



## 2018 A YEAR IN REVIEW

### Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz visits Chelan



Photo by Diana Piñon

**Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz speaking about how the DNR has been preparing for the upcoming fire season.**

By Diana Piñon, Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – This wildfire season is predicted to be a very significant one coming ahead. Since January 1, 386 wildfires have already been reported, breaking previous records. The Chelan area has been impacted by a few of those wildfires and the current dry conditions have local, state and federal fire agencies ready to fight them together.  
 Department of Natural Resources Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and the DNR staff held a Town Hall Meeting on June 27 at the Chelan Senior Center.  
 Chelan was one of the six cities Franz visited in order to prepare and engage the public on the fire season soon approaching.  
 "We had more snow and rain that we might of had in 2014 and 2015. The snow and rain that we got were at higher elevations which left many of lower elevations still very dry. May was the driest on record for our state," said Franz. Due to this, the DNR has recognized the severity of the situation and the likelihood of significant fires in the Chelan Valley area.

### Chelan Valley Housing Trust in need of donations

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – Rachael Goldie, Mayor Mike Cooney and City Councilman Tim Hollingsworth have been working together in order to create affordable housing for the community and now run the Chelan Valley Housing Trust.  
 Back in spring, Goldie and Hollingsworth attended the Community Land Trust Conference. Community Trust is known for developing single family homes and have been successfully running for over 50 years.  
 "In that gathering we learned so much, we thought that this is the market we are missing here, single family homes, it's what people are asking for. It is the only thing that doesn't have an organization working towards it so we figured that's where we would start," said Goldie.

### Thurman named MHS principal

Submitted by Manson School District  
**MANSON** - The Manson School Board has approved the hiring of Mr. Shawn Thurman to fill the position of Manson High School Principal. Don Vanderholm served as Manson High School Principal for 11 years prior to accepting the Lind/Ritzville Superintendent position for the 2018-19 school year.

### Kiwanis annual barbecue fundraiser sells out

Submitted by John Haggerty, Manson Kiwanis  
**MANSON** - Manson Kiwanis held its 36th annual Independence Day Chicken Barbecue at the Manson Grange Hall on Sunday, July 1. Starting at noon, the club's members and friends served over 300 meals of barbecued chicken with baked beans, French bread, coleslaw and beverages over four hours, wrapping up at 4 in the afternoon.

### Fire Levy Lid Lift causes commotion

By Diana Piñon, Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – Community members came together at the July 11 Chelan Fire and Rescue Commissioner meeting to share their opinions on the Fire Levy Lid Lift rejection in the spring.  
 In summary, the property tax lid lift was placed on the April 24 ballot. Which would increase the tax rate to \$1.32 per \$1,000 of the value of a residence. Since this tax lid lift did not get approved by the voters, the Fire District was affected by losing \$863,052 which will cause the level of services in the District to decrease. The public had lots to say to the commissioners. More than a handful of people spoke their minds on the subject which it is of major concern to them. In general, the community members present all agreed that cutting staff members by half is a crucial factor that will affect Chelan as a whole.

### Pops in the Park - Lake Chelan Bach Fest



Photos by Diana Piñon

**Chelan Riverwalk Park Pavilion was the stage for the Pops in the Park concert, which was the final concert of the Lake Chelan Bach Fest - from Bach to Pop. On Saturday evening, June 14 hundred's of people showed up to the Pavilion to**

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# Chelan Valley Housing Trust talks layouts for future homes

By DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

**CHELAN** – Members of the Chelan Valley Housing Trust board, engineers and architects came together to determine layouts and footprints of the future affordable neighborhood, on Monday, Dec. 17.

The group met for majority of the day at Campbells' River Room. The day started with introductions from those present and a brief explanation as why they were part of the project.

Recently retired Director of Sales and Marketing for Campbell's Resort Clint Campbell was one of the 12 people in the room.

"I'm excited to be involved with this group that seems to have the passion and expertise to help solve our community's housing crisis at this point in time, here and now," he said.

After introductions, Murray Hutchins of GCH Architects went over the goals for the day.

Hutchins explained that the site where these homes will be built is by The Lookout. The ideal goal is to integrate the affordable homes to the Lookout development. "It sets an example for others," he said.

However, for a while the residences will stand on their own while The Lookout continues to develop.

The land donated by The Lookout is right next to Manson Highway and to the side of a storage facility.

