



Congratulations 2023 Graduates!
Remember: **Flag Day, June 14**
Happy Father's Day, June 18

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Alatheia Therapy Riding Center – Horses of Hope for many, this day was for Crystal

By Matthew Ockinga
Correspondent

WENATCHEE – Crystal Chevelle mounts her golden steed. Frid, a 28-year-old Norwegian Fjord, gently accepts his rider. They know each other. Atop her horse, Chevelle transforms. She raises her head. Her back straightens. A broad smile spreads across her face. She owns this arena.

Usually, Chevelle looks up at everyone else. After suffering a severe jet ski collision at age 17, she's been wheelchair bound. A former rodeo queen, Chevelle slips back in the saddle every Monday. For a few fleeting moments, she sits atop the world.

"Miracles (happen) every day and I like to use not only miracles but magic," says Susan Wall, who has volunteered at Wenatchee's Alatheia Therapeutic Riding Center for about six years. "Nobody comes here and doesn't walk away feeling a sense of gratitude and joy. I don't know who gets more out of it, the riders, or the volunteers."

The staff and volunteers of Alatheia match Chevelle's smile inside the arena. She dons a black helmet and a pink brace while grasping a makeshift steering apparatus made of PVC pipe and old tennis balls. Chevelle has been a regular Alatheia rider for

half a decade and has arrived today for her weekly dose of freedom. Perched upon a postcard worthy hillside above the Lower Sunnyslope area, Alatheia is a nonprofit organization that provides therapeutic equine care for children and adults with disabilities.

Chevelle represents the many riders who have found hope and healing through the physical, emotional and mental benefits of saddling horses. "When they get on the horse, they just glow. Even if they don't improve, just seeing them out in nature and fresh air and feeling a sense of being in control, there's a lot of physical and emotional benefits," Wall said. "Some are hard to articulate because they just happen and you don't even necessarily realize it."

A forgotten prayer

During the winter of 2010, Nancy Grette shivered as she chipped ice from a water trough at her home on Sleepy Hollow Heights. Her adult children had all flown from the nest leaving Grette and her husband Glenn with the horses. She needed some direction.

"I had these amazing horses that as a family we had enjoyed and loved them, but I got to the point where I was breaking

frozen manure and breaking ice out of the water through," she said, recalling offering a prayer that day. "Lord, give me either a heart that just can be done and say goodbye and let them go, or do something else with my life or give me a vision."

Months went by and memory of that prayer dissipated in Grette's heart. About six months later, some family friends, the McPhersons, asked if their five-year-old daughter Ella could ride a horse for her fifth birthday. Living with spina bifida since birth, Ella transformed. Grette's prayer had been answered. "When she got on the horse after being with her little walker, the empowerment that we saw and the possibility that we saw with her was just mind blowing," Grette recalled. "We knew that we needed to pursue it."

Not working at the time, she could research equine care and visit other facilities. Grette already had the infrastructure and the horses. What started as a favor to a friend became a mission.

In June of 2011, the Grettes opened Alatheia's gates, from their home on Sleepy Hollow Heights, to 12 riders. Used by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:15, alatheia is a Greek word meaning "disclosed truth."



PHOTO BY MATTHEW OCKINGA

From left, Nancy Grette, Laurie Steward, and Susan Wall assist Crystal Chevelle as she rides her horse Frid during a session at Alatheia Therapeutic Riding Center in Wenatchee.

The Grettes have been horse people for years, but are also people people with a heart for special needs riders. "So, Alatheia then was born," she said. "The name came after we knew that we were going to do this, and had thought about it, prayed about it."

97 Days

As she prepared for life after high school, Chevelle viewed a horizon of hope. She had been named Miss USA and competed for high honors in barrel racing. A young woman of many talents, she had applied for a vocal scholarship at a Nashville college. Bright colors painted her future.

Yet dark clouds would shroud that horizon.

One day, Chevelle shared a summer vacation with her family on Moses Lake. She mounted a vehicular steed: a jet ski. While skipping across the water, she collided with another jet ski. She spent seven minutes facedown under water and was airlifted to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

The impact tore her brain from her skull. She suffered a bruised heart, several brain injuries, a broken sternum, a collapsed lung and she broke her jaw in seven places.

SEE ALATHEIA - HORSES OF HOPE, PAGE 4

11 agencies awarded lodging tax grants for capital projects

Submitted by
Jill FitzSimmons, PIO

WENATCHEE – Chelan County commissioners awarded \$776,436 in lodging tax dollars to a variety of local agencies that will use the money for capital projects that support tourist-related activities.

The decision comes at the recommendation of the Chelan County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, which reviewed 17 applications and narrowed those down to 11 projects.

"The county awards grant dollars from its lodging tax collections twice a year. This spring grant round, which focuses on capital projects, is always exciting because of the potential long-lasting impacts the dollars will have on our

local tourist industry," said Commissioner Tiffany Gering, who is chairwoman of the committee.

"We heard from several great projects this year that will not only build upon our economy but also be enjoyed by local residents in the future."

The advisory committee originally set aside \$560,000 for the capital awards; however, that was raised an additional \$216,000 because of the caliber of the projects, Gering said. The recipients are:

- **Cascade Community Markets:** \$15,000 to expand and invest in equipment upgrades for the Leavenworth and Cashmere community farmers markets.

SEE GRANTS, PAGE 4

Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall open house

By Lindsay Timmermans,
NCW Media staff

The honored veterans of the Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall invited the community to their Open House May 19-21 in their new building at 1206 N. Wenatchee Ave., the former banquet room in the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Wenatchee. The local veteran organizers have pounded the pavement since 2020, receiving countless donations of time and effort, in-kind donations of building materials, luxurious kitchen top slabs and new carpet in the 3000 square foot space. There were also donations of carpentry skill, including the Honor Board taking up the full west wall, housing plaquettes of donor names, officers, and honorees like The Bunker, another local veterans' group, giving them their second donation.

This was an opportunity for the community to see the new



PHOTO BY LINDSAY TIMMERMANS

Banners of fallen soldiers line every wall, with the colors of every branch of the military.

Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall made possible by City of Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz who leased the Hall for the benefits of the veterans in the area, and for community members, and veterans who donated time, services, and financial support.

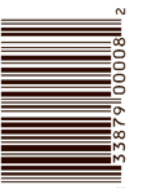
"We hope people come to visit and see the legacy they helped build at the Vet Hall," said Bob Ashford, a Board Member.

Banner flags of fallen soldiers donated by the Wenatchee Downtown Association line the hall leading in and proudly surround the space with local faces of patriotism. Respectfully hung by the local Thomas A Biddle Foundation, are two flags around the banner of Thomas "Allen" Biddle, a fallen active-duty military soldier fallen

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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

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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

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Newhouse Launches Central Washington Fentanyl Task Force

Submitted by
Mike Marinella

WASHINGTON – On May 24, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) launched the Central Washington Fentanyl Task Force, a vital initiative aimed at combatting the escalating fentanyl crisis plaguing communities across Central Washington and the United States.

The Task Force is a working group led by Rep. Newhouse consisting of groups and individuals on the local and state levels who are on the frontlines fighting the fentanyl crisis throughout Central Washington. Task Force members include law enforcement, addiction treatment groups, medical professionals, drug court officials, school resource officers, tribal leaders, elected officials, and community leaders.

“Today, we take a bold step forward in our unwavering fight against the fentanyl crisis that has inflicted immeasurable pain on our families and friends in Central Washington and the United States,” said Rep. Newhouse.

“We cannot stand idly by while this deadly drug ravages our communities, claiming lives and tearing families apart. The Central Washington Fentanyl Task Force will be a powerful force for change, bringing together the best minds and resources to tackle the growing threat of fentanyl in our region. The devastating impact of the fentanyl crisis

requires an all-hands-on-deck approach, and I thank all the dedicated groups and individuals who will join forces to combat this crisis. I am confident that this group will help protect and build a stronger Central Washington.”

Below are the members of Rep. Newhouse's Central Washington Fentanyl Task Force:

Kimberly Bershing, RN, BSN, Chief Nursing Officer, MultiCare Yakima Memorial

Joseph Brusica, Prosecuting Attorney, Yakima County

Jered Carter, Clinical Supervisor, Sundown M Ranch & Substance Abuse

Judge David Elofson (Retired), Yakima County Superior Court

Jarred-Michael Erickson, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Sergeant Chris Foreman, Chelan County Sheriff's Office & President, WA State Narcotics Investigators Association (WSNIA)

Chief Kevin Fuhr, Moses Lake Police Department

Dr. Raul Garcia, Medical Director, Astria Toppenish Hospital

Chief Chris Guerrero, Kennewick Police Department

Detective Erik Horbatko, Yakima Police Department

Ana Johnson, Program Manager, Chelan County Behavioral Health Unit

Chief Rob Layman, Sunnyside Police Department

Amanda McKinney,

District 1 Commissioner, Yakima County

Rep. Gina Mosbrucker, Washington's 14th Legislative District

Sergeant Rafael Sanchez, Yakima Police Department

Chief James Shike, Yakama Nation Tribal Police

Alicia Stromme Tobin, Executive Director, Safe Yakima Valley

Megan Tweedy, Community Member

Sheriff Robert Udell, Yakima County

Andrew Wonacott, Community Member

“Treatment is an effective intervention for the opiate crisis, but it takes the efforts of everyone to help encourage people to seek recovery.” – **Jered Carter**, *Clinical Supervisor, Sundown M Ranch*

“I applaud Congressman Newhouse for leading the fight in Washington state in regards to the Fentanyl epidemic. One life lost to Fentanyl abuse is too many. Our community and our children's future are in grave danger if we do not come together and work towards combating this poison from continuing to be pushed into our community. The way this Fentanyl is being marketed, distributed and mixed in with other drugs make no mistake the Cartels are targeting our youth and the next generation of our loved ones. I am excited to see what we can do with Federal Government support to fight against those that are bringing this into our homes and work

diligently to hopefully solve this issue.” – **Sergeant Chris Foreman**, *Chelan County Sheriff's Office & President, Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association (WSNIA)*

“The proliferation of Fentanyl into our schools, homes and public spaces is a danger that strikes constant fear in the hearts of parents who worry about their children's safety. As a mother to young children, I share in the frustration over the lack of action to eliminate this deadly outbreak from crossing our borders and entering into our communities. I am passionately committed to finding new ways to educate all ages about the extreme risk of Fentanyl and to proactively craft legislation and policies that will prevent Fentanyl from plaguing our communities.” – **Amanda McKinney**, *District 1 Commissioner, Yakima County*

“I look forward to engaging in conversation addressing the overdose epidemic. Saving lives through evidence-based treatment, like medications for opioid use disorder, is paramount to changing the upward trajectory of deaths that devastate our communities.” – **Megan Tweedy**, *Community Member*

“If fentanyl has not touched you yet, it will; it

is an indiscriminate killer. I am 100% in support of this task force. As a father who has lost two sons to this crisis, we have to do something now! I applaud the leadership Dan Newhouse is taking to identify this crisis and lead efforts to get something in place. As noted, this is a multi-faceted problem that will take everyone's contribution to make a difference from stopping the supply, giving our first responders the tools necessary, educating the public on the crisis, and providing support for those who are impacted or need assistance. I look forward to working with Dan and the Task Force to assist in addressing this crisis head on.” – **Andrew Wonacott**, *Community Member*

Background: The Central Washington Fentanyl Task Force will address the entire spectrum of issues tied to the fentanyl crisis, focusing on enforcement, education, prevention, and treatment.

The group will plan to meet on a quarterly basis.

The goal of the group will be to research, discuss, and execute well-informed initiatives that will do the following to address the fentanyl crisis in Central Washington:

- Compile data from federal, state, and local communities to be able to accurately assess trends in the fentanyl crisis.
- Assess current resources available to the public and frontline workers, and where potential shortcomings may exist.
- Discuss potential legislative action on the federal, state, and local levels.
- Help organizations and local leaders educate the public about the dangers of fentanyl and opportunities for treatment.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall open house

to suicide. The blue star flag was presented to mothers of active-duty military soldiers and the gold star with blue outline flag was given to mothers of fallen military soldiers in active-duty.

The Vet Hall is a place for veterans to gather, a location for veterans to use, and is a resource for connecting veterans with additional veteran service organizations in the community. “The most rewarding part of this is seeing vets helping other vets.” said Army vet George Turner, crediting help from Douglas County Veterans

Service Officer and Air Force veteran Sarah Simonson.

The Vet Hall is also home to a certified DAV Service Officer, Marine and Army vet Ron Bruno, who supports local veterans with disability claims and enrolling veterans in benefits, and he is there on Tuesday mornings and by contacting 509-679-2359 or ron.bruno@frontier.com.

The Wenatchee Valley Vet Hall was proudly “built by veterans for veterans” and is here to support the greater region of North Central Washington. The

Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible corporation, and the facility is available for meetings at no cost for veterans or to the community via a veteran by donations which are saved to use for future maintenance. It can accommodate 250 people and they even have the chairs and tables on site. For more information visit www.facebook.com/WenatcheeValleyVetsHall or they welcome vets weekly at the Vet Hall on Tuesday mornings for coffee and camaraderie from 8-11 a.m.

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Kim Schrier votes against patients with rare diseases

Submitted by Ben Petersen,
Western Press Secretary NRCC

On Wednesday, May 24 Kim Schrier voted to block a bill that would have let vulnerable Americans who suffer from rare diseases have greater access to care that could save their lives. The bipartisan bill, H.R. 2666, aims to allow vulnerable patients with rare diseases to receive greater access to care without financial worry.

“Kim Schrier took her loyalty to extreme House Democrats to a new level, siding with more red tape over access to life-saving treatment for the most vulnerable. Schrier’s extremism knows no limits.” – NRCC Spokesperson Ben Petersen

WVC hosts Welcome Wednesdays every Wednesday in June

Submitted by
Holly Thorpe, PIO at WVC

Every Wednesday from now through June, Wenatchee Valley College will host Welcome Wednesdays on the Wenatchee campus for new and returning students, their families and community members. Students can get hands-on support with registration, advising, financial aid and more. These events are free and open to all WVC students and anyone curious about enrolling at WVC. Visitors and students can drop in between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to meet with WVC staff and faculty. They can get help with:

- Admissions and placement at WVC, including help applying and scheduling a placement test for English and math classes.
- Financial Aid, includ-

ing help with the FAFSA and WASFA application process.

- WVC resources, including an overview of WVC resources such as academic support, student groups and more.

- WVC programs, including an overview of WVC academic programs, with information about what areas of study WVC offers, the difference between different two- and four-year degrees, and more.

Career Services and advising for undecided students, including using career interest assessment resources, reviewing results with students and discussing their options for college. For more information, call the public information office at 509-682-6420.



Rep. Schrier introduces bipartisan bill to support farmers who participate in conservation programs

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representatives Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA) and Dan Newhouse (R-WA) introduced bipartisan legislation (ENABLE Conservation Act of 2023 - Eliminating Needless Administrative Barriers Lessening Efficiency for Conservation Act) to support farmers who voluntarily participate in conservation programs on April 27. Of particular interest to Washington state is the Conservation Reserve Program’s (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

“In Washington state, acres protected by the SAFE initiative are particularly critical for two native birds, the sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse,” said Rep. Schrier. “Both of these birds are state-listed as endangered, with fewer than 1,000 individuals remaining, respectively. Most of their remaining habitat is on private land, which is why it is important to incentivize farmers to conserve this land in its natural state. I’m glad to be working with Congressman Newhouse on this important legislation for our state.”

“The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative’s Conservation Reserve Program is critical to farmers and landowners across Central Washington who create and restore wildlife habitat for vulnerable species. I am proud to introduce the ENABLE Conservation Act alongside Rep. Schrier to help Washington state farmers to conserve our natural land and preserve future generations of habitat,” said Rep. Newhouse.

