

Manson community hears pros and cons on the Master Planned Resort Antheia of Chelan

BY DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

MANSON – The Manson Community Council hosted an informational meeting, presented by the Klate Road Neighbors on the Master Planned Resort Antheia of Chelan, on Jan. 8.

The snow didn't stop anyone and on Tuesday evening, the Manson Grange Hall was packed by community members who wanted to hear more on the project and express their thoughts on the development.

Antheia of Chelan proposed by Kim Ustanik, Alissa Hei and Gerry Ustanik, "is a multi-faceted concept that rolls unique agriculture, educational experiences, great memories and down-to-earth relaxation into one."

According to Hei, the project is her and her daughter's future. The project "is comprised of years of listening to community members desires and needs," she said.

That evening, Ustanik and Hei, painted a clear picture of the proposed project and clarified any misunderstandings. Hei asked the public present to listen to them with an open mind and to be respectful.

"The first and core part of Antheia is olives and agriculture ... Antheia, who in Greek mythology is the Goddess of gardens and vegetation," stated Ustanik.

Growing olives, harvesting, milling them to oil, brining and enjoying them is something that has not been done in the area therefore Ustanik explained that this would be the perfect way to complete Lake Chelan.

"We think our trees will survive here, which is why we have taken this risk," she added. Yoga and retreats, glamping, special events and education will be an add on to Antheia.

"At the end of our project we will have 19 organic, manicured acres of lush flower and vegetable gardens, with three



Photo by Diana Piñon
 Kim Ustanik (left) and her daughter Alissa Hei (right), owners and applicants of Antheia of Chelan.

clusters of Mediterranean-inspired bungalows for our guests to come stay and a beautiful property to host our guests' most important and

special days of their lives on," said Ustanik.

The olive grove, yoga and vegetable farm and a meadow are the three major compo-

nents of the project and make up an area of 52,000 square feet or six percent of the whole property. "Parking lots and roads account for 13 percent,

this means our project will be 81 percent open space," explained Hei.

Hei and Ustanik also addressed areas of concern regarding soil remediation, economic impact, water use, traffic impact, fire suppression, sound mitigation, property values, permits, codes and business allowed, damage to easements on the property along others.

"The manor in which our information is presented by the County can be misleading ... we humbly ask the Manson Community Council to either support our endeavor or opt out from commenting," said Hei.

The community also heard Robin Werner's overview on what is a Master Planned Resort and how it is reflected in the Klate Road neighborhood proposed plan.

"A Master Planned Resort is a destination resort that

SEE RESORT ON PAGE A3

New time, day for Chelan Fire Commissioner meetings

BY DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Chelan Fire and Rescue Board of Commissioners unanimously voted on a resolution to adapt a new meeting schedule. Meetings will now be held at 3:00 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month.

During the last meeting of 2018, the idea of changing the meeting time and day was discussed by Fire Chief Tim Lemon and board members.

By having the meetings pushed another week will allow staff to have a full financial report for the Commissioners. The change in time

came from the staffs perspective of having the meeting be done before five.

Lemon stated that time change of the meetings won't affect the public's attendance. In fact, in 2018, on average 2.9 public members showed up to the meetings. Only four times last year, no one showed up to the meetings outside from the members of the fire department.

The board agreed to the change knowing that locals will show up to the meetings regardless of the time change, if something being discussed is of their interest.

SEE TRUCK ON PAGE A3

Chelan City Council approves revised code for accessory dwelling units

BY DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Mayor Pro Tem Wendy Isenheart led the Chelan City Council Jan. 8 regular meeting in which they tackled various items on the agenda.

The council heard from the Lake Chelan Arts Council's members on two sculptures that could adorn Chelan's streets in the future. For \$15,000, the Huckleberry Daze, a "life-size, more realistic, but non-threatening grizzly bear," created as a limited edition bronze sculpture was offered to the Arts Council.

The grizzly bear, will be

placed where the Cougar sculpture currently sits, on Woodin Ave. in front of BC MacDonald's. The price of the Huckleberry includes, delivery and installation by the artist.

Barb Koenig of the Lake Chelan Art Council also informed the council on a small sculpture that was recently donated to the Arts Council. "It's called Hunter Warrior and it's beautiful," she said, "the Board voted to donate it to the City." With the City's help the Arts Council will purchase a stand to place the sculpture in, which will then

SEE BEAR ON PAGE A3

Manson Apple Blossom royalty to be selected Jan. 26



Photo courtesy of Manson Apple Blossom Festival
 Selection of the royal court of the 99th Manson Apple Blossom Festival will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Manson High School. Five candidates are vying for the royal court: They are top row, left to right: Megan Clausen, Marisol Mendoza, and Vanessa Gomez; and front row: Perla Villasenor and Devyn Smith. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Theme for this years festival is "Enchanted Manson". Look for photos and bio's for each candidate in next weeks Lake Chelan Mirror.



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Residents of Chelan can be sure that our community interests will be represented effectively, efficiently this Legislative Session

Beginning January 14, our legislators from the 12th District will return to Olympia to represent the City of Chelan in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session. As the legislature tackles the biennial transportation, operating, and capital budgets, the City of Chelan is fortunate to have three skilled advocates for the City's needs representing us in Olympia. Past champions for the City Representative Mike Steele (R-Chelan) and Senator Brad Hawkins (R-East Wenatchee) will return to the legislature aided by freshman Representative Keith Goehner (R-Dryden), whose local government experience will be an asset to the district. With the strong leadership and capability of our local legislators, the residents of Chelan can be sure that our community interests will be represented effectively and efficiently this Legislative Session.

As the Legislature addresses key statewide issues



GUEST OPINION
Mike Cooney
City of Chelan Mayor

such as mental health and education, the City of Chelan requests that the state also advances local interests that improve the health, safety, and well-being of our community. One of the City's main priorities is the preservation of the iconic Chelan Butte, a site of significant recreational and scenic importance to the community. The City seeks \$2 million in capital funding toward the purchase of this land, which encompasses nearly 900 acres of open space and is currently at risk of development. Popular amongst hikers, mountain bikers and paragliders, the Butte attracts outdoor recreationists from both within and beyond Chelan, making it an essential

feature of Washington's outdoor economy. While most of the land would remain available for recreational use, the City also plans to reserve 40 acres of the Butte for affordable housing, addressing the needs of many local workers. While the Governor did not allot funding for the preservation of the Butte in his budget proposal, the City is hopeful that the legislature will support Chelan in its efforts to conserve this important viewshed.

In addition to the Butte request, we are also supporting proposals that will assist rural residential communities, such as ours, with the creation of affordable housing. While homelessness is not a major issue, the City's unique tourism-based economy has made it difficult for local workers to live in Chelan year-round. To encourage multifamily development, such as apartments, we will be asking our Legislators to support legisla-

tion allowing small cities like ours to qualify for the existing multifamily property tax exemption.

The City is also committed to ensuring pedestrian safety. Aided by funding from the 2018 Legislature, we are currently converting the Woodin Avenue Bridge from a two-way to a one-way thoroughfare to ease state route traffic. While these changes will greatly improve congestion, the project aggravates existing traffic challenges, including pedestrian safety concerns; currently, only seven of the City's crosswalks along state highways are at signaled intersections. To improve visibility, the City asks for \$700,000 to implement Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at pedestrian crosswalks along state highways.

Finally, the City of Chelan is seeking funding for improvements of Lakeside Park. Featuring shoreline access and an easily-accessible swim-

ming beach, Lakeside Park is utilized by tourists and locals alike. To accommodate the heavy usage of the park, the City asks for state assistance in improving the park's facilities. These improvements include the renovation of restrooms, relocation of the dock, reconfiguration of swim areas, replenishment of beach sand, parking development, and sidewalk expansion. These renovations would ensure greater safety for park patrons as well as greater access to park facilities, allowing Lakeside Park to remain a popular destination for locals and visitors.

