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PUD commissioners vote to pursue new option to redevelop Fifth Street campus



Submitted by Rachel Hansen

WENATCHEE – Chelan PUD commissioners unanimously voted to begin negotiations with YMCA and Music Theatre of Wenatchee (MTW) as the first step on a new path to redevelop the utility’s 7.5-acre Fifth Street campus.

The new plan was among a range of options presented in which Commissioners considered:

1. Postponing action until market conditions improve
2. Listing the property for sale and allowing the market to drive redevelopment
3. Hiring a real estate broker to

market the property to developers, then evaluating proposals

4. Developing anchor uses by selling parts of the site to YMCA and MTW, then hiring a broker to market the remaining parcels

5. Partnering with other agencies, such as the City of Wenatchee and Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority – to take on full development of the site

As commissioners weighed the pros and cons of each option, they also considered the overall project goal, which is to find a path forward that balances:

- The community vision for the site

- Timely redevelopment
- The best value to PUD customer-owners
- Resources required for success

Representatives from the Port, Wenatchee Downtown Association, YMCA, MTW and a member of the public expressed support for options four and five.

The YMCA wants to relocate its downtown facility to Fifth Street. MTW is interested in expanding Riverside Playhouse and securing parking.

“We all want the same thing. We want a spectacular redevelopment on the Fifth Street campus,”

said Jim Kuntz, chief executive officer of the Port.

“I think we’ll get there. You’re doing bite-sized pieces and the new direction is a good one.”

Staff will update commissioners on negotiations by late June.

The PUD plans site preparation and demolition work in early 2024. The PUD began collaborating on a community-supported vision for redevelopment of the property about five years ago with the City of Wenatchee, the Chelan-Douglas Regional Port Authority, Wenatchee Downtown Association, the Greater Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce and a community advisory group.

“We needed to serve our customers better by moving out to Olds Station,” said Commissioner Steve McKenna, citing a study that calculated the cost of maintaining the PUD’s aging, scattered locations would be greater over time than building a central campus.

“One of the consequences to doing that is vacating this property,” McKenna said. “Now, we’ve taken a big step in providing another improvement to the community by doing something thoughtful and working hand in hand with the community.”

Jail’s narcotics dog to be utilized in some local schools

Submitted by Jill FitzSimmons, Chelan County IO

WENATCHEE – Chelan County has signed agreements with six area school districts that will allow school resource officers to partner with the county jail’s narcotics-detecting dog and her handler.

The interagency agreements allow for school resource officers, who are local law enforcement officers working in the schools, to call the Chelan County Regional Justice Center and request that the dog and her handler come to a school if the officer has reasonable suspicion that a student has brought narcotics onto campus.

The dog, known as K-9 Kait, could be used to walk around lockers, cars, backpacks or school perimeters. If she alerts on a trained odor, the school resource officer and school district will review any finds from the search and handle next steps. The agreements were signed

last month between the Board of County Commissioners and the Waterville, Eastmont, Bridgeport, Chelan, Entiat and Manson school districts.

“We are very excited for this new partnership,” said Chris Sharp, director of the Chelan County Regional Justice Center, one of two municipal jails in the state that utilizes a narcotics-detecting dog.

“For us, this is an opportunity to not only make a difference in our community but to also show young people that a career in corrections can be more than four walls and cells.”

More than two years ago, the Regional Justice Center invested in a detection dog and sent Corrections Deputy Jacob Lewis to training to learn how to be a handler.

The pair have quickly become a key component to the jail’s narcotics detection program, which aims to stop drugs from getting into the county jail.

K-9 Kait is trained to detect six odors,

including marijuana. Mostly recently, she was trained to detect fentanyl.

“Law enforcement agencies in Washington state no longer train their narcotics-detecting dogs on marijuana,” Sharp said. “However, you still can’t have it in the schools. This is one area where Kait and Deputy Lewis may be able to help the school districts because she is trained to detect marijuana.”

In addition, the schools have agreed to allow Lewis to do training sessions in the schools with the dog. Deputy Lewis and Kait are familiar faces at several local schools because they have been doing presentations to school children for a couple of years.

“Much like what we’ve seen at the jail, just knowing Kait is available and around is a deterrent for people trying to bring drugs into a facility,” Sharp said. “I suspect we will see the same results with our partner school districts.”



COURTESY PHOTO CHELAN COUNTY
Corrections Deputy Jacob Lewis trains with K-9 Kait, a narcotics-detecting dog, at the Chelan County Regional Justice Center.

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NEWSSTAND LOCATIONS

Wenatchee

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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
The Leavenworth Echo
215 14th St.

Chelan

Safeway, 106 W. Manson Rd.
Lake Chelan Mirror
131 S. Apple Blossom Drive, #109

Brewster

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

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Legislative session updates

By Keith Goehner

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The legislative session is more than halfway complete. Earlier in March was the “house of origin” cutoff. That means bills that have not passed out of the chamber where they originated are dead for the session, unless some extraordinary steps are taken or they are deemed necessary to implement the budget (NTIB). In the House, we are now holding public hearings on the Senate bills sent to us. We had until March 29, to vote them out of the policy committees and April 4 to take action on bills in the fiscal committees. The last few weeks (Mid-April) of session will go very quickly. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about issues before us this session, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Virtual Town Hall

With so much to talk about after the long days and nights of House floor action, my seatmate Rep. Mike Steele, R-Chelan, and I want to give you the opportunity to discuss any of the legislative or state issues before us this session.

Successes in stopping bad legislation

Being in the minority, much of our work consists of amending bad legislation or stopping bills from passing.

We have had some successes this session. Bills that are dead for the session include:

- **House Bill 1025** would have allowed police officers to be sued personally.
- **House Bill 1513** would have prevented law enforcement from pulling people over for minor violations.
- **House Bill 1333** would have created a controversial Domestic Violent Extremism Commission; and
- **House Bill 1670** would have allowed cities and counties to triple the 1% annual revenue growth on property taxes.

Vehicle pursuit legislation update

One of the most important issues we had hoped to address this legislative session is providing law enforcement with the ability to pursue criminals. We need to allow police to do their job of protecting our communities and families.

In March, I joined with my House Republican colleagues in attempting a parliamentary maneuver that would have pulled the bipartisan House Bill 1363 to the floor for a vote. Our efforts were voted down on a party-line vote.

While the Senate did pass their version of the pursuit bill, it is watered down and much weaker than the original bill. However, it does keep the issue alive and potential-

ly provide us with another opportunity to amend it as it works its way through the legislative process.

Prioritizing criminals over victims

We have seen legislation this session that prioritizes criminals over victims, while passing bills that would make it more difficult for citizens to exercise their constitutional rights.

- **House Bill 1268**, which would reduce penalties for gang, drug, and firearm crimes committed in protected zones, like schools and bus stops.

- **House Bill 1324**, which would reduce sentences for juvenile criminal re-offenders; and

- **House Bill 1169**, which would shift the cost of crime from criminals to law-abiding citizens.

We need to hold criminals accountable for their actions, not go easier on crime.

While the majority party is pushing these bills, they are also moving legislation that may not be constitutional and punishes law-abiding citizens.

- **House Bill 1240** would ban the sale, production or transfer most semi-auto firearms aka “assault weapons”. It contains an emergency clause that goes into effect immediately after the governor signs it. HB 1240 does not require confiscation of currently

This legislation goes against the recent U.S. Supreme Court Bruen decision and the upcoming federal district court ruling on the California “assault weapons ban,” which most believe will be overturned. This ban will have a greater impact on law-abiding citizens than the individuals who commit crimes.

- **House Bill 1143** would impair your right to buy, sell or keep arms. The measure would impose various training and testing requirements on law-abiding gun owners and retailers before they can

exercise their constitutional rights. Our state must prioritize victims over criminals and allow law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families from the rise in violent crime.

Washington state has the fewest law enforcement officers per capita, and we desperately need to recruit and train more law enforcement officers to protect our communities.

Follow the Legislature

A reminder below are some websites and links that will help you stay engaged in this legislative session.

On my legislative website you can find contact information, bio, news releases, email updates, videos, radio appearances, and much more.

The Ledger | A legislative news aggregator.

Capitol Buzz – Daily news clips | Daily news clips.

The Current | An online legislative publication from the Washington House Republicans.

- TVW | The state’s own version of C-SPAN, TVW broadcasts floor and committee action live online.

- Legislature’s website: Bill reports, committee agendas, and information about upcoming activities in the Legislature. It is an honor to represent the 12th Legislative District.



Rule proposed to require insurers tell you why your premium is going up

Submitted by
WS Insurance Commissioner’s Office

OLYMPIA – A new regulation proposed by Washington State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler requires insurance companies to explain premium increases to their policyholders in language they can understand.

“If your insurance company is going to increase your premium, you have a right to know why,” said Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler. “This is pretty basic information you should expect from your insurance company, but we hear from hundreds of consumers every year who cannot get a straight answer on why they’re being charged more.”

The number one complaint we hear from consumers is that their auto or homeowners insurance premium is increasing, and their insurance company has not explained why. When the Office of the Insurance Commissioner asks the company, however, we get a more detailed response.

We believe all consumers deserve an answer they can understand. The OIC held five meetings with interested parties over the last year to understand why providing better transparency on premium changes was needed and to hear from the insurers directly.

We learned that some insurers’ rating formulas have become so complex, they

can’t readily specify the reasons behind someone’s premium change. Some insurers’ computer systems are unable to generate a clear answer.

Our proposed rule creates more transparency for consumers and gives the insurers sufficient time to implement these new consumer protections in two phases. It applies to all property and casualty insurers in Washington state that sell private passenger auto and homeowners’ coverage, including coverage for manufactured homes, condominiums and renters.

From June 1, 2024, to June 1, 2027: When a policy renews and the premium increases, insurance companies must give policyholders who ask reasonable explanations using terms they can understand.

Starting June 1, 2027: Insurance companies must provide a written notice to policyholders who received a premium increase of 10% or more explaining the primary factors behind the increase. They must also provide this same notice to any policyholder who asks.

Primary factors include: the vehicle’s location, driving record, miles driven, number of drivers, claims history, discounts, fees and surcharges, the driver’s age, credit history, education, gender, marital status, occupation, property age, and value. A public hearing on the rule takes place April 25, 2023, via Zoom and in the Tumwater office.

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A closer look into our property tax system

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

Many of you have recently received property tax statements from your local county treasurers, which usually leads to many questions of my office. You should know that the state’s operating budget relies primarily on sales and business taxes for its revenues. Most property taxes are approved by your local officials or subject to a local vote.

Locally approved school levies, school bonds, fire district levies, port district taxes, library district taxes, and others – along with the value of your property and your surrounding area – all affect what you pay in property taxes.

Local, state, and federal taxes

Taxes are applied at all levels of government (local, state, and federal). The level of government originating

the taxes is an important consideration. For example, as your state senator, I do not determine “city” or “county” taxes within your communities except for authorities the state may grant local governments for taxation.

Local taxes are decided by your city councils, county officials, or by community votes. I also have no impact on “federal” taxes determined by the United States Congress. As a state legislator, I am involved in “state” level taxes. The primary

taxes in Washington state include sales and business taxes, although a portion of the sales tax is decided by local governments.

Understanding the property tax system

Of all the taxes collected among all levels of government, the one I receive the most questions and complaints about is the property tax. Understanding the property tax system can be quite challenging, so please contact your county assessor for more detailed information.

It is important to note that assessors determine the value of the property in a county. The county treasurers collect property tax revenues. Neither the assessors nor the treasurers determine the taxes approved. Those decisions are the responsibility of other local governments, officials and voters within each jurisdiction.

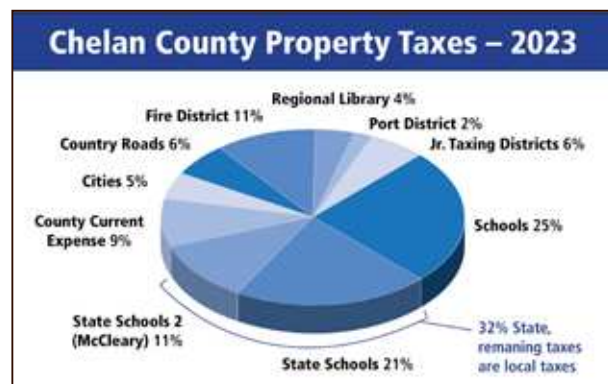
Property taxes vary depending on where you live

The property tax bill that you receive is a collection of different property taxes and assessments.

If you think of your property tax bill as one round-shaped pie, various entities receive their revenue from slices of the pie.

Since the state relies pri-

SEE TAX SYSTEM, PAGE 13



Hawkins’ Regional Sports Complex bill approved by Senate

Submitted by Sen. Brad Hawkins

OLYMPIA – After successfully advancing through three Senate committees this session, Senate Bill 5001, sponsored by Sen. Brad Hawkins, has been approved unanimously by the Washington State Senate.

“This bill would give us the option of forming a second Public Facilities District, which would provide our region a legal structure for both financing and governance,” said Hawkins.

He added, “If we can advance this bill through the rest of the process, we will have the ability to construct and operate a regional sports complex, if that is what our community leaders and voters decide to do.”

Senate Bill 5001 would amend the existing Public Facilities District statute to allow communities in the region to form a second district and ultimately seek voter approval for a regional sports complex.

Hawkins hosted several

meetings last fall with local mayors, county commissioners, regional port chamber, community leaders, and swimming groups.

Stakeholders are interested in potentially locating any project in the Wenatchi Landing area near East Wenatchee, 283 acres of regionally accessible land near the Oda-bashian Bridge.

Hawkins believes development of a facility in Wenatchi Landing would help meet an aquatic and recreational need in the region while also serving as a catalyst development project, potentially leading to significant economic activities in that area, including hotels, restaurants, and retail shopping.

The Chelan-Douglas Regional Port Authority is currently administering a feasibility study to analyze the project and its economic benefits.

The study group is comprised of numerous local officials and is chaired by East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford.

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Commissioner Franz announces new AI Wildfire Fighting Technology Pilot Partnership

Advanced Technology from Pano AI Allows for Rapid Response to Emerging Wildfire Threats

Submitted by
Washington State DNR

OLYMPIA – Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz has announced a new pilot partnership to use advanced AI technology and actionable intelligence to combat the states' growing wildfire threat.

Technology from Pano AI would enable early detection and monitoring to provide richer data on wildfires as they emerge and allow for safer, faster, and more effective fire response.

The partnership also supports prescribed fire practices by enabling additional visibility of the fire and utilizing artificial intelligence to detect and notify of any concerning flare-ups.

The pilot program will pair ultra-high-definition, 360-degree cameras, satellites, and other data feeds with artificial intelligence to provide active wildfire detection and up-to-the minute situational awareness.

