

Methow Valley News

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Let it snow: valley gears up for winter rec



Photo by Steve Mitchell

Nordic skiing enthusiasts will find the Methow Trails system ready for them when enough snow arrives. The Winthrop Rink and Loup Loup Ski Bowl are also making preparations for winter.

COVID will affect outdoor activities

BY DON NELSON

Last week's teaser of a snowstorm was a reminder that the all-important Methow Valley winter recreation season can't be far behind.

The state's coronavirus protocols remain in place, with implications for

outdoor activities. Nonetheless, winter enthusiasts are expected to begin showing up in November. Operators of the valley's major seasonal attractions — the Methow Trails Nordic skiing system, the Winthrop Rink and Loup Loup Ski Bowl — plan to be ready for them, individually and in unison.

For the first time, the three organizations are teaming up to offer a "Try Winter Pass." The pass is a three-punch

GET IN TOUCH

- Loup Loup Ski Bowl: www.skitheloup.com; (509) 557-3401.
- Methow Trails: www.methowtrails.org; (509) 996-3287.
- Winthrop Rink: www.winthropicerink.org; (509) 996-4199.
- Methow Fatbike: www.facebook.com/methowfatbike

See **WINTER REC, A3**

Give Methow's strategy spotlights nonprofits

Videos personalize pitch to donors

BY MALCOLM GRIFFES

Give Methow, the valley's annual month-long fundraising campaign to support local nonprofits, has unveiled a new strategy this year.

During the month of October, Give Methow is releasing a video each week that highlights the work of nonprofits through the valley.

The new video-centric fundraising reflects three goals: to bring the 36 participating nonprofits together through a collaborative project, to create a way for nonprofits of all sizes to share in the ability to raise money, and to help broaden the reach to potential donors.

"It's the brainchild of all the Methow nonprofits," said Beth Stipe, executive director of the Community Foundation of North Central

Washington, a nonprofit fundraising organization that helps to support the Give Methow campaign.

"Nonprofits are struggling more than ever. Not only with fundraising, but also with reduced programs, and increased needs of their serves," said Stipe. "The videos are a great way to support the smaller nonprofit organizations, and it give donors a chance to support a variety of nonprofits with a one-gift process."

Themed videos

Give Methow is producing four videos, each with a theme, and distributing them on Mondays through participating valley nonprofits' social media platforms, as well as through the Community Foundation.

Monday Funday, a grant matching program provided through the Community Foundation, gives a boost to anybody who makes a donation on a Monday: They will have their name

entered into a drawing for \$500 to give to a Methow nonprofit of their choice.

"What has sprung from this is a lot more interaction between the organizations," said Sarah Brooks, associate director of the Methow Conservancy. "It's definitely created a greater sense of communication and collaboration between a lot of these organizations. And we are realizing that we all have the same values."

"We also learned that all the organizations have felt the impact from the coronavirus. From losing events to the fact that there are needs right now that impact philanthropy," said Brooks. "When the pandemic started, I thought it would be great to offer a Zoom meeting for anybody in the nonprofit community to talk about how fundraising might be impacted by the pandemic."

See **VIDEOS, A2**

Valley youth join regional effort to get out the vote

Volunteers respond to 'obvious need for action' in 2020

BY ASHLEY LODATO

As the 2020 general election approaches, Methow Valley youth are engaging in political activism by getting out the vote, lobbying, phone banking, and volunteering for candidates seeking local offices.

North Central Washington Young Voters — a non-partisan coalition of young people focused on increasing voter turnout among people aged 18-30 — said in a press release that the youth activists are "driven by a commitment to building a better future." For 2019 Liberty Bell High School graduate and current Methow Valley resident Lazo Gitcho, this "better future" requires that youth invest themselves in having a voice, learning about issues, and electing leaders that represent youth interests.

