



NCW Media Inc. Completes Sale of Five Local Newspapers to Ward Media LLC

NCW Media Inc., a prominent media company in North Central Washington, has finalized the sale of its five well-established local newspapers to Ward Media LLC, owned by Terry Ward and Amy Yaley. The newspapers involved in the transaction include the Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, Lake Chelan Mirror, Quad City Herald, and the Wenatchee Business Journal.

The acquisition marks a strategic move for both companies, aligning with their shared commitment to quality journalism and community engagement. NCW Media Inc has been a significant player in the regional media landscape for over two decades, providing trusted news coverage and in-depth reporting on local events and issues. The sale of these newspapers to Ward Media LLC is seen as a step to ensure the continued vitality and growth of these publications.

“We are excited to entrust these cherished community newspapers to Ward Media LLC,” said Carol Forhan, President of NCW Media. “Terry Ward and Amy Yaley have a proven track record of dedication to journalism and a strong understanding of the unique needs of local communities. We believe this



Terry Ward and Amy Yaley of Ward Media LLC, have purchased NCW Media Inc. The newspapers involved in the transaction include The Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, Lake Chelan Mirror, Quad City Herald, and the Wenatchee Business Journal.

transition will not only sustain the legacy of these newspapers but also enhance their future prospects.”

Terry Ward and Amy Yaley, owners of Ward Media LLC, bring a wealth of experience in the media industry. Ward has held leadership positions in various media companies, focusing on bolstering community-centric journalism and providing local businesses with innovative marketing strategies. At

the same time, Yaley has an extensive background in sales, marketing, events, and promotions.

“We are honored to take on the responsibility of carrying forward the journalistic tradition that these newspapers embody,” Terry Ward stated. “We aim to maintain the high journalistic standards set by NCW Media and, simultaneously, explore innovative ways to engage with our readers and

serve the local communities.”

Amy Yaley added, “The nature of the media landscape requires an adaptable approach, and we are committed to staying ahead of the curve. By combining our expertise, we aim to deliver a seamless integration of traditional and digital media that caters to the evolving needs of our readers and advertisers alike.”

As part of the transition, Ward

Media intends to retain the existing staff members of the acquired newspapers, ensuring continuity in reporting and marketing expertise. Readers can expect to find the same credible news coverage that these newspapers have provided over the years.

NCW Media and Ward Media are committed to making the transition seamless for readers, advertisers, and staff. For media inquiries, please contact:

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About Terry Ward and Amy Yaley

Terry Ward, a seasoned veteran of the media industry, boasts an extensive publishing background, having held pivotal roles in major US media corporations and Washington’s largest local media company. Amy Yaley is a sales and marketing authority with a diverse history encompassing global and local companies, equipping her to navigate the intricate global market while appreciating the nuances of local businesses. Together, Terry and Amy are resolute in their commitment to providing intensely local news coverage and innovative marketing solutions to North Central Washington’s communities.

Wild give back to Wenatchee Valley during 2022-23 season



PHOTO CREDIT WAHA/WENATCHEE WILD

Wenatchee Amateur Hockey Association members and Wenatchee Wild staff pose at a recent check presentation. The Wild announced more than \$215,000 in charitable contributions, covering the time during and immediately after the 2022-23 season.

Final totals put Wild contributions at more than \$200,000 over past year

Submitted by Wenatchee Wild

WENATCHEE – As their first season in the Western Hockey League (WHL) approaches, the Wenatchee Wild are excited to announce contributions of \$215,697, plus 110 hours of service from each player, to various causes and events in the Wenatchee Valley during and immediately after the 2022-23 season.

The organization commits each year to giving back to Wenatchee and surrounding communities, and has been successful in that pursuit over its 15 years on the

ice. Some of those opportunities to give back are undertaken in-house on game nights, through the team’s 50/50 raffle and Chuck-a-Puck promotion. Last season’s 50/50 drawings and Chuck-a-Puck promotions raised \$58,651 for participating groups, ranging from the Chelan County Regional Jail K9 Unit and the Wenatchee Wild Hockey Booster Club, to the Kenroy Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization and the NCW Sun Devils fastpitch softball club.

Each season, the Wild also

SEE WILD CONTRIBUTIONS, PAGE 15

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W B J

Wenatchee Business Journal

ncwbusiness.com

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When will we “fully fund” education?

Strategic investments, not just more money, are key for business growth and workforce development

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

As we begin another school year, I often get asked about “fully funding” education, despite the record state funding provided over recent years. Education spending has significantly increased since the State Supreme Court’s landmark 2012 McCleary decision on school funding. Washington now invests 44 percent of its nearly \$70 billion state budget into K-12 education. When the Legislature later satisfied the McCleary case, it also successfully limited school district property tax levies, but those limits were later removed.

As state funding and property taxes further increase, people continue to debate school funding. The answer to the “full funding” question actually requires a longer explanation about what constitutes “education” and an acknowledgement of expanding school district services. As state and local taxpayers continue to invest more into our schools, the business community should expect better returns on those investments and a more capable workforce.

Schools receive local, state, and federal dollars

Our state’s school funding system was already quite complicated prior to McCleary and still remains difficult to understand. Generally speaking, school districts receive state funding based on their total student enrollment. In addition to state dollars, school districts also receive funding from local and federal sources. Beyond their local, state, and federal funding, school districts can apply for various grants to supplement traditional sources of funds.

School district levies continue to increase

Local funding to school districts is provided by voter-approved

property tax levies. While I am a strong supporter of education, I am concerned about the growing property tax burdens on residents and whether school districts can or should provide the expanded services many districts are now taking on. As a result of changing state policies, increased public expectations, and school board decisions, many districts are now providing a range of childcare, social services, meals, healthcare, and early learning services in addition to their K-12 academic responsibilities. There is no doubt that a variety of needs exist within communities and their schools but defining the role of schools – and determining who can provide support services most efficiently – are key questions.

Expanded services and increasing costs

With school district services greatly expanding, it is becoming

increasingly difficult to differentiate where school responsibilities end and where family and community responsibilities begin. School district scope of service changes also generate philosophical debates related to education policy, funding obligations, and parental rights. If school districts continue to expand their services, it will become increasingly difficult – if not impossible – to ever “fully fund” education. It is not operationally realistic or fiscally sustainable to transition all of society’s responsibilities into our school system.

Education funding in 2023-2025 budget

As with any budget or major legislation, there are always things to support and areas for improvement. With an operating budget that has now grown to nearly \$70 billion with 44 percent dedicated to K-12 education, this is the case with Wash-

ington’s education spending. During the 2023 legislative session, approximately \$3 billion was added to education funding beyond the baseline level. Two major bills were approved that constituted the bulk of this additional investment: House Bill 1436 (special education funding) and Senate Bill 5650 (salary inflationary increases). While these funding changes are certainly needed and appreciated, the approved state budget spends significantly more on K-12 education without making substantive improvements to address academic deficiencies.

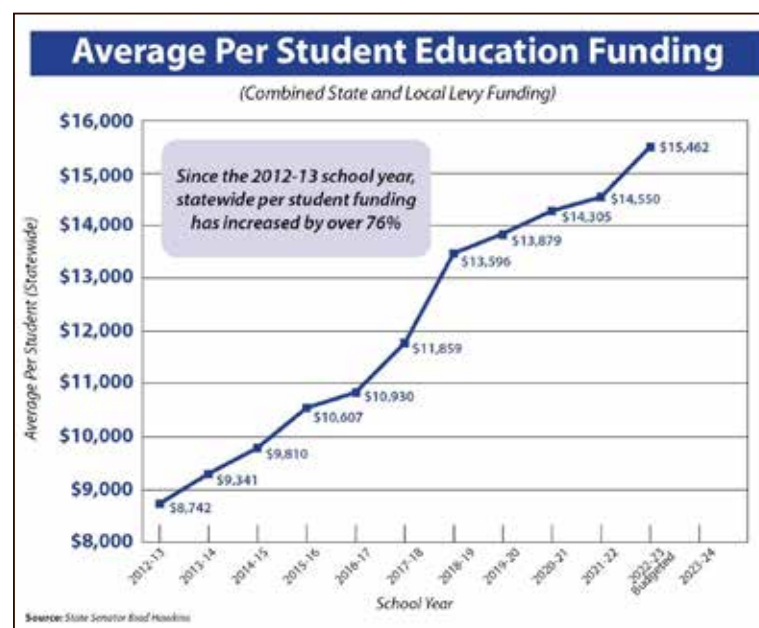
COVID “learning loss” still an issue

Many students are struggling to return to grade level following the COVID pandemic. Junior high teachers I met with recently shared that many students are two-to-four years behind grade level in math, leaving teachers wishing they had elementary math curriculum. For me, getting students to grade level should be the state’s top priority. Students at grade level who previously exceeded their grade level should also continue to be challenged. Without making academics the top priority, the state will just continue to spend more and more money without improving the overall system.

As a former school board member and supporter of public education, I believe many challenges still exist in our education system. These challenges remain despite significant funding increases, many of which are being directed at broader student needs. To maximize learning opportunities, restore academic growth in our schools, and prepare students to succeed in a global workforce, lawmakers need to have thoughtful conversations about making improvements in education beyond just more spending. The expanding scope of services school districts are attempting to provide and increased property tax pressures must be part of that discussion.

Sen. Brad Hawkins is State Senator of the 12th Legislative District.

He serves the ranking Republican member on the Senate’s Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. Prior to his election to the Legislature, Hawkins served for a combined 10 years on the North Central Educational Service District and Eastmont School boards.



School funding has significantly increased in recent years, both from state investments and school district property tax requests. Districts received \$8,742 per student for the 2012-13 school year and received approximately \$15,462 for the 2022-23 school year.

Primary election certification sets stage for November General Election

*Office of the Secretary of State, county elections officials have certified August 1 primary
Voters statewide can now update voter registrations to get text updates of ballot status*Submitted by
Derrick Nunnally,
WA Secretary of State Office

OLYMPIA — Certification of the August 1 Primary has been completed, setting the stage for November’s general election in counties across Washington.

More than 1.1 million voters statewide participated in the August Primary, a 28.9% turnout by voters in the 36 counties which held an election. Issues on voters’ ballots included city and county elected offices, school

and fire district positions, and local ballot proposals.

“The August Primary was very well run in counties across the state,” Secretary of State Steve Hobbs said. “Now our work turns to getting voters informed and motivated to make their voices heard in the November General Election.”

The August primary was Washington’s first election in which voters statewide could sign up for text updates as their ballots were received and ac-

cepted by county elections offices. This new feature of Washington elections can be enabled by adding a cellphone number to a new or existing voter registration via VoteWA.gov or in person at a county elections office.

More than 35% of the 10,980 voters making new registrations and updates to existing registrations in the month before the Primary chose to enable text messaging.

“Getting a text message

when your ballot is processed adds transparency and trust in our system,” Secretary Hobbs said. “This new communication is also a valuable instant alert when a voter has forgotten to sign their ballot envelope, or when that signature doesn’t match, and the voter needs to contact the county elections office to make their voice heard.”

Washington’s Office of the Secretary of State oversees a number of areas within state government, including

managing state elections, registering corporations and charities, and governing the use of the state flag and state seal. The office also manages the State Archives and the State Library, documents extraordinary stories in Washington’s history through Legacy Washington, oversees the Combined Fund Drive for charitable giving by state employees, and administers the state’s Address Confidentiality Program to help protect survivors of crime.



SAS Cherry Vale for Rainier Cherry Award.



Douglas Fruit Company for Organic Cherry Award.



PPFC Airport Ranch for Honeycrisp Award.



West Mathison

Stemilt Announces 2022 Grower Award recipients

Submitted by Elizabeth Price

WENATCHEE – Stemilt held its annual grower BBQ on August 10 to award 13 selected growers celebrating high quality apples, pears and cherries produced during the 2022 crop year. The awards were distributed by Stemilt president, West Mathison, and Stemilt's field staff team members.

About Stemilt:

Stemilt is a family-owned grower, packer, and shipper of tree fruit. Owned and operated by the Mathison family, Stemilt's mission is to cultivate people and delight consumers through excellence with its World Famous Fruits. Stemilt is a leader in sweet cherries and organic tree fruits, and a key supplier of apples and pears. The company stewards an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible business through its Responsible Choice® program, which has been in place since 1989. For more information about Stemilt, visit www.stemilt.com.



The 2022 Stemilt Grower Award recipients below are listed by orchard name and the grower:

- Rainier Cherry Award** – SAS Cherry Vale – Stemilt Ag Services
- Valley Red Cherry Award** – Outwest Cherry LLC – Evans Family
- Organic Cherry Award** – Douglas Fruit Company – Douglas Fruit
- Hill Red Cherry Award** – Kyle Mathison Orchards – Kyle Mathison
- Pear Award** – Mike Jurgens Orchard – Mike Jurgens
- Organic Pear Award** – Dovex Adams Road – Dovex Fruit Company
- Gala Award** – LBF – Stemilt Ag Services
- Minneiska Award** – Foreman Ridpath – James Foreman
- Honeycrisp Award** – PPFC Airport Ranch – Dave Piepel
- Granny Smith Award** – A&T Mathison Ranch, Inc George – Stemilt Ag Services
- Cosmic Crisp® Award** – White Alpha II – White Alpha
- Pink Lady® Award** – Highlander Orchards, Inc – Bill and Lori Wacker
- Fuji Award** – Cascade – Stemilt Ag Services
- Organic Apple Award** – Dovex Adams Road – Dovex Fruit Company



Dovex Adams Road for Organic Apple Award.



White Alpha II for Cosmic Crisp Award.

Senator Murray hosts Farm Bill roundtable in Wenatchee with Growers, producers, ag representatives

Submitted by Naomi Savin

WENATCHEE – U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, hosted a roundtable discussion Wednesday August 2, with growers, producers, and agricultural representatives in Central Washington on the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill, which takes place every five years.

Attendees at the roundtable represented a wide array of Washington state agricultural interests and included the Washington State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, officials from the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and representatives from the Washington Apple Commission, Washington State Potato Commission, Washington Hop Growers, Washington State Wine Growers, Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission, Northwest Horticultural Council, and more – in addition to local family farmers and producers.

At the roundtable, Murray heard from agricultural representatives and producers about their priorities for the Farm Bill, the federal support they

need, and the challenges they are facing, especially as climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

“Agriculture is a crucial part of our state’s economy, especially in our rural communities. It’s not just a way to make a living for people, it’s a way of life,” Senator Murray said. “And what grows in Washington state goes all over the world. Every day, people down in Mexico, up in Canada, and across the Pacific Ocean, choose to buy our products and put money in our farmers’ pockets. Agriculture supports jobs across our state and spurs billions of dollars in economic activity, to say nothing of how many people it feeds. The Farm Bill Congress is working to reauthorize directly affects the work all of you do. So, I want to hear directly from folks on the ground about the challenges you are facing, and what Congress can do to support the farmers who keep our nation fed,” Murray continued.

Murray spoke about her top priorities on the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill from robust support for the trade programs growers rely on, as



SUBMITTED PHOTO

U.S. Senator Patty Murray

Washington state is one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation, to investments in conservation programs that are widely utilized in Washington state, critical nutrition assistance programs including SNAP, and essential agriculture research, much of which takes place in Washington state.

“We need to make sure we are strengthening our trade relationships and ensuring you all have a fair playing field to get your goods to customers across the world,” Murray said.

“We need to support robust voluntary conservation programs that preserve our local ecosystems and the sustainable practices already happening on farms across Washington. We need a strong

rural development title that will support so many of the rural communities represented at this table. And then, there is the need for ag research on pressing challenges like protecting crops from wildfire smoke, insects, viruses, fungi, and other threats, mitigating herbicide resistance, developing new fruit varieties that allow us to reduce cost and increase quantity and quality, and more.”

Washington state has over 35,000 farms producing approximately 300 commodities – including specialty crops like apples, cherries, onions, potatoes, pears, berries, wine grapes, and hops – across the state.

According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, 95% of these farms are family owned. Washington state is the number-one U.S. producer of apples, blueberries, hops, pears, spearmint oil, and sweet cherries.

Washington state is the number-two U.S. producer of apricots, asparagus, grapes, potatoes, and raspberries; and the number-three U.S. producer of dried peas, lentils, onions, and peppermint oil. According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, the food processing and

agriculture industries are responsible for more than 164,000 jobs across Washington state.

Senator Murray spoke at the groundbreaking for a brand-new Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Plant Sciences Building on Washington State University’s campus on August 1,

which will provide cutting-edge facilities for scientists working to address critical challenges facing national and global agriculture.

Senator Murray led the fight to secure \$125 million in federal funding for the building through the appropriations process over many years.