Using cameras to identify smoke and fire immediately as it appears on the landscape and pinpoint the latitude and longitude or bearing line of a fire will significantly increase DNR's ability to get resources on scene and alert nearby communities of danger in their area.

"As soon as smoke or heat is detected on the landscape, our fire managers can direct air and ground suppression forces to the source in record time. It also means more time for nearby communities to receive information from emergency services and act quickly if evacuations are required," said Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz.

"When a fire is bearing down on your property, you don't care how or when it started, you need to know that help is on the way right now."

Pano AI is the first disaster-preparedness technology provider to offer a

fully integrated product for active wildfire detection using artificial intelligence to help fire authorities identify and extinguish new ignitions before they become a threat.

Harnessing the latest developments in hardware, artificial intelligence, and cloud-based software, Pano AI provides fire agencies with real-time actionable intelligence and situational awareness to coordinate an informed rapid response to wildfires before they escalate, safeguarding lives, communities, and the environment.

"We applaud Commissioner Franz and the State of Washington for being trailblazers in leveraging modern technology to combat the growing threat of wildfires," said Sonia Kastner, CEO, and founder of Pano AI.

"Our team at Pano is made up of former fire professionals as well as world-class technologists who have >>>

Commissioner Franz Celebrates House Passage of Carbon Credit Bill

Submitted by
Washington State DNR

OLYMPIA – Washington moved a step closer to capitalizing on the ability of the state's public lands to capture and store carbon to help address climate change and increase revenues for schools and communities, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz said.

The Washington House of Representatives passed on a bipartisan vote of 82-13 House Bill 1789 on March 7. She also noted this progressive, first-ever, and forward thinking policy supports and enhances our working forestlands while improving the health of our forests, farms and aquatic lands.

Commissioner Franz has pledged to work with Senators and stakeholders to ensure the final legislation will help Washington achieve the goals set forth in the Climate Commitment Act while protecting working forests and increasing revenue for schools and communities.

"I'm thrilled this bill passed the House with



bi-partisan support and eager to work toward final passage in the Senate. The legislation reflects the concerns of a broad range of stakeholders who understand the value of our public lands and forests," said Commissioner Franz.

"Enabling my agency to innovate and take forward looking action to generate additional revenue for the state while expanding our working forests and taking action on climate is critical. It will send a message to our children and our communities that we're committed to letting Washington's working lands work for Washington, providing jobs, food, sustainable building materials, and climate action."

DNR currently has the authority to lease state-owned lands for carbon sequestration and capture, but cannot directly sell carbon credits. Under the legislation, DNR would be able to

sell carbon credits on the open market as many private industries already do. The credits could support projects to reforest the more than 138,000 acres that have burned in wildfires, expand forestland throughout the state, and protect and enhance kelp forests and eelgrass meadows.

Our public lands have supported communities and schools, powered rural economies, provided critical fish and wildlife habitat, and made us who we are since 1889. Washington is a stronger state because of the working forests, farms, and aquatic lands under public ownership. Enabling DNR to sell carbon credits will add a critical funding tool that will generate more revenue to support kids and schools, restore critical salmon habitat, protect and increase forestlands, and make Washington a more climate resilient state.

>>> come together to build the best possible tools for first responders. Our wildfire intelligence solution combines ultra-high-definition cameras, satellites, 5G, AI, and an easy-to-use software interface, all with

the goal of making firefighting safer and more effective in the face of increasingly destructive climate-related threats. We're excited to partner with DNR to demonstrate the impact of our technology across Washing-

ton State this fire season." The Department of Natural Resources and Pano AI recently signed a contract to begin the AI pilot project, and initial rollout systems demonstrations will begin soon.

USDA Forest Service invests \$24.9 million in Washington communities to reduce wildfire risk

Submitted by US Forest Service, PNW Region

Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Dr. Homer Wilkes announced March 21 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is investing \$24.9 million in wildfire protection projects across Washington as part of the Community Wildfire Defense

Grant (CWDG) program. The CWDG program is designed to assist communities, including Tribal communities, non-profit organizations, state forestry agencies and Alaska Native corporations with planning for and mitigating wildfire risks on tribal, state, and privately managed land.

This funding, made possible by the Bipartisan In-

frastructure Law, is a crucial investment to help communities confront the wildfire crisis and reduce wildfire risk on non-federal land. Proposals underwent a competitive selection process that included review panels made up of tribal representatives and state forestry agencies. Guidelines within the law prioritized at-risk communities that have been impacted by a severe disaster, are at a high or very high potential for wildfire hazard and are classified as low income.

"Projects were selected using a collaborative, inclusive process that engaged tribes and state forestry agencies," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "All projects include at least two of the primary selection criteria mandated in the legislation. And in all cases, these projects are taking critical steps to protect homes, property, businesses, and people's lives from catastrophic wildfires." In Wenatchee the follow-

ing local project was selected for first round funding. Wenatchee: \$328,036 for the Stemilt-Squilchuck Forest Resilience Project.

This initial round of investments will assist communities in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, key roadmaps for addressing wildfire risks locally, as well as fund immediate actions to lower the risk of wildfire on non-federal land for communities where a Community Wildfire Protection Plan is already in place.

"America's forests, especially here in the West, are in a state of fire emergency," said Robert Sanchez, Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service. "Wildfires do not recognize boundaries or management jurisdictions. As we continue our wildfire risk reduction work on National Forest lands, these Community Wildfire Defense Grants directly support our overall priority of helping



reduce wildfire risk to communities by investing in work across tribal, state, and private lands."

This first round of funding is a critical down payment that assists at-risk communities in creating resilient landscapes, supporting fire adapted communities and establishing safe and effective wildfire response. Additional funding will be made available by the agency to support more communities in the future and the Forest Service will announce another round of funding later in 2023. The number of selected proposals

in future rounds will depend on available funding.

Along with establishing the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a historic \$3.5 billion investment in wildfire management through a suite of programs aimed at reducing wildfire risks, detecting wildfires, instituting firefighter workforce reforms, and increasing pay for federal wildland firefighters. This announcement also comes on the heels of the president's fiscal year 2024 budget, which proposes >>>

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Newhouse Legislation to Protect Parents' Educational Rights Passes House

Submitted by Mark Marinella For Rep. Dan Newhouse

WASHINGTON – On March 24 Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and his House colleagues passed H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act.

This legislation would put practices in place that facilitate meaningful dialog between a family and their child's school and lead to more parental input throughout the learning process.

It amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure that federally-funded schools provide parents with the transparency they deserve.

"Parents know what's best for their children and are their greatest advocates. Ensuring they have a say in their child's education is just common-sense," said Rep. Newhouse.

"I'm proud to see the passage of this critical legislation that will provide families with more options to collaborate with school districts, have more access to information regarding their children's education, and ultimately provide a better curriculum and learning experience for our next generation of leaders."

Background:

The legislation is built on five, common-sense principles.

1. Parents have the right to know what their children are being taught.

- School districts must post curriculum information publicly.

- States must provide the public a copy of any revisions to the state's academic standards or learning benchmarks.

- Parents must be given timely notice of any school's plan to eliminate gifted and talented programs.

- Schools must provide parents with a list of books and reading materi-

als available in the school library.

2. Parents have the right to be heard.

- Teachers must offer two in-person meetings with parents each year.

- Parents must be allowed to address the school board on issues impacting the education of children in the school district.

- Educators and policy-makers must respect the First Amendment right of parents as well as their right to assemble and have a say in their child's education.

- School districts should consider community feedback when making decisions.

3. Parents have the right to see the school budget and spending.

- There must be public disclosure of school district budgets and each school's budget, including revenues and expenditures.

4. Parents have the right to protect their child's privacy.

- Schools must not share student data with tech companies without parental permission.

- Schools must not sell student data for commercial purposes.

- Parents have a say when schools develop or update their student privacy policies and procedures.

- Parents must consent before any medical exam takes place at school, including mental health or substance use disorder screenings, and before students are surveyed.

5. Parents have the right to keep their children safe.

- Schools must notify parents of violent activity occurring on school grounds or at school-sponsored events while still protecting the privacy of the students involved in the incident.



Biden backs tearing down Columbia, Snake River Dams contrary to Comprehensive Scientific Assessment

Submitted by Mark Marinella For Rep. Dan Newhouse

WASHINGTON – In case you missed it, President Biden announced March 21 that he is committed to tearing down four hydro-power dams in Washington.

President Biden's remarks are the first time he has publicly sided himself with advocates for breaching the Four Lower Snake River Dams – a move that would go against scientific assessments from the

federal government itself.

These dams provide clean, renewable, safe, and affordable energy for homes and businesses in Central Washington and beyond.

Breaching the dams would have a dramatic impact on energy production, climate goals, and transportation in Washington.

"The Four Lower Snake River Dams are integral to flood control, navigation, irrigation, agriculture,

and recreation in Central Washington and throughout the Pacific Northwest – to put it simply, we cannot afford to lose them," said Rep. Newhouse.

"Yet President Biden, Governor Inslee, Senator Murray, and Representative Simpson have been misleading the American people with unscientific information in order to breach these dams, putting our communities at risk.

"We know the critical in-

frastructure of the Snake River Dams provides clean, renewable, safe, and affordable energy for our homes and businesses, and the best and latest science affirms we should continue to utilize them.

"The Northwest Energy Security Act will ensure our dams can continue to provide the carbon-free baseload energy our communities rely on while continuing to support fish recovery efforts."



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➤➤ a permanent pay solution for wildland firefighters, increased capacity for mental and physical health services, and funds for housing repair, renovation, and construction.

More information about the funded proposals, as well as announcements about the grant program, is available on the Community Wildfire Defense Grants website: Community Wildfire Defense Grant - Funded Proposals - US Forest Service at usda.gov.

Grounded in world-class science and technology - and

rooted in communities - the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service connects people to nature and each other.

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To learn more about the Forest Service, visit Home, US Forest Service at usda.gov.



Rep. Schrier introduces bipartisan bill to aid Biofuel Research and Development

Submitted by Adrian Cortez

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representatives Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) introduced the Biochar Research Network Act of 2023 to increase research funding for biochar on March 21.

Biochar is a charcoal-like product created by heating organic material in a low-oxygen setting to sequester carbon, create fuel, and use as a soil amendment.

This legislation will boost agricultural research on biochar to better understand how it can help with water filtration and retention, crop produc-

tion, and carbon sequestration.

“As a Washingtonian who treasures our natural environment, understands the importance of water conservation and soil health, and advocates for 8th district farmers, I am very excited about this bill,” said Rep. Schrier.

“The Biochar Research Network Act is a critical bill that will help us understand more about how biochar can benefit farmers and provide important opportunities for economic development in rural America.”

Existing research has shown that biochar can sequester carbon, improve the capacity of soil to hold water and nutrients, and boost crop

yields. However, it is important to fill knowledge gaps.

This act provides \$50 million annually from 2023 through 2028 for research at up to 20 facilities to understand more about biochar benefits.

By funding research at universities and federal agencies, this legislation will help to facilitate the creation of a commercial, private market for biochar production and use.

Eligible research entities include land-grant universities, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Forest Service, and research facilities within the Department of Energy, Commerce, and Interior.

Rep. Schrier Named Chair of Farm Bill Task Force

Submitted by Libby Carlson

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08) announced that she has been named the Chair of the New Democrat Coalition’s Farm Bill Task Force. As Chair, Rep. Schrier will be shaping Farm Bill policy and priorities for the almost 100 members of the Coalition.

“I am honored to be named the Chair of this Task Force and look forward to getting right to work on the Farm Bill,” said Rep. Schrier. “I have already been working on several priorities for our region including pushing for funding for specialty crop research and research facilities, improving nutrition programs, and supporting fire suppression and prevention programs. Washington farmers and the agriculture community are facing many challenges right now, including rising costs, supply chain issues, and unpredictable and extreme weather. As the Task Force Chair, I will work to make sure our priorities make it into this year’s Farm Bill.”

The Farm Bill Task Force is one of nine New Democrat Coalition Task Forces this Congress and will convene frequent meetings and roundtables with experts and administration officials, endorse legislation and recommendations for executive

actions, and work across the aisle to find bipartisan legislative solutions. The Farm Bill Task Force will have Vice Chairs Jim Costa (CA-21) and Don Davis (NC-01).

Last year, Rep. Schrier held a Farm Bill Listening Session with the House Agriculture Committee in Carnation that was well attended by farmers, producers, nutrition advocates, and firefighters. Rep. Schrier will make announcements about additional listening sessions to be held.

Last passed in 2018, the Farm Bill is a package of legislation that authorizes and funds a number of important agricultural, food, and forestry programs over several years. The current Farm Bill is set to expire in September 2023, meaning Congress must take on the reauthorization of existing programs, and update and revise current policy and spending decisions to address new challenges this year. Without the passage of the Farm Bill, programs vital to the agricultural community of Washington would expire, including agricultural research, trade and foreign market access, crop insurance, forestry and conservation programs, and nutrition programs.

Rep. Schrier served on the House Agriculture Committee for the last four years.



Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

Submitted by Derrick Nunnally

OLYMPIA – Secretary of State Steve Hobbs continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, one year into the unprovoked invasion by Russia.

Through the Office of the Secretary of State’s Combined Fund Drive (CFD), Washington state employees and retirees have donated more than \$146,200 to over 15 charitable organizations that support Ukrainian relief. Of these donations, more than \$12,200 were specifically dedicated to Ukraine.

“I am continually inspired by the generosity of Washingtonians who are supporting Ukraine in its darkest

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs thanks Washingtonians for supporting Ukrainian-relief charities

hour,” said Secretary Hobbs.

“Together we are committed to ensuring Ukrainians have access to food, clothing, medicine, shelter, and other necessities they rely on every day. I am grateful for all the Washingtonians who are stepping up to help however they can.”

Secretary Hobbs urges donors to research charitable organizations before they donate and offers the following tips for researching a charity, nonprofit, or relief organization:

- **Check the charity’s registration status.** Charities operating in Washington state may need to register and submit reports to the Office of the Secretary of State’s Charities Division.

To determine whether a charity is properly registered and in good standing, search for the charity on the Corporations & Charities Filing System at ccfs.sos.wa.gov.



- **Check the charity’s experience and if Ukraine crisis relief matches its purpose.**

Charities that are formed or that shift their direction to respond to a crisis may lack the experience, contacts, or staff to address the issue. Look for charities that have a track record in the region and a good reputation.

Consult watchdog organizations like Charity Watch or Charity Navigator that evaluate thousands of charities across the country.

- **Be cautious of online fundraising.** Review the Charities Division’s Guide for Online Giving before donating online through charity websites or online giving portals.

