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Five of the most captivating
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NCW
NEWS

Connecting communities
across North Central
Washington
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Hunger in the Valley:

As community needs rise, food pantries face challenges



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.

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN COUNTY – As North Central Washington food banks experience record demand, they are simultaneously facing unprecedented challenges in meeting community needs, such as higher food costs and reduced funding.

“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 risk at the same time. So we're seeing more people and sort of uncertainty,” 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



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Leavenworth resident Mara Bohman works on her home garden in early spring. Bohman plans to donate much of her produce to the Community Cupboard this year.

traditional service area spans the upper valley and Cashmere, the 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, 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.

See HUNGER Page B4

Goehner honors Nutcracker Museum founder with Senate Resolution

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



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

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



COURTESY OF BENJAMIN JEROME
Icicle Bicycle Club rider and Cascade High School freshman Lane Bedard charges down the Big Hill amid blooming balsamroot at Leavenworth's Ski Hill.

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

See THRILL AT SKI HILL Page A2

Cascade School District named Washington Green Ribbon School District



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Cascade School Board poses with the Green Ribbon award alongside OSPI representative Denise Davis.

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Cascade School District (CSD) has been recognized as a Green Ribbon School District for reducing its environmental impact, improving

health and wellness, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

CSD was the only district to be selected by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent

See CSD Page B4



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

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

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Echo

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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.

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Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

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



TOUCH A TRUCK WENATCHEE FACEBOOK

La Terraza on the Ave

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.”

For more information, visit La Terraza on the Ave 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,” the event page states. Find unique treasures, vintage goods, handmade crafts, and more!”

For more information, visit Touch A Truck Wenatchee 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.

Benevolent Night at Wok About Grill

Wok About Grill in Leavenworth will host Benevolent Night on Wednesday, May 15 from 4 p.m to 8 p.m.

“Stir up your routine and support a wonderful cause. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the Cascade Medical Foundation's current campaign.”

For more information, visit Cascade Medical Foundation or Wok About Grill Leavenworth on Facebook.

Thrill at Ski Hill

Continued from page A1

iconic venue.

Hosted by Icicle Bicycle Club (IBC) in partnership with the WSCL, U.S. Forest Service, and Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, the race served as the third stop in the league's five-event spring series.

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 for the occasion.

The course featured steep climbs, fast descents, and a dramatic finish down the face of the ‘Big Hill.’ “It was a really fun track, especially 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 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 for the League.”

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 their turn on the course.

Both days the team tent area or “race village” transformed the Ski Hill base into a festive



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.

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 through sales at the event.

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, Varsity Girls).

The WSCL spring series continues with its next race in 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.

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.

May 2

00:13:55 Accident Unk, 301 Ward Strasse, Leavenworth
08:17:44 Traffic Offense, Icicle Rd & Wilson St, Leavenworth
08:44:14 Suspicious, Pine St & High St, Leavenworth
10:52:07 Civil, 6585 Us Hwy 97, Peshastin
13:04:44 Assist Public, 14002 Brae Burn Rd, Leavenworth
15:19:10 Disturbance, 100 Ward Strasse # C246, Leavenworth
17:09:54 Parking/Abandon, School St & Lee St, Peshastin
17:22:08 Trespass, Sr 207 Mp 2; 2 1/2, Leavenworth
17:52:38 Trespass, 8746 School St, Dryden
18:11:28 911, 263 Mine St# 108, Leavenworth
19:40:11 Accident No Inj, 11919 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth
20:03:07 Traffic Offense, 980 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
20:35:22 Property, 820 Front St, Leavenworth
20:51:29 Suspicious, 525 Alpine Pl, #PL, Leavenworth

May 3

00:30:40 Malicious Misch, Ski Hill Dr & West St, Leavenworth
08:50:47 Property, W Commercial St & Scholze, Leavenworth
15:26:00 Accident No Inj, 9342 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth
16:43:18 Animal Problem, Pine St & Main St, Peshastin
17:18:34 911, 2256 Riffle Dr, Leavenworth
17:47:47 Accident No Inj, 15361 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth

May 4

00:43:23 Harass/Threat, 1117 Front St, Leavenworth
01:04:58 Dui, 228 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth
03:03:29 Trespass, 505 Us Hwy

2, Leavenworth
06:17:27 Trespass, Mtn Home Tracks; Area, Leavenworth
13:19:20 Accident Link, 6700blk Icicle Rd; Area, Leavenworth
21:31:43 911, 221 8th St# B, Leavenworth
21:39:31 AtL/Atc, 2630 Cottonwood Ln, Leavenworth
22:41:34 Welfare Check, 10136 Main St, Peshastin
23:11:12 Welfare Check, 209 Scholze St, Leavenworth

