



## Hawkins files Regional Aquatic Center legislation



Submitted Photos



Submitted by Tricia Gullion

OLYMPIA – Sen. Brad Hawkins officially pre-filed legislation last month to allow local governments in Chelan and Douglas counties to partner together to establish a Regional Aquatic Center and Sports Complex.

Senate Bill 5001 proposes to amend the existing Public Facilities District statute (RCW 35.57) to allow communities in the region to someday seek voter approval to construct and operate an aquatic center and recreational sports complex.

Hawkins’ bipartisan co-sponsor is Sen. Sam Hunt (D-District 22) whose Olympia-based district is

also considering an aquatic facility.

Hawkins has hosted several meetings this fall with local mayors, county commissioners, regional port, chamber, community leaders, and swimming groups.

Stakeholders are interested in locating any potential project in the Wenatchi Landing area near East Wenatchee, 283 acres of regionally accessible land near the Odabashian Bridge.

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 will be administering a 12-month feasibility study to analyze the project and economic benefits.

“Officially submitting the bill today represents an important step forward in what will likely be a multi-year community process,” said Hawkins, who serves the 12th district.

“I hope the Legislature will grant our area authority to form the district while we continue to thoughtfully consider and collect public input on our future facilities.”

What supporters of SB 5001 are saying:

Mayor Jerrilea Crawford, City of East Wenatchee

“The Wenatchee Valley has a long history of thoughtful collaboration for the betterment of our entire region. The Legislature’s support of this bill will give us yet another opportunity to come together collectively to provide quality of life resources for our citizens.”

Mayor Frank Kuntz, City of Wenatchee

“This legislation, if passed, gives the voters of our region a chance to make huge improvements to parks and recreation in our community. Thank you, Senator Hawkins for taking the lead.”

Commissioner JC Baldwin, Chelan-Douglas Regional Port Authority

“The Regional Port would like to recognize Senator Hawkins’ leadership in seeking legislative authority to establish a Regional Aquatics Center & Sports Complex by amending the existing Public Facilities District statute.

The greater Wenatchee area has many positive attributes; however, one missing element is a Regional Aquatics Center.”

Bob Bugert, Chelan County Commissioner

“We appreciate Sen. Hawkins’ forethought and support as the communities in Chelan County begin to

explore the idea of a regional aquatic center and sports complex.

A collaborative dialogue and a shared commitment of funding of the economic impact assessment are the first steps of many more to come. It is important that local leaders do our homework, including amending the existing Public Facilities District statute, so voters can eventually make an informed decision on such a large community investment.”

Rachel Madson, Velocity Swimming President

“Velocity Swimming is incredibly thankful to Senator

SEE AQUATIC CENTER, PAGE 3

## Wenatchee’s Winter Beach Party is Back

Special Olympics Washington’s annual Polar Plunge returns to Walla Walla State Park with costume contests and beach games to celebrate the launch of Winter State Games.

Submitted by Anna Ballew, Catalyst Marketing Agency

The Special Olympics Washington Polar Plunge, on Friday, March 3, is a Wenatchee tradition.

The annual event brings together supporters throughout the area to Get Cold for a Cause.

The 2023 installment of this Winter Beach Party is expanding to offer something for everyone. Partygoers can show up to plunge or participate in the festivities and cheer others on.

Attendees can expect a full-on beach party with costume contests and beach games to celebrate the launch of Special Olym-

pics Washington’s Winter State Games. Individual and team registrants are encouraged to raise donations in support of Special Olympics Washington athletes. As they raise funds, they can also earn prizes including airline vouchers and Papa John’s gift cards for the top individual and team fundraisers.

The Polar Plunge campaign kicks off the year strong by raising funds that directly go to providing athletes with year-round opportunities to train and compete, as well as receive free health screenings and leadership training.

Proceeds from the event ensure that over 7,500 Washington children and adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to participate at no cost to them.

On Friday, March 3, festivities kick off at 1 p.m. at Walla Walla State Park. The costume contest will begin at 2:30 p.m., with winners awarded based on crowd response.

Polar plunging starts at 3 p.m., with soup and hot chocolate stations after to warm up.

The 2023 Polar Plunge in Wenatchee is made possible through the support of the Law



Enforcement Torch Run Campaign for Special Olympics Washington and Alaska USA Federal Credit Union. For more information, and to register, visit [PolarPlungeWA.com](http://PolarPlungeWA.com).

About Special Olympics Washington: Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 7,500 children and adults with and without intel-

lectual and developmental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. For more information, please visit [SpecialOlympicsWashington.org](http://SpecialOlympicsWashington.org).



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## NEWSSTAND LOCATIONS

### Wenatchee

Plaza Super Jet  
 106 Okanogan Ave.  
 Safeway, 501 N. Miller St.

### East Wenatchee

Safeway, 510 Grant Road

### Cashmere

Martin's IGA Market Place  
 130 Titchenal Way

### Leavenworth

Dan's Food Market  
 1329 U.S. Highway 2  
 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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## Rep. Goehner named ranking Republican on House Local Government Committee

Submitted by Washington State House Republicans

Rep. Keith Goehner, R-Dryden, will continue to lead Republicans on the Local Government Committee in the state House of Representatives.

Washington State House Republicans recently announced their committee assignments for the upcoming 2023 legislative session.

The House Local Government Committee considers issues relating to the operations and financing of counties, cities, and some special

purpose districts.

It will also look at legislative proposals related to local government open meetings and public records obligations; and the administration of local land use, zoning, building, energy and health codes.

Goehner, a former four-term Chelan County commissioner, feels his experience in local government provides a perspective beneficial to local entities.

"I have been, and will continue to be, an advocate for local government. Our local entities provide the

most basic and essential services to our constituencies, and it is imperative we work with them at the state level," said Goehner.

"I am hopeful the committee could work on affordable housing issues such as the Growth Management Act, zoning, and some of the well-intentioned regulations with poor results that are driving up housing costs."

Goehner will once again serve on the House Environment and Energy and Transportation committees.

"The new Twelfth District bound-

aries provide us an opportunity to work with communities on the east and west side of the Cascade mountains to address critical transportation needs and ensure goods and services are moved efficiently across the mountains," said Goehner.

"While transportation funding is reaching a critical juncture, maintenance and preservation needs to be a top priority. However, we must find some common-sense solutions to ensure we are getting much-needed projects in our region."

The 105-day legislative session is scheduled to convene on Jan. 9, 2023.

## STCU honors exceptional staff volunteerism with grants to non-profits

Submitted by Dan Hansen

STCU employees once again showed their passion for community service by documenting a record 10,000 hours of volunteerism in 12 months.

The volunteers including 18 employees who served at least 80 hours of volunteerism for a single organization.

Scores of others exceeded the 16 hours of paid time off that every STCU employee receives annually for volunteer activities.

In response, STCU is providing a record number of year-end Volunteers Count grants of \$25 to \$1,000.

Those grants go to every organization where an em-

ployee reported at least 12 hours of service – a total of 120 organizations.

One-hundred-twenty organizations and 10,000 hours are not nearly a complete record, noted Ezra Eckhardt, President and CEO of the Spokane-based credit union. Many employees are reluctant to seek recognition for their altruism.

"Our employees' passions are diverse, and so are the organizations where they serve," Eckhardt said. "It always makes my day to hear from leaders of community non-profits who want to tell me about an STCU employee who's an exceptional volunteer."



Any employee with at least 12 hours of service was invited to complete an application for a \$1,000 grant on behalf of the organization they serve.

The 18 recipient organizations were selected based on the employee's passion for the cause, and the organization's benefit to the community.

STCU employees selected for the grants said they draw deep satisfaction through their community service.

"It's an amazing feeling to know that my help goes to something so much greater than myself and my immediate area," said Becky O'Bryan, a Member Consultant at STCU's South Branch. She volunteers at Project Beauty Share, which benefits women in challenging circumstances.

For Kendall Taylor, a military spouse, volunteering at Post Falls' Newby-Ginnings is deeply personal.

The organization supports local active duty, veterans and Gold Star families. Military families "have no family when we move, no idea where to get resources," said Taylor, an STCU Community Branch Manager. "Having a place like Newby-Ginnings helps so many people feel like they are a part of something bigger."

In Melody Somday's hometown of Republic,

Wash., a \$1,000 grant to the school district is a show of support for the next generation of leaders.

"I want children to see that they have not only the school but the whole community behind them," said Somday, an STCU Community Branch Manager.

