



Kindness counts in North Central Washington

By Matthew Ockinga, Correspondent

WENATCHEE – Charles Dickens published his classic A Christmas Carol in December 1943. The masterpiece’s opening stave shows Fred exhorting his Uncle Scrooge to view Christmas as the only time in the long calendar of the year “when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they were really fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.”

Last Christmas, Gene Sharratt found himself pondering his fellow passengers. The educator grew frustrated with the increasing social tension fissuring the nation. He observed that some New Year’s resolutions soar for twelve months while most remain grounded after two weeks. An idea surfaced of a communal resolution: kindness.

These ruminations inspired Kindness Counts North Central Washington, a one-year campaign designed to inspire, recognize, and contribute to acts of kindness. The organization is not a 501 (C)3 and does not accept donations. “We’re just a group of people who want to make our community a better place to live,” Sharratt said. “We have a lot more in common than we have differences, regardless of our political affiliation, our religious affiliation, or any other demographic. So, we why don’t we try to raise a voice around commonalities and build bridges in community, state and nation rather than build barriers?”

Before fully fueling this notion, Sharratt desired to define his terms. What is kindness? The campaign described it as “the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.”

His initial research found that February 17 is National Random Acts of Kindness Day. Using that date as a launching point, he gathered a kindness brain trust to gauge the idea’s merits which included Margie Kerr, local Make a Difference Day founder, Dave Herald, owner-partner of Sunny FM, Linda Haglund, Executive Director at Wenatchee Downtown Association, Rufus Woods, publisher emeritus of the Wenatchee World and Laurel Helton. The friends met twice monthly to refine goals. Sharratt contacted the mayors of Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Chelan, Cashmere and Moses Lake. They all responded with official city proclamations.

“It’s easy to get caught up in negative news and dwell on those stories. The ugly feeling of what is wrong in the world tends to take over your life, interrupting your thoughts, affecting your relationships, and controlling your attitude,” East Wenatchee Mayor Jarrilea Crawford said. “I believe what the Kindness Counts committee is trying to do is make kindness contagious and infect the whole valley with it.”

Other kindness ambassadors were Mike Cooney, former mayor of Chelan, Rafael Aguilar, local radio personality, Dominick Bonny of Digital Media Northwest, and civic volunteers including Melanie McQuaig, Kris Cameron and Abbie Gunderson.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GENE SHARRATT
Dave Tosch and Mariachi Noroeste with their Kindness banner at the Wenatchee Senior Center for Cinco de Mayo.

The campaign collects local acts of kindness on kindnesscountsncw.com and a drop box at Pybus Public Market. The group promotes these stories on their website and social media accounts. Sharratt emphasized that the site promotes small everyday gestures including returning one’s shopping cart and opening the door for a stranger.

During the July 20 meeting at the North Central Washington Community Foundation, attendees shared stories of kindness from around the valley. That included Wenatchee High School students Kirsten Jarmin and Izzie Brown, the president and vice president of the school’s Random Acts of Kindness Club. Kory Kalahar, Superinten-

dent of the Wenatchee School District, also encouraged the group.

“If we all can be kinder than necessary, we will be good stewards of our community,” Kalahar said.

Retired art teacher Terry Valdez and his daughter Claire spoke about the progress of their Art Cart. The father-daughter pair sets up free watercolor painting lessons in local parks which has attracted many passersby. They will host the next Art Cart on Aug. 9 from 2-4 p.m. at Wenatchee’s Rotary Park.

The positive energy of Sharratt’s brainstorming has electrified the community.

SEE KINDNESS, PAGE 4

Osprey nests, Chelan PUD and PSE finalize contract

Submitted by Rachel Hansen

WENATCHEE – Osprey chicks are just beginning to peek above the protection of their high-perched nests. This month, new-feathered fledglings will attempt their first flights, many from platforms built by Chelan PUD.

Osprey are a migratory raptor that prefer to nest on the tallest snags or structures, as close as possible to the shoreline



SUBMITTED PHOTO
PUD power pole in the Appleyard, just south of Wenatchee.

where they fish. Power poles tend to be attractive for osprey nesting, which is not always a safe option for the birds and increases the risk of fire and power outages.

Osprey are not threatened or endangered, but they’re protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which prohibits anyone from moving an active nest. When a nest is started in an unsafe location, Chelan PUD builds standalone platforms up to 65 feet tall that provide osprey with a safer option nearby during the onset of nesting season.

“Every spring, we monitor power poles closely for any new nesting activity. Once we notice nesting material in unsafe locations, we have to act quickly to provide an alternative and entice the birds to a safer location” said Chelan PUD Biologist Kelly Cordell. “We want to protect the osprey and reliability for customers. That’s what this program is about.”

The nesting platform program, part of Chelan PUD’s Avian Protection Plan, began with fewer than 10 in 2006. This spring, the number of platforms totaled about 56 as the population of osprey has grown exponentially.

Canada Geese, which normally nest on the ground, have seized the opportunity and overtaken some osprey nests in recent years. Geese lay their eggs weeks before osprey return from their annual migration from Central and South America, forcing the raptors to seek lodging elsewhere.

SEE OSPREY, PAGE 6

Chelan PUD, YMCA agree in principle to terms redeveloping part of Fifth Street campus

Submitted by Teka Sellers, Chelan County PUD

WENATCHEE – What is now a utility warehouse is one step closer to becoming the site of a bustling community hub. Chelan PUD staff presented draft terms of a potential purchase and sale agreement for a portion of the PUD’s Fifth Street Campus for Commissioner consideration. The YMCA plans to redevelop part of Chelan PUD’s current headquarters into a new, expanded YMCA facility.

Under the draft proposal, the YMCA would purchase a parcel of about 85,000 square feet on the eastern side of the Fifth Street campus.

The nonprofit plans to demolish the existing warehouse, office and shop sometime in the spring of 2024, and prepare the parcel for construction. The PUD would relocate water, stormwater, and electrical infrastructure to enable redevelopment of the entire site, including the future YMCA facility.

The PUD will also be responsible for the construction of an internal roadway and sidewalk through the 7.5-acre campus.

Once vacant, the appraised value of the 85,000 square-foot parcel is estimated at \$1.49 million. Chelan PUD will offer a \$1.09 million credit to the YMCA for demolition and site preparation costs. After the credit, the proposed sale price of the property will be \$400,000.

“The YMCA is grateful to the PUD commissioners and staff for this oppor-

tunity. This is one more step towards realizing our goal, vision, and promise to best serve the community for the next 100 years, and we are excited,” stated Dorry Foster, CEO of the Wenatchee Valley YMCA.

“I’d like to add my enthusiasm for this project as well,” added PUD Commissioner Garry Arseneault. “This Term Sheet with the YMCA would go a long way towards fulfilling the PUD’s commitment to the community and to our PUD customers to provide long-term value and benefit once we have moved to the new Service Center in Olds Station.

The PUD and YMCA began negotiations in February after the PUD board of commissioners asked staff to pursue anchor uses for the 7.5-acre former headquarters.

The PUD is also in negotiations with Music Theatre of Wenatchee, which is interested in the PUD’s Fish & Wildlife building adjacent to the Riverside Playhouse building on the west side of the campus.

The negotiations with the YMCA and Music Theatre are in line with public input collected early in the process to ultimately provide a development that supports the economic and social wellbeing of the community.

In other news, commissioners:
• Heard a report on new inquiries re-

SEE FIFTH STREET CAMPUS, PAGE 5

IN THIS ISSUE

Sen. Hawkins 2023 District visits.....	2	BNCW Section	9-12
Chelan County Sheriff Response	3	Marketing 101	13
Rep. Newhouse Legislative Update.....	4	Top Properties Real Estate.....	13-15
Rep. Schrier Legislative Update.....	5	Retail Reports	16-17
Keeping Up With People	6	Labor Area Reports	18-19
To Our Health	7-8	Free Time, Leisure	20



\$2

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL

www.NCWBusiness.com

CAROL FORHAN

Publisher

Publisher@leavenworthecho.com

509-548-5286

509-670-1723

BILL FORHAN

Publisher, ex officio

CAROL FORHAN

Advertising Manager

carol@leavenworthecho.com

509-548-5286

MIKE MALTAIS

News Staff

QCHReporter@gmail.com

MATTHEW OCKINGA

Correspondent

509-548-5286

LINDSAY

TIMMERMANS

Advertising Sales Executive

Adexec1@ncwmedia.net

509-860-7301

RUTHEDNA KEYS

Advertising Sales Executive

ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com

509-682-2213

WBJ OFFICES & CONTACT INFORMATION

© 2023 NCW Media Inc.

The **Wenatchee Business Journal** is published on the first Monday of each month. Subscriptions are \$25 for 1 year or \$48 for 2 years in Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties; \$28 for 1 year outside Chelan/Douglas or \$48 for 1 year out of state.

Circulation: For circulation information or to sign up for a subscription, call 509-293-6780

NEWSSTAND LOCATIONS

Wenatchee

Plaza Super Jet
106 Okanogan Ave.

Safeway, 501 N. Miller St.

East Wenatchee

Safeway, 510 Grant Road

Cashmere

Martin's IGA Market Place
130 Titchenal Way

Leavenworth

Dan's Food Market
1329 U.S. Highway 2

Chelan

Safeway, 106 W. Manson Rd.

Lake Chelan Mirror
131 S. Apple Blossom Drive, #109

Brewster

Quik E Mart #2 (Exxon)
26048 U.S. Highway 97

The **Wenatchee Business Journal** is published monthly

P.O. Box 39, Leavenworth, WA. 98826

Bulk Postage paid at Wenatchee, WA 98801



Interim period busy with 12th District visits

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

Friends and neighbors,

I hope that you and your families have been having a fun and safe summer. It has been over two months since the 105-day legislative session and the May 16 special session ended. My schedule is more manageable during the summer months with in-district visits and occasional committee meetings and appointments in Olympia, but the schedule gets busy in the fall as I hold my listening tour throughout the district and begin preparing for next year's legislative session. Over the past several weeks, I have enjoyed connecting with various local groups to reflect on recent legislative actions and learn more about upcoming community projects. Here are some recent events and activities:

12th District Interim activities

Serving as State Senator is a year-round effort, involving a mix of "in session" activities at the State Capitol and "interim" activities during the time the Legislature is not in session. A typical year for me begins in the fall with my annual listening tour and group meetings to prepare for the Legislative session in the winter. Spring usually involves meeting with groups to recap the Olympia activities and participating in field

tours and events with legislators and stakeholders. The summer is a continuation of those activities with occasional caucus meetings, legislative briefings, and interim committee work. My favorite aspect of the non-session interim work involves personal meetings and visits throughout the 12th District. Here is a summary of some of this year's interim activities:

• Post-session Interviews with local media.

Following the adjournment of the 105-day session and the passage of the state budgets, I had the opportunity to connect in studio with KPQ and KOZI radio. I have enjoyed close connections to these stations and their listeners during my service in the Legislature, participating in interviews weekly during the session and monthly in the interim months.

• Apple Blossom Festival and Grand Parade.

This year celebrated the 104th Apple Blossom Festival in Wenatchee April 27-May 7. My family enjoyed riding in the Grand Parade and connecting with community members. I'd like to extend a big thank-you to the festival royalty, staff, board, and community volunteers who came together to make the festival so special.

• Wenatchee Kiwanis Club Presentation.

I enjoyed

attending a recent Kiwanis Service Club lunch at the Pybus Public Market event center. I summarized the legislative session and had a good discussion with the Kiwanis members.

• Snoqualmie Valley Governments Association.

The SVGA hosted an evening dinner meeting at the North Bend City Hall to hear about the legislative session and to discuss Snoqualmie Valley priorities. The event host, North Bend Mayor Rob McFarland, offered a warm greeting to the group on behalf of the city and council. I had the pleasure of sitting with the Carnation City Council.

• Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce.

I enjoyed joining my 12th District seatmates, Representatives Mike Steele, and Keith Goehner, to recap the 105-day

legislative session and the May 16 special session at a chamber "coffee and commerce" event. We discussed the budgets, local transportation projects, police pursuits and drug possession bills.

• Lincoln Park Renovation Celebration.

I was honored to attend the recent event to celebrate renovations to the City of Wenatchee's Lincoln Park. The park received local, state, and federal dollars to update its stage, play area, and rest rooms. I appreciated joining Mayor Kuntz and other local leaders to celebrate the improvements.

• Fall City Community Groups.

I met with representatives from the Fall City Sustainable Growth and Fall City Community Association groups recently. These stakeholders shared the intense pressures and challenges re-

sulting from recent developments in the Fall City area along with other important priorities for Fall City.

• **North Bend Block Party.** It was terrific attending the 2023 North Bend Downtown Foundation's "Block Party". This is an annual summer event and is a major source of pride for the city, celebrating all things North Bend, featuring local officials, artists, business people, and more. It was great to connect with the community.

Additional Interim district activities:

• North Bend "Meet Your Senator" Coffees.

I have hosted two "coffee hour" events in North Bend to hear directly from constituents in this portion of the 12th. Being accessible to the people you serve is a very important part of this job, so I look forward to offering more of these opportunities in the months ahead. Please like and follow me on Facebook @SenatorBradHawkins for future invites.

• East Wenatchee City Council.

It was my honor to attend a meeting of the East Wenatchee City Council. I provided councilmembers a legislative update and presented Mayor Jer-

SEE 12TH DISTRICT VISITS, PAGE 13

Delayed long-term care tax

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

Many of you have written to me recently asking about the upcoming implementation of the "Washington Cares Fund."

This 2019 law created a trust fund to implement a new state long-term care program. For background, the Legislature approved House Bill 1087 concerning long-term services and supports in the 2019 legislative session after much debate. Many of us who voted against the bill argued that it was flawed and would lead to a multitude of problems.

Due to a variety of implementation issues and public frustration, Governor Inslee ordered the state Employment Security Department in 2021 not to collect tax premiums for the program, which effectively paused its implementation.

After significant floor debate, the Legislature approved House Bill 1087 in 2019 to create a long-term care program, known as the "Washington Cares Fund." I voted against the bill, but it passed the Senate 26-22

that year.

The program is funded by a .58% payroll tax, which amounts to \$5.80 for every \$1,000 of earnings. Despite delays, the new tax began in July.

Delayed program to take effect

The Washington Cares Fund program, and its payroll tax, is scheduled to go into effect in July.

In accordance with the law, Washington state will be requiring workers to pay into its long-term care program regardless of whether they will receive benefits from it.

This mandatory long-term care program has a maximum lifetime benefit of \$36,500. It is funded by a .58% payroll tax, which amounts to \$5.80 for every \$1,000 of earnings.

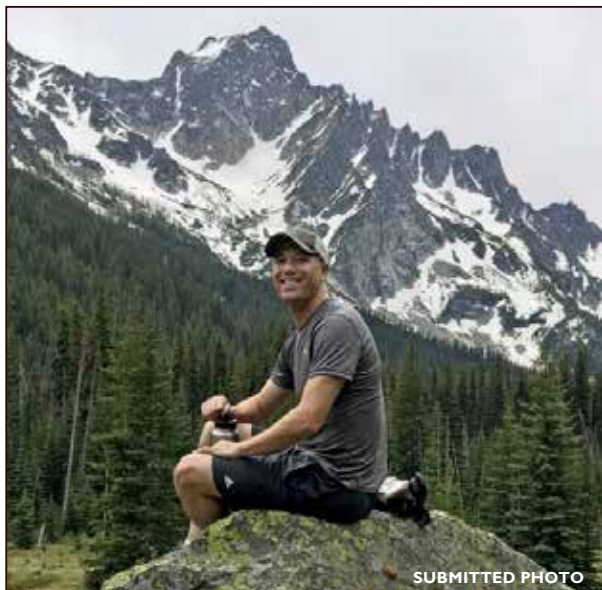
Several bills have been introduced to repeal or replace the suspended law and requests have been made to the governor to terminate it, but no agreement was reached by the Legislature. Some adjustments were made to officially delay the program during

the 2022 session but, unless terminated by the state in a future legislative session, the payroll tax will remain in effect to generate revenues for the program.

What is funded by the program?

The long-term care program is available to any Washington state resident over the age of 18 who has paid the payroll tax premium for at least three of the last six years or for a total of 10 years, with at least five years paid without interruption. The program has a maximum lifetime benefit of \$36,500 and people qualify if they need assistance with at least three of the following daily activities: medication management, personal hygiene, eating, toileting, cognitive functioning, transfer assistance, body care, bathing, ambulation/mobility, and dressing. The Washington State Employment Security Department will help implement the tax collection. People can apply for an exemption through the department if they have purchased long-term care insurance through a private

SEE DELAYED TAX, PAGE 8



Stuart Lake Trail in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness near Leavenworth.

Clean water for all! Get a free fuel bib!

Learn more about small oil spill impacts on water quality

Contact Washington Sea Grant Boating Program Specialist **Aaron Barnett**

Crime is up, and number of officers down, in 2022 Crime in Washington Report

Statements attributable to Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director

LACEY – Crime was up and the number of law enforcement officers was down in the latest Crime in Washington report for 2022. The rate of murders, violent and property crimes rose across the state, while the number of officers available to respond and serve our communities decreased again in 2022.

The annual Crime in Washington report tracks crime and arrest data from contributing law enforcement agencies throughout Washington. The report is compiled by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

The report shows that there were 394 murders in 2022, an increase of 16.6 percent over 2021. This is the highest number of murders recorded since WASPC began collecting this data in 1980. Homicides have increased 96 percent since 2019. Crimes against persons, property and society all increased in 2022, and violent crimes showed an increase of 8.9 percent.

The total number of commissioned officers statewide was 10,666, down from 10,736 in 2021, while the total population of the state increased by 93,262. Washington again is ranked 51st out of the 50 states and District

of Columbia for the number of officers per thousand residents.

Reported cases of officers assaulted was 2,375 in 2022, an increase of 20.7 percent.

Other data may show crime has decreased in some parts of the United States but overall crime in Washington has continued to rise. The data in this latest report should be used by policy makers to continue to develop balanced approaches that respect victims of crime and increase safety for all Washingtonians.