- **Do not share personal financial information over the phone.** Do not share

your credit/ debit card or bank account information over the phone, and don’t feel pressured to do so.

Send donations directly to the charity. A legitimate charity will not pressure you to make a donation immediately.

For more tips and resources, visit the Charities Division’s GIVESMART! webpage.

In addition, the CFD offers a list of several reputable and reliable charities – including Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF USA, and American Red Cross International Services – to which Washingtonians can donate.

To donate to Ukrainian relief efforts, contribute online through the CFD at <https://give.wa.gov/events/?2023-ukrainian-aid>.

The CFD is the charitable-giving program for state and higher-education employees and retirees.

Washington’s Office ➤

2023 Lodging Tax capital requests now open

Submitted by Jill FitzSimmons, Chelan County PIO

The Chelan County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, or LTAC, has opened the grant application process for groups and municipalities seeking lodging tax dollars for capital projects, or capital improvement projects, that will help attract overnight visitors to the county.

County lodging tax revenues

must be used for tourism promotion, acquisition of tourism-related facilities, or operation of tourism-related facilities. This application period is specifically for capital expenditures of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by a municipality.

Projects will be considered capital if the funds are used for land and improvements to land, buildings and building improvements, parking lots,

vehicles, machinery and equipment, works of art or historical treasures, infrastructure assets, such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, water lines, sewers, drainage systems and intangible assets, such as easements, water rights, timber rights and computer software.

The application period is open until 5 p.m. on April 14.

The current funding available for capital projects is

\$560,000. The application must be downloaded and emailed to CM.LTAC@co.chelan.wa.us.

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, Ohme Gardens and TREAD.

Another portion is used to operate the county’s Visit Chelan County campaign. The remaining money is offered annually in the form of grants to

tourist-related organizations.

In December, commissioners approved the awarding of \$328,600 in lodging tax dollars to 22 tourist-related organizations for marketing efforts.

For more information, including the application, go to www.co.chelan.wa.us/news/article/2023-lodging-tax-capital-requests-open-through-april-14.

For more information about LTAC, go to www.co.chelan.wa.us/board-of-commissioners/pages/lodging-tax-advisory-committee

Cridlebaugh hired as new Chelan County economic services director

Submitted by
Jill FitzSimmons
Public Information Officer

WENATCHEE – Chelan County commissioners announced the hiring of Ron Cridlebaugh of Quincy, who fills a newly created administrator position titled economic services director.

Cridlebaugh currently serves as the director of economic and business development for the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority.

He has served nine years with the port district, first with the Port of Douglas and then the regional port district when it was reorganized in 2019.

In his role, Cridlebaugh has led the regional port's efforts in attracting new businesses to the region.

"The board of commissioners is excited to have Ron join our county team," said Commissioner Tiffany Gering, chairwoman of the Board of County Commissioners. "We look forward



to the role he will play in shaping the economic future of Chelan County."

Cridlebaugh began working in the Commissioner's Office April 3.

He brings to the county more than 20 years of experience in economic development, personnel and grant management, small business development, strategic planning and tourism promotion.

In his overall career, Cridlebaugh has worked with hundreds of businesses, helping them become more successful.

"I'm looking forward to

taking my past experience and knowledge and work with the Board of County Commissioners and staff to make positive changes for the residents of Chelan County and our region," Cridlebaugh said.

"We will be looking at what we can do as a governmental agency to enhance our business environment and attract business to the county. We will also be assessing our county-owned visitor facilities to find ways to give our residents and visitors the best recreational experience we can."

The economic services director is a new position at Chelan County and replaces the economic development director position previously held by Blake Baldwin and interim director Sasha Sleiman.

In October 2021, commissioners hired BERK Consulting of Seattle to assess the structure of those appointed offices under the

Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioners cited a need to re-evaluate the structure because of the expanding role a variety of departments were undertaking, including housing, homelessness, lands management and infrastructure development.

Among BERK's recommendations was to reconfigure the role of the county administrator position. At the time, more than a dozen unrelated programs or functions were reporting to the position.

The consultant recommended an administrator position be created that focused on economic services.

Under the reorganization, Cridlebaugh leads economic development efforts at the county level while overseeing the directors and managers of external programs, including Housing, Ohme Gardens, Wenatchee River



Ron Cridlebaugh

Park, the Chelan County Fair and Expo Center, the Cashmere Airport and the Fire Marshal's Office.

The county administrator will focus on overseeing internal services and their directors and managers, including Facilities, Human Resources, IT, the clerk of the board, the budget director and the public information officer.

"This reorganization will create efficiencies in the way the county delivers ser-

vices to our citizens while also reducing the span of control for the commissioners from 15 directors and managers down to six," Gering said.

"It will also allow us to explore how to better fund some county programs. Several programs, for example, are funded heavily by grants. Part of the economic services director's job will be to identify additional revenue opportunities to save taxpayers money and build upon our local economy for the future."

Cridlebaugh added that he is excited to be undertaking the new position. "Chelan County is a wonderful place and I'm looking forward to building a new department that will have a positive impact on the people we serve," he said.

"Building something new is exciting and allows you to look at things with a different lens and think outside of the box."

Walter named permanent director of Chelan County Community Development

Submitted by
Jill FitzSimmons
Public Information Officer

WENATCHEE – Deanna Walter, Chelan County assessor and interim director of Chelan County Community Development, is the new permanent director of the county's planning and building department.

Walter, who was appointed as interim director of Community Development in March 2022, stepped down from her elected position on March 31 and took over the role as the department's director on April 1.

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) signed a contract for employment with Walter on Monday.

"This past year, Deanna has brought stability and efficiencies to Community Development. She has filled six positions while prioritizing cross-training and better customer service at all levels," said Commissioner Tiffany Gering, BOCC chairwoman.

"The board has called upon her twice now to step in and lead that department at times when it needed her leadership style the most – all while also serving as an elected official. In a time when it is difficult to hire planning professionals, much less directors, the board is fortunate that Deanna agreed to take on this position in a permanent capacity."

Serving in both capacities

was not a long-term solution for Chelan County or its citizens, Walter said. "This was a very hard decision, one I did not take lightly. I loved being assessor, but I also recognize I can help Community Development, knowing the Assessor's Office is



Deanna Walter

healthy," Walter said. "The Assessor's Office is efficient, it's customer service-driven and the employees there are a cohesive team."

My decision to leave is based on my confidence that my team will thrive without me. I will work to bring these same qualities to Community Development to benefit the public we serve."

Walter's background includes:

- Born and raised in Wenatchee, she has more than 27 years of land use experience. She holds two bachelor's degrees, one in actuarial science from Central Washington University and another in urban and regional planning from

Eastern Washington University.

- Walter started her land use career as a planner, first working in Kootenai County and later Spokane County. In 2002 she was hired by Chelan County Community Development as its assistant director. She left Community Development in 2005, moving to the private development sector.

- In 2009, Walter was recruited by former Assessor Russ Griffith to be the chief appraiser in the Chelan County Assessor's Office. Upon Griffith's retirement in 2010, Walter was promoted to chief deputy of the Assessor's Office. In September 2011, she was appointed county assessor. She first won election to office in 2012; she was most recently re-elected to office last year.

- Walter served two terms as president of the Washington State Association of County Assessor. In that role, she worked with legislators and the Washington Department of Revenue on legislation and best practices for appraisal and program administration across the state. Over the years, she has developed an expertise in levies, which require a special analytical skillset.

- Commissioners first appointed Walter as interim director of Community Development in February 2020 to reorganize and stabilize the department before new Di-

rector Jim Brown was hired later that year.

She continued as interim assistant director until September 2020 to support the new director and onboard the new assistant director.

Then, when former

interim director Chris Young stepped down in March 2022, Walter was again asked to serve as interim director.

Since 2010, Community Development has had six directors or interim directors, not including Walter's

two stints as interim director. This is a fact not lost on commissioners, Gering said.

"These positions are difficult to fill. It's a difficult department to manage because of the many moving parts,

SEE **CCCD**, PAGE 16

East Wenatchee Police Department is Moving



Submitted by Trina Elmes,
City of East Wenatchee

The East Wenatchee Police Department offices closed March 24, while staff finalized their move to their new location at 50 Simon Street SE. Officers worked as normal as the administration made the final move. The Police Department's new location, 50 Simon Street SE, officially opened on Monday, March 27.

The City of East Wenatchee purchased 50 Simon Street in June of 2021 for just over \$4 million and spent \$1 million on renovating the property.

The renovations were completed mid-March and staff began moving in. There will be a grand opening and ribbon cutting event in late spring and infor-

mation will be sent out as it becomes available.

"This new building will help us take the next step to becoming accredited and showing that we are using the best practices for a police department," said Police Chief Rick Johnson.

"We are excited for this move and will be better equipped to serve our community and its residents."

Accreditation professionalizes law enforcement agencies and certifies that they are operating using the industry's best practices and standards.

The Accreditation program is overseen by the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs and began in 1976.

Becoming an accredited law enforcement agency is in the City of East Wenatchee's Strategic Plan and one of Chief Johnson's top priorities.

Visit EastWenatcheeWa.gov for online services and departmental information or call (509) 884-9515 to speak with someone directly. To stay up to date on what is happening in the City of East Wenatchee, visit our website and sign up to "Get Notified" to receive notices on road closures, press releases, upcoming events and more.

James Byrd of Wenatchee serves as a Senate page for Sen. Brad Hawkins



James Byrd and Senator Brad Hawkins.



Submitted PHOTO: WASHINGTON STATE SENATE
 Luke Hawkins, 15, and Loren Hensley, 14, pose with Senator Brad Hawkins on the floor of the Senate Chamber.

Two Wenatchee teens serve as Senate pages for Sen. Brad Hawkins

Submitted by Rebecca Ronzone

OLYMPIA – Luke Hawkins and Loren Hensley, both freshmen at Sterling Junior High School in East Wenatchee, served as Senate pages during the week of March 13-17 at the state Capitol in Olympia.

Hawkins and Hensley were sponsored by Sen. Brad Hawkins, R-East Wenatchee, who represents the 12th Legislative District. They were two of 14 students who served as Senate pages during the 10th week of the 2023 legislative session.

Hawkins and Hensley served as the Page color guard team carrying the American and Washington state flags into the Senate Chamber to begin the day's proceedings. The pair also attended a committee hearing on Senate Bill 5001, which would support the construction of a regional sports complex in the Wenatchee Valley.

Sen. Hawkins said, "It was so fun to have them experience a local issue and to see firsthand how we can join forces to advocate for our communities, which is an important aspect of our representative government."

"I'm super excited that my son Luke and his best friend Loren could serve as my Senate Pages this week," Hawkins said. "Recruiting them was sort of a package deal and I'm thankful it was ultimately successful."

During their Page week, the boys worked

on a mock bill that would require insurance companies to prioritize mental health in the same way as physical health. This would allow a patient's treatment to be covered by their insurance.

"Being a Page, this past week has been a great experience. I have met many new friends and learned a lot," Luke Hawkins said. "It has been a really cool experience being here in Olympia," Hensley said.

Both boys are involved in cross-country and swim team. They also share a similar educational passion, hoping to become engineers. Hensley, 14, is the son of Julia Hensley of Wenatchee. Hawkins, 15, is the son of Brad and Shawna Hawkins of Wenatchee.

The Senate Page Program gives Washington students between the ages of 14 and 16 an opportunity to spend a week working and learning in the state Legislature.

During their time at the Capitol, pages are responsible for transporting documents between offices, providing support to Senate offices, and working on the Senate Floor.

Pages also spend their days attending in a classroom-like setting learning about state government, parliamentary procedure, and the legislative process.

In addition, pages work together to draft their own bills and engage in a mock legislative session.

Submitted by
 Rebecca Ronzone

OLYMPIA– James Byrd, a home-schooled sophomore, served as a Senate page during the week of March 6-10 at the state Capitol in Olympia.

Byrd was sponsored by

Sen. Brad Hawkins, R-East Wenatchee, who represents the 12th Legislative District.

He was one of 15 students serving as Senate pages during the ninth week of the 2023 legislative session.

"I wanted to become a page because I am

very interested in learning about our government," Byrd said, "It was very interesting to be on the floor and hearing the Senators debate; I really enjoyed seeing it firsthand."

Byrd also worked on a mock bill that would only allow the governor to serve two four terms.

"I really enjoyed James. He is a fun and outgoing young man who was clearly eager to learn about the legislative process. It's reassuring to see young people like him express so much of an interest in his government," Hawkins said.

Byrd enjoys playing lacrosse, computer programming, and is currently the elected president in Children of American Revolution.

In CAR, youth learn about patriotism and practice leadership skills. Byrd hopes to attend University of Washington to study computer science and pursue a career in programming. Byrd, 16, is the son of Carrie and Chad Byrd of Wenatchee.

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CHELAN COUNTY

Commissioners vote to move forward with land exchange agreement

Submitted by Rachel Hanson, Chelan County PUD

WENATCHEE – Chelan PUD commissioners unanimously supported a land exchange agreement on March 20 that includes a range of measures intended to reduce the anticipated impact of Confluence Parkway on nearby public lands.

The City of Wenatchee's Confluence Parkway project is a proposed 2.5-mile bypass to alleviate traffic conges-

tion along North Wenatchee Avenue.

The land exchange would trade a long, narrow parcel of land along the western edges of Horan Natural Area and Confluence State Park – about 5 acres total owned by the PUD – for roughly equivalent property from the City.

"I think it needs to be clear and understood that this vote is not an approval or disapproval of the parkway," said Commissioner Carnan Bergren. The pro-

posed parkway will require approval of other agencies to move forward, including the Federal Highway Administration.

"We're making a land exchange that will improve the Horan habitat area is the way I see it," Bergren said.

Commissioner Garry Arseneault said he believes that the land swap provides value to customer-owners because it will secure and preserve undeveloped land as future wildlife habitat.

"Today's resolution puts

in play a road map to achieve equity – taking something of value and replacing it with equal value – otherwise known as a compromise," Arseneault said. "Evidence of the District's desire and commitment to partner with the city by helping alleviate traffic congestion in the north end is the cornerstone of this resolution."

Commissioner Steve McKenna said that the Confluence Parkway proposal has been the most complicated discussion of his tenure, with hundreds of comments from customer-owners on all sides of the issue.

"It's a paramount duty of the PUD and the City to follow through on what this agreement is, because it's based on what our customer-owners said is important," McKenna said.

Wenatchee City Council
 See CHELAN COUNTY PUD, PAGE 13



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

APRIL 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

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DATE CHANGE: • BNCW Yard Sale changed to April 14th at Community Glass
 • 27th Annual BNCW June Golf Tournament changed to June 23rd

What's New From CEO

BNCW Members,

By now most of you have already heard that I have resigned as the CEO for BNCW. I would like to take this moment to thank our members, partners, and some very special people.