Of the 120 STCU employees who earned grants to the non-profit organization or school where they volunteer their time:

- 32 \$25 grants (at least 12 hours)
- 35 \$50 grants (at least 20 hours)
- 17 \$100 grants (at least 40 hours)
- 18 \$250 grants (at least 80 hours)
- 18 \$1,000 grants

The \$26,700 in Volunteers Count grants is a small but meaningful part of the surprise donations STCU makes during its Season of Giving each December and January. In all, STCU employees reported giving their time to 307 organizations across a broad swath of the Inland Northwest.

They range from the Coulee City Senior Center, to Spokane's Vanessa Behan, to Safe Passage, which serves survivors of domestic violence in Coeur d'Alene.

Also included are at least 69 organizations where STCU employees serve in leadership positions on boards or committees. They include the Spokane Airport Board, WSU Board of Regents, Columbia Basin College Foundation, United Way of Benton-Franklin Counties, the West Central Community Center, and the Coeur d'Alene Area Economic Development Corporation.

All STCU employees receive leadership training and development opportunities to help them on their career path.

"Those same opportunities make them high-demand candidates to serve in community leadership positions," said Eckhardt.

"That's good for STCU, good for our members, and good for the community. Everybody wins."

### About STCU:

STCU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative with a quarter-million members, 38 branch locations, \$5.4 billion in total assets, and more than 900 employees who live our brand promise: "Here for good."



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## Looking ahead to the 2023 Legislative session

By Senator Brad Hawkins

The Washington State Legislature meets each January but alternates between longer sessions of 105 days in odd years and shorter sessions of 60 days in even years.

This year, the Legislature will convene on January 9 for a 105-day session.

The primary focus will be developing the operating, transportation, and capital budgets for the 2023-2025 biennium. In addition to developing new state budgets, committees will conduct hearings and the Legislature will debate and update various laws.

After two years of COVID pandemic “hybrid” sessions with only partial in-

person activities, the upcoming session is expected to return to more standard operations.

Here is a review of each of the state budgets, including their 2021-2023 approved amounts:

### Operating budget (\$64.1 billion)

The operating budget funds the day-to-day operations of the state, including early learning, K-12 education, higher education, health and human services, criminal justice, natural resources, courts, and other areas.

With a budget of this size, there are always things to like and things to disapprove of.

Despite the COVID pan-

demie, state revenues have been positive, with more dollars flowing into the state than what was previously projected.

The November 2022 revenue forecasts estimates approximately \$66.2 for the 2023-2025 budget cycle.

Overall, this revenue figure is still higher than previously projected, although uncertainty remains for how national economic factors, such as interest rates, gas prices, and inflation will truly affect state revenues over the next two and four years.

### Transportation budget (\$12.2 billion)

The transportation budget funds the construction and maintenance of the state

transportation system, including the maintenance and preservation of roads, bridges, and ferries.

This budget also funds state agencies and commissions that serve our transportation system and numerous previously approved road projects based on their construction schedules.

Due to the lack of driving during the COVID pandemic, much of the gas tax revenues to the transportation budget were significantly less than in past years but federal infrastructure legislation provided some enhanced funding for transportation.

Last session, a new 16-year, \$16.9 billion “Move Ahead Washington” trans-

portation package was approved, primarily for maintenance of the existing system and some large-scale transportation projects.

With this significant package approved, it is unlikely major new projects will be funded in 2023.

### Capital budget (\$7.8 billion)

The state capital budget funds the construction and maintenance of state buildings, public school matching grants, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets.

Most sections of the capital budget include grant programs where governments apply for funding based on specific qualifications and matching funds.

Other elements of the capital budget are more subjective.

In recent years, the 12th District team has been able to generate big wins for our district through this budget.

Unfortunately, the upcoming capital budget could be significantly strained due to inflationary factors and the rising costs of construction projects.

### New changes to district boundaries

The Washington State Redistricting Commission’s new boundaries for our 49 legislative districts are in effect for the 2023 session.

The new boundary for the 12th District includes East Wenatchee, Chelan County, and portions of Snohomish County (Index to Monroe) and King County (North Bend to Duvall).

Due to retirements and elections wins, many districts have new legislators, surely to create new dynamics at the Capitol.

The balance of power is similar to past years.

There are 49 members of the State Senate (29 Democrats and 20 Republicans) and 98 members of the House of Representatives (58 Democrats and 40 Republicans).

It will be interesting to see how the Legislature functions with the new lawmakers and their redesigned districts.

Hopefully the Legislature will adjourn by May with all three budgets approved.

## A strong voice for Chelan County residents comes to life with new non-profit

Submitted by Kirvil Skinnarland, President, RC3

A new non-profit called the Residents Coalition of Chelan County, (RC3), has recently formed to give county residents a strong voice on the issues that matter most to them.

Many Chelan County residents have indicated that one of their biggest frustrations is their lack of a voice in local land use decisions.

For example, while environmental impact analyses of development projects are required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), such reports are

often biased toward the developers, who select and hire their own consultants to do the impact studies.

These studies are reviewed by local and state agencies that are understaffed and often lack adequate technical expertise.

The result is that many SEPA documents underestimate the negative impacts of projects on neighborhoods and communities. Later, at public hearings, residents’ concerns about impacts on their community are ignored on the rationale that they are not “experts.”

RC3 exists to right these types of wrongs and to collectively give residents a voice in this and other local governmental processes that are skewed in favor of developers, at the expense of local residents.

The website for Residents Coalition of Chelan County (RC3) is <https://coalitionofchelancounty.org>.

RC3 is a network of residents that was organized in 2019 as Residents United for Neighbors (RUN) in response to the increasingly negative impacts of short-term rentals on neighborhoods.

Based on the work of RUN and its supporters, a reasonably good ordinance was adopted by the Chelan County Board of Commissioners in September 2021.

The new and expanded mission of RC3 is to work with residents and local businesses to ensure that future growth and development in Chelan County preserves and enhances the qualities that residents value the most – rural character, a strong sense of community, and a healthy and beautiful natural environment.



The local issues that RC3 will champion include:

- Protection and enforcement of the Short-Term Rental regulations
- Preservation of ecosystems
- Land use planning and regulation
- Affordable housing
- Sustainable tourism

“As both the President of the Manson Community Council and a Manson resident, I have provided commentary on projects to the Chelan County Community Development Department. In most instances I have felt that my comments were not seriously considered. Most recently, the County and the Hearing Examiner approved the 66-lot Sundance Estates project in Manson without bothering to explain to the public the obscure regulatory basis of their approval. With an organization like Residents Coalition of Chelan County unifying our voices, the public will have a better chance of being heard.” – **Kari Sorenson (business owner, Manson resident)**

In Peshastin, a large residential development project called Pine Ridge was recently approved by Chelan County.

The project, which is on 42 acres of land, will consist of 212 units. This will nearly double the population of Peshastin. According to Ken Hemberry of Peshastin Hi-Up Growers, the company was concerned that increased traffic from the development would result in a significant negative impact on its business and on the town of Peshastin.

“We provided traffic data to the County regarding the number of trips our trucks, customer trucks, and employees make in and out of our facility. Our data was derived from internal truck logs, shipping reports and employee censuses over an entire year. It provided a stark contradiction to the developer’s traffic study which was for a short period of time during our slowest part of the year. It is the opinion of the Board and Management of Peshastin Hi-Up that our concerns weren’t taken seriously. The County approved the project without addressing any of the issues we raised or offering any solutions to the impact of the increased traffic this project will bring.” – **Ken Hemberry (Peshastin Hi-Up Growers)**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Hawkins files Regional Aquatic Center legislation

Hawkins for recognizing the need for both an aquatic facility as well as a future sportsplex in our community.

Competitive swimming in our valley has been hosting some of the state’s largest summer swim meets at the City of Wenatchee pool for over 40 years bringing in generous hospitality revenue to our area.

The creation of a regional facility such as this would allow us to host even larger meets year-round

with the potential of higher-level USA Swimming sponsored events bringing in athletes from multiple states.

Additionally, a large aquatic center could render additional recreational opportunities as well as swim lessons, water fitness, occupational and physical rehab and lifeguard training programs.

The 2023 Legislative session begins on January 9, 2023 and is expected to last 105 days.







CHELAN COUNTY

## PUD bids farewell to long-serving commissioners Congdon, Bolz

Submitted by Rachel Hansen,  
Senior Communications Strategist

WENATCHEE – Friends and colleagues shared memories and fond farewells with two long-serving commissioners – Ann Congdon and Dennis Bolz – during their last board meeting December 19.

Commissioner Ann Congdon was elected to the commission 18 years ago. She was encouraged to run by family friend Jean Ludwick, the first woman in the state elected as a PUD commissioner.

“When I became commissioner, it was clear that Chelan PUD needed to earn back trust with our customer-owners,” Congdon said. “As a board, one of the things we did right was hire the right general managers at the right time.”

