



Connecting communities across North Central Washington

NCW News | **B1-B2**

Cashmere Valley Record A Ward Media Publication

Serving the Cashmere Valley since 1907 Volume 118 • No. 20

May 14, 2025

cashmerevalleyrecord.com Single Copy \$1.00

Cashmere Planning Commission reviews housing code reforms, sets June forum for public input

By Kirk Beckendorf Special to Ward Media

CASHMERE — The Cashmere Planning Commission is evaluating changes to the city's building and zoning codes following a recent Land Capacity Analysis that highlighted mismatches between current regulations and projected housing needs.

Planning consultant Christina Wollman of Perteet, Inc. presented findings at the May 5 meeting, showing that existing codes favor the

development of higher-income housing — defined as housing for those earning more than 120 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) — while limiting opportunities for residents earning less than 80 percent of AMI.

Wollman emphasized that state law requires cities to "plan for and accommodate" housing affordable to all income levels, referencing the Washington Department of Commerce's guidance under the state's Growth Management Act.

She also noted that Cashmere's

current codes do not allow emergency housing or shelters in areas zoned for hotels, despite a state requirement that they be permitted in such zones. Additionally, while the code allows for nursing homes, it does not provide for supportive housing for individuals with disabilities

"Cashmere will need to make code changes to allow for the development of housing that could meet the needs of these populations," Wollman said.

Wollman also clarified that while cities must make it legally possible for a range of housing types to be built, they are not obligated to ensure that the housing is constructed.

Commissioners discussed various options to align city regulations with projected growth. Some suggested expanding multi-family zoning areas and allowing the market to determine development outcomes. Commission Chair Zak Steigmeyer said he would prefer that "multi-family be spread across town rather than concentrated in one area." Others recommended "affordable avoiding the term

housing" due to its perceived negative connotations.

Also during the meeting, Director of Operations Steve Croci announced preliminary discussions with the Chelan County Department of Natural Resources and the Cascadia Conservation District regarding the restoration of the old lagoon site adjacent to the city's wastewater treatment plant. Steigmeyer added that "it is important for the public to also know that the city also owns property on the hillside, above the lagoon site."

The city will hold a Community Forum on June 3 to gather public input on a new vision statement, the 20-Year Comprehensive Plan update, and the development of a Climate Resilience Plan.

the Grocery Rescue and Washington state's Farm-to-Food Pantry programs, and community donations.

However, these commodities don't always meet the demand, nor do they provide culturally relevant staples that local households rely on, such as eggs, tortillas, milk, beans. To bridge the gap, Upper Valley MEND sets aside a food purchasing budget each year for the pantry.

Recently, the nonprofit has had to increase its budget to not only meet the rising demand, but also account for the higher cost of food. Last year, Upper Valley MEND increased its food purchasing budget from \$30,000 to \$75,000.

Based on the first few months of 2025, it would likely spend about \$150,000 this year if it didn't make adjustments, according to Bettinger. To maintain financial viability, the Community Cupboard has started testing out stricter limits on items it purchases, currently limiting milk, eggs, butter, and cooking oil.

"Everything is more expensive than it used to be, so we try really hard to get the best deals...We always try to support local businesses and local farmers when we can, but we also are balancing, you know, the cost of all of that," said Bettinger.

Funding Woes

The regional food distributor, Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council (CDCAC), which distributes one to three million pounds of food each year to 20 different pantries like Upper Valley MEND, senior centers, meal sites, and low-income apartments, has also seen a rise in demand throughout the region while experiencing a reduction in funding.

Leavenworth resident Mara Bohman works on her home garden in early COURTESY OF UPPER VALLEY MEND

Grocery Rescue volunteer Ted Alway picks up donated food to bring back to the Community Cupboard.

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

experience record demand, they are simultaneously facing unprecedented challenges in meeting community needs, such as higher food costs and reduced funding.



spring. Bohman plans to donate much of her produce to the Community

Cupboard this year. risk at the same time. So we're seeing $\hfill traditional\hfill service\hfill area \hfill space spans\hfill the same time \hfill the same \hfill the \hfill the same \hfill the \hfill the same \hfill the \$ more people and sort of uncertainty,"

upper valley and Cashmere, the

Hunger in the Valley: As community needs rise, food pantries face challenges

By Taylor Caldwell Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN COUNTY - As North Central Washington food banks

"The needs are definitely increasing in terms of just the number of people that are visiting the food pantry, and then, the way that the food pantry is funded is potentially at said Upper Valley MEND Executive Director Kaylin Bettinger.

Upper Valley MEND's food pantry, the Community Cupboard, has struggled to keep pace with a record 3,000 visitors to date this year, compared to 1,800 during the same period in 2024. While the food pantry's need goes well beyond, with about 47 percent of its visitors traveling from throughout the region.

The food pantry receives a majority of its commodities through the regional food distributor, with additional food coming in from gleaning excess produce on farms,

See HUNGER Page B4

"Thrill at Ski Hill" draws student bike racers from across the state

By CAROLINE MENNA Ward Media Intern

LEAVENWORTH - Ski Hill was alive with the sound of gears and cheers over the May 3-4 weekend as hundreds of student mountain bikers from across Washington State descended on the inaugural "Thrill at Ski Hill" race.

The event marked the first time in the ten-year history of the Washington Student Cycling League (WSCL) that a race was held at the iconic venue.

Hosted by Icicle Bicycle Club (IBC) in partnership with the WSCL,

See THRILL AT SKI HILL Page B4





CAROLINE MENNA/WARD MEDIA

Colorful team tents line the base of Ski Hill during the "Thrill at Ski Hill" race weekend, with the historic Ski Hill Lodge—built in 1936 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places—standing tall in the background.

Cashmere Auxiliary to distribute Memorial Poppies May 16 in honor of veterans

Cashmere Valley Record Ward Media

CASHMERE - Volunteers from the Cashmere American Legion Auxiliary will distribute red handcrafted poppies in the community on Friday, May 16, as part of a nationwide effort to honor U.S. military veterans and their families.

The poppy distribution will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside

Doane's Valley Pharmacy and inside Martin's Marketplace. The event coincides with the lead-up to Memorial Day and is part of the Auxiliary's annual "Poppy Days" observance.

The red poppy, a symbol of remembrance inspired by the World War I poem "In Flanders Fields," was adopted by the American Legion Auxiliary as its official memorial flower in 1921. The Poppy Program began in 1924 and continues today

with millions of poppies distributed across the country in exchange for donations to support veterans' services.