We are fortunate to have the representation of legislators that work to do what is right for our community. I appreciate the continued support of the 12th Legislative District delegation and wish them well during the upcoming Legislative Session.

Mayor Mike Cooney

Lake Chelan Winterfest kicks off this weekend in Chelan

In Manson
Jan. 25-27

COMPILED BY
LAKE CHELAN MIRROR STAFF

CHELAN/MANSON - Nestled among the snow-capped hilltops and glacier fed waters of Lake Chelan, Winterfest is the perfect escape to a Washington winter wonderland. Winterfest will feature wine and ale tastings, horse-drawn carriages, intricate ice sculptures, live music, activities for kids of all ages, a massive beach bonfire, spectacular fireworks show and much more.

Winterfest Admission Button - All Festival
The Winterfest Button is your Admission Pass to enjoying Winterfest Weekend. With your button, breeze on through to all the Kids Activities, the Ice Bar, the Horse Carriage Rides, and enjoy dozens of incredible offers at shops, restaurants and wineries all around the lake.

Soupfest - Friday, January 18
Warm up with the best that Lake Chelan has to offer! Sample the best soups from restaurants around the Lake Chelan Valley and vote for your favorites. Limited to the first 300 people.

Wine Tasting - Friday, January 18 and Saturday, January 19
Wine Tasting in snowy Downtown Lake Chelan is the quintessential Winterfest



LCM FILE PHOTOS

Horse Carriage Rides through Historic Downtown Chelan is one of the family fun activities during the first weekend of Winterfest. RIGHT: A wish is placed in the Ice Tower during the 2018 Winterfest weekend in Manson. For a full schedule of events Jan. 18-27 go to <https://www.lakechelan.com/winterfest/>

experience. You'll explore over 40 different award-winning Chelan Valley wines in the Tasting Tent on Friday and Saturday, or stroll through the downtown boutiques as you chat with the winemakers and taste their select choice of higher end wines on the Saturday Grand Wine Walk.

Beach Bonfire & Fireworks - Saturday, January 19
Join us at Don Morse Park for the infamous Polar Bear Splash, beach bonfire and spectacular fireworks show.

Cocoa Crawl - Sunday, January 20
New this year as a part of our Family Activities! Your Winterfest Admission Button

is your fast pass to spending Sunday strolling Downtown Chelan in search of your favorite variety of chocolate-y goodness. Marshmallows included.

Bubble Bar - Sunday, January 20
The Bubble Bar Sparking Wine Brunch is a showcase of bubbles produced in the Lake Chelan Valley. The perfect way to cap off the first weekend of Winterfest, come enjoy unlimited bubbles, a catered brunch and learn a little about the sparkling wine produced here in Lake Chelan.

Live Ice Carving Competition - Weekend One - All Weekend
Watch in wonder as live ice carvers sculpt unique creations right in the streets of Lake Chelan, then cast your vote for your favorite in the People's Choice Award. Ice Carving Competition takes place on Saturday. You can view the completed sculptures through Sunday.

Alefest - Saturday, January 26
If you love beer or cider, Alefest is the event for you.



Sample over 20 craft breweries and cideries in nearby Manson during our second weekend of Winterfest.

Local Brewers & Distillers Night - Friday January 25
They're keeping it local on Friday night. Join them in Manson to sip and savor the incredible local ales and spirits being produced in the Lake Chelan Valley.

Battle of the Bloody Mary - Sunday, January 27
Eat, Drink, and B. Mary! Sip through some of the best Bloody Mary's in the Lake Chelan Valley while you enjoy a delicious brunch and then vote for your favorite at the Battle of the Bloody Mary.

Live Music - Weekend One & Two - Friday & Saturday
Enjoy incredible live music in the Winterfest Ice Bar. The music is to be enjoyed by all ages, but you will need a valid 21+ ID and a Winterfest Button to enter the Ice Bar.

Family Activities - Weekend One & Two - All Weekend
Your Winterfest Button gets you access to all of our popular Kids Activities at Winterfest - Snowflake Lane, Horse Carriage Rides, Apple Bin Train Rides and the Ice Slide.

To purchase tickets, read more on the festival and to find a full schedule of the events visit <https://www.lakechelan.com/winterfest/>

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TRUCK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Asher and Fleet Manager John Goynes traveled to Alabama in order to inspect a possible ladder truck to replace Ladder 71.

Asher reported back on the trip and the ladder truck to the board during the Jan. 9 commissioner meeting.

BEAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

be placed in the library.

Planning Director Craig Gildroy presented a motion consideration for accessory dwelling units. "The proposal revises the existing accessory dwelling code that currently allows attached ADUs within single family zone without a permit and in the downtown attached and detached accessory dwelling units," he said.

The revisions made to the code will provide additional housing options within the City of Chelan, to promote efficient land use by increasing the residential density without extending City's utility and road systems, to provide potential income for property owners, to increase housing including affordable residential units and to provide consistency within the

"John and me went out to Alabama," he said, "the original truck we looked, has a lot of nice features and whatnot, but it was just worn out ... we started looking around other different options that were there and came across a Pierce," reported Asher.

The Pierce ladder truck is three year newer than the original truck. After test driving it, both talked to the sales

man. Overall, "it's a really nice truck ... it meets all of our needs, the community is going to love it," said Asher.

The truck pumps 2,000 gallons per minute and it also comes with a generator. "It makes it an easy truck for us to get some training." However, it doesn't come with a phone system. According to Asher, the truck should arrive sometime in February.

dwelling units in all zoning districts.

"We are using the Downtown code as the base, it has the standard codes in it ... we made some specific requirements in each zone but we point back to the Downtown code," said Gildroy.

Gildroy answered questions and addressed concerns the council had. "It's good, it adds flexibility and options to people and it helps increase density as well diversity," said councilmember Tim Hollingsworth.

After the discussion, the council voted to approve the revised requirements, no one was opposed.

Parks and Recreation Director Karen Sargeant addressed to the council the three year Lake Chelan Sailing Association Marina use agreement.

Most of the agreement is the same, "however, there was a clause put into this

agreement about the storage of the boats ... if the City deems another use more appropriate or beneficial to the City ... the Sailing Association has 60 days to vacay that property," said Sargeant.

The clause was added as a request from the City's administration, "it's giving them enough time for them to come up with a plan of where to store their boats."

Councilwoman Kelly Allen, was not a fan of adding the clause to the agreement.

"This has been an ongoing long relationship that we have had with them and it has value to our community. I feel that if we are going to replace them or utilize that location for other purposes, we should as the City take the responsibility in helping them find another place for those boats ... I want to make sure we are being delicate on this agreement with them,"

Updates on the rescue boat were also given. Lemon informed the board on the great positive feedback from other fire districts on the project. The districts agreed that it was a great project to work towards. Committees will now work on finding different options to fund the project.

To operate boat, Commissioner Russ Jones explained

Allen stated.

The agreement, is a win-win for everyone explained Sargeant. "It's just a matter of covering the City's interest, that's all that is and I have been talking to them in length through the last three years," Sargeant added.

City Administrator Mike Jackson informed the council that the Sailing Association has reviewed and signed the new agreement. With that being said the council moved on and voted on approving the agreement with them with no other questions raised.

Photo courtesy of City of Chelan
Huckleberry Daze, a limited edition bronze sculpture is being offered to the Lake Chelan Arts Council by the artist Jerry McKellar, pictured here with the grizzly bear.

that based on a monthly eight hour use of the boat the annual operation costs is under \$4,000, with an estimated cost to fund the boat of \$18,000.

On Jan. 1, the SAFER grant temporary positions came to an end, leaving CFR with only two full-time staff. Deputy Fire Chief Mark Donnell stated that most of the temporary SAFER grant

firefighters are now back filling in stipend shifts. With the recruit academy starting at the end of the month, both Donnell and Asher believe more people will sign up for those open stipends.

Chelan Fire and Rescue's Award Banquet will be held on Feb. 9 starting at 6 p.m. This year it be taking place at Campbell's Resort.

RESORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

provides accommodations, food and a variety of entertainment for its guests," she said.

On land off of Klata Road, Antheia of Chelan is surrounded on every side by homes, five plus acres resi-

dential lots and orchards. According to Werner, the Ustaniks have proposed 51 structures, 24 glamping sheds including a hotel, a cafe, a store and a special event venue for weddings and concerts.

"Our neighborhood is comprised of families who enjoy outdoor living, who play

outside with their kids and grandkids and we enjoy a quiet peaceful atmosphere," Werner added.

She also expressed her concerns on water usage, traffic impacts, property values, noise pollution, safety, security and health and wellness.

"The only way to oppose a MPR approval ... is to find

a particular code that is in conflict with their submitted MPR plan. We have found several areas that specifically apply to the Antheia MPR proposal," explained Werner.

She also informed the public on the struggles on fighting an MPR. "We've had to learn zoning laws and codes, we've dozens of conversations with

the community development department ... our group of neighbors is working hard to convince the community development department to deny Antheia's MPR application."

Ustanik and Hei then answered questions from the community and also heard their comments both against

and for the proposal. Overall, that night it was clear that the project is a good one, however, it doesn't belong in the agricultural neighborhood of Klata Road according to those who live in the area.

The deadline for comments to Chelan County Community Development on the proposed project was Jan. 10.

Chelan Workforce Housing receives first land donation from The Lookout

SUBMITTED BY RACHAEL GOLDIE, CHELAN VALLEY HOUSING TRUST

CHELAN - Affordable Housing in Chelan has just taken another huge step forward. The Lookout at Lake Chelan, a local vacation and waterfront home community, announced the donation of a two-acre parcel to the Chelan Valley Housing Trust. An expected 15-20 homes can be built with this land on which the nonprofit expects to break ground next summer. These homes will be some of the first few examples of homeownership for the middle and lower incomes that Chelan has seen for some time and is considered an absolute "win" by housing advocates.

"It's another solid sign of progress" says Mayor Mike Cooney, strong supporter of affordable homes and the Chelan Valley Housing Trust. The land donation adds to the group's private cash donations of over \$100,000, including a \$50,000 donation from the Goodfellow Brothers Inc. and Tamar Goodfellow and \$25,000 from Campbell's Resort, according to Cooney. Pledges for another \$50,000 have also been received.



Graphic courtesy of CHELAN VALLEY HOUSING TRUST

An expected 15-20 homes can be built with this land on which the nonprofit expects to break ground next summer.

Chelan Valley Housing Trust is a nonprofit provider of affordable homes that has been brewing since a packed Town Hall on Affordable Housing in January. Although this organization has been gaining ground within the community, this donation is the first promise of a successful project,

and that means a lot to CVHT board and advocates. "There has to be the first win, we need to prove we can do this," says Rachael Goldie, CVHT Administrator.

Lookout representative Ted Schroth is assisting in design and planning. "The Lookout Team is committed to assist

in achieving this solution to workforce housing. We are passionate about the Chelan valley and consider it a privilege to be able to assist in the effort to provide housing for those who live and work here full time," said Schroth.

Since that first town hall, the City of Chelan and local

New office space for Chelan Valley Housing Trust

SUBMITTED BY RACHAEL GOLDIE, CHELAN VALLEY HOUSING TRUST

CHELAN - Chelan Valley Housing Trust has been gaining more and more ground and thanks to the generosity of North Cascades Bank they now have a home to operate in for their first year. Administrator Rachael Goldie couldn't be happier stating "This office space has changed the game for us. A place to meet, work, organize, and brainstorm is exactly what we needed." Next step for this CLT will be finding applicants for their latest land donation of two acres and getting construction going this year.

advocates have been waiting for a defined win, and now they have it. 15-20 homes means Chelan can retain 15-20 families and dedicated employees.

Local cafe and hotel owner, Blaze Dawson, commented; "As small business owners we are glad to see more housing being developed for people that live and work here."

The CVHT's project on the Lookout's two donated acres can take advantage of a recent commitment by North Cascades Bank for \$2,000,000 of construction loan credit. The City of Chelan is considering a \$100,000 fund to subsidize hook-up fees for homes to be built by

the trust and another \$20,000 a year for five years to help defray administration costs for the new organization.

Chelan Valley Housing Trust is a local nonprofit aimed at providing affordable home ownership opportunities and education to low and moderate income households. Their vision is that people who work hard to support our communities and businesses should be able to live in them.

To learn more about the Chelan Valley Housing Trust and how to get involved, contact Rachael Goldie at rachael@chelanvalleyhousing.org.

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Goats battle hard on the court against Bulldogs

SUBMITTED BY JEFF PEARL
CHELAN BOYS BASKETBALL
HEAD COACH

Chelan 70
Cashmere 76

Chelan 14 21 13 22 70
Cashmere 12 12 18 34 76

CHELAN - The Cashmere Bulldogs had a come-from-behind victory over the Chelan Goats 76-70 Saturday night at Chelan High School. In front of a packed crowd the Goats came out ready to

play. Holding the Bulldogs to under 25 first half points. But a 34pt fourth quarter for the Bulldogs lifted them to the win.

Chelan was led by Connor Wilson's 31 pts. Quinn Stamps had 19 and 15 rebs and Cade Christopherson netted 14.

Coach Pearl stated, "Tonight was a great atmosphere in our gym. It

really epitomizes what HS basketball is all about. I thought we had good energy throughout the game. Not too many let downs on the defensive end. We just struggled down the stretch getting stops. They hit some difficult shots in that 4th quarter and unfortunately we had some costly mistakes on our end. I was pleased with our effort, but disappointed we didn't get the result we wanted on the scoreboard."

Lady Goats host Lady Bulldogs in CTL matchup

SUBMITTED BY ROB HUDDLESTON
CHELAN GIRLS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

CHELAN - The Chelan Lady Goats hosted the Cashmere Lady Bulldogs in a CTL matchup. The Goats plan entering the game was the same as every team that plays Cashmere, limit Hailey Van Lith to below her

average and contain their outside shooters. The Goats accomplished the first task and only allowed Van Lith 25 points but Freshman, Riley Johnson, stepped up and sank 4 treys on the night. Cashmere won the game 25-58.

The Lady Goats were led in scoring by Lexie Gleasman with 7 points. Molly Oswald

played tenacious defense and ended the night with 6 points. Booh Huddleston buried the only trey for Chelan and ended with 5 points.

Mate Ivory - 3
Molly Oswald - 6
Booh Huddleston - 5
Hayley Watson - 2
Lexie Gleasman - 7
Ashley Sams - 2



Photos by Diana Piñon
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Bert Mendivil openly shoots on target. The very own Chelan Goat cheered on the teams on Saturday night. Regardless of the seven point loss, the Goats showed great enthusiasm during their game against the Bulldogs. Teegan Silva (30) one-on-one against Ellie Alberts (10). Chelan's Beau Nordby (24) plays defense as she tries to block Cashmere's Hailey Van Lith (11).

Trojans with a road victory

SUBMITTED BY ERIK HELLESON
MANSON BOYS HEAD COACH

SOAP LAKE - The Manson Trojans played inconsistently but pulled out a road victory 61-56 over Soap Lake, on Friday Jan. 11. Bailey Cameron dominated inside with 21 points and Nick Strecker contributed 14.

Lady Trojans fall short to Lady Eagles
Submitted by Pam Banks Manson Girls
Head Coach

SOAP LAKE - The Manson girls team traveled to Soap Lake on Friday night. The girls struggled to score and fell 33-21. Megan Clausen led the Trojans with 16 points and 8 rebounds.

Manson School District Replacement Capital Projects Levy placed on Feb. 12 ballot

SUBMITTED BY
MANSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANSON - The Manson School Board has passed a resolution placing a six-year capital projects levy on the Feb. 12, 2019 ballot. This proposition would replace an expiring capital levy passed by voters in 2013 set to expire on Dec. 31, 2019.

What would this capital projects levy do?

