

## Served 16 of 41 months Bridgeport man responsible for hit-and-run death wins early release

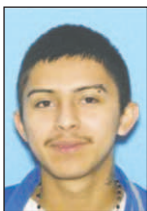
By MIKE MALTAIS  
STAFF WRITER

WENATCHEE – In an unexpected development this week, Bridgeport resident and convicted felon, Jovany Lopez-Maciel, who was sentenced to a maximum 41 months in prison in June 2017 for the hit-and-run death of Brewster resident Gary Knowlton on July 16, 2016, was released from custody last Monday, Jan. 14.

Earlier provisions of Maciel's sentencing specified a period of 18 months of supervision following his eventual release.

While the full details remain sketchy at this writing, Maciel was housed at Coyote Ridge Corrections Center in Connell prior to his release but was scheduled to be detained by officials of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and held in detention in Tacoma for ultimate deportation to Mexico.

Last December, Knowl-



**Jovany Lopez-Maciel**



**Gary Knowlton**

ton's widow, Deana Knowlton, received an email advisory from Charissa Cruickshank, Victim/Witness Coordinator for the Chelan County Prosecutor's Office notifying Knowlton of the pending January release.

Cruickshank wrote that upon consulting Maciel's judgement and sentencing review, sentence range, credit for time served awaiting trial, and "good time" credit, the mid-January release date was accurate.

"This was a bit of a shock to me, so I am assuming it will be to you as well," Cruickshank wrote to Knowlton.

SEE RELEASE ON PAGE A3

## Brewster Boys and Girls Club hires new director

MIKE MALTAIS  
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – The Brewster Boys and Girls Club (BBGC) has a new director who made his introduction to members of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce at their regular monthly meeting last Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Jamie Sluys, who recently relocated to Pateros from Auburn, has been tapped to run the BBGC, replacing former director Brian Paine who left the position last fall.

Sluys told Chamber members that he grew up with the Boys and Girls Club and has coached at the college level, been a high school athletic director, and Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA).

Sluys is a 1992 Western Washington University graduate and coached college baseball at Bellevue University in Nebraska and for the Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks, a collegiate summer baseball team. Sluys' Bellevue team won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) College World Series Baseball National Championship in 1995. He was inducted into the Bellevue University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

Sluys has worked in the education field for the past 17 years, 11 of those as an athletic director and the last seven at Muckleshoot High School, a 1B school in Auburn. Since last September he has been employed by the Brewster School District as the 21st Century Grant Director for



the Brewster, Bridgeport, and Jamie Sluys is the new director of the Brewster Boys and Girls Club.

Pateros school districts. Sluys has also been a member of the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Diversity Committee since 2015.

Sluys said he was persuaded to move to the area by friend, Brewster alumnus and college baseball teammate Jerrod Riggan who went on to play professional baseball with the New York Mets and Cleveland Indians. Sluys has two children, Jamison, a Canadian hockey player, and Julia, a sophomore at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen where she is a red shirt scholarship wrestler. Sluys is currently building a home on Star Road in Pateros.

## 2019 first baby is James Garrett Wallace

MIKE MALTAIS  
STAFF WRITERS

BREWSTER – Three Rivers Hospital (TRH) welcomed the first baby of 2019 nine days after the New Year got under way.

James Garrett Wallace was born to Jacquelyn and Dr. James Wallace on Wednesday evening, Jan. 9, at TRH. The newest member of the Wallace family weighed 8 pounds, 7.5 ounces and measured 20 inches long. He was delivered by Dr. Allison Fitzgerald and Sam Morrison, RN. Family care was continued on Jan. 10 by Dr. Keith Hanson and Laura Temby, RN.

A media release from Chris Majors, TRH Business Development Coordinator said Dr. Wallace is a physician with Family Health Cen-

SEE FIRST BABY ON PAGE A3



Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Hospital  
Jacquelyn and Dr. James Wallace of Winthrop hold new son, James Garrett Wallace, born on January 9, to claim the honor of the first baby of the new year at Three Rivers Hospital. See more photos at [www.qcherald.com](http://www.qcherald.com)

## Renews NCW Task Force membership

# Brewster City Council approves Sunrise Disposal rate increase

By MIKE MALTAIS  
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – City council member Tim Rieb served as mayor pro tem for the absent Mayor Art Smyth at the regular monthly meeting of the city council last Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Smyth's absence prompted city clerk/treasurer Misty Ruiz to request that the 2019 city fee schedule on the docket for approval, be postponed until the council's February meeting so Smyth could be present to weigh in on the issue. Among the rate increase proposals is another hike in RV park rates.

"Last year there was a large increase in the daily rate and a smaller increase in the monthly rate," said Ruiz of the RV fees. "This year the

monthly rate was increased by quite a bit."

"He's going to get all the complaints," said Ruiz, expanding on her reason for wanting the mayor present for the schedule approval vote.

In a related rate issue, Sunrise Disposal requested a three-percent rate increase for Brewster residents this year. Ruiz explained that the basis for the increase came as a result of higher shipping fees at the county level.