It was my honor to serve BNCW and the many proud American Business Owners during my time as CEO for BNCW. It was truly humbling to serve so many Patriotic Americans in the Wenatchee Valley. Thank you for serving our Republic by providing the economy base that fuels the economy and sustains our families. Thank you and again.

BNCW is so blessed with a wealth of partners in the community. Namely, Mark Miller and the whole Staff at Town Toyota Center are not only critical to BNCW promoting our member businesses, they are also our professional family. Thank you for making the BNCW Home Show the best in Washington State, trust us... we went to them all and you are the best.

BNCW could not function at the level of excellence without Johanna Carveth our Bookkeeper, Pink Collar Booking, and Shae Lipp our webpage manager, Inbound Wenatchee, both critical to our transformational changes in 2022 and 2023 and both working “out of



Lawrence “Lee” Shepherd
 CEO, BNCW

“It’s all for nothing if you don’t have Freedom.”
 — William Wallace

house”. Thank you for being excellent teammates.

BNCW is fortunate to have a uniquely qualified Board of Directors with a wealth of business and building knowledge. Thank you for all your support and keen wisdom. Special shoutout to our Lifetime Directors Randy Gold, Gold Construction, and Ryan Kelso, Complete Design, you have been unparalleled in your support to BNCW, Small Businesses, and the Wenatchee Valley. Thank you again.

I accepted the role as CEO of BNCW under “Pandemic Conditions” and promoting our businesses was challenging at best. Amy Gustin, Former Interim CEO and Jeff Story, Former Board Chairman, did an amazing job running the organization under these conditions. They also were amazing during my transition and throughout my time as subject matter experts, providing guidance and mentorship. Thank you for everything.

A very special thanks to Ed Gardner, E.D.Y Construction, BNCW Lifetime Director, my leader while CEO of BNCW and my brother forever. Thank you for all the long fruitful conversations about improving BNCW for our members and thank you for just being role model of how leader-

ship. Thank you so very much.

The heart and soul of BNCW staff is Danielle Martin our former Event and Membership Coordinator. Thank you for all your creative, transformational, super competitive nature and always inspirational hard work. Thank you. But most important, CONGRATULATIONS on being appointed the Interim CEO for BNCW!

Thank you again to our members, partners, all the special people that make BNCW unique, and for allowing me the honor to serve as the BNCW CEO.

Lawrence “Lee” Shepherd
 CEO, BNCW

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New Interim CEO is hired!

BNCW Members,

Please give a warm welcome to Danielle Martin, Building North Central Washington’s New Interim CEO.

Danielle has been with BNCW for the past three years as our Events & Membership Coordinator. A Wenatchee transplant since 2016. Her family fell in love with Wenatchee’s small-town charm.

For the past three years, she has been working hard to make sure BNCW’s events are fun, fresh, and fulfilling for our members.

The goal for 2023 will be to continue BNCW’s mission of promoting and protecting small businesses in the Valley.

Danielle is excited to jump into the Interim CEO role and keep BNCW headed in the right direction.

Please feel free to reach out with either a phone call or email Danielle at danielle@buildingncw.org



Danielle Martin

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

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www.BuildingNCW.org



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

APRIL 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

DATE CHANGE: • BNCW Yard Sale changed to April 14th at Community Glass
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Did you know... 42% of all US businesses are owned by women?



We employ over 9.4 million employees. Recent receipts show women-owned businesses have grown by 52%, compared to 34% of male-owned companies.

Women who are financially secure reinvest in their neighbors, donating to nonprofits, workplace training, and reinvesting in their community.

This leads to more opportunities and more stable communities. Women who own businesses can affect social change, persuade voting habits, and create a community.

This past Friday, March 24th the Kenady Real Estate Group & Sweat Equity Cycle Studio hosted Babes in Business. Attendees were treated to fun conversations and got to see how the new cycle studio works!

These new businesses answered questions about what it is like to be a women business owner and what chal-

lenges they have faced when starting their companies.

A special thank you to Melissa Kenady of Kenady Real Estate Group and Ashley Reynolds of Sweat Equity Cycle Studio for hosting a special night!

Check out their social media pages for more information:



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2023

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2ND Annual

April 14th 9am-2pm

BNCW YARD SALE

Located at: **COMMUNITY Glass Co**
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Join us on April 14th from 9 am - 2 pm at Community Glass!
 Looking for appliances, hardware, flooring, or cabinets?
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Call the BNCW Offices with any questions at 509-293-5840

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www.buildingncw.org

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www.wenatcheehfh.org

Building!™ MEMBER MESSENGER

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

APRIL 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3

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TOUCH A TRUCK

Wenatchee Valley College
Saturday May 20, 2023
10am - 2pm

\$5 for Adults - **\$3** for Kids.
Free for children under 2
Bring non-perishable food items for donation & get \$1 off total entry!
Military discount available

SAVE THE DATE!

Hidden Dangers

There was worker who enter a store's freezer that needed repaired. On the door were very simple words that were scribbled on a piece of paper communicating," bad stuff in there".

As the employee enter the freezer, he felt light headed and immediately turned around and passed out.

Fortunately, as he turned around, the weight of his body opened the door as he passed out, falling into the open air keeping him alive. Problem, dry ice was being used to keep freezer cold. The off gas from the dry ice created a dangerous atmosphere.

An employee was on his way home during a fall evening.

As he drove down the road he lived on, he notices a fire in the bushes off to the side of the road.

He stopped his car and went to investigate and put the fire out. Problem, as he approached the fire he was electrocuted due to a down power line that was arching and causing the fire.

A foreman was scheduled to work in a stair shaft. Demolition was being done above.

The foreman had an uneasy feeling and pulled his guys out of the area. Something did not seem right.

Within a couple of minutes, the scaffolding they would have been standing on collapsed.

SEE **HIDDEN DANGERS**, PAGE 12

Rotary Road Apple Roulette

2023 Event Sponsor

Where will the horses... during Stemilt Grand Parade?

Guess correctly and you could win \$10,000!!!

Raffle tickets available at BNCW yard sale 4/14
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Memorial Park Food Fair

HAPPY Easter



MEMBER MESSENGER

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PAGE 4

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BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's April Board of Directors Meeting

■ **Wednesday, April 19, 2023**
7:00am to 9:00am
at Building North Central Washington
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee
Chairman: Shane Covey

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 7:00am 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

■ **April 11, 2023** from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
■ **May 16, 2023** from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Held at Building North Central Washington,
2201 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee

Class size is limited to 16 people.

\$49/person, 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.

Continued from page 11

lapse down the shaft. Problem, if the workers would have been on the scaffold, they would have suffered a serious injury if not someone killed due to hidden damage to the scaffold.

These stories are examples of hidden dangers we work with every day. In the effort to get our work done, we are focused on our task and forge ahead.

Sometimes with a lot of training, sometime there is a lack of training.

How can we protect ourselves from hidden

dangers, especially when we are in the “active” forging ahead?

Here are a couple of things to look for:

- STOP – observe the area before proceeding
- Poor housekeeping.
- Lack or improper signage
- Confused or messy material storage in the area.
- Careless handling of materials.
- Improper or defective tools being used
- Lack of machine guarding; failure to install warning systems.



- Lack of or failure to wear proper personal protection equipment.
- The weather, wind, ice, rain, or sun (such as low sun).
- Worker not dressed for the job to be done.
- There is an attitude and failure to follow instructions.
- That uneasy feeling might be that sixth sense you should be aware of

Steps to take once

an unsafe condition is found:

- If possible, correct the condition yourself immediately.
- Report any major unsafe condition or action to the appropriate company authority.
- Follow-up – report the condition again if it is not corrected

Safety is not a hobby, it's a living.

Lets be safe out there!!!

NEED TO BE CPR

CERTIFIED?

We got you

MAY 16TH CLASS STILL OPEN!

EMAIL DANIELLE AT
DANIELLE@BUILDINGNCW.ORG



(509) 886-4114
Cell 670-2021

Pat Brown
Lic# INDUSCI011L3

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East Wenatchee, WA 98802

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New data shows sharp decline in students moving directly from high school to college

Submitted by
Washington Student
Achievement Council



OLYMPIA – Over the past decade, Washington’s high school graduation rate has steadily increased, but the proportion of the state’s graduates who enroll directly in college has not. The direct enrollment rate that once hovered around 60 percent dropped to 50 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Declines in the direct enrollment rate varied by race, which could further

exacerbate existing racial inequities in postsecondary enrollment.

Washington’s direct enrollment rate is lower than the national average, and the decline in direct enrollment was more significant than the national trend. In 2020, the national direct enrollment rate fell by 3 percentage points (from 66 percent in 2019 to 63 percent in 2020),

compared to a decline of 8 percentage points in Washington (from 59 percent to 51 percent).

Other nearby states also experienced enrollment decline during the pandemic. California’s direct enrollment rate fell by about 2 percentage points in 2020 (from 65 percent in 2019 to 63 percent in 2020) and Idaho’s direct enrollment rate fell by

7 percentage points (from 46 percent to 39 percent). (Note: national data and state data for California and Idaho define “direct enrollment” as occurring by the fall following high school graduation. Washington’s direct enrollment rate includes enrollment within one year of high school graduation.)

A new Research Spotlight from the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) describes how the pandemic took a significant toll on direct en-

rollment in the state. Key findings include:

- Washington’s direct enrollment rate dropped 9 percentage points between 2019 and 2021, a sharp departure from the previous decade of stagnant direct postsecondary enrollment in the state.
- Direct enrollment in two-year institutions declined

more than direct enrollment in four-year institutions.

- Hispanic or Latino students experienced the largest decline in direct enrollment, from 54 percent in 2019 to 40 percent in 2021.

The full Research Spotlight can be found on the Washington Student Achievement Center website at <https://wsac.wa.gov/>.



Stock photo

Middle School Girls Invited to Learn about Tech at new event, Tech & Tiaras

Submitted by NCESD

The Apple STEM Network and the North Central Educational Service District (NCESD), are proud to announce five upcoming events across the region this spring called, “Tech & Tiaras”, for 8th grade students who identify as female or non-binary, to explore technology and computer science:

- April 25 | 8:30 a.m. - NOON | Manson High School | Manson, WA
- April 18 | 8:30 a.m. - NOON | Quincy High School | Quincy, WA

SHB 5088 was passed in 2019, which requires all comprehensive high schools to offer elective computer science courses for high school students by 2022-2023 school year. This means that for the first time across the region, middle school students have the option to take computer science and technology courses beginning in high school.

Despite this expanded access to computer science, young women are significantly underrepresented in these classes. In 2022, approximately 792 students across North Central Washington took a high school computer science course and only 26% of

those enrollments were students who identify as female.

This gender gap translates to the regional workforce; women are significantly underrepresented in technology roles. Labor market data shows that in 2022 there was an average of 21,414 open computing positions across the state each month. These positions posted an average salary of \$112,623 yearly. Hispanic women comprise 26% of the population in North Central Washington, but comprise just 2.7% of the local technology workforce.

To encourage more young women to consider taking courses and exploring future career paths in technology, the regional events were designed to inspire middle school girls and teens who identify as female, through a fun and engaging, hands-on experience with technology alongside women in the technology industry.

To further the message, the girls will watch a video featuring local parents, peers and teachers who share their thoughts on the benefits of STEM education and possible career pathways for all students. In

this short compilation video produced by NCESD, voices include a Quincy High School graduate who attends the University of Washington, an Othello High School graduate who attended DigiPen Institute of Technology, and other students from Manson High School and Almira Coulee-Hartline High School.

Middle school is a perfect time for students to begin preparing for future careers through experiences that introduce them to new skills and professionals who can help students to identify with potential careers on a personal level. Each event will give students opportunities to code, explore robotics, engineer an LED light up tiara and connect in small groups with local women in technology. All Tech and Tiaras events are free for students to attend but space is limited. Educators are encouraged to register their classes soon.

These events have been sponsored by the NCW Libraries, Microsoft, and NCW Tech Alliance. Educators and administrators, are encouraged to register students at: bit.ly/TECHAN-DTIARAS.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A closer look into our property tax system

marily on sales and business taxes to fund its programs, only a slice of what you pay in property taxes is the state portion.

The remaining slices (some larger than others) are comprised of taxes from local governments for such things as school levies, school bonds, fire response, library, and other local services.

Some of these property taxes, such as local school district levies and bonds or fire district taxes, are subject to the approval of local voters.

Residents of one jurisdiction can pay more or less than others depending on the measures approved by voters in your area.

Payment of property taxes

Some residents pay their annual property taxes twice a year with half payments by April 30 and October 31. Others choose to pay the full year’s tax by April 30.

Many property owners have their property taxes included with their monthly mortgage payments.

While that is certainly a convenient option, it may somewhat disguise what you are paying in property taxes.

Current law provides a variety of authorized reductions, exemptions, deferrals, and other assistance to property taxpayers.

Creating more exemptions can cause complications, however, because as more properties are exempted, the overall tax burden is applied to the remaining taxable properties.

This results in a “tax shift” with all other properties paying more.

Assessed value and community valuation

The assessed value of property in addition to the

tax rates is a contributor to what property owners pay.

If a tax rate remains the same but a property’s value increases, a property owner likely pays more.

When the total value of assets throughout an area increases, often due to enhanced residential and commercial development, the tax-requesting entity enjoys the benefit of that total dollar amount being spread over more paying and valued properties, helping to keep the tax manageable.

New businesses constructed or additional homes development within a community help increase the overall valuation of an area’s property.

This mitigates an individual’s property tax by spreading the overall fixed burden to more taxpayers.

Most property taxes are determined locally

The Washington state operating budget relies primarily on the sales tax and business & occupation tax for its revenues.

Only a portion of your property tax is collected for state government purposes.

The property tax is primarily a local tax function.

Some property taxes are approved by your local elected officials, and some are subject to a local vote.

The local school levies, school bonds for buildings, fire district levies, port district taxes, and library district taxes as well as city and county taxes and others – along with the value of your property and the surrounding property in your area – all affect what you pay in property taxes.

Brad Hawkins is the state senator for the 12th District. For more information, visit senatorbradhawkins.org.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Commissioners vote to move forward with land exchange agreement

considered the land exchange agreement Thursday, March 23.

The land exchange agreement also includes:

- *Noise abatement:* The City will build a noise wall and earthen berms with landscaping in areas where

road noise is expected to have the greatest impact.

- *Trail improvements:* The City will reroute the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail away from Hawley Street and the railroad tracks for better safety and user experience. The

new pedestrian bridge will be about twice as wide as the existing one.

The draft agreement also commits the City to reimburse the utility to relocate two water wells that support Confluence State Park, and replace state park staff housing that is in the path of the proposed roadway.