The ENABLE Conservation Act of 2023 will permanently establish the SAFE initiative under the Conservation Reserve Program to ensure that farmers who would like to participate in this program are able to. Currently, there is a cap on how much land in Douglas County, and other counties like it across the country, can be included in the Conservation Reserve Program, making it difficult for all farmers who want to participate to be able to.

This bill reverts to a previous policy enacted under the 2014 Farm Bill to allow for SAFE and other important

conservation programs to be waived from the county cap if it meets USDA and the county’s shared goals.

“I support the Bill Eliminating Needless Administrative Barriers Lessening Efficiency for Conservation Act (ENABLE Conservation Act of 2023) because CRP is and has been an integral part of our farming operation providing risk management, knowing I have a certain income, regardless of drought or poor prices,” said Douglas County farmer Wade Troutman.

“Because of the county cap limiting the acres that can be enrolled in SAFE and CRP our farm alone was forced to remove over 400 acres of great wildlife habitat and put it back into dryland wheat production to maintain income. I was very happy, knowing that I was benefiting livestock, limiting, erosion, and sequestering carbon, but I can’t do it for free. We need to remove the cap on acres in Douglas County.”

As the House Committee on Agriculture begins this year’s Farm Bill process, Reps. Schrier will be pushing to make sure this legislation is included.

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Secretary of State Steve Hobbs applauds new laws improving Washington's elections

Submitted by Derrick Nunnally,
Washington State Office
of the Secretary of State



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State

OLYMPIA—New laws and funding requested and supported by Secretary of State Steve Hobbs during the 2023 Legislative session will help ensure the integrity of Washington's elections and improve access to the ballot for eligible voters.

The bipartisan elections measures signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee help advance Secretary Hobbs' top priorities of election security, voter education, and fighting election disinformation.

"These new laws and critical funding will go a long way toward reducing barriers to voter registration and enhancing election security," Secretary Hobbs said. "I thank the Legislature and Governor Inslee for the bipartisan support of these efforts to help ensure more secure and accessible elections and greater voter engagement and participation."

These bills include:

Senate Bill (SB) 5208, Secretary of State-requested legislation sponsored by Sen. Yasmin Trudeau of Tacoma, enables

online voter registration with the last four digits of a Social Security number instead of a driver license or state ID number. This benefits residents who do not need a driver license, including older voters and people with mobility issues.

SB 5112, Secretary of State-requested legislation sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt of Olympia, streamlines voter registration at the Washington Department of Licensing while improving security and accuracy of voter rolls. Voter registration becomes automatic for people who have proven their citizenship while applying for an enhanced driver license or enhanced state ID card.

SB 5082, sponsored by Sen. Patty Kuderer of Bellevue, abolishes advisory votes, which voters have often found confusing. This bill clarifies that voters are being asked to decide issues, not provide opinions, and will save taxpayer money. Printing the advisory votes and their descriptions on ballots

and in Voters' Pamphlets cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in multiple election cycles.

"Advisory votes wasted public money, ballot space, and voters' time, all to ask people to make decisions that had no consequences," Sec. Hobbs said. "Getting rid of them was long overdue."

SB 5152, Secretary of State-requested legislation sponsored by Sen. Javier Valdez of Seattle, prohibits political campaigns from using realistic but false images, videos, or audio with undisclosed manipulation, known as "deepfakes," to deliberately spread election disinformation. Campaigns targeted by deepfakes can now go to court to seek an injunction and sue for damages.

"As technology evolves, we have to be vigilant about malicious disinformation in new ways," Sec. Hobbs said. "This law provides a new tool to keep people from being misled."

SB 5182, sponsored by Sen. Joe Nguyen of Seattle, moves the filing period to run for office to begin on the first Monday in May, instead of later in the month. This change provides more time for county elections officials to produce informational

materials in multiple languages.

SB 5459, sponsored by Sen. Hunt, redirects public records requests for information from the statewide voter registration database to the Secretary of State rather than county elections offices. The bill also exempts voted ballots and voted ballot images from public disclosure to protect voters' identities.

"Due to deliberate disinformation during and after the 2020 election season, county elections offices have been inundated with public records requests," Secretary Hobbs added. "Many of these requests tend to be overly complicated, involve sensitive information, and are targeted attempts to distract and overwhelm county auditors."

The biennial state operating budget signed by Gov. Inslee May 16 invests in election protection by renewing the Office of the Secretary of State's Information Security Grant Program. Launched in November 2022, these grants provide qualified Washington counties up to \$80,000 each to cover investments in cyber and physical security improvements. Counties have used this funding to purchase or



Secretary of State
Steve Hobbs

upgrade security software, hardware, and subscriptions; hire IT security personnel; make structural enhancements; and more.

Visit the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections webpage to learn more about election system security. 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.

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Alatheia Therapy Riding Center - Horses of Hope for many, this day was for Crystal

Her family's hearts were also bruised. Doctors told them she would be forever brain dead. She would never smile again. They suggested the family withdraw life support, but her parents refused. Their daughter lay in a coma for 96 days without signs of improvement. On the 97th day, Chevelle's mother tickled her foot inducing a smile. Three days later, her family brought her home on her 18th birthday.

Since the accident, Chevelle has been involved in intense speech, occupational and physical therapy. Her time at Alatheia has helped her regain physical strength and confidence.

"When we started with her, we had six people helping her. Now we're down to three, and that just shows the growth and improvement and strength,"

Wall said. "It's a lot of core strength, which for somebody like her in a wheelchair is just necessary."

Horses of hope

So, how do horses help? Grette says that their walking gait closely simulates that of humans.

"As the horse is swinging the pelvis of a human, it simulates walking for those people who have never walked before," Grette says.

"For every minute a person is on the back of a horse that's moving, there are 100 balance accommodations that occur in the body. And each of those balance accommodations, the switching of the small and the larger fibers, end up developing strength. The horses' personalities, as it were, also make a difference. Norwegian Fjords are typically calm, mild animals

and not easily spooked. This combination makes them apt companions for Alatheia's riders. Here, it's a beautiful outdoor setting, fresh air, horses that are so in tune with the rider," Wall said.

"They will respond to if the rider's happy or sad, scared, comfortable." Alatheia ministers to 105 riders ages three to 93. Its clients have a range of conditions including, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Rett syndrome, multiple sclerosis, autism, and epilepsy. Additionally, Alatheia has a program called Warriors & Horses, which helps veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The staff consists of five part-time instructors and a volunteer base which has grown from 25 to nearly 100 who share the workload along with a dozen Norwe-

gian Fjords. While Grette is well versed in equine matters, learning about the various disabilities of her clients has provided unique hurdles.

She feels grateful to be affiliated with national organizations Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) and the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry (NFHR). This has helped to educate Alatheia's staff on the conditions of their clients and to receive advice from professionals.

She said that PATH helps, "sets codes and standards, also provides us with precaution and indication for particular disabilities that we might need to take more care on. Much of what we learned is by experience, experimenting a lot with what works and does not work."

Alatheia's success has seen it outgrow its facility. With a wait list of 60 people, the center expects to have around 150 riders eventually. Alatheia's current location is limited by acreage and parking availability. Looking for arena and barn expansion, the Grettes recently purchased 12 acres off of Easy Street which will become Alatheia's new home in 2025.

"You don't just come for 10 weeks and then you're done," Grette said. "The repeated exposure is what provides the most benefit. Once we get to the new location, we'll be able to serve so many more people and veterans."

Trotting Forward

Chevelle is running out of time. Just a few more seconds. While country music emanates from

a smart phone, the team gathers around her as she navigates the final two barrels. Engaging in her favorite competition, barrel racing, she leads Frid around the last barrier. A volunteer states the time: "40.48 seconds."

Chevelle celebrates with everyone. It's a personal record. Her session now completed, she dismounts Frid with help and eases back into her wheelchair after riding high. Chevelle's future, and her present, are still bright.

The hues of her horizon are simply different shades than the colors of years ago, but the view remains breathtaking. Here in a dusty arena upon a hillside, the former rodeo queen reigns again.

For more information or to donate, please visit alatheiaridingcenter.org.

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11 agencies awarded lodging tax grants for capital projects

- **Chelan County Natural Resources:** \$50,000 for improvements to the Cashmere Riverside Park boat ramp. Chelan County Natural Resources: \$15,000 to develop capital facilities for river recreation in the Leavenworth area on Icicle Creek and the Wenatchee River.

- **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:** \$30,000 for trail improvements and trail-related infrastructure in the Wenatchee Foothills Trail System.

- **Icicle Creek Center for the Arts:** \$87,500 for capital improvements related to parking.

- **Lake Chelan Ski Club:** \$70,000 to build a ski rental shop.

- **Manson Chamber of Commerce:** \$68,000 toward irrigation and sidewalk repairs in the downtown core.

- **Plain Valley Ski Trails:** \$111,610 for the purchase of a utility groomer for its trails system.

- **Pybus Public Market:** \$150,000 toward its Westside Revitalization Project.

- **Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center:** \$150,000 toward its expansion and re-design project.

- **Wenatchee Youth Baseball Club:** \$29,326 for purchase of portable pitching mounds and an infield

groomer for tournaments.

Lodging tax dollars are generated by local lodging establishments. In Chelan County, about half the money generated in a year is allocated to six local chambers as well as the Cascade Loop and TREAD. Another portion is used to operate the county's Visit Chelan County campaign.

Additional dollars are offered twice a year annually in the form of grants to tourist-related organizations, such as festivals and museums.

A call for marketing and promotional grants is typically made each fall and a call for capital projects is typically made each spring.

For more information, visit the LTAC webpage or Visit Chelan County webpage.



Hawkins' statement on passage of bipartisan drug possession bill

Submitted by
Sen. Brad Hawkins

OLYMPIA – Sen. Brad Hawkins issued the following statement on the passage of the bipartisan drug possession legislation, Senate Bill 5536.

“I’m thankful to Governor Inslee for calling this special session because Washington needed to establish a statewide framework for drug possession. Clarifying our drug possession law was one of the most important issues of the year for lawmakers, so I’m grateful that we found

a way to achieve a bipartisan compromise, even if it required a special session.

“As it relates to the special session process, I would have preferred a 48-hour waiting period between the time the compromise proposal was made public and any legislative vote. This would have provided the public with more opportunities to review the proposal and provide comments. While I have been receiving briefings, I struggled with the push to bring this latest version to a vote so quickly, but I can appreci-

ate the need to secure final passage before a compromise potentially unravels.

“I had been undecided on the compromise but have come to appreciate its similarities to what the Senate approved in March. I supported that version of the bill, and this version is similar in structure. After much thought and consideration, I came to realize that not passing this bill

could lead to less desirable options, which include legislators extending the temporary law beyond July 1 or having no statewide framework for drug possession. Neither of those is a good option.

“What is most important for us all to realize is that people across our state are struggling with personal drug use. In many cases, they are not only endanger-

ing themselves but also destroying their families and impacting others. We need to reverse this harmful trend. Having compassionate options as well as necessary penalties are important to getting people the help they need.

“The bill approved attempts to balance compassion and accountability while providing funding support in a variety of areas. I hope it is successful.”

Background

A 2021 State Supreme Court ruling struck down Washington’s felony drug possession statute as unconstitutional. Legislators approved a temporary measure later that year to classify drug possession as a misdemeanor while working toward a more comprehensive solution. On March 3, the Washington State Senate approved Senate Bill 5536.

It represented the first

major step this year to address a temporary drug possession law that expires July 1, 2023. Sen. Hawkins voted in favor of the proposal, but that version of the bill was not supported in the House, primarily due to opposition by progressive House Democrats opposed to strong penalties for personal drug use. The 105-day Legislative session adjourned April 23 without a bill to replace the short-term fix, established in 2021.

Governor Inslee called a Special Session of the Legislature began May 16. Bipartisan legislators in both the House and Senate continued their communications over several days with their colleagues and key stakeholder groups, leading to the May 16, votes. Governor Inslee stated that “I signed the budget out of necessity, but no one should interpret my signature as an endorsement”.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

All Flywheel winners at Flywheel Conference 2023.

Over \$300K awarded at Flywheel Investment Conference

Submitted by Jenny Rojanasthien,
NCW Tech Alliance

WENATCHEE – During the conference, Alphi and SheFly also received \$50,000 investment awards each from the Flywheel Angel Network. Citizen Mint received a \$50,000 relocation offer from NCW Tech Alliance if they choose to relocate their business to Chelan or Douglas counties. In addition, SheFly was awarded the \$5,000 Audience Favorite cash prize.

SheFly is an outdoor apparel company on a mission to make the outdoors better for all people through innovative clothing design. Their award-winning pants and leggings feature their patented zipper technology, which empowers everyone to answer nature’s call and relieve themselves outside without removing any clothing. They design durable, innovative, and functional clothing so that everyone can explore as they are.

Alphi is the first community-powered NFT database built to bring accessibility and transparency to the world of digital collectibles, enabling everyone to make well-informed decisions about the projects they get involved with. Their purpose is to make the digital collectible space accessible.

Citizen Mint provides wealth advisors a trusted, easy-to-use platform to access private market impact investments. With minimums starting at \$10k and a curated list of exclusive opportunities, wealth managers are able to leverage Citizen Mint to help attract younger clients, diversify portfolios, reduce client performance volatility, and minimize their own revenue volatility.

The 2023 Flywheel Investment Conference was presented by Moss Adams, Ogden Murphy Wallace, Confluence Health, and Microsoft. Plans are underway for the annual Flywheel Conference to return in the Spring of 2024 in Wenatchee.

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Goehner legislation to benefit local port districts signed into law

Submitted by
Kurt Hammond,
Senior PIO

Legislation sponsored by 12th District Rep. Keith Goehner that will allow port districts, which have been functionally consolidated, to adopt a unified levy was signed into law by Gov. Inslee on Monday, May 1.

House Bill 1663 will allow two or more port districts that operate under a mutual agreement to conduct a joint property tax levy under certain conditions.

It also outlines how the joint levy is conducted.

Goehner introduced the legislation at the request of the Chelan and Douglas port districts.

"We have a unique situation in Central Washington with Chelan and Douglas counties sharing a lot of services and working together on a variety of issues," said Goehner, R-Dryden.

"That goes for our Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority. The counties have planned and managed together and it has made our ports' operations more efficient. This legislation permits that to

continue by allowing tax assessments to be made in both counties equally and equitably."

The new law does not allow the ports to go beyond what is currently collected, and the ports would still be constrained by the 1 percent annual levy increase limitation.

The taxes would still be levied separately, but this bill would allow for the rates to be fair and unified.

"This bill will insure fairness and equal representation for the citizens of our region-Chelan and Douglas counties," said Mark Spur-

geon, president of the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority.

The new law will also require a joint levy to be approved by two-thirds of the board.

"This allows for improved management of the ports, will strengthen regional port operations, and lets both counties feel that they have the same stake in the levy process," added Goehner.

The bill takes effect 90 days after the adjournment of the legislative session. The Legislature adjourned on April 23.

Basic Mediation Training

Continuing Education is always a good thing

Submitted by
**Wenatchee Valley Dispute
Resolution Center**

In the beginning of April, seven members of our staff and volunteers at Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center had the opportunity to attend a De-Escalation training, where they learned crucial skills to handle conflict situations.

Bridgett Barker, Jenn Riley, Joanne Dalinkus, Jeff Lau, Theresa D-Litzenberger, Jennifer Talbot, and Eada Talal Al-Soodani actively participated in the program, gaining knowledge on various aspects of de-escalation.