CIW 2022 Facts at a Glance

- The total population for the State of Washington is 7,865,768.
- Full-time commissioned officers totaled 10,666.
- There was a total of 2,375 assaults on law enforcement officers. Two officers were killed in the line of duty.
- Motor vehicle theft rose 34 percent.
- There were 394 murders.
- Domestic Violence offenses make up 45.9 percent of all Crimes Against Persons.
- A total of 544 hate crime incidents were reported.
- 1,444 arrests for Drug/Narcotic Violations were down from 2,163 in 2021.

The Crime in Washington 2022 report is compiled with data from 231 state, county,

municipal, and Tribal agencies and is designed to give residents, elected officials, and law enforcement data-driven information about crime in their communities. The numbers are derived from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) submissions. The data should not be compared to the FBI Crime in The United States 2022 report which will be published later this year. The Washington State Uniform Crime Reporting Program forwards the crime data to the FBI in the NIBRS format; however, the FBI may convert NIBRS to a Summary Reporting System format, use estimations, or omit agencies that have not submitted all twelve months for 2022.

About WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of several federal agencies. WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal. WASPC's function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members, and non-members alike.

Chelan County Sheriff Mike Morrison's response to the WA Crime Report

To Whom It May Concern:

As Sheriff of Chelan County, I want to express my disappointment and concern after reviewing the information provided by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in regards to crime rates across Washington. It is disheartening to see such a rise in murders, violent crimes, and property crimes, which directly impact the safety and well-being of all communities to include ours.



FILE PHOTO

Sheriff Mike Morrison

What adds to the frustration is the fact Washington State currently ranks 51st out of the 50 States and the District of Columbia when it comes to the number of officers per thousand residents. This statistic is simply unacceptable. Law Enforcement cannot effectively combat crime and ensure public safety without an adequate number of officers.

It is further concerning to know while crime rates have decreased in many parts of the United States, they continue to rise here in Washington State. We must address these issues head-on and make it a priority to reverse these trends. The safety of our citizens should never be compromised, and we cannot allow Washington State to become a haven for criminals.

Rest assured, with the resources entrusted to us, Chelan County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) will remain

a steadfast ally to all of its citizens in the pursuit of safety. We will remain an unwavering adversary to those who would threaten the well-being of our community and want it to be known our commitment to service is resolute. We will proceed to work tirelessly to establish a society where safety, justice, and security are ensured for all.

Together, with the support and cooperation of our community, we can overcome these challenges and build a safer future. Let us stand united in our determination to combat crime and create an environment where every individual can thrive without fear. All CCSO Deputies remain committed in upholding the agencies motto of being "OF THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE".

Respectfully,
Mike Morrison,
Chelan County Sheriff

A GRAY CARD that helps you see more green.



You like cash back, right? Well, we like giving it to you. That's why we're introducing the Clearly Cash Back™ card from Washington Trust Bank. It's the right card for small businesses because unlike other cards, there are no limits and no blackout dates. That's right. It gives you 1.5% cash back on purchases. With the Clearly Cash Back™ card, all restrictions are restricted.

Learn more at watrust.com/clearlycashback



Member FDIC

Of course this is all subject to credit approval. But after approval you'll get a kitten. OK, maybe not a kitten, but you'll earn rewards based on your qualifying net purchases (purchases minus returns and/or other related credits) as long as your account is in good standing (that is, not closed, canceled, blocked, delinquent, suspended or otherwise inactive and not available for use). So as long as your card is good, your rewards are good. Good begets good. Of course, you do not earn rewards on fees, finance charges, or fraudulent or unauthorized charges. Credits (returns) to your account will reduce the rewards available in your account. For more information see Clearly Cash Back™ Terms and Conditions.





Newhouse stops the Biden Administration's land grab

Submitted by Mike Marinella

On July 19 Rep. Dan Newhouse's (R-WA) amendment to prohibit funds from being used to finalize the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed "Landscape and Conservation Health" rule was adopted in the Interior and Environment Appropriations. The BLM's rule undermines FLPMA's multiple-use mandate for BLM lands and would hinder access to public

lands for energy and critical mineral development, grazing, forest management, and recreation. With more than 90% of BLM's 245 million acres located in the West, the rule would have an outsized effect on the residents of Central Washington.

The amendment was adopted by voice vote. Rep. Newhouse's remarks as prepared below:

"I rise today to offer an amendment prohibiting

funds from being used to finalize the Bureau of Land Management's proposed 'Landscape and Conservation Health' rule, the latest example of this Administration's regulatory overreach.

Earlier this year, the BLM proposed a rule to elevate conservation under the multiple-use mandate. The multiple-use mandate, as established by Congress, allows federal lands to be used for resource development, grazing, timber har-

vesting, and recreation.

Not only is this proposed rule illegal, but it would also have drastic effects on energy prices, food costs, and recreational opportunities. "As Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, I believe in the multiple-use mandate to produce sustainable yield – not lock up our lands from accessing the bountiful resources and beautiful views our public lands offer.

"In the midst of record-

high energy prices and food costs, this Administration wants to exacerbate the problem by proposing a regulation that would reduce resource development – including renewable energy – and ranching on public lands.

"The BLM is confusing conservation for preservation by sidestepping Congress. They do not have the authority for this proposed rule, and I urge all of my colleagues to support my amendment. I yield back."

Background: In April, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed a rule titled "Landscape and Conversation Health" which elevates conservation under the multiple-use mandate to be equal to resource development, grazing, timber harvesting, and recreation on public lands.

This is contrary to Congressional intent under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 which statutorily set multiple-use sustainable yield on BLM land.

The public comment period closed on July 5 after a 15-day extension. The finalization of this rule would allow conservation easements to reduce resource development, grazing, timber harvesting, and recreation on public lands in a backdoor way to implement the Biden Administration's 30x30 initiative. Supporting Organizations: Public Lands Council, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Mining Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Western Energy Alliance, Independent Petroleum Association of America, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Kreidler sends out Climate Risk Disclosure Survey to insurers

Submitted by Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner

OLYMPIA – Washington state Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler sent out his annual Climate Risk Disclosure survey on June 30, requiring insurance companies with more than \$100 million in written premiums in the United States in 2022 to respond.

"This survey is a continuation of the work my office, and my fellow insurance regulators, have done to strengthen the industry to meet the threats presented by climate change," Kreidler said. "The information

we gather in this survey will benefit both the industry and consumers in a meaningful way."

The current version of the survey was developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Climate Risk and Executive Committee Task Force, of which Kreidler is a vice chair. It aligns with the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure, the international standard for climate risk disclosure, and helps insurance regulators and the public better understand the climate-related risks to the U.S. insurance market.

Specifically, the Climate Risk Disclosure Survey provides:

- Enhanced transparency about how insurers manage climate-related risks and opportunities.
- Guidance on identifying good practices and vulnerabilities.
- A baseline supervisory tool to assess how climate-related risks may affect the insurance industry.
- Promotion of strategic management and shared learning for insurers to encourage continual improvement.
- A vehicle for better-informed collaboration among

regulators and interested parties on climate-related issues.

Alignment with international climate risk disclosure frameworks to reduce redundancy in reporting requirements.

The NAIC adopted the Climate Risk Disclosure Survey in 2010. In 2012, Washington, along with California and New York, first administered the survey to companies writing at least \$300 million, and lowered the threshold to \$100 million a year later. For reporting year 2021, 26 states and territories participated and more than 1,500 companies responded, representing nearly 80% of the national insurance market.

Survey responses are due on August 31, 2023. Survey results will be available this fall on the California Department of Insurance website.

Secretary Hobbs named Western Region Vice President of the National Association of Secretaries of State

Submitted by Derrick Nunnally, Washington Secretary of State's Office

OLYMPIA – Secretary of State Steve Hobbs has been named Western Region Vice President of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). Secretary Hobbs was sworn in Wednesday, July 12, at the NASS 2023 Summer Conference in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1904, NASS is the nation's oldest non-partisan professional organization for public officials. Its members include secretaries of state, lieutenant governors, and chief state election officials from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

"I am honored to have been selected by my fellow secretaries of state to a national leadership role for our organization," Secretary Hobbs said. "NASS is a vital partnership for states to share important innovations about elections, business support, and the many other critical services secretaries of state provide. I look forward to this opportunity to work with other state leaders and share the



Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

advances that we've made in Washington."

Secretary Hobbs began serving as Washington Secretary of State in November 2021 and was elected in 2022.

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.

Manufactured Fibrecrete structures
THE SAFEST AGAINST FIRE, WIND, WATER AND TEMPERATURE

fibrecrete
Space age adobe

FIRE PROOF STRUCTURE
No Smoke. No Burn.

- Zero maintenance.
- R36 Insulation, 7" thick walls and ceiling, 90 minute fire doors.
- Flood and mudslide resistant. No mold, mildew or decay. Strength of over 1200 psi.
- Wind-safe investments: structures, walls, fences to withstand winds of 320 mph.
- Guarantee that you can live through a fire.
- Multiple packages offering amenities like fire-safe windows, non-gas generators, and emergency service-capable radios.

Cost+Price of \$12,500 for the patented, and guaranteed fire proof safe room. NEW Sierra Slope™ design | homes of any size | your architect or ours.

8'x8' option

Stock the staples: power, water, food and a place to sleep. Safe rooms and tiny homes - simplified.

CALL JIM AT 360-770-2088 OR 509-699-6016 FOR OPTIONS
fibrecretestructuralsystems.com | fibrecrete@gmail.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kindness counts in North Central Washington

Several groups have paid forward kindness including Link Transit and the Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center. Local high schools have started kindness clubs while established groups have furthered their efforts. At Vale Elementary in Cashmere, students wrote nearly 1,400 "Happy Letters" to encourage their recipients, including 600 written to veterans last November.

Sharratt has seen the need for general benevolence during his decades in public education. He worked in K-12 schools for 30 years and been the Superintendent of North Central Education services, a professor at Washington State University and the Executive Director of the Washington Student Achievement Council. Currently he is the senior research advisor for the Center of Education Effectiveness. Considering the

aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sharratt feels the responsibility to mirror kindness for younger generations.

"As an educator I want to make sure we as adults model the kind of behavior, we expect our young people to have going forward like civility, thoughtfulness," he said.

When Sharratt asked Cooney to join the initiative, the two bonded quickly. Cooney believes small acts of kindness contain high mileage and that the country has overcome greater obstacles than the current disagreements.

"I don't think you go in this to see any bar charts showing kindness is up 10 percent," Cooney said. "When you hold the door open for someone, there's just a little bit of joy that you get. You hope by opening the door that person will pass it on, do something.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GENE SHARRATT

Vale Elementary students in Cashmere wrote a total of 1,370 Happy Letters to encourage their recipients last school year.

We just have to get back to being humane to each other."

In ways seen and unseen, that is what Kindness Counts NCW aims to encourage as the 2023 campaign continues. For Sharratt, a silent Christmas thought has evolved into a community endeavor he hopes will have lasting effects throughout the long calendar of this year and beyond.

"We cannot exist as a community, we can't prosper as a state or as a nation if we can't come around to honoring diverse points of view without fear and anger," Sharratt said. "Kindness is free. It doesn't cost anything. You don't have to be wealthy to be kind. It's one of those things where it's just really contagious."



CONGRESSWOMAN
KIM SCHRIER
Representing the 8th District of WASHINGTON

Rep. Schrier manages to keep landmark aviation legislation supporting veterans in FAA Reauthorization Bill

Submitted by
Hana Tadesse

On July 20, U.S. Representative Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08) voted for the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for five years.

This bipartisan compromise is important for Washington state and for the country to keep our planes running and our airplanes and airports safe. Provisions of her bipartisan bill, the American Aviator Act, were included in the reauthorization to authorize competitive grants supporting flight-training services to Veterans.

“Veterans devoted their lives to protecting our country, and it’s our responsibility to make sure nothing is impeding them from receiving the best opportunities after fighting bravely for our country,” said Rep. Schrier. “That includes supporting their transition into new careers. This bill will

remove barriers to the aviation industry that Veterans face, including covering costs beyond what is available through Veteran education benefits, and I am proud that provisions of my bill made it into this reauthorization. This reauthorization is by no means perfect, but aviation is a landmark industry in Washington State, and I will always go to bat for the people of the Eighth District. I look forward to conferring with Senate to secure this huge win for Veterans and the aviation industry.”

The American Aviator Act was introduced by Representatives Schrier (D-WA), Armstrong (R-ND), Strickland (D-WA), and Kiggans (R-VA). “Our Veterans pledged to defend our nation and it’s our duty to make sure they have the ability to achieve successful careers after completing their service,” said Rep. Armstrong.

“This bill will not only aid Veterans in finding employment as commercial pilots but help fill a critical need

in our country’s workforce.” “The American Aviator Act will make it easier for military Veterans to become commercial pilots and help improve our aviation industry,” said Rep. Strickland. “When our Veterans succeed, America succeeds, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill to support our nation’s heroes and address our pilot shortage.”

“As a former Navy helicopter pilot and wife of a former Navy F/A-18 pilot, I’m proud to co-lead the American Aviator Act,” said Rep. Kiggans. “Not only will

this bill be beneficial to the commercial airline industry, it will also offer options to our Veterans who are interested in pursuing careers in aviation after their military service is complete. Being a pilot was one of the best jobs I’ve ever had - I’m happy that many of my fellow Veterans will now have that opportunity.”

The House passed the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at a vote of 351 to 69.



PREMIER ONE PROPERTIES
the right move

Commercial Industrial
\$1,150,000
801 Benton Way, Wenatchee
MLS#: 2054512
Lot Size: .830 ac/36,154 sf

Stellar rental history and loads of potential with 8 total units with variety of uses. Owner financing available. Owner will consider carrying a contract with 30%.

Anna Thomas, Erin Davidson
Premier One Properties

509.293.2214 • wenatcheehouses.com
925 Fifth Street, Wenatchee WA 98801

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chelan PUD, YMCA agree in principle to terms redeveloping part of Fifth Street campus

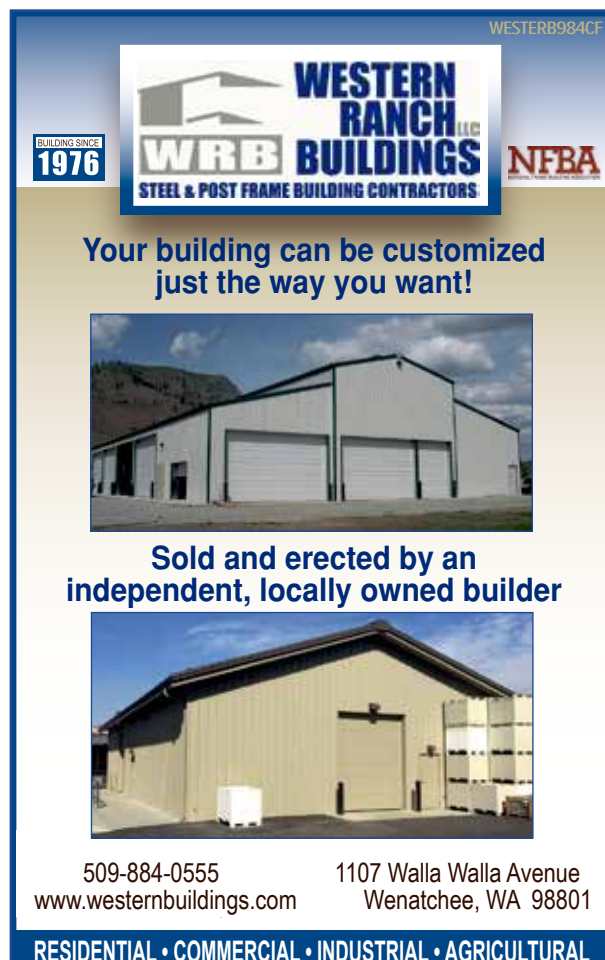
garding Level 3 (480-volt) charging stations for electric vehicles in Wenatchee, the Chelan area and Cashmere.

- Heard recommendations to change a policy that allows customers who install utility infrastructure to recover a portion of the costs from customers who connect later and benefit from that work.

- The recommended

changes would improve customer experience and align with industry best practices.

- Approved a \$902,000 capital budget revision to complete fiber expansion and distribution system improvements at lower Blewett Pass, for a project total of \$1,788,000.



WESTERB984CF

WESTERN RANCH BUILDINGS
STEEL & POST FRAME BUILDING CONTRACTORS

BUILDING SINCE 1976

Your building can be customized just the way you want!

Sold and erected by an independent, locally owned builder

509-884-0555
www.westernbuildings.com

1107 Walla Walla Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • AGRICULTURAL



IS YOUR MONEY IN A 5-STAR BANK?

You know how we call ourselves “your 5-Star Wheatland Bank” every time we put out an ad? Well, in times like these, it’s worth pointing out: that wasn’t just slick marketing jargon. A 5-Star rating is reserved for banks judged “Superior” in asset quality, liquidity, risk management and so on, by the nation’s leading independent bank rating firm. In other words, it’s your assurance that our deposits aren’t backed by fairy tales and cryptocurrency. Whatever that is. Visit a 5-Star Wheatland Bank near you. The sooner the better. Just saying.

AGRICULTURAL
COMMERCIAL
PERSONAL

wheatland bank

Relationships you can count on.



EQUAL HOUSING LENDER | Member FDIC

wheatland.bank

Wenatchee Wild announce hiring of Kevin Constantine as Head Coach



Submitted by
Austin Draude

The Wenatchee Wild, proud members of the Western Hockey League (WHL) are excited to announce the hiring of Kevin Constantine as the team's new head coach. Constantine comes to Wenatchee after spending two seasons guiding the Fehevar AV19 professional team in Hungary.

"I am excited to be part of a new era of hockey for the city of Wenatchee," said Constantine. "On a personal level, I am excited to be back in the U.S.A. with family after spending the last six years coaching overseas, and on a hockey level, I hope our coaching staff can help the team provide some exciting hockey for

New Wild Bench Boss brings extensive WHL, NHL, international resume to Wenatchee Valley

the Wenatchee community. More than anything, I hope our coaching staff can have a positive impact on the careers and lives of the athletes we coach."

A native of International Falls, Minnesota, Constantine brings nearly 40 years of coaching experience to Wenatchee, including seven years as a National Hockey League head coach, going 161-150-61-5 with the San Jose Sharks, Pittsburgh Penguins and New Jersey Devils.

His career also includes a pair of four-year stretches in the WHL with the Everett Silvertips from 2003 to 2007, and again from 2013 to 2017.