A committee of Manson community and staff members prioritized the following needs:

1. Safety Improvements
 - a. Redesigning and strengthening entrances to both schools
 - b. Replacing doors, adding security cameras
 - c. Replace aging fire suppression panels in each building
 - d. Replace alarm/security panels

2. Early Childhood Center

a. Create a facility designed specifically for 3 & 4 year old children

b. Free-up classroom space in the elementary

i. Addresses need for small group spaces

3. Redesign Elementary Parking/Traffic Area

a. Expand parking for parents/visitors and staff

b. Improve parent drop-off/pick-up location

c. Relocate bus drop-off/pick-up location

4. Replace Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems

a. Majority of systems were installed in 1997-98 remodel

- twenty-year life span is ending

5. Remodel MS/HS student bathrooms

6. Remodel Middle School/High School gymnasiums

a. Replace aging wooden bleachers in MS (old) gym

7. Replace fixtures in both buildings

a. Plumbing, lighting and kitchen appliances

8. Track resurfacing

a. Proactively set aside funds to resurface when it becomes necessary

9. Continue to invest in student technology/equipment

How much will this cost?

- Fixed amount of dollars collected each year (this amount doesn't fluctuate with assessed value changes)

- \$499,000 each year 2020-2025 (Previous capital levy amount was \$595,000 each year (2014-2019))

- Rates per \$1000 of assessed property value

- 2017 \$0.72

- 2018 \$0.65

- 2019 (current) \$0.61

- 2020 (proposed) \$0.49

MSD Replacement Educational Programs, Operation Levy placed on Feb. 12, ballot

SUBMITTED BY
MANSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANSON The Manson School Board has passed a resolution placing a levy proposition on the February 12th 2019 Chelan County special election ballot. If approved, the levy would replace an expiring Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Levy passed by voters in February 2017.

The proposed levy is for 2 years 2020 & 2021 (Manson has historically run 2-year levies).

The current voter approved amount scheduled to be collected this year (2019) is \$1,367,278. The tax rate is \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The proposed amounts are: 2020 \$1,449,314 (\$1.50 per \$1,000) 2021 \$1,536,273 (\$1.50 per \$1,000)

Manson's EP & O levy

funding is approximately 13% of the district's total funding and either fully or partially supports:

- Maintenance of school facilities, including custodial staff, equipment, supplies and utilities

- Instructional programs/staff/technology:

- College courses in the high school

- Preschool for all 4 year olds

- High school internship program

- Support of the arts (music, drama, art)

- Special Education (in addition to state/federal funding)

- Vocational classes (shop, ag classes, business, technology, drones)

- Technology support

- Replacement of computers/devices

- Beyond the School Day Programs

- After school enrichment and academic intervention classes

- Middle/High school athletics (coaches, referees, travel, uniforms, equipment)

- Clubs (pep band, FBLA, FFA, Knowledge Bowl, robotics).

- Food service program (fresh fruit/vegetable snacks)

- Professional development/staff training

Informational meeting Feb. 4

An informational meeting for the public will be held at Manson High School on Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. and additional informational meetings can be scheduled (687-3140).

Information is also available on the district website at www.manson.org including an individual tax calculator where taxpayers can determine their estimated local school tax using their property assessed value amounts.



Photo courtesy of NCWESD
The entire Cinematography class at Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center, Kevin Lyness, is the young man second from left and Seth Gamble is the young man second from right.

NCWESD releases campaign 'See Something, Say Something'

SUBMITTED BY NCWESD

WENATCHEE - The North Central Educational Service District (NCESD) has released a public campaign to raise awareness of student safety. The campaign, called "See Something, Say Something," was developed by the NCESD and created by students in the Cinematography program at the Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center.

The campaign has launched with two brief videos featuring student interviews that share the warning signs of student depression. The purpose is to remind each of us that we are all participants in protecting the safety of our students and schools. The interviews were conducted during the November Career Fair held at Wenatchee

Valley College.

The videos are available to view and access on the NCESD YouTube Channel and can be found directly at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DLmdFOZZfI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvTdc2XiAYY>

"There are a number of examples of someone outside of a school, maybe a parent or a friend, who is alerted to a situation where a student is depressed or may be considering engaging in unsafe behavior. This campaign has been created to remind each of us that we all play a role in ensuring student and school safety. The students who were interviewed are from a variety of North Central Washington schools and share their own thoughts and ideas on what to look for and do if

you recognize concerning behavior," explained NCESD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Price.

The project was led by Kevin Lyness, a senior at Chelan High School and Seth Gamble, a senior at Eastmont High School. Both students are enrolled at Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center.

The North Central Educational Service District is a resource to the 29 districts within the four-county service area, providing professional and timely tools to meet the needs of individual schools and districts, and a reliable point of education-related information for the communities served. The NCESD is a respected resource to other ESDs throughout Washington State.

Horticulture 2019

73rd Lake Chelan Horticulture Day

January 21, 2019

Lake Chelan Horticulture Day in its 73rd year



LCM File Photo

Chris Willoughby, left, and Dan Mogan, middle, both of Manson, talk shop with Luis Guerrero, right, of Johnny's Ladders at the 2017 annual Horticulture Day held at Chelan High School.

Jan. 21 at Chelan High School PAC

BY DIANA PIÑON
STAFF WRITER

CHELAN - For its 73rd year, the Chelan Horticulture Day will take place on Monday, Jan. 21. Chelan Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Washington State University Extension will be co-sponsoring the event, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration, announcements and a FFA introduction.

the opportunity to learn and network by attending nine different panels and presentations offered at Chelan High School throughout Hort Day. The presentations will be given by specialists in 30 minute blocks.

Jan. 21
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Chelan High School
215 Webster Avenue

Vendors will set up shop as part of this year's trade show

See full agenda on page B2

After registration people will have the chance to hear from Hannah Walters on how to manage little cherry virus. Following her presentation, Nick Ibuki will take over and inform the public on the different cherry varieties.

SEE 73RD HORT ON PAGE B2

Water, wages, labor, trade lead 2019 ag agenda

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER - January 2019 is a busy month for Jon Wyss, Government Affairs Analyst for Gebbers Farms as he reviews the lineup of regulatory issues to monitor this year and gets his calendar in order for the many conferences and committees he will attend.

Wyss sits on the American Farm Bureau Labor Committee Board, is vice president of USA Farmers, and serves as chairman of the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group among other duties. In mid-January he was scheduled to speak at an Oregon state labor convention on behalf of the Washington Farm Labor Association.

Recently, Wyss slowed down long enough to discuss some of the pressing developments to watch in the coming months as they relate to local agriculture and horticulture operations. Wyss underscored the topics of water regulation, access to markets, a favorable business climate, and access to labor among the top four categories getting his attention.

WATER
"Water is the lifeblood of everything," said Wyss. "I like to say that the West was settled with water and a gun, and the gun was optional."

Wyss said that Okanogan County and agriculture are going to face a big challenge as the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) is addressed this year. Okanogan County is WRIA 49, one of 62 in Washington state for water resource



Jon Wyss serves as Government Affairs Analyst for Gebbers Farms.

planning and administration. "When they redo the WRIA for all the water, how it gets used in mitigation measures for home and building and construction, the only water to mitigate is ag," Wyss said.

The WRIsAs were established by the Department of Ecology (DOE) after the state Legislature approved the Watershed Management Act in 1998. The state Supreme Court's HIRST decision in October 2016 that restricted the way counties approve new water wells hit hardest in rural counties like Okanogan. Senate bill 6091 passed by the Legislature in January 2018 to ensure water availability to support development was the state's HIRST fix but requires WRIsAs like Okanogan to update their watershed plans in accordance with new guidelines.

Wyss, a member of the all-volunteer 33-person watershed planning unit

SEE WATER ON PAGE B2

A look inside the Viticulture class at Chelan High School

BY DIANA PIÑON
STAFF WRITER

CHELAN - The very first viticulture class in Washington State to be offered to high school juniors and seniors happened in Chelan during the 2017-2018 school year.