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Confluence Health Stroke Program recognized with multiple awards

Submitted by
Adam McDonald,
Confluence Health

WENATCHEE – Confluence Health’s Central Washington Hospital, now Confluence Health Hospital – Central Campus, was recently recognized by major organizations for their efforts within their stroke program.

In recognition for their commitment to providing high-quality stroke care, Confluence Health was awarded three different recognitions by the American Heart Association (AHA) and American Stroke Association, a division of the AHA.

As a part of the organizations’ Get with the Guidelines program, Confluence Health was presented with the Stroke Gold Plus Award for consistent adherence to AHA guidelines in dealing with strokes. In addition to this significant award, Confluence Health was further recognized with the Target: Stroke Elite Plus and Target: Type 2 Diabetes honor roll recognitions for efforts in these areas.

“This award reflects several years of intensive effort by the stroke manager Teri McIntyre in stroke education and quality improvements combined with all of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Interdisciplinary Stroke Advisory Board and Stroke Program Staff.

the stroke team working behind the scenes and directly with the patients,” remarked Dr. Scott Stroming, emergency department physician with Confluence Health. “Strong stroke team leadership, and physician and nursing buy-in, has been critical to the success of the program.”

The fifth leading cause of death and one of the leading causes of disability across the United States, strokes are medical emergencies when blood vessels in the

brain either burst or are blocked by clots. Detecting these medical events quickly, and promptly providing treatment from staff trained to handle this sort of care, is crucial to ensure positive patient outcomes.

“Get with the Guidelines and the AHA set the national standard for stroke care,” continued Dr. Jennifer Wax, neurologist at Confluence Health. “I am pleased and proud of our team earning the Gold Plus Award, which recognizes our adherence to the most

up-to-date and evidence-based guidelines and our commitment to providing the highest quality of care. Optimal stroke care is complex and requires collaboration between many teams in and outside the hospital all working together to effectively provide our patients with the best chance for stroke recovery and secondary prevention.

This recognition also reflects the fantastic ongoing work from

our stroke quality improvement group.” In addition to the recognition from the AHA, the stroke program at Confluence Health was further recognized by DNV with Primary Stroke Center Certification. Confluence Health Hospital - Central Campus is the only Primary Stroke Center in the region and one of only 15 certified stroke centers in Washington State.

“The primary stroke program at Confluence Health Hospital – Central Campus has continued to grow and work towards improving outcomes for patients experiencing a stroke in our region by working together as a team to optimize workflows while using best practices and evidence to continuously update and improve,” explained Teri McIntyre, stroke program manager at Confluence Health. “In our work, we manage our patients from pre-hospital care through discharge to our stroke clinic and integrated practice unit, supporting patients for up to one year after discharge to improve their health and stroke risk factors. I’m so thankful for all the people in so many areas that come together to work as a team to improve patient safety and reduce re-admissions.”



KATIE LINDERT / WARD MEDIA

Community members assembled indoors at the Orchard Cafe and al fresco on the hospital’s patio to enjoy their complimentary picnic-style luncheon and desserts during Lake Chelan Health’s 75th anniversary celebration held on August 9.

Lake Chelan Health marks 75th anniversary with Commemorative Event

By Katie Lindert
Reporter Ward Media

LAKE CHELAN – Lake Chelan Health commemorated its 75th anniversary on August 9 with a special event highlighting the enduring presence and community support of the hospital in the valley.

The new facility, located at 110 South Apple Blossom Drive, welcomed its first patients in December 2022.

The celebratory occasion included a communal gathering featuring a complimentary picnic-style luncheon and desserts for attendees.

The festivities also featured a hospital staff-hosted prize wheel, offering an

engaging experience for attendees.

Community members assembled indoors at the Orchard Cafe and al fresco on the hospital’s patio, where tables adorned with umbrellas – funded through the sale of engraved bricks by the Lake Chelan Health Hospital Guild Y – provided shade.

The accompanying photograph showcases the emblematic engraved bricks (left in photo), which served as a special attraction.

Families reveled in the pleasant ambiance, with children freely enjoying the surrounding lawn’s open spaces and shaded spots.

The hospital’s legacy

dates back to the inauguration of the first facility on August 9, 1948, with a subsequent hospital open for public tours since May 1972.

A historical exhibit chronicled the evolution of the three hospital buildings, showcasing the growth and transformation over the years.

Notably, the hospital district secured an \$11 million grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce in March for the Lake Chelan Health EMS building.

Ongoing discussions with architectural firms are underway to finalize plans for this new development, signifying the hospital’s commitment to continued progress.

Confluence Health honored with two major heart care-related awards

Submitted by Adam McDonald,
Confluence Health

WENATCHEE – Confluence Health was recently awarded the 2023 Award of Excellence in Cardiovascular Surgery by the Foundation for Health Care Quality as a part of the Cardiac Care Outcomes Assessment Program (COAP) for the second year in a row.

COAP is a Washington State quality improvement collaborative with 32 participating sites throughout the state with the goal of supporting hospitals and clinicians in achieving the highest levels of patient care and outcomes. To achieve this award, a facility must perform at or better than the state average on at least six of eight key quality indicators in the prior assessment year.

“We are very grateful,” remarked Dr. Sasha Kraev, cardiothoracic surgeon at Confluence Health. “Cardiac surgery is the ultimate team sport, and it takes every single one of us. This could not have happened without true dedication from everyone.”

In addition to the COAP Award of Excellence, Central Washington Hospital (now Confluence Health Hospital – Central Campus)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

COAP Cardiovascular Surgery and AHA Mission Lifeline NSTEMI Gold Award with Sasha Kraev, MD and Derek Allen, PA-C.

was also recognized for a performance award from the American Heart Association. Awarded the Mission: Lifeline® NSTEMI Gold achievement award, this recognition acknowledges commitment to offering rapid, research-based care to people experiencing a specific type of heart attack known as a non-ST elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI).

More than 546,000 people experience these types of dangerous heart attacks each year. Recipients of the award are chosen because of their high-quality care

over the course of treatment, including EMS transport, hospital treatment, and discharge.

“I’m continually impressed by the care our emergency department, catheterization lab, and inpatient teams provide,” remarked Dr. Geoff Harms, interventional cardiologist and cardiac catheterization lab medical director for Confluence Health. “We serve a large geographical area, and we couldn’t do what we do without our critical access hospitals and EMS partners. It’s a coordinated regional effort.”

Living With COPD? How to Navigate Palliative and Hospice Care

(StatePoint) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is also referred to as emphysema or chronic bronchitis and makes it hard to breathe. During every stage of the disease, starting when a person is first diagnosed, different supportive care options are available that can improve quality of life, including palliative and hospice care.



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Jovanmandic / iStock via Getty Images Plus

It's important for families affected by COPD to have a plan in place regarding these care options. Having trusted tools and information can make getting the conversation started with healthcare providers easier.

That's why the American Lung Association, in partnership with Embassy Health, has launched a new campaign to educate patients and families about the benefits and differences of palliative and hospice care.

Palliative Care

Palliative care provides specialized medical care for people living with a chronic or serious illness. Surprisingly to many patients, it's appropriate at any stage of COPD. Early delivery of palliative care has the potential to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and the use of health services. In fact, it's never too soon after a COPD diagnosis to ask a healthcare provider about adding in palliative care.

The intent of palliative care for those living with COPD is to improve their condition, manage symptoms and address their wishes and treatment goals. These services are often provided by a team of palliative care specialist doctors and nurses, social workers, nutritionists and spiritual advisers, and can take place in the home, a

hospital, outpatient clinic, assisted living facility, nursing home or palliative care center.

Hospice Care

When curative treatment options stop working, it's often referred to as end-stage or advanced COPD. This can be an extremely difficult time for patients and families, and a time where they need to make difficult decisions.

One treatment option for advanced COPD is hospice care. Hospice care focuses on bringing comfort and relief to a person with life-limiting COPD who has opted to no longer seek curative treatment. The goal is to consider the patient's overall wellbeing and improve the quality of their life.

While many worry it's too soon to start talking about hospice care, many patients discover that it comprises much more than end-of-life care.

When Carolynne, who has COPD, was hospitalized due to a severe exacerbation of the disease in November 2022, her healthcare team was especially concerned about her future and suggested hospice care.

As she learned more, she began to understand that hospice encompasses supportive in-home care that could help prevent hospitalizations with another

COPD flare-up. Carolynne's hospice care includes assistance with showers and medication, weekly nurse check-ins, chaplain visits, and in-home healthcare so that she doesn't have to travel to numerous medical appointments.

This level of support has allowed her to focus her time and energy on her family and her favorite hobby, baking.

"I am living at home, and I can do as I please and hospice is helping me do it," Carolynne says. "It's just a different style of living; you are living with help."

Hospice care is delivered by a multidisciplinary team that can consist of nurses, doctors, social workers, spiritual advisers, and trained volunteers. Everyone works together with the patient and their caregivers to provide medical, emotional, and spiritual support

An approach to care, not a place, hospice can be offered in the home, a care center, hospital, assisted living facility or hospice center for more information about COPD care options, visit Lung.org/copd-plan.

For the 12.5 million people in the United States living with COPD and their families, having reliable information about supportive care options can mean fewer hospitalizations and a better quality of life.

Brilliant ways to fight allergens this season

(StatePoint) During allergy season, having a safe haven from the triggers that make you sneeze and wheeze is essential.

While you can't completely control your surroundings in the great outdoors, you can take steps at home to reduce allergens and feel your best.

• **Fresh, cool air:** The right air conditioning unit can help you breathe better indoors.

For example, the Midea U delivers a cold airflow that can be felt up to 20 feet away and features full DC inverter technology to rapidly cool a room. Its removable and washable air filter is easily cleaned to help reduce dust and pet allergens in the air. And thanks to its U-shaped design, you can easily open and close your windows even when the unit is installed, giving you more control of your indoor air quality and environment. Bonus – it's compatible with Alexa and Google Assistant and is Energy Star-certified and ultra-quiet.

• **Smart steps:** When you get home from spending time outdoors, take off outer layers that have made contact with pollen, such as jackets and shoes. Having a mud room or other area

to remove and store these items, preferably attached to or close to your laundry room, will help you avoid tracking and spreading allergens throughout your home.

• **Screened doors and windows:** Even if you suffer from allergies, you may enjoy throwing open your windows on a nice day for a cross breeze. Just be sure all the screens on your windows and doors are in good condition and free of tears and holes.

Special pollen-blocking screens are easy to install and go a step further than standard insect screens to keep out smaller, particulate matter, including pollen, dust and other small irritants and allergens.

• **Whole-home cleaning:** Regular vacuuming will make a world of differ-

ence in the way you feel.

For maximum relief, use a vacuum with complete seal HEPA filtration. This means it's EPA-certified to do the job, based on the standard test method, which indicates it can trap 99.9% of dust, dander, and allergen particles 0.3 microns and larger.

The Innova Upright Vacuum, for example, targets these particles and facilitates whole-home cleaning. Thanks to its detachable accessories and components, and LED user interface, you can optimize your cleaning for every surface, including hard floor, carpet and upholstery, curtains, the space under furniture and stairs. And if you're a pet parent, you can expect a deeper, more efficient clean and longer operation due to its dual-action brush roll that actively prevents pet hair tangles and clogs from forming while concentrating air flow. It also has a motorized anti-tangle pet tool that effectively removes hair and debris from stairs and upholstery.

There is no need to suffer in your own home this season. With some smart strategies and the right tools, you can keep allergens at bay indoors.



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Wheatland Bank to join the Glacier Family of Banks, lead new division including North Cascades Bank

Submitted by Kyla Allen,
North Cascades Bank

CHELAN – Community Financial Group, Inc., the Spokane-based holding company of Wheatland Bank, has entered into an agreement to join the Glacier Bancorp, Inc., the Montana-based holding company of North Cascades Bank.

Pending approval by Community Financial Group, Inc. shareholders and approval by banking regulators, Wheatland Bank will officially become part of Glacier Bancorp in the 4th quarter of 2023. When the transaction closes, North Cascades Bank will merge into Wheatland Bank to form Glacier Bancorp's new Wheatland Bank division. Susan Horton, Wheatland's President and Chief Executive Officer, will continue to lead the new larger, expanded bank division in the same capacity. The new combined bank will operate with 23 branches and approximately 250 employees throughout eastern and central Washington. This is an exciting development for our employees, customers, communities, and shareholders. By joining forces, the new Wheatland Bank division, comprised of Wheatland Bank and North Cascades Bank, becomes a



**Susan Horton,
President, and CEO
of Wheatland Bank**

market-leading bank franchise in eastern Washington, said Charlie Guildner, President of North Cascades Bank. The Wheatland Bank division of Glacier Bank will become eastern Washington's #4 market leader in deposit market share and will maximize the opportunities in the markets we serve, as well as new markets that many of our customers already operate in, including Spokane, the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, Yakima, Ellensburg and more. Together, we will have the best combined banking team of any bank in the region. Susan Horton, President, and CEO of Wheatland Bank, agreed. "Glacier is truly the partner we have always dreamed of, and we couldn't be more excited about becoming part



**Charlie Guildner,
President of North
Cascades Bank**

of their family of banks, and embracing the customers, employees, and communities of their successful North Cascades Bank division. Not only is Glacier one of the strongest and highest performing banking companies in the nation, but their community banking operating model and decentralized culture make them a perfect fit for our customers, employees, and shareholders. Glacier's longstanding business model is to provide each of their community bank divisions with the autonomy to operate in the manner that made them successful, but with the muscle of Glacier behind them," said Susan Horton. "We will have the strength, depth of resources, and liquidity of a \$28 billion public company traded on



Artist rendering of Chelan branch office.

the NYSE, will expand our local Wheatland footprint and immediately double in size after integrating the North Cascades division, to become a Top 5 eastern Washington bank. This partnership will cement Wheatland Bank's legacy, and together with North Cascades Bank, strengthen our position in the marketplace and create more opportunity for all stakeholders. "We are excited and proud to welcome Wheatland to the Glacier family of banks," said Randy Chesler, Glacier's President, and CEO. "Wheatland's footprint complements our current presence in eastern Washington, a market which has been experiencing tremendous growth. We have truly admired the impact this franchise has had on its

community and are focused on fostering the relationships it has developed with its customers. Chesler also noted that this acquisition is consistent with our history of adding high quality community banks to our proven banking model. We look forward to the value this new division will create for our community and shareholders under Susan's experienced leadership.

About Glacier Bancorp, Inc.

Glacier Bancorp, Inc., based in Kalispell, Montana, uses a community banking model that gives their local bank divisions autonomy in each market. This allows each community bank to continue serving the specific needs of each community, while offering the benefits of being part of a larger organization.

Glacier Bancorp is the parent company for Glacier Bank and its bank divisions: Altabank (American Fork, UT), Bank of the San Juans (Durango, CO), Citizens Community Bank (Pocatello, ID), Collegiate Peaks Bank (Buena Vista, CO), First Bank of Montana (Lewistown, MT), First Bank of Wyoming (Powell, WY), First Community Bank Utah (Layton, UT), First Security Bank (Bozeman, MT), First Security Bank of Missoula (Missoula, MT), First State Bank (Wheatland, WY), Glacier Bank (Kalispell, MT), Heritage Bank of Nevada (Reno, NV), Mountain West Bank (Coeur d'Alene, ID), North Cascades Bank (Chelan, WA), The Foothills Bank (Yuma, AZ), Valley Bank of Helena (Helena, MT), and Western Security Bank (Billings, MT). Visit Glacier's website at www.glacierbancorp.com.



Legislative updates: Concerning Crime, Long-Term Care Tax, High Fuel prices and South Korea visit

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
The summer season seems to be going fast. I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some vacation time and be with loved ones.

There are a number of things happening related to state government issues and I want to provide you with an update.

I also want to thank everyone who is contacting me with questions, comments, and concerns. I appreciate hearing from those I represent.

Concerning crime report

Last month, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs released its Annual Crime in Washington Report.

The report indicated Washington state experi-

enced its highest murder rate since the 1980s. The crime report is evidence that our public safety policies need work and staffing levels are too low.

Washington has the lowest number of police officers per capita in the country. If Washington had the national average of officers-to-population, we would have more than 7,000 officers commissioned than we do right now.

I expect public safety issues to be a high priority once again when we convene for the 2024 legislative session. To check out some of the solutions we offered during the legislative session to improve public safety and make our communities safer, go to our priorities page and click on the "making communities safer" section.

Long-term care payroll tax takes effect

Your paycheck may have been a little smaller in July and moving forward. The WA Cares Fund, the new state-run, long-term care insurance program, kicked in on July 1, and started payroll deductions for many Washington workers, including part-time and temporary workers. Those in the program will pay up to 58 cents on every \$100 of their earnings. That means someone making \$50,000 per year will pay \$290 a year.