The training covered topics such as recognizing triggers, making positive choices to diffuse tensions, and employing strategies to calm others who are agitated. We take pride in the fact that our staff and volunteers are committed to upgrading their skills and providing top-quality mediation services.

We take immense pride in our staff's commitment to enhancing their knowledge and skills. Recently, the Wenatchee Valley DRC's Executive Director, Jennifer Talbot, and Program Coordinator, Eada Talal Al-Soodani, participated in Resolution Washington's Equity Training workshop.

Through this training, they acquired valuable skills such as living out ideal values in the workplace, identifying eight common forms of exclusion in work settings, understanding discrimination, and making decisions through

an Equity Lens framework. We applaud their efforts to promote inclusivity and diversity in their professional lives and to deliver better services to our clients.

Coming June 26-30, Wenatchee Valley DRC will be facilitating our Basic Mediation Training. Mediation training provides useful skills of conflict resolution for anyone regardless of experience. Mediation is a life skill. It's for everyone and if you are in a relationship or work with others then you are in a place where you can learn to listen better, you can learn to reflect back to others, you can learn to mediate. Whether you're an attorney, teacher, counselor, human resources manager, or just someone looking to improve your communication skills, Basic Mediation is a valuable tool that can benefit everyone.

As professionals, these skills are essential to our daily work. Attorneys often find themselves in high-stress situations, negotiating contracts or settlements with

clients. Teachers and counselors work with students and clients who may be experiencing conflict, and human resource managers are often tasked with resolving disputes between employees.

Taking a Basic Mediation course can provide professionals with the tools and techniques they need to effectively handle these situations. By learning active listening skills, conflict resolution techniques, and negotiation strategies, professionals can improve their ability to communicate effectively and reach mutually beneficial outcomes.

But Basic Mediation training isn't just for professionals. It's a life skill that anyone can benefit from. At some point in our lives, we'll all encounter conflict, whether it's with a spouse, family member, or friend. By taking a Basic Mediation course, we can learn how to deal with conflict in a productive and constructive way.

One of the key benefits of Basic Mediation is that it teaches us how to listen.

So often in our daily lives, we're quick to jump in with our own opinions and ideas, without really hearing what the other person is saying. Basic Mediation teaches us how to actively listen to others, reflect back what we've heard, and seek to understand their perspective.

Another benefit of Basic Mediation is that it helps us to be more reflective. In a conflict situation, it's easy to get caught up in our emotions and react impulsively. Basic Mediation teaches us to take a step back, reflect on the situation, and respond thoughtfully and intentionally. Whether you're a professional looking to improve your skills or someone who wants to improve your ability to handle conflict in your personal life, Basic Mediation is a valuable tool that can benefit everyone. So why not give it a try? You might be surprised at how much you can learn and how it can positively impact your life.

Sign up for Basic Mediation Training at www.eventbrite.com/e/wvdrcc-basic-mediation-training-summer-2023-tickets-549591923237. The event is June 26-30, with daily sessions from 8 - 5 p.m. at Wenatchee Valley DRC, 5 S. Wenatchee Ave., Ste. 210, Wenatchee. Email information@wvdrcc.org/events for more information. This interactive experience equips individuals and professionals with the understanding of proven mediation, communication, and conflict resolution processes for use at work, at home, or in the classroom. Registration closes at noon on June 19.



State Awards Grants to Help Communities Plan for Recreation

Submitted by
Susan Zemek

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) today announced the award of more than \$4.7 million in grants to help communities plan for outdoor recreation facilities.

The grants were awarded to organizations in 19 counties and ranged from \$12,927 to \$250,000.

"These grants support community efforts to invest in recreation by helping them take the first step and begin planning," said Megan Duffy, RCO director. "We know that spending time outside provides so many benefits, such as improved health, less stress and better social skills. We think that everyone should be able to spend time in a park or on a trail and get those benefits. These grants will assist communities in getting started to provide those valuable outdoor amenities."

Many of the grants will help

smaller communities write parks and recreation plans, which then can be used to apply for construction grants, and some will help larger communities plan specific projects in areas that lack public parks.

The Legislature first funded the Planning for Recreation Access grant program in 2021 as a way to fund planning projects in communities that lack adequate access to outdoor recreation opportunities. The first round of grants were announced in February and the second round was funded by the Legislature in its session that ended in April. NCW Projects were funded in:

- Chelan County: \$292,007
- Douglas County: \$165,460
- Grant County: \$102,577
- Okanogan County: \$250,000

To see project descriptions, visit <https://rco.wa.gov/state-awards-recreation-planning-grants/>

WSU Master Gardeners celebrate the program's 50th anniversary

Submitted by
Marco Martinez,
Chelan and Douglas
Counties Coordinator

WENATCHEE Chelan/Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners invite all to join them in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Extension Master Gardener Program.

Now an intercontinental volunteer movement, the master gardener phenomenon began right here in Washington, 50 years ago this spring, as part of Washington State University Extension.

A local celebration, A Garden Faire, Celebrating 50 years of the WSU Master Gardener Program, will be held June 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Education Garden, 1100 N. Western Ave., Wenatchee. The free family event will include celebration, kids' activities, and learning for the whole family. Kid activities include a scavenger hunt, building a birdhouse, and building and painting a wood planter and then planting a seed in it.

"For 50 years, Extension Master Gardener volunteers have passionately shared their time and knowledge with the aim of building healthier, more beautiful communities," said Marco Martinez, coordinator of the WSU Extension Chelan-Douglas Master Gardener Program. "Please help us celebrate this incredible milestone as well as the many accomplishments of our amazing volunteers and partners."

The local celebration is the third of four scheduled across the state. Regional WSU-hosted gatherings already took place in Puyallup and Prosser. The fourth celebration is scheduled for July 13 at WSU's Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC) at Mount Vernon. The celebration culminates with the WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference, Sept. 27-30 at Tacoma, where attendees will mark the anniversary and learn the latest in gardening techniques, outreach, and discovery.

Master Gardeners are Extension-trained volunteers who share information on horticulture and environmental stewardship with their communities through clinics, demonstration gardens, and local partnerships. The first class of volunteers trained in spring 1973 in Washington's King and Pierce counties. The movement quickly spread across the state, nationwide, and beyond. Today, master gardeners can be found in Canada, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. In Washington, more than 4,000 Master Gardener volunteers provide over 330,000 hours of service annually, educating upwards of 300,000 of their neighbors while providing 60,000 pounds of fresh produce to local food banks. More than 100,000 Master Gardeners are active nationwide. The Washington program is currently raising funds for its first-ever endowed WSU faculty chair, who will develop new partnerships, tools, and curricula to help master gardeners become a more accessible, diverse resource.

To learn about your local Extension Master Gardener Program, get involved, or find out how to become a trained Master Gardener volunteer, contact Marco Martinez at 509-667-6540 or visit <https://extension.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas/gardening/>.



Former Chelan PUD Commissioner Ann Congdon honored with Life Member Award by Northwest Public Power Association

Submitted by
Rachel Hansen

WENATCHEE – Former Chelan PUD Commissioner Ann Congdon has been honored with the Life Member Award from the Northwest Public Power Association for her many contributions to public power. She completed her final term in 2022, after 18 years on the PUD's Board of Commissioners.

"Ann has embodied public power values and local control, supporting the idea that PUDs are created by the people to serve the people," said Chelan PUD Board President Randy Smith.

During Congdon's tenure, she worked alongside staff to reduce the utility's debt by hundreds of millions of dollars and position the PUD as one of the most financially stable utilities in the United States. She joined other PUD commissioners in adopting the vision of providing the best value for the most people for the longest time.

Congdon reinforced the need for active community



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Left to right: Randy Smith, Ann Congdon, and Garry Arseneault.

engagement, evidenced by her work on several PUD strategic plans, which promoted a highly inclusive community process that sought input from thousands of local customers. The plan guides critical decisions on utility infrastructure investments, safety, public power benefits, and economic development.

A former math and science teacher and alternative high school director, Congdon has been active in public power and the

community, serving on the board of Energy Northwest and supporting local organizations such as the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

She also has supported Lake Chelan water quality issues, including an effort to reduce milfoil and Asian clams in one of the deepest lakes in the country. The PUD Commission and staff congratulate Ann Congdon for this significant honor and her many years of service to the public power community.



Doug Jones accepts position of Executive Director at RiverCom 911

Submitted by
Kayla Hodges

WENATCHEE – The RiverCom Administrative Board is announcing that Doug Jones has accepted the position of Executive Director at RiverCom 911.

Doug will replace Lowell Porter, the current Executive Director, who is resigning from the position to retire after more than forty-three years of service in public safety.

The position opening was advertised nationwide throughout the 9-1-1 community.

The Board selected three candidates who then interviewed for the position. The interview process included a meet and greet event with members of the RiverCom Board and executives from RiverCom user agencies; and a formal panel interview.

The selection process



Doug Jones

was challenging, and the Board appreciated the depth of experience and leadership qualities each candidate brought to the table.

The Board is looking forward to working with Doug as he transitions into his new leadership role.

Doug and his family are long-term residents of Wenatchee since 1992, where he completed a 25-year career with the Wenatchee Police Department, retiring at the rank

of Captain. He recently served as the Director of Security Services and Emergency Preparedness at Confluence Health for the past seven years.

Additionally, Doug is a retired Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army Reserves, where he served our country for 30 years, which included active-duty deployment in Iraq.

Doug holds a Bachelors of Arts in Law and Justice; is a graduate of the FBI National Academy; and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Doug is excited for this opportunity and to continue his career in public safety serving all who live in and visit the Chelan/Douglas County Region.

He is scheduled to begin his duties as Executive Director in June 2023. Additional information will be released once Doug starts in this position.

Local Employee Recognized as Banner Bank's Best

Submitted by Aislinn Lautenbach, Banner Bank



Jonathan Hanson

WENATCHEE – Banner Bank employee and Vice President, Senior Commercial Relationship Manager, Jonathan Hanson, has been selected to receive the Banner's Best award. This represents the highest level of recognition within the company and the award celebrates Banner's top performing employees. Jonathan received the award for surpassing his individual professional goals, demonstrating excellence within his respective profession and consistently delivering outstanding service to the Bank's clients, communities and his colleagues.

"Our Banner's Best recipients are an excellent representation of the impressive talent we have here at Banner," said Mark Grescovich, Banner Bank President and CEO. "Their exemplary contributions are at the foundation of why Newsweek named us one of the Most Trustworthy Companies in America this year."

Less than four percent of all Banner employees receive this award and recipients are selected by members of executive leadership.

About Banner Bank:

Banner Bank is a Washington-chartered commercial bank that conducts business in Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. Banner offers a wide variety of commercial banking services and financial products to individuals and small and medium-sized businesses and their employees. Banner Bank is part of Banner Corporation (NASDAQ GSM: BANR), a \$15.8 billion bank holding company headquartered in Walla Walla, Washington. Visit Banner Bank at www.bannerbank.com.



Two Brothers Combine For 60 Years of Perfect Driving

Link Transit Drivers Celebrated for Safety Record



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jose and Roberto Torres.

Submitted by
Salina Danko,
Link Transit

Since first getting behind the wheel of a Link bus more than 30 years ago, veteran Link Transit coach operators Jose and Roberto Torres have each accumulated about 1 million miles on the road – equal to going to the moon and back a couple of times. Even more impressive, together the pair have more than 60 years of accident-free driving. In late 2022, Jose was the first Link Transit operator to reach the 30-year accident-free milestone. Roberto reached his 30-year mark just a few days ago, on May 14.

"These two gentlemen

set the highest standard for Link operators," said Link Transit General Manager Richard DeRock. "In addition to their incredible safety records, the Torres brothers provide welcoming, friendly faces to our guests. We are extremely fortunate and could not be prouder to have these two outstanding individuals representing us to the public every day."

The secret to their success behind the wheel? Basic driver's education – stay focused and drive defensively. "When I am driving, I am always expecting the unexpected," Jose said. "I always follow at a safe distance and

never hurry to get where I am going."

"There is a lot going on our streets and roads, a lot more than there was 30 years ago," Roberto said. "Paying attention to what other drivers are doing, being alert, and knowing where the trouble spots are is what keeps us safe."

When the Torres brothers started driving for Link Transit more than 30 years ago, Link was new to the community. "That was a long time ago," Roberto said. "It was fun in those early days getting people seeing them excited about it. Most of us at Link were all new to transit too."

"For over 30 years, Link has been providing an important service to our community, and we are proud to be a part of that," Jose said.

The importance of having time with family and predictable schedules is what brought the Torres brothers to Link Transit in the early

1990s. Before that, Roberto and Jose were working as hotshot firefighters for the Entiat Ranger District. "We were traveling all around, even out of state, fighting fires. I wanted to be home with my family," Jose said.

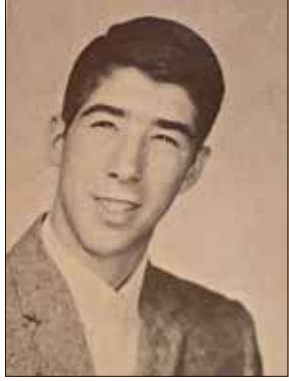
The stability of the job is important to them and always has been. Raising families and being able to support them and spend time with them has always been a priority for both men. Both Jose and Roberto agree, "these have been really good jobs, and Link has always taken good care of their employees."

"The Torres brothers bring priceless experience to the safety culture here at Link Transit," said Safety Officer Shawn Larson. "The industry average for an at-fault vehicle accident is about \$9,000, plus the intangible costs of investigation, bus down time, service disruption and the trust and confidence of our guests. Having two highly competent drivers like Roberto and Jose is a huge positive for all our coach operators to look up to, and a great benefit for Link Transit, and our guests."

WVC Foundation announces 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award

Submitted by
Holly Thorpe

The Wenatchee Valley College Foundation Board of Directors has selected Dennis Carlton as the 2023 Distinguished Alumni



Dennis Carlton - in 1965



Dennis Carlton - present

Award recipient. The foundation received nominations for 12 alumni from across North Central Washington.

"This award was totally unexpected," Carlton said. "WVC has been a part of me every step of the way. College should be a leap-

point for everybody. Education is an opportunity to expand who we are and what we are."

After growing up in Omak, Carlton enrolled at WVC in 1965 and attended

classes on the Wenatchee campus since there was no Omak campus at the time. He said WVC professors made a significant impression on him.

"There were 55 Omak students that enrolled at WVC in 1965. But only five of us

graduated in 1967," Carlton said. "I decided to be responsible for myself. Are you a man or a mouse? That was my motto."

After graduating from WVC with his associate degree, he went on to receive a bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis in business from Eastern Washington University. Carlton began his career in 1970 with the Omak School District teaching business classes through the DECA high school business and entrepreneurial program. He later taught business classes at the WVC at Omak campus. Carlton then changed careers from education to business. In addition to owning and operating a variety of Omak businesses, Carlton has worked as a New York Life Insurance agent for over 47 years, receiving a variety of awards and achievements from the company.

Carlton is known for civic-mindedness, community leadership, small business advocacy and mentoring young entrepreneurs. He has held many leadership positions such as president of the Omak Performing Arts Foundation, president of the Omak Chamber of Commerce, president of the Loup-Loup Ski Foundation, president of Rotary Club of Okanogan-Omak, board member of the WVC Foundation at Omak and chairman of the Omak School Board.

"Dennis has demonstrated time and again a commitment to his community. His successes have been grounded in a strong family upbringing, excellent education and a tremendous work ethic," said Gary Carlton, Dennis' brother, who nominated him for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

"At 75 years of age Dennis continues to be an excellent role model for all ages." The WVC Distinguished Alumni Award began in 1975 to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen professional field; made significant contributions to their community on a local, state, national or international level; and have demonstrated integrity in their personal life and gained the respect of their peers.