One of the longest-serving commissioners in PUD history, Congdon helped hire five general managers including Rich Riazzi, Steve Wright and Kirk Hudson.

During her tenure, she worked alongside staff to reduce debt by nearly \$1 billion and position the PUD as one of the most financially stable utilities in the nation. She was a major proponent of a supported employment program at the PUD, which helps people with cognitive disabilities to develop job skills. She also joined other commission-

ers to adopt the PUD’s vision of providing the best value for the most people for the longest time.

“Of everything we’ve done, I feel really good that we worked hard and gained the trust of the community over time,” she said. “My parting words to fellow commissioners is that we’ve got to do everything it takes to keep earning that trust. That means open communication, a lot of outreach, and staying engaged in conversations around the community.”

Commissioner Dennis Bolz championed many issues during his 16-year tenure on the board, including parks development, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. In 2019, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washington Public Utility Districts Association in recognition of his long-standing work on behalf of public power.

“One of the things I’m most proud of is the transition in culture that we helped facilitate at Chelan PUD,” Bolz said. “The five of us worked to create a tone at the commission level to model a healthier balance for how people treated each other, with respect and dignity.”

Bolz was also part of creating the Public Power Benefit program, which supports



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Journeyman Mechanic Jered Paine presented two plaques dedicated to retiring commissioners Ann Congdon and Dennis Bolz during their last board meeting Monday, December 19.

community-minded projects such as expanded access to fiber internet, parking passes at PUD-owned state parks, electric vehicle charging stations and more. His leadership has advanced several PUD strategic plans, including critical decisions on rate design and economic development, guided by input from thousands of local customers.

“The public is important,” Bolz said. “We had the courage to go forward because we took the time to hear what the public was thinking. It’s been a great experience.”

*In other news, commissioners:*

- Heard an update on the safety recommendations from an investigation at Rock Island Dam in 2018. Most of the recommendations are complete, and three are in progress.
- Approved resolutions to support 2023 hatchery operations, and monitoring and evaluation activities pursuant to the Habitat Conservation Plans for Rocky Reach and Rock Island hydroelectric projects.
- Approved a resolution to authorize the general manager to negotiate the acquisition of Peshastin Water District.

## PUD commissioners see benefits of joining regional utility group

Submitted by Rachel Hansen,  
Senior Communications Strategist

WENATCHEE – Chelan PUD commissioners unanimously voted to join a Northwest resource adequacy program that will increase the value of hydropower, promote self-sufficiency among member utilities, and ensure that the region has the capacity to weather potential energy shortfalls in the future.

The Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) is the first reliability planning and compliance program in the Northwest, and it’s been in the works since 2019. About 26 utilities from Canada to northern California are participating in the voluntary, non-binding phase of WRAP.

The idea is to avoid energy-related emergencies, as seen in California and Texas in recent years. The Pacific Northwest typically produces abundant energy supply, but there are warning signs

of a less certain future ahead: Increased demand for electricity, the rise of intermittent renewables like wind and solar, increased regulatory requirements, and more large-load industries moving to the West.

WRAP has asked utilities to join the binding phase over the next several years, which means that utilities have guaranteed first priority to purchase energy from other member utilities in the event of a critical shortage. It also means that utilities may be subject to penalties if they don’t meet capacity requirements. The cost of joining is about \$185,000 in the first year, and \$150,000 annually.

**The benefits of WRAP are many:**

Increased reliability as dozens of utilities coordinates a diverse portfolio of energy resources across a large geo-

graphical footprint. If one area is hard hit by a heat wave or cold snap, utilities can tap into an emergency supply of energy from WRAP instead of relying on the increasingly volatile energy market.

Increased value of capacity, which is the ability to meet peak demand. That means hydropower is well-positioned to become more valuable because of its flexible, 24/7 availability.

Joining WRAP voluntarily makes legislative mandates less likely. Supporting the WRAP may increase the chance of success of future organized markets, which has had over 20 participants from the PNW to the Desert Southwest.

A resource adequacy program is a standard feature of an organized market. If Chelan PUD joins a future organized market, the organized market will most likely have similar rules to WRAP.

Joining WRAP would allow Chelan PUD to have a lower planning reserve margin. That means Chelan PUD may have more energy available to sell and maintain low customer rates. “If it doesn’t work out the way we anticipate, we can exit the program with a two-year notice at any time,” said Shawn Smith, Managing Director of Energy Resources.

*In other news, commissioners:* Approved the 2023 budget with a bottom line of \$102.7 million, and \$495.9 million in total expenditures including \$182.9 million in capital expenditures. Approved a motion to move forward with an estimated \$30 million project to improve fire resiliency along the Beverly-McKenzie transmission line in the Leavenworth-Plain area. Heard a preview of the upcoming state legislative session.



## Common Ground Community Housing Trust Receives 501(c)3 Status

Submitted by  
Laurie Shorett

Common Ground Community Housing Trust, a local organization devoted to developing permanently affordable housing for working families, recently received its determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service of its nonprofit 501(c)3 status, according to Board President Thom Nees.

Common Ground was founded by Serve Wenatchee Valley, a nonprofit assisting families and individuals who are at risk of losing their housing. Common Ground serves the greater Wenatchee area within the Wenatchee and Eastmont School District boundaries.

The business model of the Community Housing Trust centers around developing individually owned homes on community owned land. This approach creates permanently affordable housing for working families due to the fact that the value of the home is separate from the value of the land.

Similar housing trusts have been successful in other NCW communities, including Leavenworth, the Methow Valley and most recently Chelan.

In recent months,

Common Ground held a community meeting at the Mercantile in downtown Wenatchee to celebrate the organization’s progress and discuss next steps. The organization recently received \$60,000 in financial support from Chelan County over a three-year period, \$7,500 from Banner Bank, and was awarded a \$6,000 Regional Impact Grant from the Community Foundation of NCW. Nees also announced the addition of Board Member Mina Gomez, of Edward Jones Financial. Common Ground has also hired Laurie Shorett to serve as its Administrative Assistant.

Common Ground has formed a series of advisory groups that are working to guide the development of processes, procedures, and best practices for the work. These groups include:

- Organizational Structure & Sustainability
- Financial Policies, Budgets, Land Acquisition & Fund Raising
- Homebuyer Selection, Eligibility Criteria & Stewardship
- Housing Development and Design Priorities, Policies & Standards
- Resale Formulas, Master Ground Lease & Fees

• Communication, Marketing & Outreach

Looking ahead, Common Ground is working hard to identify land for its first development. Also, they’re looking for additional individuals to help develop policies and procedures for the housing trust.

**What Can You Do?**

**Volunteer** – Do you have specific experience and perspective that would help deliver affordable homes to families in our community? Do you have a background in financial management, fundraising, property development, construction, organizational management, influencing, strategic planning? We need your expertise to advance our cause.

**Donate** – Do you have financial resources to contribute? Real estate you would like to make available? Looking for ways to divest assets to benefit our community?

To be a part of the Common Ground solution by giving your time, talent, and/or treasure, visit the website at [commongroundwenatchee.com](http://commongroundwenatchee.com) or contact Thom Nees at [thom@commongroundwenatchee.com](mailto:thom@commongroundwenatchee.com) or by calling 509-630-4438.



# Chelan County awards \$4.6 million in ARPA funds to community groups, small ag producers



Submitted by  
Jill M. FitzSimmons, CCPIO

WENATCHEE – Chelan County commissioners have allocated \$4.6 million of federal COVID relief dollars to a variety of local agencies, nonprofits and small agricultural producers.

The allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, comes after a two-month public application period held earlier this year.

“The board went through every application – all 50 of them – and discussed each one,” Commissioner Kevin Overbay said.

“Those applicants receiving ARPA dollars serve a variety of missions, from food distribution and housing projects to childcare and health programs. The money also will be used on projects and programs across Chelan County. I am really looking forward to seeing how these relief dollars impact our community.”

ARPA provides local gov-

ernments across the country COVID-relief money to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as communities across the country continue to recover from the pandemic.

The Board of County Commissioners previously decided to invest a portion of its overall \$14.9 million in ARPA funding into the community, allocating \$3 million in grants to local nonprofits and community agencies and up to \$1 million to small agricultural operations in Chelan County that could demonstrate a hardship created by COVID.

Chelan County received 50 community applications totaling more than \$17 million. Of the \$1 million originally set aside for small ag businesses, \$525,000 was allocated because only 11 eligible applicants applied.

Ten applicants were awarded \$50,000 and another was awarded \$25,000.

The \$475,000 balance was put toward additional



funding for the community groups and programs.