"The county increased their fee by 10.4 percent and that translates into a three-percent increase for the Sunrise rates," said Ruiz. "We did the math and it was about 50 cents for the customer for residential service."

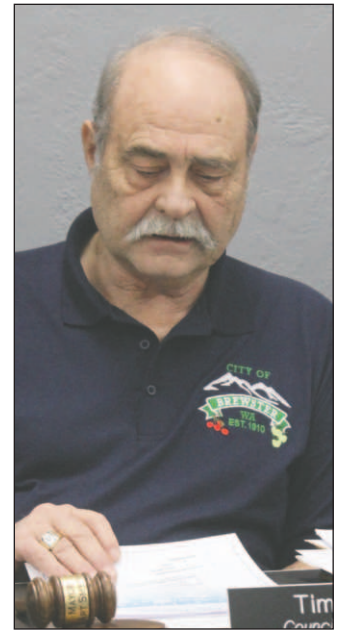
In a letter to the council, Sunrise advised that the coun-

ty landfill rates will increase from \$74 per ton to \$81.50 per ton effective March 15 of this year. Sunrise also noted that it has worked to offer the lowest rates possible.

"We did forego a cost of living increase in 2019 while the CPI went up 2.5 percent," the Sunrise letter said in part. "In fact, since 2012 the Consumer Price Index has risen 12 percent while we've only requested 3.1 percent increase in our rates."

Ruiz added that the increase will not benefit Sunrise beyond just covering the added costs they will incur. Council member John Housden commended Sunrise for postponing increases in the past years and recommended that council approve the in-

SEE INCREASE ON PAGE A2



Council member Tim Rieb filled in as mayor pro tem for the absent Mayor Art Smyth on Jan. 9.

## Brewster Chamber welcomes new officers, finalizes summer circus

By MIKE MALTAIS  
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – The Brewster Chamber of Commerce announced its new 2019 officers and set to work planning the year's upcoming events, starting with a January membership drive, the summer circus, and other projects.

Following a vote of members last month, the Chamber's 2019 officers include:

President: Anna Marie Dalbey  
Vice President: Jose Said Velasco  
Secretary: Mike Mauk  
Treasurer: Lainie Hammond

Directors: Julio Talavera, Kathy Lowry, and Manny Hurtado.

President Dalbey announced that the Chamber is finalizing arrangements for the summer visit of the Culpepper and Merriweather

Circus. The event application is being submitted to the city council with the tentative event date on Thursday, June 7, with two shows at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Brewster Police Chief Nattalie Cariker reported on the results of Cops N Kids and the Christmas Shop held at the Brewster Boys and Girls Club last Dec. 17.

"We raised about \$800," said Cariker, "and gave away 20 sleds donated by

Brewster Drug." Cariker said the proceeds will be reinvested toward next year's repeat of the event.

Cariker also announced that it is dog license time again and encouraged all dog owners in the city limits to purchase their 2019 licenses. Cariker said a reminder about 2019 dog licenses and related details is included with the monthly water

SEE FLUSHING ON PAGE A2



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# Ruiz featured in November 2018 AWC Cityvision magazine



The City of Brewster has had a few opportunities to work with our legislators on issues recently. Fortunately, the communication has been great! By working closely with our legislators, we have been able to secure small amounts of state funding, which allowed us to secure larger amounts of federal funding. The projects we have been able to complete as a result are far beyond anything we could have achieved on our own.

**—MISTY RUIZ**  
Finance Director/City Clerk, Brewster

Brewster clerk/treasurer Misty Ruiz was featured in the November 2018 issue of Cityvision Magazine, a publication of the Association of Washington Cities. Ruiz was among city administrators from Brewster, Mountlake Terrace, and Granite Falls who were asked the question: When working on a challenging issue, how have you found common ground with your legislators? Ruiz has been the key player in securing federal and state grant funds that have allowed Brewster to finance major upgrades to its water and reservoir systems.

# Contacts for your local state Legislative representatives

BY MIKE MALTAIS  
STAFF WRITER

OLYMPIA – The 2019 Washington state Legislature dropped the gavel to open its 105-day session last Monday, Jan. 14. Representing the Quad Cities in the 12th Legislative District are Senator Brad Hawkins (R-East Wenatchee), and Representatives Mike Steele (R-Chelan) and Keith Goehner (R-Dryden).

Hawkins, in his second term as 12th District Senator, is the Republican deputy floor leader.

Steele, also entering his second term, will serve on the Appropriations, Capital Budget, and Education committees.