"There is a 10 foot grade change across the whole site, which is about a six percent



Photos by Diana Piñon

**Mike Johnson of Nash Architects presenting the cottage style homes.**

slope," Hutchins reported. Hutchins wanted to receive input from attendees, so he then asked questions related to the home buyers, homes, neighborhood and so on.

Based on the feedback it was determined that the sites would be small homes with open space for young professionals, seniors, young families or first time buyers with an income of up to \$50,000 a year.

It was also determined that the homes would be for single families with one, two or maybe 3 bedrooms. This way the neighborhood is diverse and it

gives stability to owners over a few years. Hutchins and Mike Johnson from Nash Architects went ahead and designed a couple layouts to present to the attendees.

Johnson presented three basic home footprints that are more of a cottage style home and could potentially cost an estimated \$200,000 based on the income of the buyers.

The size of the cottages would range anywhere from 800 square feet to 1,200 square feet, with two or three bedrooms and the possibility for a fourth one if needed.

Hutchins then talked about four different layouts for the site itself. The options presented green area with remote parking space. Based on the layouts only 17 homes could be constructed.

The final design has not yet been determined. This meeting served as a stepping stone and a lot more has to be finalized for all the details for the new neighborhood in Chelan.

For more information on Chelan Valley Housing Trust go to [www.facebook.com/chelanvalleyhousing/](http://www.facebook.com/chelanvalleyhousing/) or email them at [info@chelanvalleyhousing.org](mailto:info@chelanvalleyhousing.org)



Mirror File Photo

**Echo Valley Ski and Tubing area will be open everyday through the holiday to Jan. 6; and will be open weekends and holidays after January 6 thru Presidents Day Weekend (Monday, Feb. 18.)**

## Echo Valley Ski and Tubing area has officially opened for the season

By DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

**CHELAN/MANSON** - Echo Valley Ski & Tubing Area is now open. The slopes were officially open for the season on Thursday, Dec. 27.

They will be open everyday through the holiday to Jan.

6; and will be open weekends and holidays after January 6 thru Presidents Day Weekend (Monday, Feb. 18.)

At the moment the Poma will remain closed due to the lack of snow. The ropes and

SEE ECHO VALLEY ON PAGE A2

## Local homeowners will pay less for hospital bonds than projected

SUBMITTED BY LAKE CHELAN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

**CHELAN** – A recent drop in interest rates means tax savings for local homeowners, who will pay approximately 33 cents per thousand for 25 years on the community's new hospital building project. This is both a lower amount and a shorter time period than anticipated.

When the capital bond measure was passed by almost 65 percent in 2017, the hospital district projected voters would pay a rate of 38 cents per thousand for 30 years. A 4.55 percent interest rate secured by the District in December allows the hospital to pass savings on to taxpayers.

"If a home is valued at \$300,000, the owner will pay just under \$100 a year," explained Jim Nelson, Bond Underwriter, from D.A. Davidson, at December's Lake Chelan Community Hospital & Clinics (LCCHC) Board meet-

ing. Taxpayers will begin paying for the project in 2019.

"We are very pleased to have the bonds for our new hospital come in under the originally projected amount," said Mary Signorelli, LCCHC Board Chair. "It was the Board's priority to minimize cost to the taxpayers as much as possible on this project, and this is very good news for property owners in our Hospital District."

In April 2017, local voters voted to approve the bond measure for \$20 million to help fund construction of the new hospital facility. The remaining project costs will be funded by LCCHC, with loans from USDA, grants and the Lake Chelan Health & Wellness Foundation.

The LCCHC Board anticipates breaking ground on the new building in fall of 2019, with occupancy in 2021. It will be built on hospital-owned property at Chelan Apple

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**2018 YIR**

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see the Festival Orchestra perform under the direction of conductor of Dan Baldwin.

**Old orchards affect modern day Manson**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**MANSON** – On Tuesday July 17, Manson Community Council held its monthly meeting. Manson Soil Contamination regulations were up for debate as well other relevant topics to the community. Present were Chairman Kim Ustanik, Vice Chair Kathy Blum and Council Member Kathy Miller, along with six community members. In previous meetings the council was presented with two documents provided by local Don Cullison on lead arsenate in the area's soil. A major concern is the health of people living in houses built on contaminated land. ChelanMan multi-sport race celebrates 11th year Swimmers participating in the ChelanMan Multisport Weekend Saturday, July 21 at Lakeside Park in Chelan wait their turn. People of all ages participated and showed their skills in swimming, biking and running on Saturday and Sunday.