Recent recipients include community volunteer Darrell Dickson (2022), Eastmont educator Jaime Ramirez (2020), NCW Libraries executive director Barbara Walters (2019), local entrepreneur Malachi Salcido (2018) and City of Wenatchee human resources director Kari Page (2017).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

President Faimous Harrison with student Tiffany Bryant at the All-Washington ceremony in April. The other WVC student, Juddy Anyona, was not able to attend the event, but was still recognized in the event program.

WVC All-Washington Academic Team students honored

Submitted by
Holly Thorpe

Wenatchee Valley College students Tiffany Brant and Juddy Anyona were honored as WVC's 2023 All-Washington academic team members in Olympia on April 27. The students were honored again at the public board of trustees meeting at WVC May 17.

The All-Washington Academic Team program recognizes and honors our state's finest higher education students. The students who make up the All-Washington (All-WA) Team reflect the diversity of the state, maintain high standards of excellence, and contribute positively to the community.

During the official statewide All-Washington Academic Team ceremony, Tiffany received a \$1,000 scholarship and Juddy received \$250. After struggling with her own mental

health, Tiffany Bryant enrolled at Wenatchee Valley College at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic with the goal of pursuing a career that will allow her to help others.

Now, at 38, Tiffany is the Vice President of the Psi Beta honor society and an active volunteer at WVC and in the community. She plans to transfer to Washington State University to earn her Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Growing up in Kenya, Juddy was eager to get an education, but it was not until she was 33 years old and a primary caregiver for her husband with Primary Progressive Sclerosis and their two young children that Juddy was able to enroll at Wenatchee Valley College and begin her associate degree in nursing. An active volunteer and PTK member, her next goal

is to earn her Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for Two Year Colleges, introduced the All-USA Academic Team to recognize and honor two-year college students for their scholastic achievement and community and college service.

The All-Washington Academic Team program has become the showcase for Washington's community and technical colleges because it honors the academic high achievers, and the individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to success in the classroom and in the communities in which they live.

This recognition demonstrates the state's commitment to scholarship and community service on the part of those attending the state's public community and technical colleges.

Linda Haglund awarded for Outstanding Achievements in Historic Preservation

Submitted by
Teresa Gibson, DAHP

Dr. Allyson Brooks, Washington State Historic preservation officer (SHPO) has announced the 2023 award recipients for Outstanding Achievements in Historic Preservation. Each year, the Washington SHPO recognizes people, projects, and organizations throughout the state that have achieved distinction in the field of historic preservation. The 2023 awardees come from Grant, Spokane, Skagit, King, Lincoln, Pacific, Stevens, Clark, Chelan, and Kitsap counties.

Outstanding Career Achievement - Linda Haglund, Chelan County

Linda Haglund is a culture-builder and, over more than a decade in Main Street, has contributed almost as much to the posi-

tive culture of the Washington State Main Street Program network as she has to the culture of her



Linda Haglund

own beloved Main Street community in Wenatchee, which she served as Executive Director of the Wenatchee Downtown Association from 2011 to 2022. She boldly uses words like "family" and "heart" and "cheerleader" to refer to her work. She is the first one to say "welcome", to

take someone under her wing, or to send a message out of the blue that lets you know that she sees you and appreciates you. Linda will tell you that she's usually not the most qualified person at the table, and yet she's moved mountains through her ability to highlight opportunities and convene the right players. She is the ultimate champion for her hometown and its beloved small businesses, property owners, and for her "Main Street family" near and far.

Linda's mix of tenacity, encouragement, and unrelenting optimism made her a critical leader in her hometown and throughout the state.

Her work reflects her beliefs - that everybody has gifts they can share, and that we make a difference one person at a time.

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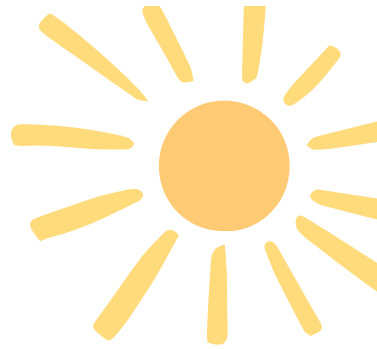
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North Central Washington "Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

JUNE 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

Upcoming Events



JUNE

JUNE 21ST - BOARD MEETING

JUNE 23RD - THE 27TH ANNUAL BNCW SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 27TH - CPR & FIRST AID COURSE

JULY

JULY 18TH - CPR & FIRST AID COURSE

JULY 19TH - BOARD MEETING

AUGUST

AUGUST 16TH - BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 22ND - NOTHING BUT NETWORKING HOSTED BY COMPLETE DESIGN

AUGUST 29TH - CPR & FIRST AID COURSE

SEPTEMBER


SEPT. 21ST - CHEFS ON TOUR

SEPT. 22ND-24TH - HOME TOUR



VISIT OUR NEW UPDATED WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Welcome Morgan Dobbins
 BNCW Membership Coordinator & Events Assistant



Morgan is a born and raised Wenatchee Native. She is married to the love of her life, and they have a beautiful golden retriever named Stanley Pup. Morgan is a Washington State University and Wenatchee Valley College graduate. When she isn't in the office working to support small businesses, Morgan is out hiking the hills and mountains of Washington, camping, reading, painting, or in her garden tending to her veggies.

Feel free to reach out to Morgan at the BNCW Offices for more information about Membership!
 Phone: 509-293-5840
 Email: info@buildingncw.org



Building North Central Washington is a non-profit 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:
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 Wenatchee, WA 98801
 PHONE: (509) 293-5840

Email us for more information:
Info@BuildingNCW.org
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MEMBER MESSENGER

"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

JUNE 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

Building!
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"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

FREEDOM MATTERS

MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD.

BNCW Office
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave.
509-293-5840
info@buildingncw.org

Be a Part of Something

BNCW is an organization that protects and promotes small businesses here in the valley. We do that by keeping an eye on what local and state issues there are that might affect small businesses.

There is a lot of overreach and over-regulation in government that can have a negative impact on our members, we want to make sure we're in the know to get out in front of the issues to keep our membership informed.

BNCW has a PAC (Political Action Committee) and if you have a desire to join us, please do! We're involved in finding qualified candidates for local offices. We also interview potential candidates for endorsements for most of the local political races.

To be a part of BNCW and our PAC please reach out to our organization at 509-293-5840 or email us directly at danielle@buildingncw.org

THANK YOU!

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Safety with abrasive blades

There seems to have been a rash of serious injuries with grinders, hot saws where abrasive cutting wheels are being used. Some have been fatal in years past, while others recently have had life changing results.

A worker was using a hand-held grinder to cut off the head of a rivet on a chain. He wanted to remove a couple of links to shorten the chain. The grinder was not equipped with a guard. The worker was wearing safety glasses, not a face shield. The abrasive cutting wheel on the 41/2-inch grinder got stuck and then shattered. Fragments from the wheel cut the workers face and the grinder

kicked back violently, striking him in the face.

A worker was in a trench using a hot saw (looks like a chain saw body with a large abrasive wheel) to cut some pipe that needed to be shortened. As he was cutting, (his saw was positioned above his shoulders), the saw bound on him, causing the saw to kick back and hit him in the face, cutting him from chin to eye requiring 220 stitches.

Safe work practices:

Always make sure the manufacturer's guard is installed before using a grinder.



- **Ensure** that workers are adequately trained in the safe use of grinders.

- **Always** wear adequate eye and face protection when using a grinder.

- Hearing protection must also be worn.

- **Choose** the appropriate grinder and abrasive disc for the job.

- **Position** your body to reduce exposure to flying materials and to shield yourself in case of wheel failure and/or kickback.

- **Make sure** you do not use a blade where the equipment's rpm is faster than the actual rating of the wheel or blade.

- **Wear additional** protective gear, clothing, gloves to protect yourself.

- **Keep flammables** away from cutting operations and a fire extinguisher should be near operations where sparks are being emitted.

And finally:

- **Read and follow** all recommendation's in the manufacturer's manual for safe operation.

Safety comes in a can, I can, you can, We can be safe.

Let's be safe out there.

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 Danielle Martin at (509) 421-0276 to make the necessary arrangements.





MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3



Touch A Truck a BIG HIT!

TOUCH A TRUCK 2023 was amazing! Not even the extreme heat could diminish the smiles of the kids and the excitement of everyone who participated in this favorite family event! Over 2,000 people attended the event and \$6,750 was raised during the event to help kids in our community!

hicles that rolled in and shared your business and work with the community along with the other non-profits and sponsors that supported the event!

For more information on how to be a part of the Women’s Service League or upcoming events visit their website at www.wslncw.org

A HUGE THANK YOU to the 62 ve-

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE by: Dan Beardslee, BNCW’s Government Affairs Director

Land use and building regulations are changing

The land use regulation and building regulation world is sometimes impossible to navigate for the average homeowner or landowner. It’s almost as if this regulatory spiderweb was meant to confuse.

The regulations that are adopted by State and local governments don’t normally catch the attention of most people because they don’t affect their daily lives – until they do – and then the effects can be dramatic.

One of the key roles of BNCW is to try and stay on top of this ever changing regulatory environment, and where appropriate, and hopefully impactful, interact with the folks making changes.

Here’s a sampling of the some of land-use regulatory policies going on recently:

State Legislature:

- Mandates cities to authorize higher densities.
- Relaxes environmental review criteria for certain types of higher density housing.
- Requires cities and counties to speed up permit processing under certain circumstances.
- Mandates cities and counties to allow two dwelling units per lot under specific circumstances.
- Changes the eligibility requirements for “affordability” which translates to take advantage of options available for developers building affordable housing.

Chelan County:

- Engaging in much stricter enforcement of land-use rules
- Considering regulations relative to “Harvest Host” type RV camping.
- Changing the methods of determining fire protection requirements under certain scenarios.
- Considering changes to regulations, making boundary adjustments and exempt land segregations more difficult.



Dan Beardslee

- Made changes to the process of certain projects to eliminate some recommendations by State agencies as conditions of approval.

Douglas County:

- Made two-lot short plats exempt from frontage improvements and right of way dedications.
- Decreased the threshold for exempt segregations from 20 acres to 5 acres under certain conditions.
- Made family farm segregations much easier.
- Changing the method used for commercial and industrial site plans to make the process more reactive to actual market conditions.
- Changed the way project approvals are processed in terms of recommendations from State agencies.

Of course, each City also has their own set of building and land-use regulations that are different from the unincorporated areas. As always, BNCW tries to stay on top of these issues, and get involved where appropriate.

If you have a question about any of the ongoing regulations, or existing regulations for that matter, be sure and contact the BNCW office, and staff there can direct your inquiry to one of the members, or others, that has particular knowledge about that subject.





MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Our members say one of their largest expenses is Health Insurance.
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One of the goals of Building North Central Washington is to help our members save money. That is why we are announcing our preferred provider, **Mitchell, Reed & Schmitten Insurance.**

Mitchell, Reed & Schmitten Insurance will provide the BNCW members with the lowest health insurance quotes available from health insurance carriers all over the state such as Regence Blue Shield, Premera Blue Cross, Asuris NW Health, LifeWise, United Healthcare, Cigna, Aetna, HealthNet, Kaiser, Assurant Health, Ambetter, UNUM, Aflac, and more.

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BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's June Board of Directors Meeting

■ **Wednesday, June 21, 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.

BNCW's CPR & First Aid Training

■ **June 27, 2023** from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Held at Building North Central Washington,
2201 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee
Class size is limited to 16 people.

\$50/person for BNCW Members and \$55/person for non-members, includes Continuing Ed credits and is good for new and recertification.

Call BNCW at (509) 293-5840 to Register!

Were you aware that as an employer, unless you are able to get an injured employee to medical care within 3-4 minutes, you are required to have trained and equipped employees? This two-hour class will provide attendees with their certification.

Our instructor — George Templeton — puts on a great class that is enjoyable and informative, too.

Pre-registration Required. Seats are limited to 16 and fill-up quickly, so reserve your spots early!

You may also register online at BuildingNCW.org.

 smithsoninsuranceservices@gmail.com ~ Habla Español ~	Kathy Z. Smithson 720 Valley Mall Pkwy, East Wenatchee	
	<p>◆ Information You Can Rely On! ◆</p> <p>Let Kathy assist you with answers to your questions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Call Kathy Today - 509-884-5195. www.SmithsonInsuranceServices.com</p>	

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Carol@leavenworthecho.com

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. APRIL 2023								
RESIDENTIAL								
Sale Price	Address	Total Acres	Year Built	Residential Area	Basement Area	Bedr.	Bathr.	Garage Area
\$1,610,000	31 S SHORE DR	0.84	2008	3914		4	3.5	1008
\$900,000	2720 N BAKER AVE	0.45	1991	3952		5	6	728
\$838,000	126 RIESLING DR	0.19	2020	1618	1618	3	3	976
\$797,328	4627 SE COLOCKUM VIEW DR	2.07		0				
\$750,000	16 ELITE DR	1.52	2013	1701	1427	4	3	506
\$659,000	2555 1ST ST SE	0.31	2021	2367		1	1	624
\$652,900	644 BRIARWOOD TER	0.33	2000	2454		4	2	860
\$620,000	3241 2ND ST SE	0.45	2019	1512		3	2	400
\$589,900	2615 N BAKER AVE	0.37	2003	2016		3	2.5	1140
\$580,000	533 N NILE AVE	0.65	2007	2352		4	2.5	528
\$575,000	375 W EMERSON DR	0.14	2001	1400		3	3	392
\$509,000	2146 2ND ST SE	0.18	2021	1808		3	2	618
\$499,999	1029 HARRISON CT	0.16	2001	1856		3	2	496
\$489,900	436 HAMMOND LN	0.14	2021	1665		3	2	495
\$475,000	366 S NEVADA AVE	0.18	2018	1615		3	2	400
\$475,000	215 S IOWA AVE	0.46	1970	1534	368	5	2.5	460
\$465,000	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE #5	0	2010	1699		3	2.5	432
\$434,500	719 DESERT CANYON BLVD	0.1	1995	1474		2	2	546
\$410,000	515 N LYLE AVE	0.18	1960	988	988	4	2	
\$375,000	646 N GALE PL	0.68	1944	829		2	1	
\$375,000	1703 1ST ST SE	0.17	1959	1226		3	1	
\$368,750	1443 DENNY PL	0.13	2018	1172		3	2	399
\$365,000	219 W ELM ST	1.15	1958	2709	884	3	2	
\$330,000	2610 HIGHLAND DR	0.64	1977	1400		3	2	672
\$327,500	2238 MARLETTE RD	0.17	2022	1488		3	2	540
\$325,000	575 CANYON DR	0	2000	1350		2	2	616
\$318,000	2258 SE MARLETTE RD	0.12	2022	1508		3	2	440
\$310,000	650 HIGHLINE DR	0.2	1947	567		2	1	
\$305,000	577 MORNING VIEW CIR	0.11	2001	1404		3	2	315
\$295,000	467 N JAMES AVE	0.24	1981	1848		3	2	720
\$250,000	216 S COLUMBIA AVE	0.4	1900	1008		2	1	360
\$240,000	308 FERRY AVE	0.17	1934	1528	944	3	1	
\$238,900	589 EASTMONT AVE UNIT #C	0	1999	914		2	1	
\$234,900	1822 SODEN ST SE	0.16	1967	1080	320	3	2	

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. APRIL 2023				
FARM				
Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Total Acres
CAL-NEVA LLC	AFC RANCH 3 LLC	\$1,538,500		50.14
FORTUITY LLC	HARDWAY HOLDINGS LLC	\$1,000,000	6162 BATTERMANN RD	20
CHAPMAN, MICHAEL	MAC & KEVIN LP	\$325,000	SR 173	19.28
BRAMSTEDT, LORRAINE M	TUPLING JR, NORMAN L & TARA MICHELLE	\$210,000		590
WALLER, ZACHERY	KIRK &, MONICA MICHELLE	\$210,000		2.95
PIEPEL LAND HOLDINGS LLC	EASLEY, CORD A & ALISON M	\$178,000		10.29
PIEPEL LAND HOLDINGS LLC	NORRIS, SIDNEY E & LINDA C	\$175,000		5.88
HAUPT, BRUCE & JEAN	HAUPT, NICHOLAS DANIEL & ANDREA	\$160,000	26 DAISY HILL RD	2.79
SWADBERG ESTATE, DAVID W	HALE, BILLY & SARAH	\$125,000		112.83
CONROY, TRUSTEES, KENNETH J & INGRID K	YELLOW DOG FIELD LLC	\$78,000		160
PLANK, SHIRLEY FARWELL	ROCK BROS FARMS LLC	\$69,900		0

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. APRIL 2023				
COMMERCIAL				
Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Acres
COMMERCIAL X LLP	VALLEY MALL PROPERTIES LLC	\$700,000	845 VALLEY MALL PKWY	0.18

MARKETING 101

Business Growth = Education

Submitted by Jennifer Bushong



Jennifer Bushong

Professional development might be one of the most important investments to increase the bottom line. Entrepreneurs, businesses owners and executives need to empower themselves and their leadership to stay relevant in today's pivoting marketplace.