In addition, \$653,679 of ARPA monies also were allocated to the Chelan-Douglas Health District, to be spent on a variety of health district improvements, from infrastructure to programming.

The remaining funds will be used for county programs and departments.

“It has taken us a year to decide how we would allocate the ARPA dollars, but we wanted to develop and follow a thoughtful process,” Overbay said.

“We always wish we could do more, but I am confident these monies will go a long way in our community.”

Those community agencies and programs that received ARPA funding are:

- Chelan Douglas Community Action Council: \$162,500 was awarded to support the council’s expansion of its food distribution center in Malaga.

- Chelan Valley Hope: \$277,900 was awarded to expand operations, including the food bank.

- Common Ground Community Housing Trust: \$350,000 was awarded to fund acquisition of land for single-family homes, duplexes and townhomes.

- Malaga-Colockum Community Council: \$160,000 was awarded to support infrastructure improvements to

the Malaga Community Park.

- Our Valley Our Future: \$109,250 was awarded to support the coordination and completion of three large-scale community initiatives related to regional housing; health, literacy and outcomes; and early care and education programs.

- Seven Acres Foundation: \$699,300 was awarded for the construction of the new Community Center at Lake Chelan.

- Small Miracles Community Outreach: \$33,750 was awarded to provide meals to children in the free or reduced school lunch program for meals during summer, spring and winter breaks.

- Community for the Advancement of Family Education: \$297,500 was awarded to support CAFÉ’s expanded community center.

- Lake Chelan Lions Club Foundation: \$22,800 was awarded to purchase audiometers that will be used to detect hearing and vision

problems in school-age children and to provide community screenings for low-income and disadvantaged populations.

- Upper Valley MEND: \$350,000 was awarded to acquire workforce rental housing units in Leavenworth.

- Wenatchee Valley YMCA: \$462,000 was awarded to the organization’s capital campaign for a new facility.

- Youth Dynamics: \$75,000 was awarded, to be split between renovations at the group’s Stonewater Chalet in Plain and outreach efforts.

- Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment: \$480,000 was awarded for land acquisition and construction on a new substance use disorder treatment facility in Chelan County.

- Chelan-Douglas Health District: \$653,679 was awarded for a variety of improvements, from infrastructure to programming.

## Service Driven Transport Recognized by Industry Association

Submitted by  
Jennifer Korfiatis

EAST WENATCHEE – Service Driven Transport has been recognized by the Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA) as a Distinguished Member. This is the fifth year in a row the company has received this honor. The company received additional recognition for leadership, commitment, and dedication.

IA acknowledged Service Driven Transport’s leadership in the third-party logistics industry, while bestowing special recognition for the company’s commitment to customer service and unwavering dedication to ethics and excellence.

Service Driven Transport was founded on the following principles:

- *Treat all people with respect*
- *Remember where we started*
- *Never compromise the integrity of any transaction*
- *Practice what we preach*

These principles continue to guide the short and long-term goals and objectives of the company.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition, especially from such a prestigious industry association. Our entire team works tirelessly to provide unparalleled customer service and we carry the highest integrity into every transaction. It is humbling to be acknowledged for what, for us, is just how we do business,”

explained President and CEO Paul Massingill.

TIA provides leadership and direction for the 3PL industry and professionals to advance professional standards and business practices, to include the overall image and credibility of the profession and its ultimate contribution to society. TIA serves more than 1,700 third-party logistics members and helps them better manage their companies for growth and profitability. No other association provides more ways for third-party logistics professionals to grow, connect and to protect their business.

**Service Driven Transport** is North America’s first choice in transportation. The company was recently designated as a Top 10 3PL Service Company by Logistics Tech Outlook. With an on-time delivery rate exceeding industry standards and a claims ratio of less than 1%, it’s easy to understand why companies trust Service Driven Transport. As a privately held, family-run corporation, Service Driven Transport has earned a prominent reputation as a leader in supply chain management. The company is an asset-backed 3PL provider, trusted by some of the largest Fortune 500 companies and some of the smallest startups. The company headquarters are in East Wenatchee, Washington and boasts several satellite offices throughout the United States.

## BOCC asks federal agencies to suspend efforts to reintroduce grizzlies into North Cascades

Submitted by Jill Fitzsimmons, CCPIO

Chelan County commissioners have submitted comments to the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, asking the federal agencies to immediately suspend current efforts to reintroduce grizzly bears into the North Cascades.

Commissioners also have asked the two agencies to begin consulting with the Board of County Commissioners, as well as neighboring counties, on the issue.

“This is frustrating, because the federal government pursued this effort only a few years ago,” Commissioner Tiffany Gering said. “The effort was suspended after local counties like Chelan County spoke out against it. Yet here we are again, re-addressing this issue.”

The submitted comments come after the NPS and USFWS hosted a series of four virtual public meetings to discuss grizzly bear restoration. The federal agencies are interested in initiating an Environmental Impact State process to evaluate options for restoring and man-

aging grizzly bears in the North Cascades. Community comments were due Dec. 14. The BOCC’s full comments, submitted to Don Striker, superintendent of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, are below.

**Re: 2022 North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement**

**Mr. Don Striker, Superintendent North Cascades National Park Service Complex**

**Dear Mr. Striker:**

Chelan County has reviewed the Notice of Intent from the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We have previously provided extensive comments opposing grizzly bear reintroduction into our local communities. We continue to oppose grizzly bear reintroduction given the likely negative impacts to public safety, economic development, recreation opportunities and the overall livelihood of our rural communities. The federal agencies leading this effort have generally failed to address these concerns and have failed to engage in any meaningful way Chelan County and other neighboring counties in the proposed grizzly bear restoration area.

NPS and USFWS appear to acknowledge the inherent dangers of reintroducing grizzly bears to our local communities

in the current proposal; however, instead of taking pause they have chosen to accelerate the EIS effort. The “10j” proposal is not well-defined. It identifies the need for grizzly bear management options for “certainty, safety and control for the region.”

However, it then goes on to suggest reintroduction. In a time when collaboration and partnerships are the norm for restoration efforts, the lack of coordination and consultation with local communities on this effort, as well as the failure to address rural community concerns, is disappointing.

Federal agencies have an obligation to coordinate and consult with local governments, specifically county governments, to ensure consistency between federal and local planning efforts and policies. There has been no effort to engage us in this current effort, and the EIS timeline appears to fast-track the effort toward a predetermined outcome. This board also questions the legality of the effort, given Washington State law states, “Grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state (RCW 77.12.035).” We are concerned the current approach appears to run counter to local and state policies and laws.

We request that you immediately suspend the current effort and consult with us and counties in the proposed grizzly bear reintroduction area to discuss our concerns.

Board of Chelan County Commissioners  
**Kevin Overbay, Chairman**  
**Tiffany Gering, Commissioner**  
**Bob Bugert, Commissioner**



Pixabay





## Expect longer ER wait times

Submitted by  
**Adam MacDonald,**  
Corporate Communications  
Program Manager

WENATCHEE – Due to high volumes of community members seeking care in emergency departments, patients are experiencing longer than normal wait times.

Far from being only a local issue, this is a state and national challenge that

all hospital systems are currently experiencing.

“With the sharp increase in the number of patients seeking care in our emergency departments, patients with less severe illness sometimes are asked to wait significantly longer than normal while priority is given first to patients with life-threatening conditions,” commented Dr. Jason Lake, chief medical officer for

Confluence Health.

“We want to keep patients informed about these longer-than-usual wait times and thank them for their understanding as our staff and providers work tirelessly to care for patients with the most severe illness first.”

Emergency departments across the state and the nation are experiencing longer wait times as they

navigate caring for the high volumes of patients with influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and other respiratory infections that have surged the last few months, and especially in recent weeks.

While these conditions can sometimes develop into illness that requires immediate medical care, very often mild cases can be treated at home with



bedrest and over-the-counter medications.

“It is essential that our communities remember that we will not turn away anyone seeking care,” continued Lake.

“That said, our capacity issues are a real challenge,

and longer wait times are inevitable at this time. We are dedicated to providing care to all those in need and appreciate our communities understanding the challenges that we and other hospitals throughout the state are experiencing.”

## Premera Blue Cross HMO Debuts in Washington

*Forward-thinking managed-care health plan created to improve members' experience by coordinating access to affordable, quality care*



Submitted by  
**Courtney Wallace,**  
Premera Blue Cross

Premera Blue Cross HMO, a subsidiary of Premera, is launching a new innovative health plan for Washington state residents.

Designed with members in mind, Premera Blue Cross HMO will offer personalized healthcare with seamless and simplified experiences for employees and employers.