**Chelan Fire Commissioners call Special Meeting to decide staffing for 2019**  
*Set Special Meeting/Public Forum for August 6 to discuss levy lid lift*

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – The future of Chelan Fire and Rescue personnel is not yet written. The Fire Commissioners did not come to an agreement after Chief Tim Lemon presented them with different 2019 Staffing Model options at the July 25 Commissioners Workshop. As requested in the July 18 workshop, Lemon provided the commissioners with a document which listed different options regarding 2019 staffing models in full detail.

**Area fires keep firefighters busy**



Photo by RuthEdna Keys

**Fire Bosses, which hold up to 800 gallons in their pontoons, attacked the Chelan Hills fire on Friday evening, July 27, collecting the water from the lower end of Lake Chelan. Those recreating on the lake are encouraged to stay out of the way when they see planes and helicopters dipping water from any body of water. Drones are also asked to stay out of airspace around any fire.**

By Lake Chelan Mirror staff  
**CHELAN** - Area firefighters from local fire districts, as well as those from around Washington state, have been busy since Friday, July 27 with several fires in area.

**Rep. Mike Steele a City Champion Award recipient**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) awarded Rep. Mike Steele a City Champion Award in an evening reception on July 30 at Chelan City Hall Council Chambers. Chelan Mayor Mike Cooney said a few words before presenting Steele with the award. "I know where Mike Steele started, Manson, and the small town attributes have served him well advocating for the cities ... you're a very strong voice for the cities in the state legislature. We are very proud of you, we are very proud that you represent the 12th District," said Cooney.

**Helping the Valley, one child at a time**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – To serve, empower and advocate for Lake Chelan Valley youth, that is the mission Thrive Chelan Valley is little by little accomplishing. The 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization started back in 2013 after Refuge, Bridges and the Teen Center all joined forces to help the youth. From there Thrive Chelan Valley was born. Fast forward to today, Thrive runs three different programs that help students reach their full potential.

**Senior Living Initiative wraps up summit planning**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – Members of the Senior Living Initiative met at the PUD conference room on Wednesday, August 15 to finalize planning for the upcoming summit in late September. The SLI has reserved the Senior Center for the summit on September 26. A flyer and post card invitations have been designed and soon the post cards will be sent out to 200 community members.

**Living the dream: The Grandpa Project**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – Have you ever had a vision for something and suddenly an indescribable dream questions that vision and makes you wonder whether your vision can actually become a reality? Well, that happened to Rod Brooks as he developed The Grandpa Project. About eight years ago Brooks, was very out of shape, not only health wise but also fitness wise. During that same time period Brooks had five grandchildren, three of those grandchildren were from his older son who one day visited Brooks' house here in Lake Chelan. During his son's time in Chelan, both of them had a conversation that would change Brooks life. "He said, you know that you told me that your father never met his grandpa, you told me that you never met your grandpa and I am your oldest son and your father, my grandpa, passed away when I was just a baby, so I never knew my grandpa. That's three generations of our family that never knew their grandpa, I have given you three grandchildren and all are very young and they are going to want to know you, but they do not get a vote. You have to be here, so if you do not take care of yourself and if you aren't able to be here then they won't know you either." That day Brooks set himself a personal goal, because this generational problem had to stop with him. "I not only need to be here, but I want to be vibrant, healthy and able to play with them, to know them, to teach them things, and to love them."

**It's all about science: How a genetic test helped Linda Rau recover her health**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**MANSON** – After going to eight doctors, several of them specialists and not finding the cause to her multitude of health issues, Linda Rau decided to take the 23andMe genetic test. Living with the best possible health has always been a personal goal for Rau for the last 30 years. However, her health deteriorated in June of 2015, "I began experiencing a myriad of health issues, which altered the way I had to live my life on a daily basis."

**Chelan Basin Conservancy joins Earthjustice on SEPA fight**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – A little over two months ago, the City of Chelan proposed to raise applicability thresholds for project review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). With this change, certain proposed residential developments on contaminated old orchard lands could avoid SEPA review and avoid addressing potential lead and arsenic contamination in the soil. In response, local residents contacted the Earthjustice office in Seattle to alert them on this issue, under the belief that this proposal violated SEPA regulations. Earthjustice, the largest nonprofit environmental law organization in the country, agreed to submit public comments against the proposed increases in SEPA applicability thresholds by the City of Chelan.