Constantine's teams went 326-199-51 in his eight seasons behind a WHL bench and never missed the playoffs, winning five U.S. Division championships during his tenure. He earned a Dunc McCallum Memorial Trophy as the league's top

coach after leading the Silvertips to the WHL Final in 2004, and added a WHL regular-season title three years later.

"We could not be more excited to have Kevin Constantine leading us on the ice and committed to the Wenatchee Wild for the next four years," said Wenatchee general manager Bliss Littler.

"Kevin has been a proven winner at every level he has coached, and his winning record in the NHL and WHL as a head coach is very impressive. Kevin is looked at as one of the great teachers in the game, both on the ice and off the ice in developing young men. One current NHL coach told me he feels we are getting the best version of Kevin Constantine. As the Wild move on to our next chapter in the WHL, we feel Kevin is the perfect fit for our players and our organization."

In addition to his hockey experience in the United States, he has an extensive resume on the international scene, coaching professional teams overseas in France, Switzerland, South Korea, Poland, and Hungary.

He has also served once as a head coach and twice as an assistant coach for Team USA at the World Junior championships and coached the Hungarian national team at the World Championships in Finland this past May.

Constantine will follow James Patrick in the head coaching role, after his stint with the Winnipeg ICE before the team's relocation to Wenatchee last month. His hiring brings the Wild a step closer to completing their 2023-24 coaching staff, the team recently announced it would retain previous Wenatchee head coach Chris Clark as the team's associate head coach

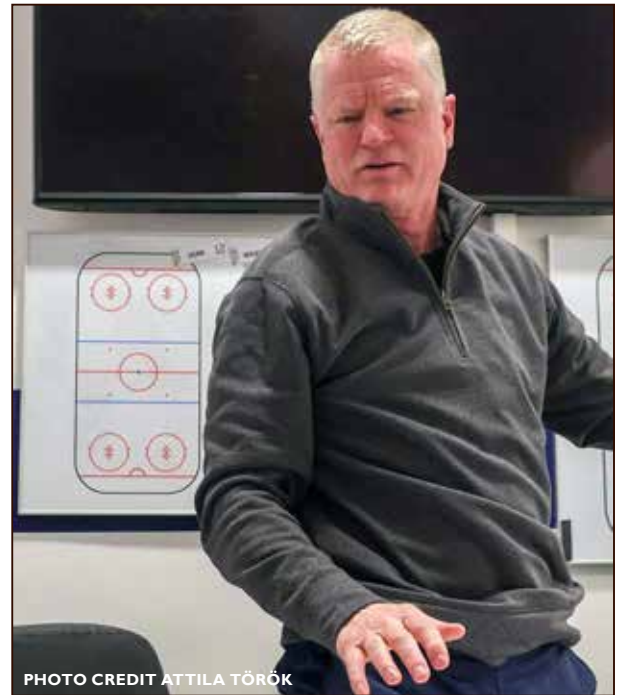


PHOTO CREDIT ATTILA TÖRÖK

Kevin Constantine conducts a meeting in his office before Fehevar AV19's first game in the 2022 ICE Hockey League playoffs in Hungary. Constantine was hired Thursday, July 13 by the Wenatchee Wild as the first head coach in the team's Western Hockey League history.

for the upcoming campaign and is in the process of hiring an additional full-time assistant coach to help lead the team this year.

The Wild will begin their first season in the WHL this fall, beginning with the home opener September 22 against the Portland Winterhawks. 2023-24 season tickets are

on sale now. 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.

WSAC's Michael Meotti named 2023 exceptional leader among state higher education executives

Submitted by Washington Student Achievement Council



The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) has named Michael P. Meotti, executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), as the recipient of its 2023 Exceptional Leader Award.

Under Meotti's leadership, WSAC

developed the innovative Regional Challenge Grant program, which builds partnerships between the state and community leaders to close equity gaps, increase college enrollment and success, and reflect regional strategies to inform state-

wide policy solutions.

Meotti also oversaw implementation and expansion of the Washington College Grant (WA Grant), considered a model for need-based state financial aid programs, and named the most equity-focused free college program in the country by the Education Trust.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Osprey nests, Chelan PUD and PSE finalize contract

To prevent the geese from using the osprey platforms, line crews place covers over the osprey nests during March to keep geese out until the osprey return. When the osprey arrive in early April, the covers are removed.

"The monitoring keeps us all very busy in the spring," Cordell said. "We're working with our partners at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to find more solutions for managing goose and osprey conflicts."

Chelan PUD and Puget Sound Energy finalize clean energy contract

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Chelan County Public Utility District announced a new contract for renewable hydropower from two PUD hydro projects on the Columbia River.

The five-year "slice" contract supplies PSE with 5% of the output from the PUD's Rock Island and Rocky

Reach hydropower projects from 2024 through 2028. The contract complements an existing contract between the two utilities, while generating revenue for the PUD to provide continued rate stability for its customers.

"This contract is part of an overall strategy designed to provide several benefits to customer-owners," said Chelan PUD General Manager Kirk Hudson. "Ultimately, surplus energy sales keep Chelan County electric rates well below state and national averages, while also protecting customer rates from the risk of volatile markets and variable streamflow."

The PUD ensures a competitive market price for our customers-owners with the public auction process. Bids are submitted and the PUD selects the highest qualified bidder. The competitive market pricing also allows the PUD to lock in a margin above production costs for the benefit of >>>

New Communications Manager at Chelan County PUD

Submitted by Rachel Hansen



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Libby Siemens

Libby Siemens is joining the Chelan County PUD after a 16-year career at Wenatchee Valley College, where she was responsible for strategic communications, media relations, legislative relations, marketing, advertising, and branding. She was a member of the president's cabinet, provided public relations for senior leadership, and served as co-lead for the governance committee. Ms. Siemens is known throughout the community as an excellent leader, skilled communicator, and creative team

>>> its customer-owners.

PSE secured the contract as the highest bidder in an auction in early 2023.

The contract will bolster PSE's supply of carbon-free energy, in line with the goal of becoming a "Beyond Net Zero Carbon" energy

member. She brings meaningful ties to the community through her involvement with Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mission Ridge Ski team, the Community Foundation, and the Women's Service League of Central Washington.

company by 2045.

"We value our continuing long-standing positive working relationship with PSE and are pleased that this energy will help our state meet its low-carbon policy goals," Hudson said.



Crunch Pak® pairs with Minecraft and Cheez-It® on new snacker

Submitted by Kari Volyn Axtman

CASHMERE – Crunch Pak®, the sliced apples specialist, collaborated with Minecraft and Kellogg's to create a mini-meal snacking solution that both gaming and non-gaming enthusiasts will enjoy.

The 3.95-ounce Minecraft and Cheez-It® Snacker contains sliced apples, cheese and Cheez-It® crackers, and features recognizable Minecraft characters on the bright colored packaging.

Crunch Pak has a licensing agreement with Minecraft and Kellogg's, maker of Cheez-It® crackers.

Mojang Studio's Minecraft is one of the most recognizable video game franchises in the world.

The open-world sandbox game is filled with the kind of exploration, creation, and community that appeal to adults and children alike.

Minecraft also launched hundreds of streaming careers and content creators' channels, making it one of the most-watched games of all time on streaming platforms.

"This partnership allows Crunch Pak to reach a new

audience and demographic beyond children, the traditional focus of its licensing program," said Ozgur Koc, senior vice president, of new business and product development.

"The average age of Minecraft players is 24, and gender neutral," Koc said.

"We like the multi-generational appeal of having Minecraft characters on our packaging. This is a great opportunity for the Minecraft community to bring the creativity of the game to their snack choices."

The Snackers are available at Walmart for back-to-school promotions. The suggested retail price is \$2.99 to \$3.49, depending on the market.

"Minecraft players are looking for an on-the-go snack," Koc said.

"Cheez-It® crackers are an everyday favorite for parents and kids alike; pairing them with our apples and Minecraft takes snack time fun to the next level."

For more information visit crunchpak.com.



A heart for service: Confluence Health honored retiring Chaplain Scott Langager for 25 years of care and compassion

Submitted by
Adam McDonald
Confluence Health Program Manager

WENATCHEE – Hospitals are well known as centers of care, where nurses, doctors, and other medical staff work to heal the injured and uplift the sick. But this need for care sometimes goes beyond health-care and into the demands of the spirit and soul, for both patients and medical staff alike.

For over 25 years, Chaplain Scott Langager has been quietly and steadfastly serving as the bridge between these two realms of care, working alongside physicians, nurses, medical assistants, and others to provide counseling, spiritual guidance, or even just a friendly smile when most needed.

“We recruited Chaplain Scott from Fargo, North Dakota in December 1997. He was probably just trying to warm up,” remembered Tracey Kasnic, vice president of special projects at Confluence Health. “His plan was to only stay a few years and then go back to North Dakota, but here we are almost 26 years later. It became a running joke for several of us.”

Chaplain Scott didn’t just stick around but became an integral part in the care and service provided to patients and their families. For many years, until later joined by chaplain assistant Jamie Wilhite,

he served alone, working at Central Washington Hospital (now Confluence Health Hospital – Central Campus) and for home care and hospice. Coming in at all hours of the day and night whenever called upon, Chaplain Scott was a hospital fixture for those receiving and providing patient care. Delivering countless funerals and memorial services for both patients and staff members alike, he even was asked to perform a few weddings along the way. Through it all, whatever the task required, his constant presence gave comfort and hope to those who needed it most.

While the needs of patients and their families might be the most readily recognizable role for a hospital chaplain, he often found staff and providers turning to him in times of need. The person someone could confide in when they couldn’t share their pain with others or let it show, he became known as a gentle and kind, but stalwart, rock in times of trouble.

During the pandemic, this need was magnified and his steady kindness all the more welcome to fill the deep need by staff and providers to have someone to listen, validate, and encourage them through the extreme stress that COVID-19 put the entire medical profession through for years.

“Having worked with Scott since



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chaplain Scott Langager and his wife, Sandy Langager (in center), surrounded by some of the guests at the July 26 retirement party.

he was hired, I had always enjoyed him as someone who really had a deep ability to listen, give a kind word, and, most of all, show compassion to absolutely everyone,” reflected Jackie Whited, a registered nurse working in utilization management for Confluence Health. “I’m not sure if he is aware of the impact he had on staff during the pandemic. They came to rely on his check-ins with them. Knowing he truly cared about their well-being made things just a bit easier for everyone.”

On Wednesday, July 26, staff held a retirement party for Chaplain Scott in the Confluence Health Hospital – Central Campus court-

yard. Attended by a large group of current staff, former co-workers, and patients he helped along the way, the echoing impact of his quiet, steadfast care was felt in the laugh-filled swapping of stories, the joyful reunions of those with memories to share, and a feeling that the appreciation ran far deeper than any gathering could convey.

Though retiring, Scott Langager leaves a legacy not marked by the time in his role, but in the impact he had on the lives of those he met during his years of service.

“Chaplain Scott’s demeanor and compassion, as well as his steadfast listening ear to countless patients, their families, and hospital staff, has

left a huge impact on our community where he has the reputation of being a gentle Dakota Norwegian,” remarked Ceci Wood, volunteer customer service manager for Confluence Health. “He has also been an integral part of our healthcare team, providing spiritual and emotional support to patients and families during their most difficult times. He has been a true pillar of strength and support, always willing to go above and beyond to ensure that those in need receive care and comfort by spending countless hours supporting every single person who has walked through our doors. He is our healthcare community’s very own Mister Rogers.”

Washington state receives funding to advance equity and family-centered early childhood systems

Project seeks to improve the health and well-being of young children and families

Submitted by
Washington State DOH

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is proud to share Washington is one of three states selected by the Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems (ECDHS): Evidence to Impact Center to take part in a multiyear project to advance comprehensive early childhood developmental (ECD) systems across the state.

As part of the project, Washington will serve as an Implementation Site and receive technical assistance to identify strengths and opportunities for ECD systems-building, connect with other states and subject matter experts, and have access to curated resources. The Implementation Sites will define and contribute to short-, mid-, and long-term outcomes in their state that build upon previous efforts to reach system changes and improve health for young children and families. The

efforts will advance improvements in early developmental health and well-being, such as child flourishing, school readiness, and family resilience, as prioritized by local/state needs, and reduced disparities associated with childhood poverty.

“This is a unique opportunity to co-design strategies with communities experiencing high levels of childhood poverty by building on strengths and addressing areas of opportunity to improve health outcomes and reduce inequities,” said Lacy M. Fehrenbach, MPH, Chief of Prevention, Safety, and Health, DOH. “The focus

on childhood poverty within this work also aligns with the 10-year plan to dismantle poverty in Washington. Together with our partners, we are committed to strengthening coordination with communities and embracing innovation that creates pathways for solutions.”

DOH will partner with WithinReach/Help Me Grow Washington, First Five Fundamentals/Washington Communities for Children, the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Health Care Authority to improve coordination between state and community-based partners

to use existing infrastructure, resources, and planned initiatives to strengthen connections between community-based navigators/coordinators. The project is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“We are excited to collaborate with the Implementation Sites to improve early developmental health and well-being,” said Debbie Cheatham, Director of the ECDHS: Evidence to Impact Center. “Our work will center ECD systems-building strategies around families and equity



to improve outcomes and reduce disparities in health and family well-being.”

The ECDHS: Evidence to Impact Center is led by ZERO TO THREE in partnership with several of the nation’s top early childhood and health system organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, Help Me Grow National Center, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Family Voices, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, and Institute for Child

Success. The Center seeks to increase the implementation and evaluation of evidence-informed, equity-driven, systems-level strategies among states and to strengthen the evidence base in support of ECD state systems building. Learn more about the Center and Implementation Sites project: ZERO TO THREE ECDHS Site Selection.

The DOH website is your source for a healthy dose of information. Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Sign up for the DOH blog, Public Health Connection.



Visit PumpoutWashington.org to find the nearest pumpout with the FREE Pumpout Nav App or Pumpout Boat Tracker






Pumpout Washington is a project of Washington Sea Grant in partnership with Washington State Parks Clean Vessel Act Program. Funding is provided by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund provided through your purchase of fishing equipment and motorboat fuels.

Washington State Health Care Authority releases Apple Health (Medicaid) renewal data. Urges Washingtonians to update their information

Submitted by HCA

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), in partnership with the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), released initial data from May 2023, the first month of Apple Health (Medicaid) renewals.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Apple Health clients did not need to provide renewal information to maintain their health care coverage. With the end of the public health emergency, federal law requires states to resume eligibility verification over the next year.

More than 2.3 million Washington State residents are covered by Apple Health. The state is engaging in extensive outreach efforts to make sure Apple Health clients update their eligibility information to avoid losing coverage they

might still be eligible for.

“Our goal is that every Washingtonian who is eligible for Apple Health stays on Apple Health,” said Sue Birch, HCA executive director. “We urge people to make sure their information is up to date. If you have a friend or family member on Apple Health, please encourage them to reach out to us and update their information.”

After extensive outreach, in the month of May, HCA conducted eligibility reviews for 230,000 clients.

• HCA automatically renewed coverage for about half of those clients using available information from DSHS programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and cash assistance programs, employment and income data, and other available data sources.

• HCA, the Exchange, DSHS, managed care organizations, providers, and many

other community partners have actively assisted clients through multiple outreach opportunities to help people to update their information and maintain Apple Health coverage.

• Roughly 116,000 people, representing approximately 5 percent of the overall Apple Health covered population, were disenrolled from coverage due to various reasons: About 83,000 people were disenrolled after automatic eligibility checks were completed and the person did not respond to multiple requests to update their information. Clients are given at least 45 days to complete a renewal. This is a large initial proportion, but it is consistent with expectations. Disenrollment numbers are expected to decrease over the next 12 months, likely meaning that many people who needed Apple Health during the pandemic have regained employer-sponsored insurance or found coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder or now qualified for Medicare.

If an Apple Health client's coverage is terminated for not renewing, they have a 90-day reconsideration period, which allows them to reenroll and return to coverage. If they are determined eligible for Apple Health, their coverage will be reinstated back to the day they were disenrolled, leading to no gap in coverage. Clients who miss their 90-day reconsideration period can still reapply for coverage at any time.

HCA and the Exchange will work with clients who are no longer eligible for Apple Health to ensure they are provided information on how to enroll for other affordable coverage options through the Washington Healthplanfinder. If they are over 65, they will receive information about applying for programs that help pay for Medicare.

HCA, DSHS, and the Exchange are taking proactive steps to ensure eligible individuals are not terminated from coverage due to procedural reasons, including:

• Spreading renewals out over 12 months, which provides time to run a smooth process and prevent systems from getting backlogged. This reduces burden not only on individuals and families, but also on state eligibility systems. Taking the time to do the process correctly will ensure those eligible for continued coverage do not experience a gap in care and those no longer eligible can transition to other sources of coverage.

• Partnering with managed care plans and using data available from the United States Postal Service to update people's contact information so that they receive the renewal forms.

• Enhanced outreach using text messages, phone calls, social media, radio and TV ads to clients who have not completed a renewal prior to coverage termination.

• HCA's volunteer ambassador program was launched within communities to help people stay informed on renewal processes. This adds to a robust network of Washington Healthplanfinder's navigators and brokers

who assist people across the state in obtaining and maintaining coverage.

• Maximizing the use of data sources, such as income information from the Employment Security Department, and renewing individuals based on their eligibility for other programs, such as SNAP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This helps reduce the need for some individuals to fill out and return a renewal form.

“We want to ensure all Washingtonians stay covered, whether it is a new qualified health plan, Apple Health, or employer sponsored,” said Ingrid Ulrey,

CEO at Washington Health Benefit Exchange powering Washington Health plan finder.

“For those who are now above income eligibility, they will have the opportunity to enroll in high-value, low-cost Cascade Care plans, now available for as low as \$10 or less per month.”

Apple Health clients and Washington Healthplanfinder customers are encouraged to update their contact information to ensure they receive their renewal notice over the next year to maintain their health coverage. Enrollment data will be published monthly at www.hca.wa.gov/phe.

Changes to Confluence Health facility names

Submitted by Adam MacDonald, Confluence Health

WENATCHEE – On July 1, Confluence Health transitioned its naming conventions for its hospitals and some other locations to increase clarity and allow for smoother services for patients.