The payroll tax comes from partisan legislation, House Bill 1087, passed in the 2019 legislative session.

People were given an opportunity to opt out if they could find their own long-term care insurance plan

before Nov. 1, 2021, but insurance companies were flooded with requests and couldn't cater to many who had still hoped to opt out of the mandatory plan.

Instead, many are now stuck with this plan which is inadequate and poorly designed. The limited lifetime benefit of up to \$36,500 will hardly cover health needs for the long term. There is also no guarantee you will get the benefits of the program. The plan is not portable, meaning if you leave the state at any time, you lose your benefits. If you do not need the benefit, you forfeit all the money invested from your paycheck, and your spouse is not eligible for your benefit contributions if you do not use them.

The unpopularity of the program is reflected in Ad-

visory Vote No. 20 from the general election in November 2019 when nearly 63% of voters said the tax should be repealed.

I have opposed this flawed state program from the beginning. There was legislation introduced. With the long-term care payroll tax now in place, there are plans in the upcoming session to introduce legislation that would make the program optional. Folks should have the option to determine their own needs and long-term care. I could support legislation that makes this program optional and provides more flexibility to those who want to invest in and may need long-term care.

Strengthening ties with South Korea

As part of our duties, many legislators serve on committees or boards outside of the Legislature's policy committees.

I am a member of the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations (LCEDIR), which studies and reviews economic development issues.

The committee's duties include an emphasis on international trade, tourism,

investment, and industrial development, and assisting the Legislature in developing a comprehensive and consistent economic development policy.

Earlier this summer, I led a delegation of legislators to South Korea to strengthen international relations and get a firsthand look at economic development occurring in the country. Washington state is home for about 60,000 Koreans. It was a great experience, and our hosts were very gracious. We toured a carbon fiber facility that supplies Boeing with wing parts. They would like to expand the use of carbon products produced by the facility in our region. There is also a facility that produces hydrogen tanks.

South Korea expressed great interest in working with us on economic issues, including having Washington state grow crops for them. This would be a big boost for our agricultural industry.

Their country is also working on biopharmaceuticals, or medical grade supplements.

I enjoy being part of this committee, as it gives us an opportunity to promote

Edward Jones welcomes Sasha McGinn

Submitted by Lorena Urrutia

We are excited to Welcome Sasha McGinn as a new Financial Advisor at Edward Jones. Sasha is an Alaska native and enjoys outdoor adventures. She will be joining the Mina Gomez Edward Jones Branch team in Wenatchee along with Mina Gomez, Financial Advisor and Lorena Urrutia, Branch office administrator, in order to serve our community and clients. Please help us welcome her to this amazing community.

Overbay elected to lead WCRP in 2024

Submitted by Jill FitzSimmons

Beginning in October 2023, Chelan County Commissioner Kevin Overbay will serve as the vice president and president-elect of the Washington Counties Risk Pool, which supports its member counties with risk management programs.

Overbay was elected by his peers on July 21 at the WCRP's Board of Directors meeting. Overbay currently represents Chelan County on the board and is also a member of the WCRP Executive Committee, which provides oversight to the organization.

He will serve as vice president from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2024, and then as president Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025, if re-elected to the Chelan County Commission in 2024.

WVC Foundation receives \$1,500 grant from Wenatchee Rotary Club

Submitted by Holly Thorpe, PIO WVC

The Wenatchee Valley College Foundation received a \$1,500 grant from the Wenatchee Rotary Club to support the WVC Bridge program. The new program is designed to help Adult Basic Education (ABE) students without their high school credentials get access to financial aid so that they can transition into higher education programs, including trade programs, two- and four-year degrees. The WVC Bridge program will begin summer quarter 2023.

If a student does not have high school credentials, a diploma or GED, they are not eligible for financial aid support through federal aid (FAFSA) or state aid (WASFA). However, if they complete six college credits,

then they can claim Ability to Benefit (ATB), a federal classification that gives them access to financial aid to continue their education.

"These students are in a financial aid desert," said Rachel Evey, WVC Foundation executive director. "With funding from the Wenatchee Rotary Club to support WVC Bridge, WVC can cover college-related expenses for ABE students to successfully transition into higher education programs."

Of 564 WVC students enrolled in Adult Basic Education who were surveyed, 52% reported having a family income below the 70% lower-living income standard for Washington, according to ABE faculty Julie Fitch. Learn more about ABE at WVC at wvc.edu/TransitionalStudies.



Gunnar Balzar



James Monroe



Bob Greiner and Tom Doherty.

Wenatchee Valley Corvette Club offers scholarships

Submitted by Susan Albert

The Best Corvette Show by a Dam site drifted down River to Downtown Wenatchee on July 7-8, 2023. This is the 11th year and over 80 of America's Sports Cars have participated in the annual show. We had all 8 classes of Corvettes.

The show starts at the Hot Rod Café in Monitor

on Friday night and is on Wenatchee Ave. between Orondo and Kittitas on Saturday July 8, 2023. It was hosted by Wenatchee Valley Corvette Club which is a 501C3 tax exempt non-profit.

The Show and our Sponsors fund two 2nd year scholarships in Automotive Technology at WVC.

The total scholarship for

each student is \$2100 for the year. Our generous sponsors include:

Cascade Auto, Equilus-Capital Partners, Brock's Academy, Swire Coca Cola, Coast Hotel, NCNBank, NCW Containers, and individual members of our club. 2023-24 is our 3rd round of scholarships. This is part of our mission as a 501C3.

This year's awardees of

the scholarships are James Moore and Gunnar Balzar. The 2nd year automotive students are invited to our annual dinner in October, and we would like to help with finding internships as well.

In addition, the WVCC has donated to the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society and Chelan County K9 unit.

Community Foundation accepting applications for grant programs

Submitted by Jennifer Dolge

The Community Foundation of NCW is now accepting applications for its Regional Impact Grant (RIG) and Woods Family Music and Arts Grant.

The RIG is an annual grant program open to non-profit organizations and public agencies that address community needs in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties (excluding the Methow Valley).

Organizations that are 501(c)(3) public charities headquartered in these counties are eligible and encouraged to apply for unrestricted, core operating support. Government agencies (excluding schools), tribal agencies, faith-based

organizations, fiscally sponsored programs, or a 501(c)(3) public charity serving the region but headquartered outside of NCW are eligible for funding to support specific programs or projects that meet our Grant Guidelines and Policies.

The funding request, \$6,000-\$14,000, is determined by the budget size of the organization.

The Foundation strives to award a balanced number of grants across budget sizes based on the total funding available and the number of applications received per budget range.

The Woods Family Music & Arts Grant is open to 501c3 nonprofit organizations, or fiscally sponsored programs, and public

schools in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties, excluding the Methow Valley.

Up to \$5,000 is available to support initiatives such as equitable access to arts and culture for youth, expand and increase access to underrepresented audiences, programs that celebrate the rich and diverse culture of NCW, and operating support for high-quality art programs.

The deadline for the RIG is September 15. The deadline for the Woods Grant

is September 30. Learn more and apply online at www.cfncw.org/grants.

The Community Foundation of North Central Washington's mission is to grow, protect, and connect charitable gifts in support of strong communities throughout Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties. Established in 1986, the Community Foundation manages \$130 million in assets through 600+ individual funds and has awarded over \$55 million in grants and scholarships.

NCESD Board of Directors call for 2023 elections

Submitted by Becca Freimuth

The North Central Educational Service District (NCESD) has announced a call for Board of Directors.

Candidates must file their declaration of candidacy between September 1, 2023 and September 16, 2023. The following districts within the NCESD are seeking candidates; each term is 2024 - 2028 and begins January 2024:

- District 2 represents Cascade, Cashmere, Entiat, Lake Chelan, Manson and Stehekin School Districts.
- District 4 represents Ephrata, Quincy, Soap Lake, Warden, and Wilson Creek School Districts.
- District 6 represents Eastmont School District and the southern

portion of the Wenatchee School District.

North Central ESD covers just over 12,600 miles and provides services to schools in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant Counties serving over 44,000 students. The Board is composed of seven regionally elected members.

A person is eligible to be a candidate for membership on an educational service district board of directors if he or she is a citizen of the United States, a registered voter, resides within the boundary of the board member district for which they are applying and is not a school district employee, member of a board of directors of a school district or on the State Board of Education.

Anyone interested in filing for candidacy can contact Dr. Michelle Price, Superintendent of NCESD, at 509-665-2628 for more information.

The elections process will be completely online via the Washington State School Directors' Association. Learn more and file candidacy at www.wssda.org.

About North Central Educational Service District:

The North Central Educational Service District provides a wide array of programs, services and support to the 29 public school districts in the North Central Washington region of Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan county. The service district provides professional and timely tools to meet the needs of individual schools and districts, and a reliable point of education-related information for the communities served. The NCESD is one of nine respected educational service districts in Washington state.

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Rep. Schrier introduced bipartisan, bicameral bill to improve dam safety

Submitted by
Hana Tadesse

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Kim Schrier introduced a bipartisan, bicameral bill to fund crucial infrastructure improvements for dams in Washington state and across the nation. This legislation, the National Dam Safety Reauthorization Act, would reauthorize the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) through FY 2028. Congresswoman Schrier is joined in co-leading this legislation with Representatives Chuck Edwards (R-NC-11), Annie Kuster (D-NH-2), and Brandon Williams (R-NY-22). The companion bill is led by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Kevin Cramer (R-SD).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's NDSP began in 1996 to provide states with grants, resources, and assistance to ensure their dams meet safety standards. Without further action, funding for the NDSP will expire this September. In addition to dams used for hydropower, the 8th District is home to more than 180 dams regulated by the state, serving purposes including conservation, irrigation, recreation, and more. Funding

provided by the NDSP is especially important for the 8th District given that the average age of a dam in the district is 57 years.

"I'm committed to investing in our infrastructure, and dams are an integral part of the Eighth District. With 188 dams, and 128 of those classified as "high hazard" dams in my District, it is imperative that Congress reauthorize the bipartisan National Dam Safety Program," said Rep. Schrier. "The National Dam Safety Program is a huge win for states like Washington to maintain the function and structural integrity of our dams. This legislation will ensure that dams across the country are up to code and not a threat to public safety. I am proud to work across the aisle to introduce this legislation."

David Griffin, P.E., president, Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) said, "On behalf of ASDSO, I want to thank Representatives Chuck Edwards, Ann Kuster, Kim Schrier, and Brandon Williams, and Senators Kevin Cramer and Dianne Feinstein for supporting the need for strong dam safety programs. Reauthorization of this important program will con-

tinue federal leadership and needed funding support to reduce the risks associated with dam failure. We encourage Congress to support proposed improvements to the law which will make it more effective across all states."

"The nation's 92,000 dams have suffered from decades of deferred maintenance and chronic underfunding, threatening the safety of the communities which they serve," said Maria Lehman, president, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). "Recent seasons of record flooding and increasing development downstream of rural dams have not helped. The introduction of the bipartisan National Dam Safety Program Reauthorization Act is an important step to ensuring states have what

they need to monitor the thousands of dams in their communities. This program assists states with the vital resources needed to support inspections and monitoring, staffing and training needs, and emergency planning. ASCE commends Congressman Edwards, Congresswoman Kuster, Congresswoman Schrier, Congressman Williams, Senator Cramer and Senator Feinstein for their leadership on this issue, and encourages Congress to pass this needed legislation quickly to help ensure the safety of the nation's dams."

The National Dam Safety Reauthorization Act is endorsed by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO).

Congresswoman Schrier hosted a press conference with local law enforcement and retail associations on bipartisan bill combating organized retail crime

Submitted by Hana Tadesse

U.S. Congresswoman Kim Schrier, accompanied by community and law enforcement stakeholders, toured the Issaquah Target August 3 to discuss the challenges facing retailers and law enforcement. Following this tour, Rep. Schrier hosted a press conference announcing legislation she co-sponsored in Congress combating organized retail theft.

The "Combating Organized Retail Crime Act" is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that takes steps to crack down on organized retail crime (ORC), which has become increasingly prevalent across the United States, threatening local businesses and jobs, putting employees and customers at risk, and fueling transnational criminal organizations' other illicit activities, including human, drug, and weapons trafficking.

This bill cracks down on organized retail crime by establishing a Coordination Center located within the DHS, combining expertise from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies along with the private sector to create a national strategy to curb organized retail crime including increased penalties.

It is estimated that organized retail crime costs nearly \$70 billion annually, robbing retailers of \$720,000 for every \$1 billion in sales. Recognizing this is a commonly and increasingly heard issue in the Eighth District with law enforcement and retailers, Rep. Schrier reached out to key stakeholders in the district and got detailed feedback that she then brought back to Congress to help shape this bill.



Newhouse fights for increased base pay for firefighters

Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) introduced H.R. 4831, the Fair Pay for Federal Firefighters Act during the first week of August. This legislation acts as a short-term solution to prevent the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) from enacting pay cuts to our federal firefighters due to lack of funds.

"Our firefighters work tirelessly to keep our communities safe from wildfires, and we owe it to them to advocate for their best interests," said Rep. Newhouse. "Raising their pay and providing them with increased deployment bonuses will not only attract more talent, but it will also keep our current force motivated while they are in the middle of wild-fire season. The Fair Pay for Federal Firefighters Act will prevent the USDA's drastic cuts and ensure federal firefighters get the pay they deserve."

"Wildland firefighters have some of the toughest jobs out there, their pay needs to reflect the hazardous nature of their work," said Rep. LaMalfa. "We are in the middle of another fire season and firefighters' current bonus pay is about to run short from Biden's Jobs Act three years early. It's critical that Congress moves swiftly to ensure that federal wildland firefighters don't leave the workforce due to fear that they'll take a substantial pay cut unexpectedly in only two months. My bill ensures that federal firefighters get adequate pay, while repurposing existing funds to be fiscally responsible."

The Fair Pay for Federal Firefighters Act will:

- Establish a new base pay rate scale, with the largest increases going to firefighters at the lowest end of the pay scale.
- Boost the pay rates so they are in line with pay rates for state and private

firefighters.

- Increase deployment bonuses for firefighters responding to wildfires.

- Prop up Federal wildland firefighter pay for two years while Congress works on a more permanent solution.

- Include common-sense forest management provisions.

Background: In November 2021, Congress passed the partisan \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which contained a section which provided \$600 million, split into \$480 million for USDA and \$120 million for Interior.

This money was supposed to last from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2022 – Fiscal Year 2026) to increase the base pay for wildland firefighters by \$20,000 or 50%, whichever is less. Due to lack of foresight and poor management by the Biden Administration, USDA has told Congress that this funding will run out at the end of September 2023, three years early. As a result, there will be immediate cuts in federal wildland firefighter pay in the middle of this year's fire season. This legislation prevents those cuts.



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SEPTEMBER 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1



Reintroducing Building NCW



Respecting our past as we embrace our future

Building North Central Washington is reintroducing ourselves as Building NCW, complete with a new look with new colors. This new logo captures the association's roots and incorporates the community we are here to protect. Building NCW has dug deep and examined our decades of history in the Wenatchee Valley and how to honor those roots as we move forward stronger than ever. At our core, we are dedicated to promoting and protecting small businesses in Douglas, Chelan, Grant, and Okanogan Counties. Building NCW looked

at the logos we have had in the past and created our new one with nods to our past. Taking the verbiage and the mountains from the main Building North Central Washington and combining it with the shape and ideas from the Home Tour logo, we created a new idea. We knew we needed a logo that could be changed to fit our events too. Next, we brainstormed color ideas. Settling on a strong navy, a crisp cherry, and a bright white. This helped us bring in our advocacy side of our organization to our identity. We are involved in the conversa-

tions regarding politics and policy in our valley. We have a government affairs section of our organization that needs to be acknowledged as a major part of who we are and what we do. Bringing together all the ideas we had, we had a solid start to move forward. We brought this concept of one logo that can be adapted to what we need it to be to Bear Signs, LLC. They helped us bring our ideas to life. Creating the new look for Building NCW. We are proud of our history and the accomplishments we have had

as an organization. We respect our past as we embrace our future. We are working harder than ever to bring the best events for our members and communities as well as create a culture in our organization and with our members that is collaborative. We are here to protect our small businesses that make our area what it is. These incredible business owners are what support our valley, care for the people, and build a better tomorrow. We are Building NCW and we are here to promote our small businesses and protect our community. For more information on how to join Building NCW, please email morgan@buildingncw.org or visit BuildingNCW.org



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Building North Central Washington is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting and protecting the North Central Washington building industry for the preservation and growth of the local economy, small business and quality of life.