"You should look at the poppy and see what it represents. It's not just a flower with a label on it. Try to remember what the poppy stands for and what the meaning of Memorial Day is," said Linda Ingraham of the Cashmere American Legion Auxiliary. "Please take the time to set aside this one day of the year to remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all in service to our country. Everyone should be able to say, 'I know why I am free.' Proudly wear a poppy for Memorial Day."

In addition to the poppy distribution, the Auxiliary will place more than 1,000 small American flags on the graves of veterans and auxiliary members at the Cashmere Cemetery starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 24.

Community members are encouraged to assist with the effort.

Cashmere American Legion Post #64 will also hold its "Cavalcade of Flags" ceremony at 11 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, displaying nearly 500 large flags. Volunteers are needed to help set up for the event. Those interested can contact Commander Ken Komro at 509-782-4972.

Inside The Record this Week

5 Things to do This Week..... . A2 Church Guide. NCW News... B1-B2 A4 Business Directory... .B4 Community Calendar..... .A3 Sheriff Report..... .A3 Touch a Truck returns.. Cashmere Scoreboard Classifieds .. **B**3 .. A3



www.cashmerevalleyrecord.com

Cashmere Valley Record May 14, 2025

TOUCH A TRUCK WENATCHEE FACEBOOK

Cashmere Valley Record



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509-731-4392

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

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Online-only Subscription	
12 Months	\$50.00
6 Months	\$25.00
3 Months	\$15.00
1 Month	\$8.00
1 Week	\$1.50

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Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media! If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at quinn@ward.media. We'll showcase the five most © Ward Media, LLC 2025 captivating events of the week, giving your event the recognition it deserves. Even if your event isn't among the top five,

La Terraza on the Ave will host a community celebration of Hispanic heritage on May 17 from Noon to 9 p.m. along Wenatchee Avenue between Orondo Avenue and Yakima Street in Wenatchee.

"Get ready for a day packed with culture, flavor, and excitement! La Terraza brings the community together with live music, folkloric dance, delicious food, local artists and vendors, and our signature tequila garden,"

La Terraza on the Ave

For more information, visit La Terraza on the Ave on Facebook.

Touch A Truck 2024

Touch A Truck 2024 will take place on May 18 at Wenatchee Valley College.

"Climb, honk, and explore! Touch A Truck is a hands-on family event where kids and adults can get up close with big rigs, emergency vehicles, construction equipment, and more.

it will still be added to our events calendar and featured online. Don't miss this chance to make your event shine!

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. Children 2 and under enter free.

Bring a non-perishable food item for donation and receive \$1 off your total entry.

For more information, visit Touch A Truck Wenatchee on Facebook.

Spring Flea Market at Apple Annie's

Apple Annie's will host its Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 17 starting at 8 a.m.

"Rain or shine, Over 50 vendors will participate in

this super fun flea market, Find unique treasures, vintage goods, handmade crafts, and more!"

For more information, visit Apple Annie's Antique Gallery on Facebook.

Bird Fest

Community Fair

The Bird Fest Community Fair will be held on May 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 347 Division Street in Leavenworth.

"Part of the annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest, this family-friendly fair celebrates nature, birds, and community with educational booths, hands-on activities, and local vendors."

For more information, visit leavenworthspringbirdfest. org or check out Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest on Facebook.

Cashmere Community Concerts – Runaway Train

THINGS TO DO

THIS WEEK

Cashmere Community Concerts will host а performance by Runaway

EAVENWORTH SPRING BIRD FEST FACEBOOK

Train on Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. The concert will take place at the Cashmere Riverside Center, offering an evening of live music in a welcoming, small-town setting.

For tickets and more information, visit cashmerecommunityconcerts. org.



Alphorn players perform at the Front Street Gazebo during the 2024 festival.

Leavenworth to host **International Alphorn** Festival and Workshop

Ward Media News The Leavenworth Echo

LEAVENWORTH – The

the opportunity to learn from expert instructors, explore the heritage of the alphorn, and connect with fellow musicians.

Chamber of Commerce. Starting at 4:45 p.m. on May 24, an alphorn procession through downtown Leavenworth will



Kevin M. Austin

Kevin M. Austin formerly of Cashmere, WA was killed in a traffic accident on March 9, 2025 in Winnamucca, NV.



Goehner honors Nutcracker Museum founder with Senate Resolution



recycled newsprint with soy ink. Please recycle.

Letters policy

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

Corrections

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

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Services

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

Cashmere Valley Record (USPS 092-600) 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: Cashmere Valley Record 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.

Leavenworth International Alphorn Festival and workshop will invite musicians, music lovers, and curious visitors to immerse themselves in the timeless traditions of the alphorn instrument over Memorial Day Weekend.

Players of all levels are welcome to the Northwest Alphorn Workshop, hosted at a private, riverfront park, with instruments available to rent. Attendees will have

The workshop will begin with a meet and greet on the evening of May 22, bringing in alphorn enthusiasts from throughout North America and Switzerland. A full schedule of classes, presentations, and hands-on sessions will continue throughout the weekend.

The International Alphorn Festival will hold a number of free public performances throughout the weekend, presented by the Leavenworth



An attendee holds a uniquely shaped alphorn during the 2024 Northwest Alphorn Workshop.

culminate with a Front Street Gazebo concert at 5 p.m.

The next day, performances begin at 1 p.m. at the Leavenworth Ski Hill with an "Alpine Showcase," where players will sound their horns in the natural amphitheater of the mountains. Another procession through downtown Leavenworth will begin at 3:45 p.m., followed by a grand finale concert at the Front Street Gazebo at 4 p.m.

The festival will kick off free alphorn performances all summer long. From Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day weekend, performances will be held at the Front Street Gazebo at 5 p.m. every Saturday.

workshop The and festival are organized by the Leavenworth Alphorn Association. Since 2015, the Leavenworth Alphorns have been sharing the traditional instrument with audiences of all ages, recruiting performers ranging in age from 12 years old to 75 years old. More information can be found at leavenworthalphorns.org.



LOGAN FINELY / WARD MEDIA

Keith Goehner posing with Arlene Wagner as she receives the Senate resolution he sponsored in honor of her 100th birthday.

By Taylor Caldwell Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH

Washington State Senator Keith Goehner visited the Nutcracker Museum on May 9 to present a special Senate resolution to its co-founder, Arlene Wagner.

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate honor Arlene Wagner for her appreciation for the arts, a desire to learn, dedication to collection and generosity, a willingness to teach, and contribution to society, and congratulate her on achieving 100 years of age," the resolution read.