Launching in January 2023, Premera Blue Cross HMO will initially be available to employers with employees who live or work in Pierce, Thurston, and Spokane counties.

The new health plan is built around the “Power of

Plus” commitment, which is a continuation of Premera’s forward-thinking approach to managing healthcare.

“My goal for Premera Blue Cross HMO is to deliver great care and value for our members,” said Kasia Sanel, Vice President of Premera Blue Cross HMO.

“This will be accomplished by providing an excellent experience for Washingtonians through proactive member engagement and enhanced care coordination.”

With Premera Blue Cross HMO, members will receive tailored, whole-person care.

This starts with their primary care physician, who acts as a quarterback

for all aspects of a member’s care. This approach centers on members developing a close relationship with their primary care provider, who will guide members through the complex healthcare system.

Primary care providers will also help coordinate care and refer members to specialists who can meet their unique health needs.

“Healthcare can be complex and expensive, but it doesn’t need to be,” Sanel said.

“Our plan ensures you have a dedicated healthcare advocate through your primary care physician. They will help members navigate the complexities of their healthcare journey, while at the same time helping to ensure they are benefiting from access to quality, affordable care.”

Members enrolled with the Premera Blue Cross HMO health plan can expect

to save up to 15 percent on premiums compared to current Premera Blue Cross Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans.

All preventive care is covered at 100 percent.

Members will have access to after-hours virtual care, urgent care visits in their home and high-touch behavioral health navigation services.

Also, urgent and emergency care is covered anywhere in the United States.

On day one, Premera

Blue Cross HMO members will have access to more than 13,000 providers across Pierce, Thurston, and Spokane counties.

The HMO network includes primary care providers and specialists with Kinwell Medical Group, MultiCare Health System, Seattle Children’s Hospital, and many more.

Premera Blue Cross HMO plans to expand across Washington, including growing its curated provider network and geo-

graphic reach throughout 2023 and beyond.

**About Premera Blue Cross HMO:**

Premera Blue Cross HMO, a subsidiary of Premera, is an innovative, health plan for Washington state residents. The plan offers personalized healthcare with seamless and simplified experiences for employees and employers. Premera and Premera Blue Cross HMO are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. For more information, visit <https://hmo.premera.com/>.



## Flu cases very high in Washington: DOH urges everyone take precautions

Submitted by  
**Washington State DOH**

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is informing Washingtonians that the flu is spreading at a high rate in Washington state right now.

The current flu season is early this year and flu deaths are at higher rates than usually seen at this point in the year.

As of December 10, 40 people have died from the flu in Washington including three children.

DOH strongly recommends everyone aged 6 months and older get the flu vaccine as soon as possible.

It can help keep individuals from getting severe illness or spreading the disease and prevent hospitalizations in an already strained healthcare system.

If someone does get the flu when they are vaccinated, it’s typically milder with fewer complications.

The vaccine also lowers the risk of needing medical care.

“It’s not too late to get your flu shot, so we urge everyone aged 6 months and older to get vaccinated as soon as possible,” said Umair A. Shah, MD, Secretary of Health.

“Flu is spreading rapidly

through our state and getting your flu shot now helps to protect us all, especially as we plan to gather for holidays and events.”

The most common strain of flu seen so far this year is influenza A (H3N2). This strain typically causes more severe disease. All available flu vaccines provide protection against H3N2.

Remember that the flu can be serious and deadly, even for young and otherwise healthy adults.

Flu can be especially dangerous to people who are under five years old, aged 65 or older, pregnant, immunocompromised, or

have chronic health conditions.

The flu vaccine is available at most pharmacies, healthcare provider offices, and clinics. The flu vaccine can be received at the same time as any other vaccine.

In addition to the flu, other respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 and RSV are making both children and adults sick and overloading our hospitals.

Individuals can help keep themselves, their family, and their community healthy by getting a flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster and taking other measures to prevent getting sick or spreading illness to others. DOH recommends:

- Get up to date on any vaccines that are due. This includes the yearly flu vaccine and any COVID-19 boosters for those 6

months and older. Vaccination is your best defense against many serious diseases.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when soap is not available, and hands are not visibly soiled.

- Consider wearing a mask in crowded or indoor settings.

- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your arm or a tissue so you don’t put germs on your hands or in the air.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- If you feel sick, stay home.

Find out more at [KnockOutFlu.org](https://KnockOutFlu.org). The DOH website is your source for a healthy dose of information. Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Sign up for the DOH blog, Public Health Connection.



## Jim and Kim Richardson receive 2022 Outstanding Friends of the College award



Submitted by  
Holly Thorpe

Wenatchee Valley College President Dr. Jim Richardson and his wife, Kim, were presented the 2022 Outstanding Friends of the College award on November 18.

This award recognizes those who have contributed to WVC through financial support or service or a combination of both. The recipient is selected not necessarily by the size of the gift, but by the significance and meaning behind it.

"Jim and Kim's student-centric philosophy has transformed WVC and the WVC Foundation during their time in our community," said Rachel Evey, foundation ex-

ecutive director. "Due to their significant contributions, the foundation board of directors immediately wanted to recognize Jim and Kim with the Outstanding Friends of the College Award."

During their 17 years in Wenatchee, the Richardsons have been dedicated supporters of WVC programs and students, the WVC Foundation's goals and the regional community. Dr. Richardson oversaw the development of new academic programs, grant programs, and the construction of multiple new buildings. Kim served as a board member of the WVC Foundation, planning events and fostering community connections.

"We know how significant this award is for the foundation. For Jim and I to be chosen, it's such an honor,"

said Kim. "It's incredible to be recognized alongside so many other names that have made a significant impact on Wenatchee Valley College students."

The WVC Foundation was incorporated in 1971. The foundation's mission is to provide equitable access to education and invest in student success through philanthropy. For information on how to make a gift to the foundation, establish a scholarship or include the WVC (509) 682-6410, 1300 Fifth Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Foundation in your estate plans, contact (509) 682-6410. Visit the WVC Foundation website at [wvc.edu/foundation](http://wvc.edu/foundation). Wenatchee Valley College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment and student enrollment. All programs are free from discrimination and harassment against any person because of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jim and Kim Richardson receive 2022 Outstanding Friends of the College award from Rachel Evey, Foundation Executive Director

race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, age, parental status or families with children, marital status, religion, genetic information, honorably

discharged veteran or military status or any other prohibited basis per RCW 49.60.030, 040 and other federal and laws and regulations, or participation in the complaint process. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and Title IX compliance for

both the Wenatchee and Omak campuses. To report discrimination or harassment: Title IX Coordinator, Wenatchee Hall 2322M, (509) 682-6445, [title9@wvc.edu](mailto:title9@wvc.edu). To request disability accommodations: Student Access Coordinator, Wenatchee Hall 2133, (509) 682-6854, TTY/TTD: dial 711, [sas@wvc.edu](mailto:sas@wvc.edu).

## NCW Libraries selects design firm for reimagining spaces project



Submitted by  
Amanda Brack

NCW Libraries has selected Library Forward and Forte Architects as the design lead for the Reimagining Spaces project.

The NCW Libraries Reimagining Spaces Project represents a \$10 million, multi-year redesign of 27 community libraries.

In funding the project, the NCW Libraries Board of Trustees hopes to make a visible and

impactful investment in library service throughout North Central Washington, engaging in a community centric design process that will build and strengthen community partnerships and increase library usage.

Library Forward, a division of Group 4 Architecture, is a national, award-winning, library specific design firm based out of the San Francisco Bay area.

Forte Architects is an architecture firm based in Wenatchee with decades-long experience delivering on a wide variety

of public projects throughout North Central Washington.

These two firms submitted a joint proposal in which Library Forward will oversee interior design and community engagement while Forte Architects will provide a "boots on the ground" presence during design and construction.

Library Forward will partner with local NCW Libraries staff to lead community engagement efforts and Forte Architects will serve as the Architect of Record for the project.

"We are thrilled to have Library Forward, along with local firm, Forte Architects, bring their expertise to our Reimagining Spaces Project.

Library Forward brings national experience with reimagining library spaces.

Forte Architects understands the context, diverse culture, and various needs of NCW.

Together, they will help us update our library spaces to better serve our communities," said Barbara Walters, Executive Director.



Through the Reimagining Spaces Project, Library Forward and Forte Architects will design safe, accessible, and welcoming library spaces that are positioned to serve the diverse communities of North Central Washington for years to come.

NCW Libraries spaces serve as community hubs for learning, connection, and vital resources and experiences.

For more information about the NCW Libraries Reimagining Spaces Project visit [www.ncwlibraries.org](http://www.ncwlibraries.org).