Owners need to stay sharp outside their own industry trends and look for new technologies to enhance the selling cycle to potentially increase business culture and productivity. Here are a few ideas for continuing education and professional development that will surely impact your marketing growth:

Use the Worldwide Web

The Internet continues to push the boundaries, allowing for more opportunities to educate, collaborate, sell products and services. The web can be one tool to use for free seminars and continuing online education. There are a vast number of higher education opportunities than ever before in an array of concentrations for professionals.

Look for free seminars, TedTalks or Facebook Live events that may include speakers who engage the audience and can answer questions. Tutorials and videos can be a powerful tool when learning new applications. Research the programs or certifications that will make the most impact on your professional development for today and the future.

Seek out a mentor

Entrepreneurs often look to former professors, or business leaders who not only believe in their work but can offer honest and genuine feedback.

Mentors can help expand your professional network and can provide valuable insights to new potential customers, partners, or investors. In addition, mentors can provide valuable insights into industry, companies, and global markets and can offer a fresh perspective on strategies that executives may not have considered. Industry

consultants can act as mentors.

Overall, a mentor may lead to greater job satisfaction, help guide and nurture professional goals.

Join or establish an association

A good entrepreneur or executive will surround themselves with diverse minded individuals who are passionate about the same industry. While many associations cost money to join and offer educational sessions or certifications, some are strictly for networking and professional growth. The association may have membership levels where the organization can showcase products or services while learning from others.

Education comes in different formats, but the bottom line is to continue learning to help overcome barriers so that leadership is fully prepared for anything the future holds.

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.

Drip, Drip, Drip, DC and Olympia appear to be on a mission to make home ownership less affordable



By Brian Fair

Once Governor Inslee signs House Bill 1474 into law, effective January 1, 2024, the cost of recording real estate documents will increase by \$100 per document to \$304.50. Two years ago the cost was \$104.50, so this fee will now have been increased \$200, or 195% over two and half years.

In a typical financed home purchase, three documents need to be recorded separately. The Deed, the Deed of Trust securing a

new mortgage loan to the property, and the Reconveyance of the Seller's former loan secured to the property. The costs related to a standard home purchase will now increase by \$300 at the beginning of 2024. What was formally a transaction cost of \$304.50 on a typical home purchase is now going to be \$913.50. It doesn't matter if the cost of the home is \$5,000,000 or \$250,000. Truly, the increase will harm the lower end of the housing market more so than the upper end.

The \$100 increase two years ago was to cover costs related to homelessness. The new increase will fund a program regarding race discrimination in the housing market. The text of the bill can be found here: [1474-S2.PL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](https://leg.wa.gov/bills/2023/1474-S2.PL.pdf).

In other news the Federal Housing Finance Agency has changed their risk pricing structure via Loan Level Price Adjustments. In general, the changes increase fees on borrowers with higher credit scores and reduce the fees on borrowers with lower credit scores. The changes can be seen on the table from page 15 which the Wall Street Journal obtained from Evercore ISI Research and published.

These are only changes to the rates, not the actual rates. Those home buyers making a down payment of 20% with a credit score of 720-759 will face the greatest increase in fees. Lower credit score borrowers are still paying higher rates than higher credit score

REAL ESTATE

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WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL / NCWBUSINESS.COM

JUNE 2023

TOP PROPERTIES CHELAN COUNTY – APRIL 2023

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
SEIKEL MICHAEL A & MAUREEN	GASZYNSKI BILL & PAMELA	\$2,300,000	81 COOPERS HAWK LN	LEAVENWORTH	2.55	2014	3521	4	3.5	N	Y
PING GEOFFREY T	BALLANTINE SHARON TRUST NO 1	\$1,500,000	17 SWEETWATER LN	ENTIAT	0.73	2003	3081	3	3.75	N	Y
DELACRUZ ASIA R	ODEGARD DONALD L & DARCI L	\$1,350,000	2058 MAIDEN LN	WENATCHEE	0.45	2019	3418	6	3.5	N	Y
WALIOR CHAD P & ALEA M	JOHNSON LOUISE M & MICHAEL J CLOUD	\$1,050,000	1462 BIGHORN WAY	CHELAN	0.04	2019	1056	2	3	N	N
NORTH STORAGE CO INVESTMENT NO 1 LLC	CHELAN VIEW ORCHARD LLC	\$1,050,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	9.13	0	0			N	N
WIGGUM ANDERS & JOANNA	PUGET SOUND QUALITY CONSTRUCTION INC	\$1,047,000	115 PINOT NOIR LN	MANSON	0.42	0	0			N	N
DOLSTAD JAMES M & MELISSA M	TIMBERWOOD HOMES LLC	\$1,023,000	247 BURCH HOLLOW LN	WENATCHEE	0.45	0	0			N	N
ROBERTS JEFFREY & SUZANNE	KELLY WENDY	\$934,550	21108 LARIAT RD	PLAIN	0.27	1969	1104	1	1	N	Y
MY LITTLE PROPERTIES LLC	JONES KENNETH M ETAL	\$925,000	3470 WESTRIDGE PL	WENATCHEE	2.29	1997	3965	3	3	N	Y
SCHNELLMAN JAMES & DEBORAH	EAGLE CREEK SHELTER LLC ETAL	\$908,000	10261 EAGLE CREEK RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.54	1997	1578	3	3	N	Y
WOODIN GENE R III & JOANA G	SMITH GREGG D & JENNY R	\$900,000	19 LOPES LN	MONITOR	0.49	2022	2779	4	3	N	Y
SCROGGIE SCOTT & KAYLA	BOYLE BRIAN L & LISA	\$865,000	914 PIONEER AVE	CASHMERE	0.46	1908	2700	5	3	N	Y
KORFIATIS KOREY R & FLICKA R	BURNS CHRISTINE L & NELSON D	\$850,000	1305 1ST ST	WENATCHEE	0.46	1957	2220	3	1.5	N	Y
KASSEL PHILLIP & AMANDA	GERDE NICKOLAI A	\$755,000	1906 ROCKLUND DR	WENATCHEE	0.57	1977	1762	5	3	N	Y
BUTTS DONNY E & CHRISTINA L	MILLER CHARLES R & TERESA F	\$750,000	7396 US HWY 97	PESHASTIN	2.57	1986	2361	4	4	N	Y
HARTMANN HAROLD E III & GINA C	TOVAR EUTIMIO & OFELIA	\$740,000	5353 MAJESKA LN	CASHMERE	1	1992	2434	3	2.5	N	N
ORTEGA TIMOTHY K & ALEX	SECRIST CASSIDY L & KATHERINE A	\$735,000	3850 MAJESKA LN	CASHMERE	1.25	1997	2568	3	2.5	N	N
BOZICK PHILLIP	CANTERBURY JAMES	\$690,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	0.76	0	0			N	N
BOZICK PHILLIP	CANTERBURY JAMES	\$690,000	617 LOWER SUNNYSLOPE RD	WENATCHEE	2.63	1906	2070	3	1	N	Y
MAYO STEPHEN M & NORIKO	SIENNA 41 LLC	\$687,500	151 SIENNA RD	WENATCHEE	0.15	2022	2264	3	2.5	N	Y
MEJIA ALBERTO & PEREZ MELISSA	WAPITI NORTH LLC	\$655,000	87 LOST SPOKE LN	WENATCHEE	0.73	2021	2280	3	2.5	N	N
LOVE MICHAEL J & MARIE N	MCGAUGHEY CAROLYN M	\$640,577	321 CANYON CREEK DR	WENATCHEE	0.25	2005	2277	3	2.75	N	N
SHARPLES JOSEPH D & MARY L	AMBERSON KEITH	\$640,000	22582 CHIWAWA RIVER RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.47	1979	1152	3	1	N	Y
BIRKLAND GORDON & CORNELIA	SCROGGIE SCOTT S & KAYLA	\$615,000	1742 SKYLAR CT	WENATCHEE	0.17	2016	2174	4	2.5	N	N
PARIS BRIAN I	MELTON ANDREW	\$610,000	311 W PETERS ST	WENATCHEE	0.31	1946	1500	3	1.75	N	Y
HAGER RICHARD L TRUST	J G ORCHARD	\$599,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	4.23	0	0			N	N
HAGER RICHARD L TRUST	J G ORCHARD	\$599,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	7.95	0	0			N	N
ZIBIN LYDIA	CUMALANDER JAMES E & JULIE A	\$585,000	644 CRAIG AVE	WENATCHEE	0.16	2016	2284	4	2.5	N	Y
EDWARDS JARRET R & TRISTEN L	CHIAPPONE JOHN ETAL	\$569,900	117 W HIGHLAND AVE	CHELAN	0.2	1941	1722	4	2	N	Y
COCHRAN JEREMIAH & KIARA	MUSGROVE ERIC & SIMS SHERLEEN	\$563,000	2829 RIVIERA BLVD	MALAGA	0.26	1997	1326	3	2	N	Y
ROGERS JOSEPH P & REMY	JONES-MOORE TRUST LISA K	\$562,500	20701 CLUB HOUSE DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0	0	1862			N	N
SOSA MIGUEL	BEAVERS JIMMIE L	\$550,000	2120 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	13.1	1980	1848			N	N
EVANS TIMOTHY & AUTUMN	MUNKO JOSEPH T & JULIE A	\$525,000	808 W MANSON RD	CHELAN	0	0	1105			N	N
PAULI NATHAN & HOYT ASHLEY	ROTH JACOB	\$520,000	25507 RIATA ST	PLAIN	0.32	2022	672	2	2.5	N	N
BIBCO LLC	EN INVESTMENTS LLC	\$515,000	445 N MISSION ST	WENATCHEE	0.18	1979	3205			N	N
FOUR SEAS HOLDINGS LLC	CHELAN VIEW ORCHARD LLC	\$514,400	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	11.05	0	0			N	N
CHELAN DOUGLAS LAND TRUST	GORDANIER FAMILY TRUST	\$500,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	20	0	0			N	N
BOEING BETH & DONALD	EVANS PHILIP & KAREN	\$499,000	100 SKI BLICK STRASSE	LEAVENWORTH	0	0	1701			N	N
SANCHEZ ORNELAS MARIA G & MORA JOSE L	COX MARY L	\$480,900	1250 COLUMBINE ST	WENATCHEE	0.2	1952	2935	5	2	N	Y
LOPEZ LEON MARIA M	DICK GLENN C & VIRGINIA B	\$480,000	1010 AMHERST AVE	WENATCHEE	0.14	1996	1938	4	2.75	N	N
HARRISON JOANNA & PAUL M	ARELLANO CARLOS & LIDIA URRUTIA-MENDOZA	\$469,900	404 YAKIMA ST	WENATCHEE	0.1	1910	1656	4	4	N	N
NEELY EMMA S	SMITH HAROLD L TRTEE	\$469,900	550 CHRISAND LN	WENATCHEE	0.25	2003	1618	3	2	N	N
BELL BRENT & ALYSSA	NELSON LARRY K & TAMMY S	\$465,000	1922 LEAVENWORTH PL	WENATCHEE	0.17	1998	1835	3	2.5	N	Y
HMJ-D-COLLINS LLC	EKENBARGER ORCHARDS INC	\$459,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	14.29	0	0			N	N

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
HMJD-COLLINS LLC	EKENBARGER ORCHARDS INC	\$459,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	0.79	0	0			N	N
DASHR REVOCABLE TRUST	BRANIN WILLIAM D	\$457,950	328 E NIXON AVE	CHELAN	0.14	1981	1380	3	2.75	N	N
TORRES MURILLO ALONDRA & TRUJILLO TORRES LUIS F	ORTEGA TIMOTHY K & ALEX	\$455,000	116 OAK ST	CASHMERE	0.19	1971	804	4	1.75	N	Y
MANHART WENDY L	MENGE KAY A	\$450,000	2109 ORCHARD AVE	WENATCHEE	0.4	1999	1782			N	N
RAFIEE EHSAN & ZIBATABAR MINA	EIDER PROPERTIES LLC	\$435,000	910 POPLAR AVE	WENATCHEE	0.07	0	0			N	N
BRAVO GARIBAY EDUARDO ETAL	PADRON NICHOLAS R & FAULKNER TARA L	\$425,000	905 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.15	1916	1618	4	2.25	N	Y
HERALD DAVID C & LINDA	ALTAZAN EDDIE J & PAMELA M	\$419,900	1310 CASTLEROCK AVE	WENATCHEE	0	0	1240			N	N
DASHR REVOCABLE TRUST	BRANIN WILLIAM D	\$411,305	411 E ALLEN AVE	CHELAN	0.12	1960	1092	3	2	N	Y
SPARTVEIT PAUL S & EVEANN E	CAMPBELL DANNY L ETAL	\$400,000	75 VIKING LN	MANSON	0.34	1986	1344			N	N
MARTIN DEL CAMPO JOSE & CANO VALENCIA BLANCA	BRUMMEL JEFFREY W & JULIE A	\$396,500	1323 ROSEWOOD AVE	WENATCHEE	0.23	1956	1404	3	1.75	N	Y
BOWMAN JARED T	NELSON DAREN L & CHRISTINA C	\$395,000	9 S CLEVELAND AVE	WENATCHEE	0.1	1906	1221	1	1	N	N
PENFOLD NATALIE R ETAL	SEGEL JANICE	\$395,000	515 MARJO ST	WENATCHEE	0.25	1951	2204	2	1.5	Y	Y
STEEN MICHELLE L	SAGE HILLS PROPERTY LLC	\$395,000	156 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	0.14	2022	1765	3	2	N	Y
DIAL GREGORY	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$395,000	216 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	0.16	2022	1736	3	2	N	Y
GRESH SOPHIA & BENJAMIN	STANGER TAMMY L	\$391,060	316 MILLS AVE	WENATCHEE	0.13	1952	1330	3	2	N	N
BLACK PATRICIA A	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$390,000	29 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	0.14	2022	1776	3	2	N	Y
WHITMAN RUTH M	HAIL WAYA R & PATRICIA G	\$384,445	1310 CASTLEROCK AVE	WENATCHEE	0	0	1240			N	N
WILD MOON MOUNTAIN LLC	MYRE JESSICA K	\$383,143	3601 OLD BLEWETT RD	PESHASTIN	1.58	1978	1512	3	1.5	N	Y
TOVAR EUTIMIO & OFELIA	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$379,500	208 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	0.26	2022	1627	3	2	N	Y
WILSON MADELINE	CUMMINGS ASHLEY & KARLYLE	\$375,000	241 N EMERSON AVE	WENATCHEE	0.14	1906	1278	3	1.5	N	N
BELL BRENT & ALYSSA	NELSON LARRY K & TAMMY S	\$375,000	1922 LEAVENWORTH PL	WENATCHEE	0.17	1998	1835	3	2.5	N	Y
COLLIER MICHAEL J & KAYLA E	LONGUSKIE ORVILLE A & NAFTEL JEFFREY W	\$375,000	217 FULLER ST	WENATCHEE	0.15	1956	936	4	1.25	N	N
ZIMNISKY BRADLEY & MARY	KENNETH M COX LIVING TRUST	\$370,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	20	0	0			N	N
BIDDLE CHRISTOPHER & JACKSON KATHRYN	PETRI CATHERINE	\$367,000	220 W WESTERN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.37	1908	1410	4	2	N	Y
WAGNER ALFRED L III & HEIDICH C	HAZZARD JAN V	\$362,500	2544 SUMAC LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.74	1994	1232			N	N
COMMON GROUND COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST	CRAIL JOHNNY L TRUST	\$350,000	1034 9TH ST	WENATCHEE	0.4	1928	1024	3	1	N	N
BARRABAN ALEXANDRA	MITSUYASU JAMES K	\$340,000	301 RIVER ST	CASHMERE	0.13	2001	1008	1	1.5	N	N
GOLDEN ROBERT W ALEXANDRA R	FRISK ELENORE V	\$325,000	13551 DAVIS AVE	ENTIAT	0.44	1945	1038	3	1	N	Y
HOLMAN BLAKE & ROSE	PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES LLC	\$305,000	3168 MONTEREY DR	MALAGA	0.22	1992	1514	2	2	N	N
BROWN LOREN D & MIESHA L	CROCKER GREGORY T ETAL	\$294,900	400 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE	0.14	1922	612			N	N
VIAFARA DE COLMENAREZ JOHANA P	OLIVER LAURA L	\$290,000	1100 VISTA PL	WENATCHEE	0	0	837			N	N
YONKOW NIKOLINA M & DOERFLINGER DANE R	ERVIN J RANDY ETAL	\$265,000	UNASSIGNED	PLAIN	20	1980	764	1		N	Y
DEWITT DEREK	RING ROBERT W & JENNENE L	\$244,500	10 S COVE AVE	WENATCHEE	0	1966	860			N	N

