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Plug in

Your connection to community events through tomorrow

TODAY

Government

◆ **Cashmere City Council:**
7 p.m., City Hall, 782-3513

Schools

◆ **Soap Lake School Board:**
6 p.m., elementary school library, 246-1822

◆ **Ephrata School Board:**
6 p.m., Beezley Building, 754-2474

◆ **Eastmont School Board:**
7 p.m., Clovis Intermediate School library, 884-7169

◆ **Cashmere School Board:**
7 p.m., district office, 782-3355

◆ **Cascade School Board:**
7 p.m. at Icicle River Middle School, 548-5885

◆ **Mansfield School Board:**
7 p.m., school library, 683-1012

◆ **Tonasket School Board:**
7 p.m., district boardroom, 486-2126

◆ **Brewster School Board:**
7:30 p.m., high school library, 689-3418, Ext. 0

TUESDAY

Government

◆ **Douglas County Commission:** 8:30 a.m., courthouse, Waterville, 745-8537

◆ **Okanogan County Commission:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 123 Fifth Ave., Okanogan, 422-7100

◆ **Chelan County Commission:** 9 a.m., 400 Douglas St., 667-6215

◆ **Wenatchee Arts Commission:** Noon, Wenatchee Valley Museum, 664-3343

◆ **Leavenworth City Council:**
6 p.m., City Hall, 548-5275

◆ **East Wenatchee City Council:** 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 884-9515

◆ **Tonasket City Council:**
7 p.m., City Hall, 486-2132

◆ **Twisp City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall, 997-4081

Schools

◆ **Quincy School Board:** 7 p.m., district office, 787-4571

◆ **Omak School Board:**
5:30 p.m., district office, 826-0320

◆ **Lake Chelan School Board:**
6 p.m., district office, 682-3515

◆ **Wenatchee School Board:**
7 p.m., district office, 663-8161

◆ **Orondo School Board:**
7 p.m., district office, 784-2443

THE WORM

The Worm will return Jan. 29.

◆ READER REP

Have a question about the paper or community?

Contact our reader representative. This week it's reporter Jaime Adame, and he'll do his best to get an answer for you.

Contact the reader representative by calling 664-7144, and leaving a detailed voice message and phone number. Or e-mail your question to: adame@wenworld.com.



Jaime Adame

◆ CORRECTIONS

The Wenatchee World strives for accuracy, but when errors occur in print, we want to correct them as soon as possible. All corrections appear on this page, regardless of where the errors occurred. If you believe information printed in The World is incorrect, please call 665-1161.

Coffeehouse art: Every cup a canvas

Baristas practice for months to perfect freehand designs that bring a smile

By RICK STEIGMEYER
World staff writer

WENATCHEE — Art has long been an accomplice to caffeine and conversation in urban coffeehouses from Turin to Greenwich Village, San Francisco to Seattle.

At Wenatchee's Caffé Mela, there are paintings and photographs on the walls. Musicians and poets frequent the coffeehouse's stage. You might see a person wearing a beret playing chess at one of the dark wooden tables.

And, there's also art in every foamy cup of latte served up from the big red La Marzocco espresso machine.

Owner Darren Reynolds deftly pours frothy steamed milk from a stainless steel pitcher into a swirling brew of dark espresso crema. A few nearly imperceptible shakes of his wrist somehow results in a fossil-like pattern of a leaf, its many spines and leaflets intricately detailed in the white and brown foam of bubbly milk and espresso coffee.

Reynolds, 27, his wife, Emily, and their three hired baristas treat a cup of latte as a canvas on which to create a new variation of the rosetta, leaf and heart-shaped designs that are standard to latte art.

The art form has upped the ante of what defines a great cup of espresso as it tests the talents of creative baristas.

"Our goal is to give a really good cup of coffee. When you see this, you know people are trying their best to give you the best," said Reynolds, who opened the coffeehouse and restaurant at 17 N. Wenatchee Ave. last June.

Reynolds said he learned about latte art when he worked as sales manager for Visions Espresso Service in Seattle. The company sells espresso equipment to restaurants and espresso shops. Espresso shops in Italy have served what they call "rosetta caffè" for years. The artistic renderings caught on in coffee-savvy Seattle in the early 1990s, pioneered by David Schomer at Espresso Vivace.