Two years previous the class starting, Chelan High School's Associate Principal and CTE Director Crosby Carpenter and Julie Pittsinger, owner of Karma Vineyards got together and brainstormed on the idea of having the kids participate in the thriving industry of wine in Chelan.

Carpenter in 2016, contacted the state's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to share the idea of teaching a plant and soils class and turning it into a viticulture type class.

Interestingly enough the OSPI board was in the process of thinking about writing a viticulture framework. From there Carpenter along with other educators worked on creating standards and units for the class.

"We were the first high school in the state of Washington to roll that out as a full class ... once we knew we were able to run the class we called Julie and other industry partners, Rocky Pond Winery," explained Carpenter.

The class now in its second year, takes place during the first semester of the school year and it's a five days a week class. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the class starts at 7 a.m. and the kids are usually out in the vineyards, production facilities or at the winery.

One of the unique things about being a part of the viticulture class is that it serves as a dual credit for students enrolling at Yakima Valley College. "They get three to five credits as long as they get a B or better," Carpenter said.

The class also gives students a credit equivalency for a science lab class, "it counts as a graduation



Photos courtesy of Chelan High School's Facebook

ABOVE: Viticulture students worked the sparkling wine bottling like at Karma Vineyard's processing facility in Entiat. The wine is fermented in the bottle with the yeast and then the yeasts gets removed in this process, the machine helping put in the final cork to the highly pressurized liquid.

BELOW: Students in Viticulture braved the cold along the Colombia River by removing grow tubes from young grape vine plants. The grow tubes protect the young vines from critters and from farm equipment, as well as holding in moisture and warmth.



requirement," clarified Carpenter.

To Crosby living in Chelan is a unique opportunity. "We can really capitalize on our local resources which are great, without partners

like Rocky Pond and Karma there's no way we would be able to do this," he said.

Rocky Pond has donated a block of land down by the Colombia River which is now the Chelan High School

Viticulture Teaching and Learning Vineyard. So far, the kids have been working on that piece of land. Yet there's a few years ahead before it

SEE CLASS ON PAGE B3

Learning about Chelan's Viticulture Class with April Slagle

BY DIANA PIÑON
STAFF WRITER

CHELAN - Running the Viticulture Class at Chelan High School for the second year is April Slagle. "I had the idea and we had the right person at the right time," said Chelan High School's Associate Principal and CTE Director Crosby Carpenter. Slagle teaches the 14 students who are currently enrolled in the class, throughout the 90 day semester which begins at the end of August and wraps up towards the end of January.

The Lake Chelan Mirror was able to contact Slagle and ask her a couple of questions regarding her Viticulture experiences and the class.

How did you get involved with the Viticulture class?

I have a certification in Agriculture for Career Tech Ed in Washington and Crosby Carpenter asked me if I'd teach it ... said yes.

What is your background in Viticulture?

Very little to begin with

... parents had grapes (Concord) on our farm growing up but not cultivated for wine or juice -- just eating. Learned a lot these two years along with the kids from the really great community partners we have, Rocky Pond and Shane Collins, and Karma Vineyards and Julie Pittsinger. They both help run high class operations that employ lots of local folks and provide interesting opportunities to young folks.



April Slagle, LCSD Viticulture Class teacher

What are some of the things students get to do in the class?

Students get to work alongside the regular workers in the vineyards harvesting grapes, scouting for diseases and pests, learning about the installation and maintenance of vineyards across the span of one year, season to season;

they work in the winery to learn about the processes of taking grapes and making them into wine; they take field trips to visit other local vineyards and wineries, as well as visit 14 Hands Winery in Prosser and the massive

grape orchards in the south of Washington so that they can compare and contrast their experiences; they learn about different careers and jobs that are available in the fields of Viticulture and Enology around the globe by seeing those various people working in those jobs directly or by hearing those in the field talk about people they have hired or they work with in this field.

How do students like the class?

It gets good reviews for the content they are learning. However, some of the kids

don't like getting up early two times per week to go out to the vineyards and wineries generally at 7 a.m. The students do like "doing" the things that they are asked to do in the winery and in the vineyards, whether picking grapes, packing cider, or being a grunt on the sparkling wine bottling line.

How do you think this class will help students in the future?

It introduces them to another career pathway and in this career pathway, there is room for everyone ... from someone who wants to work hands on in farming crops directly to being a sommelier and talking about wine details in upscale restaurants to customer; from planning and preparing for events at the winery to carrying out the science of chemistry and microbiology in the wineries to generate good products; from the art and science of being a winemaker who creates a likable and drinkable product to the business of marketing and selling that product to the world.

73rd Annual Lake Chelan Horticultural Meeting

January 21, 2019 • Chelan High School

Co-sponsored by:
WSU Extension and Chelan High School FFA

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration, Announcements, FFA Introduction
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Managing Little Cherry Virus* – Hannah Walters, Stemilt
- 9:30 – 9:55 a.m. Cherry Varieties – Summerland – Nick Ibuki, Summerland Varieties Corp
- 10:00 – 10:20 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:20-10:50 a.m. Blue Orchard Bees for Improving Pollination* Natalie Boyle, USDA ARS
- 10:50-11:15 a.m. Assembling the Pear IPM Toolbox* Louis Nottingham, Chris Strohm, WSU Extension TFREC
- 11:15 -11:45 a.m. Using Native Covers to Attract Beneficial Predators and Pollinators* – David James, WSU Prosser
- Noon-1 p.m. Lunch: Support Chelan FFA – Join us for Lunch!
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Getting Produce Safety Rule Ready for 2019 – Faith Critzer, WSU Food Safety Specialist
- 1:30-2:00 p.m. d’Anjou Pear Sorting by Predicting Dry Matter and its Effect on Consumer Preference – Sara Serra, WSU Horticulture
- 2:00-2:30 p.m. Blossom Thinning – 50 years of research & reminders – Tory Schmidt, Tree Fruit Research Commission
- 2:30-3:00 p.m. Managing Post Harvest Diseases* – Achour Amiri, WSU Plant Pathology
- 3:00 p.m. Pesticide Credits and Closing

• 3 pesticide education credits will be awarded for program attendance – WSDA approved.
• Extension programs and employment are available without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.
• If you are interested in joining our trade show contact: Bailey Dezzllum dezellemb@chelanschools.org 509-860-1950. Proceeds benefit the Future Farmers of America Scholarship.

said the group is just getting started and is required to have its work completed in 2020. The working group of six principal stakeholders includes municipal water rights holders, tribal, private water rights holders, initiating governments, organizations such as Farm Bureau, well drillers, and Land Trust, and interests such as landowners, timber, and environmental entities.

“It’s going to be a big one to watch for the entire year,” said Wyss. “The Methow (WRIA 48) is fine and was left alone but Ecology has closed the entire French Creek Basin to all wells, including cattle.”

LABOR
“Labor is always a top priority,” said Wyss. “It’s important to remember the economy of scale of what ag creates. For every ag job there are five created down the line.”

Wyss cited the uptick in H-2A applications filed so far this year to illustrate the labor crunch.