In most cases, the City will cover the relocation of electrical transmission and

distribution lines in coordination with roadway construction.

In other news, commissioners:

- Approved a water service agreement with Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District for access to 4,000 acre-feet of water for \$1 million annually. The agreement provides future flexibility for hatcheries, parks, water systems and power generation.

Hawkins issues statement on passage of Senate’s drug possession bill

Submitted by Sen. Brad Hawkins

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Senate today approved Senate Bill 5536 sponsored by Sen. June Robinson, D-Everett. It represents the first major step this legislative session to address a temporary drug possession law that sunsets this July. In 2021, the State Supreme Court’s Blake Decision 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. The proposal that was approved today by a vote of 28 to 21 includes a classification of possession offenses, steps to pretrial diversion, prosecution, and resources. Hawkins voted in favor of the proposal, which now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

State Sen. Brad Hawkins issued the following statement:

“Many of my legislative colleagues have characterized drug abuse as a

‘personal healthcare issue.’ I don’t necessarily disagree, but our state needs to maintain options in our criminal justice system to protect people from themselves and others. I would have preferred something much stronger, but this is a bipartisan compromise. This is one of the most important issues of this session. The Senate’s approach isn’t a perfect solution, but I believe it strikes the right balance between having a helping hand of compassion and a heavier hand of punishment. One way or another, we need to get people the help they need to get healthy, but we also don’t want them endangering themselves or others.”

REAL ESTATE

TOP PROPERTIES CHELAN COUNTY – February 2023

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Year Built	Living Area	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
STAUFF FRANK J & WENDY S	DOHERTY MATTHEW J & ANN M	\$3,162,500	721 MANSON BLVD	MANSON	0.46	1999	2194	2	1.5	N	N
WILLKOMMEN LLC	POTTER EDWARD	\$3,000,000	UNASSIGNED	LEAVENWORTH	33.41	0	0			N	N
BROWN ROBERT	DICKINSON MICHAEL L	\$1,400,000	UNASSIGNED	LAKE WENATCHEE	600	0	0			N	N
ISALVION PROPERTY GROUP LLC	MC DEE'S DEVELOPMENT CO LLC	\$1,050,000	30 N CHELAN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.3	1937	10977			N	N
ROUNDS JEFFREY B	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$780,000	970 BENTLEY LN	WENATCHEE	0.16	0	0			N	N
KURTZ GREGORY & MYRA	CHRISTOPHER ROBERT C	\$661,000	30 SHOEMAKER RD	MANSON	0.65	2006	1544	3	2	N	Y
HERGERT DENNIS W & KATHY A	STEEN MICHELLE L	\$646,000	11165 WENDING LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	2.41	1995	1610	2	2	N	Y
STERN TERENCE & NELLIUS	RUSSELL CHRISTOPHER & LAYCEANN PHILLIPS	\$590,000	1511 ELMWOOD ST	WENATCHEE	0.29	1986	2491	4	1.75	N	Y
MAYHEW JULIE A	COUCH CHRISTOPHER & CAILEY	\$570,000	16 HONEYCRISP LN	MANSON	0.27	2019	1768	3	2	N	N
MITSUYASU JAMES	MC INNIS KERSTIN M & WITTY BRIAN	\$525,000	1101 IDAHO ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1952	1236	3	1.75	N	Y
BAYLOSIS HEATHER & JOSHUA	LARSEN ERIKA R & GRASS KEVIN	\$525,000	920 1ST ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1927	1636	4	2.5	N	Y
SHANNON AUSTIN H	DOLOZYCKI ROMAN	\$525,000	12455 CHUMSTICK HWY	LEAVENWORTH	3.03	1991	1247	2	1	N	Y
HAVEN DONALD M & CARROLL CINDY G	CARIE STEPHEN P & KATHLEEN J	\$505,000	1750 CENTRAL AVE	WENATCHEE	0.65	0	1747			N	N
ROBLES MALDONADO JOSE M	CHAMBERS TYLER W	\$465,000	1831 KRISTINA LN	WENATCHEE	0.14	2022	1524	3	2	N	N
THRASHER ANN	BAKER BEVERLY A TRUSTEE	\$450,000	1817 HERITAGE DR	WENATCHEE	0.13	1997	1647			N	N
NAISMITH CHARLES ETAL	GRAND COLUMBIA COUNCIL	\$450,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	21.39	0	0			N	N
SANDERS GINA	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$450,000	71 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	0.14	2022	2058	3	2	N	Y
PUTNAM MARK S & CAROLYN L	JT BUSINESS INVESTMENTS LLC	\$440,000	2220 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0	0	884			N	N
EYESTONE JAY & KATHERINE	KILLINGSWORTH ALEXANDER & WINIFRED	\$440,000	403 S MILLER ST	WENATCHEE	0.17	1938	1524	3	2.5	N	Y
RAY DAVID J	IRLAND STEVEN G & JEANNE M	\$439,500	1115 ROSEWOOD AVE	WENATCHEE	0.15	1958	1686	3	1.5	N	Y
BENSON BARRICK & SHEILA	MC CULLOCH TRACY & DEANNA SCHULER	\$430,000	20795 KAHLER DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0	0	1266			N	N
MILLER CARL L JR & DARLENE L	BARNETT TIMOTHY	\$428,900	1606 BRITINI DR	WENATCHEE	0.53	2004	1620			N	N
D & M KELLOGG PROPERTIES LLC	KELLOGG VALLEY NORTH PROPERTIES LLC	\$400,000	1317 PRINCETON AVE	WENATCHEE	0.5	1924	1196	2	1	N	Y
PEREZ GONZALEZ SILAILA & ERICKA	CROCKER GREGORY T ETAL	\$399,000	405 S CHELAN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.14	1920	1085			N	N
CASCADE VENTURES NORTHWEST LLC	MC CLELLAN ROBIN O ETAL	\$379,900	321 MALAGA AVE	WENATCHEE	0.13	1916	1273	3	2.5	N	Y
THULL JOSHUA ETAL	TERRELL KIRK & LYNNE	\$371,000	324 PESHAUSTIN ST	CASHMERE	0.33	1977	1960			N	N
FAUSTO EDUARDO & ORELLANA VEGA LESLY N	ANDREW DAVID	\$369,900	925 CORBALEY PL	WENATCHEE	0.19	1954	928	4	1.5	N	N
KSH HOLDINGS LLC	WENBOURNE GABRIEL	\$365,000	322 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0	0	622			N	N
ZIMMERMAN MADDISON	ZIMMERMAN CHRISTOPHER R	\$345,000	1902 W PROSPECT ST	CHELAN	0	1993	825			N	N

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. FEBRUARY 2023

RESIDENTIAL

Sale Price	Address	Total Acres	Year Built	Residential Area	Basement Area	Bedr.	Bathr.	Garage Area
\$925,000	309 STONERIDGE DR	0.25	2015	2186	2064	4	4	928
\$725,000	106 LAUREL ESTS	4	2006	2760		2	2.5	768
\$574,000	4535 SE COLOCKUM VIEW	2.06	2021	2035		3	2	820
\$520,000	1615 N AURORA AVE	0.25	1997	1360	1426	5	3	506
\$504,550	1945 BLUEGRASS AVE	0.21	2005	1344	1320	3	2.5	484
\$500,000	2700 SEMOLINA LOOP	0.19	2013	1331	966	3	2.5	460
\$500,000	2025 VALLEY VIEW BLVD	0.3	1967	1456	1456	4	2.25	672
\$425,600	835 N IOWA AVE	0.19	1975	1248	1248	4	2.5	572
\$425,000	1205 N DEVON AVE	0.28	1952	1895		4	2	
\$418,900	541 N MONTCLAIR AVE	0.16	2015	1156		3	2	418
\$415,000	315 N JACKSON ST	1.34	1967	1688	1296	5	3	588
\$415,000	764 N JENNIFER LN	0.2	1960	1494	300	2	2	330
\$409,000	102 S IOWA AVE	0.27	2016	912		2	2	480
\$399,995	810 ETTA ST NE	0.21	1972	912	352	3	2	
\$374,500	8TH ST SE	0.2	1979	1344		3	2	720
\$365,000	1691 GRANT RD	0.28	1950	980		2	1	480
\$339,900	260 N NEWTON AVE	0.27	1976	1586		2	2	576

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. FEBRUARY 2023

COMMERCIAL

Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Acres	Parcel Description
PLAIN HOLDING LLP	TOWN OF WATERVILLE	\$150,000	103 W LOCUST ST	0.06	TRADE - EATING & DRINKING

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS CO. FEBRUARY 2023

FARM

Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Total Acres
WADE & WADE LLC	HEINICKE, SUSAN WADE & GUS	\$3,722,500	1357 N GROVER AVE	38.9
AUVIL, THOMAS D	BANDIT LANE LLC	\$1,800,000		38.7
SCULL, ELIOT & CRISTINE	CRUZ, JOSE CARLOS	\$1,350,000	3770 10TH ST SE	8.38
WELTON ORCHARDS & STORAGE LLC	LAMB, JOHN E & MARY KATHERINE ARMSTRONG	\$720,000	2720 2ND ST SE	11.93
PANASUK, STEVE M & MARNIE L	POONI, SUKHMINDER & BALDISH	\$625,000	29 BUCKINGHAM ALLEY	19.5
SCOTT, MICHAEL J	SCOTT, TIMOTHY MICHAEL & BECKY KAY	\$600,000	3400 10TH ST SE	10
VAUGHN, GEORGE M & KATHLEEN R	MILLS, MARTIN & ROBIN	\$550,000	MOSES COULEE RD - NEEDS ADDRESS	62.89
HASHEMI, & BARAT ALI	SOLTANI, & SOLEIMAN	\$500,000		5
SCULL, ELIOT & CRISTINE	RANCHO NUEVO LLC	\$400,000		11.38
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION	NILES, EMILY & TYSON	\$340,000	12 TRAILS END RD	17.11



To Our Health

Department of Health announces Birth Equity Project Grant recipients

Funding announced for organizations working to support healthy births and expand access to resources for birthing families

Submitted by WSDOH

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has awarded Birth Equity Project funding to five organizations serving pregnant and birthing people in the state. These organizations are led by and serve Washington’s Black/African American, African Immigrant, and American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

DOH’s Birth Equity Project funding seeks to address and reduce the racism faced by birth workers and families of the priority communities and improve birth outcomes. DOH is investing in community-based birth worker organizations helping close the gaps through culturally responsive care.

In 2019, Washington’s Native American/Alaska Native population had the highest infant mortality rate in the state, followed by



Non-Hispanic Black/African American and Pacific Islander populations. American Indian and Alaska Native people experienced higher maternal mortality rates than any other race/ethnic group, as noted in DOH’s 2023 Maternal Mortality Report.

These differences have remained relatively constant over the past two decades and are linked to a long history of racism and institutional and systemic practices in health systems.

Our research shows that perinatal health, birth outcomes, and infant mortality rates are connected to the quality of medical care access, health status, and public health policies and practices. Poor health out-

comes during pregnancy, at birth, postpartum, and in infants are largely preventable through public health measures.

Each organization will receive up to \$200,000 per fiscal year for 2.5 years. Funds will support organizations’ efforts to continue providing culturally responsive services to pregnant and birthing people to help them receive the best care possible. The funded projects include doula work, an evidence-based strategy to reduce maternal mortality.

Organizations receiving funding are:

- **Ayan Maternity Health Care Support** – perinatal support and professional development opportunities to East African immigrants and refugees in King County.

- **BLKBRY** – care and resources in Black reproductive, perinatal, lactation

support, and Black infant and toddler health care. Services offered across the state.

- **The Nisqually Tribal Health and Wellness Center** – perinatal health services to American Indian/Alaska Natives living in Thurston County and Nisqually Tribal members.

- **Shades of Motherhood** – serving Black mothers, people of color, and their infants to overcome barriers to care in Spokane and Eastern Washington.

- **Spokane Tribal Network** – a non-profit based on the Spokane Indian Reservation partnering with **Həłmxiłp** (Cedar Circle) Indigenous Birth Justice to improve reproductive health in rural and urban areas of Spokane Tribal communities in Spokane and Stevens County.

“Through this funding, we are strengthening the network of community-



Pixabay photo

based organizations providing critical support and culturally responsive care to Washington’s birthing families to help them have healthy starts and the opportunity to achieve their full health potential,” said Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health, Washington State Department of Health.

To select the grantees, DOH worked closely with a community advisory board called the Birth Equity Advisory Committee, which

is made up of doulas, midwives, and caregivers from the priority communities of the grant.

This work is funded through the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant that DOH receives from the Centers for Disease Control.

Previous funding was used to respond to the infant formula shortage in 2022, train doulas, provide prenatal care for rural communities, and support home visiting programs.

House Bill 1110 Will Make Real Estate Agents More Valuable to Parents



By Brian Fair

House Bill 1110 passed the House in early March and is under consideration by the Senate. In summary, it eliminates ALL single-family home zoning in cities where population exceeds 25,000. Your neighbors will now be able to knock their house down and put up a 4-plex, anywhere in a city greater than 25,000, as long as one unit meets affordable housing requirements. Wenatchee’s population exceeds 25,000.

When buying a home, especially those with young families, you now need to do more than consider the current state of the neighborhood. You also have to consider what it could look like in the near future. Simply researching houses for sale on Zillow or Redfin is not going to provide you with “boots on the ground” experience necessary to minimize the potential of making a mistake. Real estate agents than will become more valuable than ever, especially early in the buying process, to help you with these decisions once the bill passes the senate and the governor signs it into law.

Eliminating strictly single-family home neighborhoods

is Olympia’s answer to an oft mentioned affordable housing crisis. Buildable land may be a scarce commodity in the Puget Sound, but if you draw a triangle from the Rock Island Tavern, to Larry’s Chicken, to the Airport and back to the Rock Island Tavern, we have 5,345 acres of land zoned Ag Use in Service, Ag Use Not in Service, or undeveloped.

The ag and/or water rights value to this land has not been significant enough to draw the attention of Goldman Sacks or the Gates Foundation. I doubt we generate enough hydro power from the local dams to fill this acreage with data storages, so that leaves housing as the next best viable economic option. If you assume half of that land would be required for infrastructure (roads, schools, parks), that still leave room for over 9,000 building lots of 12,500 sq feet. Land is not a problem in the Wenatchee Valley.

The Bill is sponsored by Rep. Jessica Bateman. On March 7 the Seattle Times quotes her as saying “This is about people like my little sister who is a nurse who cannot afford her first home and is postponing putting roots down. We are pricing young people out of the future they deserve”. Hmmm.

I guess I missed that day in my economics class when they taught that reducing the number of single family homes will make them more affordable.