## New coordinator tabbed for Chelan-Douglas Master Gardener program

Submitted by  
Mary Ellen Gormley,  
WSU Chelan County Extension

WENATCHEE – Marco Martinez has been hired as the new coordinator of the Washington State University Master Gardener Program for Chelan and Douglas counties.

Margaret Viebrock, director of WSU Extension in Chelan and Douglas counties, had most recently taken on the role of local Master Gardener program coordinator on an interim basis.

"We are very fortunate that Marco accepted our job offer. He brings a strong background in public relations and working with people. At the annual Master Gardener Foundation meeting he was welcomed with enthusiasm," Viebrock said.

Martinez previously worked at The Wenatchee

World, first as a reporter and most recently as features editor. He was also editor of Foothills, a monthly lifestyle magazine published by The World.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marco Martinez

"I'm excited to be part of a program with a strong reputation for doing good things in our communities," Martinez said.

"I am impressed with the breadth of knowledge represented by the Master Gar-

dener volunteers, who are the heart of the program."

The Master Gardener program promotes environmentally responsible gardening practices and healthy living through gardening.

Locally, 100 active volunteers have completed WSU-approved training on topics that include botany, soils, lawn care, weed identification, pesticides and insect management, plant pathology, pruning and plant problem diagnosis. Volunteers are required to complete 35 hours of approved community education or service and 15 hours of continuing education annually to maintain active Master Gardener status.

Master Gardeners of Chelan and Douglas Counties volunteer in a variety of ways. Those include diagnosing plant problems in diag-

nosis clinics, developing and maintaining the Community Education Garden along Western Avenue, educational outreach at the NCW and Chelan County fairs, teaching classes, and maintaining several demonstration gardens in public spaces in both counties.

In January, a new class of candidates will begin training to become Master Gardener interns. Upon successfully completing training, candidates must fulfill a 55-hour internship requirement before becoming a certified Master Gardener. To learn more, visit [bit.ly/trainingMG](http://bit.ly/trainingMG) or email [marco.martinez@wsu.edu](mailto:marco.martinez@wsu.edu).

For more information about the Master Gardener Program for Chelan and Douglas counties, visit [bit.ly/MGchelandouglas](http://bit.ly/MGchelandouglas). Mary Ellen Gormley, office manager for WSU Chelan County Extension.

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# 2022 Stanley Lifetime Achievement Award winners announced

Submitted by Numerica Performing Arts Center

WENATCHEE – The Numerica Performing Arts Center is proud to announce the 2022 Stanley Lifetime Achievement Award winners: Rhona Baron as the recipient in the professional division and Daina Toevs as the recipient in the volunteer division.

Baron and Toevs were honored at the Numerica Festival of Trees' productions of Holiday Spice on December 1 and 2 at the Numerica PAC, sponsored by Community Glass and Marilyn Everhart.

The Stanley Lifetime Achievement Awards were designed in 2002 to honor the life-long arts and cultural commitment of Mr. Bob Stanley.

The winners are honored at Holiday Spice.

## Rhona Baron Professional Division

Rhona Baron is a multi-disciplinary artist who grew up surrounded by art and nature in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Deeply influenced by her early years, Rhona's dedicated her artistic career to the transformative power of nature and art, rather than art for art's sake alone.

Holding a degree in Fine

Art, Rhona worked for the Wenatchee/Okanagon National Forest as an interpretive illustrator and designer in the 1990s.

Her large illustrations can be viewed at Nason Creek Campground and other locations. Rhona's accomplishments also include singing lead with the acapella group Mixed Company, teaching voice in the Wenatchee Valley, creating sing-along "edutainment" for the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival, directing the choir at Faith Lutheran Church in Leavenworth, and host of "Icele Jazz" on KOHO radio.

At the age of 47, Rhona trained to become among the first Zumba instructors in Washington State. Going a step further, she was inspired by Zumba's Latin styles to choreograph and co-create Dancing with Birds, a Latin dance and visual art troupe that educated bi-cultural audiences about migratory birds.

Currently, Rhona serves as the Artistic Director and Producer of Dangerous Women, a regional artist's collaborative that brings the forgotten stories of women from history to life on stage.

In 2022, Dangerous Women staged their third,



Rhona Baron



Daina Toevs

all-original, themed production.

The most racially diverse production ever staged in North Central WA, the show features the Native American perspective.

Rhona's position with Dangerous Women pushes her to utilize her full array of artistic skills to do what she loves best – uniting, educating, and inspiring the community through the arts.

## Daina Toevs Volunteer Division

Daina Toevs is a product of her upbringing. Her parents, Phyllis, and Gerald Goecke, brought classical,

secular, and - of course - Broadway music into their home, so Daina has been drawn to music since childhood.

In college, she developed her own love of jazz, and she has since sung with Easy Money in Wenatchee and Kind of Blue in Spokane.

Daina has been involved with the Wenatchee Valley theater scene since 1996, with her first show being Most Happy Fella.

Being on stage and directing has been her greatest passion.

As an actor first, Daina finds joy working with others to create the magic only felt on the stage.

Over time, she has expanded her wings to touch all areas of theater life including directing, acting, costuming, producing, set building, lighting, theater parenting, and more.

Through theater and the arts, Daina hopes to enrich the lives of audiences and other artists.

Daina states, "We learn so much when we participate in the arts. Group responsibility, sense of community, endurance, diversity, teamwork, and interpersonal communication skills. To participate in the atmosphere of creative joy is an experience unmatched!"

Daina Toevs has been married to her husband Ken for 42 years. They have two grown children Jacob and Katelin, who have wonderful spouses and brought them three delightful grandchildren.

## Former Stanley Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

A Stanley Lifetime Achievement Award Winner is someone who has left a profoundly positive and lasting impression on the arts in Central Washington. Baron and Toevs join a list of local legacy lifetime achievement winners:

## Professional Division:

Rhona Baron (2022), Tracy Trotter (2021), Melissa Miller-Port (2019), Suzanne Carr (2018), Leslie McEwen (2017), Scott Bailey (2016), Terry Valdez (2015), Dan Jackson (2014), Keith Sexson (2013), Tamera Lopushinsky (2012), Glenn Kelley (2011), Jan Cook Mack (2010), John & Susan Wagner (2009), Harriett Bullitt (2008), Beth Jensen (2007), Sherry Krebs (2006), Pam Cole (2005), Richard Lapo (2004), Edward Sands (2003), Joan Shelton Mason (2002), Ruth Allan (2002)

## Volunteer Division:

Daina Toevs (2022), Katy Marr (2021), Ford & Marlys Barrett (2019), Cynthia Brown (2018), Gina Jans (2017), Ron Lodge (2016), Adele Wolford (2015), Marilyn Everhart (2014), Sue Lawson (2013), Rudi Pauly (2012), Terry Johnson (2011), Sherry Schreck (2010), Paul Atwood (2009), Harriett Bullitt (2008), Glenn Isaacson (2007), Arlene Jones (2006), Jane Hensel (2005), Gary Montague (2004), Wilfred & Kathy Woods (2003)

The Numerica Performing Arts Center at the Stanley Civic Center is a non-profit organization and naming partner with the Numerica Credit Union.

# Wheatland Bank Expands Central Washington Agricultural and Commercial Lending Team

Submitted by Erica Mostek

Wheatland Bank is a locally owned and independent community bank, recognized nationally as one of the top 100 community banks in the nation by American Banker and one of the strongest banks in the nation by BauerFinancial, the largest independent bank rating association.

The only Ag bank headquartered in Washington State with over 30% Agricultural loans, Wheatland has announced the addition of an experienced agricultural and commercial lender to the team led by long time



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eric J. Davis, CPA

Vice President, Agricultural and Commercial Loan Officer

banker and team leader Erik Hopkins and serving the Wenatchee and Quincy markets.

As a graduate of Central Washington University, new hire Eric Davis brings a wealth of experience to Wheatland Bank both from his time as a Senior Tax Associate with CliftonLarsonAllen and as a well-respected agricultural and commercial lender serving the greater Wenatchee area.

With nearly five years of experience in the banking industry, Eric has proven himself as a successful lender and customer relationship manager.

Eric will work alongside Erik Hopkins, the Bank's team leader for Chelan and Douglas Counties, to serve

our Wenatchee-area customers, but will also have a presence in the Quincy market and will look to expand the Bank's agricultural and commercial loan portfolio there.

"We are excited to have Eric join Wheatland Bank's team in the central Washington. We look forward to having him help us build on the great foundation we have as we focus

on continuing to expand our presence throughout Wenatchee, Quincy and the surrounding area," said Susan M. Horton, President and CEO of Wheatland Bank.