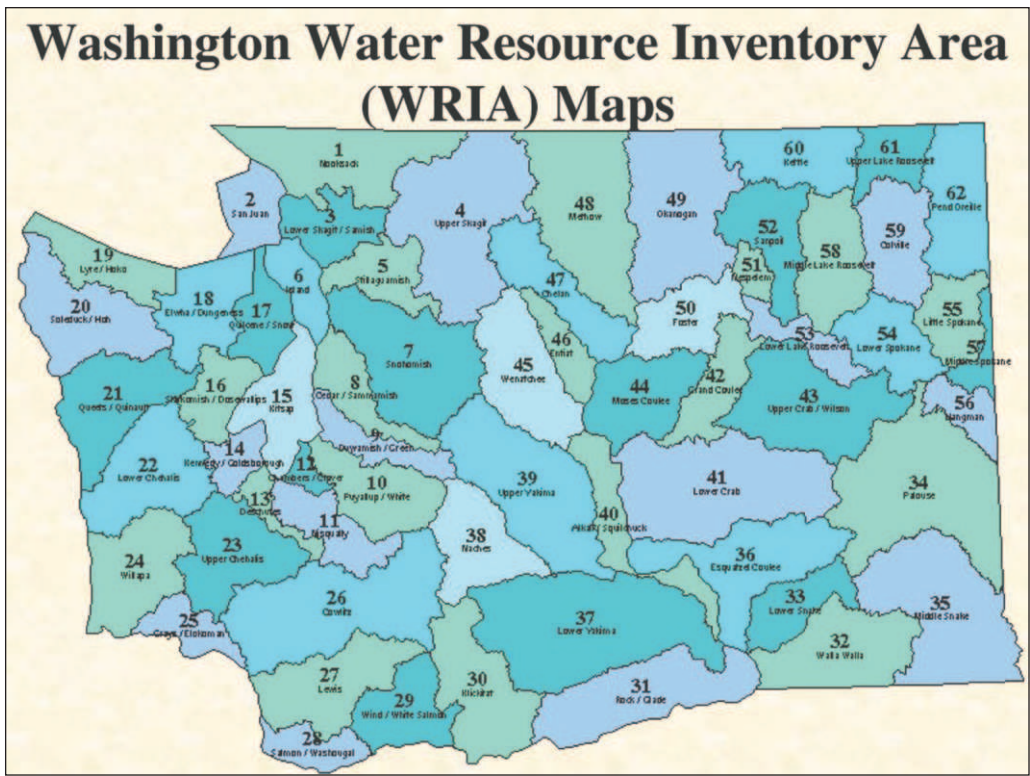
“In 2007 we had 31 applications,” said Wyss. “Right now, there are 65, more than double 2007 in just the first month of the year.”

Wyss said that last year more than 24,000 workers came into the state under the H-2A program, nearly a third of the 96,000 that were needed.

“You can’t even use that (H-2A) program until you get a certificate that says you tried to hire everybody locally within the area of intended employment,” Wyss said.

The growth in the number of applications reflects the growing number of employers who have tried. With unemployment in the state at an all-time low and 315,000 new jobs looking to be filled, “the economy is humming,” Wyss said.

A related concern is a new bill proposed by the Employment Security Department (ESD) that employers using the federal H-2A route pony up an



Map courtesy of Washington State Conservation Commission
Washington state has 62 Water Resource Inventory Areas. Okanogan is No. 49 and Methow No. 48.

additional \$100 per worker and \$1,000 per application to process them.

“If that passes it will be hugely harmful for everyone who tries to use legal labor because it will just add more costs,” said Wyss. “(ESD) already gets money from the federal government to run and manage the program.”

The H-2A guest worker program first appeared in 1952 and was modified in 1986 for uncapped numbers of ag temp workers and capped numbers for other industries. It allows U.S. employers to import foreign nationals to perform full time and season ag work.

WAGES
Initiative 1433 passed by the voters in 2016 raised the minimum wage for both ag and non-ag workers incrementally to \$11.50 in 2018, \$12 in 2019, and \$13.50 in 2020.

“January 1, family medical leave started being withheld from peoples’ paychecks for one year; a portion from both employee and a portion from the employer,” said Wyss. “They will collect all

that money and on January 1 of 2020 they’ll be able to start pulling money from that fund.”

Wyss is also watching what California laws are doing because Washington state often follows suit.

“California did away with the exemption for overtime in agriculture and California agriculture has been decimated from that,” said Wyss who is concerned that the state Legislature may consider a similar measure down the road. “There’s no overtime in ag right now unless you’re handling someone else’s product.”

Wyss said the added expenses are a concern because “prices at the store are not going up to cover the increase in costs.”

TARIFFS & TRADE
Washington is one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation,” Wyss said emphasizing the need for access to markets. “We’re No. 1 in 13 ag commodities and they all get exported whether it be domestic or international.”

Wyss said access to ports

is a critical component of that flow.

“The (2015 West Coast) port shutdown was brutal for ag because they couldn’t move their product” said Wyss “and this year the negotiation is for the New York ports.”

Wyss said tariffs are another big challenge but if future agreements result in terms similar to the reworked North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) the market for ag products should improve apace. Now called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) the new accord increases the hourly wages Mexico is now required to pay its automotive workers to \$16 an hour.

“And the minimum wage is mandated at \$5 an hour,” said Wyss, “Mexico’s never had that.”

Wyss believes the rise in real wages for Mexican workers will reduce the numbers of those coming to the U.S. for work., reduce the need for foreign aid, and increase the demand for U.S. products.

“It fixes a lot of problems,” Wyss said.

Learn why the Douglas County Voluntary Stewardship Program helps you avoid additional regulations

BY AARON ROSENBLUM, WSU

WENATCHEE/EAST WENATCHEE-The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) provides a non-regulatory, incentive-based method of critical area protection on lands that intersect agricultural activities. VSP is an alternative to the traditional method to protect critical areas, which is to enforce regulations adopted

under Critical Area Ordinances of the Growth Management Act (GMA). The five critical areas the GMA identifies are: (1) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (2) wetlands (3) geologically hazardous areas (4) frequently flooded areas (5) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water.

Tree fruit growers of Douglas County, this program affects

you. Want to learn more? Foster Creek Conservation District, in conjunction with the VSP work group, will be available at the following events to meet you and answer your VSP questions:

- Tree Fruit Days (apple and cherry days) at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Come see our booth and visit us during the luncheons.
- Douglas County VSP kick-

off workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Douglas County PUD auditorium located at 1151 Valley Mall Pkwy, East Wenatchee, WA 98802. (RSVPs appreciated but not required)

More information and resources for producers can be found online at <http://www.fostercreekcd.org/programs/voluntary-stewardship-program>

73rd HORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

At 10:00 a.m. there will be a 20 minute coffee break to keep the energy before moving on to Natalie Boyle’s block time. Boyle will hit on the topic of Blue Orchard bees for improving pollination.

From the WSU Extension TFREC Loius Nottingham and colleague Chris Strohm

will transition into talking about the assembly of the pear IPM toolbox.

Continuing on with the WSU presenters, David Hames of Prosser will quickly describe the use of native covers to attract beneficial predators and pollinators.

Lunch will be served in support of Chelan FFA from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Once lunch is over, WSU Food Safety Specialist Faith

Critzer will stand in front of the attendees and present information on getting produce safety rule ready for 2019. Sara Serra also from WSU at 1:30 p.m. will lead her talk titled, “d’Anjou Pear Sorting by Predicting Dry Matter and its Effect on Consumer Preference.”

Tory Schmidt of Tree Fruit Research will be in charge of the second to last presentation. Schmidt will review blossom thinning

after 50 years of research and will go over some reminders.

In the closing session people will learn about managing post-harvest diseases by WSU Plant Pathologist Achour Amiri.

Three pesticide education credits will be awarded for program attendance at the end of the event, followed by closing remarks.

Hort Day at Chelan High School is free of charge and open to the public.

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Photos courtesy of Chelan High School's Facebook
ABOVE: Viticulture students presenting their ideas for Cider labels at Karma Vineyards. Students were learning the legal requirements for marketing wine and hard cider, as well as designing their own labels for non-alcoholic cider that Karma will donate to the Viticulture students as a fundraiser. Pictured presenting is Martin Castro, Lucas and Alex Neri, as well as Pam the district viticulture bus driver.
BELOW: Viticulture students gained knowledge on sparkling wine at Karma Vineyard's processing facility in Entiat.



CLASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
 starts to bear fruit.

"I committed to being there a couple days a week in the mornings and walk the kids through everything," said Pittsinger.

As she describes, "they get to witness the whole picture from beginning to end." From the growing to picking, to the cultivating of the vines, the crushing of the grapes and everything in between to the marketing side Pittsinger is there to teach the kids.

