 S Division St - 509-782-3811

• Worship Service at 11:00 AM, Sunday

• Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. • 10 AM to 1 PM

• Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

CHRIST CENTER

Sunday Worship Service at 10 am

• Lead Pastor Steve Haney

• 5800 Kimber Rd., Cashmere

• 509-295-8006 christcentercashmere.com

Monitor

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3799 Fairview Canyon - 509-782-2601

Worship Service at 9:00 AM, Sunday

Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

Film Festival

Continued from page A1

an orchard in Cashmere. The next day, the production filmed a montage of the characters travelling through Leavenworth, such as walking along Front Street, Blackbird Island, and even visiting Das Thrift Shoppe and the Nutcracker Museum. Briley coordinated with the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce to scout locations prior to filming.

According to Briley, about 35 percent of the film’s budget was supported by Washington Filmworks, a private nonprofit organization whose mission “is to create economic development opportunities by building and enhancing the competitiveness, profile and sustainability of Washington State’s film industry.”

Funding was provided through the organization’s Small Budget Production Initiative, which included an additional 10 percent back on in-state expenditures for filming at least 50 percent of its production in rural areas.

The film will be showing at the SIFF Cinema Uptown at 5:30 p.m. on May 19, and at 3:30 p.m. on May 20. For at-home viewing, there will also be a streaming option available from May 26 to June 1. All tickets are \$20, and can be found at siff.net/festival/evergreens.

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



Hunger

Continued from page A1

certainly right now showing us that people are struggling,” said Upper Valley MEND Executive Director Kaylin Bettinger.

The Leavenworth-based Community Cupboard’s traditional service area spans from Cashmere to Plain, with about 47 percent of its visitors coming from surrounding locations throughout the region.

Over the last few years, the number of households receiving assistance from the Community Cupboard has continued to reach new highs, growing from approximately 660 in 2022, to just over 1,300 households in 2024.

This year, the Community Cupboard has seen record use, serving nearly 3,000 individual shoppers to date in 2025, compared to just over 1,800 individual shoppers at the same time last year.

“[The Community Cupboard] definitely came in super, super clutch for me, when I was worried where my next meal was going to come from,” said a Community Cupboard user, who asked to remain anonymous. “If it wasn’t there, I think it would probably [be] more of a burden psychologically and emotionally, wondering how I’m going to pay for food.”

The Leavenworth resident, who works in both the service industry and construction, first visited the pantry in 2019, when they were struggling to find housing and work in the area. Facing similar circumstances in addition to the rising cost of living, the resident returned to the Community Cupboard this year for support.

“It’s pretty crazy right now, just spending \$100 for a couple days of groceries at Safeway or Dan’s. Things like that would maybe usually only cost me



COURTESY OF UPPER VALLEY MEND

Upper Valley MEND’s Community Cupboard sees about 47 percent of its visitors come from throughout the region, beyond its traditional service area of the upper valley and Cashmere.

like, 30 bucks, is now like, 100 bucks for everything. Like, cheese and eggs, and just staples that really shouldn’t be that crazy are now almost unattainable,” they said.

The Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council (CDCAC), which distributes food to 20 pantries and other locations, including Upper Valley MEND, has seen similar trends across the two-country region.

In 2024, its Food Distribution Center supported about 21,400 people, compared to 8,600 people in 2022. And while the number of people visiting in the first quarter of 2025 is slightly lower than last year’s numbers – 6,200 unduplicated visitors this year compared to 8,900 in 2024 – the total number of visits this year is up by 45 percent.

“There definitely was a spike in people accessing food during the pandemic...And going through 2023 and into 2024, we anticipated to see kind of those numbers drop... Our belief is, and what we’re hearing from people also, is that just the rising cost of food at the grocery store is driving them to food pantries, and for many people, it’s something

they haven’t done before,” said CDCAC Executive Director Alan Walker.

According to a food price report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), food prices saw a sharp rise of 9.9 percent in 2022, faster than in any year since 1979. The report credited the rise partly to the avian influenza outbreak affecting egg prices, as well as other factors, “including the Russia-Ukraine war, which compounded other economy-wide inflationary pressures such as high energy costs.”

While price increases have slowed in recent years, from a 5.8 percent increase in 2023, to a 2.3 percent increase in 2024, the cost of groceries has continued to rise at a faster rate than many households can keep up with. Additionally, the USDA’s report, updated in March, anticipates overall food prices in 2025 to rise slightly faster than the historical average rate of growth, predicting an increase of 3.2 percent.

In addition to grocery prices, housing costs have also risen significantly. According to Zillow data, U.S. rents have increased by 34.7 percent since the start of the pandemic, and

WRI

Continued from page A1

million award to install a solar array with a battery backup for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community’s IT/Medical Building in La Conner. Additionally, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services will utilize almost \$130,000 to install solar power and battery storage for a permanent supportive housing project that will serve homeless families and young adults with disabilities.