May 5

01:00:45 Accident No Inj Chumstick Hwy & Merry Cany, Leavenworth
03:54:44 Animal Problem, 11687 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
08:10:14 Extra Patrol, Pine St & Ski Hill Dr, Leavenworth
09:59:30 Assist Public, 11687 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
11:47:50 Assist Public , 126 Amas Pl, Peshastin
20:13:12 Traffic Offense, 9th St & Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
22:51:04 Animal Problem, 11687 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth

May 6

05:40:17 Assist Agency, Us Hwy 2 Mp 78, Leavenworth
07:35:07 Welfare Check, 100 Ward Strasse # A328, Leavenworth
09:42:58 Assist Public, 10195 Titus Rd, Leavenworth
11:32:54 Suicide Threat, 100 Ward Strasse # A328, Leavenworth
14:20:43 Animal Problem, Chiwawa Loop Rd Mp 5, Leavenworth
14:24:47 Civil, 13730 Brae Burn Rd, Leavenworth
14:49:13 Welfare Check, oblk High St, Peshastin
17:39:29 Suspicious, 10136 Main

St, Peshastin
21:53:48 Accident No Inj 3600blk Mission Creek Rd, Leavenworth

May 7

09:11:35 Fraud/Forgery, 301 Ward Strasse, Leavenworth
12:01:07 Harass/Threat, 8455 Main St, Leavenworth
14:49:15 Welfare Check, 263 Mine St# 218, Leavenworth
17:20:23 Diversion, 817 Commercial St, Leavenworth
17:45:03 Diversion, 263 Mine St# 218, Leavenworth
19:13:30 Welfare Check, Ski Hill Dr & Prospect St, Leavenworth
21:31:41 Trespass, 1329 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
22:36:33 Suspicious, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth

May 8

01:00:14 Alarm, 9342 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth
09:21:03 Fraud/Forgery, 10555 Maxfield Canyon Rd, Leavenworth
11:10:46 Animal Problem, 10134 Main St, Peshastin
12:54:11 Trespass, 17810 Nason Ridge Rd, Leavenworth
15:24:17 Diversion, 263 Mine St# 218, Leavenworth
15:37:35 Suspicious, 1200blk Front St, Leavenworth
15:48:04 Civil, 1300 Commercial St# 111, Leavenworth
16:53:01 Trespass, 1329 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
17:35:51 Assist Public, 108 Central Ave, Leavenworth



Community Calendar

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Monday

Upper Valley Free Clinic, open every Monday to evaluate urgent health needs. Downstairs at Cascade Medical, 6:30 -8:00 p.m. Call UVMEND, 509-548-0408 for more information.
Leavenworth Mosquito District board meeting 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm via ZOOM link posted at https://leavenworthmosquitocontrol.org/notices-updates/
Cascade School board meetings, 7 p.m., Agenda can be found at https://www.cascadesd.org/Page/166. (2nd & 4th Mon.)
Chelan Douglas Republican Women, Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (1st Mon.)

Tuesday

Peshastin Water District, 5:30 p.m. For meeting location, contact Steve Keene, 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)
Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts Meeting Current meeting time is 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)
Cascade Education Foundation, Contact: CEF@cascade.org
LWSC Alpine Committee, 7 p.m., Ski Hill Lodge. Call 509-548-5477. (1st. Tues.)
Leavenworth Masons, 7:30 p.m., Zarthan Lodge No. 148, Leavenworth Senior Center upstairs. www.leaventhmasons.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.

Get rid of all that extra stuff with an ad in the Ward Media Classifieds.



OBITUARY

Margaret Eileen Kelly

Margaret Eileen Kelly was born November 23, 1933, in Leavenworth to Kathryn and Guy Kelly. She passed away April 27, 2025 at age 91 surrounded by loved ones.
During her eventful lifetime, Eileen spent years in Leavenworth, the town where her maternal grandfather and his family arrived from South Dakota in the early 1900s. They were among the original residents of Mountain Home.
Her parents moved to Seattle in the 1940s and she graduated from Holy Names Academy, a school where she made many lifelong friends and developed a deep appreciation for all types of music.