Pittsinger is in charge of the practical work and allows the kids to have hands on experiences. For example, the kids in the viticulture class get to draw bottle labels which then are submitted to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB).

Seeing kids find a passion is why Pittsinger does this, "life is about finding something that keeps you up at night that is so exciting."

Learning about the industry opens a lot of doors to many of these kids in the future, "there are 37 potential jobs at my winery that they can do,



Crosby Carpenter, Chelan High School's Associate Principal and CTE Director from accounting all the way to wine making ... they had no idea that those were the opportunities," said Pittsinger.

She says her goal as a partner to the Lake Chelan School District is to get the kids to see the true vision of what the wine industry is.

The class has also participated in field trips to other local wineries in which they get to hear the story behind the winery and see other business perspectives.

Carpenter would like the viticulture class to grow into another class that is more science focused in which kids will get the chance to understand fermentation and the science behind it. "We are waiting to see where this is going to go," he said.

A mother, daughter duo talks agriculture

By KALIE DRAGO
 STAFF WRITER

PESHASTIN - Circa 1905, a family business was planted and now over a hundred years later, Teri and Rachel Miller are two women who keep the Miller Orchard prospering. Teri married Charles Miller in 1983, who was the fourth generation to run the orchard and Rachel is their daughter, which makes her the 5th generation to operate the orchard.

During May through November the farm is open to any guests who want to purchase produce from local asparagus, apples, pears, cherries, nectarines, plums and eggs - and have the luxury of getting greeted by the family's dogs.

"My favorite group of visitors are the AKC dog people and seeing all of the unique breeds, we're dog people," said Rachel.

The duo not only shares a love for dogs, but simultaneously answered their favorite perk of running the orchard

"(What I enjoy most about running the orchard) is being your own boss and meeting diverse groups of people," said Teri.

Despite being a historically male dominated industry,



Rachel (left) and Teri (right) Miller smile in front of their fruit stand.

Photo by Kalie Drago

there are now more women in farming and agriculture than ever, Miller women included.

"(For young women wanting to go into agriculture) go for it, study STEM related programs. It's a hard industry to get into," said Teri Miller.

Rachel is no stranger to studying her trade and all the components within it. She followed in her father's footsteps and studied at Washington State University. Rachel also got

the jump on her agriculture profession when she was younger by going to the local farmers market and selling cherries, eggs and eventually brought along chicks because her eggs were selling out so quickly - she was one of the first ones in the state to sell eggs at a farmers market.

"It can be a steep learning curve. It's trial and error and it's a lifestyle," said Rachel.

Rachel doesn't tolerate

errors when it comes to food safety though. She travels to farms and performs audits regarding food safety.

"It's my way of giving back to the industry in the area, to become an auditor," said Rachel. "Farmers are happy when I show up."

With 30 acres, a lot of diligence studying farming and apparent passion for what they do, the mother daughter duo clearly are invested in their business and agriculture as a whole.

DW Orchards: husband and wife duo first generation farmers

SUBMITTED BY
 KATHY DRINKWATER,
 DW ORCHARDS

ORONDO - I grew up in Manson, vast majority of work options for kids to make money was local farms; raking brush, thinning, irrigation and harvest help. In the winter I helped my mom after hours cleaning at the Manson Growers apple warehouse.

My Husband Earl and I purchased our first two orchards in 1982, Earl was working as a foreman for local Grower Harold Hawkins and I was working in banking at Central Washington Bank. From there I had the great opportunity to help start a new bank in town with a focus to service and support local area farmers, North Cascades National Bank until retiring at the end of 2000.

Earl and I are first generation farmers, we always wanted to stay in the Lake Chelan area, at that time we believed our best option for success was to buy and control our own farming operation.

In 1989, we purchased an



Kathy and Earl Drinkwater with their kids Laurel and Adam at the farm.

Submitted by Kathy Drinkwater

orchard and land to develop and moved from Chelan to Douglas County on the Columbia River near Orondo where we have worked over the years planting, grafting and growing several different varieties of apple and cherries while raising our two kids Adam and Laurel.

At DW Orchards, we currently have four full-time employees, this increases to between eight and 15 during the growing season.

Our goal is to farm profitably and someday debt free,

hopefully while maintaining a healthy quality of life, which includes lots of play time with our new first grandbaby Jillian.

I have great opportunity to work with women and men in our industry developing my positions as a local farmer, Chelan Fruit Cooperative Board Member and as a contractor helping farmers comply and deal with internationally required Global Gap Inspections and compliance for farms and

farmers.

I believe there is tremendous opportunities for young women and young men as long as they are willing to work. Earl and I started our working life doing what it takes to get the job done, that's how we raised our two children. We started with regular jobs and worked our way into a quality of life we are proud of. We had great mentors, advisors and help along the way. When the opportunity becomes available to us we pay that help forward.

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North Central Washington Packing Sheds

Blue Bird Inc.

A peek inside the 105 year old fruit packer - Blue Bird Inc.

BY KALIE DRAGO
STAFF WRITER

PESHASTIN / WENATCHEE - There is no shortage of fruit, fruit stands or fruit packers in the Upper Valley. And celebrating its 105th anniversary is a local fruit packer - Blue Bird Inc. has been around since 1913 in the original location in Peshastin. Formerly known simply as Peshastin Fruit Growers, in the mid to late 1990s, the company decided to rebrand as the well known Blue Bird Inc.

The main corporate location has remained in Peshastin despite evolving into a large scale corporation with additions and tweaks over the years. One major addition to the company was a Wenatchee plant where the dedicated organic line is. The plant also houses the cherry line.

Blue Bird has not only kept business stable over the course of time, but has kept business flourishing and expanding. In 2018, combining conventional and organic products, the



Photo by Kalie Drago
Pears being rinsed off before heading to the next step prior to be packed.

company sold 1.8 million pears and 1.5 million apples. In the past 2018 summer, the company packed 1.1 million cherries. Also not to be forgotten, is that in the summer Blue Bird also packs some apricots as well.

According to President Ron Gonsalves, the company has a total of 250 growers that they service along with non-member growers that

also contribute additional numbers.

"Those growers geographically range from the Canadian border all the way to Southern Washington, Oregon border," said Gonsalves.

With an impressive line of pears, apples and cherries along with packing a full line of organics as well, the oldest co-operative in Central Washington stays



flushed with business. Taking a glance around the boxes loaded up, waiting to be transported to customers, some are labeled to places as far as Mexico, New York, Ohio and Miami, Florida.

Blue Bird has just shy of 3,000 acres in production to represent the 250 growers. Gonsalves also noted that the co-op also owns orchard as well so they own and farm a total of about 1,100 acres of orchard, most of it being organic pears and apples.

Blue Bird employs year round at the Peshastin location nearly 270 workers that are full-time and work throughout the seasons. Packers, truck drivers and the line employees are a large part of what keeps Blue Bird moving effectively and productively.

"What I think makes Blue Bird so successful is our core group of growers. We have many are third or fourth generation growers and so it's that dedication to quality and dedication to farming here in the Upper Valley and throughout the state," said Gonsalves. "I think what really makes Blue Bird unique is that core group of growers and that commitment they have to be successful growers."

Auvil Fruit Company/Gee Whiz



Photo courtesy of Auvil Fruit Company Facebook
Packing facility of Auvil Fruit Company Inc.

ORONDO - Auvil Fruit Company Inc. established in 1928, grows, packs and ships their own fruit all by one grower. With 1,800 acres in production and a peak number of 1,000 employees in 2018, 2.2 million boxes of apples and 100 thousand boxes of cherries were produced.

Company Overview: Grady Auvil, Founder of Auvil Fruit Company, brought passion and vision together to produce world-class fruit with exceptional flavor. This blend propelled the company forward and dramatically influenced the entire industry for generations yet to come. Grady is recognized for introducing Granny Smiths, establishing M26 root stock, and fostering quality production of Fuji Apples in Washington state. He also



pioneered the successful marketing of Rainier Cherries.