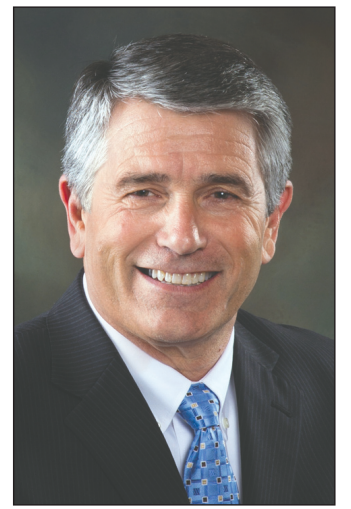
Goehner is a former Chelan County Commissioner and new to the Legislature



Sen. Brad Hawkins



Rep. Mike Steele



Rep. Keith Goehner

this year. He succeeds Cary Condotta, (R-Wenatchee) who decided not to run for re-election after serving the 12th District for 16 years.

Democrats hold a majority in both chambers, 28-21 in

the Senate and 54-21 in the House.

Contacts:  
Sen. Brad Hawkins  
Email: brad.hawkins@leg.wa.gov  
Phone: 360-786-7869  
Rep. Mike Steele

Email: mike.steele@leg.wa.gov  
Phone: 360-786-7832  
Rep. Keith Goehner  
Email: keith.goehner@leg.wa.gov  
Phone: 360-786-7954

## Rent your nest in the off-season and save \$\$\$



Empty birds' nest rentals are going for rock-bottom rates during the winter off-season.

Photo by Mike Maltais

### FLUSHING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

bill. January is membership drive month and both member and prospective member businesses will receive enrollment forms.

City councilman Manny Hurtado asked members to spread the word to city residents to be thoughtful about what they flush into the city sewer system. Hurtado said city maintenance personnel have found numbers of large

items during recent camera inspections of the lines.

Members voted to leave the Christmas lights on the large evergreen in Legion Park through the year. Chief Cariker related her past experience involved with decorating the tree and said that the heavy-duty extension cords donated by the PUD combined with the new light strings that will continue to work even with a burned-out bulb are durable enough to leave on the tree.

New director Lowry suggested that the Chamber consider a project to encourage



local businesses to sponsor

decorated Christmas trees for auction next season. Cariker explained similar events held by the Omak and Conconully chambers and agreed to hook Lowry up with those involved.

The next regular meeting of the Brewster Chamber is 9 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6.

**City councilman Manny Hurtado is a 2019 director for the Brewster Chamber of Commerce.**

### INCREASE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

crease request.

In other business council members approved the Oka-

nogan County of Government (OCOG) Agreement that they deferred approving in past years upon the recommendation of the city's legal counsel. City attorney Chuck Zimmerman wanted OCOG to add language clarifying potential charges and once that was satisfied, he endorsed approval of the updated agreement.

"OCOG is a group of entities that come together to form one voice," said Ruiz explaining that the Okanogan Transit Authority, TranGo, is one of its achievements. "In the

past Brewster did not have a voting voice in the absence of approving the agreement."

Brewster Police Chief Nattalie Cariker requested authorization of the \$3,300 annual fee the city pays to be part of the North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force Agreement. Cariker said she spoke with newly elected Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley who told her that one of his goals is to add another officer to the sheriff's staff as a dedicated Task Force member.

Council members authorized the appropriation.

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# A rhyme for rime ice would be nice



Photos by Mike Maltais

A healthy harvest of rime ice formed under a blanket of freezing fog overnight Sunday, Jan. 13 and covered all exposed surfaces at daybreak Monday morning, Jan. 14. While much of the Quad City area labored under an air stagnation warning, temperatures hovered from the mid-20s to low 30s and an overcast sky kept the sun from melting the stunning ice crystal display clinging to every object unsheltered from the elements.



# Students celebrate National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



Photo by Mike Maltais

Brewster Police Chief Nattalie Cariker, back left, with city councilman Tim Rieb, Brewster Police Department Administrative Assistant Juana Escobar, and city councilman Manny Hurtado, joined Brewster Elementary School students for lunch and to celebrate National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D) on Wednesday, Jan. 9. L.E.A.D. was founded in 2015.

## FIRST BABY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ters in Brewster and serves as Chief of Staff at TRH.

“Dr. Fitzgerald and Dr. Hanson are also physicians with Family Health Centers and their relationships with the hospital highlight the collaboration between the healthcare organizations,” said Majors. “The Wallace’s chose Three Rivers because

of Dr. Fitzgerald.” “She is an amazing doctor,” Jacquelyn said of Dr. Fitzgerald. “and the environment of Three Rivers is friendly, calm, and professional.”

When asked what she most liked about having her baby at TRH, Jacquelyn said, “The care I received. Nothing was pushed on me, and the nurses took care to ensure I was comfortable, and my every last need was

met.” Three Rivers Hospital staff gifted a basket full of items to help the Wallaces care for their brand new son Garrett. Recognizing how many families in our community are in need, but expressing deep appreciation and humbleness Jacquelyn and James have chosen to pass the basket on to the second family who choose Three Rivers Hospital for delivery their child.

## RELEASE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

In a risk level assessment last June, the Department of Corrections (DOC) determined Maciel’s risk level as Moderate and thus ruled that he would be ineligible for supervision, in contrast to Maciel’s judgement and sentence guidelines.

