

Anglers win the battle at Northwest Ice Fishing Festival

A9

A10

Brewster students compete for 'Top Chef' honors



# THE OMAK-OKANOGAN COUNTY CHRONICLE



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Essential Reading in Okanogan and Ferry counties.

\$1.00



Al Camp/The Chronicle

Lauren Mayhew, in red coat at left, and Kristen Kenney compete against the Conservation Crapper during Outhouse races Saturday in Conconully. Kenney, who is reporting during the race, and Mayhew were part of a California video crew creating a pilot webcast for Woven Digital, the Internet company backing the production.

## Tonasket hatches fowl plan

Ordinance would allow residents to keep chickens

By Brock Hires  
The Chronicle

TONASKET — The City Council hatched a plan last Tuesday that could allow chickens within city limits.

"I've been waiting for years to have this discussion," Mayor Patrick Plumb said about the move to allow chickens in town without their owners running afoul of the law.

The city is reviewing the policy the Omak City Council adopted for its in-city chicken procedures.

According to Omak codes, there is a limit to four chickens at a single-family dwelling, with none to be males (roosters) over the age of 4 months.

Tonasket Police Chief Rob Burks said in his nearly 20-year career with the department, he has heard very few complaints about chickens.

"It's not like a dog where you can go out and say 'shut up,'" he said. "I've only had maybe three complaints, mostly roosters, in about 20 years. I think somebody had an emu or ostrich. That was the only real complaints we've had."

Plumb suggested the idea would promote FFA, Okanogan County Fair and other agricultural opportunities for area youth who cannot own

"I think it's a way for FFA kids to be more involved."



Mayor Patrick Plumb

## Privies bump and slide

Outhouses on skis compete in annual Conconully races

By Al Camp  
The Chronicle

CONCONULLY — Race crews literally went head-to-head Saturday in Conconully as they vied for titles in the 32nd annual Outhouse Races.

With snow on the ground and heavy snow falling, fans were not disappointed in the event sporting numerous potty puns and humorous entries — 19 outhouses in all.

It was the first outhouse race for a video crew from California that featured Lauren Mayhew and Kristen Kenney.

"It lived up to the hype," Kenney said of the head-to-head racing down Main Street. "It was so awesome."

The duo and their crew attended the event to film their pilot webcast for Woven Digital, the Internet company backing the production.

But Mayhew and Kenney did more than watch, they participated. They pushed and they sat, and they interviewed racers and fans alike.

The production crew used a Liar's Cove outhouse sponsored by the resort on the lower lake.

"I was like, 'Holy crap,'" Mayhew said of outhouse racing.

Nineteen teams competed in eight categories for titles in men's, women's, children's, seniors, teens, family, extreme and bucket events. There was also a fans' choice award.

Minnesota Uff Da received the popular vote with Santa (Myron Holcomb from Virginia, Minn.) and elves pushing (Rory Holcomb of Austin, Texas, and Lance Holcomb of Vancouver).

"I have never seen anything like this before. I don't know how they come up with these things."

Exchange student Emmy Naslund



"We wanted something different, wanted to stand out," said Myron Holcomb, whose team was sponsored by Sit'n Bull Saloon and Cafe.

His wife, Terry Holcomb, roped the men into the contest because her sister, sister, Cindy Simpson of Okanogan, was involved. Terry Holcomb then knitted all of the elves warm costumes.

The expression "Uff da" wasn't foreign to Swedish exchange student Emmy Naslund, who is attending Okanogan High School this year under the auspices of the Okanogan-Omak Rotary Club.

"Uff da" is a Norwegian phrase meaning surprise, astonishment, exhaustion, relief and sometimes dismay — all of which described Saturday's competition.

"I have never seen anything like this before," Naslund said. "I don't know how they come up with these things."

Naslund was a sitter in an exhibition race planned for the film crew.

There were several entries — especially in the bucket race — that crashed into hay bales along the course.

In that event, pushers wore buckets and could not see where they were going.

Don Miller of Seattle, who was attending his second year of races, said he was attempting to get some photos when a pair of outhouses came crashing towards him.

"I was trying to figure out how to take a picture of them and got ran over," said Miller, who dashed onto the course to get out of the way only to slip and fall.

The races were popular with fans, who hung around until the end, cheering "Sea Hawks, Sea Hawks" for the film crew.

The biggest cheering section, however, turned out for the Carlton Store entry, which sported lit up signs.

"It was a great crowd," Chamber of Commerce president Janet Warner said. "This year, everybody hung around. It might have because we had a great choice of food vendors."

See Outhouses A12



Brock Hires/The Chronicle

After losing a ski, the Big Buck outhouse meets a toasty end.

## Lawmakers launch unusual proposals

On docket: Heroin possession, partisan justices and teen alcohol tasting bills

By Cooper Inveen  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — Would your legislator consider decriminalizing heroin possession? Or maybe turning the Supreme Court justices' elections partisan? What about allowing teenagers to taste alcohol?

The 2015 legislative session is just getting started, but already some proposed bills are likely to turn a few heads.

Sixteen Republicans and three Democrats have sponsored House Bill 1051, which would require Supreme Court justices — but no other judicial officer in the state — to

Student sipping considered

By Cooper Inveen  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — Lawmakers are considering legislation to allow university students between ages 18 and 21 to taste alcohol in the classroom.

But don't plan a celebratory high-five unless you're an aspiring winemaker.

"It's imperative that someone learning to make wine has the requisite palate to

See Sipping A5

declare a partisan affiliation when running for election.

One sponsor, Rep. Hans

See Proposals A5

## Man charged with raping 4-year-old girl

Conviction would count as 'most serious offense'

By Dee Camp  
The Chronicle

OKANOGAN — A local man has been charged with first-degree rape and first-degree molestation of a 4-year-old girl. Charges were filed Jan. 12



Lester

arrested and re-booked the next day.

against Phillip Nolan Lester, 33.

He was arrested Jan. 7 in Okanogan, released Jan. 12 because charges had not been filed, but was

arrested and re-booked the next day.

He remains in jail. The child was identified in court documents only by initials.

A report by detective Deborah Behymer, filed with charging documents as a probable cause statement, said the girl's mother reported a child abuse incident Dec. 31. Another deputy took the initial report, and Behymer and state Child Protective Services followed up.

Behymer's report said the child alleged Lester, who the child called "Uncle Jr." put his penis in her mouth and touched her private parts.

The child was interviewed about the incident and used play clay to show interviewers what his body part looked like, and also pointed to body parts on drawings geared toward preschoolers, court documents said.

The incident allegedly took

place about a week before Christmas.

Charging documents say the maximum penalty for conviction of each charge is life imprisonment and/or a \$50,000 fine.

Conviction counts as a "most serious offense" under the state's three strikes law for life without possibility of parole.

Court documents said if there is a previous single conviction for first- or second-

degree rape, first-degree child molestation or indecent liberties by forcible compulsion, a conviction on either charge would mean life imprisonment.

Similarly, a life sentence also would be imposed if a defendant had a single previous conviction with sexual motivation of first- or second-degree murder, first- or second-degree kidnapping, first- or second-degree assault or first-degree burglary.

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