# Legislature will get another shot at real emergency powers reform

By Jason Mercier

A 2023 pre-filed bipartisan Senate bill is proposing common-sense reforms that would remove an illogical inconsistency in Washington's current emergency powers law and provide meaningful legislative oversight. SB 5063 (Establishing balanced legislative oversight of gubernatorial powers during a declared emergency) is sponsored by Senator Lynda Wilson (R) and Senator Mark Mullet (D). According to the intent section of the bill:

"This act may be known and cited as the bipartisan approach to legislative authority necessary in continuing emergencies (BALANCE) act of 2023." SB 5063 would implement three important reforms to address the current lack of meaningful legislative oversight for Washington's emergency powers law: When in session, allow the legislature to pass a concurrent resolution terminating an emergency declaration; When out of session and more than 90 days after an emergency declaration has been issued, all four members of the House and Senate leadership may terminate the declaration in writing; and Harmonizing the treatment of restrictive declarations and suspension of law by requiring both actions to expire after 30 days unless extended by the legislature

(when out of session all four legislative leaders in House and Senate can extend in writing). While all of these commonsense reforms proposed by SB 5063 should be enacted, the third one is the most important to ensuring essential legislative oversight for all emergency actions by the executive branch. Harmonizing the existing law so that both waiving of statute and restrictive proclamations expire after 30 days unless the legislature votes to continue should not be controversial. There is no logical reason to treat those emergency actions by the Governor differently. Whether or not you agree or disagree with every decision the Governor made during Washington's "temporary," 975 days-long state of emergency, the fact remains these decisions with vast impact on individuals and businesses were made behind closed doors in the executive branch. It is true that in an emergency, governors need broad powers to act fast. Legislative bodies inevitably take longer to assemble and act than a single executive, so they temporarily delegate their power to the executive in emergencies. But these powers are supposed to be transferred for a limited period of time with meaningful legislative oversight of the decisions made.



## About Wheatland Bank

Wheatland Bank is a locally owned independent community bank headquartered in Spokane, Washington.

Wheatland Bank's commitment to eastern and central Washington is strong and has deep roots. It's a commitment that is kept alive with powerful local ownership, leadership, and decision-making.

Over the past 43 years, Wheatland Bank has grown through organic and diversified

expansion with 14 branches throughout eastern and central Washington, nearly 17,500 customers.

Wheatland Bank focuses on helping businesses, farmers, ranchers, and consumers succeed by offering the highest quality personalized banking relationships and customized lending, banking, residential lending, and wealth management services.

A strong independent reflection of Wheatland Bank's continued success is the fact that Wheatland Bank has

earned the coveted 5-Star Superior rating from BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading independent bank rating firm for 62 consecutive quarters putting it in an even more prominent position as an "Exceptional Performance Bank".

The designation is reserved for those banks securing a 5-Star rating for 40 consecutive quarters or longer.

To learn more about Wheatland Bank, visit us online at [www.wheatland.bank](http://www.wheatland.bank).





# MEMBER MESSENGER

*“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”*

JANUARY 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

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## Help BNCW welcome Shane Covey, Custom Construction & Cabinetry LLP. as the incoming Chairman of the Board!

Shane has owned and operated Custom Construction & Cabinetry for over 10 years.

His focus is first rate craftsmanship and building his customers projects from start to finish.

Custom Construction & Cabinetry offer services in new builds, remodels, and cabinet installation.

Shane has been an active member of BNCW and the community for many years.

Shane will bring many years of experience as a successful business owner and steady leadership to the organization for 2023!

Check Custom Construction & Cabinetry's website at [www.wenatcheebuilt.com](http://www.wenatcheebuilt.com) for more information on how they can help with your project!



**Shane Covey**  
Custom Construction & Cabinetry LLP.  
BNCW 2023 Chairman



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**2023**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

FROM OUR COMPANY TO YOURS. RAISE A TOAST TO YESTERDAY'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND TOMORROW'S BRIGHTER FUTURE.

**BNCW STAFF**





# MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JANUARY 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

## What's New From Our CEO

Members,

Happy New Year!

The 2023 Home Show, brought to by our proud naming sponsor Complete Design Inc., will be on the 4th through the 5th of February at the Town Toyota Center.

The Home Show will continue to provide all home needs as in the past with many new attractions. Here are just some of what is new:

- Chef's on Tour winners selling cuisine
- Tacos Muy selling homemade tacos
- Local bands including The Prairie Girls, Mariachi Noroeste, Faraones Del Norte and MORE!
- Local Golf Course selling season passes
- Aloha Dreams Mobile Espresso and Treats
- Gabby's Carmel Corn
- The Humane Society, can you say "PUPPIES"!

This will definitely be the Home Show for the ages.

THANK YOU to all our Members, Partners as we are looking forward to seeing you at the 2023 Home Show!

Lawrence "Lee" Shepherd  
CEO, BNCW



Lawrence "Lee" Shepherd  
CEO, BNCW

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



## WHATS NEW!?

Check it out

COMPLETE DESIGN INC.  
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# home SHOW

experts. ideas. innovations. inspiration

- ⊙ Live Music from local bands Prairie Girls & Los Faraones Del Norte
- ⊙ Community Café
- ⊙ Humane Society
- ⊙ Sweet Treats and more!

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February 4th & 5th

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February 4th & 5th

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# MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JANUARY 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3

## SUPPORTING SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



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# MEMBER MESSENGER

*"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"*

JANUARY 2023 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO



FOR PROVIDING YUMMY TREATS DURING OUR  
BNCW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



201 COTTAGE AVE STE. #2  
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### BNCW EVENTS

#### BNCW's January Board of Directors Meeting

■ **Wednesday, January 18th, 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.

 smithsoninsuranceservices@gmail.com ~ Habla Español ~	<b>Kathy Z. Smithson</b> 720 Valley Mall Pkwy, East Wenatchee	
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	<p><i>"We are creating a team of highly skilled people working safely to build long-term relationships with our customers and communities. Integrity, superior quality, and exceptional service will continue to be the foundation of our future."</i></p>
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 Ad director, **Carol Forhan** 509-548-5286  
[Carol@leavenworthecho.com](mailto:Carol@leavenworthecho.com)



# MARKETING 101

## Is Your Business Ready for 2023?

Submitted by  
**Jennifer Bushong**

Happy New Year! The new year brings an opportunity to identify business goals and analyze new trends.

Small businesses will need to be savvy in all forms of communications, including digital communications, to maintain its market share in the new year.

Here are a few market-

ing ideas to help your business thrive in 2023:

### *Identify and showcase your personal brand.*

Make sure your vision, mission, and values are clear.

All employees must be engaged in the company brand. When a potential consumer is interested in your products or services, make sure your digital

footprint matches their expectations.

The goal is for consumers to recognize your brand, identify with your company and connect with its founders and employees. A brand is more than just your logo. It is the way a product, company or individual is perceived by those who experience it.

A brand is the essence of the company. Make sure your digital footprint is consistent with your online and offline message.

### *Use an influencer.*

Gone are the days that only a celebrity could endorse or add ratings to a product or service.

Today, influencers are excellent communicators who are passionate about using their audience to

promote products and services.

Make sure the influencer can communicate the message in print, digital and in-person.

Look for engagements including likes, shares, and comments, so that the message resonates for a long period of time.

A good PR or communications firm can help influence the marketing message and/or hire the right influencer for your business to ensure attainable and measurable results.

### *Partner with a local charities, fairs, or events to reach new customers.*

Partnerships will strengthen your business. There is power in high

numbers of people.

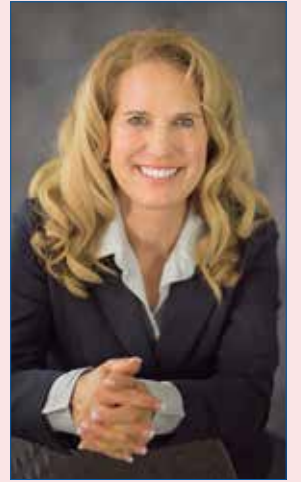
If multiple businesses come together to support a cause and/or your business is seen or heard in numerous publications, engagement will certainly rise.

Excellent marketing from a local fair or event will reinforce your brand and provide a good sense of the company's culture.

Often, it is less expensive to align with an already established entity than to try and advertise on your own.

2023 may be a challenge for many small businesses due to employee training in customer service and the new "normal" way of doing business.

Focus on excellent marketing using a variety of tactics, and you will be sure to pull ahead of your



Jennifer Bushong

competitors!

Happy New Year from all of us at JBe Marketing Group, LLC!