Ten years after Wenatchee Valley Medical Center (now known as Wenatchee Valley Medical Group) and Central Washington Hospital affiliated under the name of Confluence Health in 2013, the organization will now transition to a single entity: Confluence Health. This change will result in some of the facilities having new names.

“After being first announced last summer, there has been a lot of work getting everything ready for this important transition,” remarked Tom Legel, chief financial officer for Confluence Health. “Bringing everything together has been complex with lots of challenges. We are excited for this transition and thankful to every staff member and

provider for helping to make Confluence Health a place that means trust, respect, compassion, and teamwork to the community we serve.”

With this transition, Central Washington Hospital and Wenatchee Valley Hospital will become one hospital, Confluence Health Hospital, with two locations. The former Central Washington Hospital will be the Central Campus of Confluence Health Hospital and the former Wenatchee Valley Hospital will be the Mares Campus.

In addition, to better reflect the services they provide, the Omak and Moses Lake clinics will now be known as Confluence Health Omak Campus and Confluence Health Moses Lake Campus, respectively. Other clinics – such as Confluence Health Cashmere Clinic, will not change their names.

“It's important for everyone to know that, while the names of our facilities are changing, we are still fully committed to providing excellent care for our community. Our commitment to

care isn't changing,” remarked Dr. Andrew Jones, CEO for Confluence Health. “This transition should instead help provide clearer and more consistent naming conventions, along with making some processes even smoother for our patients, staff, and providers, and that's something worth celebrating.”

About Confluence Health:

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health, the Clinic, Central Washington Hospital, and Wenatchee Valley Hospital, and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Delayed long-term care tax

provider by November 1, 2021. I anticipate that the program will be adjusted over time, which could mean that the benefits and taxes could increase.

Why I voted against the long-term care tax?

Ensuring that our population has access to quality long-term care is a very important issue. As many of you know from friends and relatives, long-term care service is very costly. While this new program is intended to help people and may benefit some, creating a government program to tax everyone's paychecks for years and years, including younger workers struggling to repay student loans and save for a home, seems very burdensome. This is especially true for a limited benefit that workers may never receive,

either because they end up not needing long-term care or they have moved away. This benefit is also, at least currently, not “portable” across state lines. Many private or employer-based long-term care insurance programs are portable. Since the state program is currently not portable, workers who someday move to another state are no longer eligible to receive benefits despite paying into the system throughout their working careers in our state. Lastly, the cost of long-term care – sometimes over \$10,000 per month – can far exceed the program's maximum lifetime benefit of \$36,500. These facts lead to this program likely significantly underperforming in its efforts to fund people's long-term care needs.

For all these reasons, I voted against House Bill 1087 in 2019. The bill, however, passed the House of Representatives (63-33) and the Senate (26-22). I have also joined many of my colleagues to call upon Governor Inslee to intervene related to the new long-term care tax. My position as state Senator exists to serve you. If you have any questions about the long-term care tax or other topics, please contact me at senatorbradhawkins.org. Please call our Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 if you need immediate assistance at any time. My office will also be actively working over the coming months to reach out to you about my Facebook page. You can like and follow me on Facebook @SenatorBradHawkins for my latest updates. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator.

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

BUSINESS CONSULTING

Your Future, Planned with Care.

Investment Management
Retirement Planning
Financial Planning

Brad Blackburn, CFP® Stephen Allen, CWS®

509-782-2600 121 Cottage Ave Cashmere, WA 98815

Blackburn Financial
Registered Investment Advisor

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Let us help you get the word out in our Professional Business & Service Directory

SALE

Call for special rates for one month or one year. All ads are in full color and choose from 3 sizes.

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Lindsay: 860-7301 or Carol: 548-5286

CLEANING SERVICES

REDUCE STRESS IN A CLEAN AND ORGANIZED SPACE WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL CLEANING

Home - Apartments - Commercial - Move in/out - Deep Cleans

\$100 OFF YOUR FIRST CLEANING

LCJ Cleaning LLC 509 264 5597



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

AUGUST 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1



New owners, same location, same service area

LIC#MOONLSW791JM

509-782-2464

NEW ADDRESS:
5564 Industry Lane Unit A
E Wenatchee, WA 98802

Moonlightstoneworks.com



COMPLETE DESIGN, INC.

Architecture ~ Engineering ~ Interior Design

509-662-3699 www.completedesign.cc

The Floor Factory is...
Flooring America



13 S Wenatchee Ave • 662-1421
www.thefloorfactory.com



Call now for new construction and remodeling

Serving the Wenatchee Valley for 42 years



Gold Construction Inc.
509-663-4946 www.goldconstruction.org
GOLDCI*077NO



TURNING YOUR IDEAS INTO REALITY THROUGH INNOVATION INTEGRITY AND PERSONAL SERVICE

Subdivisions • Short Plats • ALTA Surveys
Boundary • Construction • Topographical
GPS Survey • Mapping • Legal Descriptions

15 N. Chelan Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tel: 509.663.8660 • Toll Free: 1.888.767.3743
Fax: 509.663.6278 • www.nwgsurveys.com

Powder Coat it Tough!



Working to bring your project ideas to Reality.

509-663-9080 | 11 Bridge St, Wenatchee
cascadepowdercoating.com

BNCW names new CEO

By Morgan Dobbins

Building North Central Washington Board of Directors named interim CEO Danielle Martin as the official CEO starting July 1, 2023.

Danielle has been with Building NCW for nearly three years, starting as the Events and Membership Coordinator in early 2021. She has been responsible for the four major events Building NCW hosts annually as well as other events put on. She is the woman behind the BNCW Home Show every February, the annual Golf Tournament in June, the new Golf Tournament in October, and the Home Tour in September which kicks off with an exclusive night called Chefs on Tour. She has been an integral part of BNCW and now is the leader of the organization.

Danielle is passionate about protecting our small businesses in the valley and surrounding areas as well as promoting them. She is positioned well to take her passion and make a difference for our business owners and our community. BNCW is working hard to create great ideas and build repour with our members and community under her guidance. Danielle has helped build membership since the pandemic hit our small businesses in the region hard.

“We want to be a resource for these businesses, doing whatever we can to lift them up and help them succeed.” said Danielle Martin.

Danielle has an impressive history in our community already from being the owner and operator of two grocery store locations to supporting local sports with her own resources. She had been nominated recently and received the 2023 30 under 35 Achievement Award from the Wenatchee World. Danielle said this about her new position, “I



PHOTO CREDIT ASHLEY GILLUM

Danielle Martin, CEO of Building NCW with Morgan Dobbins, Membership Manager of Building NCW at the Wenatchee World 30 under 35 awards in July.

am honored and humbled to be promoted to this position. I love this community and being able to go to work knowing what I do that day helps make a difference in my community and local businesses is a great feeling.”

Building NCW stays up to date on local politics as well as federal, state and local policies regarding small businesses and building code changes.

Building NCW also drives a lot of their energy to advertising, marketing, and referring their members to other members and people in the region. Upcoming is the Home Tour and Chefs on Tour which promotes builders in North Central Washington by opening recently

built homes with remarkable architectural, stunning interior design, and intense landscaping.

On the Tour, attendees buy \$10 tickets and can move through the valley and into Leavenworth looking at a range of beautifully built new homes by local builders and meet the builders behind the homes.

BNCW hosts an exclusive preview night called Chefs on Tour on Thursday, Sep-

tember 21, the night before the Tour weekend.


This event has limited tickets and hosts local chefs in a few select homes for a networking meets progressive dinner special event with light food and drinks.

For more information on membership or to buy tickets for the Home Tour or Chefs on Tour please contact Building NCW at 509-293-5840 or email morgan@buildingNCW.org.


Need a Meeting Room?

As a valued BNCW member company, you're welcome to utilize the BNCW conference room if you require a place to meet with clients or prospective clients. The room will seat up to 16 people comfortably.

Please contact Morgan Dobbins at (509) 421-0276 to make the necessary arrangements.



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.



LOCATED AT:
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801
PHONE: (509) 293-5840

Email us for more information:
Info@BuildingNCW.org
Visit us online at:
www.BuildingNCW.org



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

AUGUST 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2



September 22nd - September 24th



2023 HOME TOUR BUILDERS





MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

AUGUST 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3



Photos are Previous Home Tours done by Knoop Photography.



MEMBER MESSENGER

"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

AUGUST 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4

Nothing But Networking Your Host for the Evening:



COMPLETE DESIGN, INC.

"Construction Design Specialists"

**TUESDAY AUGUST 29TH
5PM - 7PM**

353 Malaga Alcoa Hwy. Unit 3 in Wenatchee

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
OF NETWORKING & FUN!
AS ALWAYS THIS EVENT IS FREE!**

Call 509-293-5840 or email danielle@buildingncw.org
or morgan@buildingncw.org
We look forward to seeing you there!



BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's August Board of Directors Meeting

■ **Wednesday, August 16, 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.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL



Serving Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties for over 129 years!
NCW Media, Inc. is now an 8 year member supporting BNCW members.

To advertise your company/business call one of our Advertising Executives:

- Ad Executive, **Lindsay** 509-860-7301 or email adexec1@ncwmedia.net
- Ad Executive, **Ruth** 509-682-2213 or email RuthK@lakechelanmirror.com or further questions call
- Ad director, **Carol Forhan** 509-548-5286 Carol@leavenworthecho.com



Housekeeping

Lack of proper housekeeping on the job is one safety hazard common to all work places until after final cleanup.

Good housekeeping is one item that can help improve not only the safety on the job, but also the morale and productivity of the job.

The following "General Rules" on housekeeping:

- Keep scrap lumber with protruding nails separate from other debris.
- Bend nails over or remove from lumber.
- Keep all waste debris

in neat piles and away from the immediate work area.

Remove debris from the job on a regular basis.

- Keep aisles, stairways and walkways clear. Store materials only in their designated areas.

- Place trash barrels where needed to eliminate food rubbish. Keep tools and equipment stored neatly.

- Keep extension cords from being across walkways. If necessary, run them overhead; same applies to air compres-

sor hoses.

- Store chemicals in their proper place, and properly discard so as not to create a physical or environmental hazard.

- Don't let trash and debris build up. No trash or scrap hits the ground.

Good Housekeeping Can:

- Prevent minor injuries like cuts, punctures, slivers.
- Prevent major acci-

dents like slips, trips, falls and fires.

- Increase job productivity by speeding up the movement of workers and materials on the job.

- Keep compliance inspectors from visiting the job.

Good housekeeping aids everyone and makes it easier for everyone to do their work safely and with more pride.



admin@industrialcc.net
509-670-2021

Dusty Metsker
Lic# INDUSCI011L3

100 North Nevada
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

smithsoninsuranceservices@gmail.com
~ Habla Español ~

Kathy Z. Smithson
720 Valley Mall Pkwy,
East Wenatchee

Information You Can Rely On!

Let Kathy assist you with answers to your questions about:

- Group Employee Health & Benefit Plans,
- Individual Health Plans, WA Health Plan Exchange Plans,
- Group and Individual Life, Dental, Vision,
- Long Term Care, Disability and ALL Medicare Planning

Call Kathy Today - 509-884-5195. www.SmithsonInsuranceServices.com

AMERICAN ROCK PRODUCTS
A CRH COMPANY

- Ready Mixed Concrete
- Sand & Gravel
- Crushed Rock
- Concrete Supplies & Blocks
- 3 Locations to Serve You

"We are creating a team of highly skilled people working safely to build long-term relationships with our customers and communities. Integrity, superior quality, and exceptional service will continue to be the foundation of our future."

509-886-4853 **509-886-1070**
5515 Enterprise Drive E. Wenatchee 400 Parkway Drive Rock Island
Billing: 509-662-6375

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. JUNE 2023								
RESIDENTIAL								
Sale Price	Address	Total Acres	Year Built	Residential Area	Basement Area	Bedr.	Bathr.	Garage Area
\$1,110,000	141 N SHORE DR	0.8	2008	3424		3	2.5	996
\$970,000	1982 PEACH HAVEN CT	0.27	2007	2453	2453	5	3.5	864
\$899,000	663 19TH ST NE	0.35	2010	2721	2689	4	3.5	892
\$794,990	652 S KENT AVE	0.29		0				
\$780,000	2516 NW BOSTON AVE	0.65	1980	2124		3	2	576
\$779,000	2661 PATRIOT WAY SE	0.24		0				
\$778,500	2083 RD 3 SW	20	2018	2016		1	0.75	
\$769,990	1622 S KELVIN CT	0.29	2021	2604		3	3	745
\$766,000	225 LAKE FRONT RD	0.17	1997	1728		3	2	668
\$754,990	661 S KENTUCKY AVE	0.22	2021	2699		4	3	620
\$700,000	621 BRIARWOOD DR	0.27	1998	2383		5	3	525
\$684,990	2079 LEGACY PL SE	0.19	2021	2415		3	3	503
\$675,000	421 19TH ST NE	0.6	1966	1978	1334	3	3	576
\$670,000	2878 CHAUSSEE VICTORIA CT	0.29	1997	2117		3	2	728
\$655,000	1119 CEDAR LN	0.27	1968	2415	1689	8	4	660
\$649,500	430 STONERIDGE DR	0.3	1996	2080		3	2.5	529
\$608,000	2108 S MELODY LN	0.19	2020	1727		3	2	667
\$575,000	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE #17	0	2011	1648		3	2.5	480
\$575,000	180 E MARINE VIEW PL	0.14	1995	1240	1224	3	3	336
\$570,000	2447 PLATEAU DR	0.23	1996	2186		3	2.5	462
\$565,000	704 FRANCE ST NE	0.22	1977	1444	1490	3	2	736
\$520,000	136 IRONWOOD PL	0.1	1997	1708		3	2.5	564
\$500,000	652 S LARCH AVE	0.37	1992	1680		3	2	576
\$499,900	1707 N AURORA AVE	0.23	1993	1344	1344	3	3	448
\$495,000	312 S MARY AVE	0.15	2000	1552		3	2	440
\$488,000	1726 N ANNE AVE	0.19	1972	1628	1628	4	3	483
\$485,000	1530 N ASTOR CT	0.2	1967	2464		3	2.5	576
\$484,000	801 MANZANAL ST NE	0.26	1979	1298	1200	3	2	440
\$470,000	604 CINDY CT	0.16	1987	1352	1452	5	2.75	483
\$462,000	324 PINE VIEW DR	0.17	2018	1539		3	2	
\$460,000	2275 S MELODY LN	0.12	2019	1592		3	2	434
\$459,000	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE	0	2014	1516		3	2.5	505
\$444,900	215 21ST ST NW	0.08	2022	1693		3	2	572
\$444,000	85 RED HAWK DR	0	1996	1632	624	2	2.5	624
\$443,000	806 MANZANAL ST NE	0.18	1991	998	976	3	2	488
\$440,000	598 N MONTCLAIR AVE	0.16	2014	1234		3	2	506
\$435,000	208 11TH ST NE	0.21	2012	1269		3	2	374
\$430,000	221 21ST ST NW	0.08	2022	1693		3	2	572
\$430,000	219 EASTRIDGE DR	0.28	1977	1034	1000	4	2	325
\$429,000	2614 SEMOLINA LOOP	0.19	2008	1312		3	2	484
\$412,000	1603 N AURORA AVE	0.32	1977	2116		3	2	
\$410,000	305 33RD ST NW	1.02	1986	1568		3	2	
\$400,000	638 N KELLER AVE	0.35	1957	1784		3	1.5	
\$380,000	4046 BLUECREST DR	0.34	1996	1512		3	2	400
\$369,000	971 HIGHLINE DR	0.48	1978	1248		2	2	280
\$360,000	1396 N DEVON AVE	0.27	1977	1288		3	1	
\$355,000	610 E LOCUST ST	0.6	1920	2000	1004	4	2	528
\$350,000	5 19TH ST NW	0.14	1922	702	702	3	2	

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. JUNE 2023				
FARM				
Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Total Acres
THE HIGHLAND PARTNERSHIP II	PAI GOLDWATER ORCHARDS LLC	\$26,439,700		745.12
P & F HOLDINGS LLC	CASCADIA NORTH LLC	\$4,083,102		86.4
THE HIGHLAND PARTNERSHIP II	STEMILT GROWERS LLC	\$3,075,000		195.08
THE HIGHLAND PARTNERSHIP II	BRIDGEPORT PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC	\$2,020,000	2628 TACOMA AVE	11.42
KIMBALL &, KATHRYN E	FOUR N'S HOLDING LLC	\$700,000	US 2	9.38
MDFD HOLDINGS LLC	SS SHOP LLC	\$626,170	12TH ST SE	7.33
SHARP, GUY E & JUDITH M	LYONS, BART & SHERRY	\$575,000		864.25
KILLINGSWORTH, JAMES K DISCLAIMER TRUST	DAVIS JR, DAVID G & SHARON R	\$225,600		375.95
THE HIGHLAND PARTNERSHIP II	BRIDGEPORT PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC	\$223,087	2628 TACOMA AVE	0.29
BROWN, JUSTIN LAWRENCE	SAAVEDRA ARREOLA &, OMAR TOMAS	\$220,000		27.93
CORNING AND SONS LLC	HENNIGH, TOMMY G & DAPHNE B	\$55,000		21.56
JOHNSON, ERIC RAFER & JULIE ANN	KELLY &, LAUREL	\$30,000		26.57

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. JUNE 2023				
COMMERCIAL				
Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Acres
CAMPOS &, MIGUEL	LUCAS, HISAC	\$260,000	625 SR 173	0.14

MARKETING 101

Plan Today for the Holidays

Submitted by Jennifer Bushong

August is the perfect month to create marketing strategies to amplify holiday campaigns. The long, warm days in the month of August allow teams to slow down, use the daylight hours wisely to analyze Q1 and Q2 results and gear up for the holidays. After all, retail spending is anticipated to climb to over \$960 billion in 2023 which might be the highest figure yet according to the National Retail Federation. On average, customers spend over \$800 per person and small businesses need to capture the spending early to ensure successful holiday sales.

Here are a few tips to include in your Q4 strategic marketing plan:

Plan a promotional schedule.

Write a plan for promotions, giveaways, and sales leading up to the holidays. If new products are arriving throughout September and October, schedule a video as you unwrap the boxes for display.

Plan out the sales weeks or special in-store events.

Have all ads and fliers created early, so you can beat the holiday rush. Like many small businesses; printers, media representatives, and marketing firms are busy and may not be able to handle your late requests – especially if you wait until early Q4 to schedule. Do the work today, so the holiday craze is not only successful, but stress-free.