Wagner and her husband George opened the Nutcracker Museum in 1995, showcasing their private collections of nutcrackers. Since then, the museum has grown to hold one of the largest collections of nutcrackers in the world, featuring more than 9,000 nutcrackers from across the globe. Known as "the Nutcracker Lady," Wagner became an authority on the topic of nutcrackers and their history, sharing her knowledge with museum visitors as well as publishing several books.

Sen. Goehner's resolution honors Wagner's 100th birthday, which occurred in December last year, celebrating her contributions to her community, society, and the world, by passing down knowledge and culture to future generations.

"We read it and honored her [on the Senate floor in Olympia], but I just felt like to actually show up here at the museum and honor her and kind of her home turf, it would be just very fitting to do it that way," said Sen. Goehner.

Wagner was in eastern Germany at the time of the reading, visiting nutcracker workshops and training her successor.

"They know us in Germany, we were on television, we were in the papers. And three different nutcrackers were made especially in honor of my 100th birthday," said Wagner.

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

Community Calendar

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

- Cashmere Wacoka Kiwanis Club, 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, lower level. 6:30 p.m. Call Pam Leighton, 509-669-3159. **(4th Mon.)**
- Tillicum Riders, 7 p.m. Chelan County Fairgrounds.
- Call Cindy, 509-662-5984. (1st Mon.)
- Cashmere City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall (2nd & 4th Mon. of each month (unless a holiday, then Tues.).
- Planning Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. at City Hall (Ist Mon. of each month unless a holiday, then Tues.).
- Cashmere Fire Department, Business management, 7 p.m.,

above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. (3rd Mon.) Cashmere Fire Department, meeting, 8 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. (3rd Mon.) Cashmere School Board Work Session, Board work sessions

- are typically held towards the beginning of the month at 6:30 a.m. with no action taken. For updated info. Visit www. cashmere.wednet.edu
- Cashmere School Regular Board Meetings, are typically held towards the end of the month at 7 p.m. with action taken. The schedule for meetings is subject to change to accommodate conflicts in schedule or special circumstances. Visit www. cashmere.wednet.edu for the most up to date info.
- Chelan Douglas Republican Women, Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (Ist Mon.)

Tuesday

Touch A Truck returns to Wenatchee

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

NCW Libraries

Cashmere Public Library: 509-782-3314 You can order your books online at ncwlibraries.org or call

- 1-800-426-READ (7323).
- Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9-6, Wed. 1-6 and Sat., 10-2. Closed Sun. 300 Woodring Street. Call 782-3314, or online at cashmere@ncwlibraries.org

Cashmere Museum and Pioneer Village Call for more information 509-782-3230

- Chelan County Historical Society Board meets, 7 p.m., Cashmere Museum, 600 Cotlets Way. Call Nicky 509-782-3230. (3rd Thurs.)
- Note: Some meetings or events may be rescheduled due to holidays or other closures. Please call and check with that organization listed.

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.

May 2

- 07:10:31 Trespass, River St & Sunset Hwy, Cashmere
- 10:37:28 Hazard, 9241 Olalla Canyon Rd, Cashmere
- 16:02:30 Diversion, 5300blk Sunset Hwy, Cashmere 16:24:44 Alarm, 5736 Vale Rd,
- Cashmere 16:54:19 Accident No Inj, 5446
- Wohlers Rd, Cashmere 19:06:54 Domestic Disturb, 208
- Chapel St, Cashmere 20:39:04domestic Distur, 308 Orchid St, Cashmere

May 3

- 11:29:01 Parking/Abandon, Nahahum Canyon Rd & Victor, Cashmere
- 13:02:59 Traffic Offense, 7646 Nahahum Canyon Rd, Cashmere
- 14:54:19 Disturbance, 310 River St, Cashmere
- 16:58:04 Parking/Abandon, 8300 Olalla Canyon Rd,
- Cashmere 20:54:15 Court Order Vio, 101
- Mission View Pl, Cashmere 22:52:19 Diversion, Mission Crksunset Hwy Brid, Cashmere

May 4

- 10:30:16 Hazard, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp 2, Cashmere 11:42:51 Fraud/Forgery, 115 E
- Pleasant Ave# 3, Cashmere
- 12:59:38 Suspicious, 7500blk

Cashmere 11:19:57 Parking/Abandon, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp 2, Cashmere 19:12:44 Assist Public, 817 Pioneer Ave, Cashmere May 6

Stine Hill Rd, Cashmere

Airport Rd, Cashmere

03:41:39 Assist Public, 6961

Nahahum Canyon Rd,

Hole, Dryden

May 5

18:25:31 Domestic Distur, 5600

18:29:02 Water Rescue, Rodeo

- 08:36:40 Harass/Threat, 307 River St; Apt B307, Cashmere 15:20:43 Civil, 307 River St# A,
- Cashmere 16:06:55 Parking/Abandon, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp3, Cashmere

May 7

- 10:06:13 Atl/Atc, 241 Independence Way, Cashmere
- 15:24:04 Theft , 307 River St# A, Cashmere
- 20:40:51 Runaway, 4870 Mission Creek Rd, Cashmere

May 8

15:38:23 Suspicious, 6125 Hay Canyon Rd, Cashmere 21:51:56 Accident Unk, Us Hwy 2 Mp 115 Eb, Monitor



COURTESY OF JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE OF WENATCHEE A police SUV stands with doors open, inviting kids to climb in and see what the inside is like.

By Andrew Simpson Ward Media Staff Reporter

WENATCHEE — The Women's Service League of North Central Washington is once again bringing their annual Touch A Truck event to

Wenatchee Police, Waste Management, the Chelan and Douglas PUD, the Wenatchee Wild, Town Toyota, the Wenatchee School District, Link Transportation and even Leavenworth's Marson and Marson Lumber.



COURTESY OF JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE OF WENATCHEE A logging truck festooned with flags carries a giant load of timber.







Chelan County



the Wenatchee Valley College campus on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The fun-filled day focuses on letting kids finally experience what the big vehicles that they see from the back seat of the car are actually like climbing inside police cruisers, operating a boom on a giant truck, or even pulling the levers that lift the scoop on a front loader.

At the top of the day, there will be a one hour period known as "quiet hour" for kids with sensory issues or who might be startled by the large vehicles, but at 11 a.m., prepare for the HONK that announces the rest of the day.