Photo by Diana Piñon

**The White Rabbit is magical, she appears out of nowhere and has the time of her life dancing with the Woodstock crowd.**

**A smoke, rain-free Woodstock Concert**

By Diana Piñon, Staff writer  
**CHELAN** - The 49th anniversary of Woodstock benefit fundraiser for Chelan Valley Hope was held on Saturday, August 25 at Campbell's Resort Ballroom. Dressed in tie dye people were able to enjoy door prizes, costume prizes, food and music from Woodstock. The event turned out to be better than expected, regardless of venue changes. "Moving the event last minute is a challenge ... it is a really hard thing to do, I was nervous about," said Catharine Morehead. The ballroom was a donation from the Campbell family. "The Campbell's were profoundly receptive," when Morehead had a talk with them about securing a space for the event at the resort. The smoke from the nearby fires didn't allow for the event be outdoors. On top of that, the Saturday rain would've made it difficult for the attendees to stay put for the four hour concert.

**New Chelan Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA Advisor**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – After teaching for seven years away from home in East Wenatchee and Oregon, Bailey Dezellem found her way closer to her family in Brewster, as the new CTE Agriculture Education teacher and FFA Advisor for Chelan High School. "A couple of people in the community asked me to apply and kept asking me to apply. I met a lot of the kids, I've known them through fairs and it's a smaller community which I really like. It's a good fit from Brewster and East Wenatchee," she said.

**From Government teacher to School Resource Officer**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN/MANSON:** Deputy Nigel Hunter is the new School Resource Officer for the Lake Chelan and Manson School Districts. Deputy Hunter has been serving both school districts since the start of the new school year. He has been involved in law enforcement for three years. "I started in 2001, I started in Oregon, then down to California and back up here in Washington. I was coaching and I was teaching and that was something I really enjoyed, but as I was teaching government I came to appreciate better the role of law enforcement in American society," said Deputy Hunter.

**Chelan Fire and Rescue reduces on duty career staffing in 2019**

Submitted by Chelan Fire & Rescue  
**CHELAN** - Chelan Fire and Rescue will not be retaining the six SAFER Grant Firefighter/EMT positions after funding runs out on December 31, 2018. This will reduce the career duty shift staff from 12 (four per shift) employees back to six firefighters (two per shift), which provides two career firefighter on-duty 24 hours a day 87% of the time.

**Sen. Hawkins second annual Listening Tour visits Chelan**



Photo by Diana Piñon

**Sen. Brad Hawkins and Chelan mayor Mike Cooney had a discussion about affordable housing in Chelan and Manson areas.**

By Diana Piñon Staff writer  
**CHELAN** – Visiting Chelan for his second annual listening tour was Sen. Brad Hawkins. On the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 12. Hawkins met with Chelan Mayor Mike Cooney, Lake Chelan School District officials, Chelan Fire District officials, the Seven Acres Group and citizens of Chelan. "It has been really good just to hear from everybody. We talked about school funding, we talked about wildfires, affordable housing and other important issues to the community here," said Sen. Hawkins. This year was a great turnout for the Listening Tour, "we came a little early and extended the time and stayed a little bit later."

**Matt Brown represents the North Central Region in Olympia**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**MANSON** – Manson Secondary School's music teacher Matt Brown was selected as Regional Teacher of the Year back in May and earlier this month he traveled to Olympia to compete for State Teacher of the Year. Nine people from around the state were selected as Teachers of the Year for their particular region and they were all present in Olympia for four days. The nominees had to give TED talk and answered questions in front a panel. "They were amazing people," said Brown "all nine us just greeted each other and shared ideas, we shared energy, something that we all shared was the passion for teaching," he added.

**Servicemen, women, first responders honored**



Photo by Diana Piñon

**From right to left: Charlie Brown, Tracy Brown, Sam Beazley, Linda Hahn, Verna Grothe, Cole Beazley and Wes Nelson.**

Veterans their families, servicemen and women and first responders, attended the fourth annual appreciation Veteran's of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary #6853 Bar-becue held at Champion Orchards in Manson, in their honor on Sept. 22. Those who were able to attend enjoyed ribs, chicken, beans and cole slaw.