Create more content to engage customers.

Connect with your customers to help your brand by giving them a sneak peek at the holiday preparations or packaging of your products. Customers will feel special and a part of the business. If your employees are planning to dress up or create a series of window displays, film it, and let your customers see what's going on. When in your store, the "VIP" view access will entice holiday buying as part of their traditions.



Jennifer Bushong

Align with organizations for Goodwill.

Now is the time to make plans to give back to a charity, or volunteer at the local food bank or offer gifts for underserved children. Learn how this project aligns with the company and employee values. Ask employees to vote for an organization or encourage leadership to tackle this give-back work. An afternoon serving hot coffee at the local food bank or generating gifts for children in need will not only help the local community but help shape the business culture for months to come.

Even though it might be over 100-degrees outside, now is the ideal time to plan for Q4 sales growth. Roll up your sleeves, dive in, or reach out to the experts for help today.

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 2

Interim period busy with 12th District visits

rilea Crawford with the bill signing pen from Senate Bill 5001 related to the Regional Sports Complex.

- **Chelan Valley Republican Women.** Women from the Chelan and Manson areas graciously hosted me at a luncheon to discuss the legislative session. Topics included the recently approved budgets, drug possession law, and property taxes. Chelan County Commissioner Tiffany Gering also attended to report on county activities.

- **Chelan-Douglas Regional Port Authority.** I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Regional Port Authority commissioners. We discussed a variety of issues related to the legislative session and their ongoing priorities. The Regional Port has been very busy with various projects in Chelan and Douglas counties.

- **Regional Sports Complex Open House.** Local governments have partnered together to hire Berry Dunn & Associates to conduct a multi-month outreach and public comment effort related to a possible future Regional Sports Complex. Over 200 community members attended the two open house events to learn more.

- **Historic Downtown Chelan Associa-**

tion. Various local officials attended a presentation at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce by the Historic Downtown Chelan Association. It was great to connect with the officials, local community members, and others to learn more about activities in Chelan and Manson.

- **KPQ's "The Agenda" Interview.** I enjoyed visiting the KPQ Radio studios in person to participate on Dave Bernstein's "The Agenda" show. We discussed the implementation of the state's new long-term care tax and other legislative topics.

- **Visit with Carnation City Council.** Mayor Jim Ribail, City Councilmembers, and city staff met with me in Carnation to discuss a variety of things, including the recent legislative session, SR 203, and Tolt Hill Road, working with King County, and funding for the city's Emergency Operations Center.

- **SnoValley Chamber of Commerce.** It was great to connect with Kelly Coughlin and Michael Hughes of the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce recently. We enjoyed time together to discuss issues important to the chamber and the Snoqualmie Valley.

Serving as State Senator can be quite stressful, especially during the Legislative Sessions in Olympia. During the interim months, I try to enjoy some of our 12th District's famous outdoor recreation, which helps me de-stress. The photo is taken along the Stuart Lake Trail in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness near Leavenworth.

REAL ESTATE

TOP PROPERTIES CHELAN COUNTY – June 2023

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
HELLICKSON MICHAEL & TARA	WELSH GORDON L	\$1,695,000	10705 FOX RD	LEAVENWORTH	22	2008	2896	3	3	N	Y
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA	JOHNSON DENNIS S & SHARRON J	\$1,560,000	135 S WORTHEN ST	WENATCHEE	0.5	1992	5244			N	N
JOYCE CHRISTOPHER & CHILDRESS STUART	BAKKEN RICHARD	\$1,500,000	122 MORNING STAR LN	PLAIN	14.72	2003	3650	4	3	N	Y
FAIN ROBERT S III & PALAM SOWMYA R	WESSMAN CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$1,475,000	127 ELIZABETH CT	WENATCHEE	1.13	2021	3075	6	5.5	N	Y
MARTINEZ DANIEL C & KAREN A	PING GEOFFREY T	\$1,401,000	9925 BELL DR	ENTIAT	0.8	1996	1506	4	2.5	N	Y
WYLES CHANNING B & MICHELE S	PATHY SUMATHY & JAY	\$1,400,000	1120 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0.31	0	2621			N	N
JOHNSON ETAN & TAPLETT JOHNSON AMANDA K JOINT REV LIBING TRUST	MORRIS MICHAEL L TRT	\$1,360,000	12057 BRETZ DR	PLAIN	0.77	2001	1532	2	2	N	N
LEWIS LUKE R & ESTHER R	RAU KENYON H	\$1,250,000	23 LOOKOUT RIDGE LN	MANSON	0.98	2004	2398	3	3.25	N	Y
EAGLE TIMOTHY & NICOLE	TERHAAR WILLIAM F	\$1,200,000	8721 ICICLE RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.51	0	0			N	N
ATHA MARK E & MYRNA L	TRACEY PHILIP W	\$1,181,000	85 WILLOW POINT RD	MANSON	0.19	1962	624	3	1.75	N	N
WILKINSON JESSE D & COURTNEY E	WILKINSON DANIEL C	\$1,175,000	8291 ICICLE RD	LEAVENWORTH	4.1	2016	3821	2	1	N	Y
BLUE NATHANIEL R & KAREN M	STARNER STEPHEN D & AMY D	\$1,168,000	6772 FOREST RIDGE DR	WENATCHEE	0.69	2020	1529	4	2.5	N	Y
SCHWAB MATTHEW & KIRSTEN	CRITES ROGER P & NONA K	\$1,160,000	10490 SKI HILL DR	LEAVENWORTH	1	1990	2369	3	2	N	Y
DOUGLASS BRANDON & KATOOZI NIKITA	MOBRATEN JUSTIN & KELSEY	\$1,075,000	95 PROCTOR BLVD	MANSON	1.66	2018	1910	3	2	Y	Y
PINKSTON KIRK & MARY	DEMARCO ANDREW P	\$1,050,000	4340 ANNA LN	WENATCHEE	1.3	1992	2532	4	3.5	Y	Y
KUNTZ JUDITH E & STEVEN M	ERHARDT CHRISTOPHER D & LISA A MCCALLUM JTROS	\$990,000	315 INDIAN ROCK LN	CASHMERE	10.84	1996	1938	4	3.5	N	Y
DOYLE MICHAEL O & HOLLY K TRUST	CALAPRISTI FRANCIS T TRT	\$987,282	1558 ALPENSEE STRASSE	LEAVENWORTH	0.22	1999	2791	4	2.5	N	Y
TARDIBUONO CHARLES D & LUANN M	SIRMON GARY L & CARMEN R	\$955,000	54 SHADE TREE LN	WENATCHEE	2.21	2013	3048	4	2.25	N	N
LEWIS NICHOLAS J & JESSICA M	KUNSMAN WILLIAM C & MARY A	\$905,000	18182 CHUMSTICK HWY	LEAVENWORTH	8.22	1993	1104	2	1	N	Y
SCHIFSKY ANNE & SCHULTZ HELENE	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$905,000	962 BENTLEY LN	WENATCHEE	0.23	0	0			N	N
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	KEMAH MANAGEMENT LLC	\$900,000	UNASSIGNED	MALAGA	10.69	0	0			N	N
RYBURN WILLIAM D & SHELBY A	ROSE SVEN E & SUSAN L	\$884,000	375 LAURIE DR	WENATCHEE	0.29	2013	2292	3	2	N	Y
HIRAI TROY & STEPHANIE	OWENS PHYLISS A	\$874,950	1345 MOUNTAIN VIS	WENATCHEE	1.26	2007	2348	3	2	N	N
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	QUILTER R CRAIG	\$870,000	5235 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	1	1985	1920			N	N
KAUFFMAN WESLEY & JACLYN	SIEGEL BRYCE & SHIRLEY	\$860,000	3755 STAYMAN FLATS RD	CHELAN	1.24	2010	1380	2	2.25	N	Y
MAY THOMAS L & MAREN K	LINAM THERESA & DARRIN W	\$826,000	815 AUTUMN CREST DR	WENATCHEE	0.42	2015	2612	3	2.5	N	N
JORGENSEN REBEKAH L	SQUIRES BEVERLY I	\$825,000	312 TEAKWOOD LN	WENATCHEE	0.57	2007	2574	3	2.5	N	Y
CONGER LEAVENWORTH PROPERTIES LLC	SAUNDERS ROBERT C & MARIE DONNA H	\$800,000	22709 SADDLE ST	PLAIN	0.55	1985	1056	3	1	N	N
EATON PROPERTIES LLC	VAN PRAAG RENAY	\$800,000	101 LONG DR	CHELAN	1.68	1992	1800	3	2	N	N
ALLEN CRAIG M & LISA M	WARREN WINNIE R	\$795,500	2620 GOLF COURSE RD	MALAGA	0.35	2007	1682	3	2.5	Y	Y
BROWN MATTHEW J & BAILY J	STEINKE STEVE	\$782,000	12484 BRETZ RD	PLAIN	3.16	1989	1794	3	2	N	Y
GETTMANN COREY & MELISSA	RAND CHAD C & MORGAN	\$768,000	1900 BROADWAY PL	WENATCHEE	0.42	1996	2252	5	3	N	Y
ZEVELY GREGORY R & ALEXANDRA C	310G LLC	\$750,000	UNASSIGNED	ENTIAT	1.85	0	0			N	N
MORRIS FAMILY TRUST	BROWN ROBERT L & DIANNE M	\$739,500	110 SARAH DR	WENATCHEE	0.36	2017	1926	3	2.5	N	Y
PEARSON TIMOTHY J & LEE T	UPFRONT CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$717,000	164 JOHN TRUETT DR	MALAGA	0.41	2022	2574	2	2.5	N	N
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	QUILTER JEFFREY & MELISSA	\$700,000	5251 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	1	1977	1728			N	N
ALEXANDER SCOTT & LAUREN	DUKQUITS FAMILY RVCBL LVNG TRST	\$700,000	22518 ALPINE HILLS RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.45	2008	1392	3	2	N	Y
HART E RICHARD & WESTENDORF LYNETTE	PETERSON BARRY & YVONNE	\$698,700	305 CANYON CREEK DR	WENATCHEE	0.26	2005	2403	3	2.75	Y	N
MUNDELL TIMOTHY & JANET	BASSETT CORINNE K	\$695,900	2701 AUSTIN CT	WENATCHEE	1.95	1974	1440	4	2	N	Y
WILKINSON DANIEL C & REBECCA J	WALINSKI JOEL & MARY ROSSING JTRS	\$689,000	5191 BURKE RD	CASHMERE	1.82	1940	1504	3	1	N	N
BECHTEL MARC & GREENING MALIA	HORSTMANSHOF MICHAEL J & STEPHANIE S	\$685,000	137 MILL ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.28	1900	1046	2	1	N	N
BROCK SYDNEY M	ROBLEDO-PEREGRINO SERVANDO & LINDA V ROBLEDO	\$685,000	491 SPRING VIEW PL	CHELAN	0.21	2017	1865	3	2.25	N	N
VRANAS JOHN & ANGELA	SIENNA 41 LLC	\$679,990	207 SIENNA RD	WENATCHEE	0.15	2022	2304	3	2.5	N	Y
RUCKLE JANESEA E	CHICK JOEL R	\$679,000	304 WHITMAN ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.14	1920	1473	4	2	N	Y
LUDWIGSON CHRISTINE A	BABST SEAN M & DANIELLE M	\$679,000	15313 LAKEVIEW ST	ENTIAT	0.22	2021	2080	3	2.5	N	Y
DICKINSON JOSHUA & ELKINS EMILY	STAUFFER RANDY W & HEIDI A	\$675,000	16845 SECOND CREEK RD	LEAVENWORTH	23.64	1963	1521	2	2	N	Y
MOSCOSO CYNTHIA L & LESLIE J	SCHMIDT TYLER J	\$667,500	5285 PATRICK LN	CASHMERE	0.5	2000	1539	3	3	Y	N
TAB LAND LLC	ZERR GERALD J TRUSTEE	\$650,000	924 N CHELAN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.36	1920	3711	2	1	N	N
SAAD JONATHAN & KATIE	KURLE MATTHEW J & KIMBERLY H	\$650,000	480 ALPINE PL	LEAVENWORTH	0	0	958			N	N
WAHTO DOUGLAS A	CALLAHAN JOHN R	\$640,000	216 PARK AVE	LEAVENWORTH	0.17	1978	1324	2	1.75	N	N
HAMBLETON JAMES A & ELIZABETH D	WHITE STEVEN B & KAREN M FAMILY TRUST	\$635,000	2500 FIRST CREEK RD	CHELAN	13.94	1985	1852	2	0.75	N	N
MURPHY JANET & ERIK	KRUSE JOHN D & MICHELLE L	\$630,000	300 GARDEN CIR	CASHMERE	0.6	2003	1707			N	N
COOK KALEENA & JAMES	ALEXANDER RONALD & HEATHER	\$630,000	2849 RIVIERA BLVD	MALAGA	0.23	2009	2586	3	2.5	N	Y
KUBIK MICHAEL & KRISTINA	PETER MARK A	\$615,000	241 CHICKADEE MOUNTAIN LN	CHELAN	9.98	1999	1216	2	1.75	N	N
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	SCHOENWALD MICHAEL R	\$600,000	5229 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	1	1983	1680			N	N
BUYS BRENDA & SUTHERLAND DANNY	NEUMANN STEVEN D & TRACEY A	\$585,500	1320 WEDGEWOOD AVE	WENATCHEE	0.23	1977	2228	3	1.75	N	Y
EVANS WILLIAM G & BOYLE KATHLEEN M	BROWN BRIDGET	\$580,800	211 PERSHING CIR	WENATCHEE	0.15	2017	1560	3	2	N	Y

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
MAXA ADRIAN F & LIANA M	HARNLY THOMAS/DENISE	\$579,000	10160 EAGLE CREEK RD	LEAVENWORTH	3	1993	1515	2	2.25	N	Y
OSBORN HILARY A & JORDAN J	LEMKE MAXINE R	\$555,000	104 CREEKSIDE PL	CASHMERE	0.23	1992	1887	3	2	N	Y
ROLLMAN CAITLIN E A & JUE CAMERON P	FERGUSON JOHN M & SUSAN M	\$555,000	1405 JUNE BERRY LN	PLAIN	19.46	0	0			N	N
JOHNSON RICK L & LORI A	BRYANT SANDRA K	\$550,000	2350 FIRST CREEK RD	CHELAN	16.24	1988	1180	1	1	N	Y
NUCCITELLI GEORGINA	ESTEY JOSEPH & LISA	\$540,000	3536 HANSEL LN	PESHASTIN	2.01	1994	1560	2	2	N	Y
PARMENTER ROWAN	STONE E MICHAEL	\$540,000	4065 BURCH MOUNTAIN RD	WENATCHEE	0.51	1990	2179	3	2	N	Y
CONNELL DEVIN & SALDIVAR YOVANY V	BUMPS SARAH J	\$535,000	115 S EMERSON AVE	WENATCHEE	0.14	1922	1544	3	2	N	Y
SEHORN DOUG & JUDY	LAMB MAYNARD & PAMELA DAGGET-LAMB	\$530,000	1706 HARRIS PL	WENATCHEE	0.27	1967	1848	3	2	N	N
HARRIS ADAM & DEBORAH	SANRAY ORCHARDS LLC	\$524,900	5618 DINKELMAN CANYON RD	ENTIAT	1.59	1926	2456	5	1	N	N
NELSON KALEB & NELSON KURT	SPENCE WHITNEY ETAL	\$515,000	5749 SQUILCHUCK RD	WENATCHEE	2.74	1979	2068	4	1.75	N	Y
HEGBERG MARK L & FLYNN GENE A	CANTU MARIO & ELIZABETH	\$515,000	220 PENNY RD	WENATCHEE	0.42	1926	1233	3	2	N	Y
WHITE TYLER J & FARRELL KACI R	ANDERSON JOANN	\$500,000	18240 ROARING CREEK RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	19.94	1995	1809			N	N
SALTSMAN PATRICK M & GRAY KARYN K	SALTSMAN MARY K	\$500,000	1010 BRYAN TER	WENATCHEE	0.23	1991	2694			N	N
HOLT ELLIOT L & THUNE ERIN E	JONES JOSHUA M	\$499,000	2151 CITATION LOOP	WENATCHEE	0.2	2013	996	3	2	N	Y
MC CLEAN RICHARD G & JENNIFER L	TOMLINSON MARK & PATRICIA	\$495,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	7.31	0	0			N	N
FOX MATTHEW & DANIELLE	FREEMAN L MOORE & JOLENE M MOORE REV LIVING TRT	\$485,000	6090 PIONEER DR	CASHMERE	0.46	1932	1582	3	1.75	N	Y
BUTLER JEB & SARAH	PAYNE GERALDINE M	\$478,000	18551 HAZEL LN	PLAIN	1.17	1992	1144			N	N
HOWE SARAH E & KATHLEEN R	LAG PROPERTIES LLC	\$475,000	2220 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0	0	1054			N	N
WILDER CHASE & MADISON C ETAL	NORTON JAMES A ETAL	\$465,000	1516 FULLER ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1998	1488	3	2	N	N
FOX ALAINA M	BOWER DALE W	\$463,500	5608 TIGNER RD	CASHMERE	0.49	1957	1241	2	1.5	N	N
MARTINEZ VERONICA F & VILLANUEVA MARTIN	CHAVEZ JULIO C	\$462,500	1020 ROSEWOOD AVE	WENATCHEE	0.15	1951	962	4	1.75	N	Y
MUSCARI MICHAEL J & DICKINSON KAREN M	WILLET MICHAEL A & ETAL	\$460,000	19032 CHIWAWA LOOP RD	PLAIN	1.94	1914	1904	5	1	N	Y
DELANEY EDWARD J & FRANTZ CAROL A	REED DOROTHY A LIVING TRUST	\$456,500	605 WOODWARD DR	WENATCHEE	0.21	2003	1434	3	1	N	N
DIEDE MARK J	LEUCK CARL & LINDA J WOOD	\$455,000	1740 CENTRAL AVE	WENATCHEE	0	0	1559			N	N
HUSSEY MICHAEL & JUDITH	DAVIDSON JUDY	\$455,000	1740 CENTRAL AVE	WENATCHEE	0	0	1574			N	N
EARLL JOE E III & CONSTANCE M ETAL	DICKINSON SUZAN M & ANGUS D CAMPBELL	\$450,000	2017 DAWN TER	WENATCHEE	0.34	1956	1416	3	1.75	N	Y
DE BOLT TERRY & CAROL	STENHOUSE GEORGE	\$450,000	942 SUNRISE DR	MANSON	0.16	2004	1296			N	N
TORREZ JOSE F JR ETAL	GONZALEZ TALIA BARAJAS	\$450,000	1012 KITTITAS ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1948	1024	3	2	N	N
BOLLINGER AMBER	O'KELLEY TERRY	\$450,000	1215 COLUMBINE ST	WENATCHEE	0.27	1951	1066	3	2	N	Y
AHOLT MICHAEL O & LAURIE J ETAL	WILLGROSS STEVEN & SARAH	\$449,000	65 TWISTED CLIFF LN	PLAIN	4.36	0	0			N	N
OSER MICHELE	PHELPS ERIN S	\$441,000	307 E WAPATO AVE	CHELAN	0.1	1912	1248	2	1	N	N
MC DARMENT EUNICE E	JACKSON OPAL L	\$433,000	1881 HERITAGE DR	WENATCHEE	0.11	2002	1352			N	N
BREITBACH SCOTT A & ANGELA R	MC KIE LYNDA J & JOHN L	\$430,000	20795 KAHLER DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0	0	1266			N	N
VIVAS ARGELIO C	BAERG JASON D & KINDLE R M	\$430,000	1110 FULLER ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1951	1135	4	2	N	Y
HOWER STEVEN & CRYSTELLE	ACTON-ACOSTA MIRLE M	\$429,000	1201 UTAH ST	WENATCHEE	0.17	1952	1596	2	1	N	N

Chelan-Douglas Home Sales Market Remains Resilient



By Brian Fair, Pioneer Title Co.