Denser housing may sound like a merciful way to deal with a certain segment of society, but there are other downsides that are being ignored. I recall the basics of my sociology course at the UW some 35 years ago (shout out to Professor Stark for those in my age bracket).

The basics were this: The more people you pack into a smaller area, the more long-term psychological issue will be created.

A monumental Swedish study of 4.4 million people 20 years ago found that denser housing lead to a 68-77% greater risk of developing psychosis and a 12-20% greater risk of developing depression. See link <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15056572/>. The New Geography article cites other studies of similar conclusions regarding children, health, and housing density. <http://www.newgeography.com/content/003945-health-happiness-and-density>.

Crime also elevates in neighborhoods as housing becomes denser. A study by Indiana University concluded “There seems to be something about (high-density residential) units that is associated with all types of serious violent crime, even controlling for the other factors in the model,” the authors write.

“Apparently, high-density housing units promote serious violent crime.” The link is provided here. <https://tinyurl.com/msj7d2df>

Many large Washington

MARKETING 101

Media Mix or Mix-Up?

Submitted by Jennifer Bushong

Digital marketing may seem more convoluted than ever before.

New software applications (or apps) are being developed all the time. Savvy marketers stay abreast of the trends, and pivot accordingly. However, not all new apps or trends are worth the investment. It will vary based on the product, service, message, location, and brand. Metrics determine the investment, which should be tracked at least monthly (some daily).

Today, media mix includes digital marketing which promotes a product or service on the world-wide web through digital platforms, along with traditional media (i.e. print, radio).

Digital media is referred to as anything that is created or viewed with electronic devices either online or offline.

The following are some ideas to consider when implementing digital apps into your marketing plan:

Keep It Simple

Select applications that make sense for your brand. Invest in quality photos,

video, or brand messaging. Develop or use a hashtag that is short and easy to remember. The consistency of the message is key.

Know Your Audience

Like traditional media, applications will not always relate to every audience.

A description of your business on one application may need to be rewritten with new words, phrases, images or even a trending video on another application. Track impressions, engagements, views, and shares to get to know your audience and use language that appeals to them on the given app.

Be Clever

Showcase your products or service in a unique way that will drive the audience back to the company’s website. Remember, the website is created and managed by the business; apps are not.

Even though the [company] app may have a page, feed or channel, it is owned by the software application and can be removed if not in compliance with advertising guidelines. Marketers today have more options than ever before.

There are several ways to



Jennifer Bushong

connect with potential customers, yet it can be stressful to understand which tactics are better than others.

Stay focused on the mission, vision, values and goals of your company.

Align your marketing plan accordingly, and do not be afraid to try new applications that could potentially generate sales.

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cities have already eliminated single family home zoning. Oregon has done it statewide.

Even in Wenatchee there appears to be a new zoning tolerance for upbuilding.

Don’t believe me, drive down Springwater and you will see a new 3 story-

multi family structure that popped up this winter on a postage stamp lot. The city of Wenatchee has 2,000 houses with an assessed value under \$300,000 built before 1950.

All could be economically ripe for a tear down and rebuild into a 4-plex. Choose

your next home purchase with this in mind.

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WASHINGTON RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Washington Retail Association

POLICY

Health data privacy bill advances

House Bill 1155, the health data privacy act, prime sponsored by Rep. Vandana Slatter (D-48-Bellevue), passed the House of Representatives last Saturday after 23 attempts to amend the legislation.

Four amendments were adopted before it passed on a largely party-line vote of 57 to 39 with two excused. The measure was referred to the Senate Law and Justice Committee for consideration.

Washington Retail has significant concerns about how retailers will comply with the bill and the legal liability it creates for them. As currently written, WR members are concerned the definition of “consumer health data” would include many consumer products and services beyond the legislation’s intended scope. For example, these could consist of vitamins, over-the-counter skincare or hair products, athletic or sports equipment, footwear, and apparel, perfumes and fragrances, electronics and entertainment equipment, and games, toys, groceries, cleaning and household supplies, recreational cannabis, pets, pet food, pet supplies, first aid supplies, cold remedies, and pain relievers to name a few.

WR supports consumers having access to and control of their personal data. However, as currently written, this bill will be difficult, if not impossible, for retailers to know what is covered and what is not – leaving them exposed to unwarranted lawsuits and legal actions. WR appreciates proponents of the legislation meeting with us and considering clarifying edits that will make it easier for retailers to comply with the legislation while still allowing us to provide the high

Washington Retail Report

level of service consumers demand and have come to expect.

Ergonomics and warehouse bills continue moving forward

SB 5217, which repeals the voter-approved initiative to prohibit promulgating ergonomics (e.g., musculoskeletal injuries) rules, passed the Senate this week along partisan lines. The bill authorizes Labor and Industries to adopt only one rule per year for an industry with ergonomic claim rates of more than twice the state average for such injuries.



Significantly, the Senate adopted several amendments on the floor to (1) delay implementation for three years, (2) clarify that industry sub-classes that do not meet the injury thresholds are not subject to new rules, and (3) increase technical assistance staffing suggested by WR.

The bill also encourages Labor and Industries to refrain from rule-making if an industry’s claim rate is declining, even if its ergonomic claim rate is more than twice the state’s average. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

HB 1762 requires warehouse employers to provide written descriptions of quotas and work speed data, allows for sufficient time for breaks and other activities, prohibits retaliation against employees and former employees, authorizes enforcement by L&I, and provides for a private right of action.

The bill passed the House on a 53-42 vote this week. WR and a large coalition of business groups will continue working in the Senate toward a bill focused on transparency instead of enforcement and litigation.

ECONOMY

Preventing Vehicular Smash-n-grabs

News reports in recent weeks have shed light on a staggering frequency of vehicular smash and grabs.

In most cases, stolen cars are driven through a retail business’ storefront doors, giving thieves access to the store’s goods. Repair costs are often in the tens of thousands of dollars, while the stolen merchandise amounts to only a fraction of that in value.

The destruction of retail storefronts is met with a six to eight-week wait time for building materials necessary for repairs, adding to the frustration of business owners.

Property crimes reached a five-year high last year, according to a presentation by the Olympia Police to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee late last month. One of the biggest jumps was in stolen vehicles.

Police received 364 reports of motor vehicle theft in 2022. That’s more than a 40% increase over the city’s five-year average of 260 auto thefts in Olympia.

The problem runs statewide. According to the Auto Theft Task Force of Puget Sound – part of the Washington State Patrol – car thefts statewide from January through November last year were 41,330. That number is for the first 11 months. In total, vehicle thefts increased by 88 percent from 2021 to 2022.

Stolen vehicles are a much more substantial “tool” to gain access to a retail business than bolt cutters or a hammer. The good news is business owners have preventative options.

As outlined in the Guide to Navigating Public Safety & Retail Crime, a free resource WR offers, bollards can prevent vehicles from ramming into buildings.

Even if a city doesn’t approve bollard installations, removable barriers, such as rock-filled gabion wire cages, can support a planter or bench seat while effectively stopping a moving vehicle.

TRENDS

Small-footprint brick and mortar spaces catching on

Big retailers are sprouting small retail shops with a fraction of their typical footprint.

A recent report published by Placer.ai highlights the numerous benefits that small-format stores offer businesses.

By opting for smaller store sizes, retailers can cater to specific demographics, curate

personalized shopping experiences, and test out new brand directions. This trend has gained traction among companies striving to improve their customer experience.

A smaller format store with the right mix of in-store products can often mean more efficient sales strategies.

Even with the smaller footprint, stores can bring brand awareness to neighborhoods and customer convenience by buying online and picking up in-store (BOPIS) with a personalized in-person shopping experience.

Placer’s report outlines four key takeaways:

- Smaller stores can increase visitor density, enabling greater efficiency in areas where large format stores don’t fit or are cost-prohibitive.

- Retailers can use smaller stores to cater to key demographic segments.

- Small-format stores can offer more experiential retail possibilities by focusing on specific audiences.

Companies can draw on smaller stores to double down on convenience. Several big retailers now operating small-format stores including Target, Walmart, Macy’s, and The Container Store.

SAFETY

Safety inspection rate for retailers remains at 7 times national average

According to the OSHA Inspection Tracker, Washington State retailers continued to be subjected to safety inspections – at eight times the national average – in 2022. WR reported the same high ratio differential one year ago.

The best way for businesses to prepare for L&I safety inspections is to enroll in WR’s free Safety Ambassador Program.

This program gives participants winning strategies to lower workers’ compensation premiums and processes to develop quality safety practices throughout the organization.

To get started, download the checklist online of items to address in preparation for an inspection. Businesses can receive additional information and help to attain L&I compliance with proven safety practices by emailing safety@waretailservices.com.

Employees are invaluable to every business, and WR is here to help keep them safe.



Data
Privacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Walter named permanent director of Chelan County Community Development

both internal and external,” Gering said.

“But Community Development is not the same department it was just two years ago. The board is confident that under Deanna’s continued guidance, this department is only going to continue to grow while meeting the needs of our community.”

Next, the BOCC will appoint someone as a temporary interim county assessor on April 1.

The Republican Central Committee will then provide the names of three candidates to the BOCC, which will appoint an interim assessor from the recommendation to serve until the 2023 election is certified. People interested in running for the

position can file for election May 15-19.

The new assessor then will serve the remaining three years of the vacated term.

As for Walter, she sees herself in the director’s position until she retires in about eight years.

“I was born and raised in this valley, and I’ve been a part of the county family since 2002. I’m committed to the county; I’ve devoted many years to serving its citizens,” she said.

“To the community, I’d add that cultural change in an office doesn’t happen overnight, but we are hoping the public sees we are a work in progress and getting better every day.”

Hawkins’ “Walking start to Running Start” bill clears key Senate committee

Submitted by
Lauren Espinoza, SPIO

A bill sponsored by 12th District Sen. Brad Hawkins to modernize the Running Start Program has taken a key step forward.

Senate Bill 5670, allowing 10th grade high school students to participate in online college classes, was approved this past Friday by the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Hawkins’ bipartisan bill was unanimously approved earlier in the session by the Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, a new committee for Hawkins this year.

Senate Bill 5670, as amended in the committee, allows 10th graders to participate in one college

course per quarter, if the class is entirely online.

Created in 1990, Running Start is a popular tuition-free “dual credit” program in Washington state that allows high school juniors and seniors to earn college credits while also working toward their high school diplomas.

State funding that follows the student is shared between the K-12 school districts and higher education institutions.

Hawkins believes the rationale for only allowing 11th and 12th graders in the Running Start program when it began over 30 years ago had to do with lawmakers likely not wanting to mix high school and traditional college students on campus.

Considering how institutions structure classes for Running Start students and the rise of online only classes, Hawkins says it’s time to modernize the program.

“Many classes at community colleges are almost entirely high school students participating in Running Start so allowing sophomores who are academically ready to explore a limited number of online classes would be a very good thing,” Hawkins said.

Hawkins added, “You need to walk before you run, so I call my bill a walking start to Running Start.”

His bill directly aligns with state goals related to post-secondary attainment, which involves students earning credentials beyond a high

school diploma. Hawkins said, “Many juniors and seniors work really hard to earn a two-year community college degree by the time they graduate from high school, which can be both overly stressful and impact their social opportunities.”

“Many students work really hard but don’t quite earn their college degree by the time they graduate from high school, yet they never go back to finish due to tuition cost and life circumstances.”

He added, “My bill would allow 10th graders to chip away a bit at their two-year degree online and position themselves better to complete their college program.”

Senate Bill 5670 now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.6% **United States 3.6%**
 Seasonally adjusted
 February 2023



Submitted by Employment Security Department

OLYMPIA – Washington’s economy gained an estimated 15,300 jobs (seasonally adjusted) in February.

Job growth was highest in the following industries: professional and business services, education and health services, government, leisure and hospitality, and information.

Washington’s monthly unemployment rate remained constant at 4.6% in February.

“The downward slide in hiring momentum that emerged late last year has stabilized,” said Employment Security Department (ESD) State Economist Paul Turek.

“Payroll employment growth over the fourth quarter has been revised upward and strong job gains occurred these past two months.” Visit ESD’s website to view the entire Monthly Employment Report for February.

ESD paid unemployment insurance benefits to 58,762 people in February, a decrease of 1,895 paid claims over the previous month.

Decreases in paid claims within agriculture and accommodation and food services contributed to the overall decrease in paid claims over the month.

The national unemployment rate increased in February from 3.4% to 3.6%. For comparison, the national unemployment rate (revised) for February 2022 was 3.8%.

Updated state preliminary data for January 2023

The preliminary estimated gain of 10,800 jobs for January 2023 was revised upwards to a gain of 12,700 jobs. The seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate was confirmed at 4.6%.

Labor force expands again in February

The state’s labor force in February numbered 4,036,300 – an increase of 13,400 people from the previous month.

In the Seattle/Bellevue/Everett

region, the labor force increased by 1,800 over the same period.

Labor force is defined as the total number of people, both employed and unemployed, over the age of 16. Layoffs and labor force participation are not necessarily connected.

When people are laid off but still seeking work, they remain a part of the labor force. A drop in the labor force means people have left work and haven’t been actively seeking employment for more than four weeks.

From February 2022 to February 2023, the state’s labor force increased by 54,500, while the Seattle/Bellevue/Everett region increased by 38,000.

From January to February, the number of people who were unemployed statewide increased from 184,400 to 186,200. In the Seattle/Bellevue/Everett region, the number of people who were unemployed decreased from 56,900 to 55,000 over the same period.

Private sector employment increased by 12,600 jobs while government employment increased by 2,700 jobs.

Of the industry sectors, in February: 10 expanded, three contracted. The professional and business services industry had the largest increase (+4,600) in jobs in February, compared with average monthly gains of 2,400 jobs over the prior six months. Within the industry, employment continued to trend up primarily in professional, scientific and technical services (+1,600) and in administrative & support services (+1,900).

The education and health services sector had the second largest increase (+4,500) in jobs in February. Within the industry, employment increased in health services and social assistance (+2,900) and in education services (+1,600).

Annual employment growth strong but moderating.

Washington gained an estimated 125,000 jobs from February 2022 to February 2023, not seasonally

adjusted. Private sector employment rose by 3.7%, up an estimated 106,700 jobs, while public sector employment rose by 3.3% — up an estimated 18,300 jobs.

From February 2022 – February 2023, 11 major industry sectors expanded and two contracted.

The three industry sectors with the largest employment gains year over year, not seasonally adjusted, were: Leisure and hospitality, up 25,600 jobs.

Professional and business services, up 25,400 jobs. Education and health services, up 21,700 jobs. The industry sector with the largest employment losses year over year was retail trade, down 1,400 jobs.

