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Mostly cloudy
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‘It’s a real huge blessing’ *Assembling kits for those in need*



World photo/Reilly Kneeder

Kai Bromiley, Wenatchee, adds washcloths to the four hygiene kits he's assembling Saturday in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints church gym in East Wenatchee.

BY REILLY KNEEDLER
World staff writer

EAST WENATCHEE — Two cloth bags over each arm, Kai Bromiley set off around the gym. By the time he completed the loop, the bags were stuffed to the brim with supplies.

Bromiley was among a few dozen volunteers who gathered Saturday and Sunday to assemble kits of hygiene products and

other essentials for those in need. The project, called Holiday Help for the Homeless, is now in its sixth year.

“We have some folks here who I’ve met through Facebook who have experienced homelessness themselves,” co-organizer Karen Cunningham said Saturday. “So it’s a mixed bag of people and a mixed bag of reasons why they’re here, but it’s all because they want to help.”

The grassroots effort, which is run by Cunningham and Cijik Jacobsen, started with five volunteers who put together just 20 kits. It’s now large enough to provide kits to most of the homeless-assistance organizations in the valley.

The goal this year was to assemble 215 kits, Cunningham said.

“215 is our target, but who knows how many more we’ll

do,” she said. “Looking at our donations, we’ve already exceeded our expectations. There’s 200 or 300 extra soaps over there.”

The supplies — including deodorant, razors, shaving cream and toilet paper — were collected at drop-off locations around the community, including Town Auto dealerships and

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Chelan County

Two more die from COVID-19

Hospital continues to fill

BY TONY BUHR
World staff writer

WENATCHEE — Two more people have died from COVID-19 in Chelan County, and the number of people hospitalized continues to grow.

The people who died were a woman in her 90s and a man in his 70s, according to information provided Monday by the Chelan-Douglas Health District. The last reported death was Wednesday. Chelan County has now had 31 deaths from COVID-19, Douglas County has had seven deaths.

The Wenatchee Valley now has 45 people hospitalized with COVID-19 at Central Washington Hospital, according to data from the health district. It is up from 40 as of Dec. 9.

The hospital can create more bed space, but the problem is that staff

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Okanogan County

Prosecutor to resign; cites small budget, racism

BY PETE O’CAIN
World staff writer

OKANOGAN — Pointing to a woeful budget and racial discrimination, Okanogan County Prosecutor Arian Noma has filed his resignation.

In a news release Friday, Noma wrote “The combination of an impossible institutional task and an utterly dehumanizing work context makes my tenure as your Prosecutor untenable.”

Noma was elected prosecutor in 2018 with nearly 60% of the vote after running on a campaign of reform. His resignation is effective Jan. 15.

The Okanogan County Commission did not respond to a request for comment Monday.

Noma explained the primary

Noma’s resignation letter can be seen at wenatcheworld.com

reason for announcing his resignation was to call attention to his undersized, overworked and underfunded staff. He said the prosecutor’s office is short-staffed by at least seven attorneys and three support staff.

His office has two deputy prosecutors to try Superior Court cases. One deputy prosecutor has 242 open cases and the other has 140, Noma wrote. He added he carried more

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U.S. Electoral College confirms Biden’s win

BY MICHAEL MARTINA AND JARRETT RENSHAW
Reuters

WILMINGTON, Delaware — President-elect Joe Biden delivered a forceful rebuke on Monday to President Donald Trump’s attacks on the legitimacy of his victory, hours after winning the state-by-state Electoral College vote that officially determines the U.S. presidency.

“In this battle for the soul of America, democracy prevailed,” Biden said in a prime-time speech from his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. “Now it’s time to turn the page, as we’ve done throughout our history — to unite, to heal.”

Monday’s vote, typically a formality, assumed outsized significance in light of Trump’s extraor-

inary effort to subvert the process due to what he has falsely alleged was widespread voter fraud in the Nov. 3 election.

California, the most-populous U.S. state, put Biden over the 270 votes needed to win the Electoral College when its 55 electors unanimously cast ballots for him and his running mate, Kamala Harris. Biden and Harris — the first woman, first Black person and first Asian American to become vice president-elect — will be sworn in on Jan. 20.

In a roughly 13-minute speech, Biden, the Democratic former vice president, called for unity while voicing confidence that the country’s democratic institutions had held in the face of Trump’s

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Reuters/Mike Segar

President-elect Joe Biden delivers a televised address to the nation Monday evening, after the U.S. Electoral College formally confirmed his victory over President Donald Trump in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, from Biden’s transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware.

Environmental review to start on Eight Mile Lake Dam

Forest Service says dam repair would not require permitting from agency

BY TONY BUHR
World staff writer

LEAVENWORTH — The state Department of Ecology will soon start on an environmental analysis of the Eight Mile Dam project.

It is a big step in what has been a long process toward fixing the Eight

Mile Lake dam that was damaged in the early 1990s and is in need of repairs. If the dam were to fail it could endanger at least 40 homes downstream, according to the state Department of Ecology Dam Safety Office. The dam also does not meet current safety regulations.

The dam, owned by the Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation District, has faced a lot of controversy with environmental groups, because it is in the Alpine Lake Wilderness. Wilderness areas are created by the U.S. Congress and are not supposed to have man-made structures within

them, but the dam was built before the wilderness area existed.

The two sides have come closer to an agreement, though, with the irrigation district deciding to keep the siphon that would release water from the lake on its property, said Tony Jantzer, irrigation district manager, during a meeting of the Icicle Workgroup on Dec. 10. The original plan was to have the siphon extend onto Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest land.

But the shortened siphon would only allow the irrigation district to draw the lake down to 2,000

acre feet instead of 2,500 acre feet, Jantzer said. The irrigation district has also not historically had access to the full 2,500 acre feet, although the district says that 2,500 is its full water right amount at Eight Mile Lake.

The shortened syphon resolves any issue with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, said Kristin Bail, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest supervisor. If the dam construction stays within the irrigation district’s property, the Forest Service would not get involved.

“The work that is being proposed to remove and replace the dam does fit within the reserved rights that the Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation District has,” Bail said.

The limitation to 2,000 acre feet of water at Eight Mile might present a problem for the Icicle Workgroup, a group established to resolve water right controversies on Icicle Creek. The group came together to increase flows in Icicle Creek for fish passage, for the city of Leavenworth’s use and other reasons.

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