Kids will be allowed to touch and climb on and around fire trucks, garbage trucks, a helicopter, tow trucks, a logging truck, first responder vehicles and more. Some of the businesses and entities that will be represented include the Wenatchee Valley Fire Department, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office, the

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids, with proceeds all going to non-profits that are kid-focused and kidfriendly. You can even bring a non-perishable food item for donation and get a dollar off your total cost of entry. Kids under 2 get in completely free, and there's a military discount for members of our armed forces.

L-Bow the Clown will be onsite making balloon animals, there will be face painting, a food vendor on the grounds, kettle corn, raffles and so much more. Crunch Pak will be providing apples as a snack as always.

This family-friendly event promises to be a fun time for kids of all ages, but especially the little ones who always wondered about the big trucks they see, but never get to touch. At the Touch A Truck event, touching's not just allowed — it's encouraged.

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



COURTESY OF JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE OF WENATCHEE The annual Touch A Truck event is May 17 from 10-2 at Wenatchee Valley College.

COURTESY OF JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE OF WENATCHEE Mountain Highway Towing and Recovery provides a tow truck for kids to explore.



COURTESY OF JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE OF WENATCHEE One youngster operates a backhoe (with the engine off, of course)



Caroline Ulrich

^h grade



8th grade





Sophia Garcia ech Stars

Avery Dwire Estrella Espanol





Jordyn Joseph



JOE BROWN J.C. BROWN LAW OFFICE 200 APLETS WAY, CASHMERE 782-1111

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Cashmere boys claim conference title, girls take third

CASHMERE

By JEFF CARLSON Cashmere Bulldogs Athletics

A4

CASHMERE - The Cashmere High School track and field teams delivered standout performances at the SCAC Championship Meet on Saturday, May 10, as all nine schools in the South Central Athletic Conference converged at Royal High School to battle for

509-670-3555

boyermountainpool.com

chuck@boyermountain.com

the titles. The Cashmere boys dominated the competition from start to finish, capturing the conference championship in commanding fashion with 179 team points — a staggering 71 points ahead of second-place Royal. Meanwhile, the CHS girls team turned in a strong showing of their own, finishing third overall behind Connell and champion Naches Valley.

Boys Highlights:

Junior standout Tobie Larson led the way for the Bulldogs, claiming double gold in the hurdles. Larson won the 110m hurdles in a personalbest 16.06 seconds and added another victory in the 300m hurdles with a time of 41.48.

Cashmere's sprint relays

were untouchable, winning both the 4×100 and 4×400 relays in meet-best and personal record times. The 4×100 squad of Cockrum, Knoll, Diaz, and Zavala clocked a blazing 43.30 seconds, while Diaz, Knoll, Larson, and Zavala powered the 4×400 to a 3:31.33 finish.

In the field events, Zane Pace soared to a first-place finish in the pole vault, clearing 13 feet for a new personal record. Joseph Acton added valuable points with a pair of runner-up finishes in the shot put (46-4.5) and discus (139-6.5).

Additional top-three

- **performances included:**Colton Bjorklund, 2nd in triple jump (38-3, PR)
- Isaac Zavala, 3rd in 100m (11.25)
- Ty Cockrum, 2nd in 200m (23.26, PR)
- Keenan Knoll, 3rd in 400m (52.17)
- Rylan Reiber, 3rd in 1600m (4:55.65)
- Edison Server, 3rd in 300m hurdles (42.99, PR)
- Colby Diaz, 3rd in both long jump (19-7) and triple jump (38-2.5)

Girls Highlights:

Mackenzie Van Bogart led the way for the Cashmere girls with a championship-winning run in the 800m, clocking a personal-best 2:21.39. She also placed second in the high jump, clearing 4-8.

#morethaniustapharmac

509-782-2717 | 119 Cottage Ave, Cashmere doanesvalleypharmacy.com

In the hurdles, Elsey McDevitt had an impressive showing, taking second in both the 100m hurdles (17.39 PR) and 300m hurdles (50.02). Amelia Flick followed closely in the 300m hurdles, finishing third in a personal-best 50.95.

The girls' relay teams also contributed to the strong team finish:

- 4×400 Relay (Van Bogart, Infante, Butcher, McDevitt)
 2nd place (4:21.18)
- 4×100 Relay (Kitchel, Miller, Guerrero, Flick) – 3rd place (53.67)

Makelah Gatens added to the scoring with a thirdplace finish in the pole vault, clearing 7-0.

With the SCAC Championship meet behind them, the Bulldogs now turn their focus to the sub-district meet, scheduled for Saturday, May 17, at Wapato High School



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kennedy Walgren Sophmore Cashmere Girls Tennis

Kennedy has been a cornerstone of the CHS girls tennis team's incredible 18-0 season, earning Athlete of the Week honors for her undefeated singles record and her strong showing at the SCAC tournament.

Bruce Cheadle,

(509) 782-1659

Walgren, who primarily plays second singles, has gone a perfect 18-0 this season including two clutch wins at Saturday's league tournament, securing her a spot in the upcoming district tournament. Her consistency, mental toughness, and quiet leadership have helped push the Bulldogs to their perfect regular season.

"Her success stems from her ability to work hard and keep a positive attitude wherever she plays and with whomever she plays against," said Coach Kert. "She's also won a couple matches against first singles players where she split sets and then triumphed because of her mental toughness and

willingness to battle." With districts on the horizon, Walgren's unshakable focus and unbeaten record make her a serious contender to advance to the state tournament.





NEWS

The NCW News network provides timely, accurate, local news stories that are accessible at any time. Readers can access news from across North Central Washington and from our network of community newspapers, Lake Chelan Mirror, Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, Quad City Herald, and the Wenatchee Business Journal.

www.ncw.news

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Tobie Larson Junior **Cashmere Boys Track**

Tobie delivered a dominant performance at the SCAC Championship track meet on Saturday, helping lead the Bulldogs to the conference title at Royal High School. Larson was a key contributor with three league championships to his name, making him an obvious choice for Athlete of the Week.

Larson claimed first place in both hurdle events, winning the 110-meter hurdles with a personal-best time of 16.06 seconds and taking the 300-meter hurdles in 41.48 seconds. He also ran a leg on the Bulldogs' league champion 4×400-meter relay team, which clocked a time of 3:31.33—an eight-second victory over the field.

Coach Kenoyer praised Larson's breakout performance, saying, "It's evident that coaches made a mistake with Tobie. He earned first-place finishes and is the league champion in three events. However, athletes are allowed four events in each meet, so Tobie will need to work with the coaches to find his next best event."

With his combination of speed, stamina, and competitive drive, Larson has established himself as one of the top athletes in the SCAC and a major force heading into the postseason.