**Locals are willing to buy the Chelan Butte for \$6-7 million**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – Major topics were covered in the Town Hall that took place last Thursday, Sept. 27 at the Chelan Senior Center. That evening the first subject talked about was, "open space, then we are going to talk about housing that is affordable for everyone and then we are going to have a wrap up of the bridge," said Chelan Mayor Mike Cooney. After reading a quote that was suitable for the occasion, Cooney stated, "we are going to specifically talk about the Butte ... the Butte is for sale, there is someone else interested in the Butte and they are asking about price ... I think we are going to get one crack at this and we don't know how." Talks have been going on for a year and a half and it was time to bring it up to the community, "950 acres, the price tag is between \$6 million - \$7 million ... we do not have any proposed development," explained Cooney.

**Senior Living Initiative Summit brings housing experts to Chelan**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – The Senior Living Initiative committee held their second Summit on Sept. 26 at the Chelan Senior Center. Concie Luna opened up the summit by saying, "the input is what drives this whole thing ... with certain amount of anticipation we are going places folks, it's exciting to be on that train with you and see where it is we are going." "I guarantee there is some interesting information we can pull from," said Luna as she presented the two guest speakers. That evening, Catholic Charities Housing Services Director Bryan Ketcham and Architect John Shoemsmith presented on project each of them has worked on before having to with affordable housing for independent living and small house environments for memory care.

**Zero vacancy in Chelan: 80 affordable units needed**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – In March of this year, Julie Brunner got hired by the City and obtained her services as housing consultant in Chelan. On Sept. 25 during the council meeting, Brunner presented the council with the Housing Study Update. Brunner has 25 years of experience in Affordable Housing and her contract with the City will soon come to an end. "There has been a lot of effort and data gone to this and I think you will find it fascinating," stated Chelan Mayor Mike Cooney before Brunner began her presentation. "It's always fun for me to come to a community that I am not so familiar with and become very familiar with it ... I've enjoyed working in Chelan because I come from Orcas Island and we have a lot of similarities in terms of geographic challenges, some distances and a very attractive place to live for most folks," said Brunner. That evening, Brunner went over the Chelan Valley Housing Trust update, housing needs assessment highlights and wrapped it up with some solutions based on her study results.

**Author Dar Williams visits Chelan**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – On Tuesday, Oct. 2, singer/songwriter and author Dar Williams visited Chelan. During her time in town she visited Chelan High School students, facilitated a leadership discussion at City Hall and addressed what she observed in the community. Williams has written many books in which she "explores how communities thrive in the midst of significant change and challenge." In her time spent at City Hall with members of the community, Williams touched on three specific subjects: the charm of a small town, cultural bridges and housing.

**Powerhouse Park to reopen Oct. 26**



Photo by Diana Piñon

**Dirty being moved around in order to continue renovations to the riverbank at Powerhouse Park.**

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN FALLS** – The Powerhouse Park in Chelan Falls will reopen on Oct. 26 after the riverbank and swim beach area get renovated. The park closed on July 30 in order to start a two part project. Part one includes the riverbank which is being rebuilt back to it's natural stage. Part two consists of protecting the swim area from erosion. "This project is to save the riverbank, it's eroding, it's steep and dangerous. So we are using bioengineering to keep it from getting any worse," said Vern Chamberlain PUD Project Management Department Manager. The intent is to stabilize the shoreline and restore the natural components of it.

**Welcome to The Meat Shop**  
*Owners Gary and Krysta Westmoreland want to 'Meat You'*

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
**CHELAN** – About three weeks ago, The Meat Shop was inaugurated in town. The very own of its kind in the area offers quality meats, fresh sides and more. The idea of opening up The Meat Shop occurred soon after the Westmorelands made a road trip around the country. Gary and Krysta Westmoreland originally from New Hampshire, have been living in the area for about a year now. Back from where they are from, they have shops that offer different types of marinated meat and other types of grab-and-go foods. Before moving here permanently, the two were sipping on their Bloody Mary's in town, and they spotted the perfect spot to open up their very own store. Looking back at that day Krysta said, "I can't believe a couple years later we are here!"