Explaining risk level, Susan Braverman of the DOC wrote that an offender’s risk level is currently comprised of dynamic and static factors. The difference between the two is dynamic factors can be changed by human intervention whereas static factors cannot be changed. Prior to 2018 DOC only used static factors in its Washington 1 assessment procedure. Following the DOC assessment, a review team checked the results for accuracy and confirmed the DOC findings.

Knowlton has been actively involved with her state legislators in an attempt to revisit and toughen the sentencing laws beyond the 41-month maximum imposed on Maciel for the death of her husband. “I refuse to let another fam-

ily go through the heartache of losing someone to a senseless act and only get a slap on the hand,” Knowlton told the Quad City Herald.

In January 2018 the state House of Representatives passed a Resolution honoring

the life and achievements of Gary Knowlton.

Maciel’s father, wanted by authorities in connection with aiding his son’s flight from apprehension following the hit-and-run, remains at large at this writing.

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**DEATH NOTICE**

**Ralph Alfred Dobson**

Ralph Alfred Dobson, 87, of Pickens, South Carolina and formerly of Brewster, Washington, died Jan. 13, 2019. Service date will be announced at a later date.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF**

- Dec. 28**  
Civil incident at Mt. Valley Trailer Park, 762 State Route 173 on Bridgeport Bar.  
Warrant at the 400 block of 12th Street in Bridgeport.
- Dec. 29**  
Suicide threat at 557 State Route 173 on Bridgeport Bar.  
Warrant at Brewster Police Department in Brewster.  
Warrant at 400 Fairview Ave. in Bridgeport.  
Warrant at 335 E. Railroad Ave., No. 18 in Mansfield.
- Dec. 30**  
Driving under influence at Three Rivers Hospital, 307 Hospital Way in Brewster.  
Theft at 335 E. Railroad Ave., No. 24 in Mansfield.
- Dec. 31**  
Disturbance at 335 E. Railroad Ave., No. 23 in Mansfield.  
Weapons violation at Fourth Street and Fairview Avenue in Bridgeport.  
Assault at 1101 Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport.
- Jan. 1, 2019**  
DUI at 22nd Street and Foster Creek Avenue in Bridgeport.  
Non-injury accident at the 800 block of Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport.
- Jan. 2**  
Harassment/threat at 23 Washburn Ave. on Bridgeport Bar.  
Suicide threat at 32 Wilmot St. in Mansfield.
- Jan. 4**  
Attempt to locate, attempt to contact at 255 Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport.  
Disturbance at 23 Washburn Ave. on Bridgeport Bar.  
911 at 3029 Kropp Rd. in Bridgeport.
- Jan. 5**  
Noise at 220 Central St. on Bridgeport Bar.  
Traffic offense at State Route 173, milepost 10 on Bridgeport Bar.

- port Bar.  
Agency assistance at Chief Joseph Dam, 45 Hayden Rd. in Bridgeport.  
Agency assistance at 600 Sand Hill Rd. in Bridgeport.  
Warrant at State Route 173, milepost 2 in Bridgeport.  
Trespass at Bridgeport Fire Department, 1206 Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport.
- Jan. 6**  
Alarm at R&R Complex, 744 State Route 173 on Bridgeport Bar.  
Disturbance at 116 Pine St. on Bridgeport Bar.  
Warrant at the 1900 block of Monroe Avenue in Bridgeport.  
Miscellaneous at the 1900 block of Monroe Ave. in Bridgeport.
- Jan. 8**  
Agency assistance at Family Health Center, 520 w. Indian Ave. in Brewster.  
Public assistance at 637 State Route 173 on Bridgeport Bar.
- Jan. 9**  
Traffic offense at 335 E. Railroad Ave. in Mansfield.  
Civil incident at 320 22nd St., No. 3 in Bridgeport.  
Alarm at 1111 Douglas Ave. in Bridgeport.
- Jan. 11**  
Theft at Quik-E-Mart, 26-06 Foster Creek Ave. in Bridgeport.  
Jan. 12  
911 at 328 Walnut St. in Mansfield.
- Jan. 13**  
Agency assistance at 113 Ester Ave. in Brewster.  
Parking/abandoned vehicle at 106 Arden Ave. on Bridgeport Bar.  
Warrant at 1127 Fairview Ave. in Bridgeport.
- Jan 14**  
Suspicious incident at 107 Whitlam Ave. on Bridgeport Bar.

**YWCA NCW Mentor Program accepting applications**

SUBMITTED BY YWCA NCW

WENATCHEE - YWCA NCW is slated to begin a new mentorship program effective immediately. The organization is requesting the service of local women who wish to befriend, support, and encourage other women of North Central Washington. This program specifically focuses on mentoring women facing homelessness, poverty, and other barriers to economic success.

Kathy Blauman, housing specialist at YWCA NCW, expresses that she is ecstatic to oversee the mentor program, the first of its kind for YWCA

NCW. "I am looking forward to the positive changes this program will bring for the women in our community" said Blauman. The program focuses specifically on matching clients with a mentor that will help them set personal and professional goals, foster friendship, and serve as a positive influence on their journey to economic self-sufficiency.