Additional observations:

The labor force increased in February for the second straight month.

This reverses a string of six straight months of labor force contraction during the second half of 2022. Most of the increase in the labor force in February was primarily due to an increase in workers gaining employment. In January, most of the increase in the labor force was due to a rise in the number of individuals classified as unemployed.

The unemployment rate, though unchanged in February, rose to 4.6% from a historic low of 3.7% in September 2022. Although the number of job openings throughout the state are down from their peak, the labor market remains tighter than it was before the pandemic.

There are still more total job openings than there are unemployed job seekers.

U-6 unemployment rate

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include annual averages for 2021. One such alternative measure is the U-6 rate, which considers not only the unemployed population in the official

Job growth remained hot in February

“U-3” unemployment rate, but also marginally attached workers and those employed part time for economic reasons.

The U-6 rate is defined by BLS as the “total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.”

This U-6 measure measures the

“unemployed, underemployed, and those who are not looking but who want a job.”

The U-6 annual average unemployment rate for the four-quarter 2022 period for Washington state was 7.5%.

This was lower compared to the 10.1% average annual U-6 unemployment rate for 2021.

The U.S. U-6 average annual unemployment rate for 2022 was 6.9%.

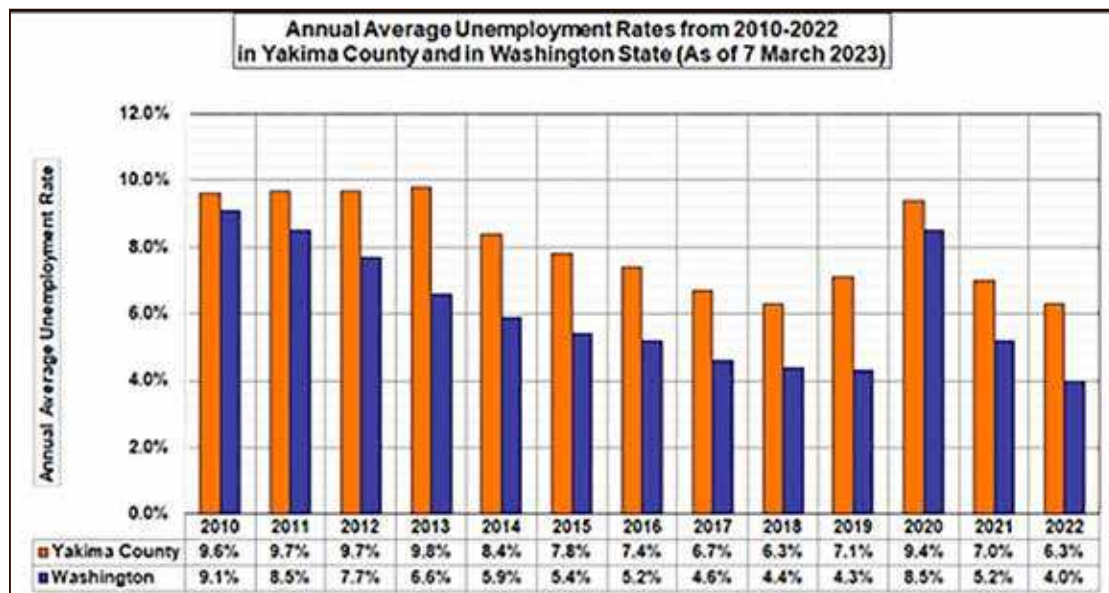
Month	Total jobs (losses or gains)	Unemployment rate	Previous year's unemployment rate
February 2023	+15,300	4.6%	4.3%
January 2023	+12,700*	4.6%*	4.4%
December 2022	+7,700*	4.2%*	4.5%
November 2022	+10,000*	4.0%*	4.5%
October 2022	+11,300*	3.8%*	4.6%
September 2022	-3,400*	3.7%*	4.8%
August 2022	+14,600*	3.7%*	5.0%
July 2022	+37,900*	3.7%*	5.2%
June 2022	+6,400*	3.8%*	5.4%
May 2022	+1,300*	3.9%*	5.5%
April 2022	+5,500*	4.1%*	5.7%
March 2022	+8,600*	4.1%*	5.8%
February 2022	+34,400*	4.3%*	6.1%
January 2022	-11,300*	4.4%*	6.3%
December 2021	+15,300*	4.5%*	6.5%
November 2021	+9,900*	4.5%*	6.7%
October 2021	+24,900*	4.6%*	7.1%
September 2021	+13,900*	4.8%*	7.9%
August 2021	+15,000*	5.0%*	8.7%
July 2021	+33,700*	5.2%*	10.2%
June 2021	+17,500*	5.4%*	11.4%
May 2021	+7,700*	5.5%*	13.2%
April 2021	+22,300*	5.7%*	16.8%
March 2021	+23,000*	5.8%*	5.3%
February 2021	+20,500*	6.1%*	3.9%
January 2021	+1,000*	6.3%*	3.9%

Washington’s total jobs

*Revised from previous preliminary estimates. Preliminary monthly estimates for job losses or gains are based on a small Bureau of Labor Statistics payroll survey. Actual figures reported the following month are based on a more complete survey.

Industry sector	Job gains, losses
Professional and business services	4,600
Education and health services	4,500
Government	2,700
Leisure and hospitality	2,400
Information	1,000
Manufacturing	800
Wholesale trade	700
Retail trade	300
Mining and logging	100
Other services	100
Construction	-100
Financial activities	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,500

Job gains and losses by industry



Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – February 2022

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 (February 2022 and February 2023) and average annual data changes (between 2021 and 2022).

Unemployment rates

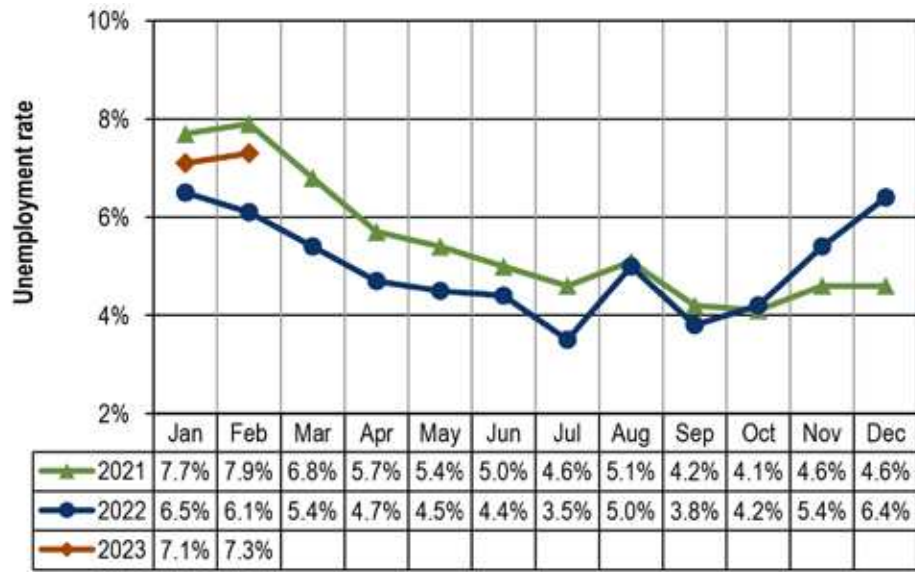
Civilian Labor Force (CLF) data show that Washington's not seasonally adjusted

unemployment rate fell from 5.2 percent in 2021 to 4.2 percent in 2022. Year over year, monthly unemployment rates decreased for 18 months (April 2021 through September 2022) before rising from October 2022 through February 2023.

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 dropped from April 2021 through September 2022 before increasing in the past five months, from October 2022 through February 2023.

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

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



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate rose by one and two-tenths percentage points between the Februaries of 2022 and 2023.

Total nonfarm employment

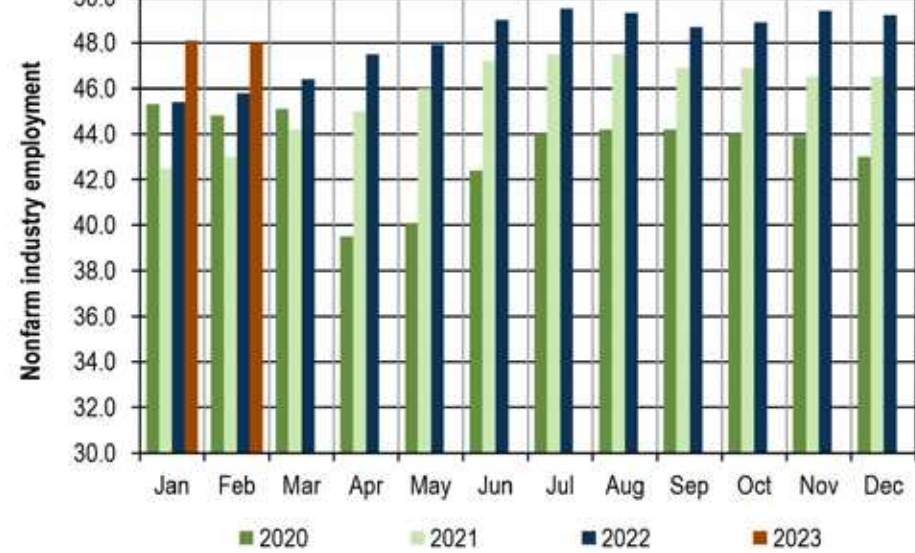
Between 2021 and 2022, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 159,800 more nonfarm jobs, an average annual increase of 4.7 percent. Year over year, Washington's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023). This February, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,579,300 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,454,300 in February 2022, up by 125,000 jobs and by 3.6 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 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023). This February, total nonfarm employment netted 2,200 more jobs than the 45,800 jobs tallied in February 2022, a 4.8 percent increase. In fact, from March 2022 through February 2023, total nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA has increased above these corresponding 12 months from March 2019 through February 2020 (i.e., in the pre-COVID era). Across Washington, nonfarm employment also expanded during this

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

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



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA increased by 4.8 percent between February 2022 and February 2023.



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 Website: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo>

Wenatchee MSA labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, February 2023

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

	Preliminary Feb-23	Revised Jan-23	Revised Feb-22	Change (in #)		Change (in %)
				Jan-23 Feb-23	Feb-22 Feb-23	Feb-22 Feb-23
Wenatchee MSA						
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	66,367	65,361	63,996	1,006	2,371	3.7%
Resident employment	61,511	60,707	60,077	804	1,434	2.4%
Unemployment	4,856	4,654	3,919	202	937	23.9%
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.1	6.1	0.2	1.2	
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	48.0	48.1	45.8	-0.1	2.2	4.8%
Total private	38.8	38.9	37.1	-0.1	1.7	4.6%
Goods producing	6.0	6.0	5.7	0.0	0.3	5.3%
Mining, logging and construction	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.1	3.2%
Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.0	0.2	7.7%
Service providing	42.0	42.1	40.1	-0.1	1.9	4.7%
Private services providing	32.8	32.9	31.4	-0.1	1.4	4.5%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	10.1	10.2	9.8	-0.1	0.3	3.1%
Retail trade	6.6	6.6	6.5	0.0	0.1	1.5%
Education and health services	8.1	8.0	7.9	0.1	0.2	2.5%
Leisure and hospitality	6.7	6.7	6.4	0.0	0.3	4.7%
Government	9.2	9.2	8.7	0.0	0.5	5.7%
Federal government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0%
State government	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	0.1	10.0%
Local government	7.4	7.4	7.0	0.0	0.4	5.7%
Workers in labor/management disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

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

The Wenatchee MSA nonfarm market provided 48,000 jobs in February 2023, a gain of 2,200 jobs since February 2022.

timeframe, but at growth rates less rapid than in the Wenatchee MSA. This demonstrates that the total nonfarm market has recovered all jobs lost during the pandemic and has done so more robustly than has Washington's nonfarm market.

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 18 months (September 2021 through February 2023). Recently, Washington's labor force grew by 124,713 residents (up 3.1 percent), from 3,967,866 residents in February 2022 to 4,092,579 in February 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 eight months (June 2022 through February 2023), an encouraging trend.

Current Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) estimates indicate that there were 2,371 more Chelan or Douglas County residents in the CLF in February 2023 than

in February 2022, a 3.7 percent upturn.

Also, when compared with the pre-COVID era of 2019 and early 2020, the local labor force appears to be rebounding.

Although the Wenatchee MSA's CLF contracted from April through October 2022 below the corresponding months in 2019 (i.e., in the pre-COVID era), the CLF has since expanded or stabilized in the past four months (November 2022 through February 2023) above corresponding months (November 2019 through February 2020) in the pre-COVID era. This recent increase in the number of residents in the local labor force is being countered however by the rising number of unemployed in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA).

In February 2022 there were 3,919 unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA while there were 4,856 residents out of work in February 2023, a 23.9 percent increase.

The increase in the number of unemployed overpowered the more modest labor force growth, pushing the local unemployment rate up from 6.1 percent in February 2022 to 7.3 percent in February 2023.

Nonfarm industry employment

Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023). Washington's nonfarm market has also grown from April 2021 through February 2023.

Estimates indicate that during each of the past five months (October 2022 through February 2023) total nonfarm employment growth rates, year over year, have been a bit more rapid in the Wenatchee MSA than across Washington – encouraging news for the local economy.

Summaries of employment changes/trends between February 2022 and February 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 expanded in each of the 27 months from December 2020 through February 2023.

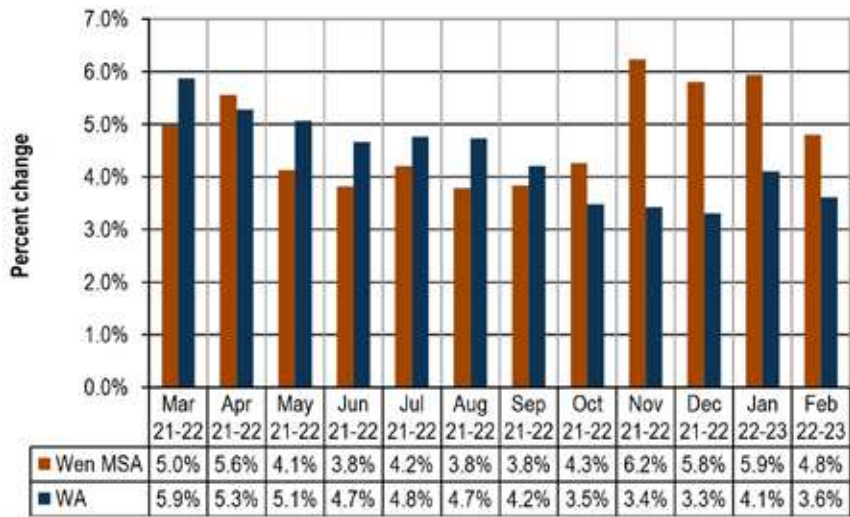
This February, construction provided 3,200 jobs in the MSA, up 100 jobs and 3.2 percent from the 3,100 jobs recorded in February 2022. However, the year-over-year

job growth rate in the local construction industry slowed from 10.0 percent in March 2022 to this 3.2 percent growth pace in February 2023.