## 2018 YIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

## Chelan Fire & Rescue new Recruit Academy to start Jan. 22

Assistant Chief Bandon Asher to promote academy

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – During the Oct. 10 Chelan Fire and Rescue Commissioner Meeting the Recruit Academy and other items were addressed. On Jan. 22 the new Recruitment Academy will kick off, Asher stated that he "will be starting to hit recruitment hard" in the next upcoming weeks. Currently Asher has 15 recruits, eight from Chelan, four from Orondo and three from Entiat. Along those lines, on Dec. 8 Orondo will be having an open house. During those hours they will be recruiting volunteers.

## Manson Community Council Chair resigns, council hears of new planned resort

Two positions open for the upcoming December election

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

MANSON – The Manson Community Council held their October meeting on Tuesday the 16th. Two members of the Council were absent, leaving Kathy Blum, Kathy Miller and Jorge Valencia conducting the meeting. That evening, the public present was informed about Kim Ustanik's resignation as Chair of the Manson Community Council. "We received a letter, that was delivered to us this evening that Kim Ustanik has resigned, effected immediately, dated October 16," stated Blum. With elections coming up in December, the Council will have two open positions. Blum reported that Kathy Miller has decided to not run again for her position as member of the Council. Up for re-election is Valencia, after being appointed last year to the Council. He is still thinking about whether or not he wants to run again for spot in the Council.

## Kelly's Hardware, a family owned business, is celebrating 60 years of doing business in the valley

Kelly's Hardware celebrates 60 years serving the valley



Photo by Diana Piñon

Gene and Pat Kelly have worked at Kelly's for 60 and 30 years respectively.

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – James Reed established Chelan Hardware 93 years ago, which in 1958, he sold to Wayne Kelly and became Kelly's Hardware.

## Water, sewer rates in Chelan to go up in 2019

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – Residents of Chelan will see an increase in their monthly water and sewer rates starting as early as 2019. During the last budget City of Chelan council workshop on Oct. 25, the FCS Group presented new water and sewer monthly rates to the Chelan Council members. Project Manager Andy Baker, Senior Consultant Brooke Tacia and Analyst Luke Slaughterbeck conducted a 2018 study to help set long term financial management plans, while ensuring financially sustainable utilities and evaluating the cost-of-service and rate design.

## City of Chelan looking to acquire property near Lake Chelan Airport

Port of Chelan County willing to contribute

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – The City of Chelan is looking into purchasing another piece property. This time it is a lot owned by the Eugene Kelly located next to the Lake Chelan Airport. During the Oct. 28 Council Meeting, city attorney Quentin Batjer brought forward such consideration. "The land owner has notified the City of an offer to purchase that property on certain terms," said Batjer. The lot is being offered to the City for \$294,000 with \$254,000 down at the time purchase. The remainder \$40,000 would be carried out for five years at five percent interest for a five year term. The five percent interest would only apply in the initial six months, the seller and buyer also split closing costs.

## LCCHC receives USDA funding to complete financing package for new hospital building

By Celeste Thomas Hankins, Lake Chelan Community Hospital

CHELAN – Lake Chelan Community Hospital & Clinics (LCCHC) received USDA loan approval Tuesday, Oct. 23 for a total of \$22,026,000 for the new hospital building project. "This is the approval we have been waiting to receive," said LCCHC Board Chair Mary Signorelli. "It represents the diligent work of many, led by our very capable Chief Financial Officer Vickie Bodle, and we are grateful to all involved and to the community for continued support throughout this process. "With this approval we are able to move forward on our building process with much gratitude and excitement!"

## LCCHC celebrates 70th anniversary



Photo by Diana Piñon

Board of Commissioners Chair Mary Signorelli and Commissioner Phyllis Gleasman embrace in a hug during the hospital's 70th celebration.

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN - Lake Chelan Hospital and Clinics celebrated their 70th anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce along with employees, commissioners and locals. "We are very fortunate to have an incredible community hospital ... I am very excited for the future and what that looks like," said Mike Steele, MC for the event.

## School threat at Chelan High School investigated

How was the incident handled?

Compiled by Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – School officials, Principal Brad Wilson and Superintendent Barry DePaoli were informed of the incident at 5:45 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 30. The information was submitted to an administrator, it unveiled the title of the chat room "School Shooting Tomorrow." Law enforcement was contacted immediately, they met at the high school and together they began the investigation. Several names were uncovered from the screen shot; students and parents were called and in some cases interviewed.