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Drip, Drip, Drip, DC and Olympia appear to be on a mission to make home ownership less affordable

borrowers, as they should since they pose a greater risk of default. If you want to review the current rates or the prior rates, you can visit the FHFA website at fan-niema.com.

Flip to your favorite cable news channel and you can hear about which groups are helped/ harmed by these changes. While they focus on that, what they aren't focused on are the real-world impacts of these changes.

First, as reported by the Wall Street Journal, citing the American Enterprise Institute "default rates of Fannie/Freddie owner-occupied 30-year fixed rate purchase loans acquired in 2006-2007 and found that among borrowers with credit scores between 720 and 769 and 20% down payments, the default rate was between 4.2% and 8.8%. Among borrowers with less

than 4% down payments and credit scores between 620 and 639, the default rate was between 39.3% and 56.2%"

In summary, the riskiest borrowers are 6-10 times more likely to default than the least risky borrowers on the schedule above, depending on the down payment amount and credit score. However, if you look at the current rates now being charged, the fees for the higher risk borrowers in the ranges cited in the Wall Street Journal quote above, are only 3.5 times greater. The risk vs. the risk premium being charged doesn't jive, which is why the Wall Street Journal referred to this as a form of "socialized mortgage lending risk".

Interest rates have risen, the Federal Reserve is on a mission to increase unemployment, a recession is on the horizon. Is now the

best time to provide incentives to borrowers that are a greater risk? What does a neighborhood look like when there are unoccupied homes that have been foreclosed?

As reported by the Wall Street Journal on May 8, effective May 31, the Department of Energy will implement standards on the Manufacture Home Industry that

will add a cost of \$4,500 to the cost of a new manufactured home. The purpose is to reduce their carbon footprint by the year 2050. The median household income of Americans that live in these homes is \$35,000 per year. Manufactured homes comprised 9% of new single-family home starts in 2021, providing 100,000 affordable homes.

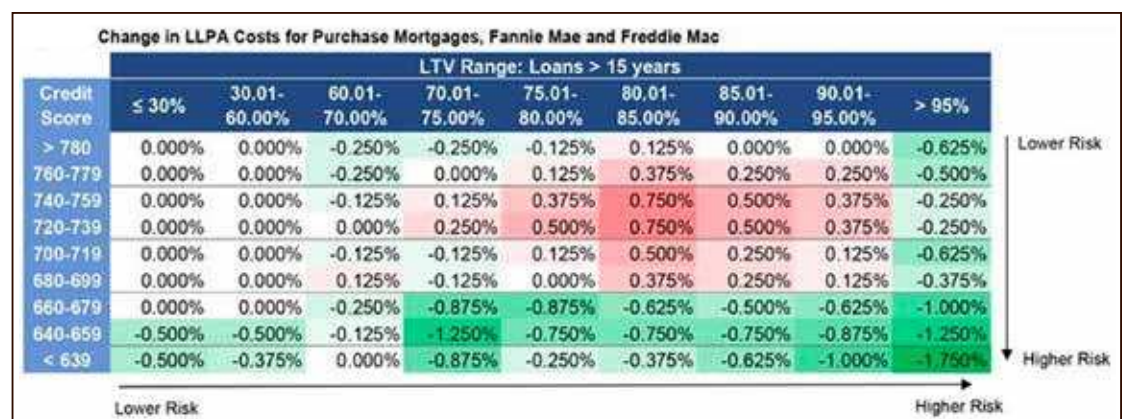
The Wall Street Journal further states that manufactured homes already have a relatively small carbon footprint. Yet, as Senator

Tim Scott recently noted in a letter to DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm, the low income purchasers of these homes are being "unfairly asked to bear the costs imposed by climate alarmists".

The system of affordable home ownership is becoming more and more disjointed at the wrong time.

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





WASHINGTON RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Washington Retail Association

POLICY

Drug possession bill fixed in special session

During a one-day special session, the Washington State Legislature passed a compromise bill, Senate Bill 5536. The bill is in response to the Washington State Supreme Court's Blake decision and the need for updates to the drug possession law. Sponsored by Senator June Robinson (D-38-Everett), the bill received overwhelming support and was signed by Governor Jay Inslee May 16.

Drug possession is now classified as a gross misdemeanor, with a maximum six-month confinement for the first two convictions and a fine capped at \$1,000. The bill also establishes pre-trial diversion into treatment and mandates early conviction vacation for those who have completed treatment or substantially complied with recovery programs for six months. The bill pre-empts local governments from imposing stricter penalties, ensuring a uniform gross misdemeanor standard throughout the state.

"This is a win-win," said Mark Johnson, WR V.P. of Policy & Government Affairs. "Individuals suffering from substance use disorders are often preyed upon by organized retail crime rings who use them to commit retail thefts and other criminal activities. SB 5536 strikes a careful balance between treatment and accountability to break the drug use cycle, leading to safer communities and protecting retail employees and their customers."

WR signs-on to protect victims of Unemployment Fraud

On May 5, WR joined with business associations and companies in the Unemployment Insurance industry in a letter to congressional leadership in support of the Protecting Taxpayers and Victims of Unemployment Fraud Act (HR 1163). Key provisions in the bill include: Incentivizing states to recover fraudulent unemployment payments:

Allowing states to retain 25 percent of fraudulent federal funds recovered: Currently, state workforce agencies have little incentive to pursue costly investigations and prosecutions. Allowing states to retain 5 percent of state UI overpayments recovered, upon meeting data matching integrity conditions, and dedicating such funds to preventing future fraud reforms supported by DOL-IG, and in past budget requests by President Trump and President Obama.

Improving program integrity and preventing future fraud:

- Allows states to use funds recovered to improve UI program integrity and fraud prevention by:
- Hiring investigators and prosecutors to go after criminals to recover fraud payments;
- Modernizing state systems' ability to verify identity and income in unemployment administration;
- Adding program integrity activities as determined by the state to deter, detect, and prevent improper payments;
- Ensuring UI claims are verified against the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) and the State Information Data Exchange System;

- Stopping UI payments to incarcerated and deceased people.

ECONOMY

April retail sales rebound

April's rebound in retail sales is an indication of the tenacity of consumers despite prevailing economic uncertainties. The growth is attributed to moderating prices, a robust labor market, and wage growth, all bolstering consumers' purchasing power. Caution persists among consumers, however, based on concerns about the economic climate. Retailers are responding by offering competitive prices and convenience to assist budget-conscious consumers.

Jack Kleinhenz, NRF Chief Economist, stated that consumers remained active in April, choosing to be selective and price-sensitive in their purchasing decisions. He anticipates that consumer spending will register modest improvements throughout the year.

The slower year-over-year growth is somewhat attributed to last year's upward data revisions and emerging signs of tightening credit conditions and diminishing excess savings. Last week, data from the U.S. Census Bureau revealed that total retail sales in April rose 0.4% from March and 1.6% year over year. By contrast, March sales showed a 0.7% drop from the previous month but a 2.4% rise year over year.

Retail sales, excluding automobile dealers, gasoline stations, and restaurants to concentrate on core retail, indicated that April witnessed a 0.6% month-over-month increase and a 2% year-over-year unadjusted growth. The three-month moving average in April showed a 3.7% unadjusted year-over-year increase. For comparison, March's sales decreased 0.7% from February but rose 3.4% year over year.

RETAIL THEFT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Violent incidents in stores are costing retailers millions

Organized retail crime (ORC) is increasingly alarming the retail industry, with Target recently highlighting a staggering \$1.2 billion projected loss due to inventory shrinkage, primarily from ORC.

Target CEO Brian Cornell revealed that violent incidents in brick-and-mortar stores, resulting in significant theft, are increasing and span across diverse merchandise departments. Cornell emphasized the dual impact: products stolen are no longer available for customers who depend on them, and the threat to the safety of guests and employees.

ORC has escalated in recent years, with thieves stealing goods to resell at lower

Teen Employment



Stock photo

prices in the face of rising inflation. In 2021, goods stolen from stores resulted in \$94.5 billion in losses, an increase from \$90.8 billion in 2020, according to a study by the National Retail Federation (NRF). NRF's analysis found that 16% of the 132 crime groups surveyed used at least one violent tactic in stores.

The escalating trend has prompted many retailers to identify ORC as a growing concern over the last five years. The ORC crisis is not just a financial drain but also endangers employees and customers, disrupts store operations, and damages communities. This intensifying problem led some retailers to exit high-crime cities like San Francisco in 2023, impacting the retail and local community.

TRENDS

The forever labor shortage: More Americans are getting too old to work

According to a recent Moody's Investors Service report, the workforce in the U.S. and other G20 countries is aging, hinting at long-term labor shortages even with job market fluctuations. The report attributes the decline in working-age populations to falling birth rates and longer life spans. South Korea, Germany, and the U.S. are expected to experience the steepest declines over the next decade. Labor Department data shows the job market is still resilient, with active "prime age" workers (25-53 years old). Their participation rate has slightly exceeded February 2020 levels, currently at 83.3%. However, the overall labor force participation rate remains below pre-pandemic levels, largely due to an uptick in retirements among older workers.

In the past 20 years, the proportion of Americans aged 55 and over has doubled, and this aging cohort is set to expand further. While many older Americans are working longer, retirement is still inevitable. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated retirements among older workers,

with Moody's attributing 70% of the labor force participation decline to aging. Some sectors continue battling labor shortages. In particular, low-wage healthcare jobs, currently facing high demand due to an aging population, are seeing a dwindling supply. A Mercer study forecasts a potential shortfall of 3.2 million workers in this sector over the next five years.

Michael Madowitz, director of macroeconomic policy at Equitable Growth, warns that this wave of retirements could significantly impact industries reliant on expertise and "human capital." Recalling the productivity slump in the 1970s and 1980s as baby boomers replaced retirees, he expresses concern about a similar "brain drain" in the future. This trend may push companies to devise strategies for retaining older workers, although this will not apply to all industries. Madowitz suggests that lower-wage employers, like fast-food chains, might opt for automation instead.

SAFETY

Essential considerations for hiring young workers

Hiring teen workers can be a smart move for businesses that are looking for motivated employees. These entry-level workers will need guidance and safety training, however.

young, seasonal first-time retail workers frequently lack safety and job-specific knowledge and skills. This absence of work experience and safety training often leads to a lack of awareness and can result in potential injuries.

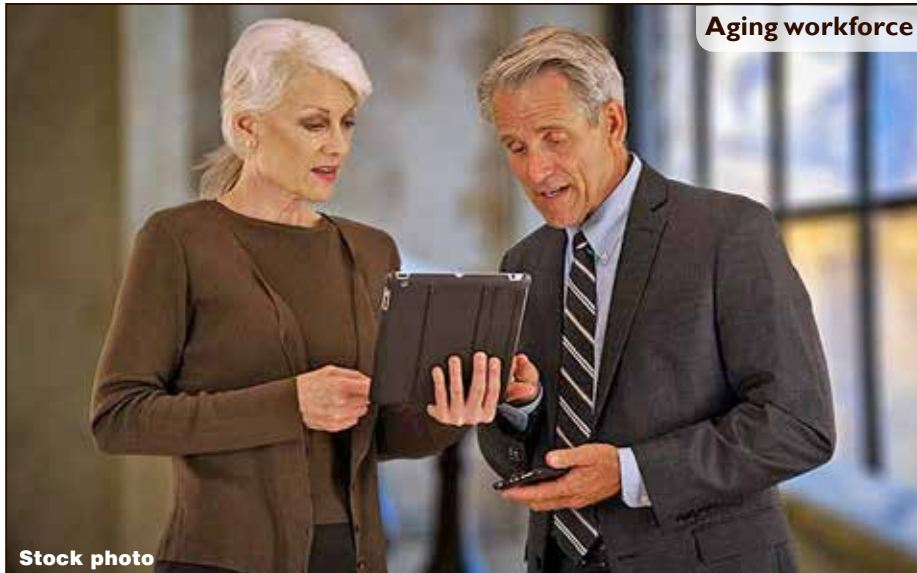
Claims data confirms that injury rates among teen workers are two to three times higher than older workers. Teens and young adults might miss potential dangers that may be apparent to a seasoned worker, and assuming young workers know what to do in any given circumstance can be dangerous. Remember that training younger workers will be most effective when the instructor avoids using industry jargon and has a straightforward approach when presenting.

When training on workplace tasks, give clear instructions for each task while encouraging young workers to ask questions. Supervise younger workers closely, immediately correcting any issues or risky behaviors, and prepare them for emergencies, such as fires and violent or unexpected dangerous situations. It is best to assign a work buddy to mentor them for the first part of their training.

Important safety and health skills to review with young workers:

- Empower teens to ask questions and report problems or concerns when unsafe or threatened.
- Recognizing how workplace injuries can affect their personal lives.
- Identifying hazards in the workplace.

Aging workforce



Stock photo



Confluence Health receives award for role in organ donation saving four lives

Submitted by
Adam MacDonald

WENATCHEE – Confluence Health was recognized Thursday, May 11 for the Excellence in Community Partnership Award in a ceremony put on by LifeCenter Northwest, a non-profit organ procurement organization.

