



Lake Chelan Valley Events

Echo Ridge snow conditions

CHELAN - For current conditions and the grooming report for Echo Ridge Nordic Ski area go to www.lakechelanordic.org.

Seuss-A-Palooza Literacy Fair: March 7

CHELAN - The Chelan Public Library will be holding its annual Seuss-A-Palooza Literacy Fair on Saturday, March 7. The event, featuring author Dr. Seuss's book 'Oh the Places You'll Go' as its theme, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. at the library located on Emerson Street. Activities will include making Oobleck, a non-Newtonian fluid featured in the author's book Bartholomew and the Oobleck; as well as bowling, basketball, fishing, crafts, and a photo booth. Lake Chelan Community Hospital EMS personnel will run a bean-bag toss. There will also be cookies and door prizes. The literacy fair is geared toward elementary-aged children and younger.

Afters for Families presents 'Happily Ever Afters': March 11

CHELLAN - Morgan Ownings Elementary School (MOE) will be a hub of activity on Wednesday night, March 11, 5:30-7 p.m. That evening, Lake Chelan School District's popular 'Afters' program is offering a fun evening of fantasy and wonder as we bring Stories, Legends and Tales to life. All students and families in the Chelan Community are welcome to join us as we take a journey with the 3 little pigs, visit a gingerbread house, eat apples with Snow White. With special appearances by Harry Potter, Cruella DeVill, the Pide Piper, Malificent and much, much more. Open to all. Free of charge. Happening at Morgan Ownings Elementary School. To bring books, stories and legends to life so that kids can open their imaginations and curiosities through reading.

Top Dog Parade: March 14

CHELAN - Dress up your dogs and kids in green to try your hand at bringing home the "Top Dog" Award, in the Wayne Kelly Memorial Top Dog Parade on Saturday, March 14. This is a great chance for your kids to be in a parade. Parade line-up begins at 11:30 a.m. behind Wells Fargo bank in downtown Chelan and the parade begins at 12 p.m.

Shamrock Shuffle 5K Run: March 14

CHELAN - The Lake Chelan Lions Club in partnership with Lake Chelan Health and Wellness Foundation invite you to get your Shamrock and shuffle on down to Riverwalk Park, at the foot of Wapato Avenue, on March 14 for the annual Shamrock Shuffle 5k Fun Run. Register at 8 a.m., run begins at 9:30 a.m. Register online at <http://bit.ly/ss5km14>. Adults 19 and older, \$25, student 10-18 and college \$15 and kids 9 and under free. Late registration fee after March 10. A portion of the proceeds will fund scholarship for kids to attend Camp Leo. A Summer Camp for children with diabetes. Fighting diabetes, one step at a time.

Business After Hours: March 19

CHELAN - Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours (BAH) will be hosted by Sigillo Cellars, 2037 W Woodin Ave. on Thursday, March 19, 6-7 p.m. Join them for networking and an opportunity to learn about this local business. This event is now open to the public. BAH is held the third Thursday of every month. RSVP to the Chamber at 682-3503 so they can plan accordingly.

Winter Art Exhibit: Thru March 26

CHELAN - The LCAC's art exhibit "Lake Chelan in Winter" continues at the Chelan Public Library, 216 N. Emerson St. through March 26. Eighteen artists submitted 35 works of art showcasing their unique talents depicting Winter in and around the Lake Chelan area. Most of the artwork is for sale. Check with the Chelan Library for hours 509-682-5131. Please note: the art exhibit will not be on view March 4 - 11 to help the Library celebrate the Seuss-a-Palooza Literacy Fair on March 7.

Submitting your Lake Chelan Valley Event

Email to your non-profit event to: ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com, subject line LCM Events. Deadline: Friday at 3 p.m. Be sure and include date, time, place and cost if any.

Lake Chelan Hospital Board approves pausing new hospital for Six months

SUBMITTED BY LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL & CLINICS

CHELAN - The Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinics (LCCHC) Board of Commissioners voted to pause design and construction of the new hospital project for 6-months and then re-evaluate finances. The Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Feb. 11, to discuss solutions focused on improving the hospital's overall finances and operations. The hospital has had a continued decline in revenues over the past year related to lower inpatient and outpatient volumes, physician and employee turnover, slower collections and reduced reimbursements. At this time the hospital has the funds to build the hospital; however, it does not have the funds to pay for the "mortgage" once the hospital is built.

"It is an emotional issue and we have to strip away the emotion to make a good decision" said George Rohrich.