YWCA NCW is pleased to be embarking on this new endeavor, in hopes it will encourage more people in North Central Washington to take a hands-on approach in combatting homelessness and poverty, as well as provide support to those

working towards permanent housing and economic success. Those interested in applying to become a mentor can contact Kathy Blauman 662-3531 ext. 117

About YWCA NCW  
YWCA NCW is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen our community. YWCA NCW is part of an international movement serving over 2 million in the United States and 25 million worldwide. For comprehensive information about this important work, go to: ywcanw.org and ywca.org.



Kathy Blauman, housing specialist at YWCA NCW

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**Senior Center S.A.I.L classes, lunch, Rummage Room**

BREWSTER - Hours at the Brewster-Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center are 8 to 12:45 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday. Donations will be accepted during store hours at the back door or just knock or come on in. They take just about everything except children's clothing. The Center will also take "small pieces of furniture and sometimes larger items. S.A.I.L (Stay Active and Independent for Life) classes are on every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. The Center is hosting Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition (OCTN) meals Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The suggested donation for those over age 60 is \$4. For those 60 and under the cost is \$8.50. All diners are welcome.

Jan. 18, Feb. 8

**Brewster area monthly bus trips to Omak and Wenatchee**

BREWSTER - OCTN takes Brewster area residents to Wenatchee for the day, every second Friday of the month. Next trip will be Feb. 8. The bus starts picking folks up at their homes at 7:30 a.m. Riders may request the destination(s); typically, it will be medical appointments, the mall, Walmart, a restaurant and so on. On the third Friday of each month, Jan. 18, riders will be taken to Omak for the day. Again, riders request their destination(s) and make a day of socializing, shopping and errands. Wenatchee: \$12/boarding for General Public, \$6 suggested donation/day for Seniors (60 plus). Omak: \$5.50/General Public, \$2.75 suggested donation Seniors (60 plus). Call (509) 826-4391 to reserve your seat.

Jan. 19

**Story Time at library**

Saturday story time  
BRIDGEPORT - The Washington Reading Corps Program holds a story time at the Bridgeport Public Library every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Story Times will be for the school year and reading will be in English. For more information call Molly Westlund at (509) 449-2009.

Jan. 21

**TOPS® meeting**

BREWSTER - TOPS® (Take Off Pounds Sensibly®) meets every week on Monday at 10 a.m. at Brewster Boys and Girls Club, located at 601 Cliff Ave W., Brewster. Visitors are always welcome (preteens, teens, and adults - male and female). First meeting is free. TOPS Club, Inc. ® is an affordable, nonprofit, weight-loss support and wellness education organization with thousands of associate chapters in the United States and Canada. Members learn about nutrition, portion control, food planning, exercise, motivation, and more at weekly meetings. According to independent studies published in major medical journals, TOPS® weight-loss support has been proven just as effective as more expensive commercial programs. For details: Joyce Anderson, Coordinator at (509) 922-8820, visit www.tops.org or call TOPS Headquarters at (800) 932-8677.

Jan. 23, 24

**Red Cross Blood drives**

OMAK/WINTHROP - American Cross Blood Drives will be held in Omak: 1/23/2019: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Omak Elks Lodge #1742 BPOE, 110 Ash Street and in Winthrop: 1/24/2019: 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., The Barn, 51 Highway 20. **How to donate blood:** Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Jan. 23/yoga, Feb. 12/meeting

**Cancer Support Group, yoga class**

CHELAN - The Women's Wellness Group, cancer support group, meets the second Tuesday of each month with lunch provided by the Wenatchee Wellness Place, at the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Board Room at 11:45 a.m. For more information, contact Anne at 682-8718.

Wellness/Restorative yoga, a guided practice of gentle yoga postures and movement designed for cancer survivors, individuals living with acute or chronic illnesses, and caregivers is available at no charge. This class is held each Wednesday at 3:45 p.m. at Yogachelan. Contact Yogachelan for more information.

Jan. 25

**School Retirees Assn. to meet**

OMAK - Okanogan County School Retirees' Association meets 11:15 a.m., Friday, Jan. 25 for a no-host luncheon meeting at Roadhouse 97, 914 Koala St, Omak. Jon Wyss of Brewster, will speak on changes in agriculture and the fruit industry in Okanogan County and Washington State. Information: Jennie Hedington: (509) 422-2954.

**Submitting your Bulletin Board item**

Who: Any non-profit 501(c)3 group. Person(s) must submit full name and contact phone number. What: Items pertaining to local events, meetings etc., that are free or a minimum charge. Where: email to: ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com, subject line QCH Bulletin. Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m. Be sure and include Date, time, place and cost if any.

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An **obituary** is a way for family member(s) to commemorate a loved one's life and to notify the larger community of the deceased. Obituaries are also used for historical and ancestral data.