Along with establishing new fruit varieties, Grady earned a reputation for innovative farming practices that created benefits for growers throughout the industry. Grady's achievements left an enormous footprint in the fruit industry and his visionary practices continue to anchor the production of every piece of Gee Whiz Fruit grown today. Thanks to Grady, flavor is our North Star and our people are the compass, still holding us true to his vision.

Manson Growers



Photo by Manson Growers Coop's Facebook
Stacks of Manson Growers boxes in the warehouse.

MANSON - Manson Growers was established in 1959, and employees 120 people during the peak harvest season. With 90 growers from Quincy to Tonasket, mainly from the Lake Chelan Valley they have 2,500 producing acres. 1.5 million boxes of apples were packed in 2018.

Company overview: Over 100 years ago, Manson Growers' families discovered the world's greatest place to grow apples. Today, Manson Growers' 4th and 5th generation growers continue the tradition of sharing Washington's finest with the world.

Manson Growers is a cooperative with packing, shipping, and sales operations located in the Lake Chelan valley, which primarily focuses on fruit sales to export markets.

Manson Growers has always valued the contribution from its growers, its employees, and its buyers to build a world-class brand.

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North Central Washington Packing Sheds

Chelan Fruit Cooperative

CHELAN - Chelan Fruit Cooperative established in 1923, is a 300-member, grower-owned cooperative based in North Central Washington. Its roots are in three former regional cooperatives: Trout, Inc, Blue Chelan, Inc, and MAGI, Inc.

Grower members elect a Board of Directors which guides and directs the management of the warehouse. Chelan Fresh Marketing markets the boxes produced annually at Chelan Fruit's six production plants. In 2018, 4 million apple boxes, 1.5 million boxes of pears and 1.5 million boxes of cherries were produced.

Currently Chelan Fruit receives and produces bins of conventional and organic apples, pears, cherries, plums and pluots from 12,750 acres located from the Canadian border south to Central Washington. They employ 600 employees, peaking at 1,600 employees during cherry season.

Trout Incorporated was incorporated in July 1921 as Lake Chelan Fruit Growers by eight growers. In 1921,

fruit was hand sorted and packed, then shipped in one bushel wood boxes with labels glued on the ends identifying whose fruit was in the box. The Trout label is now a collector's item. K.J. Hendershott was appointed manager of Trout, Inc. in 1921, and led the organization until 1966. To recognize his years of service a scholarship fund to further education in the agriculture industry has been established in his name.

Blue Chelan Incorporated was established in 1942 as Chelan Manson Fruit Cooperative by 26 local growers. At that time they brought in approximately 160,000 boxes of apples at each warehouse.

It took nearly 100 days to pack all the apples produced. Each year's crop had to be packed and shipped in a maximum of four months because apples could not be kept and stored beyond that time. Therefore, from January to August each year, the warehouse would virtually shut down until the new crop was delivered.

In September of 1995, Trout, Inc. and Blue Chelan, Inc. merged to form Trout-Blue Chelan, Inc., the largest apple packing cooperative in the world.

Mutual Apple Growers Incorporated (MAGI) was established in 1937 when a



Photo courtesy of Chelan Fruit Facebook
Boxes of packed apples with the Trout label, which is now collector's item.

dozen growers got together and formed Brewster Cooperative Growers. In 1969 a merger of Brewster Cooperative Growers together with Mutual Apple Growers formed the Brewster Mutual Growers Association. In 1974 Omak Fruit Growers merged with the Brewster Mutual Growers Association which

resulted in the official name change to MAGI.

MAGI continued to grow with the addition of Caribou Growers in 1987, Star Crisp Growers, Inc. of Okanogan in 1989, and Crisp N' Spicy Growers in 1998, resulting in their largest crop of 240,000 bins. In 2004, MAGI merged with Trout-Blue Chelan, Inc.

Little Wing Farm



CHELAN - Jim and Carmela Cook owners of Little Wing Farm started their agricultural adventure in Orondo, Wash. in 1977. Ten years later, in 1986, both moved to the Lake Chelan region where in 2005 they established their little organic farm. The Cooks own and operate two-acres of land, in it they grow organic tree fruit. Seven thousand pounds of cherries, apricots, peaches, apples, pears and grapes are produced each year. Jim and Carmela sell their produce during the summer months at Columbia City Farmers Market in Seattle.

See more NCW Packing Shed Profiles on page B6



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NCW Tree Fruit Days Jan. 17-21, Feb. 5

SUBMITTED BY TIANNA
DU PONT, WSU TREE
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NCW - Join us for WSU Tree Fruit Extension Programs in North Central Washington on Jan. 17, 21, and February 5, 2019.

Co-sponsored by Northwest Cherries, Pear Bureau Northwest, NCW Fieldmen's Association, Chelan Future Farmers

of America and the Okanogan Horticultural Association. These events provide the latest research-based information on horticulture, pest and disease management. We hope you will join us to network and learn this winter.

For agendas and additional information visit treefruit.wsu.edu/events

Pesticide update credits will be awarded for program attendance 2-3 credits per

session dependent on WSDA approval. No pre-registration required for sessions.

North Central Washington Apple Day

Thursday, January 17, 2019, 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Wenatchee Convention Center. Co-Sponsored by WSU Extension and NCW Fieldmen's Association. Topics include: Horticulture for WA38 and other New Varieties; Learning from Recent Research - Respiration and Stem Clipping in WA38; Nutrient Absorption and Distribution in WA38, Honey Crisp, Gala, Fuji and Granny Smith; WA38 Horticulture Research Update; Getting Produce Safety Rule Ready for 2019; Old Diseases New Viruses; Codling Moth Management; Evaluating Fire Blight Cultivar Susceptibility; Fire Blight - Using Apogee and Regalia at Pink to Reduce Flower Infections; Fire Blight Management. Agenda at <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/ncw-apple-day-2/>

Lake Chelan Horticultural Day

Monday, January 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Chelan High School. Co-sponsored by WSU Extension and Chelan Future Farmers of America. Topics include: Managing Little Cherry Virus; Cherry Varieties - Summerland; Blue Orchard Bees for Improving Pollination; Pear IPM; Using Native Covers to Attract Beneficial Predators and Pollinators; Getting Produce Safety Rule ready for 2019; d'Anjou Pear Sorting by Predicting Dry Matter and its Effect on Consumer Preference; Blossom Thinning - 50 years of research and reminders; Managing Post Harvest Diseases Agenda at <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/chelan-hort-day-2019/>

Okanogan Horticultural Society Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 Agriplex, Omak, Wash. Co-Sponsored by Okanogan Horticultural Society. Topics include: Sterile codling moth distribution in the orchard; Sterile Insect Release for Codling

Moth Control; Getting to Know the Good Guys in our Orchards; Secondary Pest Update: Apple Maggot, Clear Wing, Apple Leaf Curl Midge, BMSB; Cherry Powdery Mildew Management and Fungicide Resistance Results; Fire Blight Common Questions and Answers; Afternoon Spanish Session: Manejo de Fuego Bacteriano* (Fire Blight Management); Cuidando su Salud en la Huerta* (Pesticide Safety); Palomilla de Manzana* (Codling Moth Management); Conociendo los Insectos Buenos en la Huerta* (Getting to Know the Good Guys in our Orchards). Agenda at <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/okanogan-horticultural-meeting/>

For more information visit treefruit.wsu.edu/events or contact Tianna DuPont tianna.dupont@wsu.edu (509) 293-8758. Extension programs and employment are available without discrimination. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local extension office.

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Founded: 1973
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Gebbers Farms



Location: Brewster
Acreage: 10,000-plus
Product: Apples, cherries, pears
Sales: Chelan Fresh Marketing, LLC

Gold Digger Apples
Founded: 1938
Location: Oroville
Product: Apple, pears, cherries, grapes
Sales: Chelan Fresh Marketing, LLC

Honey Bear Growers



Founded: 2004
Location: Brewster
Product: Apples

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