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SEPTEMBER 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2



PHOTO BY TRAVIS KNOOP PHOTOGRAPHY

Gann Construction People's Choice Home Tour 2022.



Building NCW brings the 29th Annual Home Tour to Wenatchee in September

Building NCW is excited to host the 29th annual Home Tour September 21st – September 24th presented by Banner Bank and supporting sponsors Complete Design, Inc. and Marson and Marson. This event brings together builders in North Central Washington to showcase their innovations and superior craftsmanship.

The Home Tour is designed to take our attendees on an in-person tour of incredible homes around the Wenatchee Valley. Tickets to the home tour are only \$10 per person and participants visit each home during the three-day tour at their leisure within the hours that the homes are open.

The Tour hosts builders and their innovative ideas in a way that isn't seen anywhere else in the valley. Whether you are looking for a new home or looking for ideas for home improvement, the Home Tour will excite you and spark new ideas and possibilities.

From first-time home buyers to those looking to build their forever home, the Home Tour is a one time a year resource to take advantage of. Visit with the builders in person, read the information in the program, and connect with the organizations hosting the homes. The Home Tour pulls together so many of the businesses in the valley in one event spanning three days. Non-Profits and businesses in the community help the builders host their homes.

The builders in this year's Home Tour are One-Way Construction, KTS Development, Lexar Homes, Gann Construction, Pinnacle Custom Builders Inc., E.D.Y. Construction, and two homes from Village Life. Other Sponsors of the Home Tour are Sangster Motors, Artisan Flooring, Kenady Group and Wenatchee Valley Glass.

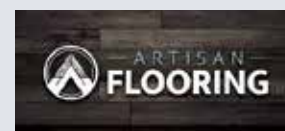
One of the events that makes this weekend sounique is the exclusive event-within-the-event the night before called the Chefs on

Tour, presented by E.D.Y Construction. This event kicks the weekend off with four homes opening their doors early and hosting a flavorful evening of food from four local restaurants paired with a delicious drink. This is an adult 21-year-old and up event that has limited tickets available. These tickets go quickly as it is a great night to go out as an organization, for date night, as a girls' or guys' night out, or as an excuse to jump from home-to-home tasting four different kinds of food and visiting beautiful homes. Tickets for this event are \$30 and do work as admittance for the rest of the Home Tour weekend. The restaurants in the Chefs on Tour are Sugar Momma's Sweets paired with Aloha Dreams Mobile Espresso and Treats, Mission Burger, Café Jasmin, and ClearWater Catering.

Tickets for both events can be purchased at BuildingNCW.org under the events drop down or by emailing Danielle@BuildingNCW.org.



Chefs on Tour Presenting Sponsor



2023 Home Tour Builders



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

SEPTEMBER 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Friday Sept. 22
Noon - 7 pm
Saturday Sept. 23
10 am - 7 pm
Sunday Sept. 24
11 am - 4 pm



The Lincoln Day Dinner with Charlie Kirk was a sold-out dinner hosted by the Chelan County GOP.



Pictured above Chelan County Commissioners Overbay, Smith & Gering and Douglas County Commissioners Straub & Steinburg listen to YWCA Director Rachel Todd answer questions about Harm Reduction Program with Needle Exchange Program.

Building NCW Out and About

Building NCW has been out in the Wenatchee Valley being involved and plugged in. The Building NCW staff has gone to multiple events this summer. We attend Commissioner meetings in Chelan and Douglas Counties and gather information on plans that might affect our community.

Recently, the staff sat in on a dual Douglas and Chelan County Commissioner meeting with the YWCA and Thriving Together NCW. These two organizations spoke on starting a mobile Safe Syring Program and Harm Reduction Program. The commissioners asked questions regarding liability, accountability, and other logistical and legal concerns.

Building NCW staff also attended the ribbon cutting event for the Wenatchee Wild's New WHL team. The Wenatchee Wild moved to the WHL and rang in the

new league with the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce and Town Toyota Center. Showcasing a taste of the new level of game night entertainment with a laser light show and pumping music. They have preseason games and their home opener in September, starting September 9th against the Tri-City American's.

Building NCW staff also attended the Lincoln Day Dinner featuring Charlie Kirk, a nationally renowned public speaker. This event was a sold-out 500+ person event that raised money for the Chelan County GOP.

Building NCW is working to advocate for the region we call home by protecting the community and cheering on our local businesses.

Sign up with Building NCW as a member and join us in protecting our community and promoting our small businesses.



The Wenatchee Wild Ribbon cutting for their new WHL team.



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Why Accidents Occur

Every accident is caused by a breakdown in one of four areas: the worker, the tools, the materials, or the methods. Often there is a breakdown in at least two areas; one being the worker and the other coming from one of the three other areas. The accident's cause usually results from an unsafe act or an unsafe condition.

Here is a list of unsafe acts:

- Operating a tool or equipment without authority.
- Working at an unsafe speed.
- Using unsafe or defective equipment or using equipment in an unsafe manner.
- Disconnecting safety devices.
- Unsafe unloading, placing or mixing materials.

- Assuming an unsafe position or posture.
 - Working on moving equipment.
 - Horseplay or distractions; taking shortcuts.
 - Failure to wear and use personal protective equipment.
- Therefore unsafe acts result from:
- An improper attitude.
 - Lack of knowledge or skills.
 - Reduced mental or physical capacities.

Improper attitudes.

Humans instinctively seek to avoid pain and death. And yet, we may behave in a manner that is a threat to our well-being. There are a couple of reasons why this occurs.

- The first is lack of knowledge. What you do not know, can hurt you.
- The second reason we may act in a risky manner and attitude.

What is your attitude toward safety?

When asked, some may say they are all for it. Others may



complain about any safety effort being made. The difference between the two is one of attitude. Your attitude affects almost all that you do and how you do it. Safety rules and procedures are written to protect you from harm. They are a requirement from LNI/OSHA for every employer to have safety requirements and procedures. They are not written to make your work life more uncomfortable or inconvenient. After all, safety equipment and training costs your employer additional money. If you cooperate in safety matters, not only is there a lesser likelihood of you getting hurt, but you will also not be doing battle with the foreman or safety guy who has responsible to look out for the safety of the job-site.

We are not perfect. Even the best of us can forget or make errors in judgment. To maximize our safety efforts, we must look out for one another.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 21ST - CHEFS ON TOUR

SEPT. 22ND-24TH - HOME TOUR

SEPT. 27TH - BOARD MEETING DAY

OCTOBER

OCT. 6TH - FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCT. 18TH - BOARD MEETING DAY

OCT. 31ST - HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER

NOV. 15TH - BOARD MEETING DAY

NOV. 23RD - THANKGIVING DAY

DECEMBER

DEC. 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC. 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY



VISIT OUR NEW UPDATED WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!



BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's September Board of Directors Meeting

■ Wednesday, September 27, 2023

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

at Building North Central Washington
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee

Chairman: Ed Gardner

The Board of Directors is the policy-making body of the Association and is responsible for the business affairs of the Corporation according to BNCW's bylaws.

Our Directors meet the third Wednesday of each Month in the boardroom of the BNCW offices.

These meetings begin at 7:00 a.m. and are open to any BNCW member to attend. If you wish to contact any of the officers or directors, please visit the BNCW website for their contact information.



Wenatchee Business Journal



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TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. JULY 2023

RESIDENTIAL

Sale Price	Address	Total Acres	Year Built	Residential Area	Basement Area	Bedr.	Bathr.	Garage Area
\$998,000	2424 HERNDON PL	0.59	2002	2988		5	4.5	1148
\$945,000	12 SANDCASTLE DR	1.68	2020	2089		3	2.5	1024
\$827,500	2562 7TH ST SE	0.26	2021	2586		3	3	914
\$825,000	280 LAKE FRONT RD	0.17	2002	2135		3	2	600
\$762,500	431 23RD ST NE	0.24	1998	2995	842	3	3	594
\$740,000	3115 AIRWAY ST SE	0.46	2013	3442		4	2.5	576
\$739,950	2627 PATRIOT WAY SE	0.22	2022	2473		3	2	905
\$725,000	2855 ROCK ISLAND RD	3.1	1999	1600	1600	5	3	832
\$689,000	105 N PERRY AVE	1	1946	1684	884	4	2	
\$635,000	304 GREENBRIAR LN	0.27	1969	2415	2349	8	4	660
\$625,000	450 S LYLE AVE	1.02	1977	2456	1728	3	2.5	
\$589,900	1747 S BLANCHARD LOOP	0.17	2015	2064		3	2	462
\$589,000	1033 HARRISON CT	0.19	1998	1351	1351	5	3	399
\$589,000	2109 S MELODY LN	0.19	2020	1957		3	2	463
\$559,000	820 HIGHLINE DR	0.44	2017	1860		3	2.5	440
\$550,500	747 GOLDENVIEW PL	0.18	1999	1684		3	2	506
\$514,000	1720 SODEN ST SE	0.23	2015	1675		3	2	576
\$504,000	1494 EASTMONT AVE #46	0	2006	1532		2	2	476
\$500,000	1130 PARKROY PL	0.36	1958	2236	884	4	2.75	
\$485,000	1739 BLUEGRASS AVE	0.2	2005	1300	814	3	2.5	418
\$470,000	162 MANHATTAN SQ	0.17	1993	1194	1314	3	2.5	768
\$460,000	921 11TH ST NE	0.17	1983	1308		3	2	400
\$457,500	2005 ALICE LN	0.35	2000	1950	260	3	2	720
\$450,000	860 GARDEN PLZ	0.16	2007	1582		3	2.5	378
\$442,000	2377 SE SAGE BROOKE RD	0.12	2021	1486		3	2	460
\$439,900	419 BRENNER LN	0.18	1991	1648		3	2	432
\$433,000	600 W ENTIAT DR	0.32	1984	1568		3	2	
\$427,000	584 N MONTCLAIR AVE	0.16	2014	1152		3	2	420
\$426,000	1110 S NEVADA AVE	0.12	2021	1352		3	2	440
\$420,000	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE #4	0	2010	1290		3	2.5	528
\$410,000	634 S LINCOLN PL	0.19	1999	1233		2	2	528
\$400,000	2202 3RD ST NE	0.29	1997	1400		3	2	324
\$380,000	721 DESERT CANYON BLVD	0.16	1995	1474		2	2	546
\$375,000	479 N KENT TER	0.16	2020	1188		3	2	
\$368,950		0.16	2022	1705		3	2	431
\$365,000	400 E POPLAR ST	0.34	1917	2090	572	3	2.25	780

FARM

Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Total Acres
JUNGER CYNTHIA ANN	BECKES ROBERT & KATHY JOAN	\$700,000	121 35TH ST NW	8.16
BANDIT LANE LLC	BUTTERBAUGH PHILLIP J	\$650,000	61 STILLWATER LN	5
MARDEN DAVID & MICHELLE	RANCHO RAMIREZ Y ASOCIADOS LLC	\$499,000	BRAYS LANDING RD	20
PETRIFIED CANYON LLC	HIDDEN VALLEY VINEYARD LLC	\$450,000	1040 PALISADES RD	30.5
HALL ESTATE GROVER K	CARTER LANNY PAUL & SUSAN M	\$421,500	1490 OHIO ST	2.45
EVENHUS LAUREL	ANDERSON & NANCY JANE	\$250,000		1.49
ANDERSON & COLLEEN F	MCFADDEN MICHAEL	\$150,000		37.5
MASON & CAIMIELL L	TRAPP LUKE	\$99,000	US 97	5.39

COMMERCIAL

Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Acres
AVILA PROPERTIES LLC	LOS TRES PUEBLOS PROPERTIES LLC	\$800,000	730 GRANT RD	0.39

Energy efficiency incentives prove popular with customers

Submitted by Rachel Hansen

Growing interest in Chelan PUD's energy rebate program prompted a commission vote to increase funding by about \$3 million on Monday, August 7. Chelan PUD offers customers cash back on energy-efficient improvements to their home or business, including windows, insulation, lighting, or heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). Since 2010, customers have saved nearly 25 megawatts of energy, enough to power 12,500 homes. The benefits to customers are many: More comfort, lower electricity bills, and in some cases, increased value of their home or business. The rebate program also supports jobs and the local economy. For every \$1 Chelan PUD pays in energy efficiency rebates, it earns about \$1.70 back by selling hydro-power on the wholesale energy market. Revenues from energy sales allow customers to pay some of the lowest rates in the nation – 3.4 cents per kilowatt hour, which is about half of the cost to produce and deliver electricity.

"This is the single most visible win-win as a

utility that we do for customers on an ongoing basis," Board President Randy Smith said.

In 2022, interest waned in energy efficient upgrades due to inflation and supply chain issues. At the same time, the value of hydro-power increased on the energy market. In response, Chelan PUD offered higher rebate incentives.

In 2023, participation in the rebate program by residential customers nearly doubled. The cities of Cashmere and Wenatchee approached Chelan PUD with opportunities to fund large-scale energy efficiency upgrades at two wastewater treatment plants.

"Our customers are their constituents, and if they can lower their overhead costs, they can spend those tax dollars somewhere else," said Andrew Grassell, energy development and conservation manager.

With the \$3 million budget increase, the rebate program budget is now about \$7.67 million. For more information about the energy efficiency rebate program, visit chelanpud.org/save.

MARKETING 101

Run a marketing meeting that matters

Submitted by Jennifer Bushong

Now that many companies are bringing employees back to a physical office space, it means time for face-to-face meetings. Many employees only have interactions with team members via Zoom, Teams, Slack or Google doc, which is hardly considered a true human interaction. However, proximity makes it is easier to schedule impromptu or several meetings a day. The shift back to in-person office may provide an opportunity for employees to socialize in meetings or provide time to further enhance employee culture. Here are a few types of marketing meetings that can be fun and productive to get the results you need:



Jennifer Bushong

1. Schedule the meeting and communicate the topic. Make sure all employees are clear about the type of meeting (i.e., social, tactical, creative), so they can be prepared and engaged.

2. Rundown meeting, or some call these stand-up meetings for employees to share daily activities, duties, and report on any progress. These meetings are meant to be short, clear and to the point.

3. Unified meeting, the team may be motivated by a daily chant, song, or quote of the day. There are numerous large corporations that have their teams chant in unison or start with an inspirational quote. These types of meetings solidify company culture and sets the tone for the day. Much like many sports teams or athletes, a team chant can go a long way.

4. Creative campaign meetings,

these are brainstorming meetings to create a campaign, story, or image(s) to fulfill the objectives. Allow extra time as employees may build on other ideas and bring new creativity to the meeting.

Often, a series of campaign meetings might be needed before marketing plans or campaigns are fully executed.

5. Key Performance Indicator meetings can be scheduled weekly, after a campaign or monthly to review goals and objectives in a timely fashion.

Sometimes, the shorter the meeting, the more poignant the employee can be to ensure success.

Whichever type of meeting you hold and its cadence, make sure and check-in with your team regarding their goals and achievements. Give personal praise and recognize accomplishments are great ways to start a productive meeting.



Freepik

Jennifer Bushong, MA is the owner of JBE Marketing Group, LLC., a full-service marketing and communications firm in Washington State. Bushong earned a Master of Arts in Journalism with a concentration in public relations from Kent State University and graduated cum laude with a communication degree from the University of Washington. To connect, email jennifer@jbemarketinggroup.com or visit www.jbe-marketing.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Rep. Goehner – Legislative updates

our state's competitive advantages and industries. Collaborating with South Korea and other countries on these types of industries can only benefit us in the future.

Second highest fuel prices in the country

For almost six weeks, Washington had the highest fuel prices in the nation. This week, California edged back ahead of us. As of Wednesday, Washingtonians are paying \$4.97 for a gallon of gas, with California slightly ahead of us at \$5.02. We are paying \$1.17 more than the national average of \$3.80.

There are many factors that impact gas prices. We have one of the highest gas taxes in the country, but that goes toward infrastruc-

ture and maintenance and operation.

One of the main reasons our fuel is so expensive is the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), or the cap-and-trade program passed by the majority party in 2021. According to a report by Affordable Fuel Washington, the CCA is adding \$.44 per gallon for gas and \$.55 for diesel.

There is no quantifiable transportation benefit, as the dollars generated by the CCA are not dedicated to any infrastructure.

Fuel prices are affecting those who can least afford it – the working middle class, people on a fixed income, those who travel a long distance for work, and farmers, who were supposed to be exempt from the new carbon law.

There are legislators working on solutions to address some of the government intervention and environmental regulations impacting our fuel prices including senators Chris Gildon, R-Puyallup, and Mark Mullet, D-Issaquah.

I have signed on to a letter submitted to the Department of Ecology by Sen. Gildon and 42 other legislators, proposing changes to the cap-and-trade program.