**Memorials** are another way of letting the community know about the life and memories of the person who has died. A Memorial is different from an obituary. An obituary is usually current while a memorial can be written later.

Obituaries and memorials need to be typed and emailed no later than Friday by 4:00 p.m. to be placed in the next available issue(s). Please call for cost of an obituary and which NCW paper(s) that it will be placed in to.

Cost of the obituary/memorial is due at the time of placement. Funeral homes and chapels can submit obituaries by Noon on Monday, unless a holiday.

Obituaries are priced per word while Memorial ads are per column-inch.

For info call Ruth 509-682-2213, or email ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com



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-Matthew 19:26



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Ethan Freels, 5, drives for the hoop through a host of Devils.

Photos by Mike Maltais

## Billygoats wallop Wilson Creek for third place in CW1B

By Mike Maltais  
Staff Writer

**PATEROS** – The Billygoats varsity basketball team went to 3-2 and third place in the Central Washington 1B league following a 60-30 win on their home court over winless Wilson Creek last Thursday, Jan. 10. While the Devils are struggling to find their first CW1B win, Pateros was no help, jumping out to a 26-point 30-4 lead in the first quarter that would set the tone for the first half of play.

The Billygoats held the Devils to single-digit scoring again in the second quarter and took a 40-10 lead into the locker room. Wilson Creek managed to mount a rally in the second half with 14 points in the third period and 10 in the fourth but wasn't enough to overtake the leaders.

Coach Marcus Stennes said his team played a strong defensive first half by not allowing the Devils any second attempts on missed shots. Sophomore forward Ethan Wall led all scorers with 25 points followed by Ethan Freels with 15.

**Pateros: 30-10-11-9 60**  
**W/C: 4-2-14-10 30**

Ethan Wall: 25 pts, 5 rebounds.  
Ethan Freels: 15 pts, 2 assists.  
Andrew Cenicerros: 9 pts, 4 reb.  
Sam Larsen: 5 pts, 7 reb, 10 ast.  
Tag Easter: 2 pts, 3 reb.  
Max Ewing: 6 reb.  
Jeremy Piechalski: 4 reb.  
Omar Mota: 4 reb.  
Aiden Hall: 4 ast.

### Eagles grounded

In an earlier non-league home game, the Billygoats put the Soap Lake Eagles to flight with an 81-46 win



ABOVE: Sam Larsen, 11, makes a move toward the key. BELOW: Ethan Wall, with ball, looks for an outlet pass following a defensive rebound.

on Tuesday, Jan. 8, that improved Pateros' overall record to 9-5. Again, it was an early 12-point first-quarter lead that forced the Eagles to play catch-up and they were never successful.

"This was a good one for us since we blew a 26-point halftime lead down there and lost," Stennes said.

He was referring to the first time the Billygoats played Soap Lake this season on the road Dec. 6 and allowed the Eagles to rally through the last two quarters of the game to edge Pateros, 71-70.

Sophomore Aiden Hall shot 8-13 from the field to lead Pateros with 21 points. Four other Billygoats scored

in double figures including Freels with 19, Wall with 15, and Tag Easter with 10.

Pateros was scheduled to play Cascade Christian Academy on the road last Monday, Jan. 14, and meet Moses Lake Christian Academy on Thursday, Jan. 17. The Billygoats will be back home on Saturday, Jan. 19, to host 2B Waterville-Mansfield for an early 3:30 p.m. game.

**Pateros: 20-10-28-13 81**  
**Soap Lake: 8-10-14-14 46**

Pateros scoring:  
A. Hall: 21 pts, 5 reb.  
E. Freels: 19 pts, 9 ast.  
E. Wall: 15 pts, 6 reb.  
T. Easter: 10 pts, 4 reb, 6 steals.  
S. Larsen: 8 pts, 6 ast.  
I. Cenicerros: 4 pts, 6 reb, 5 ast.  
A. Gonzalez: 3 pts, 3 reb.  
M. Ewing: 1 pt, 3 reb.  
J. Piechalski: 7 reb, 4 stl.



## Brewster varsity basketball teams top Central Washington 2B

By Mike Maltais  
Staff Writer

**BREWSTER** – Both of Brewster High School's varsity basketball teams sit alone atop the Central Washington 2B league following home wins over Tonasket last Friday, Jan. 11. The Bears clawed through the Tigers, 70-39, and the Lady Bears beat the Lady Tigers by more than 30 points, 66-31.

The wins put the Bears at 9-1, a game ahead of second-place Oroville at 8-1, and the undefeated Lady Bears are

10-0, two games ahead of 8-3 Waterville-Mansfield.

The Brewster girls were up 24-11 at the end of the first quarter, 35-13 by halftime, and 57-20 at the end of three. Michaun Kelpman was one of four Lady Bears to hit in double figures and led the team with 18, followed by Brooklynne Boesel with 12, and Kim Nila and Sammi Emigh with 10 apiece.