On a national level, home sales in June were down 18.9% from a year ago, however, the Chelan-Douglas real estate market is performing much better. June home sales were up 3% by dollar volume while down only 4% by unit sales.

Where the local market is particularly hot is anything priced under \$750,000. That end of the market was up 8% in June compared to last year. See June 2023 vs June 2022 results in Table 1.

For June 30 year-to-date compared to last year, the Chelan-Douglas market is down 13% in dollar volume compared to last year, but just under 10% for sales by unit. This compares favorably to the national sales which are down 23%. While cash sales are up 21% locally, financed transactions are lagging down \$63MM and 22.6%. However, the under \$750K price ranges in total are down only 4%, and the under \$500K market is down only 2%. The under \$750K price range represents 85% of the transaction volume. See comparison of year-to-date results in Table 2.

Price per square foot reflects the sales volume action in the given price ranges. The hyper peak of pricing last fall has moderated, and prices appear to be back to where

they were a year ago, with the under \$500K price range having come down slightly (Table 3).

In the under \$700K price ranges, data provided by Pacific Appraisal Associates indicates inventory is down 25% in the Wenatchee market to 156 SFH from June of last year. We need more inventory in the lower end ranges. Specifically, we need more new inventory where the seller is not locked into a 3% mortgage.

Freddie Mac recently released that mortgage rates dropped to their lowest level in four weeks. Let's hope this gives the market a little boost heading into August.

Brian Fair is the owner of Pioneer Title Company located in Chelan and Wenatchee. He can be reached at (509) 663-1125 or brian@pioneertitlecompany.com

	June 2023			June 2022			Increase (Decrease)			
	# of Deals	\$ Amount	% of Total Deals	# of Deals	\$ Amount	% of Total Deals	# of Deals	\$ Amount	% of Total Deals	% of \$ Amount
Under \$250K - Cash	1	185,000	0.73%	4	667,500	2.80%	(3)	(482,500)	-75.00%	-72.28%
Under \$250K - Financed	2	395,000	1.46%	5	859,454	3.50%	(3)	(464,454)	-60.00%	-54.04%
	3	580,000	2.19%	9	1,526,954	6.29%	(6)	(946,954)	-66.67%	-62.02%
\$250K to \$500K - Cash	14	5,817,500	10.22%	6	2,536,065	4.20%	8	3,281,435	133.33%	129.39%
\$250K to \$500K - Financed	42	16,937,300	30.66%	43	16,257,030	30.07%	(1)	680,270	-2.33%	4.18%
	56	22,754,800	40.88%	49	18,793,095	34.27%	7	3,961,705	14.29%	21.08%
\$500K to \$750K - Cash	16	9,937,640	11.68%	9	5,503,684	6.29%	7	4,433,956	77.78%	80.56%
\$500K to \$750K - Financed	27	16,966,190	19.71%	34	20,588,595	23.78%	(7)	(3,622,405)	-20.59%	-17.59%
	43	26,903,830	31.39%	43	26,092,279	30.07%	-	811,551	0.00%	3.11%
\$750K to \$1MM - Cash	9	7,545,940	6.57%	8	6,977,784	5.59%	1	568,156	12.50%	8.14%
\$750K to \$1MM - Financed	14	11,725,762	10.22%	23	19,346,676	16.08%	(9)	(7,620,914)	-39.13%	-39.39%
	23	19,271,702	16.79%	31	26,324,460	21.68%	(8)	(7,052,758)	-25.81%	-26.79%
\$1MM to \$2MM - Cash	5	6,378,000	3.65%	3	3,850,000	2.10%	2	2,528,000	100.00%	65.66%
\$1MM to \$2MM - Financed	7	8,517,000	5.11%	8	10,439,200	5.59%	(1)	(1,922,200)	-12.50%	-18.41%
	12	14,895,000	8.76%	11	14,289,200	7.69%	1	605,800	9.09%	4.24%
\$2MM to \$3MM - Cash	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
\$2MM to \$3MM - Financed	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
Greater than \$3MM - Cash	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
Greater than \$3MM - Financed	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
Total Cash	45	29,864,080	32.85%	30	19,535,033	20.98%	15	10,329,047	50.00%	52.87%
Total Financed	92	54,541,252	67.15%	113	67,490,955	79.02%	(21)	(12,949,703)	-18.58%	-19.19%
Grand Total	137	84,405,332	100.00%	143	87,025,988	100.00%	(6)	(2,620,656)	-4.20%	-3.01%

Table 1.

	June 2023 YTD			June 2022 YTD			Increase (Decrease)			
	# of Deals	\$ Amount	% of Total Deals	# of Deals	\$ Amount	% of Total Deals	# of Deals	\$ Amount	% of Total Deals	% of \$ Amount
Under \$250K - Cash	24	3,940,400	4.31%	22	4,081,400	3.57%	2	(141,000)	9.09%	-3.45%
Under \$250K - Financed	19	3,811,794	3.41%	25	4,759,654	4.05%	(6)	(947,860)	-24.00%	-19.91%
	43	7,752,194	7.72%	47	8,841,054	7.62%	(4)	(1,088,860)	-8.51%	-12.32%
\$250K to \$500K - Cash	66	26,074,969	11.85%	32	12,893,565	5.19%	34	13,181,404	106.25%	102.23%
\$250K to \$500K - Financed	174	70,405,853	31.24%	215	84,368,788	34.85%	(41)	(13,962,935)	-19.07%	-16.55%
	240	96,480,822	43.09%	247	97,262,353	40.03%	(7)	(781,531)	-2.83%	-0.80%
\$500K to \$750K - Cash	50	30,595,825	8.98%	37	22,669,239	6.00%	13	7,926,586	35.14%	34.97%
\$500K to \$750K - Financed	123	75,143,857	22.08%	150	90,073,143	24.31%	(27)	(14,929,286)	-18.00%	-16.57%
	173	105,739,682	31.06%	187	112,742,382	30.31%	(14)	(7,002,700)	-7.49%	-6.21%
\$750K to \$1MM - Cash	19	15,845,500	2.15%	13	18,537,500	2.11%	(1)	(2,692,000)	100.00%	-14.52%
\$750K to \$1MM - Financed	43	36,407,512	7.72%	68	57,660,689	11.02%	(25)	(21,253,177)	-36.76%	-36.86%
	62	52,253,012	11.13%	81	76,198,189	14.91%	(19)	(23,945,177)	-32.61%	-32.73%
\$1MM to \$2MM - Cash	12	15,845,500	2.15%	13	18,537,500	2.11%	(1)	(2,692,000)	100.00%	-14.52%
\$1MM to \$2MM - Financed	26	32,963,999	4.67%	29	40,454,700	4.70%	(3)	(7,490,701)	-10.34%	-18.52%
	38	48,809,499	6.82%	42	58,992,200	6.81%	(4)	(10,182,701)	-9.52%	-17.26%
\$2MM to \$3MM - Cash	1	2,300,000	0.18%	0	0	0.00%	1	2,300,000	0.00%	0.00%
\$2MM to \$3MM - Financed	0	0	0.00%	1	2,500,000	0.16%	(1)	(2,500,000)	0.00%	0.00%
	1	2,300,000	0.18%	1	2,500,000	0.16%	-	(200,000)	0.00%	0.00%
Greater than \$3MM - Cash	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
Greater than \$3MM - Financed	0	0	0.00%	1	2,800,000	0.16%	(1)	(2,800,000)	0.00%	0.00%
	0	0	0.00%	1	2,800,000	0.16%	(1)	(2,800,000)	0.00%	0.00%
Total Cash	172	94,649,534	30.88%	128	78,264,178	20.75%	44	16,385,356	34.38%	20.94%
Total Financed	385	218,733,015	69.12%	489	282,616,974	79.25%	(104)	(63,883,959)	-21.27%	-22.60%
Grand Total	557	313,382,549	100.00%	617	360,881,152	100.00%	(60)	(47,498,603)	-9.72%	-13.16%

Table 2.

Home Sale Price	Chelan-Douglas Existing Home Sales Average Price Per Sq/Ft							
	Full Year	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	Change over 12 month
Under \$500,000	240.92	256.59	259.31	264.38	261.92	231.80	240.13	-7.40%
\$500,000 to \$699,000	276.48	295.32	312.11	311.85	306.71	306.60	310.23	-0.60%
\$700,000 to \$999,000	307.90	324.23	342.75	364.26	379.04	382.15	339.69	-0.89%

Table 3.



WASHINGTON RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Washington Retail Association

POLICY

Washingtonians face shrinking paychecks and continued public safety concerns

With recent 4th of July celebrations, Washington state citizens faced a sobering reality amid the festivities. - From diminishing paychecks to growing public safety and retail theft issues, summer 2023 has brought new challenges.

One big concern is a noticeable reduction in paychecks. Most of Washington's working citizens will likely experience this due to the newly implemented long-term care payroll tax. Despite significant resistance from House Republican leaders, this tax was implemented on July 1, associated with the WA Cares Fund. Established by 2019's House Bill 1087, the Fund intends to support long-term care costs.

The program, however, imposes a payroll tax of \$0.58 per \$100 of earnings on all Washington state workers. The potential forfeiture of contributions for unused benefits or those retiring out of state has fostered a perception of the program as unfair and unpopular. Despite calls for repeal in the 2023 legislative session, the program continues. Yet, the quest for its reversal remains ongoing.

Another factor facing the state's residents is escalating gas prices, with the new carbon pricing program significantly contributing to the rise. As businesses are charged for the greenhouse gases they emit, the incurred cost is transferred to consumers. This has led to Washington's gas prices being among the highest nationwide as of July 17, 2023.

Such price hikes impact individuals and ripple across the broader economy, affecting the costs of goods and services sold through Washington's retailers and diminishing donations to charitable organizations and food banks. Equally pressing are the ongoing challenges surrounding public safety and retail theft in Washington. Random acts of violence, such as the recent tragic shooting of a pregnant woman and her husband at a Seattle intersection, highlight the urgent need for policy revision and increased investment in mental health systems.

Current vehicular pursuit policies also remain problematic, excluding law enforcement's capacity to engage in many serious crimes. The current pursuit law does nothing to prevent stolen vehicle and property crimes. However, there is hope in the recent "Blake fix" bill, aimed at reducing open drug use and related criminal activity. Its efficacy will need to be closely monitored. Amid these challenges, Washington Retail will continue advocating for our retailers and their valuable workforce. Addressing the rising cost of living and public safety concerns is paramount in ensuring a secure and prosperous future for all.

Department of Revenue officials grilled on capital gains tax rulemaking

By Logan Washburn

When the Washington State Department of Revenue heard public comment on the state's new capital gains tax, officials took several questions and offered few answers. "The purpose of this public meeting is to gather feedback on the draft language," said Michael Hwang, WSDOR tax policy specialist. The department held the virtual meeting on July 12 to collect

public comment on administrative rulemaking for the state's new capital gains tax.

The meeting drew more than 160 attendees, including representatives from the City of Seattle, H&R Block, Bloomberg Tax, the Washington Retail Association, the Washington State Budget and Policy Center, and the Washington Society of CPAs. The state Legislature passed the new capital gains tax in 2021, which sets a 7% tax on profits of more than \$250,000 from selling some assets like stocks and bonds. The Washington State Supreme Court upheld the new tax in March, which faced legal challenges under the state constitution's clause barring different rates of income taxation.

Bea Nahon with WSCPA said the department should clarify capital loss carryovers and revisit how the capital gains tax will be applied. "You have some sections there that you provided some examples, but you didn't provide the answers, and you're asking for feedback," she said. "We believe that the answer there is in plain sight."

Washington My Health My Data Act – Part 7: Biometric Data

By Mike Hintze, Hintze Law

Welcome to the seventh installment of our blog series focusing on the Washington My Health My Data Act. Part seven discusses biometric data under this Act. The blog post titled "My Health My Data: Biometric Data" delves into the implications of the Washington My Health My Data Act on biometric data and technologies. The Act expands the definition of biometric data, covering a broader scope than the previously-existing Washington biometric privacy law (RCW 19.375). It introduces new requirements and raises the bar on substantive obligations related to biometric data. The post further explores the definitions of biometric data, the overlapping obligations and new challenges introduced by the Act, and the potential impact on the processing of biometric data due to the risk of litigation under Washington law. We will continue to delve into this topic in the coming weeks, highlighting additional blog posts examining other components of the Act and the critical issues they raise.

Childcare Collaborative Task Force considers access data

Access to childcare has accelerated into a crisis since the 2020 COVID pandemic. Thanks to the foresight of the Washington Legislature, which passed SHB 2367 in 2018, a Child Care Collaborative Task Force (C3TF) has been formed to collect data and develop policy recommendations. Task force members include childcare providers, parents, advocates, legislators, community members, and business community representatives.

Survey data tell the depth of the story: In 2019, the C3TF commissioned an assessment report on the scope of the problem in Washington State with key findings: 49% of Washington parents found it difficult or very difficult to find, afford and keep childcare; 27% quit their jobs or left school or training due to child care issues; the estimated direct costs of turnover and missed work due to child care issues is \$2.08 billion; the total estimated direct and opportunity costs due to this issue is \$6.5 billion.

Expanded scope of work in June 2021: The task force expanded its scope of work in June 2021 to implement a plan to achieve accessible, affordable childcare for all Washington families by 2025. The Legislature also passed the Fair Start for Kids Act in 2021 by investing \$1.1 billion to make child care and early learning more affordable for low-income parents.

The December 2022 True Cost of Childcare Report to the Legislature attributed the child-

care crisis to market failures because it had not been financed as a 'public good' such as K12 education. The subsidy structure under the Fair Start for Kids Act provided a cost model to inform legislators about program affordability for parents and financial stability for childcare providers. This report synthesized four recommendations to increase access to affordable, high-quality care for children and families.

1. Adopt a rate-setting model for reimbursement rates that provide living wage salaries, benefits, and resources for program enhancements that support quality childcare.

2. Provide significant relief payments to licensed childcare programs and individuals who provide childcare services.

3. Develop plans to deliver wage supplements and benefits to the childcare workforce to support a transition to quality childcare rate-setting model.

4. Create a comprehensive workforce and economic development strategy in partnership with providers, parents, and stakeholders.

WR will remain engaged with the developments from the C3TF as their work on this issue directly impacts retailers, our members' workers, and their invaluable childcare providers. It is crucial also for stakeholders to stay abreast of developments relating to childcare and offer input throughout this process by subscribing to the task force's newsletters and reaching out to share your comments with WR.

Efforts to reduce methane gas and food waste will impact grocers

The Organics Management to Reduce Methane Gas and Food Waste stakeholders' group has begun meeting to discuss how Washington state should reduce the creation of methane gas due to food discarded as waste into landfills. These efforts will likely directly impact retailers selling produce and other organic products/foods.

State Reps. Beth Doglio and Joe Fitzgibbon are overseeing a combined process with the intent to introduce legislation during the 2024 Legislative Session. Washington Retail and approximately 80 other stakeholders representing impacted industries, businesses, governmental agencies, and individuals will meet twice monthly until December when they will make recommendations and release findings for consideration by the legislators.

Food and other organic waste make up a considerable amount of landfill deposits, which creates methane gas as it degrades. Several states and municipalities, most notably California, are implementing programs to reduce waste and methane gas emissions. Strategies include turning the waste into compost and energy used to enrich soil and power machinery. Additionally, a key focus is making the most of edible food by distributing it to those in need through food banks and other hunger-fighting organizations.

WR will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure any proposed changes and requirements consider the specific business models and needs of retailers that sell groceries. At this time, Washington State has a long way to go to set up the infrastructure to accommodate significant increases in the amount of composting and energy generation envisioned. Stay tuned for future updates as the twice-monthly stakeholder meetings continue.

WR opposes anti-arbitration legislation in letter to Congress

WR has joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a coalition of organizations in voicing strong opposition to several bills in

the 118th Congress to prohibit arbitration and class action waiver provisions. Arbitration, an efficient and cost-effective dispute resolution mechanism since the Federal Arbitration Act of 1925, is under threat from efforts to replace it with the flawed class action litigation system.

Empirical evidence supports the effectiveness of arbitration. Studies indicate that claimants in arbitration often achieve better results than in court. By comparison, class action settlements often yield minimal or no compensation for class members while attorneys amass substantial fees.

Critics of arbitration often misrepresent it as unfair. However, arbitration providers and courts ensure that arbitration operates fairly and that agreements are only enforced if they meet basic guarantees of fairness and due process. This is supported by the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the nation's largest arbitration provider, which has developed fairness rules for employment and consumer arbitrations.