I continue to hear from many across the district on transportation. I can assure you I am having continued conversations with the Department of Transportation and am committed to addressing the challenges and meeting the needs of the 12th District on both the west side and east side of the mountains.

REAL ESTATE

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WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2023

TOP PROPERTIES CHELAN COUNTY – July 2023

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
HINTERLAND FARMS TRS LLC	CHELAN MANSON FRUIT II LLC	\$13,868,678	78 ANDERSON RD	CHELAN	9.54	0	128041			N	N
DRAGGOO BRADEN L & JESSICA C	MATTHEWS BILLIE JEAN	\$4,000,000	4162 US HWY 97A	CHELAN	0.68	1946	1856	3	2.5	N	Y
RUSA NIK	TAYLOR FAMILY TRUST	\$2,550,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	0.41	0	0			N	N
LORD CHRISTOPHER & ALLISON	HASLUND LANCE F & LAURIE F TRUSTEES	\$2,250,000	3693 WAPATO LAKE RD	MANSON	5.22	2016	2553	3	3.5	Y	Y
DODGE LIVING TRUST	KAILL DENNIS M & ANN M	\$2,212,000	326 PORCUPINE LN	CHELAN	0.11	2015	1947		3.5	N	Y
FALLON EDWIN & CHERRY FAMILY TRUST	KARPIAK ALICE	\$2,000,000	330 E SAYLES ST	CHELAN	0.46	1981	2031	3	2.5	Y	Y
FALLON EDWIN & CHERRY FAMILY TRUST	FORCE SHIRLEY & JOHNSON SUSAN	\$2,000,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	0.3	0	0			N	N
MILLS AMY J & GREGG DONALD W	GRISMORE DOUGLAS D & ANN M	\$1,850,000	2175 SUMMIT BLVD	MANSON	2.51	2018	4537	4	2.5	N	Y
BRE IRREVOCABLE TRUST	ERICKSON MARC & KERRI	\$1,807,000	10741 TITUS RD	LEAVENWORTH	1.12	1999	3413	4	4.5	N	Y
GROSCH ROLF M & DIANA M	ZERR GERALD J TRUSTEE	\$1,700,000	15048 S LAKESHORE RD	CHELAN	0.38	1968	890	2	1.75	N	N
WENDLETON SUSAN J & DAVID H	PERRY MARK R REVOCABLE TRUST	\$1,583,500	20674 MIRACLE MILE	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.3	2003	2080	2	3	N	Y
MUIR DARREN R & LEE ANNA	BYDALEK PATRICK B	\$1,547,500	22550 LAKE WENATCHEE HWY	LAKE WENATCHEE	9.98	2005	2171	3	2	N	Y
ENG ROGER & SOKHOM	FIALA TODD & UNDERWOOD JULIE TRUSTEES	\$1,496,000	250 BOBCAT LN	CHELAN	0.13	2019	1442	4	3	N	Y
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	SHAFFER LEASE CO	\$1,400,000	5183 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	21.38	0	0			N	N
SKOROHOD LINDSAY & GREGORY	MISNER DOUGLAS A	\$1,275,000	15947 RIVER RD	PLAIN	0.47	1987	1824	2	2	N	Y
ROTH JASON & SHEETS ROTH DINA	KNIGHT WILLIAM E & LORI L	\$1,119,000	109 PHEASANT CANYON CT	WENATCHEE	1.1	2013	2177	3	3.25	N	Y
FALETTO ANDREW J & JENNY L	PALMER BRENT & KAREN	\$1,075,000	627 GOLF COURSE PL	CHELAN	0.48	1998	1344	3	2.5	N	N
ANDRESON ANGELA L & GILLENWATER BRYAN G	BROWN GARY E & PENNY G	\$1,005,000	61 AVALON TER	WENATCHEE	1.42	2019	2038	4	2.5	N	Y
OHLIGER JAMES E & KATHRYN R	FLORIO JAMES M & LISA D	\$967,280	535 JUNCTION LN	LEAVENWORTH	0	2019	1420	3	2	N	N
STOLL ERIK & EICHLER SARAH K	CLEM ROBERT B	\$950,000	3614 WAREHOUSE RD	MONITOR	1.46	1993	2550	3	3.5	N	Y
WATSON KURT A & JESSICA L	WATSON CARL R & JUDY A TRUSTEE	\$927,000	3930 W EAGLEROCK DR	WENATCHEE	0.98	1992	3700	4	5	N	Y
ALBERTSON BENJAMIN S & PISZ NICHOLE D	FOWLER STEVEN P & MELISSA A	\$920,000	2067 BROADCREST CT	WENATCHEE	0.33	2006	3498	5	3.5	N	Y
COUCHEE KIT P & MARY S CO-TRUSTEE	TAKAGI ROBERT J & KAREN C	\$908,890	202 BUTTE RD	CHELAN	0.24	2002	1748	3	2	N	N
KNIGHT JAMES	ICICLE/BUNK LLC	\$900,000	12 NORLING LN	LEAVENWORTH	1.13	1934	2242	3	2	N	Y
ANDERSON KEVIN E & MARCELLE J	FARRIS WALLACE W JR & KIM I	\$895,000	711 W GOLF COURSE DR	CHELAN	0.25	2021	1798	3	2	N	Y
MCPHERSON JAMES R & JENNIFER	CHELAN VIEW ORCHARD LLC	\$884,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	10.4	0	0			N	N
DONAGHY JOHN M & VANESSA K	MEAD PHILIP J	\$850,000	410 CASTLEVIEW PL	WENATCHEE	0.61	1993	3683	4	2.5	N	Y
BUNDY FAMILY PROPERTIES LLC	WILSON CENTER LLC	\$825,000	727 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE	0.26	1987	6473			N	N
ROSA HECTOR A & HEATHER L	O BANION CHARLEY L	\$780,000	394 DUSTY LN	MALAGA	20.02	2011	2416	3	2	N	Y
CLARK SUSAN D	THE RYBURN FAMILY TRUST	\$760,000	949 SPRING MOUNTAIN DR	WENATCHEE	0.16	2020	2121	4	2.5	N	Y
RAINBOW RETREAT LLC	CROWE NANCY J ETAL	\$760,000	15250 CEDAR BRAE RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.42	1930	960			N	N
CROWE DAVID & MARGUERITE	BERDAN FAMILY HOLDINGS LLC	\$735,000	418 EDGEMONT DR	WENATCHEE	1.57	1964	2012	4	1	N	Y
HEBERT MARK & SUSAN	MILDES MARY L TRTEE	\$710,000	9545 E LEAVENWORTH RD	LEAVENWORTH	1.19	1982	1649	2	2.75	N	Y
BERRY NATHAN J & TORRIE	CARSON ROBERT A & BARBARA K	\$700,000	2420 FAIRWAY DR	MALAGA	0.89	2005	2032	3	2	N	N
GETTIS RICKY J & SHARON L	MARTIN DOROTHY M	\$700,000	94 SHOEMAKER RD	MANSON	0.51	2013	1588	3	1.75	N	N
BERRY NATHAN J & TORRIE	CARSON ROBERT A & BARBARA K	\$700,000	2420 FAIRWAY DR	MALAGA	0.89	2005	2032	3	2	N	N
HARASYM CHRIS D & SYDNEY M	MARBOE MICHAEL J & RYLEE J	\$695,000	1706 BRAMBLING BRAE LN	WENATCHEE	0.18	2018	2268	3	2.25	N	N
JEROME JEROME T	MURPHY DAVID & KATHERINE	\$689,000	434 LAURIE DR	WENATCHEE	0.29	2013	1704	3	1.75	N	Y
DANKERS MICHELE M & DOUGLAS P	BOYER CURTIS & VICKIE	\$680,000	UNASSIGNED	LEAVENWORTH	2.5	0	0			N	N
ROSE TAMMY & MICHAEL	GUBRUD FAMILY TRUST	\$679,900	50 ARIA LN	WENATCHEE	5.03	2021	2158	3	2	N	N
MARSHLAIN KIRK A & BROOKE A	ELEMENT HOMES LLC	\$675,000	9968 GRIFFITH PL	ENTIAT	0.23	0	0			N	N
MC ELEARNEY CHARLES & SANDRA	DART BRANDEN & LINDSEY R	\$655,000	6240 PIONEER DR	CASHMERE	0.57	1904	1334	4	2	N	N
SUTHERLAND PROPERTIES LLC	CHELAN VIEW ORCHARD LLC	\$637,500	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	8.3	0	0			N	N
BIBBY KEVIN M & ANNIKA W	MOUNTER CHERYL J	\$632,000	1020 EASY ST	WENATCHEE	1.88	1969	1920	4	2.25	N	Y
SULLIVAN WESLEY B & MYRNA J	GORE PAMELA & MICHAEL	\$627,200	9982 SASKA WAY	ENTIAT	0.26	2018	1584	5	2.5	N	Y
MC MAHAN NICHOLAS & O HARE JENNIFER	MAIER BRIAN A & GREER O	\$625,000	147 ROLLING HILLS LN	WENATCHEE	0.44	1993	1848	3	2	N	Y
PETERSON MOLLY & HARVEY SHANE	MEADOWS SARAH A	\$619,000	485 ALPINE PL	LEAVENWORTH	0	0	1024			N	N
OWEN MAX J	RICHTSMEIER THOMAS E & JEAN COUGHLIN REVTRT	\$600,000	12590 AGAPE HILL RD	LEAVENWORTH	1.34	1982	1640	4	3	N	Y
CIBICKI ALINA & SELLERS BRYCE	CIBICKI TOMASZ & VICTORIA	\$591,888	1327 S MILLER ST	WENATCHEE	0.23	2018	3552	3	2.5	N	N
NEUSWANGER JASON R & VAYNDORF ELENA	HALSEN GAYLE A & DORIS L ETAL	\$590,000	7693 NAHAHUM CANYON RD	CASHMERE	2.14	1999	1778			N	N
KAMMERECK ANDREAS Q & LARA R	HOSKING TARA & BRADEN	\$585,000	3200 GUDMUNDSON RD	WENATCHEE	4.74	0	0			N	N
WIRTH DEREK T & HOPE H	BEAULIEU JENNIFER & NATHAN	\$580,000	24609 SPUR ST	PLAIN	0.31	2018	936	3	2	N	N
WESTERGARD DONALD & LAURA J	JOHNSTON PATRICIA E	\$575,000	1710 BRANDI TER	WENATCHEE	0.2	2000	2120	3	2.5	N	Y
COMMONS MICHAEL & RENE	NELSON D & C LIVING TRUST	\$575,000	380 N SHORE CT	MANSON	0.15	1995	1800	2	1	N	N
PRESLER JUSTIN & GARDENIA	ZANTO RICHARD C II & ANDREA M	\$565,000	4286 MISSION CREEK RD	CASHMERE	0.56	1994	1618	4	2.5	N	N
CORDERO SERGIO & NARANJO MARIA	WHANG BYUNG M	\$560,000	307 FERRY ST	WENATCHEE	0.39	1960	1515			N	N
MC GOWEN ROBERT G & LISA M	HULL WILLIAM W	\$555,000	117 PINNACLE PL	CHELAN	0.31	1981	1176	3	1.75	N	Y

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
WA RIVERSIDE HOMES LLC	BOREALIS LLC	\$549,000	100 ISLAND VIEW ST	WENATCHEE	0.13	1933	1718	1	1	N	N
MASOUD FOUAD & CHRISTIANI ELISA	MARSHLAIN KIRK A & BROOKE A	\$545,000	619 E WAPATO AVE	CHELAN	0.1	2020	1280	3	2.5	N	N
HORAN ANDREW & MELINDA	NEELY JOANNE S	\$544,900	108 BIRCH ST	CASHMERE	0.37	1958	2074	3	1.75	N	Y
NELSON JAMES D & BARBARA J	LAFFERTY LEANNE M ETAL	\$535,500	131 WHITE BIRCH PL	CASHMERE	0.17	1971	2133	4	2.75	N	Y
WADKINS BARBARA ETAL	3ZS LLC	\$525,000	210 WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0.04	1956	1200			N	N
LE JIMMY & HOANG CINDY	CHELAN LOOKOUT LLLP	\$523,800	1307 DRAGONFLY CT	CHELAN	0.12	0	0			N	N
MELQUIST LEAH & SAM	DOTSON BENJAMIN & FARRAH L	\$520,000	314 OLIVE ST	CASHMERE	0.21	1920	1536	3	2.5	N	Y
LOGAN DAN & SYLVIA	CONLEY JOHN W	\$520,000	1708 NORMAN ST	WENATCHEE	0.78	1976	1800	3	2.5	N	Y
HIGH JAMES A & KATIE E	BOREALIS LLC	\$510,000	4040 YAKSUM CANYON RD	CASHMERE	5.01	1910	1328	2	1	N	Y
MCELROY DORIEAN	MASER LYNN A	\$509,900	2314 WESTWICK RD	WENATCHEE	0.24	1967	1293	3	3	N	Y
ULRICH JONATHAN & CAMI	WEIDENBACH LINDSEY J & WEHMEYER IAN W ETAL	\$500,000	5053 BUTLER RD	CASHMERE	10	0	0			N	N
LIVERMORE DAMIAN G & LYNNE M	GROOMS JO	\$499,000	424 5TH ST	CHELAN FALLS	0.39	1929	1084	3	2	N	Y
JEFFREYS EMILY ETAL	AVEY MARCIA M & DOREY NATALIE	\$485,000	1206 WASHINGTON ST	WENATCHEE	0.3	1912	1492	3	2	N	Y
ZURCHER HEATHER A	RODRIGUES ALYSSA & JOSEPH	\$475,000	2220 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0	0	998			N	N
HALL AUSTIN D & MARKER KARLY R	ROTH JANET L REV LIV TRT	\$469,900	662 SALLY DR	WENATCHEE	0.18	2006	1505	3	2	N	N
CANNATA JOSEPH A	MONTAGUE KIRSTEN & RYAN TC	\$464,500	7944 EAGLE CREEK RD	LEAVENWORTH	3.36	1934	1872	3	1	N	Y
STANTON JOSHUA D & ARNESEN ERICA L	MC PHEE WILLIAM P	\$460,000	1703 MCKITTRICK ST	WENATCHEE	0.29	1960	1750	3	1.5	N	Y
DARLINGTON DEREK T & DARLINGTON DUSTIN C	EIDER PROPERTIES LLC	\$440,000	910 POPLAR AVE	WENATCHEE	0.08	2023	1746	3	2.5	N	N
O BRIAN LARRY & THERESA	PORTER SUZANNE K ETAL	\$437,000	1251 GALLERS ST	WENATCHEE	0.09	2003	1040			N	N
FRIAS DAYSI ETAL	REYES JESSICA G & ARROYO HECTOR	\$430,000	71 GALLOWAY LN	WENATCHEE	0.2	2009	1196	3	1.75	N	N
PRAYE CYNTHIA L	KAASA DUANE	\$425,000	305 LAUREL ST	CASHMERE	0.18	1970	1053	3	1.75	N	N
MOONEY GARRETT J & ANGELA MOONEY	HUBER FAMILY LLC	\$422,000	1013 CASTLEROCK AVE	WENATCHEE	0.16	1985	1728	2	1	N	N
MC RAE TOM D JR	MASON SCOTT P & TONYA K	\$407,000	10 S COVE AVE	WENATCHEE	5.16	1967	1540			N	N
VALENCIA LARES MOISES & SERNA URIAS YONORILDA	FIGUEROA JESUS A	\$405,000	1040 KITTITAS ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1949	924	2	1.5	N	N
WA RIVERSIDE HOMES LLC	ISLAND DV LLC	\$405,000	707 PIERE ST	WENATCHEE	0.23	1929	1440	4	1	N	N
OGLE RANDALL W & SHELIA D	CRESTVIEW ORCHARDS LLC	\$400,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	0.58	0	0			N	N
BELL KAIONI ETAL	WADLEY AMY E	\$400,000	1023 TYLER ST	WENATCHEE	0.18	1946	882	2	2	N	Y
OGLE RANDALL W & SHELIA D	CRESTVIEW ORCHARDS LLC	\$400,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	0.57	0	0			N	N
LAGE GEORGE & JEANETTE	DAVIES FAMILY INVESTMENTS LLC	\$400,000	95 VIVIANE LN	LEAVENWORTH	1	0	0			N	N
TALL JONAH D	RAWLINSON CHRISTIE A	\$399,000	8602 N DRYDEN RD	DRYDEN	0.98	1954	1499	3	2	N	Y
WA RIVERSIDE HOMES LLC	DRAGGOO BRADEN L & JESSICA CREEL	\$399,000	102 ISLAND VIEW ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1931	840	2	1	N	N
KERN NICOLE & SEAN	SPURRIER LAUREN N	\$385,000	1533 HISTORIC LN	WENATCHEE	0.05	2015	1217	2	2.5	N	N
TAPIA REYES NORMA A ETAL	TWIGGS FRANCES R	\$375,000	6 N CLEVELAND AVE	WENATCHEE	0.13	1914	1258	3	1	N	Y
CHRISTENSEN LYNN & MARITZA	BRENNER TRISTAN M ETAL	\$375,000	3868 OLD BLEWETT RD	PESHASTIN	3.9	1987	2164			N	N
DAVIES PATRICIA W & DAVID A	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$374,900	11 STELLAR LN	WENATCHEE	0.17	2022	1780	3	2	N	Y
RHINEHART MARK & CAROL	MATHEWS STEPHANIE A	\$359,900	1028 KITTITAS ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1940	832	2	1	N	Y
KORYTKO PETER & HOLTMEIER CAMI	RUDELL SUSAN R	\$357,500	15931 RIVER RD	PLAIN	0.2	1966	264	1	1	N	N
MARKER DUANE L & KATHRYN A	EIDER PROPERTIES LLC	\$350,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	2.35	0	0			N	N
TICE KYLE W & KRISTA L	BARBER SCOTT H & JACKIE J	\$350,000	4998 ENTIAT RIVER RD	ENTIAT	1.54	0	0			N	N
LA FRENIERE MICHAEL R	DARLINGTON RANDY & BARBARA	\$350,000	18340 NASON RIDGE RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	8	1938	2088	2	1	N	N
WELFELT LINDSAY	ALDERMAN PHYLCIA	\$345,000	110 W PLEASANT AVE	CASHMERE	0.2	1916	736	2	1	N	N
LA MAR BRETT & BEVERLY S	GUSTAFSON SHERRY L	\$339,000	274 SADDLEHORN LN	WENATCHEE	0.04	2015	920	2	2	N	N
ROSS AUSTIN J & STEVENS KYRA N	SCHOTT ROBERT D	\$336,000	1529 5TH ST	WENATCHEE	0.11	1950	896	2	1	N	Y
PRIEST TYE & LINDEN	TIKI SERIES V TRUST	\$335,000	12973 CHUMSTICK HWY	LEAVENWORTH	0.45	2005	960			N	N
FLORES GLADYS J	RICHARDSON THOMAS G LIVING TRT	\$335,000	1014 MILLERDALE AVE	WENATCHEE	0.17	1947	1000	1	1	N	Y