At 19, she married Hugh Parton. They briefly lived in Southern California while he served in the U.S. Army before returning to Leavenworth in the 1950s. For many years, the couple lived on East Leavenworth Road and ran Hugh Parton Trucking.
She later held a number of jobs including waitress, bookkeeper and taxi driver. She worked at Milam Recovery Center, was a sales rep for the Physicians and Dentist Credit Bureau, as well as operating gift shops and boutiques in Leavenworth and Seattle.
Being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, a beloved aunt and sister, brought her immense joy. She was known for her generosity

and for delivering plain-spoken advice with lots of love. Eileen will be dearly missed by many.
She is survived by her children, Mary Kathryn and her husband, Marc Divina, of Seattle, Suzie of Edmonds, Robert of Leavenworth and B.T. and his wife, Sara, of Wenatchee. Her grandchildren include Mary Kathryn's Vanessa, Mallory, Ally, Molly and Mark Anthony, Suzie's Savannah and Sierra, Robert's Nick, Hannah Jo, and Tyler, B.T.'s Tristin, Maddy, Ashley, Braeden Guy, Makenzie Joy and Allison Mae. Her great-grandchildren are Bearett, Navy, Cody and Howard Kelly, Isabella and Anthony, Lucia and Beau, Phoenix, Avery and Haven, Lilly



and Everett. She is also survived by her sister Mary Kay Byrnes and a number of nieces, nephews (Leslie, Laurel and Chris enjoyed a special connection with her) and cousins as well as a long list of "chosen family" including the crew from Mountain Meadows.
Details on a celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Please feel free to add your memories of Eileen on the Heritage Memorial Chapel's Tribute Wall.

Touch A Truck returns to Wenatchee with hands-on fun for kids



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 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

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.
Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids, with proceeds all going to non-profits that are kid-focused and kid-friendly. 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 andrew@ward.media



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



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
A logging truck festooned with flags carries a giant load of timber.



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Damian Sandoval

Boys Soccer Senior

Damian is a senior and one of our captains. He is a leader on the field and off. He is our defensive midfielder, patrolling the midfield and winning all balls that come into his area. He works incredibly hard from the time the game starts till the final whistle. He is very reliable and durable: he has played every minute of every match we have played.

Damian is a three-season athlete - he also ran cross country and wrestled. Last year he was the only student athlete at Cascade to go to State in three different sports. This year he has been to State in Cross Country and wrestling. With one more win in soccer he will have earned the trifecta once again. Damian will go places with his work ethic and dedication.



Cascade High School Student named 2025 Merit Scholar

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Cascade High School student Caroline Menna has been named a 2025 National Merit Scholar, joining only 6,900 students nationwide in the prestigious recognition and earning a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship.

“Well, of course, it’s an honor to receive what may be the most widely recognized academic award for high school students—and I’m sure it will help open some doors. But more than that, it fills me with gratitude and hope. I’m deeply grateful to my parents and to everyone at Cascade School District and Cascade High School. In every sense of the word, they educated me. Without their support, I would not have been named a National Merit Scholar,” said Menna.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships that began in 1955.

The annual competition began in October 2023, when high school juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT, serving as an initial screen of program

entrants. The highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than one percent of the nation’s high school seniors, were named semifinalists. More than 16,000 semifinalists had the opportunity to continue in the competition. By the end, just under 7,000 finalists earned the “Merit Scholar” title, receiving a total of nearly \$26 million in college scholarships.

National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state that have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college Studies. The Scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the finalists and their high schools.

“We are extremely proud of Caroline. [She] is a great student leader. She’s a great student athlete. She’s very talented. She’s a very talented writer, and she represents not only Cascade School District well, but all of North Central Washington and the entire state of Washington well. She’s going to go on and do great things,” said CSD Superintendent Tracey Edou.

The CHS senior was recruited to ski race for Dartmouth College, her first school of choice. While attending, Menna plans to pursue science journalism and hopes to write for the college’s student-run newspaper, which is the oldest in the nation.

“I’m also hopeful that more CHS students will earn national recognition in the years to come. Many of my classmates were just as deserving, and I know there’s a rising group of underclassmen who will soon shine just as brightly as the class of 2025,” said Menna.

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



COURTESY OF CAROLINE MENNA
Caroline Menna is a senior at Cascade High School.

CASCADE SCHEDULE

Boys Varsity Tennis			
Thur, May 15 12:00PM	Cascade vs.	District 5 Tournament	Away
Sat, May 17 12:00 PM	Cascade vs.	District 5 Tournament	Away
Boys Varsity Track			
Fri, May 16 3:30 PM	Cascade vs.	Caribou Trail League	Home
Girls Varsity Track			
Fri May 16 3:30 PM	Cascade vs.	Caribou Trail League	Home
Girls Varsity Tennis			
Thur, May 15 12:00PM	Cascade vs.	District 5 Tournament	Away
Sat, May 17 12:00 PM	Cascade vs.	District 5 Tournament	Away

PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN MORAGA/FOR WARD MEDIA

Cascade edges Connell 1-0 to clinch State berth



LEAVENWORTH - Cascade fought, suffered, sweated, waited, but ultimately prevailed over a tough Connell squad on May 10, taking the game by the slimmest of margins, 1-0. Cascade qualified for State, while Connell still has a chance to qualify, but has a couple of games left.