Gitcho, who is the community organizer for the Methow Valley Citizens Council Action Fund, is focused on getting out the vote in Okanogan County, especially in historically underrepresented communities. "Less than 40% of the people in Okanogan County between the ages of 18-24 are registered to vote," Gitcho said. "Only 68% of the voting age population in our county is even registered to vote."

The unregistered eligible potential voters provide what Gitcho called "a large margin for inspiring posi-

tive change."

So Gitcho and other Methow Valley youth are seeking to inspire other young people to register to vote — which can be done online at <https://olvr.votewa.gov> until Oct. 26 for mail-in ballots and until Nov. 3 for in-person voting at elections offices.

"The best way to put pressure on our leaders to represent our interests and concerns is to vote," Gitcho said, listing climate change as one of the most pressing concerns for his generation. "Climate change is an existential threat to our generation," he said. "It's a compounding factor for so many other issues. Inaction on climate change is an unacceptable position for any elected leader today."

Lobbying for change

Last spring, five Methow Valley teens — Wyatt Albright, Amelia Bondi, Stella Gitcho (Lazo's younger sister), Lena Nelson and Maisy Shaw — traveled to the state Legislature in Olympia to lobby for climate change action, speaking with state representatives and senators about bills that supported community solar projects, clean energy, and sustainable energy.

Four of the five girls, along with Liberty Bell senior Keeley Brooks, have been doing no-contact canvassing for Adrienne Moore, who is running for a House seat in the 12th District against incumbent Keith Goehner. No-contact canvassing — a pandemic-inspired modification of the traditional doorbelling

See **VOTE, A2**

MORE TO COME



Photo by Marcy Stamper

Last week's here-and-gone snowfall left a light dusting on higher elevations around the Methow Valley.



File photo by Ralph Schwartz

Twisp's Bugar Street neighborhood, a perennially popular trick-or-treating venue, won't be getting dressed up this year.

Halloween 2020 is a mere ghost of itself

COVID crimps trick-or-treating activities

BY MARCY STAMPER

Surprises and suspense have always been a part of Halloween, and this year, the traditional fall celebration — like just about everything else — has been modified to incorporate COVID safety protocols.

Two churches in Twisp — the Community Covenant Church and the Cascade Bible Church — are offering trunk-or-treat festivities and goodies from 4 to 6 p.m. on Halloween, where kids can show off their costumes and get pre-bagged candy from cars. Cars will be spaced at a distance to keep people safe.

Trick-or-treaters — in small family

groups — will approach the cars one at a time. Participants need to wear a cloth face mask (a plastic costume mask is not enough on its own).

Some well-loved activities at the trunk-or-treats, like train rides, fire pits and bouncy houses, won't take place this year so that people aren't encouraged to gather.

Hallowed trick-or-treating circuits like Bugar Street in Twisp and trunk-or-treat in Winthrop have been canceled to keep everyone safe. The Mazama Store also does not plan any formal Halloween activities.

While Bugar Street residents look forward to Halloween every year — and to creating elaborate decorations and welcoming all the kids — they decided it would be irresponsible to encourage a large gathering, according to neighborhood

representatives.

Here's a look at Halloween-related activities we were aware of as this week's paper went to press.

Trunk-or-treat

Community Covenant Church and Cascade Bible Church, both in Twisp, 4 to 6 p.m.

Jack-o'-Lantern Contest

Think out of the box — well, out of the sphere — and apply your creativity and ingenuity to a pumpkin for Methow Arts' Jack-o'-Lantern carving contest.

Imagine ghoulish faces, mountain vistas, your favorite animals, geometric designs — whatever you can fashion in a pumpkin.

See **HALLOWEEN, A2**

ADDRESS LABEL

THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUES.
Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24	Oct 25	Oct 26	Oct 27
46°	37°	38°	38°	42°	44°
29°	23°	16°	21°	24°	25°
Sunny and chill	Snow	Cold and sunny	Cloudy and cold	Sun with clouds	Ditto

WEATHER DATA BASED ON ACCUWEATHER.COM FORECAST FOR TWISP

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