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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

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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

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Cashmere Valley Record May 14, 2025



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Chelan-Douglas Land Trust celebrates 40 years of conservation

By Taylor Caldwell Ward Media Staff Reporter

WENATCHEE - Since 1985, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust has been working to preserve the region's natural areas – securing clean air and water, supporting wildlife, and ensuring the outdoor spaces can be enjoyed by generations to come.

"We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the beauty, peace, and connection that nature provides, and we warmly invite all individuals and families to enjoy our lands," said Associate Director Angela Morris.

Over the last 40 years, the community-based organization has permanently protected over 27,000 acres of land. Chelan-Douglas Land Trust has secured trail systems, such as 11 miles of trail in Cashmere's Nahahum Canyon, and 33 miles of trail at Castle Rock, Sage Hills Gateway and North Foothills.

It has also preserved areas for environmental purposes, such as improving wildlife habitat and climate resiliency on over 2,100 acres of Chelan Coulees Reserve, restoring

sections of the White and it's done, but there's always Entiat rivers, and saving the Nason Ridge Community Forest from timber harvest.

When considering land for conservation purposes, the organization not only takes the environmental and community impact into account, but it also considers its location.

"This concept of looking for properties that are connected to other public lands or other areas-it's really important," said Morris. "One, it provides a continuous corridor for whatever habitat we're attempting to help protect... There's continuous public access too, so it just enriches the public's experience if they're able to move from our properties to the next property.'

The process of land conservation is a marathon, not a sprint. Chelan-Douglas Land Trust often works with local organizations, businesses, and individuals over the course of many years to secure funding and preserve properties.

"There's just many, many details in the process, and it can take a long time, so you have to be willing for, you know the term, "delayed gratification?" We get to celebrate when

peaks and valleys during the process," said Conservation Director Mickey Fleming.

Yet, the work doesn't end there. With nearly 7,000 acres in the region owned and managed by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. as well as conservation easements on an additional 15,000 acres, the organization relies on a network of members. volunteers, community partner organizations, and conservation landowners to maintain healthy land and water. This support is often tasked with monitoring habitat, removing invasive species and planting natives, and restoring riparian areas.

"I think people don't realize that, you know, once you have a piece of property, that there needs to be ongoing maintenance of it forever...So, there's a lot of work that is done," said Morris.

Through its work, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust has recognized education as an equally vital component of land conservation and stewardship. In addition to providing unique field guides, weed control information, and resources



The Cashmere Canyons Preserve is a Chelan-Douglas Land Trust trail system located in Nahahum Canyon.

for parents and teachers. the organization leads kids' educational programs and group hikes and outings. It also sponsors an annual environmental film series at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, as well as a Wenatchee Naturalist Course through Wenatchee Vallev College.

As it looks toward the future, the organization plans to continue its dedicated outreach and engagement efforts, which have resulted in recent membership growth and increased community participation. It also plans to welcome a new executive director in June.

"We're

committed to

building on this momentum by expanding opportunities for people to connect with the land-whether through volunteering, attending events, or joining guided hikes along our extensive trail system,' said Morris.

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

Mirror Northwest returns: Wenatchee Valley College revives literary journal



essays, in addition to artwork and photographs from writers and artists at the college and across Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties.

After the naming of their English professor Derek Sheffield as Washington State Poet Laureate, it suddenly seems like WVC is arts and literature central. In fact, it seems important to familiarize yourself with the school's Grove Recital Hall and the MAC Gallery — the Music and Arts Center at WVC — which

since "LitKnight" sounds so much like "LitMic," which is the monthly event that she's been hosting since September of 2022. But Holly's not alone as a faculty advisor. She's also got Ana Maria Spagna and Arius Elvikis with her in this effort, as well as student editors Anessa Hanson (literary editor) and Sara Bender (art editor).

The project was resurrected in 2023, when Thorpe and Spagna both began working at the school. They had heard

artists who contributed to the inaugural issue of the reborn journal reading their work and speaking about their art. Then the event moves to the MAC Gallerv for a reception afterward. Wenatchee Valley College is at 1300 Fifth Street in Wenatchee.

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



ANDREW/SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

Wenatchee Valley College will be the site of the unveiling of a long-awaited literary and arts journal covering our area.

By ANDREW SIMPSON Ward Media Staff Reporter

– Arts WENATCHEE culture in Wenatchee is undergoing a sort of renaissance these days. There has, of course, always been a vibrant theater "scene" here in the Valley. There's never been a dearth of music here, but the number of incredibly talented local musicians is at an alltime high, as is the number of performances.

Visual art galleries and pop-up exhibitions featuring

painters are happening all over town, rather than just in the Two Rivers showroom. We're even seeing unconventional art forms like pottery taking hold with new co-ops and studios cropping up in places large and small.

But apart from the Write on the River Conference, which is itself back after 7 years away, we had not previously seen any particular showcase for the immense literary talent we know exists here in the Valley, other than a single monthly gathering assembled

over the last two and a half years by poetry impresario Holly Thorpe, held up in Leavenworth.

Now, Wenatchee Valley College is proving that they are an epicenter for this renaissance by reintroducing Mirror Northwest, their annual literary and arts journal, back for the first time since it was last published in 2017, although it is thought to have originated (its history is hazy) in the late 1960s. In the pages of Mirror Northwest, you'll find poetry, short fiction and

will be the site of "LitKnight," an event sponsored by the WVC Foundation.

Their return issue is chockfull of submissions from students at the college, but organizers are eager to point out that submissions will be welcome from the public as well for future issues. The rerelease of the journal itself came on so suddenly that there wasn't time to solicit them this time around. Submissions for the 2026 edition of Mirror Northwest will open to the public in Fall 2025.

It's clear that the aforementioned Holly Thorpe had some hand in naming the event that coincides with the restoration of the journal,

about it from Sheffield, and immediately set to work on bringing it back.

Ana Maria Spagna spoke to us by phone and emphasized the fact that even though this issue is all internallysourced, they're anxious to get submissions from the public. "We want this to be representative of everyone's voices," she says. "I feel like there are a lot of people who will be interested in this who don't even know it right now," she continues, "and theirs might be just the voice we need.'

LitKnight will be at Grove Recital Hall on Thursday, May 15 from 6-8 p.m. and will feature writers and

ANNABELLA POLIZZI/MIRROF NORTHW/EST The cover of the first printing of Mirror Northwest, a roughly 60-year-old journal of arts and literature, since 2017



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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Spotlight on student talent as Apple Awards return to Numerica PAC



NUMERICA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The 2025 Apple Awards presented by The Barrett Family is coming May 15 to the Numerica Performing Arts Center.