Despite the lack of evidence showing systemic problems with arbitration, the 118th Congress has seen the introduction of multiple bills and amendments that attack the availability of arbitration and class action waivers in numerous contexts. If these legislative efforts succeed, they could render unenforceable potentially millions of arbitration provisions that currently allow for the orderly and economical resolution of disputes.

These attacks on arbitration are inaccurate and unnecessary. They threaten an important alternative to litigation that has benefited consumers, employees, and businesses for decades. WR strongly recommends that attempts to prohibit arbitration or class action waivers be opposed. The only real beneficiaries of these anti-arbitration provisions will be class action lawyers who stand to gain from the potential increase in class action lawsuits, which often enrich them while providing little benefit to class members.

WR joins with worldwide organizations to support standardized clothing labeling

WR signed on in a letter last week to representatives from the global fashion and sportswear industries, along with their enablers and stakeholders, advocating for a significant shift in labeling requirements for textiles, garments, footwear, and related accessories. WR urged authorities worldwide to modernize domestic labeling regulations and legally endorse sustainable, economical digital labels.

Over the past six decades, a complex hodgepodge of labeling requirements, including care instructions, fiber content, importer requirements, and origin details, have emerged globally. Originally intended to help consumers make informed purchases, these requirements now obstruct the industry's sustainability efforts and the promotion of a circular economy, including traceability enhancement. Industry estimates reveal that these requirements lead to the annual production of approximately 5.7 million miles of label tape, equivalent to twelve round trips from the Earth to the moon.

Fortunately, digital solutions like QR code labels offer a way to significantly reduce the material waste from these regulations. Transitioning to digital labels could drastically aid decarbonization efforts, potentially eliminating at least 343,000 metric tons of CO2e from industry supply chains. In response to the growing consumer interest in digital information, governments worldwide are adopting digital approaches, such as the proposed EU digital product passport and replacing traditional labeling requirements with electronic labeling for consumer electronics products in

countries like Singapore and Australia.

ECONOMY

Retail sales grew in June amid slower job gains

Despite a slower growth in employment, retail sales continued their upward trajectory in June, indicating a robust consumer sector. The economy might be showing signs of cooling, but consumers, buoyed by a still-growing labor market and a substantial savings buffer, continue to drive the economy's direction. One of the key drivers of this spending is the back-to-school season, a significant shopping event.

Although the spending pace has decelerated, consumers' financial health remains strong, enabling them to support spending for the majority of the year. This financial strength is partly due to the excess savings accumulated during the pandemic and the easing inflation.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau revealed that overall retail sales in June increased by 0.2% from May and 1.5% year over year. In comparison, May saw a 0.5% month-over-month increase and a 2% year-over-year increase. A breakdown of the June sales data shows an increase in six out of nine retail categories on a yearly basis. Online sales, health and personal care stores, and electronics and appliances stores led the growth. On a monthly basis, four categories, including furniture and home furnishings stores, showed an increase. Despite slower job growth, the willingness of consumers to spend, backed by their strong balance sheets, continues to bolster the retail sector.

Unprecedented spending forecasted on back-to-school supplies

According to a recent survey, this year is expected to bring record-breaking purchases of school and college essentials, according to a recent survey. Spending on school supplies is expected to hit a remarkable \$41.5 billion, a significant rise from last year's \$36.9 billion. College-related spending is also predicted to surge to \$94 billion, a \$20 billion increase from the 2022 record. Retailers have been preparing for months to ensure enough stock of necessary items for the upcoming academic year. The 2023 research indicates that American consumers are eager to begin shopping early for their school and college purchases.

Shopping for the new academic year is underway. As of early July, 55% of consumers reported that they had already started. Despite the early start, 85% of consumers reported in early July that they still had completed just half of their shopping. Families with children in elementary through high school plan to spend an average of \$890.07 on school supplies this year, approximately \$25 more than the previous year's record. This rise in expected spending is primarily due to an increased demand for electronics. College students and their families are expected to spend an average of \$1,366.95 per person, up from \$1,199.43 the previous year. Despite the anticipated increase in spending, consumers are still seeking the best value and deals. They are comparing prices, considering off-brand or store-brand items, and are more likely to shop at discount stores than the previous year.

As banks pull back on loans, small businesses look elsewhere

The escalation of interest rates and heightened prices, compounded by a limit on bank charges, have intensified the strain on small business proprietors and complicated lending scenarios for many banks. The inflationary interest-rate landscape has led to more restrictive credit avenues across numerous banking institutions. In the current climate, banks are exercising extreme prudence in their credit decision-making processes, thereby exacerbating credit acquisition difficulties for small-business owners.

However, small-business owners can potentially mitigate these challenges by turning to smaller, community-based lenders, especially Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). These institutions can provide not only access to credit but also a broader range of support typically neglected by larger financial entities.

Building a relationship with CDFIs can be beneficial, as they are specially equipped to comprehend the needs of small businesses, and they often foster closer collaborations with them.

Concerns about obtaining loans are growing among small businesses, with a recent MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Commerce quarterly survey revealing that 76% of respondents believe the escalating interest rates are curtailing their credit access. This is a marked increase from the previous quarter's 66% and a year ago when the figure stood at 60%. The rising rates are not just limiting their borrowing power but also hampering their growth. Half of the small-business owners surveyed have postponed their expansion plans due to high-interest rates, and 74% find it increasingly difficult to service their existing loans.

Businesses are resorting to a combination of alternate financing methods. The survey shows that 71% are dipping into personal savings, 67% are leveraging credit cards, and 59% are turning to local banks or credit unions for their financial needs.

Concerns about obtaining loans are growing among small businesses, with a recent MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Commerce quarterly survey revealing that 76% of respondents believe the escalating interest rates are curtailing their credit access. This is a marked increase from the previous quarter's 66% and a year ago when the figure stood at 60%. The rising rates are not just limiting their borrowing power but also hampering their growth. Half of the small-business owners surveyed have postponed their expansion plans due to high-interest rates, and 74% find it increasingly difficult to service their existing loans. As a result, these businesses are resorting to a combination of alternate financing methods. The survey shows that 71% are dipping into personal savings, 67% are leveraging credit cards, and 59% are turning to local banks or credit unions for their financial needs.

TRENDS

Survey reveals consumer trends amidst economic fluctuations

A July survey reveals intriguing insights into current consumer behaviors, reflecting the economic climate's impact on spending habits and lifestyle choices. Consumer confidence in the economy has seen a slight uptick, with 37.5% of adults expressing confidence, a 1.9% increase from the previous month and a significant rise from 28.3% in July 2022. This increased confidence comes despite widespread awareness of price increases across various sectors due to the pandemic and inflation. However, the percentage of adults noticing these price hikes has decreased month over month. In response to these price increases, consumers are adapting by shopping for sales more often, switching to store brands or generic products, and using coupons more frequently. This trend is particularly noticeable among Walmart and Target customers.

Despite the price increases, 35.7% of respondents reported a decrease in their standard of living, a slight improvement from the previous month's 38.7%. Fluctuating gas prices have also influenced consumer behavior, with 32.7% of adults indicating they will drive less, and 19.1% spending less on groceries. However, 32.6% stated that these fluctuations had no significant impact on their spending. Gas price

fluctuations have also led to changes in shopping behaviors, with 31.7% of adults taking fewer shopping trips and 30.2% shopping closer to home. The number of those shopping for sales more often has decreased to 30.1% from 33.1% last month. Interestingly, the need to be more practical and realistic in purchases has decreased since last month, with 41.8% of adults expressing this sentiment, down from 47.9%. Similarly, the focus on purchasing only what is needed has also decreased to 45.6% from 49.7% last month.

Looking ahead, the spending score, an indicator of future consumer spending, has slightly increased to 82.74 from 82.59 last month, suggesting a potential increase in future spending. Major purchase plans over the next six months have also seen a slight increase, particularly in home improvements and car purchases. In terms of memberships, both Amazon Prime and Walmart Plus saw a slight decrease month over month. This month, 56.3% have Amazon Prime, down from 57.7% in June, and 17.2% have a Walmart Plus Membership, down from 18% in June.

SAFETY

Hearing loss accelerates with age

Concerts, iPods, thunderous sporting events, and work in loud locations may contribute to an individual suffering hearing loss in the future. These sources of sound are affecting all generations of workers. Additionally, we all experience a natural degradation of our sense of hearing which most experience after the age of 40. Therefore, external factors combined with the aging

process can make our hearing loss an even more significant concern.

When working with seasoned employees, be aware that instructions you shout from across the room may not be understood or heard because certain tones or frequency ranges can drop out and be inaudible. In addition, the employee might also be experiencing a ringing in their ears, a condition known as tinnitus, which can make it difficult for the employee to hear warning shouts or instructions in a noisy environment.

A few practical mitigation ideas:

- Always wear hearing protection when noise levels remain sustained above 85 dB.
- Several noise apps for your smartphone can provide a preliminary evaluation.
- Try to reduce background noise levels as much as possible by shielding noisy equipment.
- Communicate important information visually.
- Reduce echoes in the workplace with improved acoustics.
- Sirens or warning alarms should have alternating frequencies.
- Provide hands-free telephone headsets with adjustable volume switches.
- Speak clearly.
- Technology can help us improve hearing somewhat, but it's currently a sense we can't get back once we lose it.

Our safety team is available to help members take their safety program from compliance to quality safety practices. Contact us at safety@waretailservices.com to learn more.

North Central Career Connect Washington Network Secures Grant Funding to Continue Supporting Regional Workforce Development Pathways

Submitted by Becca Freimuth

WENATCHEE – The North Central Career Connect Washington (CCW) Network was established in 2019 under Governor Inslee's Career Connect Washington Initiative launch and has received annual funding to support the effort through a competitive grant process. The North Central CCW Network is excited to announce that it has successfully secured \$394,000 in grant funding through the Washington State Employment Security Department to support the regional collaborative effort through June of 2025.

The North Central CCW Network (The Network) aims to provide a multitude of developmental paths leading to high-demand, family-wage careers in the local communities, and is committed to rebuilding local workforce development pathways to ensure that every student receives the support they need to thrive in their chosen careers.

The Network has developed four key strategies aimed at addressing inequities and providing equal opportunities for all young adults in the North Central Washington region.

1. Building Capacity: The North Central CCW Network will continue to support schools, colleges, and workforce training providers in expanding access to career programs through strategic partnerships. The regional network will work collectively to recruit, support and sustain career connected program builders across the region to support youth. The Network will also work to provide resources, and advocate for improved policies to ensure that young adults have continued access to career-connected learning experiences aligned with high-demand, family-sustaining jobs.

2. Expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) Access: The North Central CCW Network will sustain its collaboration with school districts and the NCESD 171 career-connected learning team to expand CTE programs for students in grades 7-12 and workforce programs at the post-secondary level. Over the last two years, the regional network



has celebrated the expansion of CTE programs across the region. Ongoing efforts will be made to develop and implement regional strategies that maximize student access, promoting equal opportunities across the four rural counties.

3. Enhancing Student Engagement: The North Central CCW Network will persist in its partnership with educational leaders and community-based organizations to improve student engagement, recruitment, and support. Regional partnerships have blossomed to reach additional youth and young adults across the region. Through ongoing initiatives, the network will work towards ensuring that program participation reflects the overall student population in terms of race, gender, and income.

4. Improving Student Experience and Outcomes: The North Central CCW Network remains committed to continuously enhancing the student experience and outcomes. It will continue to provide professional learning opportunities and foster partnerships to improve the quality of programming. Additionally, the network will advocate for additional resources to address persistent barriers such as transportation, access to professional experiences, technology, and higher education, ensuring ongoing equitable opportunities for youth in North Central Washington.

By implementing these four strategies, the North Central Career Connect Washington Network is dedicated to promoting equity, improving system capacity, and providing all young adults in the region with equal opportunities to succeed.

For more information, please visit the career connected learning website or contact Dr. Sue Kane at suek@ncesd.org or Aaron Parrott at aaronp@skillsource.org.

LABOR AREA REPORTS

Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – June 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 (June 2022 through June 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 seven-tenths of a percentage point between June 2022 (4.0 percent) and June 2023 (3.3 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 stabilized in March 2022 and March 2023 before declining in April, May, and June 2023. The 2.9 percent unemployment rate this June is the lowest reading for the month of June since county-level unemployment data began to be recorded electronically in 1990.

Wenatchee MSA unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, January 2021 through June 2023
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate declined by one and five-tenths points between June 2022 and June 2023.

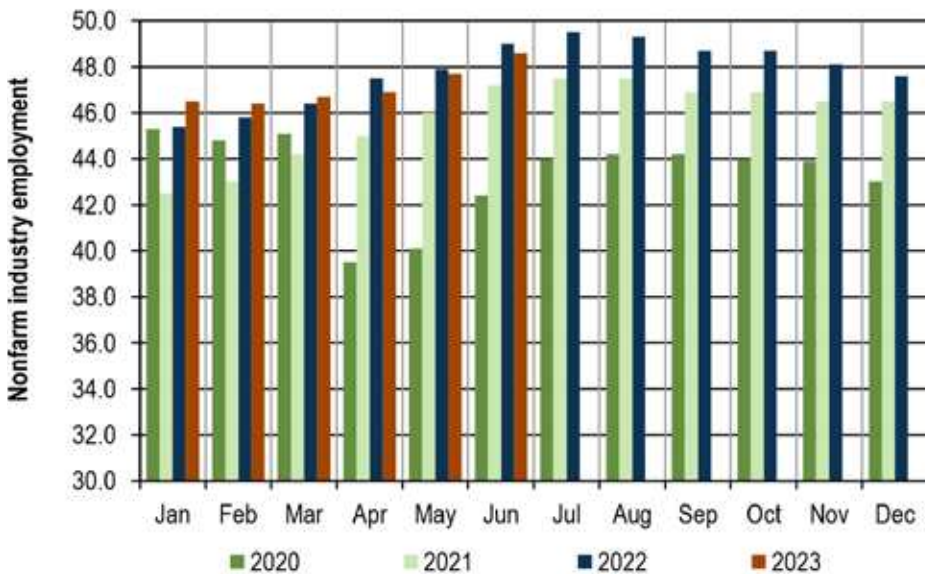
Total nonfarm employment

Between 2021 and 2022, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 159,200 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 27 months (April 2021 through June 2023). This June, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,657,800 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,539,900 in June 2022, up by 117,900 jobs and by 3.3 percent.

The Wenatchee MSA's economy added 2,000 jobs during 2022, a 4.4 percent upturn,

slightly less robust than Washington's 4.7 percent growth rate between 2021 and 2022. Year over year, the local nonfarm market expanded for 24 months (April 2021 through March 2023) before contracting from April through June 2023. This June, total nonfarm employment netted 400 fewer jobs than the 49,000 jobs tallied in June 2022, a -0.8 percent decrease. Hence, year-over-year nonfarm job growth in the Wenatchee MSA's has "stalled" in the past three months (April through June 2023) while statewide the total number of nonfarm jobs has expanded in each of the past 27 consecutive months.

Wenatchee MSA nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted, in thousands Washington state, January 2020 through June 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA decreased by -0.8 percent between June 2022 and June 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, June 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES)

Wenatchee MSA	Preliminary Jun-23	Revised May-23	Revised Jun-22	Change (in #)		Change (in %)
				May-23 Jun-23	Jun-22 Jun-23	Jun-22 Jun-23
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	67,366	65,840	69,050	1,526	-1,684	-2.4%
Resident employment	65,437	63,742	66,013	1,695	-576	-0.9%
Unemployment	1,929	2,098	3,037	-169	-1,108	-36.5%
Unemployment rate	2.9	3.2	4.4	-0.3	-1.5	
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	48.6	47.7	49.0	0.9	-0.4	-0.8%
Total private	38.9	38.1	39.6	0.8	-0.7	-1.8%
Goods producing	6.2	6.1	6.4	0.1	-0.2	-3.1%
Mining, logging and construction	3.5	3.4	3.5	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.9	0.0	-0.2	-6.9%
Service providing	42.4	41.6	42.6	0.8	-0.2	-0.5%
Private services providing	32.7	32.0	33.2	0.7	-0.5	-1.5%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	9.9	10.0	9.9	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
Retail trade	6.8	6.7	6.6	0.1	0.2	3.0%
Education and health services	8.3	8.2	8.0	0.1	0.3	3.8%
Leisure and hospitality	7.0	6.7	7.1	0.3	-0.1	-1.4%
Government	9.7	9.6	9.4	0.1	0.3	3.2%
Federal government	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.1	11.1%
State government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Local government	7.5	7.5	7.3	0.0	0.2	2.7%
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 48,600 jobs in June 2023, a loss of 400 jobs since June 2022.

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 22 months (September 2021 through June 2023). Recently, Washington's labor force grew by 71,284 residents (up 1.8 percent), from 3,986,858 residents in June 2022 to 4,058,142 in June 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 local labor force had expanded for eleven months (July 2022 through May 2023) before backsliding in June 2023. Current Local Area

Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) estimates indicate that there were 1,684 fewer Chelan or Douglas County residents in the CLF this June than in June 2022, a -2.4 percent downturn. Conversely, there were 1,108 fewer residents out of work in the Wenatchee MSA this June (1,929 unemployed) versus in June 2022 (3,037 unemployed), a -36.5 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 one and five-tenths points, from 4.4 percent in June 2022 to 2.9 percent in June 2023.

Nonfarm industry employment

Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market expanded for 24 months (April 2021 through March 2023) before contracting from April through June 2023. Conversely, Washington's nonfarm job market has steadily expanded for 27 months (April 2021 through June 2023).

A few service providing categories such as retail trade, private education and health services, and local government provided more jobs in June 2023 in the Wenatchee MSA than in June 2022 – good news. Yet, "private services providing" industries (i.e., jobs in all private service sector industries, except government) stagnated in March

and declined from April through June 2023. Between the Junes of 2022 and 2023 "private services providing" employment waned from 33,200 jobs to 32,700 jobs in the Wenatchee MSA, a 500 job and -1.5 percent downturn. Detailed Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates, showing which Wenatchee MSA "private services providing" industries lost jobs between the Junes of 2022 and 2023 are not available. However, at the state level, several industry specific estimates exist which show that some "private services providing" industries experienced job losses between June 2022 and June 2023. Hence, it is logical to assume that these recent statewide downtrends ➤

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



Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market expanded for 24 months (April 2021 through March 2023) before contracting from April through June 2023. Conversely, Washington's nonfarm job market has steadily expanded for 27 months (April 2021 through June 2023).