“Any resulting savings will be used to provide additional services for our clients and patients, the majority of



COURTESY OF WRI

Wenatchee River Institute received funding for solar panels and a backup battery on its Red Barn building.

Orchesis

Continued from page A1

Students featured in the concert are enrolled in CWU’s Dance Production class, where they have been developing skills in creating and producing dance performances. They worked in collaboration with Professor McKenzie Baird to produce the concert through the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts.

The dancers include dance majors, minors, double majors, graduate students and alumni. According to the program, “The CWU Dance Program is a family, where all are welcome and supported, as we believe that dance is for everyone.”

Founded in 1968 by Dance Professor Lana Jo Sharpe, Orchesis Dance Company was established to promote dance as a performing art and to provide opportunities for students to choreograph, learn, and perform original works. Its current co-directors, Gabrielle McNeillie and McKenzie Baird, strive “to make the Orchesis Dance Company a place where students can further their dancing technique while also preparing them to dance professionally beyond the college level.”

Tickets are available for \$25 for general admission, \$18 for students, and \$20 for a livestream option. More information is available at cwu.edu/academics/dance/ and icicle.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket.



COURTESY OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Members of Central Washington University’s Orchesis Dance Company leap during a rehearsal. The group’s Spring Concert will feature original student choreography centered around the theme of resilience.

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

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Tumwater Drilling and Pump Inc.

“Water Treatment Systems Built to Your Individual Problem”

Free Water Analysis/Estimates

Conveniently located on Hwy 2 across from the Big Y Cafe in Dryden @ 9290 Hwy 2

Tumwater Drilling & Pump, Inc.

Ctrl.Reg #TUMWADP438R

509-548-5361

www.tumwaterdrilling.com • email info@tumwaterdrilling.com

WATER SOFTENERS, IRON FILTERS, CONDITIONERS, UV FILTERS, REVERSE OSMOSIS, SULFUR, WHOLE HOUSE FILTERS, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, SALT SALES

BOGO 40% OFF*

Minimum purchase of 4

+ \$200 OFF Your Entire Purchase*

Minimum purchase of 4

OFFER ENDS 8/31

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Complete Excavating Service

Power & Water Systems

Dump Truck & Dozer

Drainfield Repair

Free Estimates

Septic Systems

Road Grading

(509) 548-3489

Leavenworth, WA

Licensed - Bonded - Insured

Quick ‘n Easy Residential Stump Removal

10817 North Road, Leavenworth • (509) 548-8222

Kim & Rosalie Kozelisky

Licensed, Bonded, Insured • Cont. #UPPERVE200PI

BOGO 40% OFF*

Minimum purchase of 4

+ \$200 OFF Your Entire Purchase*

Minimum purchase of 4

OFFER ENDS 8/31

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Don't miss out on the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 888-674-7053 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

ERIEHOME

Erie Roofing Since 1976

Trust the Nation's #1 Roofing Contractor

Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service

LIMITED TIME OFFER

50% OFF Installation

FREE ESTIMATE SCHEDULE TODAY!

Call 1.844.800.9166

CALL TODAY! 1.844.800.9166

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at erielicense.com

SECRETS OF ANCIENT EGYPT – NEW DISCOVERIES

A ROYAL EVENING WITH DR. ZAHİ HAWASS

THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS ARCHAEOLOGIST

USA & CANADA LECTURE TOUR MAY – AUGUST 2025

Portland, OR: May 14

Seattle, WA: May 18

THE TIME TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF ANCIENT EGYPT HAS FINALLY COME!

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEW GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERIES THAT WILL BE REVEALED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!

Register now at: **ZahiLectures.com**

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (877) 225-8568 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today

877-225-8568

www.veterancardations.org/dnt71

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (877) 225-8568.

NCW
NEWS

Discover the heart of
North Central Washington
with NCW News – your premier
source for local stories, insights, and
community updates.

Stay informed, stay connected.
<https://ncw.news/>



Kid Scoop

.com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

© 2025 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 41, No. 23

VENUS FLYTRAP

THE JAWS OF DOOM

Yikes!

Quick! Help this fly escape the Venus flytrap's grip!

START

FINISH

Beautiful but Hungry

The Venus flytrap is a meat-eating, or **carnivorous**, plant. It is also quite lovely. That is why its name includes Venus. That is the name of the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

But don't worry – a Venus flytrap won't eat you. Mostly they eat bugs. They especially love mosquitoes and flies.

Jaws of Doom True or False Quiz

Make a guess about which of these statements are true and which are false. Then read the scientist's notes about the Venus flytrap to check your answers.