The Board was presented with findings from a review conducted by Quorum Health Resources (QHR) at the Feb. 11, Special Board meeting. QHR is a national organization aimed at helping small rural hospitals improve financial stability through a customized management plan focused on a variety of systems like compliance



At the Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinics (LCCHC) Board of Commissioners meeting on Feb. 25, board president Phyllis Gleasman accepted a check from Lake Chelan Health & Wellness board president Tom Anglin in the amount of \$67,384 for Studor Group Leadership Training for one year. The hospital has a three year contract with Studor Group for the training. Board member Jordana LaPorte is far left.

RuthEdna Keys/LCM

review, revenue cycle reimbursement and market review. After QHR's presentation, it was recommended that the hospital consider delaying hospital construction for one year. The Board tasked CEO George Rohrich in negotiating a contract with QHR for review and possible approval at the Feb. 25, 2020 Board meeting.

During the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25, the board approved delaying hospital construction

and design for six months and then review finances. The hospital and Board of Commissioners will continue to monitor and focus on improving hospital revenues. Currently, the Board did not approve a contract with QHR. The Board discussed and approved to obtain one additional proposal at which time a special Board meeting will be held to review the proposals.

What happens to the community tax dollars slated for the new hos-

Lake Chelan Community Hospital Emergency Services holds annual Awards Banquet
See page 5

pital?
• Tax dollars for the new hospital project are restricted funds that can only be used for the new

SEE HOUSPITAL ON PAGE 2

The Community Center at Lake Chelan finalizes new central location

Beneficial agreement for community reached

SUBMITTED BY SEVEN ACRES FOUNDATION

CHELAN - A central piece of property has been acquired for The Community Center at Lake Chelan thanks to a mutually beneficial, three-way agreement between The Lookout, Chelan Valley Housing Trust and the Seven Acres Foundation.

The new location of The Community Center at Lake Chelan is within walking distance of downtown Chelan and a short drive from the town of Manson. The property just off Highway 150 is situated below the Lookout housing development and adjacent to the current Chelan Cross Fit Gym on Big-horn Avenue. "This highly accessible property is more central to both Chelan and Manson, with easier access to utilities and buildable flat acreage. It is perfect for this project," said Seven Acres

Foundation President, Ben Williams.

A two-acre portion of the land was previously earmarked as a donation from The Lookout to the Chelan Valley Housing Trust and will now be granted to the Seven Acres Foundation. This, coupled with the purchase of additional acreage from The Lookout, will enable the Seven Acres Foundation to donate five acres of land to the Chelan Valley Housing Trust in a location more suitable for affordable home development. Ken Friesen, Managing Partner at The Lookout is excited about the new development. "We are thrilled to partner with both the Housing Trust and the Seven Acres Foundation. Both organizations are working to help the community, and building community is what we are all about. We love this community and love being a part of making it better every day," said Friesen.

Each of the parties involved and more importantly, the community, is better

off thanks to this extremely rare, successful three-way negotiation. Ultimately, the Community Center will be in a great location that will better serve the community, while the Housing Trust will be in a better location with capacity for up to three times the number of housing units. "The Housing Trust is all about providing stable and secure affordable housing, and this land agreement enables us to do exactly that," said Mike Cooney, Executive Director of the Chelan Housing Trust. "We are grateful to The Lookout ownership and for the kindness of the Seven Acres Foundation. This best exemplifies how our community can work together for a win for our valley."

The Community Center at Lake Chelan will include a 25-yard competition swimming pool thanks to the Rynd family, basketball and sport courts, an auditorium with stage, public meeting areas and offices, as well as outdoor sand volleyball and pickleball courts. Plans for

the 25,000 square foot facility also include a commercial kitchen, multi-use rooms, indoor children's play areas, and a space for affordable private events.

The Seven Acres Foundation is continuing fundraising efforts for The Community Center at Lake Chelan and expects to begin construction no later than Spring of 2021. A series of events are planned for the coming months to continue educating the community and raising funds for The Community Center at Lake Chelan.

To learn more or donate to the Building Community campaign, please visit <http://ceatlakechelan.org>

Editors note: The Seven Acres Foundation will present an update to the Chelan City Council on The Community Center at Lake Chelan, March 24, at 6 p.m. This will give the community an opportunity to better understand the project and ask questions of board members after the presentation.



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310 E. Johnson Ave.,
P.O. Box 249
Chelan, WA 98816-0249
509-682-2213
www.lakechelanmirror.com