❶ In a rough-and-tumble game, Cascade’s Jaxson Groby (4) and his Kodiak compadres endured a tough Connell squad and took a win-and-you’re-in match against the Eagles, 1-0. Cascade will now play Highland on May 17 at 11 a.m. in Royal, with higher seeding at State on the line.

❷ Luis Granda (11) cradles the ball with the instep of his boot during the game against Connell on May 10. Cascade defeated the Eagles 1-0 and punched their ticket to State. They play their last game of Districts this week at Royal against the Highland Scotties on May 17.

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Leavenworth

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• leavenworthumc@outlook.com

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Dryden

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p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m. • Pastor Russell Esparza

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Monitor

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NCW NEWS

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 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

own flavor. During one part of 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 nearly-flamenco 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

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 at @andrugomezmusic. 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.

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



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



FACEBOOK/EASTMONTDRAMACLUB

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.

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 andrew@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, 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 & The Chocolate Factory, Wenatchee (Mrs. Teavee)
Emma Galloway, Cinderella, Quincy (Charlotte)
Gabby Winchester, The Little Mermaid, Cashmere (Scuttle)
Grant Chisholm, Big Fish, Eastmont (Will Bloom)

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

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)

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)
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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For further information, please contact the HR office at 509-686-5656 or email jobs@bsd75.org.

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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, regarding the Cashmere City Council assuming the Cashmere Transportation 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 kay@cityofcashmere.org. Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on May 14, 2025. #9932

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WORDS

ACHIEVEMENT
ACTION
ACTIVE
ADVENTURES
BARRIERS
BOUNDARIES
BUMPS
BUNGEE
CHILLS
CLIMBING
COASTER
COMPETITION
ENDURANCE
EXERTION
EXTREME
GOALS
HEART-RACING
HIGH
PARACHUTE
RAPIDS
SCARY
SPEED
THRILLING
TRAIL BLAZE

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

Hunger

Continued from page A1

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. 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 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 TFPAP funding remains steady through September, Walker anticipates that if it does

continue, it will be a lower amount.

Additionally, \$4.7 million in TEFAP commodities 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 funding, training, 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.

New Avenues of Support

While CDCAC is expected to receive more support from 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 backyard 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.

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Alphorn

Continued from page A1

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.

The workshop 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.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Icicle River Middle School students say ‘thank you’ for continued support of sixth-grade outdoor camps.

CSD

Continued from page A1

of Public Instruction (OSPI) for 2025. It is the third school district east of the Cascades to ever be chosen, according to OSPI Director of Elementary Education Content Denise Davis. As a state finalist, the school district will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education, who will select national award recipients.

On May 6, CSD invited representatives from OSPI and the Association of Washington School Principals to tour the school district's environmental initiatives. Community partners who have assisted with such initiatives also joined, including

representatives from Waste Loop, Winton Manufacturing Compost Works, the City of Leavenworth, Upper Valley MEND, and Pacific Education Institute.

During the celebration, CSD Superintendent Tracey Edou explained how the school district's conscious focus on the outdoors took off in 2019, when the high school Sustainability Club asked the district to look at making changes, such as discontinuing the use of sporks and improving recycling. As it considered the changes, it was also receiving feedback during its strategic planning process that the outdoors were a core value of the community.

“So when the board adopted our strategic framework in



COURTESY OF CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Beaver Valley students explore the night sky with telescopes and s'mores.

2020, “the outdoors” was on it....We had to ask the question, ‘How do you take the word “outdoors,” and how do you put it into action? What does that look like?’ And that led us on so many pathways,” said Edou.

The school district prioritized outdoor learning, such as improving the Rattlesnake Hill trail behind Icicle River Middle School, utilizing Kiwanis Park as an outdoor classroom for Peshastin-Dryden Elementary, and rebuilding a greenhouse at Cascade High School. To minimize its environmental footprint, the district enrolled in a composting program with bear proof cans, installed a propane fuel station at the transportation department,

and got rid of sporks.

“Cascade [School District] is definitely leading the way. Your commitment to place-based learning is impressive, and environmental education, it's a model. You guys are a model,” said Davis.

While visiting, Washington School Principals' Education Foundation Managing Director Greg Barker presented CSD with a \$10,000 check to support the district's continued work in outdoor education.

“It definitely doesn't pay the bills, but [it's] a small recognition of all this great work that you're doing,” said Barker.

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

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