1. Venus flytraps have teeth.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

2. Venus flytraps only need bugs to survive.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

3. Venus flytraps eat anything that falls into their mouth-like leaves.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

4. Venus flytraps help keep bugs out of your house.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

5. Its "mouth" shuts in under one second.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Venus flytraps have little spikes around the leaves. But they are not teeth. They don't chew. The plant uses digestive juices, much like those in your stomach, to eat insects.

Venus flytraps get much of their nutrition from the bugs they eat, but they also need water, sun and soil to survive.

Digestion of real food takes five to 12 days, after which the trap reopens. The insect's exoskeleton blows away in the wind or is washed away by rain.

If something not edible falls into a Venus flytrap, it will close up and try to digest it. But after about 12 hours, it will open its leaves and let the fake food fall out.

How many flies can you find on this page?

Dangers?

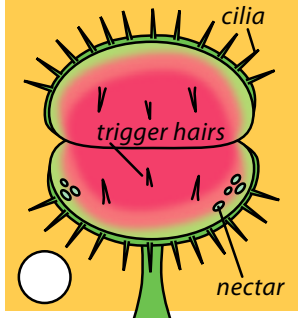
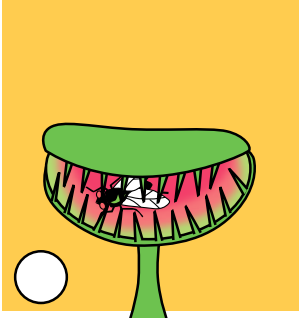
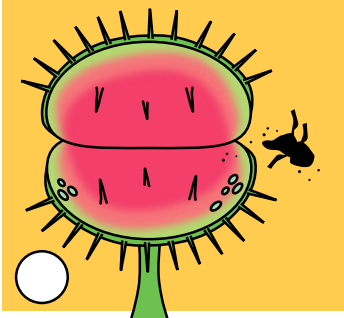
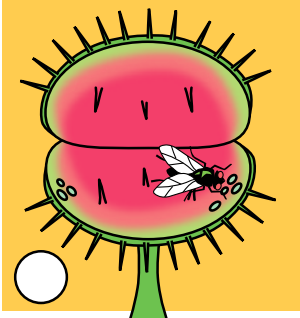
Venus flytraps aren't dangerous to people, but people are endangering them. Venus flytraps are only found growing wild in one small area of the planet – in the grassy wetlands, or bogs, around Cape Fear, North Carolina. This area has just the right climate, amount of water and soil conditions.

Today the plant is threatened in the wild. The draining of bogs for farming and the building of shopping centers and houses has reduced the plant's habitat and numbers. **Less than 5% of the plants are left.**

Snapping Up a Meal

Number the pictures in order.

Sweet nectar around the edges of the Venus flytrap's open leaves attract insects. As a bug moves across the surface drinking up this treat, it touches small, sensitive bristles on the Venus flytrap. These trigger hairs tell the plant when a possible meal has arrived. Then the plant's "jaws" close very quickly, trapping the insect inside. The long *cilia*, hairs along the leaf edges, act like prison bars, preventing the insect from escaping. Several days later, after the insect has been digested, the leaves open and what's left of the insect body blows away.



Extra! Extra!


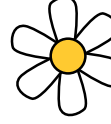


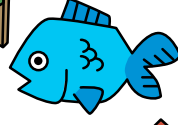


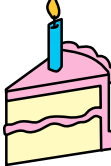




Before & After

Look at a photograph in the newspaper. What do you think happened before the photo was taken? What do you think happened afterwards?

Standards Link: Research: Students predict likely outcomes.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Flytrap is a **compound word**, made by combining two smaller words: **fly** and **trap**. Look at the pictures below. Draw a line between two pictures to make a compound word. Then write the word.



ARMCHAIR

Double Double Word Search

FLYTRAP
CLIMATE
STOMACH
SURVIVE
BEAUTY
SPIKES
EDIBLE
DIGEST
JUICES
VENUS
LOVE
BOGS
FEAR
WILD

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together: Cause and Effect

When something happens, there is usually something that caused it to happen. The **cause** comes first, the **effect** second. Here are some examples:

When the hairs on the inside of a Venus flytrap's leaves are touched, the plant snaps shut.

Cause: touch the hairs
Effect: plant snaps leaves closed

If a little rock is put inside the mouth-like leaves of a Venus flytrap, the leaves will snap shut. After about 12 hours, the leaves will open so the rock can drop out because it is something the plant can't eat.

Which part of the above is the "cause?"

Which part is the "effect?"

Look through the newspaper for an article that interests you. Can you find one effect and what caused it?

Cause:

Effect:

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: EDIBLE

The adjective **edible** means safe to be eaten.

Kevin and his grandpa looked through the bushes for **edible** berries to eat.

Use the word **edible** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

MEDIA PARTNER



WARD MEDIA

EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

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



NCWLIBRARIES.ORG

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