This prestigious award is typically given annually to only one hospital across a four-state, 230+ hospital region which has demonstrated unwavering dedication to working to improve the lives of people in the communities they serve.

As a part of the ceremony, LifeCenter Northwest invited Sue Bergin to speak about her experience with organ donation and its impact. Accompanied by her mother Jan, Bergin spoke the death of her son, Mikhaill Stewart, after a motorcycle accident in November 2018. Having made his wishes clear to his family before his passing, Stewart was able to be an organ donor, and his act in turn saved several lives. Though her son's donation was not the case Confluence Health was being recognized for playing a role in, Bergin emphasized the lifesaving impacts all organ donations can have.

“Organ donation is such

a gift,” commented Bergin.

The Excellence in Community Partnership Award for 2022 was awarded jointly to Central Washington Hospital and Samaritan Hospital for their collaboration in working on organ procurement with a trauma patient.

In late 2022, staff at Samaritan Hospital recognized the clinical triggers for donation while treating a patient and made a critical, time-sensitive call. Realizing that the patient would need to be transferred to make donation possible, Samaritan Hospital reached out to Confluence Health's Central Washington Hospital after numerous denials for transfer over the course of two days from other hospitals throughout Washington State. After being declared brain dead, the patient went on to be an organ donor at Confluence Health, an act which helped save four lives.

“This award wouldn't have been possible without our team,” commented Janna Finley, trauma program manager for Confluence Health, after the award presentation from Matt Prior, hospital development program manager for LifeCenter Northwest.

“It truly takes a team of people to make this possible. Thank you for the part-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

L to R: Matt Prior (LifeCenter Northwest Hospital Development Program Manager), Tracey Kasnic (Vice President of Nursing - Special Projects), Darcie Pinz (Emergency/Trauma Registrar), Kelly Allen (Chief Nursing Officer), Dr. Darren Hess (General Surgeon), Janna Finley (Trauma Program Manager), Scottie Burt (Nurse Clinical Supervisor – Intensive Care), Toni Holder (Nursing Manager – Intensive Care)

nership. Organ donation is truly a gift.”

In addition, Confluence Health's Central Washington Hospital was also recognized by LifeCenter Northwest with an additional three metric-based achievement awards: the Organ Donation Process Excellence Award for hospitals who have a process error rate of 5% or less, the Collaborative Family Support Award for a collaborative request rate of 90%

or greater, and the Honoring Donor Decisions Award for honoring all donor decisions to be an organ donor in collaboration with LifeCenter Northwest.

“We are so proud of the dedication of all of the nurses, physicians, and staff at both Central Washington Hospital and all Confluence Health facilities that these recognitions represent,” reflected Kelly Allen, chief nursing officer for Confluence Health. “We

are proud to play a role in this important area of care for our patients, and grate-

ful to LifeCenter Northwest for their recognition and ongoing partnership.”



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.

2023 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Submitted by Kathy Wright,
Aging & Adult Care

To apply to the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), please go to: www.aaccw.org or you can email us at: aaccw_fm@dshs.wa.gov.

To request an application by mail please call: 509-886-0700 x 235

Applications must be received in our office by June 14, 2023.

Each qualified senior who resides in Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Lincoln, and Okanogan counties will have the opportunity to receive an \$80 benefit card which replaces the paper vouchers to use at approved Farmers Markets and Farm Stores in Washington State for fresh fruit, vegetables, honey, and herbs starting Effective June 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023.

Qualifications:

To be eligible for the SFMNP, you must meet all of the following:



- You must be 60 years old or older (or 55+ if you are Native American / Alaska Native)

- Your income must be below 185% of Federal Poverty Level.

That means:
\$26,973 Annual or \$2,248 Monthly Income for 1 person
\$36,482 Annual or \$3,040 Monthly Income for 2 people

For larger households, add \$792 for each additional person. You must be a resident of Washington State.

This program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Nutrition Services, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and



Stock photo

Aging and Long-Term Supports Administration Aging & Adult Care of Central Washington (AACCW).

509-886-0700,
www.aaccw.org,
240 9th Street NE, Ste 100
East Wenatchee, WA 98802.



Columbia Landing's June 21, Longest Day event

Submitted by Kiley Walker,
Columbia Landing of Wenatchee

We're passionate about the fight against Alzheimer's disease. That's why this June, we're hosting a cookout and family fun day on The Longest Day® to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association.

The Longest Day, June 21, is the day with the most light – the summer solstice. And it's the day the Alzheimer's Association calls on everyone to fight Alzheimer's disease by raising funds and awareness for care, support and research.

By supporting Columbia Landing on The Longest Day, we can stand up to the darkness of Alzheimer's. Visit alz.org/thelongestday for more information.

Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – April 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 (April 2022 through April 2023) and average annual data changes (between 2021 and 2022).

Unemployment rates

Washington's not seasonally adjusted average annual unemployment rate fell from 5.2 percent in 2021 to 4.2 percent in 2022. Monthly unemployment rates stabilized at 4.2 percent in March 2022 and

March 2023 before decreasing two-tenths of a point between April 2022 (3.7 percent) and April 2023 (3.5 percent).

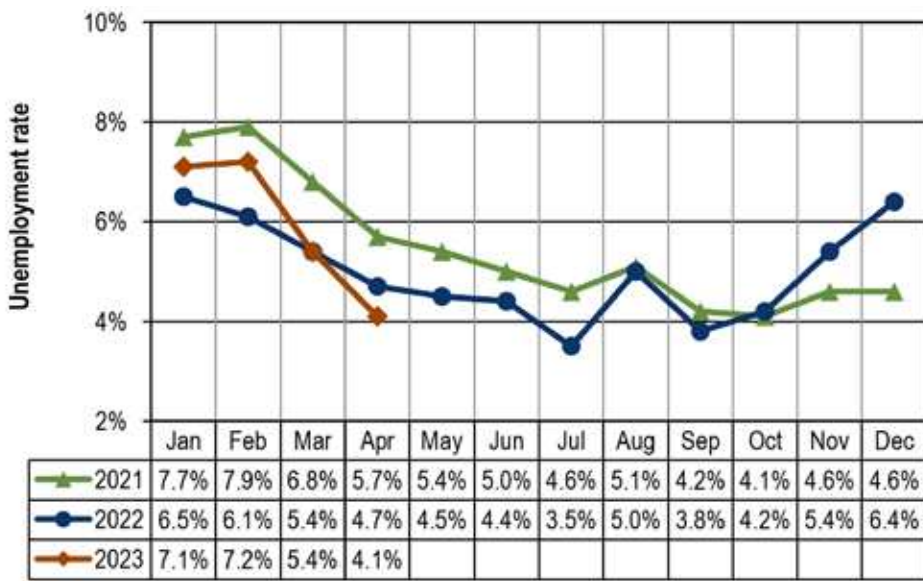
In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate fell from 5.5 percent to 5.0 percent between 2021 and 2022.

Year over year, monthly rates increased from October 2022 through February 2023, stabilized in March 2023, and decreased in April 2023.

The 4.1 percent unemployment rate this April is the lowest reading for April since unemployment data began to be recorded electronically in 1990.

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

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



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

Total nonfarm employment

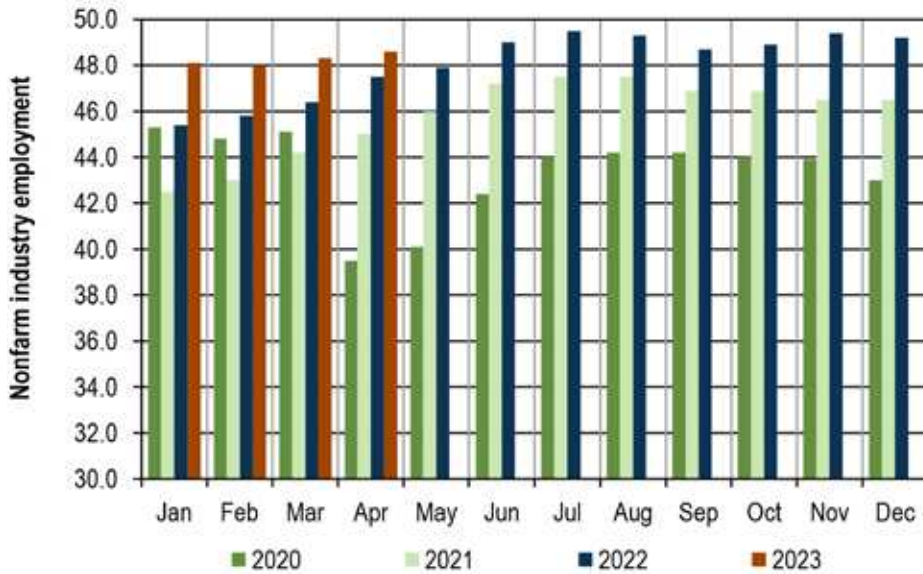
Between 2021 and 2022, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 159,800 more nonfarm jobs, an average annual increase of 4.7 percent. Year over year, Washington's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023).

This April, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,617,100 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,500,400 in April 2022, up by 116,700 jobs and by 3.3 percent.

The Wenatchee MSA's economy added 2,300 jobs during 2022, a 5.0 percent upturn, slightly more robust than Washington's 4.7 percent growth rate between 2021 and 2022. Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023). This April, total nonfarm employment netted 1,100 more jobs than the 47,500 jobs tallied in April 2022, a 2.3 percent increase. However, this 2.3 percent advance was less robust than the 3.3 percent statewide job growth pace in April 2023.

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

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



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA increased by 2.3 percent between April 2022 and April 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, April 2023. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES)

Wenatchee MSA	Preliminary Apr-23	Revised Mar-23	Revised Apr-22	Change (in #)		Change (in %)
				Mar-23	Apr-22	Apr-22
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	65,447	66,232	64,280	-785	1,167	1.8%
Resident employment	62,783	62,682	61,227	101	1,556	2.5%
Unemployment	2,664	3,550	3,053	-886	-389	-12.7%
Unemployment rate	4.1	5.4	4.7	-1.3	-0.6	
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	48.6	48.3	47.5	0.3	1.1	2.3%
Total private	39.1	38.8	38.4	0.3	0.7	1.8%
Goods producing	6.4	6.1	6.1	0.3	0.3	4.9%
Mining, logging and construction	3.5	3.3	3.4	0.2	0.1	2.9%
Manufacturing	2.9	2.8	2.7	0.1	0.2	7.4%
Service providing	42.2	42.2	41.4	0.0	0.8	1.9%
Private services providing	32.7	32.7	32.3	0.0	0.4	1.2%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	10.0	10.1	9.7	-0.1	0.3	3.1%
Retail trade	6.6	6.6	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Education and health services	8.2	8.1	8.1	0.1	0.1	1.2%
Leisure and hospitality	6.7	6.6	6.5	0.1	0.2	3.1%
Government	9.5	9.5	9.1	0.0	0.4	4.4%
Federal government	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0%
State government	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Local government	7.6	7.6	7.2	0.0	0.4	5.6%
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 April 2023, a gain of 1,100 jobs since April 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 20 months (September 2021 through April 2023).

Recently, Washington's labor force grew by 88,831 residents (up 2.2 percent), from 3,951,368 residents in April 2022 to 4,040,199 in April 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 has expanded in each of the past ten months (June 2022 through April 2023).

Current Local Area Unemployment

Statistics (LAUS) estimates indicate that there were 1,167 more Chelan or Douglas County residents in the CLF this April than in April 2022, a 1.8 percent upturn. There were also 389 fewer residents out of work in the Wenatchee MSA this April (2,664 unemployed) versus in April 2022 (3,053 unemployed), a -12.7 percent decrease.

Hence, this year over year decrease in the number of unemployed coupled with the increase in the number of Wenatchee MSA residents returning to the labor force pushed the local unemployment rate down six-tenths of a point, from 4.7 percent in April 2022 to 4.1 percent in April 2023 – and of course, a declining unemployment rate is good economic news.

Nonfarm industry employment

Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's total nonfarm labor market has expanded for the past 25 consecutive months (April 2021 through April 2023). Washington's nonfarm market also expanded during this timeframe.

Employment comparisons in major Wenatchee MSA industries between the Aprils of 2022 and 2023 show that the retail trade, state government, and federal government sectors stabilized.

Other major sectors (i.e., construction; manufacturing; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; health services, leisure and hospitality, and local government) all saw year-over-year job increases - encouraging news for the local economy.

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

◆ In the mining, logging, and construction category, most jobs are in "construction." Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA has expanded or stabilized in each of the 29 months from December 2020 through April 2023.

This April, construction provided 3,500 jobs across the MSA, 100 more than in April 2022. It remains to be seen whether the robust construction monthly employment growth rates across the two-county MSA, which were in the six- to nine percent range from May 2022 through February 2023 can

continue into forthcoming months – especially considering rising interest rates. On the real estate sales side, according to the April 2023 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates, there were 51 fewer closed sales of single-family homes or condominiums from January through April 2023 versus the first four months of 2022 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo, and Rock Island, WA).

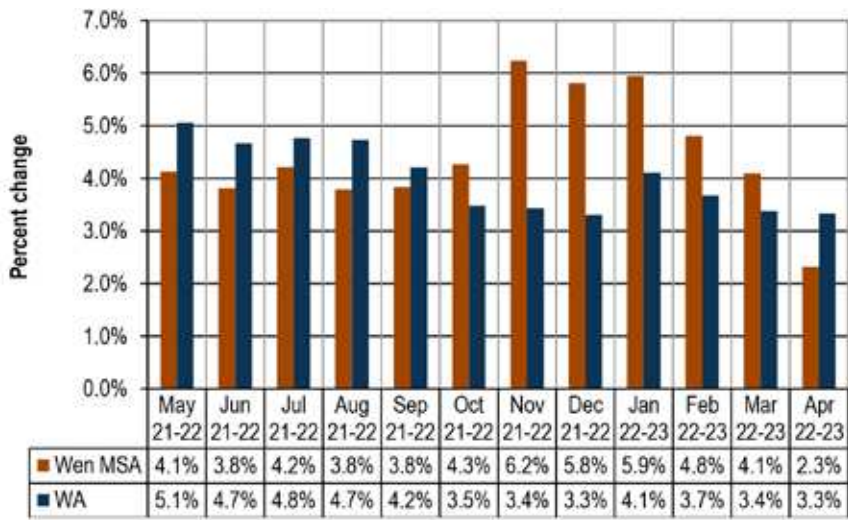
This was a -18.7 percent downturn as closed sales slipped from 235 from January through April 2022 to 191 in the corresponding first four months of 2023. Simultaneously, the number of active listings jumped from 57 listings in April 2022 to 113 in April 2023 (up by 56 listings and 98.2 percent).

Hence, many more units are currently "on the market." Reference home prices in the Wenatchee Market; they have started to decline.

The Real Estate Snapshot newsletter for April 2023 stated that the median sales price of homes/condominiums sold in the Wenatchee Market decelerated from \$490,000 Year-to-Date (YTD) in April 2022 to \$440,000 YTD in April 2023, a -10.2 percent decline.

Across Washington, construction employment has posted year-over-year increases for 25 consecutive months (April 2021 through April 2023). Between April 2022 and April 2023, the number of construction jobs statewide advanced by 3.8 percent (up 8,700 jobs) from 228,300 jobs

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



Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023). Washington's nonfarm job market has also expanded for 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023).

to 237,000. Specialty trade contractors accounted for over half (51.7 percent) of these 8,700 new construction jobs, rising from 146,100 jobs in April 2022 to 150,600 in April 2023, a 4,500-job upturn. On a percentage basis, Washington's residential building construction contractors have been faring quite well, as employment advanced a robust 10.0 percent, from 37,900 jobs in April 2022 to 41,700 in April 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 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023). Between April 2022 and April 2023, the number of private education and health services jobs in the Wenatchee MSA advanced from 8,100 to 8,200 respectively, a 100 job and 1.2 percent increase. Statewide this industry has consistently added jobs for 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023).

Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates indicate that Washington's education and health services employers tallied 541,200 jobs this April versus 515,000 in April 2022, a 26,200 job and 5.1 percent upturn. Nursing and residential care facilities, an industry within the broader education and health services category, posted a respectable 7.6 percent employment growth rate during this period, advancing from 56,600 jobs in April 2022 to 60,900 jobs in April 2023.

◆ COVID-19-related layoffs in leisure and hospitality were more severe than layoffs in any other Wenatchee MSA industry during 2020. In fact, of the 2,900 nonfarm jobs lost in 2020 across the MSA, 1,600 jobs, or 55.2 percent, were in the leisure and hospitality sector. Conversely, re-hiring in the local leisure and hospital-

ity industry was stronger than re-hiring in any other Wenatchee MSA industry during 2021. Of the 2,400 nonfarm jobs gained in 2021 across the MSA, 900 jobs, or over one-third (specifically, 37.5 percent), were in the leisure and hospitality sector. Of the 2,300 nonfarm jobs gained in 2022 across the MSA, 600 jobs, or 26.1 percent, were in leisure and hospitality. Year over year, employment in this industry has increased for 25 consecutive months (April 2021 through April 2023).

Between the Aprils of 2022 and 2023, leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation services) added 200 jobs across the MSA, a 3.1 percent upturn, as employment escalated from 6,500 jobs to 6,700.

Employment in Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has also expanded in each of the past 25 months (April 2021 through April 2023). Statewide, leisure and hospitality employment elevated 6.6 percent (up by 21,300 jobs) between April 2022 (321,900 jobs) and April 2023 (343,200 jobs).

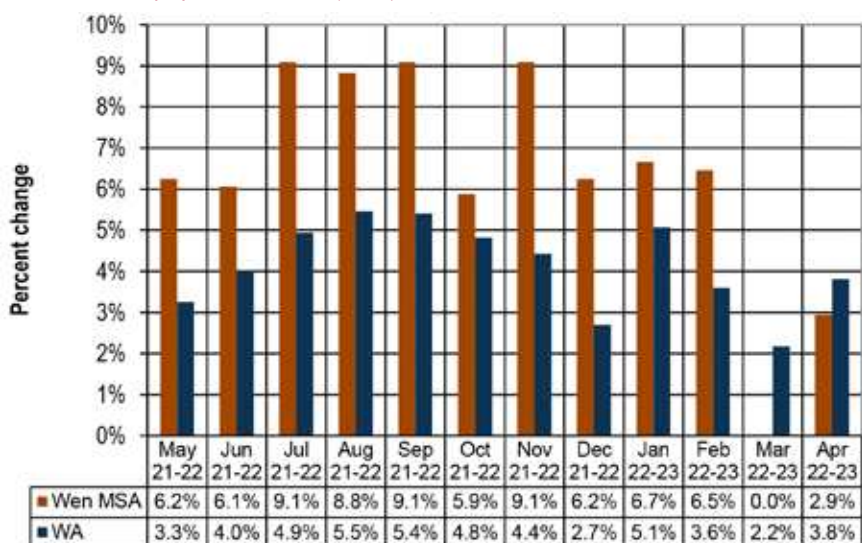
Within this leisure and hospitality category, job growth in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector was quite strong, escalating from 49,900 jobs to 54,000 (up 8.2 percent) between April 2022 and April 2023; as more Washingtonians decided to go to movie theaters, hit the golf courses, and join or rejoin fitness centers.

Agricultural employment / production

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) program, conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department provides agricultural and nonagricultural employment and wages for firms, organizations, and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act.

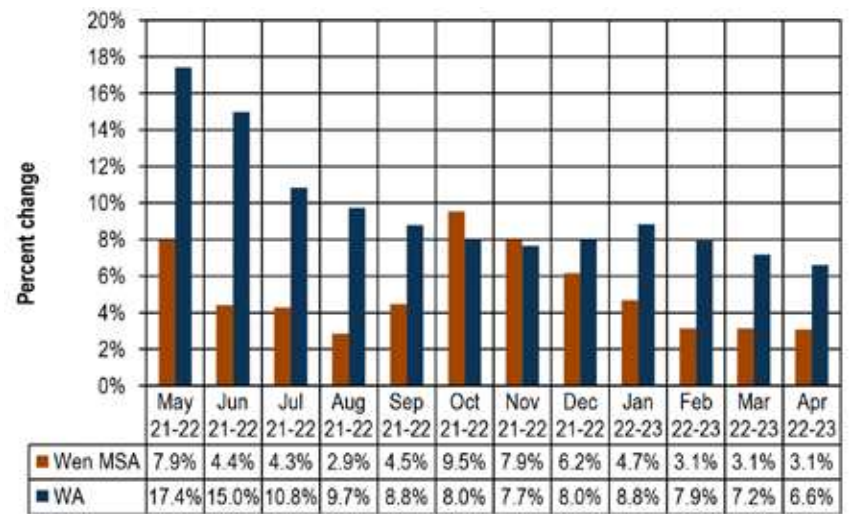
Frequently termed "covered" or "QCEW"

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



Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA has expanded or stabilized for 29 months (December 2020 through April 2023). Statewide, construction employment has been growing for 25 consecutive months (April 2021 through April 2023).

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



Year over year, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's leisure and hospitality industry has increased in the 25 months from April 2021 through April 2023. Employment in Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has also registered year-over-year growth from April 2021 through April 2023.

data, this information provides a reliable data set for comparing employment and wage trends at the county level. In November 2022, revised average annual QCEW data for calendar year 2021 became available.

An analysis of industry employment and wage changes from 2011 through 2021 shows that in Chelan County:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 38,939 in 2011 to 42,277 in 2021, a 3,338 job and 8.6 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 0.8 percent. However, agricultural employment (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 9,419 jobs in 2011 to 8,080 in 2021, a significant downturn of -14.2 percent and loss of 1,339 jobs, equating to an annualized loss rate of -1.5 percent.

In 2011, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 24.2 percent of total covered employment; but ten years later (in 2021), this industry provided only 19.1 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of total covered employment sank by five and one-tenth percentage points (from 24.2 to 19.1 percent) in Chelan County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$1.29 billion (in 2011) to \$2.08 billion (in 2021), a \$787.3 million and 61.0 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 4.9 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$193.4 million in 2011 to \$271.5 million in 2021, a \$78.1 million and 40.4 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 3.4 percent.

In 2011, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 15.0 percent of total covered wages, but by 2021, agricultural wages tallied 13.1 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of total nonfarm payroll decreased by one and nine-tenths percentage points (from 15.0 to 13.1 percent) during this timeframe.

This dip in the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered wages/payroll) in the past ten years (2011-2021) was less severe than five-point drop in the agricultural share of employment (versus total covered employment) during this period.

◆ The agricultural industry is still a "bedrock" to the Chelan County economy. Nevertheless, one could generalize from these 10-year data trends that agriculture (from an employment perspective) has become less influential in the local economy. In fact, between 2011 and 2021, the number of agricultural jobs "peaked" countywide in 2018 at 10,609 jobs (23.5 percent of total covered employment) and then steadily declined in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Anecdotal evidence suggests at least three possibilities for this agricultural employment decline in Chelan County: auto-

mation, the gradual conversion of some seasonal agricultural jobs to year-round positions, and the increased use of H-2A agricultural labor.

For Douglas County, an analysis of industry employment changes from 2011 through 2021 shows that:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 10,832 in 2011 to 12,032 in 2021, a 1,200 job and 11.1 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 1.1 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased sharply from 3,030 in 2011 to 2,268 in 2021, a 762 job and -25.1 percent downturn with an annualized loss rate of -2.9 percent. In 2011, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 28.0 percent of total covered employment. In 2021, agricultural employment accounted for only 18.8 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of employment plummeted by nine and two-tenths percentage points (from 28.0 to 18.8 percent) in Douglas County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$320.5 million in 2011 to \$541.4 million in 2021, a \$220.9 million and 68.9 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 5.4 percent.

The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$56.2 million in 2011 to \$73.1 million in 2021, a \$16.9 million and 30.1 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 2.7 percent. In 2011, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 17.5 percent of total covered wages, and by 2021, agricultural wages tallied 13.5 percent of total covered payroll.

Hence, the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered payroll) showed a four-percentage points contraction from 2011 to 2021 whereas agricultural employment showed a plunge of nine and two-tenths percentage points during this timeframe.

◆ The agricultural industry is still important to the Douglas County economy. But a basic data trend analysis of local employment and wage trends make it clear that this industry became less influential in the local economy over this most recent 10-year period (2011 through 2021). In fact, between 2011 and 2021, the number of agricultural jobs "peaked" countywide in 2018 at 3,278 jobs (25.3 percent of total covered employment) and then declined in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Anecdotal evidence suggests at least three possibilities for this agricultural employment decline in Douglas County: automation, the gradual conversion of some seasonal agricultural jobs to year-round positions, and the increased use of H-2A agricultural labor.

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

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



Annual Wenatchee River Bluegrass Festival

By Cindy Jackson

Kick start your bluegrass summer with the Annual Wenatchee River Bluegrass Festival (WRBF), June 16-18, featuring superstar bluegrass bands that will put the kick in your bluegrass start. The extraordinary line up goes like this...

Sister Sadie, hit the bluegrass world in 2012 like a sonic boom and they haven't looked back. Awards and nominations, individually and as a band, are so numerous it is head spinning.

Kenny & Amanda Smith Band, a multi-award-winning duo has brought their passion for the music and each other to the stage for two decades. They continue to be one of the most compelling sounds in bluegrass today.

Authentic Unlimited is a band made up of accomplished, veteran players and is truly authentic. Offering a "powerful and energetic" sound, they bring years of combined musical experience to their performances.

Nick Dumas & Branchline, is a newly formed band, focusing on a mix of original material and some of the classics. Sure to be high energy and fast moving from one of the most diverse talents in the industry today.

Rock Ridge Bluegrass Band has everything necessary and then some to tickle your bluegrass heart. Superb vocals and harmo-

nies, all backed by impressive and inspiring instrumental musicianship.

Rusty Hinges Bluegrass grew out of the bluegrass jam circles at local PNW festivals. Their music is a blend of traditional and contemporary bluegrass and Americana resulting in a show that is polished and entertaining.

Go ahead, kick start your June, with bluegrass delivered direct to you from the Wenatchee River Bluegrass Festival! Main Stage Shows begin at 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For those of you not quite ready for the high-speed jam sessions heard all over the grounds, our Slow Jam is the place to practice your chops and learn how to maneuver a jam session and maximize your enjoyment picking with other folks and meeting new bluegrass friends!

Step out and experience what it's like to perform in a band in our fun and relaxed Band Scramble.

To round out the festival experience, we have a team of young performers lead by Jake Monroe, signed on to instruct our youth instrument workshops, Taylor's Camp. Taylor's Camp is designed to perpetuate the tradition of passing our bluegrass heritage to the next generation. For our Adult Instrument Workshops, learn some new tricks and tips to amuse



Sister Sadie

Submitted photo

and amaze even you, from the top-notch musicians of our headliner bands!

Wake up Sunday with the Sunday Morning Gospel Show featuring Kenny & Amanda Smith Band, Authentic Unlimited and Rusty Hinges Bluegrass.

We will have food and merchandise vendors available, for when you need some nourishment to keep going or a souvenir to take home with you as a reminder of all the fun and enjoyment.

Camping opens Monday, June 12 and is the best in a bluegrass community experience. Prices can be found

on the website: <http://www.wenatcheeriverbluegrass.com>. Thursday campers are invited to the Meet and Greet Luau. Just look for the Hawaiian camp.

The Wenatchee River Bluegrass Festival (WRBF) located at the Chelan County Expo Center, 5700 Wescott Ave, Cashmere,

WA., is put on by the good folks of the Cashmere Community Concerts.

Each year the WRBF brings new folks over the mountains to experience the beauty of our great region.

A scenic drive through some of Washington's most breathtaking areas, it encompasses everything

an outdoor enthusiast could want, hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, golf (several courses), fly fishing, mountain climbing and river rafting. For information on additional events and camping call 509-421-0494 or visit our website at: <http://www.wenatcheeriverbluegrass.com>.

Rock Island Rock Fest: A Celebration of Music, Community, and Fun

Submitted by Jennifer Dolge

ROCK ISLAND – Get ready to rock and roll as the highly anticipated Rock Island Rock Fest is set to take center stage on July 1st at the Rock Island Golf Course. This event promises a fun and exciting day for music lovers, families, and the entire community.

Rock Island Rock Fest brings together four bands, a beer garden, food vendors, mesmerizing fireworks, and best of all, free entry for all attendees. It's a perfect opportunity to come together, celebrate, and enjoy a day of pure entertainment in a festival atmosphere.

The lineup for Rock Island Rock Fest features Chris Ward, Jumpers Flats, Fred Bauer Band, and Kevin Jones Band. Prepare to be blown away by the infectious energy and electrifying performances of these exceptional artists.

For the adults, the festival boasts a vibrant beer garden where you can quench your thirst with a selection of beer and cider options. Sip on your favorite drink, mingle with fellow festivalgoers, and soak up the lively atmosphere as you unwind and enjoy the music.

As the sun sets, Rock Island Rock Fest will conclude with a dazzling display of fireworks, lighting up the night sky and leaving everyone in awe. It's the perfect grand finale to a day filled with joy, laughter, and the celebration of music and community.

"This event is more than just a music festival, it's about bringing people together, fostering a sense of community, and creating lasting memories," said Charity Duffy, the event organizer. "We wanted to offer a platform for talented bands to showcase their artistry while also providing an enjoyable experience for families and individuals to connect and have a fantastic time."

Rock Island Rock Fest is made possible through the support of Real Homes, our premier sponsor, along with Town Toyota Center, Central WA Gravel, and other generous sponsors and the enthusiastic participants of our local community. Don't miss out on this extraordinary event! Mark your calendars for July at the Rock Island Golf Course. The music starts at 1:30 p.m. and fireworks kick off at 10:00 p.m. Blankets, chairs, and picnics are welcome! Water will be available for purchase, but we recommend you bring your own. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors for a day of incredible music, entertainment, and community building. Let's rock!

Rock Island Rock Fest is an annual music festival brought to you by the City of Rock Island and local sponsors that aims to bring the community together through the celebration of music, fostering a sense of belonging, and creating lasting memories. For more information, www.rockislandwa.gov or follow us on Facebook at Rock Island Rock Fest.



WENATCHEE RIVER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

JUNE 16-18, 2023
CHELAN COUNTY EXPO CENTER
CASHMERE WASHINGTON

- NATIONAL PERFORMERS -
SISTER SADIE
KENNY & AMANDA SMITH BAND
AUTHENTIC UNLIMITED
NICK DUMAS & BRANCHLINE
- NORTHWEST FAVORITES -
ROCK RIDGE
RUSTY HINGES BLUEGRASS

INSTRUMENT WORKSHOPS INCLUDING TAYLOR'S KIDS CAMP * SLOW JAM * BAND SCRAMBLE
FOOD & MERCHANDISE VENDORS * STAGE SHOWS INDOORS * CAMPING AVAILABLE

ADMISSION: \$30/Day Pass - \$40/Multi Day Pass ~ 12 And Under FREE
No Dogs Allowed On Expo Grounds

SHOW TIMES & DETAILED INFO www.WenatcheeRiverBluegrass.com
OR CALL (509) 421-0494 or (509) 679-0668
This ad is co-sponsored by the Wenatchee Business Journal