Andru Gomez brings jazz, blues, and style to PNW music scene with new EP release

By Andrew Simpson Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH — A restaurant in Leavenworth on a Thursday night at the beginning tourist season is not an ideal spot for a crowd that's truly engaged with the performance. If you're a musician whose songs are primarily aimed at people actively listening and participating in the show — rather than treating it as ambience for the conversations they were already having, the dates they were already on, the meal they'd be eating whether you were there or not — it can be hard to feel appreciated.

Not so for Andru Gomez. The Moscow, ID-based musician is used to a dinner show. In fact, he says, he usually treats his first set as a dinner show, setting a tone and letting stragglers just coming in settle down and get used to the music, before ramping up the volume or intensity in a second set.

That explains the opening of Gomez's night at Rhein Haus in Leavenworth on May 8. Jazz guitar with a suspiciously French vibe is soon confirmed as he reaches the chorus of "Ooh La La (I'm Not Here, Go Away)," a song that, through the creative use of a loop pedal, immediately shows off his fingerboard dexterity and allows him to use his voice as he will for the rest of the evening: As an instrument in this one-man-band.

He has a light touch that lets him control the volume of his playing without adjusting too many knobs or dials. Then, just

the show, he tells the crowd they'll get a prize if they can guess who wrote the song he's about to play. Launching into the song, it sounds a lot like Santana's treatment of Fleetwood Mac's "Black Magic Woman" until he comes in with lyrics. He's blended the nearlyflamenco guitar into a purely Andru Gomez version of "Do It Again," by Steely Dan.

And although the covers he elects to play are eclectic from Atlanta Rhythm Section to Nancy Sinatra, Buffalo Springfield to Jim Croce — it's the originals that really shine. That's because they, too, sound familiar enough that you're singing along by the second time through the chorus.

Throughout, he transitions seamlessly between a Tom Waits-style growl to an airy David Crosby sighing of sound, most especially on his cover of "Horse With No Name" by the band America. But when he switches over to one of his own songs, like "College Radio," "Whiskey and Clovers" or "Get My Boots," all that vocal styling has already prepared you to be as big a fan of the originals as the songs you know.

That's the goal for any musician who's made performing their full-time job, as Gomez has: To get the crowd to remember your music as much as they remember your cover of "Folsom Prison Blues," a song that lots of bands and performers can play. And he's a hard worker. We won't enumerate each here, but there are well over 150 shows on his schedule right now, and he books more as they become available in advance. This really is full time work, and he tells us he's doing reasonably

own flavor. During one part of well.

Gomez has already released a full length album and one other EP, and the reason for our visit is the release of another EP, "Drunk at Church." Immediately following the show, Gomez orders a plate of Rhein Haus' famous pork schnitzel and kraut and we sit down to talk.

When asked what he's learned between the first EP and now about telling a story in a shorter format than a full length record, he tells us that he prefers it. "To me, it's less stressful than a full length album. I feel [for a full length] you have to have not only a broader style of songs, but they still have to be cohesive, right? An EP allows you to kind of have little quadrants of just four songs that can say a lot."

Like his first EP, College Radio, there's a title track from the name of the record for the upcoming release. So when can you hear "Drunk at Church"? Along with the rest of us, your first listen will be May 15, when the EP comes out.

Until then, you can hear him anytime on Spotify or follow him on Instagram @andrugomezmusic. at For upcoming shows, you can visit his website at andrugomezmusic.com. Some here in North Central Washington include a late afternoon show in Manson on May 22 at Tipsy Canyon Winery, an evening show at Wenatchee Valley Brewing in the Riverside District on May 24, and just down the road from there for another afternoon set at Pybus' Off The Hill tasting room on May 25.



The Eastmont Drama Club performs the hit musical "Big Fish."

By Andrew Simpson Ward Media Staff Reporter

WENATCHEE — It's Apple Awards time again, when we celebrate high school theater, both plays and musicals, and give the equivalent of Tony awards to actresses, actors and crew. What used to be an honor given only by a student's own school has six schools participating all together for one giant night of awards and honors presented by Wenatchee's own Barrett Family.

Hosted and directed by Brian Higgins, and produced by Kylee Boggs and Alex Haley, the Apple Awards serve to highlight the excellence and innovation and creativity that these young minds create, giving us their all in return for nothing but the experience.

And make no mistake: High school theater is a lot harder

than you might suppose. Just as football players start practicing in full gear when the summer sun is still high overhead, theater kids put in long hours and dedicate



FACEBOOK/WHSPRESENTS Juliet laments the death of her cousin Tybalt and the banishment of her love, Romeo, to her nurse.

all of their free time to perfecting something for your entertainment.

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There's not a slouch in the bunch of this year's nominees. The high schools involved are Cashmere, Chelan, Eastmont, Ephrata, Quincy and Wenatchee, and the productions that nominations are drawn from are just as varied as the communities that these young people are from.

If you want a sneak peek at the up-and-comers in the Wenatchee Valley's vibrant theater community, find your way to the Numerica PAC on Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for adults, and can be found at the PAC's Box Office. by phone at 509-663-ARTS (2787) or on the PAC website.

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

2025 Apple Award nominees announced

- WENATCHEE From lead roles to light cues, this year's Apple Award nominees reflect the depth of talent and dedication across North Central Washington's high school theater programs.
- Nominations span 13 categories, recognizing both plays and musicals. Performers from Cashmere, Chelan, Eastmont, Ephrata, Quincy, and Wenatchee high schools earned spots on the prestigious list.

Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical

Jessie Evans, Charlie &

The Chocolate Factory, Wenatchee (Mrs. Bucket)

Kade Devereaux, Charlie & The Chocolate Factory,

Wenatchee (Willy Wonka) Lily Erdmann, The Little Mermaid, Cashmere (Ursula) MacLain Larson, Big Fish,

Kimberly Diaz Ceballos, Cinderella, Quincy (Madame) Maya Scanlon, Charlie &

The Chocolate Factory, Wenatchee (Mrs. Gloop) Teddy Fox, The Little Mermaid,

Cashmere (Sebastian)

Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play

- Clara LeBow, Angels of Bataan, Eastmont (Helen Bailey Lake) David Kelly, The Great Gatsby,
- Chelan (Gatsby) James Byrd, Romeo & Juliet, Wenatchee (Romeo)
- Lily Erdmann, And Then There Were None, Cashmere (Vera Claythorne)
- Maya Scanlon, Romeo & Juliet, Wenatchee (Juliet)
- Monty Muir, One Acts, Ephrata (Don/Bark/Rufus)
- MyLee Holland, One Acts, Ephrata (Fortune Teller/ Chloe)

Outstanding **Supporting Performer** in a Play

Outstanding Production Crew: Stage Manager

- Audrey Adams, And Then There Were None, Cashmere Elana Wendorf, Romeo &
- Juliet, Wenatchee Gabriel Guerrero, The Great
- Gatsby, Chelan Geo Sanchez & Tailynn Nelson,

Big Fish, Eastmont Odessa Lybbert, Cinderella,

Quincy

Outstanding **Production Crew: Tech**

- Carss Lundberg, Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, Wenatchee (Sound Board Operator)
- Jarrod Miller, Cinderella, Quincy (Fly Operator)
- Ryan McCrary The Great Gatsby, Chelan (Sound Tech)
- Oliver Satterfield, And Then There Were None, Cashmere (Follow Spot)

as you get used to the pattern of him laying down rhythm guitar and playing harmony fills over the top, he begins to use vocal effects as well. Not with fancy electronics; Gomez has a variety of singing styles carried within his bass-baritone range. and has stretched it into even a higher-ranged head voice useful in parts of the songs.

During this show, and as we found out later during an interview, Gomez intersperses plenty of original music, playing only enough cover songs to make people feel at home with hints of things they recognize. And by "hints," we mean that Gomez is playing a song that you eventually recognize, but only after he's given it his Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or and rew@ward.media



ANDREW/ SIMPSON/W/ARD MEDIA Andru Gomez is in his element performing in an intimate setting.

Eastmont (Edward Bloom) Makenna Fritz. The Little

- Mermaid, Cashmere (Ariel) MaryElise Clifton, Big Fish, Eastmont (Sandra Bloom)
- Michaela Greely, Cinderella, Quincy (Fairy Godmother)

Outstanding **Supporting Performer** in a Musical

- Abbey Kimmel, Charlie & Chocolate Factory, The Wenatchee (Mrs. Teavee)
- Emma Galloway, Cinderella, Quincy (Charlotte)
- Gabby Winchester, The Little Mermaid, Cashmere (Scuttle) Grant Chisholm, Big Fish,
- Eastmont (Will Bloom)
- Abbey Kimmel, Romeo & Juliet, Wenatchee (Nurse)
- Connor Leasher, One Acts, Ephrata (Abe/Crooper)
- Grant Chisholm, Angels of Bataan, Eastmont (Dr. Edward Stevens)
- Kade Devereaux, Romeo & Juliet, Wenatchee (Mercutio) Kaitlyn Burnell, Angels of
- Bataan, Eastmont (Maude Daniels)
- Kyla Otom, The Great Gatsby, Chelan (Jordan Baker)
- Teddy Fox, And Then There Were None, Cashmere (William Blore)

Zander Leasher, One Acts, Ephrata (Sound Tech)

Best Overall Musical

The Little Mermaid Cashmere **Big Fish** — Eastmont Cinderella — Quincy Charlie & The Chocolate Factory – Wenatchee

Best Overall Play

And Then There Were None Cashmere **Angels of Bataan** – Eastmont Spring One Act Showcase -Ephrata The Great Gatsby - Chelan Romeo & Juliet - Wenatchee

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Part-time Leavenworth District Mosquito Control Assistant wanted. \$27.24 hour plus mileage (need your own vehicle and auto insurance). Flexible work hours 10 to 30 hours per week applying bacterial larvicides to assigned areas during peak mosquito season. Prior experience or Natural Resource background preferred. Must be available after passing pesticide license test. study materials provided. Call or text (509) 548-5904 and send resume and cover letter with 2 references to: Leavenworth Mosquito Control District P.O. Box 34. Leavenworth WA 98826 or email to info@leavenworthmosquit ocontrol.org

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Legals

Public Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cashmere City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Cashmere City Hall, 101 Woodring Street, Cashmere, Washington, reaarding the Cashmere City Council assuming Cashmere Transportation the Benefit District. If you are unable to attend in person, please call City Hall or access the agenda on the City's website for login information. Written comments can be sent to Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer at kav@cityofcashmere.org.

Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/ Leavenworth Echo on May 14, 2025. #9932

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Hunger

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In March, the U.S. Department of Agriculture cut \$500 million in funding for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), effectively discontinuing a Biden-era program that helped food pantries purchase food from local farmers.

The cuts resulted in a loss of \$160,000 for CDCAC, which sources produce from five local farmers. The organization is applying to other grants in order to continue the program, albeit at a much smaller scale, said CDCAC Executive Director Alan Walker.

"That was a great program, because we got to support our local farmers too. They really liked it, because it was a way for them to sell their product," said Walker.

The same month, the USDA cut another \$500 million allocated toward The

Thrill at Ski Hill

U.S. Forest Service, and

Leavenworth Winter Sports

Club, the race served as the

third stop in the league's five-

Sunny skies and a landscape

splashed with a riot of

blooming balsamroot and

lupine provided a stunning

natural backdrop to the almost

500 student riders from over 30

teams to test their endurance

and spirit on a challenging

course designed specifically

climbs, fast descents, and

a dramatic finish down the

face of the 'Big Hill.' "It was

a really fun track, especially

The course featured steep

Continued from page A1

event spring series.

for the occasion.

Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program that provides emergency food assistance at no cost to low-income Americans. The CDCAC is set to lose \$80,000, about half of its TEFAP funding. While the organization's general TFAP funding remains steady through September, Walker anticipates that if it does continue, it will be a lower amount.

Additionally, \$4.7 million TEFAP commodities in expected to be delivered to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) for April through June were cancelled. The delivery was expected to supply Washington food banks, including CDCAC, with three months of federally procured milk, dried plums, dried cranberries, canned chicken, turkey breasts, and chicken breasts, according to the WSDA.

"That number of semiloads has gone from 70 over the next three months down to less than 10," said Walker. "That's going to have a significant impact on the amount of food that we have."

The cuts have been compounded by the federal government's immediate termination of Americorps grant programs in April, which supported volunteer and service efforts in education, public safety, and hunger relief.

CDCAC facilitated the training, funding, and placement of 15 Americorps members at nonprofit organizations throughout the region. Two of those members served full-time at CDCAC's Food Distribution Center, supporting a small staff of two full-time and two part-time employees.

"If we don't have those individuals in our food bank, we can't meet the level of demand," said Walker.