"The intent is to promote respect for caffè espresso as a culinary art that emphasizes



World photos/Mike Bonnicksen

LATTE ART VIDEO at
wenatchee-world.com

"There's a very specific process to steaming the milk. You have to let just the right amount of air in to create a microfoam. It's a constant battle."

DARREN REYNOLDS
Owner and latte artist at Caffé Mela coffee shop in Wenatchee

flavor, a silky feel and stunning presentation possibilities," wrote Schomer in a 1994 Coffeetalk magazine article on the subject.

Coffee Cabin at 414 N. Miller St. also offers latte art on request,



according to a barista there. Reynolds said he doesn't know of any other local coffee shop where it is offered.

Reynolds said he practiced his technique while making hundreds of lattes at coffee trade shows when he worked for Visions Espresso. He trained his baristas at the cafe. It can take months of making lattes all day to perfect the skill.

And then there are always new designs to create.

"There's a very specific process to steaming the milk. You have to let just the right amount of air in to create a microfoam. It's a constant battle," he said.

The artwork itself is totally

freehand, so no two creations are ever the same.

"It takes a little bit of extra time, but I think people appreciate it," he said. "We'll be doing a lot of hearts on Valentine's Day."

Above: Latte art by Darren Reynolds, owner of Caffé Mela in Wenatchee. Coffee Cabin at 414 N. Miller St. also offers latte art on request, according to a barista there.

Left: Darren Reynolds, owner of Caffé Mela in Wenatchee, creates free-pour latte art on top of a coffee drink.

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Two plead guilty for unsecured load in state's first case

REDMOND (AP) — Two men have pleaded guilty for failure to secure a load that caused a fatal accident on Interstate 5, the state's first prosecution under "Maria's Law."

Brian Campbell, 21, and his grandfather, William Clark, 77, were sentenced in King County District Court on Friday to 200 hours of community service. They also must pay \$1,138 in fines and restitution in an amount to be determined.

The pair were driving home on Aug. 18, 2006, from a remodeling job with a shelving unit in the back of their pickup. It fell out of

the truck, and a driver who swerved to avoid the debris, Gavin Coffee, 43, of Lake Forest Park, was struck by another car and killed.

There have been two similar incidents in North Central Washington in recent years.

In August 2005, an Omak woman, Doris L. Heneghen, 68, was killed on Highway 97 north of Omak when a rod crashed through her windshield. No arrests have been made, said State Patrol Trooper Rich Magnusson.

In August 2006, an Iowa man, Bruce A. Gearhart, 33, was killed on Highway 28 east of East

Wenatchee, when a metal strap winch crashed through his windshield. A 53-year-old Pasco truck driver was arrested after the Gearhart crash on suspicion of first-degree failure to secure a load, under the state's "Maria's Law." The case has been sent to prosecutors, said Magnusson.

During the I-5 guilty plea hearing on Friday, Clark and Campbell both apologized to Coffee's family, which includes a 6-week-old son Gavin Coffee never met. Coffee was a children's minister and the father of five.

Clark and Campbell could have faced a year in jail under the

law, named for Maria Federici, a Renton woman who was blinded and permanently disfigured in 2004 when particle board fell off a trailer and into her car. The law makes it a gross misdemeanor when someone is injured or killed because of an unsecured load falling onto a road.

But Coffee's family asked prosecutors not to send the men to jail. Judge Linda Jacke said the pair will serve 100 hours working at King County transfer stations talking to those dumping garbage about securing loads and serve the other 100 hours doing service for the Maria Federici Founda-

tion, which educates people on the dangers of unsecured loads.

Federici was present for the plea and sentencing and said it's "sad we're here at all, but some good may come from this in educating the public."

Coffee's widow, Heidi, told the court she hopes publicity about the case will raise awareness about safely hauling materials.

After the sentencing Heidi Coffee said of the defendants, "I always felt in my heart they were sorry."

World staff contributed to this report.

THE WENATCHEE WORLD

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*Includes six holidays or third Thursday of each month
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