On the real estate sales side, according to the February 2023 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates, there were two fewer closed sales of single-family homes or condominiums during January and February 2023 versus the first two months of 2022 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo, and Rock Island, WA). This was a -2.4 percent downturn as closed sales dipped from 82 in January and February 2022 to 80 in the corresponding first two months of 2023. Simultaneously, the number of active listings skyrocketed from 47 listings in February 2022 to 114 in February 2023 (up by 67 listings and 142.6 percent).

Hence, many more units are currently "on the market." Reference home prices in the Wenatchee market; they've started to dip. The Real Estate Snapshot newsletter for February 2023 stated that the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee market decelerated from approximately \$456,500 Year-to-Date (YTD)

Wenatchee MSA and Washington state, total nonfarm employment changes Washington state, March 2022 through February 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 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023). Washington's nonfarm market has also grown from April 2021 through February 2023.

In February 2022 to \$437,500 YTD in February 2023, a -4.2 percent decline. Across Washington, construction employment has posted year-over-year increases for 23 consecutive months (April 2021 through February 2023). Between February 2022 and February 2023, the number of construction jobs statewide advanced by 3.1 percent (up 7,000 jobs) from 222,900 jobs to 229,900. Washington's residential building construction contractors saw employment climb by a robust 9.3 percent, from 37,600 jobs in February 2022 to 41,100 in February 2023.

In the combined education and health services category, health services employers provide the lion's share of employment. Year over year, employment in this local industry has either stabilized or expanded in each of the past 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023) with job growth picking up steam in during the most recent 12 months (March 2022 through February 2023). For example, year over year, private education and health services employment grew at 1.3 percent in both March and April 2022; but from October 2022 through February 2023, year-over-year job growth rates were in the two- to three-percent range. Between the Februarys of 2022 and 2023, the number of private education and health services jobs in the Wenatchee MSA advanced from 7,900 to 8,100 respectively, a 200 job and 2.5 percent increase. Statewide this industry has also consistently added jobs for 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023). Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates indicate that Washington's education and health services employers tallied 532,100 jobs this February versus 510,400 in February 2022, a 21,700 job and 4.3 percent upturn. Nursing and residential care facilities, a component of the broader education and health services category, posted a rather strong 7.3 percent employment growth rate during this time frame, advancing from 56,200 jobs in February

2022 to 60,300 jobs in February 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 hospitality 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.

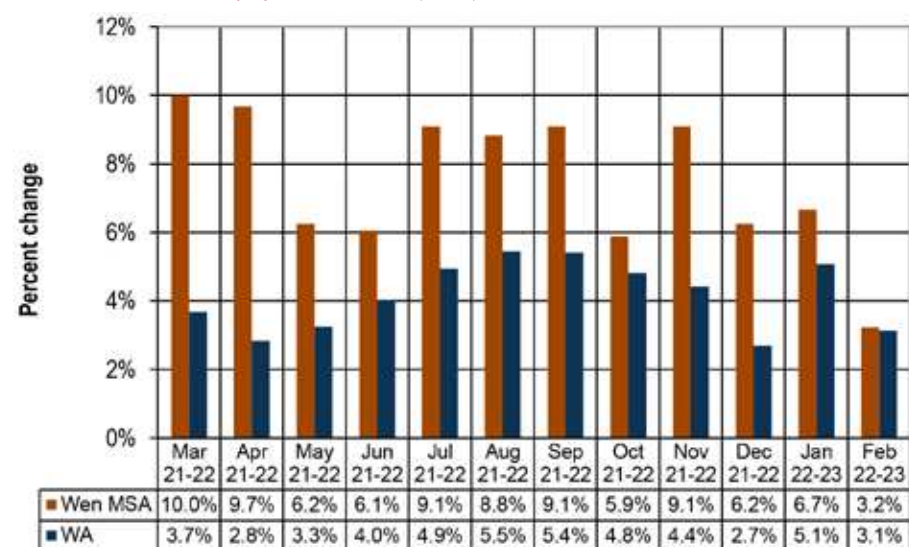
Year over year, employment in this industry has increased for 23 consecutive months (April 2021 through February 2023). Between the Februarys of 2022 and 2023, leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation services) added 300 jobs across the MSA, a 4.7 percent upturn, as employment escalated from 6,400 jobs to 6,700.

Employment in Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has also expanded in each of the past 23 months (April 2021 through February 2023). Statewide, leisure and hospitality employment elevated 8.3 percent (up by 25,600 jobs) between February 2022 (306,700 jobs) and February 2023 (332,300 jobs). Within this leisure and hospitality category, the job growth rate in the accommodation industry was quite strong, escalating from 27,000 jobs to 30,600 (up 13.3 percent) between February 2022 and February 2023.

Agricultural employment / production

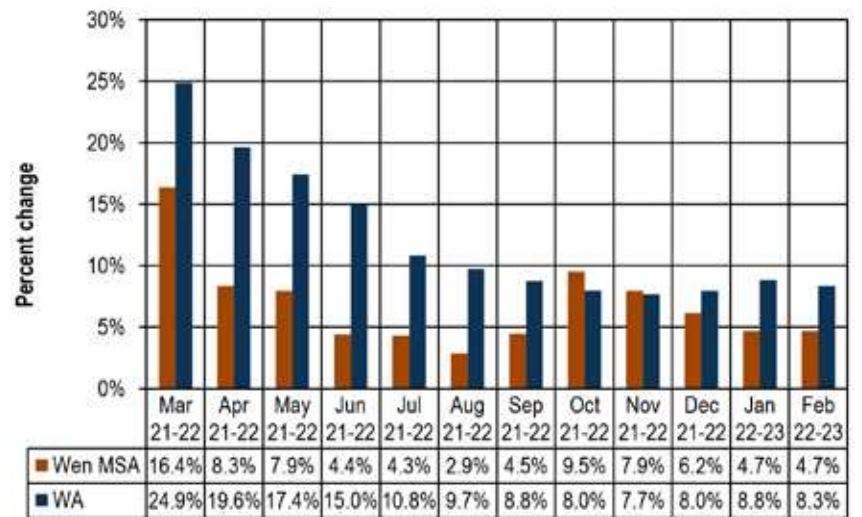
The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) program, conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department

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



Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded for 27 months (December 2020 through February 2023). Statewide, construction employment has been growing for 23 consecutive months (April 2021 through February 2023).

Wenatchee MSA and Washington, leisure and hospitality employment changes Washington state, March 2022 through February 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 from April 2021 through February 2023. Employment in Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has also registered year-over-year growth from April 2021 through February 2023.

provides agricultural and nonagricultural employment and wages for firms, organizations and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act. Frequently termed "covered" or "QCEW" data, this information provides a reliable data set for comparing employment and wage trends at the county level. In 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 uptrend 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 relatively 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 relatively less influential in the local economy. In fact, between 2011 and 2021, the number of agricultural jobs actually "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: automation, 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 uptrend 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 relatively 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 actually "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-reportw>



Your Place Physical Therapy & Wellness, a new concept for home health care

By Norm Manly

MANSON – The Manson Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to highlight one of our newer members, Your Place Physical Therapy and Wellness, a new concept for home health care in the Lake Chelan valley that began operation in October 2022.

The Your Place team is committed to helping you move better through life, where you are most comfortable at “Your Place”.

I recently met with owners, Lauri, and Greg King to learn more about the philosophy behind this innovative approach to health care, addressing the physical pain barriers preventing individuals from accessing and enjoying life to its fullest. Life is challenging, pain and mobility difficulties do not help.

Both Lauri and Greg grew up in Southern California. They met in 1982 in the LA area and married in 1983 in Santa Barbara, California.

“We have two sons. Our older son lives in Orange County, California, with his wife and three young children. Our younger son, Ian, moved to Chelan last year and now works as the Cellar Master at Amos Rome Winery,” Greg said.

Before moving to Manson, Lauri and Greg lived in the Lynnwood/Edmonds area, north of Seattle.

Lauri worked as a Rehab, Pediatric and Home Health Physical Therapist and Greg worked in information technology, specializing in healthcare systems integration.

Lake Chelan has been a favorite vacation spot for the Kings since 1994. “For years we stayed at the Lakeshore RV Park in our travel trailer, or Peterson’s Waterfront, and eventually purchased property in 2010. We move to Manson full time in May of 2016. We love the beauty of Lake Chelan, the many recreation opportunities, and the



people,” Lauri stated.

When asked how she became interested in her profession Lauri said, “I was an athlete and initially I was interested in finding a profession that involved sports. I went to my high school career center and researched Physical Therapy. I like helping people, and a volunteer position at a rehabilitation facility got me hooked.”

Lauri graduated from California State University, Northridge with a bachelor’s in health science in 1982, and a post baccalaureate Certification in Physical Therapy from UCLA Hospitals and Clinics in 1985.

In subsequent years Lauri has obtained Board Certification in Pediatrics, certifications as a: Clinical Instructor, Vestibular Therapy, Total Joint Certification, Certified OASIS Specialist, and Executive Certification in Home Modification through the University of Southern California.

When asked, what was the dream, the passion behind the decision to open her own business Lauri said, “I have been asked many times if there is a private pay option for a therapist to provide physical therapy services at home, and there have been none.”

“Your Place is now able to provide physical and occupational therapy services at home. We are here to serve those that do not qualify for homebound Home Health services and who do not have adequate insurance for outpatient therapy. We are excited to offer a wellness section of our business that can tie into those

seeking a healthy lifestyle and need therapy options to help them meet that goal. We are currently collaborating with Lake Chelan Health and Connie Miller at Lake Chelan Physical Therapy as part of a cohesive physical therapy presence here in the valley. I have gone into so many homes, all income and socio-economic levels, there is one thing that stands out: We are totally unprepared for aging in place or having a disability.”

In the Chelan Valley, the need is great for accessible housing, however the greatest resource we have are the existing homes that simply need modifications, or adaptation, and to preplan for adaptations and modifications in the new houses being built.

“Our Home Modification and Adaptation services can help discern what a client needs, how they use their home and their spaces, the modifications and adaptations that would benefit them, researching funding assistance such as grants, loans, tax deductions, and tying into the existing community supports of the Rotary Club, and specific contractors in the region to do the job,” Lauri went on.

Lauri has received many positive comments from clients.

“They feel like we listen, take the time needed, have the patience, and explain what we are doing, and why we are doing it. They also appreciate that we go out of our way to assist them and include them in all decisions. In addition, they appreciate that we provide resources and have the knowledge to assist them,” Lauri proudly stated.

Your Place Physical Therapy and Wellness is a client, location centered, Physical Therapy and Wellness LLC, offering physical and occupational services. Working where you are most comfortable,



COURTESY PHOTO NORM MANLY

Lauri and Greg King owners of Your Place Physical Therapy & Wellness.

and therapy is most effective. Whether it is in your home, pool, place of work, virtually or other beneficial location we can provide effective therapy and strategies to help you achieve your goals. Lauri, and the Your Place team, are committed to helping you move better through life, where you are most comfortable at “Your Place”. We serve your Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy needs where you live or work and design your program to meet your needs.

Andrea Menin, OTR/L- Occupational Therapist is part of the Your Place team.

Andrea has her master’s degree in occupational therapy from the University of Washington and has her MBA as well. She has experience in pediatric and adult populations and has worked with inpatient psychiatric patients.

She currently is on the board of the Lake Chelan Bach fest and volunteers with the Lake Chelan Nordic club as the membership director. Andrea says: “Occupational Therapy helps people live their most meaningful and independent lives, no matter what health conditions they live with. Every session is client focused, working specifically on what they

want to accomplish.”

Lauri stated, “The Your Place team will increase this summer with the addition of a Physical Therapist, pediatric focused. We are very excited to bring this type of service to the valley with a strong team as well as skilled and seasoned clinicians.”



COURTESY PHOTO NORM MANLY

Andrea Menin, OTR/L – Occupational Therapist is part of the “Your Place” team.

To find out if Your Place Physical Therapy and Wellness is a good fit for your needs, contact “Your Place” at 509-557-0401 and set up a free consultation or visit their website <https://www.yourplaceptw.com/>



Submitted by
Neil Neroutsos

As Wenatchee Valley Humane Society’s Executive Director James Pumphrey approaches three months in his new role, he emphasizes it’s the success of WVHS’s core programs that ensures the agency continues to bring value to pets and people throughout the community.

Humane Society ED focused on bringing pets and people together

“Our animal welfare programs are pro-pet and pro-people, and they’re designed based on best practices and science based sheltering,” says Pumphrey.

“We’re equally guided by a commitment to being humane in our work to guarantee the highest standards of care. Our purpose is to bring pets and people together and keep pets and people together.”

Some of the key programs of focus for WVHS include:

Clinic Services:

WVHS delivers high quality clinic care with the

goal of making veterinary services affordable and accessible to the entire community. Examples of services include exams, x-rays, spay or neuter surgery, vaccinations, treating broken bones, skin conditions, and ear and eye infections,

Adoption:

WVHS has an open, conversation-based adoption process, matching the lifestyles and expectations of adopters with the needs of homeless pets.

Adoption fees include spay or neuter surgery, initial vaccinations for dogs, microchips, general well-health exams and

options for pet health insurance.

Foster Program:

This is designed to increase the number of animals that WVHS can help by allowing foster families to host animals and help ready them for later adoption.

The program expands the capacity of care that can be provided for injured and homeless animals.

Animal Care & Control:

WVHS provides services to the cities of Cashmere, Chelan, East Wenatchee, Entiat, Leavenworth, Rock Island, Wenatchee, Wa-

terville and Chelan and Douglas counties.

Its mission is to help protect the safety and well-being of the citizens and animals of these areas through compassion, education and law enforcement.

Key 2022 Measures:

- 2,474 animals adopted
- 3,500 spay and neuter surgeries
- 564 lost pets returned to owners
- \$402,173 spent on medical care

“Our success wouldn’t be possible without the many volunteers who work in countless ways on the behalf of pets in our community,” says Pumphrey.

“They are dog walkers and trainers, socialize cats and small critters, help support our clinic and facilities and volunteer at events. And they do so with the greatest compassion and care.”

To explore volunteer opportunities at WVHS, people can complete an online application or email volunteer@wenatcheehumane.org.

Wenatchee Valley Humane Society builds a community of responsible animal owners by providing education and outreach, animal care and control for protection, and rescue and adoption services.