The Brewster boys jumped out to an eight-point 22-12 lead in the first quarter, led 39-23 at the half, and 65-32 at the end of three. Joe Taylor and Cade

Gebbers led Brewster with 17 points apiece with Corey Jarrell close behind with 16.

The Bears were scheduled to meet Oroville on the Hornets home court Tuesday, Jan. 15. While the Hornets boys are second in the CW2B, the girls are closer to the basement with a 1-8 record, one game ahead of last-place Manson.

Brewster hosts Liberty Bell on Friday, Jan. 18, with the Lady Mountain Lions currently ranked third in the CW2B and the boys holding down seventh place.

## Win over Wilson Creek moves Nannies to third in CW1B



Photos by Mike Maltais

Jillian Piechalski, 32, and Anna Williams, 3, pull down a rebound for Pateros.



ABOVE: Sophomore guard Aleeka Miller-Smith, right, scoring over a pair of Wilson Creek defenders, led the Nannies with 23 points. RIGHT: Freshman Vanessa Cenicerros, 12, drives for a lay-up followed by a Wilson Creek defender.

By Mike Maltais  
Staff Writer

**PATEROS** – A final quarter surge by the Nannies varsity girls basketball team ended with a seven-point win over the visiting Wilson Creek last Friday, Jan. 10. The victory broke the fourth-place tie with the Lady Devils in the Central Washington 1B league and moved 4-2 Pateros ahead of 3-1 Entiat into third in the CW1B.

The two teams were evenly matched throughout the game with Wilson Creek taking narrow leads at the end of the first quarter, 15-13, and at halftime, 27-23. The Nannies narrowed the cap to a single point, 37-36, at the end of the third and then brought their A-game to the floor in the fourth.

Sophomore point guard Aleeka Miller-Smith scored 12 of her game-high 22 points in the final quarter and broke the game

open with a three-point shot, a blocked shot on the other end of the court, a feed to teammate Vanessa Cenicerros for a second three and another trey for Miller-Smith on her next trip down the floor. The 10-point run put the Nannies ahead for good as they outscored their opponents 22-14 in the final eight minutes.

Anissa Odorizzi kept Wilson Creek in the game with 17 points for the Lady Devils.

In an earlier road game on Tuesday, Jan. 8, Pateros dropped a non-league contest at 2B Soap Lake, 53-48. The Nannies were scheduled to face winless Cascade Christian Academy on the road Monday, Jan. 14, followed by Easton on Tuesday, Jan. 15, and Moses Lake Christian on Thursday, Jan. 17. Pateros will host Waterville-Mansfield at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19.

**Pateros: 13-10-13-22 58**  
**Wilson Creek: 15-12-10-14 51**



Nannies scoring  
Aleeka Miller-Smith: 23  
Vanessa Cenicerros: 15  
Anna Williams: 9  
Jillian Piechalski: 7  
Andrea Baird: 3  
Samantha White: 1  
Alley Piechalski  
Jennifer Flores

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# 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.  
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 • 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.

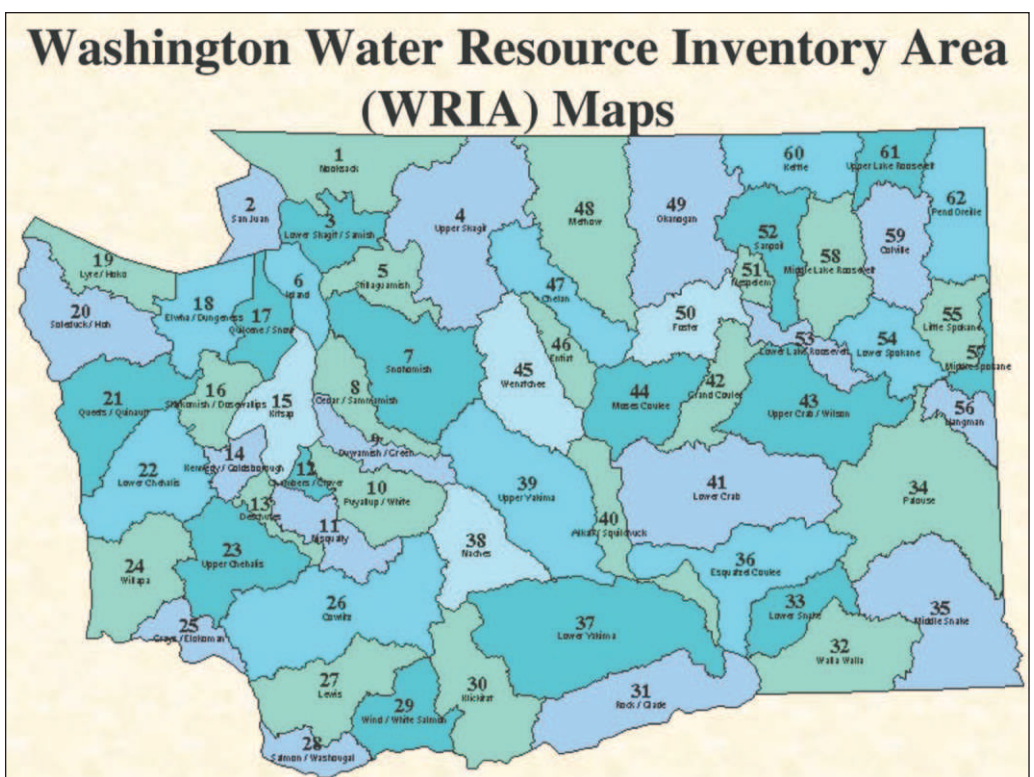
“In 2007 we had 31 applications,” said Wyss. “Right now, there are 65, more than double 2007 in just the first month of the year.”