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wild give back to Wenatchee Valley during 2022-23 season

celebrate jersey auction nights, wearing special uniforms that are auctioned off during and after the game with proceeds donated to local causes – the team's 2022-23 jersey auctions to benefit the Guns & Hoses Foundation, the EASE Cancer Foundation in Cashmere and the Wenatchee Amateur Hockey Association raised a total of \$65,465. Ticket donations from the past season totaled \$78,000

– other contributions from fundraising tickets sold by area groups and tickets distributed to the team's Wild About Learning partner schools also added to the total, pushing the Wild well past the \$200,000 mark for the season.

Key promotional dates, including jersey auction nights, have been set for the upcoming season as well – Guns & Hoses Night returns on Saturday, January 20,

while Hockey Fights Cancer is back on the schedule for February 16. Fans can also add their contributions during the annual Teddy Bear Toss game on December 1, and in the team's annual Diaper Toss on February 9.

Wenatchee Wild players also took their time and talents into the community with regular stops at the team's Wild About Learning partner schools

and the Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center, and an appearance at the Fred Meyer store in East Wenatchee to collect toys for the Les Schwab Community Toy Drive. Players also offered their time and talents on the ice, assisting with the Wenatchee Amateur Hockey Association's Learn to Play, Power Skate and American Development Model programs. All told, each Wild player on the roster for the full season contributed 110 hours of service to the Wenatchee Valley community.

The Wild set out to "Restore The Roar" at Town

Toyota Center during their 15th Anniversary season in 2022-23, their final season as members of the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL), and fans in the Wenatchee Valley responded to the call, giving the team its highest per-game attendance in five years. Nearly 70,000 fans took in Wenatchee hockey games in the "Wolves' Den" during the regular season, with playoff home games pushing the total attendance for the year to nearly 79,000 visitors. Included in that total was a sellout of 4,260 fans on Guns & Hoses Night, the team's first capacity crowd in five

years and largest regular-season crowd since 2011.

Wenatchee's first WHL campaign begins with a home preseason game September 9 against the Tri-City Americans, and the team's home opener September 22 against the Portland Winterhawks. 2023-24 season tickets are still on sale, to purchase season tickets, call 509-888-7825 or stop into the team office at Town Toyota Center. Updated news and information on Wild hockey are available through the team's website and on the team's social media platforms on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



Submitted by Washington Retail Association

POLICY

WA Cares Fund approaches first employer reporting period

The WA Cares Fund was adopted by the Legislature in 2019 and, after an 18-month delay, went into effect in July 2023. The program intends to give working Washingtonians access to long-term care coverage when they need it. Workers contribute 0.58% of each paycheck during their working years to access a \$36,500 lifetime benefit, adjusted annually for inflation, to help pay for long-term care services when needed. Workers began contributing to WA Cares on July 1, 2023, and benefits will become available on July 1, 2026.

To access benefits, employees must meet a contribution requirement and requirements for care. With the program going into effect in July, employees now contribute 0.58% of each paycheck to the program. Significantly, employers will report employees' wages and pay premiums for WA Cares quarterly using the same process they currently use to report Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums. The reporting system for Paid Family and Medical Leave will be updated so that employers can report for both programs at the same time.

The first report and payment that includes WA Cares premiums will be due October 31, 2023, for July, August, and September 2023 payroll. Employers with no payroll expenses during a quarter will still need to submit that quarter's report.

ECONOMY

U.S. retail sales exceed forecasts, but consumer spending shows signs of slowing

U.S. retail sales in July showcased the resilience of American consumers, surpassing expectations with a 0.7% increase. This rise in sales, as reported by the Commerce Department, was buoyed by gains across various sectors, including sporting goods, clothing outlets, and restaurants. A robust labor market and escalating wages have empowered American households to bolster the economy, even amidst rising interest rates. However, this strength might prompt the Federal Reserve to adopt a more aggressive stance if inflationary pressures persist.

On the other hand, there has been a gradual deceleration in consumer spending growth. While the economy demonstrated unexpected resilience in the first half of the year, the pace of consumer spending is now slowing. In a recent post, Jack Kleinhenz, Chief Economist at the National Retail Federation (NRF), noted that consumers, although still spending, are feeling the financial pinch. They are adjusting their purchasing habits, transitioning from goods to services. The savings accumulated during the pandemic, which previously fueled spending, are depleting.

The growth of consumer spending, which constitutes about 70% of GDP, has dwindled from 4.2% in the first quarter to 1.6% in the second. While retail sales, excluding certain sectors, grew by 3.1% year-over-year in the second quarter, this was below the 4%

growth observed in the first half of the year. In response to inflation, the Federal Reserve recently raised interest rates, which now stand between 5.25% and 5.5%, the highest since January 2021. This move, while aimed at controlling inflation, also raises concerns about a potential economic slowdown.

While U.S. retail sales have outpaced forecasts, indicating a resilient consumer base, there are clear signs that the growth in consumer spending is tapering off. The interplay of economic factors, including interest rates, inflation, and the labor market, will shape the trajectory of consumer spending in the coming months.

RETAIL THEFT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Washington State Crime Prevention Association to host 45th annual conference

The Washington State Crime Prevention Association (WSCPA) is gearing up for its 45th Annual Crime Prevention Conference, scheduled for September 19-20, 2023, in Olympia. This event, co-sponsored by the Washington Retail Association (WR), promises to be a significant gathering of law enforcement professionals, community leaders, and experts in the field of crime prevention. Olympia Police Department Deputy Chief Shelby Parker will inaugurate the conference. A highlight of the event will be the keynote address by Seattle City Attorney Ann Davison, a prominent figure in the realm of public safety and retail crime with significant law enforcement and community partnerships. Also, Mark Johnson, WR Senior Vice President of Policy & Government Affairs, will join in on a business crime prevention panel to discuss best practices and trends. Participants can look forward to diverse workshops, including Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), cryptocurrency scams, first responder wellness, violence prevention, and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Several notable speakers from local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Homeland Security, and FBI will share their expertise.

For those interested in attending or learning more about the conference, additional details are on the WSCPA website. This conference is a testament to WSCPA's commitment to fostering a safer community through education, awareness, and collaboration. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the conversation on the future of crime prevention in Washington State.

AG ORC Task Force convenes 4th meeting

Washington Retail is a member of the AG's Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Task Force and took part in an August 15 meeting, along with a large number of WR members and, several of their asset protection team members, and state, local, and federal law enforcement agency representatives. Tienny Milnor, the new lead for ORC in the AG's internal ORC unit, gave an overview of the team she is building, and thanked everyone for their efforts in securing funding for the ORC team in the 2023 legislative session. The ORC Task Force now has 300 members and is averaging over 100 attending each meeting.

Two online retail platforms, eBay and Mercari gave detailed presentations on their efforts to identify stolen goods and shut down the sellers. Both companies use algorithms to find potentially stolen goods. Milnor announced that some future meetings of the ORC Task Force will be open only to members of law enforcement, including



Stock photo

asset protection teams from retailers, as they take deeper dives into how they can work more effectively together to fight organized retail crime across the state.

INFORM Consumers Act: A joint FTC-state initiative to combat ORC

The newly enacted INFORM Consumers Act presents a valuable opportunity for the FTC and state authorities to work together in protecting consumers from illicit goods sold online stemming from organized criminal activities. The Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) has filed comments urging the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to work closely with state AGs to help facilitate the nationwide implementation of the INFORM Consumers Act.

The INFORM Consumers Act aims to increase transparency in online transactions, preventing criminals from selling stolen, counterfeit, or unsafe items online. Criminal organizations exploit online platforms to sell stolen goods, laundering nearly \$70 billion annually from organized retail crimes. This not only harms consumers but also legitimate businesses. INFORM mandates online marketplaces to collect and verify specific information about high-volume third-party sellers. This data must be verified yearly, and sellers with unverifiable information should be suspended. Additionally, online marketplaces need to disclose certain details about high-revenue third-party sellers. INFORM also necessitates online platforms to have a clear reporting system for suspicious activities.

Congress has directed the FTC to collaborate with state attorneys general for enforcement to facilitate effective implementation. Many state attorneys general have already been fighting organized retail crime, and the INFORM Act strengthens their hand. RILA provided the FTC with several recommendations to support INFORM, including:

- Prioritizing INFORM Consumers Act enforcement, given its clear consumer protection benefits.
- Enhancing public reporting mechanisms for suspicious marketplace activities.
- Adjusting the FTC's reporting system to better cater to non-consumer entities, like businesses, who might spot suspicious activities.
- Proactively sharing information with state attorneys general about potential INFORM violations.
- Establishing a Working Group on INFORM to facilitate collaboration and information sharing.

The INFORM Consumers Act is a crucial instrument to shield consumers from scams. As directed by Congress, proper enforcement by both the FTC and state attorneys general is essential.

National media misinterprets the current state of retail theft

Retailers have been sounding the alarm for years about the escalating costs tied to habitual theft and organized retail crime (ORC). The expansion and growth of online marketplaces in the past decade has significantly amplified organized theft because stolen items can be resold online anonymously. This has exponentially grown the situation at an alarming rate. This ease has

also emboldened criminals, leading to more brazen and violent acts.

A joint report from Homeland Security Investigations and the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists underscores the severity of ORC. It points out that these criminal activities lead to violent attacks in retail stores, with many of these criminal rings also dabbling in other grave offenses. Disturbingly, some of these organized theft groups exploit undocumented migrants, compelling them to steal as repayment to their smugglers.

The retail industry and law enforcement have been proactive in their response. National and State Retail associations along with major retailers supported the INFORM Consumers Act, which promotes transparency in online marketplaces. This law, which came into effect in June 2023, is a testament to the industry's commitment to tackling the issue. Furthermore, initiatives like the Organized Retail Crime Task Forces and the Vibrant Communities program have been launched to foster collaboration and address systemic challenges.

CNBC's recent series on retail theft offers a perspective that might not fully capture the complexity of the situation. While they hint that retailers could be emphasizing the ORC issue to shift focus from internal challenges, it's essential to consider the evidence from Homeland Security Investigations that suggests otherwise. It's important not to overlook the genuine challenges retailers face daily, including those beyond potential internal issues like employee theft.

SAFETY

Disengaged workers face greater risk of injury

An insightful study published by the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) sheds light on the factors contributing to employee engagement, and its impacts can vary in different business settings. The ASSP study underscores the link between engagement and safety outcomes, urging organizations to cultivate a culture of engagement that transcends work tasks and extends to quality safety practices. Investing time and money into employee engagement requires thoughtfulness and strategy, which pay dividends. Engaged employees have fewer accidents. Injury rates are 60% higher among disengaged employees, meaning engagement is as essential to their safety as the safety program itself.

There are distinctive characteristics among engaged workers who did not have job-related injuries. These engaged employees consistently exhibited the following behaviors:

- 95% adhered to safety procedures was almost universal
- 92% properly used personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 92% demonstrated strong support for new policies and procedures
- 89% had a proactive approach to addressing unsafe behaviors, including non-conforming co-workers
- 79% regularly reported unsafe behaviors

Conversely, workers who reported job-related injuries displayed lower levels of engagement and had worked at the business for over five years.

WVC Foundation receives \$12,171 grant from Numerica Charitable Fund

Submitted by Holly Thorpe, wvc

The Wenatchee Valley College Foundation received \$12,171 from the Numerica Charitable Fund to support the WVC Bridge program. The new program is designed to help Adult Basic Education (ABE) students without their high school credentials get access to financial aid so that they can transition into higher education programs, including trade programs, two- and four-year degrees. The WVC Bridge program began summer quarter 2023.

If a student does not have high school credentials (a diploma or GED), they are not eligible for financial aid support through federal aid (FAFSA) or state aid (WASFA).

However, if they complete six college credits, then they can claim Ability to Benefit (ATB), a federal classification that gives them access to financial aid to continue their education.

"These students are in a financial aid desert," said Rachel Evey, WVC Foundation executive director. "With funding from the Numerica Charitable Fund to

support WVC Bridge, WVC can cover college-related expenses for ABE students to successfully transition into higher education programs. We are excited to serve these students directly and share their success with the community."

Numerica Charitable Fund annual grants are awarded to organizations that foster education, support women and children and work to end hunger and homelessness.

"Numerica is proud to support organizations that show up for our most vulnerable community members when times are tough," said Carla Cicero, Numerica Credit Union president and CEO. "Our annual grant program is just another way we show our commitment to enhancing lives, fulfilling dreams, and building communities."

Of 564 WVC students enrolled in Adult Basic Education who were surveyed, 52% reported having a family income below the 70% lower-living income standard for Washington, according to ABE faculty Julie Fitch. Learn more about ABE at WVC at wvc.edu/TransitionalStudies.

State and federal dollars allocated to build resilience in local food supply chain

Submitted by Amber Betts, WSDA

OLYMPIA – The need to respond to pandemic-related disruptions to the food supply chain in recent years illustrated the important ways that resilient local food systems can help connect consumers to foods produced closer to home. The need for local food system infrastructure that supports growth in local economies and healthy communities is recognized by both the state and federal governments who are making new grants and technical assistance available.

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are investing in grants and technical assistance programs that bolster resilient local food systems. Earlier this year, Washington State Legislature approved \$8 million in new ongoing state funding to continue WSDA's successful Local Food System Infrastructure Grant. In addition, this summer, USDA announced the Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program is providing \$9.4 million in funding for Washington state to administer grants and technical assistance that will support farms and food businesses with infrastructure projects

that expand capacity and strengthen collaboration across linkages in the regional food supply chain.

Background: In 2022 and 2023, nearly \$20 million in grants were awarded to small farms and local food businesses through the Local Food Systems Infrastructure and Local Meat Processing Capacity Grant programs, which are administered by the WSDA Regional Markets Program. The businesses that received assistance through these programs have demonstrated the important role they play in maintaining a vibrant and robust local food system. Continued funding from Washington State Legislature will further bolster the resiliency of our local food systems.

In addition to state-funded programming, WSDA is partnering with USDA on the newly announced Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. Federal funding from this program will complement the state-funded program, supporting continued expansion of local food system capacity and farm viability in Washington. Funds will be used primarily for large-scale grants and technical assistance designed to build resilience across the middle of the state's food supply chain.

Washington State Tree Fruit Association releases the 2023 Washington apple harvest estimate

Return to normal numbers and exceptionally high fruit quality drive forecast as harvest begins for key economic and image driver for Washington state.