## USDA Forest Service reports back on the five-year review of Holden Mine

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – Holden Mine Remedial Project Manager Mario A. Isaias-Vera reported back to Chelan area residents on the project's five-year review during an open house on Nov. 8 at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce. The open house served as way to share new information about what has been happening at Holden Village, as well as a way to answer questions from the residents.

## American Legion #108 honors WWII veterans



Photo by Diana Piñon

Jack Stevens a World War II Veteran (seated at right) was presented with a certificate honoring his service by Vice Commander Brian Strausbaugh.

## Chelan Fire and Rescue ladder truck fails testing

Options to buy or to fix debated

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – All apparatus owned by the Chelan Fire and Rescue are doing well, except for one. Ladder 71 is out of service. It failed the UL testing on Nov. 13. The UL test certifies the performance and safety of fire apparatuses, systems, devices and ground ladders. Fleet Manager John Goyno explained, "when they did the drift test it failed the drift test and it also has a plumbing leak that I am working on." During the drift test, "The aerial device is placed at full elevation marking the cylinder piston on the second section in relation to the base section and allow the ladders to stand for one hour with engine off." The drift test was conducted twice and Ladder 71 failed both times, "It relaxed a little too much which compromises the safety of the personnel in the aerial apparatus," said Fire Chief Tim Lemon.

## Four Chelan High students participate at the Western International Band Clinic

Submitted by Steve Burdick Chelan High School Band Director  
CHELAN - Four students represented Chelan High School at the Western International Band Clinic Nov. 16-19, 2018 in Seattle, Wash. Max Nimz (flute), Caroline Kelly (trumpet), Isabella Evans (baritone saxophone) and Johan Luna-Munoz (clarinet). WIBC is a convention for band directors and an audition honor band for high achieving music students.

## Young entrepreneurs bring glass recycling to Chelan Valley

The story behind Glass to Sand at Lake Chelan

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

MANSON – Manson High School seniors Megan Clausen and Devyn Smith became interested in glass recycling last year during their junior year after the recycling center in Chelan stopped operations. "Our families are big recyclers and that impacted us," said Clausen. The girls knew that other community members and business were affected by the recycling shut down. In order to help not only their families, but also the businesses they decided to look into glass recycling and glass crushing as an option.

## Cushing and Willoughby appointed to Manson Community Council

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

MANSON – Two spots were left open with the resignations of Kim Ustanik and Jeremy Jaech from the Manson Community Council. Both left the Council 11 months into their three year terms. Due to this the Council had to appoint two new members in the Nov. 20 meeting. Kathy Blum explained, "when people resign from their position, we have the option to go out and find people to take their places for two years, instead of changing the whole voting structure." Sarah Cushing and Chris Willoughby will join the Council for two years until their term comes up. Before Blum swore the new members in, they briefly introduced themselves to those present.

## Builders oppose new GFCs and water, sewer rates for 2019

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – The Chelan City Council had a busy meeting on Nov. 27 with a packed agenda, a series of public hearings and administrative reports had the meeting running for more than three hours. Two weeks ago Amy Hannu representing K&L Homes spoke in front of Council on her concerns regarding water meter costs. "The biggest thing is to make sure that these water meter hookup fees are at an affordable cost," she said.

## LCCHC Board of Commissioners sign delegation authorization, interim CEO Patonai and CFO Bodle to decide new hospital bond levy target

No decision yet on new CEO

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – By unanimous decision the Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinics Board of Commissioners voted on a Delegation Authorization for Interim Chief Executive Officer Steve Patonai and Chief Financial Officer Vickie Bodle to make a final decision on the bond levy target on behalf of the Board. At the Nov. 27 meeting, the Board heard bond updates from Jim Nelson of D.A. Davidson. "Today we released what we called a preliminary official statement ... it describes the district, the commissioners, the terms, the finances of the district, the terms of the bond ... that goes out to local investors to insurance companies," informed Nelson. The next step will be a preliminary pricing conference call, "that would be on Dec. 10 and then on Dec. 11 we would set the final restraints to the bond," said Nelson. Towards the end of December the hospital will receive \$20,000,000, which will go into the county's treasure account into a restricted fund. The bond money will finance a portion of the cost for the new hospital facility. The rest of the funding comes from the USDA financing.

## Valley Winds: A community of musicians

Oldest member in his 80's

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – It started as a brainstorming idea by music teachers from the area and it evolved into what is now the Valley Winds Community Wind Ensemble. Chelan Music teacher Stephen Burdick along with a couple of music teachers from around the Valley brainstormed on the idea of creating a group

for high schoolers and community members to play in, while attending a student music festival.