WVHS Neighborhood Cat Program marks its 5th Anniversary



Submitted by Neil Neroutsos

Wenatchee Valley Humane Society's Neighborhood Cat Program has supported local cat populations for five years. Launched in 2018, the program was expanded to include community cats brought directly from the public in 2020.

"We understand there may be questions about our program and we want to provide details on the science and positive impacts of effective community cat programs," said WVHS Executive Director James Pumphrey. "Community cats are outdoor cats with no verifiable signs of ownership. We want to work with our community to inform people how they can help support cats throughout Chelan and Douglas Counties."

The two counties have an estimated 30,000-50,000 free-roaming community cats. Caring for community cats while working to stabilize and reduce their numbers is one of the most complex issues facing animal shelters today. Leading animal welfare organizations, veterinarians, and researchers have developed progressive, humane solutions to address this issue.

The fact that a cat is in good condition is confirmatory that they have a source of food and shelter; essentially, they already have a "home" in the community and are likely to continue doing well if they return to that home. WVHS's Neighborhood Cat Program was developed with a clear goal in mind to help cats survive and thrive.

WVHS implemented its Neighborhood Cat Program only after the value and benefits of such programs were well established and approved by national experts. WVHS is committed

to improving the lives of pets and those who love them.

"We are passionate about cats and want the best for all animals in our community," said Pumphrey. "Community cat programs are now the gold standard for progressive, lifesaving pathways for unowned cats. Our Neighborhood Cat Program accomplishes this by spaying/neutering, vaccinating, and returning healthy community cats to their original outdoor homes."

Wenatchee Valley Humane Society takes a two-pronged approach with its program:

1. Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) is a comprehensive effort within specific communities to humanely trap, sterilize, vaccinate, and return these free-roaming cats to the community, significantly reducing the number of kittens born in these areas.

2. The Return to Home (RTH) program is for free-roaming cats brought to the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society. If they are determined to qualify for a return to their outdoor homes, the cats are then sterilized and returned to the neighborhood in which they were found. Pumphrey reinforces that the community can help in several ways, for example by observing and only intervening with community cats when necessary. This is especially true with moms and kittens, so mom and kittens remain together. The community can also help to foster or adopt orphaned kittens that require sheltering at the WVHS. To learn more about the WVHS Neighborhood Cat Program, visit the WVHS website at www.wenatcheehumane.org/tnr.

Stemilt Receives Community Leadership Award for Partnership with Eastmont through Project SEARCH

WENATCHEE – Stemilt has been awarded the Community Leadership Award by the Washington Association of School Administrators for its partnership with Eastmont High School through Project SEARCH.

This award was presented by Wenatchee School District Interim Superintendent, Bill Eagle, and the incoming Interim Superintendent, Kory Kalahar.

with training employability and independent living



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Zach Williams

"We are extremely humbled to receive this Community Leadership Award and are grateful for the opportunity to serve the youth of our community," said Zach Williams, Stemilt director of human resources.

From August 2022 to June 2023, Stemilt hosted the first Project SEARCH program in central Washington state and in the tree fruit industry.

Project SEARCH is a transition to work program that provides education and training to young people with disabilities.

The program helps individuals gain real-life work experiences combined

to help them successfully transition to productive adult life.

"The entire Stemilt company was all in and supportive of the Project SEARCH interns and we could not be prouder of their success," says Williams.

The award was presented to those who have made an outstanding contribution to education, specifically, benefit to students, leadership, motivation, success, cooperation, and coordination with local district recognition by others and history of service, according to a news release

from CVCH communications and development coordinator, Ryan Gerber.

"We would like to thank WASA for the honor and recognition of this award," says Williams. "This highlights our Stemilters' great spirit of community and our mission to cultivate people for growth, learning, and collaboration."



About Stemilt

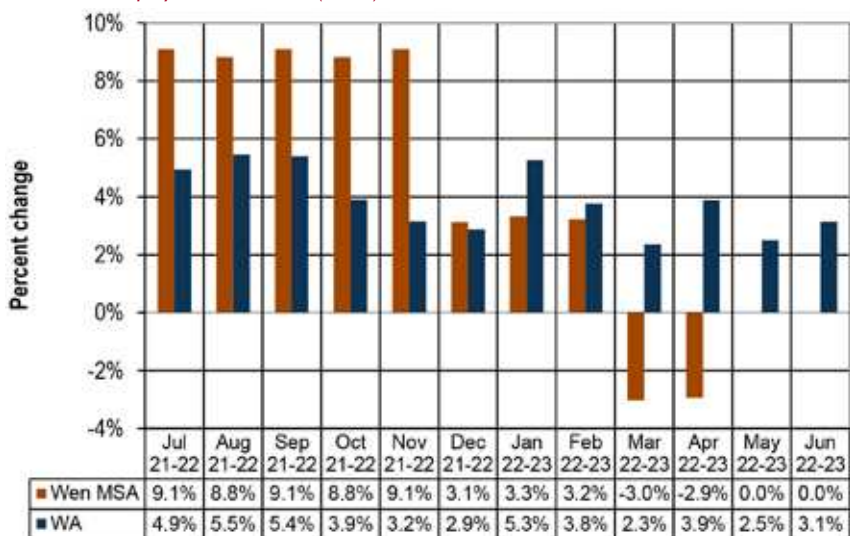
Stemilt is a family-owned grower, packer, and shipper of tree fruit. Owned and operated by the Mathison family, Stemilt's mission is to cultivate people and delight consumers through excellence with its World-Famous Fruits. Stemilt is a leader in sweet cherries and organic tree fruits, and a key supplier 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.

also occurred in the Wenatchee MSA. Specifically, the number of "employment services" jobs fell statewide from 62,900 jobs in June 2022 to 55,400 in June 2023, down -11.9 percent, certainly not a good economic indicator. Also on the downside, insurance carriers and related activities in Washington state (classified under financial activities) provided 43,500 jobs in June 2022 versus 40,600 in June 2023, a -6.7 percent retrenchment.

Summaries of employment changes/trends between June 2022 and June 2023 for three local industries (construction, education and health services, and local government) 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 expanded or stabilized for 28 months (November 2020 through February 2023) before stagnating or declining in the past four months (March through June 2023). In the Junes of 2022 and 2023, construction employment stabilized at 3,500 across the MSA. On the real estate sales side, according to the June 2023 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Asso-

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



Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded or stabilized for 28 months (November 2020 through February 2023) before stagnating or declining in the past four months (March through June 2023). Statewide, construction employment has been growing for 27 consecutive months (April 2021 through June 2023).

ciates, there were 88 fewer closed sales of single-family homes or condominiums from January through June 2023 versus the first six months of 2022 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo, and Rock Island, WA). This was a -20.6 percent Year-to-Date (YTD) downturn as closed sales declined from 427 between January and June 2022 to 339 in the corresponding first six months of 2023. This June the number of active listings slipped to 134 from the 157 listings in June 2022 (down by 23 listings and -14.6 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 June 2023 also stated that the median sales price of homes/condominiums sold in the Wenatchee Market decelerated from \$502,000 Year-to-Date (YTD) in June 2022 to \$477,450 YTD in June 2023, a -4.9 percent decline.

Conversely, across Washington, construction employment has posted year-over-year increases for 27 consecutive months (April 2021 through June 2023). Between June 2022 and June 2023, the number of construction jobs statewide ad-

vanced by 3.1 percent, rising by 7,400 jobs, from 236,600 jobs to 243,000. Washington state's residential building construction contractors saw employment climb at a robust 8.5 percent clip, from 38,900 jobs in June 2022 to 42,200 in June 2023.

◆ 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 27 months (April 2021 through June 2023). Between June 2022 and June 2023, the number of private education and health services jobs in the two-county Wenatchee MSA advanced from 8,000 to 8,300 respectively, a 300 job and 3.8 percent increase. Statewide this industry has added jobs in every month of the past 27 months (April 2021 through June 2023). Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates indicate that Washington's education and health services employers tallied 543,300 jobs in June 2023 versus 510,600 in June 2022, a 32,700 job and 6.4 percent upturn. Private educational services, an industry within the broader education and health services category, posted a respect-

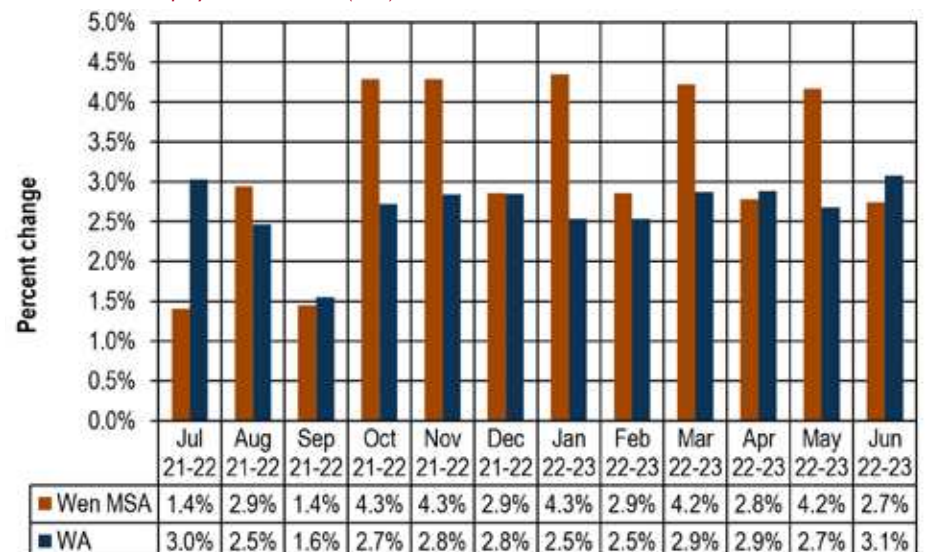
able 12.4 percent employment growth rate during this period, advancing from 64,300 jobs in June 2022 to 72,300 jobs in June 2023 (up 8,000 jobs).

◆ Year over year, employment at local government organizations has increased for 26 consecutive months (May 2021 through June 2023). Between the Junes of 2022 and 2023, local government added 200 jobs across the MSA, a 2.7 percent upturn as employment escalated from 7,300 jobs to 7,500. It should be noted however that average annual employment in local government across the Wenatchee MSA in 2022 averaged only 7,100 jobs, 300 jobs and -3.5 percent below the pre-COVID employment average of 7,400 jobs for calendar year 2019. So, employment in this sector is still playing "catch up" from the pre-COVID era. Employment in Washington's local government sector also expanded in each of the past 26 months (May 2021 through June 2023). Statewide, local government employment elevated 3.1 percent (up by 11,100 jobs) between June 2022 (361,000 jobs) and June 2023 (372,100 jobs).

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

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

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



Year over year, local government in the Wenatchee MSA has increased for 26 months (May 2021 through June 2023). Statewide, local government employment has also expanded from May 2021 through June 2023.



Chelan's Ruby Theatre celebrates 109 Years of Hollywood Magic

Submitted by Terry LaBrue, APR

CHELAN – For more than a century, the Ruby Theatre's silver screen on Woodin Avenue in downtown Chelan has flickered with cinematic entertainment from the early silents, the talkies, 1930s movie glamour plus more modern adventures.

"We literally rolled out the red carpet to welcome movie-goers to celebrate the anniversary of The Ruby," said local architect Larry Hibbard who owns the movie house with his wife Mary. "The 1914 theatre is on the National Register of Historic Places because of its historical architectural significance and in our hearts because of the continuing role it's played in Chelan."

"The auditorium with its horseshoe balcony, sloping floor, cast-plaster proscenium arch, and decorative tin ceiling, is essentially as it was when it was built," explained Hibbard. "The facility has been well maintained, fitted with new comfortable seating, efficient HVAC, and digital projection. In

addition, Valentina, a 104-year-old Wurlitzer photo player has recently been installed bringing back a forgotten piece of theatre history. The once-common, now rare, photo player is a self-playing one-man-band complete with keyboard, percussion, bells, pipes, and special effects that was developed to accompany silent films," Hibbard continued.

This special anniversary celebration was an adventure with "Photo Plays" (the original term for movies) and music taking viewers back to the early days of cinema. Valentina, the photo player, rose to the occasion from the piano pit for a mini concert before retreating to accompany the silent movies.

On July 30, a showing of "Gertie the Dinosaur," America's earliest animation, launched the event. Charlie Chaplin's 1915 "The Tramp" will present Chaplin before he developed his legendary Tramp character. Buster Keaton will appear in a 1922 comedy, "The Goat" (no relation to the Chelan Goats). The celebration will wind up with one of Walt

Disney's earliest animations, "Puss in Boots," created in his first studio in Kansas.

The Ruby's summer schedule of first-run Hollywood releases is now playing 7-days per week with 3 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday and evening shows at 7 p.m., Monday - Saturday.

The staff pops popcorn nightly in the traditional concession stand which offers a wide array of favorite treats such as Milk Duds, M&Ms, candy bars, and gourmet fudge from the Culinary Apple. With these delights on hand, The Ruby makes for a fun evening or matinee show.

As residents and summer tourists re-discover The Ruby, ticket sales have increased underscoring the lasting entertainment value of a date at the movies. Parents with their children filled the recent showings of action-packed Guardians of the Galaxy and the lively Spider-Man series.

The upcoming movie schedule is posted on the Ruby Website: <https://www.rubytheatre.com>



COURTESY TERRY LABRUE, APR

Larry Hibbard, co-owner with his wife Mary, takes a turn in the box office at the classic movie theater.



COURTESY NORM MANLY

Angie DeVora opened Meraki Creations in Manson.

Meraki Creations offers limited indoor and outdoor seating

Meraki Creations now open in Manson

By Norm Manly

MANSON – According to Angie DeVora, owner of Meraki Creations at Manson the word Meraki has Greek origin and translates to mean "To create a dish or piece of art with such passion and joy, that an essence of love remains in the creation". After interviewing Angie in her new restaurant, located at 14 (B) Wapato Way in Manson, I'm in total agreement with the name she chose, her passion to deliver the best is awe-inspiring.

Angie grew up on her grandparents' small farm in Toppenish with her mother, Virginia. Her grandfather, Bernardo DeVora had an enormous impact on Angie's life. She remembers as a small girl, helping her

grandpa plant seeds, one at a time and blessing each seed as it went into the ground. "I didn't realize it at the time, but my grandpa's strong work ethics, dedication, ambition, compassion, kindness, and selflessness have helped make me the person I am today. His mantra was service over self." Angie stated.

Angie left the family farm at age 18 and set out to take on life. Since then, she has worked in the public and private segments and has worn many hats. Highlights that stand out for Angie include, coordinating one of the largest food drives for the Department of Social and Health Services and her tenure at Cub Crafters Inc, located in Yakima. She

was hired as a receptionist and after one month she sold her first aircraft and was promoted to sales. She was the first female in the company's 28-year history to hold that position. While working at Cub Crafters Inc. Angie coordinated the company's participation in the largest aviation show in the world that took place in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

After Angie's daughter, Nayssa graduated from Howard University, it was time for Angie to follow her dreams. Angie opened Meraki Creations at Yakima and Meraki Creations II, sadly because of the pandemic she was forced to close both restaurant locations.

Angie moved to Manson in 2022 for a fresh start after the pandemic. She spent time working, volunteer-



Jady Matson



Jada Wood



Isabel Menna

2023 high school writers competition winners announced

Submitted by Michelle McNiel



Write on the River and NCW Libraries are happy to announce the three winners of the 12th Annual High School Writers Competition.

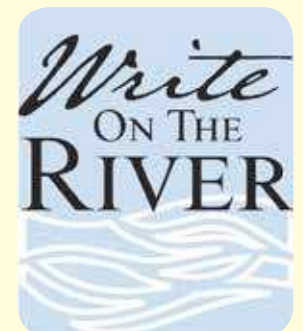
Jady Matson, of Chelan, won first-place for her fiction entry, "At the Edge of the World." Honorable mentions went to Jada Wood of Cashmere for "Helios" and Isabel Menna of Leavenworth for "Lost Princess Found: A Story of Resurrection." The winners will share \$200 in cash awards and will be featured readers at Write on the River's next Four Minutes of Fame open

mic event. Learn more about the winners and read their entries at writeontheriver.org.

The competition is open to high school students, including public school, private school, home school, and running start students, in 9th-12th grade. Students must reside in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, Grant, or Ferry counties.

New York Times best-selling author Chelsea Cain, who visited Wenatchee as a 2011 WOTR conference speaker, founded and continues to sponsor the annual competition.

Write on the River (WOTR) is dedicated to nurturing and inspiring local writers,



whether in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. WOTR supports traditional and indie publishing and local sharing of the written word. Learn more or become a member at www.writeontheriver.org.

NCW Libraries mission is to connect the people of North Central Washington to vital resources and opportunities that foster individual growth and strengthen communities. To learn more about NCW Libraries and find your local library location visit www.ncwlibraries.org.

ing, and planning for her new restaurant, Meraki Creations at Manson that opened May of this year.

The menu offers a mix of classic, fun, comfort foods with a twist. Many of the menu items include memories that go back to her childhood and honor her family. The "Fiesta Nachos" honors her grandpa, "Tacos" and "Spaghetti" were favorites of her mother and the "Meraki BLT" is a tribute to her sister, Brenda. "LA Street Dog" comes from Angie's time living in Los

Angeles and the "Santa Monica Salad" highlights her time in Santa Monica.

Reviews on Facebook, Google and Yelp are all five-star rating. Cheryl writes, "Love the food and services at this little to-go restaurant. They have a few chairs outside with umbrellas. The Nachos are classic and delish, love the huge salad that is so fresh, and the LA Street Dog is the best I have ever eaten."

Michael's five-star review states, "My first time at Meraki, will definitely be

back. I had the Santa Monica salad, and it was perfect. Everything was fresh and delicious. Tomorrow, we plan to dock at Manson Bay and grab some to go salads for a nice day on the lake. Highly recommended."

Meraki Creations in Manson offers limited indoor and outdoor seating, take-out and catering are available by calling 509-833-3004. Meraki Creations at Manson is currently open Monday through Sunday, 12-7 p.m.