Submitted by Tim Kovis, WSTFA

YAKIMA – The Washington State Tree Fruit Association (WSTFA) released its forecast for the 2023 Washington state fresh apple crop August 8.

The full crop is estimated at just over 134 million standard forty-pound boxes of fresh apples, a 28.8% increase from 2022's 104.3 million boxes.

The 2022 harvest was much smaller than normal due to a very cold spring, with snow that inhibited pollination during bloom.

This year, moderate weather has helped growers deliver a healthy crop much closer (5% above) the previous six-year average production. This return to historic norms is also seen in growers' reports of good size distribution and expected high quality across all varieties. The forecast also illustrates the continued trend of varietal diversification, including Honeycrisp, Ambrosia, Envy and Cosmic Crisp, with this four alone representing more than a quarter of forecast production.

"There is a lot of excitement as we are seeing a more normal harvest and excellent fruit quality this year," said Jon DeVaney, WSTFA President.

"A moderate spring and a warm early summer created near-perfect growing conditions, so our domestic and foreign customers are going to see great size, color, and overall good quality in our apples. The harvest is just getting underway now, and our growers look forward to bringing in a great harvest that will benefit consumers around the state, country, and world."

The WSTFA forecast indicates a robust production in five popular vari-

etals. Gala represents the largest part of the harvest at 19.8%, Red Delicious is projected at 13%, followed by Honeycrisp at 14.6%, Granny Smith at 13.8%, and Fuji at 11.7% of total production. Cosmic Crisp, a proprietary varietal grown only in Washington state continues to grow in its share of the total crop, with 5.9% of the harvest. This reflects the ongoing diversification of the state's apple production to serve a diverse and growing customer base.

Washington apples are vital to the state's economy and are its leading agricultural commodity by production value. Apples represented 21% of the state's total agricultural value in 2021.

Twenty percent of the harvest was exported in 2022, down from the five-year average of 28% due to lower overall production in 2022.

The organic apple market continues to grow, and Washington also leads the nation in the production of organic apples. The organic forecast for 2023, is 21 million boxes, or 15.7% of the total harvest. It should be noted that not all organic production is packed and marketed as organic and WSTFA members are always working on new strategies and techniques to deliver fresh, healthy apples. "Our growers have a long tradition of meeting consumer demand and they are proving it again by producing more than 93% of the country's organic apple output," added DeVaney.

"It's great for the state and for consumers around the world that our growers have rebounded from a down year with a strong, healthy crop in 2023," said Derek Sandison, Director of the Washington State Department of

Agriculture.

"More importantly, thanks to moderate weather the quality of apples is exceptionally high. Apples are Washington state's calling card to every corner of the globe. This year, we are literally putting our best crop forward and that's good for our state economy, our workforce, and our growers."

This forecast is based on a survey of WSTFA members and represents the best estimate of the total volume of apples that will eventually be packed and sold on the fresh market (excluding product sent to processors).

Apple harvest typically begins in August and continues into November, and as a result, this forecast is still subject to several months of variable weather which can affect the final harvest total.

About the Washington State Tree Fruit Association:

The Washington State Tree Fruit Association (WSTFA) represents the growers, packers and marketers of Washington apples, pears, and sweet cherries. The association provides education and training, data and statistics for informed market and production decisions, and public and government advocacy for the industry. Washington is the nation's leading producer of these three important crops, with a farm-gate production of over \$2.8 billion, accounting for nearly 30% of the state's agricultural production value. In an average year, the apple harvest alone produced a total economic impact to the state of \$7.5 billion and supported nearly 40,000 direct jobs and 21,000 indirect jobs in support industries in the state. To learn more, visit www.wstfa.org.

Resolving conflicts the bright way

Submitted by Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center

In the vibrant local community, conflicts are a natural part of life. From minor misunderstandings to more complex disputes, finding amicable resolutions is vital for maintaining harmonious relationships and fostering a positive environment. That's where the Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center comes to the rescue, offering a comprehensive suite of services to cater to the diverse needs of our community.

1. Mediation: bringing harmony to conflict. Mediation serves as the cornerstone of our dispute resolution services. Our expert mediators act as impartial third parties, guiding disputing parties through open communication and active listening. The result? A collaborative environment where conflicts are transformed into opportunities for growth and understanding.

2. Small Claims Mediation: Small disagreements, big solutions, finding common ground. Dealing with minor disputes can feel like a maze, especially when complicated terms are thrown into the mix. That's where our Small Claims Mediation service steps in, a helping hand to bridge the gap. Plus, we're here to save you precious time, ensuring you stay out of the courtroom hustle.

3. Facilitation: Empowering productive conversations. Sometimes, what is required is not just mediation but facilitation. Our skilled facilitators excel at steering group discussions towards



constructive and fruitful outcomes. Whether it's in the boardroom or within community organizations, we'll ensure everyone's voice is heard and valued.

4. Restorative Circles: Healing through dialogue. The power of restorative circles lies in their ability to heal and rebuild relationships. With empathy and understanding at the core, these circles provide a safe space for dialogue, where individuals can express their feelings, repair harm, and pave the way for reconciliation.

5. Mediation and Family Mediation Training: Empowering with knowledge. We believe in empowering our community members. Our comprehensive mediation and family mediation training equips participants with valuable conflict resolution skills, fostering a culture of harmony and cooperation at home and within our neighborhoods.

6. Certified Volunteer Mediator Practicum Training Program: Shaping future mediators. For those seeking to make a difference, our Certified Volunteer Mediator Practicum Training Program is the ideal opportunity. We nurture aspiring mediators, providing them with hands-on experience under expert guidance, ensuring they are well-prepared to make a positive

impact in resolving disputes.

7. Community Education: Spreading awareness and knowledge. We take pride in being an educational resource for our community. Through community education initiatives, we offer workshops, seminars, and resources that promote conflict resolution and communication skills, enriching the lives of individuals and strengthening community ties.

8. Customized Training: Tailored solutions for unique needs. We recognize that every conflict is different. That's why we offer customized training solutions for businesses, organizations, and groups seeking specialized conflict resolution techniques tailored to their unique challenges.

As the heartbeat of dispute resolution in Wenatchee Valley, we are committed to fostering a culture of understanding, empathy, and respect within our community. If you find yourself in need of any of our services, whether it's mediating a dispute, community building, or simply improving your conflict resolution skills, don't hesitate to contact us at WVDRC.ORG. Together, let's resolve conflicts the bright way and build a stronger, more connected Wenatchee Valley community.

Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – July 2023

Overview

This report provides an update on the Wenatchee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) economy using not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year over year (July 2022 through July 2023) and average annual data changes (between 2021 and 2022).

Unemployment rates

Washington's not seasonally adjusted average annual unemployment rate fell one full point, from 5.2 percent in 2021 to 4.2

percent in 2022. The monthly unemployment rate decreased four-tenths of a percentage point between July 2022 (4.0 percent) and July 2023 (3.6 percent).

In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate fell from 5.5 percent to 5.0 percent between 2021 and 2022. Year over year, rates have declined from April through July 2023. The 2.9 percent unemployment rate in July 2023 is the lowest reading for the month of July since county-level unemployment data began to be recorded electronically in 1990.

Wenatchee MSA unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, January 2021 through July 2023.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate declined by six-tenths of a point between July 2022 and July 2023.

Total nonfarm employment

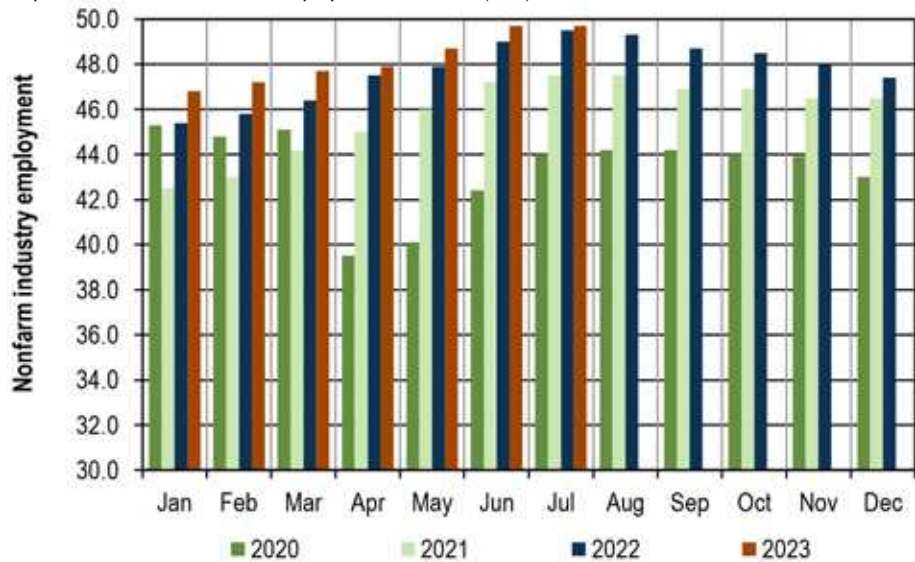
Between 2021 and 2022, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 157,100 more nonfarm jobs, an average annual increase of 4.7 percent. Year over year, Washington's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). This July, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,620,800 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,562,900 in July 2022, up by 57,900 jobs and by 1.6 percent. Although this 1.6 percent year-over-year growth rate in July 2023 is still good news for Washington's labor market, it should be noted that

job growth rates have generally been decelerating during the past 12 months – a trend to watch in forthcoming months.

The Wenatchee MSA's economy added 2,000 jobs during 2022, a 4.3 percent upturn, slightly less robust than Washington's 4.7 percent growth rate between 2021 and 2022. Year over year, the local nonfarm market has expanded for 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). This July, total nonfarm employment provided 49,700 jobs, up 200 jobs and 0.4 percent above the 49,500 jobs tallied in July 2022. Although this marginal, 0.4 percent year-over-year growth rate in July 2023 is a small step in the right direc-

Wenatchee MSA nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted, in thousands Washington state, January 2020 through July 2023.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA increased by 0.4 percent between July 2022 and July 2023.



Donald W. Meseck, Regional Labor Economist
 Employment Security Department
 Kittitas County WorkSource, 510 N. Pine Street,
 Ellensburg, WA 98926
 Phone: (509) 607-3267; E-mail: dmeseck@esd.wa.gov
 Website: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo>

Wenatchee MSA labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, July 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES)

Wenatchee MSA	Preliminary Jul-23	Revised Jun-23	Revised Jul-22	Change (in #)		Change (in %)
				Jun-23	Jul-22	Jul-22
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	70,249	67,463	74,534	2,786	-4,285	-5.7%
Resident employment	68,223	65,547	71,933	2,676	-3,710	-5.2%
Unemployment	2,026	1,916	2,601	110	-575	-22.1%
Unemployment rate	2.9	2.8	3.5	0.1	-0.6	
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	49.7	49.7	49.5	0.0	0.2	0.4%
Total private	40.1	39.9	40.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.5%
Goods producing	6.5	6.6	6.6	-0.1	-0.1	-1.5%
Mining, logging and construction	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-0.1	-3.3%
Service providing	43.2	43.1	42.9	0.1	0.3	0.7%
Private services providing	33.6	33.3	33.7	0.3	-0.1	-0.3%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	9.7	9.8	10.1	-0.1	-0.4	-4.0%
Retail trade	6.7	6.7	6.8	0.0	-0.1	-1.5%
Education and health services	8.4	8.3	7.9	0.1	0.5	6.3%
Leisure and hospitality	7.3	7.2	7.3	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Government	9.6	9.8	9.2	-0.2	0.4	4.3%
Federal government	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	11.1%
State government	1.1	1.2	1.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
Local government	7.5	7.6	7.2	-0.1	0.3	4.2%
Workers in labor/management disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

¹ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding.

The Wenatchee MSA nonfarm market provided 49,700 jobs in July 2023, a gain of 200 jobs since July 2022.

tion for the Wenatchee MSA's labor market, it should be noted (as with the statewide trends, mentioned above) that local job growth rates have also been slowing during the past 12 months.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) increased by 91,636 residents (a 2.4 percent upturn) between 2021 and 2022. Year over year, the state's CLF has expanded during the past 23 months (September 2021 through July 2023).

Recently, Washington's labor force grew by 82,336 residents (up 2.1 percent), from 3,995,954 residents in July 2022 to 4,078,290 in July 2023.

The Wenatchee MSA's CLF increased from 66,239 residents in 2021 to 66,983 in

2022, a 1.1 percent upturn. Year over year the Wenatchee MSA's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) had expanded for 11 months (July 2022 through May 2023) before decreasing in the past two months.

In July 2023, there were 4,285 fewer Chelan or Douglas County residents in the CLF than in July 2022, a -5.7 percent downturn. On the positive side, there were 575 fewer residents out of work in the Wenatchee MSA this July (2,026 unemployed) versus in July 2022 (2,601 unemployed), a -22.1 percent decrease.

Hence, this year-over-year decrease in the number of unemployed more than offset the retrenchment in the Wenatchee MSA's labor force and pushed the local unemployment rate down six-tenths point, from 3.5 percent in July 2022 to 2.9 percent in July 2023.

Nonfarm industry employment

Year over year, total nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA has expanded for 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). Washington's nonfarm job market has also been adding jobs, year over year, for 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). However, as mentioned in the Total nonfarm employment section of this report, local and statewide "growth rates" have generally decelerated during the past 12 months.

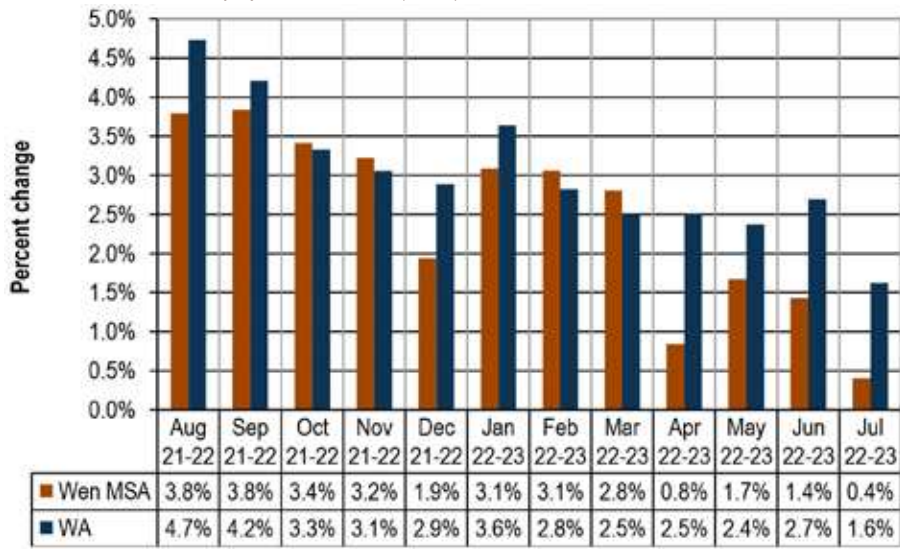
Private education and health services, federal government, and local government provided more jobs in July 2023 in the Wenatchee MSA than in July 2022 – good news. However, the local manufacturing and retail trade sectors experienced job losses between July 2022 and July 2023. Also, "private services providing" industries employment (i.e., jobs in all private service sector industries, except government) waned from 33,700 jobs to 32,600 jobs in the Wenatchee MSA, a 100 job and a modest -0.3 percent downturn. Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates detailing which Wenatchee MSA "private services providing" industries lost jobs between the Julys of 2022 and 2023 are not available. However, at the state level, industry specific estimates exist showing that "private services providing" businesses lost jobs between July 2022 and July 2023. Specifically, the number of "employment services" jobs statewide dropped from 61,000 jobs in July 2022 to 50,500 in July 2023, down -17.2 percent. This "employment services" category includes temporary help services employment, considered a leading indicator by many econo-

mists. Hence, it is logical to assume at least some of this statewide hiring slowdown at temporary help agencies also occurred in the Wenatchee MSA.

Summaries of employment changes/trends between July 2022 and July 2023 for three local industries (construction, retail trade, and education and health services) are provided as follows:

◆ In the mining, logging, and construction category, most jobs are in "construction." Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA has expanded or stabilized for 33 months (November 2020 through July 2023). In the Julys of 2022 and 2023, construction employment stabilized at 3,600 jobs across the MSA. On the real estate sales side, according to the July 2023 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates, there were 109 fewer closed sales of single-family homes or condominiums from January through July 2023 versus the first seven months of 2022 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo, and Rock Island, WA). This was a -21.0 percent Year-to-Date (YTD) downturn as closed sales declined from 520 between January and July 2022 to 411 in the corresponding first seven months of 2023. This July the number of active listings slipped to 125 from the 162 listings in July 2022 (down by 37 listings and -22.8 percent). Hence, fewer units are currently "on the market." Reference home prices in the Wenatchee Market; they are declining. This Real Estate Snapshot newsletter for July 2023 also stated that the median

Wenatchee MSA and Washington state, total nonfarm employment changes Washington state, July 2022 through July 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has expanded for 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). Washington's nonfarm job market has also expanded during the past 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023).

sales price of homes/condominiums sold in the Wenatchee Market decelerated from \$500,000 Year-to-Date (YTD) in July 2022 to \$477,450 YTD in July 2023, a -4.5 percent decline.