"In the beginning we thought that we more than likely end up with mostly a student band with a couple adults," said Burdick. With an equal mix of students and adults and more than 40 people, Valley Winds surpassed all expectations.

## 'One of us' a Christmas Cantata presented by Lake Chelan Community Choir



Photo by RuthEdna Keys

Lake Chelan Community Choir, under the direction of Marci Hale, presented the Christmas Cantata 'One of Us' Dec. 7 and 8, at North Shore Bible Church in Manson. The choir, along with instrumentalists, narrators and sound technicians rehearsed for several months and put on two outstanding performances for those in attendance.

## Weidner Apartments present GFC numbers to Council

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – Guy Evans and Financial Analyst Cody Vickery of Weidner Apartments talked GFC rates to the Chelan City Council during a City Workshop held on Dec. 4. Evans began the presentation by saying, "I had a great conversation with Andy Baker around how to approach the new rate structure and I think there's a way ahead that this could be a win-win for everyone." According to Evans this housing crisis in Chelan has many different components to it, "Weidner is here to talk about rentals through a for profit mechanism."

## Valencia, Sorensen elected to Manson Community Council

Council hears from PUD

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

MANSON – Due to the Holiday season soon approaching, the Manson Community Council met on Dec. 11, the same day as voting took place for the two positions open on council. During the last meeting of the year, it was announced who will be joining the council in 2019. After the community cast their votes and such were counted, Vice Chair Kathy Blum informed those in attendance that Jorge Valencia and Kari Sorensen were elected by the community to represent them in the council.

## Manger Mall brings joy to children in the valley



Photo by Diana Piñon

On Friday, December 14 Manger Mall volunteers gathered to setup the North Shore gymnasium for their 10th Manger Mall event on Saturday, Dec. 15. The volunteers are standing behind a beautiful rocking horse handmade by Allen Moore of Manson. The rocking horse was raffled off at no cost and won by a very lucky family. The Saturday Manger Mall event welcomed 220 families shopping for 700 children. First Row: Shannon Leahy, Pam James, Karen Pembroke, Sue Nadon, Pat Batdorf, Kathy Witt, Beth Dietrich, Elona Teague, Kathi Fedor & Concie Luna. Second Row: Terry Larson, Laura Larson, Tom Nadon, Cinda Gilbert, Barry Leahy, Jim Batdorf, John Pembroke, Jan Fedor and Scott Dietrich.

## Lake Chelan Hospital hires Steve Patonai as permanent CEO

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer  
CHELAN – After going into an Executive Session during their Dec. 20 board meeting, the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Board of Commissioners agreed to remove Steve Patonai as Interim CEO and unanimously voted to place him as permanent CEO of Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinics.

Board Chair Mary Signorelli, congratulated Patonai and expressed the Board's support towards him. "We are pleased to have you as permanent CEO," she said. Patonai thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as CEO. "I am usually not speechless but it hit me with your announcement ... there's so much to do here, I just want to say thank you," he said to the Board.



Steve Patonai Lake Chelan Community Hospital new CEO

## Chelan City Council tackles last meeting of 2018

New rates and fees addressed

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – The Chelan City Council voted to adopt the new fees and charges for water and sewer, effective March 2019 during the Dec. 18 meeting. Andy Baker of FCS Group was brief and efficient as he went over the changes based on feedback from the last workshop session with the Council and staff. "We have separated out the General Facilities Charges to be effective on March 1 rather than January 1, to have those going through the process time to react to that," informed Baker.

## Grandpa Camp and Thrive Chelan Valley team up to serve MOE students

Grandpas in the Classroom will begin in Feb. 2019

By Diana Piñon Staff Writer

CHELAN – Representatives of the Grandpa Project, Thrive Chelan Valley and Morgen Owings Elementary met in an informal session on Dec. 17 to discuss the future mentoring program for third grade students at Morgen Owings Elementary (MOE). School and Community Liaison and founder of Thrive Sarah Barnes, opened the discussion. "I see my job as bringing the resources of the community to kids ... caring people is the best resource our community has," said Barnes. Barnes informed that she is always seeking opportunities to make those relationships happen. So when she met Rod Brooks of the Grandpa Project she was excited.



Rod Brooks