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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**Horticulture 2019 73rd Lake Chelan Horticultural Day**

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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,



Photo by Kalie Drago

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

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



Submitted by Kathy Drinkwater

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

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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SUBMITTED BY TIANNA  
DU PONT, WSU TREE  
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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](http://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/>

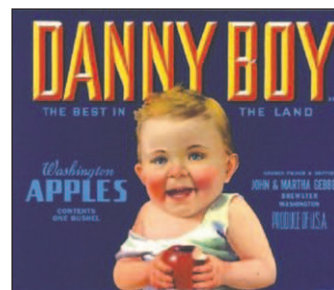
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### Gebbers Farms



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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Hort 2019

Hedline: School Ag classes keep busy with spring projects

By Mike Maltais

Staff writer

BRIDGEPORT – High school agriculture students in the Quad City coverage area are both industrious and innovative when it comes to projects that raise funds to support their activities, give back to their communities, and develop skill sets for future use.

Bridgeport High School Ag teacher and FFA advisor Adam Corum said he has some 129 students enrolled in his FFA and ag classes, so it takes a leader who knows his business to keep everyone engaged and productive. Corum is in his ninth year with the Bridgeport program and spent another four at Tonasket High School where he was an alumnus.

The largest annual fundraiser and the spring event anticipated by local gardeners is the school's annual greenhouse plant sale that is scheduled this year for Friday, April 26. The Ag students started planting on Jan. 9 to have their selections ready for the big sale.

"All of our plants are grown from seed and we receive our seeds from Ball Seeds," said Corum. "We are focusing on our baskets this year as well as bedding plants and a variety of vegetables."

The plant sales proceeds pay to send many of the FFA chapter students to the annual state FFA convention scheduled for May 9-11 in Pullman. Funds from previous sales even helped fund a trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in 2017. A goal this year is to raise enough money for a 2019 trip to National.

A big boost to the school ag program came from a Career and Technological Education (CTE) grant from the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) earlier this year. CTE grants allow schools to invest in their high-demand career and technical programs through facilities upgrades, equipment purchases, and other actions.

Bridgeport received \$65,000 that the ag students put to good use renovating the Ag Greenhouse and purchasing shop equipment.

"We poured a new concrete floor in the greenhouse," said Corum, "and bought a plasma cutter for the shop."

MANSFIELD

Unique among the four schools in the Quad coverage area, Mansfield High School boasts a school farm on ground adjacent to the school building. The farm is still in the process of adding facilities as the demand for student projects determines.

"Our farm has progressed very well," said Ag instructor Jamey Jo Steele. "We now have six pig pens and one goat pen. Over the years we have purchased new self-feeders for each pig pen and build a pretty nice water system as well."

Steele said the next phase of farm building will include a permanent area to set up a set of digital livestock scales the school purchased to facilitate weighing animals.

"We also have hopes to build some type of roof, Quonset hut, barn over the top of our existing pens."

Steele said the school enjoys a good turnout for its Ag and FFA programs.

"We have 18 active members in our FFA Chapter this year," said Steele. "Eight of them are returning and 10 are new. That is 60 percent of our 9-12 population."

Mansfield students patronize the North Central Washington Fair in nearby Waterville.

"Last August we had four members with pigs, one member with a goat, and one member with a steer," said Steele. "I would imagine this year we will see the same with a few more pig projects."

Just around the corner at Mansfield High School is the Silent Auction and Pie Sale at the Jan. 26 Homecoming festivities.

BREWSTER

Ag advisor Todd Dezelle always has a robust plant production project for his Ag class. Plantings begin early in the year from their own stocks to be ready in time for the spring greenhouse sales and sales tables at community events like Arbor Day in nearby Pateros.

The class has also been working with the Brewster Boys and Girls Club on a raised bed garden for the youngsters.

Students have also constructed custom-built birdhouses and provided a subscription floral service for a list of local clients.

PATEROS

The Pateros Ag students are effective fundraisers with barbecue selections at many of the major community events in their town. The class also maintains aluminum can recycle bins that have become a familiar fixture in town and at nearby Alta Lake.

Alta Lake State Park has been a special project for the shop students who spent the last few years rebuilding or refurbishing the picnic tables that were lost or damaged in the 2014 Carlton Complex wildfire. Last year the class switched gears and made signs and mile markers for the park.

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