So far, the organization has been able to retain the two individuals part-time through the end of June. The termination is also being challenged by a multistate lawsuit, which may result in a temporary reinstatement.

At the state level, CDCAC expects to receive more funding through the state's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) than in previous years, based on what was approved by the House and Senate, although the governor had yet to sign the proposed 2025-2027 budget at the time this was written.

"So we know we'll be able to continue to provide the service to our two-county area and the food pantries and meal sites that we support. Unfortunately, it will not be at the quantity of food that we saw in the last calendar year," said Walker.

While CDCAC is expected

to receive more support from

New Avenues of Support

manager.

"Hosting this race at our home venue is something we were really looking forward to," said Bedard. "We were excited to bring a huge group of fun people to our community and share our awesome trails. And it went off pretty much without a hitch. I would call it an absolute success for our team, for our community, and

The whole weekend buzzed with activity. Saturday featured a lively pre-ride session and a lighthearted coaches' race, with Bedard and assistant coaches Nick Krenz and Terry Houghton taking

Both days the team tent area or "race village" transformed the state, it won't completely fill the gap left in funding. The organization plans to apply for more grants, such as the state's Resiliency Grant. However, grants are becoming increasingly competitive as programs across the state experience the same cuts.

It's also seeking out local support through its Green Bag program, in which participants buy one extra item for the Food Distribution Center every time they shop, which is then collected by volunteers.

"People stepping up and helping out each other here locally, I think, is what I hope will occur...I think food is pretty near to people's hearts. We know we're not going to exist without it," said Walker.

To add to Upper Valley MEND's challenges, a grant that has supported the nonprofit's gleaning program for the last two years is expected to expire mid-summer without renewal. As a result, it is leaning on

gathering space, complete with

lawn chairs, cheering families,

and the aroma of burgers

and BBQ, not to mention

scoops from Leavenworth's

Whistlepunk Ice Cream

Company, which generously helped IBC raise nearly \$1,000

While the competition was fierce, the emphasis remained

on sportsmanship, safety, and skill development. And the

local riders shone on their

home turf, with standout

performances from Cedar

Tremberth (4th place, 7th

Grade Boys), Dudley Krenz

(4th, 8th Grade Boys), Lane

Bedard (5th, high school boys),

and Caroline Menna (2nd,

continues with its next race in

The WSCL spring series

through sales at the event.

backvard gardeners to donate their extra produce.

"I used to think, okay to donate produce to the food pantry, I needed to have a lot. Like, they just want to have boxes of stuff. And then I kind of realized, if you just have a few extra tomatoes...They're grateful," said Leavenworth resident Mara Bohman, who donates produce from her home garden.

The nonprofit also encourages donations to its "area of greatest need," which allows Upper Valley MEND to allocate funds to the Community Cupboard as needed.

"Because a lot of things are volatile, our services and our funding sources change from time to time, so it allows us to keep things the same, but the funding underneath the surface is changing throughout," said Bettinger.

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

Winthrop on May 18, followed by the State Championship and Relay at 360 Trails in Gig Harbor on June 1.

"For anybody who is interested in our team, at any level, we love developing riders and confidence." stated Bedard. "That's what we are all about. So, if you [are in middle or high school and] have any interest in getting better at biking, please contact me."

More information on IBC can be found here: iciclebicycleclub. com.

Caroline Menna is an intern at Ward Media and a senior at Cascade High School, where she serves as Editor-in-Chief of the school's Publications Group.

the big bank turn under the ski jumps," noted Icicle River Middle School (IRMS) eighth grader, Tyson Koinzan.

Riders tackled one to three laps of the course depending on category, with 5th through 8th graders and newer high school riders pedaling one, while more experienced high schoolers and advanced middle schoolers rode two, and JV and Varsity athletes completed three.

The route incorporated Ski Hill's lower-level single track and cross-country ski trails, a segment of the "New Uphill Trail," and ended with a winding path down the Big Hill —delivering a thrilling challenge and ideal vantage points for spectators.

"I designed the racecourse

two-plus years ago and have been working on securing the race here since then," explained IBC Head Coach Mike Bedard. "And we confirmed with the League maybe six months ago. Since then, it's been a series of boxes to check, some trail work, and many hands helping to get it ready."

IBC, founded in 2013, is fully volunteer-run and draws athletes from IRMS and Cascade High School (CHS). It's known for its positive team culture and strong community involvement. That culture is currently being shaped by the ever-energetic and enthusiastic Bedard, now in his second year at the helm, alongside his equally spirited wife, Lisa, who serves as team

for the League." their turn on the course.

the Ski Hill base into a festive

State Fire Marshal urges wildfire preparedness as summer nears

NCW News Ward Media

OLYMPIA — With warmer and drier weather expected across Washington this summer, state officials are warning residents to prepare for an increased risk of wildfires.

In 2024, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) deployed its All-Risk Mobilization Program to assist in 30 wildfire incidents statewide. The combined response cost approximately \$23 million, underscoring environmental impact of largescale wildfires.

"As we look forward to sunshine and outdoor activities, wildfire prevention and preparedness must remain a top priority," the State Fire Marshal's Office stated in a release issued Wednesday.

To reduce the risk of wildfires, SFMO officials recommend clearing dead vegetation and other fuel sources away from structures, participating in community cleanup days, practicing daily fire safety, using fire-resistant

staying alert to emergency notifications.

Preparedness efforts should also include assembling an emergency kit with food, essential medications, important documents, a batterypowered radio, and a first aid kit. Families are encouraged to practice evacuation routes, establish communication plans with neighbors, and prepare vehicles with necessary supplies.

The SFMO emphasized that residents should follow evacuation orders and heed personnel in the event of a wildfire. Additional wildfire safety information can be found through the National Fire Protection Association.

For further resources or questions, residents can contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904 or visit www.wsp.wa.gov/ state-fire-marshals-office.



Cascadia Conservation District Board to meet May 16 in Wenatchee

NCW News Ward Media

Varsity Girls).

WENATCHEE — The Cascadia Conservation District will hold its next regular board meeting on Friday, May 16, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be conducted both in person and remotely via call-in or Zoom.

The in-person portion of the meeting will take place at the district's office, located at 1350 McKittrick St., Suite B, in Wenatchee. Due to limited space, attendees planning

asked to call the office in advance.

Details on how to join the meeting remotely, including Zoom access information, will be provided on the district's website at cascadiacd.org or can be obtained by contacting the Cascadia Conservation District at 509-436-1601.



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