Conversely, across Washington, construction employment has posted year-over-year increases for 28 consecutive months (April 2021 through July 2023). Between July 2022 and July 2023, the number of construction jobs statewide advanced by 1.0 percent, rising by 2,500 jobs, from 240,000 jobs to 242,500. Washington state's nonresidential building construction contractors saw employment climb at a robust 7.2 percent clip, from 23,600 jobs in July 2022 to 25,300 in July 2023.

◆ Year over year, retail trade employment in the Wenatchee MSA stabilized or expanded from January 2021 through March 2023, decreased in April and July 2023, and increased in May and June 2023. Between July 2022 and July 2023, the number of retail trade jobs slipped from 6,800 to 6,700 in the two-county MSA, a -1.5 percent downturn.

Across Washington retail trade employment stabilized or expanded from January through June 2023 before contracting -0.6 percent this July. In absolute terms, Washington's retailers saw employment decline from 341,100 jobs in July 2022 to 339,000 in July 2023, a 2,100 job and -0.6 percent downturn. This downturn was heavily driven by lower employment levels in furniture and home furnishings stores and in building material and garden supply stores. Statewide, furniture and home furnishings stores shed 1,500 jobs between July 2022 (21,900 jobs) and July 2023 (20,400), a downturn of -6.8 percent. Building material and garden supply stores downsized from 35,200 jobs in July 2022 to 33,900 this July, a -3.7 percent abatement.

◆ In the combined education and

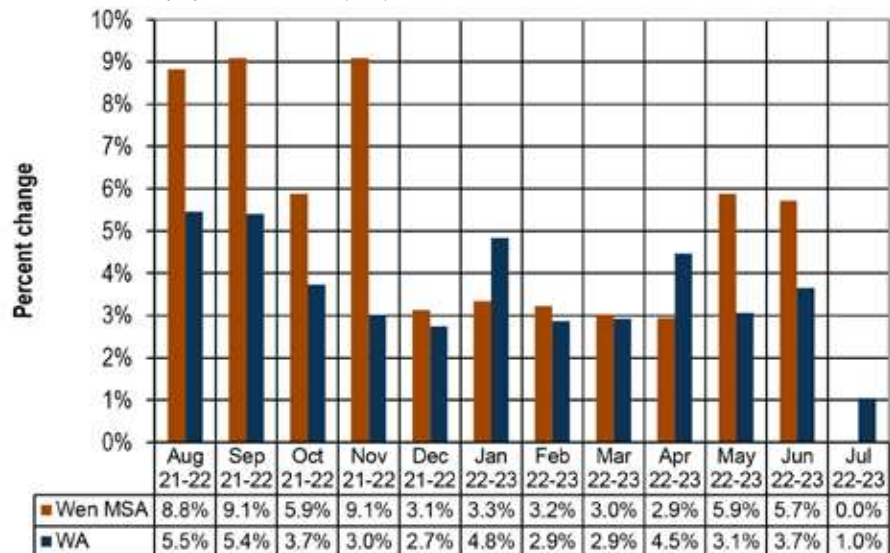
health services category, health services employers provide the lion's share of employment. Year over year, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's private education and health services industry either stabilized or expanded for 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). Between July 2022 and July 2023, the number of private education and health services jobs in the two-county Wenatchee MSA advanced from 7,900 to 8,400 respectively, a 500 job and 6.3 percent increase.

Statewide this industry has added jobs in every month during the past 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates indicate that Washington's education and health services employers tallied 534,300 jobs in July 2023 versus 508,400 in July 2022, a 25,900 job and 5.1 percent upturn. Private educational services, an industry within the broader education and health services category, posted a respectable 10.1 percent employment growth rate during this period, advancing from 60,200 jobs in July 2022 to 66,300 jobs in July 2023 (up 6,100 jobs).

Agricultural employment/production

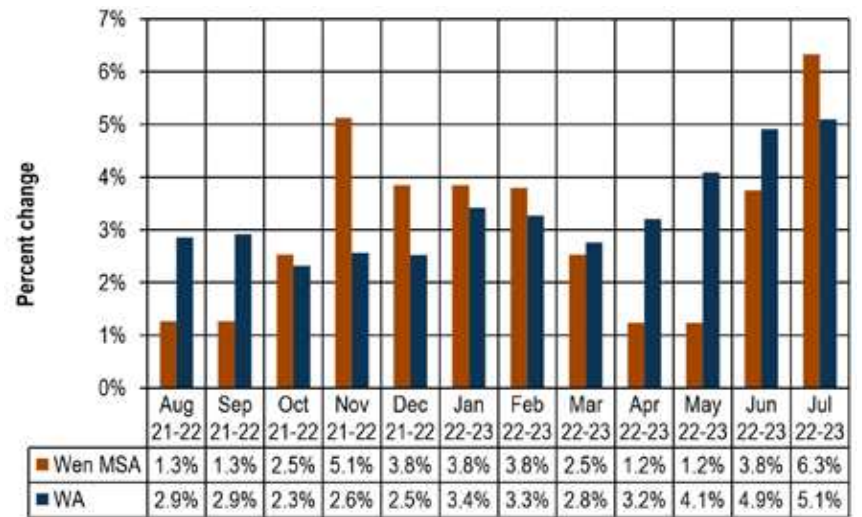
The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) program, conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department provides agricultural and nonagricultural employment and wages for firms, organizations, and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act. Frequently termed "covered" or "QCEW" data, this information provides a reliable data set for comparing employment and wage trends at the county level. In June 2023, preliminary average annual QCEW data for calendar year 2022 became available. An analysis of industry employment and wage changes from 2012 through 2022 shows

Wenatchee MSA and Washington, leisure and hospitality employment changes Washington state, July 2022 through July 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA has expanded or stagnated for 33 months (November 2020 through July 2023). Statewide, construction employment has been growing for 28 consecutive months (April 2021 through July 2023).

Wenatchee MSA and Washington, construction employment changes Washington state, July 2022 through July 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



Year over year, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's private education and health services industry either stabilized or expanded for 28 months (April 2021 through July 2023). Statewide this industry has expanded monthly from April 2021 through July 2023.

that in Chelan County:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 39,537 in 2012 to 43,726 in 2022, a 4,189 job and 10.6 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 1.0 percent. However, agricultural employment (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 9,667 jobs in 2012 to 7,733 in 2022, a significant downturn of -20.0 percent and loss of 1,934 jobs, equating to an annualized loss rate of -2.2 percent. In 2012, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 24.5 percent of total covered employment, but ten years later (in 2022) this industry provided only 17.7 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of total covered employment sank by six and eight-tenths percentage points (from 24.5 to 17.7 percent) in Chelan County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$1.33 billion (in 2012) to \$2.26 billion (in 2022), a \$925.3 million and 69.3 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 5.4 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$207.4 million in 2012 to \$252.7 million in 2022, a \$45.3 million and 21.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 2.0 percent. In 2012, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 15.5 percent of total covered wages, but by 2022, agricultural wages tallied only 11.2 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of total nonfarm payroll decreased by four and three-tenths percentage points (from 15.5 to 11.2 percent) during this timeframe. This dip in the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered wages/payroll) in the past ten years (2012-2022) was less severe than six and eight-tenths points drop in the agricultural share of employment (versus total covered employment) during this period.

◆ Although the agricultural industry is still a "bedrock" to the Chelan County economy, one could generalize from these 10-year employment and wage trends that agriculture has become less influential in the local labor market:

- Between 2012 and 2022, the number of agricultural jobs "peaked" countywide in 2018 at 10,609 jobs (23.5 percent of total covered employment) and then steadily declined from 2018 through 2022. Anecdotal evidence suggests at least three possibilities for this agricultural employment decline in Chelan County: automation, the gradual conversion of some seasonal agricultural jobs to year-round positions, and the increased use of H-2A agricultural labor.

- Between 2012 and 2022, agricultural payrolls "peaked" countywide in 2018, at \$292.6 million (16.0 percent of total covered wages) and generally declined through 2022 when Chelan County's agricultural payroll was \$252.7 million (11.2 percent of total covered wages).

For Douglas County, an analysis of industry employment changes from 2012 through 2022 shows:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 10,748 in 2012 to 12,414 in 2022, a 1,666 job and 15.5 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 1.5 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased sharply from 2,969 in 2012 to 2,298 in 2022, a 671 job and -22.6 percent downturn with an annualized loss rate of -2.5 percent. In 2012, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 27.6 percent of total covered employment. In 2022, agricultural employment accounted for only 18.5 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of employment plummeted by nine and one-tenth percentage points from 2012 through 2022 (from 27.6 to 18.5 percent) during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$327.0 million in 2012 to \$577.1 million in 2022, a \$250.1 million and 76.5 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 5.8 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$57.6 million in 2012 to \$72.5 million in 2022, a \$14.9 million and 25.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 2.3 percent. In 2012, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 17.6 percent of total covered wages, but by 2022, agricultural wages tallied only 12.6 percent of total covered payroll. Hence, the agricultural share of wages shrank by five full percentage points from 2012 through 2022 (from 17.6 to 12.6 percent) during this ten-year period whereas agricultural employment showed a plunge of nine and one-tenths percentage points during this timeframe.

◆ Although the agricultural industry is still a "bedrock" to the Douglas County economy, one could generalize from these 10-year employment and wage trends that agriculture has become less influential in the local labor market:

- Between 2012 and 2022, the number of agricultural jobs "peaked" countywide in 2018 at 3,278 jobs (25.3 percent of total covered employment) and then generally declined from 2018 through 2022. Anecdotal evidence suggests at least three possibilities for this agricultural employment decline in Douglas County: automation, the gradual conversion of some seasonal agricultural jobs to year-round positions, and the increased use of H-2A agricultural labor.

- Between 2012 and 2022, agricultural payrolls "peaked" countywide in 2017, at \$85.8 million (18.4 percent of total covered wages) and generally declined through 2022 when Douglas County's agricultural payroll was \$72.5 million (12.6 percent of total covered wages).

Web link to Monthly Employment Report (MER) for Washington state

<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

Guidelines for Submitting Press Releases and Stories

As the proud new proprietors of the Wenatchee Business Journal, Leavenworth Echo, Lake Chelan Mirror, Cashmere Valley Record, and Quad City Herald, we are thrilled to continue serving our vibrant communities with accurate and engaging news coverage. Our aim is to provide our readers with insightful and pertinent information that resonates deeply with their interests and concerns. With this in mind, we've received numerous inquiries from community members regarding our criteria for press releases and article submissions. We're delighted to shed light on this aspect and offer guidance on how you can effectively contribute to our newspapers.

Clarity and Conciseness: Communication is key. Make sure your content is clear, concise, and easily digestible for our diverse readership. Avoid using jargon or technical terminology that might alienate those not familiar with the subject matter.

Relevance: Our communities thrive on topics that directly impact their lives. When submitting your work, focus on subjects that are relevant to our readers' interests and needs. Illustrate how the information you're presenting can bring about positive change within our local neighborhoods.

Accuracy and Fact-Checking: Truthfulness is paramount. Verify all facts, figures, and details before sharing your content. Maintaining accuracy is funda-



Terry Ward

From the Publisher

mental in upholding the trust we've built with our readers over the years.

Engaging Narrative: Craft your press release or story with an engaging narrative that captivates our audience. Stories driven by anecdotes or real-life instances help convey the significance of the information you're conveying.

Quote-Worthy Content: Infuse your submission with quotes from key individuals whenever possible. This personal touch provides insights that resonate with our readers on a human level.

Contact Information: Don't forget to include your contact information in your submission. This ensures that our editorial team can connect with you should further information or clarification be required.

Editing and Revisions: Flexibility is appreciated. Be open to potential edits and revisions from our editorial team, as we aim to maintain a consistent style and tone throughout our publications.

Timeliness: If your submission pertains to time-

sensitive matters, indicate the relevant timeframe. This allows us to prioritize accordingly and ensure our readers receive the information when it matters most.

High-Quality Images: Visuals enhance understanding. If appropriate, include high-quality images that complement your content. Make sure you have the necessary permissions to use any images provided.

Adhere to Deadlines: In the interest of smooth operations, we kindly request that you adhere to our submission deadlines. For the weekly newspapers, the submission deadline is noon on Friday for News, Calendars and Letters. For the Wenatchee Business Journal, the deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Submission Process: To submit your press release or story for consideration, kindly email it to news@ward.media. Our editorial team will carefully review your submission and may reach out for additional information or clarification.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your eagerness to contribute to our community newspapers. By adhering to these guidelines and best practices, you play an integral role in upholding the caliber and relevance of the content we deliver to our readers. We're excited to delve into your submissions and look forward to the valuable insights you'll bring to our publications.

Warm regards,
Terry Ward, CEO & Publisher Ward Media

Lord & Lady Store opens in Downtown Manson

By Norm Manly,
Community Volunteer

MANSON – A newly established business in Manson, now a proud member of the Manson Chamber of Commerce, has been unveiled as one of the community's best-kept secrets. Situated at 145 Wapato Way in the Manson Center, Lord & Lady is among the pioneering occupants of the Manson Center, owned by Marcus and Trie Smith.

Marcus revealed that the historic hundred-year-old building has undergone extensive renovation.

In addition to Lord & Lady, the Manson Center accommodates tenants such as Valley Barber and Cheval Cellars, with available spaces for rent.

When asked to define Lord & Lady, the proprietors Geff Cerna and Elke Reiter characterized it as an antique, vintage, collectibles, and gift emporium, offering a diverse array of treasures to be discovered, cherished, and enjoyed by patrons. They emphasized their distinctiveness as not merely a conventional retail establishment, aiming to foster community involvement and growth through various initiatives, including scholarships, internships, and community service opportunities for Manson High School students.

These plans reflect the anticipated expansion of activity within this corner of Manson.

Geff and Elke, both business partners and close friends, share a passion for antiques, cultivated over nearly 25 years through family connections. Their mutual enthusiasm for antiques prompted the idea of transitioning from online sales to a brick-and-mortar store, facilitated by ample storage for their antique collection, rendering the retail venture a financially viable prospect.

Both hailing from the west side of the mountains, near the Pacific Ocean, Geff and Elke experienced different educational paths.

Geff graduated from Monsanto High School, while Elke attended Aberdeen High School. Despite their diverse backgrounds, both are dedicated, lifelong learners. Geff recently obtained a degree in Criminal Justice from Wenatchee Valley College, while Elke also holds a degree in Criminal Justice from the same institution and has primarily worked in the healthcare sector.

Elke, a mother of eight, all

residing in Manson, proudly highlights three who graduated from Manson High School, while Geff, known as "papa," boasts a count of 14 grandchildren.

The duo's migration to Manson stemmed from a

Procuring their inventory primarily through estate sales, Lord & Lady places emphasis on recognizing beauty in a wide array of objects. A visit to their store reveals an assortment of unique, one-of-a-kind trea-



PHOTO CREDIT NORM MANLY

Elke Reiter (left) and Geff Cerna (right) are the owners of Lord & Lady.

desire to embark on a fresh chapter in their lives. Elke conveyed her appreciation for Manson's inviting ambiance and scenic splendor, with the allure of the nearby lake adding to the appeal. Amidst their everyday routines and preparations, the pair successfully inaugurated their storefront, Lord & Lady, on May 10.

Elke explained that the name Lord & Lady emerged from an exploration of several options. "We tossed around several ideas for names, but nothing seemed to fit the aesthetic (aesthetic is used to talk about beauty or art and people's appreciation of beautiful things). We had recently acquired notoriety land and titles in Scotland. Lord & Lady was perfect."

sure, most available for purchase while a few remain on display. When asked to identify their favorite items, Geff cited a painting by artist Boris Chezar (1913-2008), a streetscape crafted in oil and sand on canvas. For Elke, her favored item is a non-saleable artifact: an 1800s Ira Bradley Illustrated Family Holy Bible, distinguished by images of the original family and intricate handwritten annotations.

Lord & Lady also accepts consigned items. Interested parties can visit the store during regular business hours to learn more.

During the summer season, Lord & Lady operates from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday to Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday to Saturday.

Chelan County Fair | Sept. 7-10, 2023

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