*Jennifer Bushong, MA is the owner of JBe Marketing Group, LLC., a full-service strategic marketing and public relations firm in Washington State. JBe can implement marketing, communications, or branding campaigns using a variety of tactics. To learn more or book Jennifer as a speaker, jennifer@jbemarketinggroup.com or visit www.jbe-marketing.com*

### Happy New Year! Business Trends



# Follow these 5 TIPS

## to Declutter & Organize Your Home in the New Year

By Christina Giaquinto

The start of the New Year is always an exciting time filled with resolutions to live healthier and happier for the next 12 months. One surefire way to do that is cleaning up and decluttering your home, as clutter takes up physical space, drains mental energy, and causes a ton of stress and anxiety. Eliminating clutter in each room is an impactful way to make a living space really feel like a calming sanctuary.

If you are struggling to figure out how to best declutter your home in the New Year, do not worry. In my experience as the Professional Organizer and Brand Ambassador of Modular Closets (DIY customizable closet units that organize any space in your home), I have discovered these helpful decluttering tips:

### 1. Before Starting, Ask Yourself 2 Questions

There are two questions to ask yourself: do you have too much stuff or not enough space? If you do not have enough space, there are a few solutions. First, create a new closet system. Oftentimes, our spaces are completely underutilized and simply not designed properly. Many times, we have more space than we think. This does not mean you have to make a huge investment or start an intimidating construction project.

For example, just by changing your single rod closet to double hanging, you instantly double the space. The most transformative thing you can do to organize when you do not have a lot of space is to redesign the system. Modular Closets is just one highly effective system that is easy to design your-

self or with their team and instantly transforms your space! Also, always utilize your walls when you do not have a lot of space – hooks are a great way to organize things such as hats, purses, and necklaces.

If you do not have a lot of space, you must honor and accept the space you have. You may need to simplify things a bit more and work on practicing the process of letting go of some more of your items. Things are not bad, as they create our environment and add purpose and meaning to our home. However, we have to honor the space we have and allow things into our space that don't create clutter.

### 2. Turn Decluttering Your Clothes into a Game

Who doesn't love a fun game? If you want to quickly declutter your clothes, turn it into a game by committing yourself to accomplishing the task in one day no matter what. By setting the goal to finish the decluttering process in 24 hours, you will feel energized and inspired to get it done. On a practical level, the best way to ensure you get it done fast is by creating piles and categories. This is going to make it much easier to declutter and decide what you do not want anymore. In my own experience, this is the #1 way to declutter fast.

Another idea is to have a friend or family member help. Decluttering can be emotionally tiring physically and mentally, so it is always great to have support. Your friend may also want to keep some of the items you are looking to give away, so it's a win-win for both of you.

### 3. Take a Break if You Feel Overwhelmed

If you are feeling stressed out and overwhelmed while decluttering, pause and hit the reset button. Decluttering is both physical and emotional so there may be moments where you feel overwhelmed, and this is completely natural and okay. So first and foremost, please know it is okay to feel that way! If you put too much pressure on yourself to get it all done at once, you can easily burn out and take even longer to declutter your home.

Second, pause and step away for a moment. Sometimes all you need is a breather, a glass of water, and to step away from the clutter. Third, if you find the process overwhelming, set the timer for 15-minute increments so you can work within an allocated amount of time.

### 4. Avoid These 10 Decluttering Mistakes

If you want to optimize the process of decluttering and cleaning up your home, make sure to avoid these blunders:

1. You do not have to throw everything away.
2. Be honest with yourself if you truly need that item.
3. Do not let the object take over you. You control the object. Always remember that.
4. Do not start the process until you have categorized it into piles.
5. Do not declutter with everything still in the space. Empty out everything until the closet/room/space is empty.
6. Do not throw it all away without seeing if you can donate it locally.
7. Do not keep your clutter to

have a garage sale UNLESS you have that garage sale booked in the calendar.

8. Do not declutter without a goal and intention for your space.

9. Do not declutter without a snack on hand. It gets tiring.

10. Do not be so hard on yourself. This process is a lot. The fact that you are working on your space to make it better is truly such an accomplishment.

### 5. Follow My 8-Minute Rule to Keep Your Home Tidy

Keeping your home neat needs to be an ongoing, daily process, as it will prevent clutter and chaos from forming over time. Luckily, you can easily do this in less than 10 minutes a day. Just set a timer for 8 minutes and spend that time ridding counters of any clutter, picking items off the floor, and putting things where they belong. I like doing this before I go to bed, as it puts my mind at ease and completes my day. However, you can do it at any time that is right for you.

Whatever clutter you can eliminate in 8 minutes is fantastic. Also, this will eventually become a habit that you enjoy doing each day. And when it becomes a part of your daily lifestyle, your space will never get messy and chaotic. Remem-

ber, the goal is not to put every single item away (of course, that is awesome if that happens); the objective is to put whatever you can away until the timer goes off after 8 minutes.

### To Wrap It All Up

Ridding your home of clutter is an excellent way to live healthier and happier in the New Year, as messiness can cause a lot of stress and anxiety. Optimize the decluttering process by first asking yourself if you have too much stuff or not enough space. Also, turn decluttering your clothes into a game, take a break if you feel overwhelmed, avoid 10 of the major cleaning mistakes I have seen others make, and follow my 8-minute rule. This will help you keep your home tidy and chaos-free in Year 2023 and beyond.

*Christina Giaquinto is the Professional Organizer and Brand Ambassador of Modular Closets (DIY customizable closet units that organize any space in your home). Christina focuses on giving her clients the tools, methods, and techniques to transform their lives and homes through decluttering and organizing. She combines spiritual coaching and organizing to help her clients let go of things that do not spark joy and happiness. Her work has been featured on sites like Popsugar, Women's Health, Reader's Digest, Realtor, The Spruce and Yahoo. www.modularclosets.com*



Pixabay



# REAL ESTATE

## TOP PROPERTIES CHELAN COUNTY – November 2022

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
GL MANSON TRUST	ECKBERG EDWARD & ARDYCE IRREV GIFTING TRUST	\$10,500,000	1642 GREENS LANDING RD	MANSON	35	5569	2011	5	8.5	N	Y
WAPATO INVESTMENTS LLC	CHELAN VIEW ORCHARD LLC	\$2,950,000	3250 LAKESHORE DR	MANSON	9.25	1388	1940	1	1	N	N
INDIKO HOTEL GROUP LLC	MDK INVESTORS LLC	\$2,030,000	700 N WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	0.68	14264	1962			N	N
GL MANSON TRUST	GREENS LANDING LLC	\$2,000,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	21.2	0	0			N	N
MISSION TOWER LLC	VJC ENTERPRISES LLC	\$2,000,000	303 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE	0.24	12157	1990			N	N
JACKSON HARLAN N JR & DIANA L	EIDER CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$1,995,000	355 SABIO WAY	CHELAN	0.24	2148	2022	3	4	N	Y
WELLNITZ MICHAEL J & AMY	SERR ROBERT W & VALERIA S RECORDS	\$1,900,000	228 PORCUPINE LN	CHELAN	0.18	1728	2017	4	3.5	N	Y
3MK LLC	WELLNITZ MICHAEL J & AMY	\$1,900,000	128 BOBCAT LN	CHELAN	0.12	1928	2021	5	4	N	Y
PILUKAS JOSEPH R JR & KRISTINE	NAVARRE VISTA LLC	\$1,475,000	7460 NAVARRE DR	CHELAN	0.5	2705	2004	4	4	N	N
MALHOTRA VINAY & KRISTAL M	HAMLIN JUSTIN & ANGELA	\$1,344,152	140 CLOS CHEVALLE RD	CHELAN	0.63	1556	2022	4	4	Y	Y
CORKHILL WILLIAM E & MARIA C	REIERSON PETER & LUCY	\$1,335,000	7470 NAVARRE DR	CHELAN	0.46	2304	2016	4	3	N	Y
CARLTON RICHARDS L & DESIREE T	LINDHEIM TORSTEIN LIVING TRUST	\$1,300,000	138 LUCKY DOG LN	LEAVENWORTH	0.72	2010	2013	3	3	N	Y
SCULLY MERIDA	ADAMS STEPHEN C & SUSAN L HUNTER	\$1,278,000	11560 RIVER BEND DR	LEAVENWORTH	0.41	1500	1975	2	1	N	Y
GUTIERREZ ERICK NOE	KELSO ALICIA E	\$1,275,000	6730 FOREST RIDGE DR	WENATCHEE	1.13	3685	2005	4	4	N	N
PENNEL ANDREW M & LOVE KIMBERLY M	HARKINS KARLA J	\$1,220,000	145 FAIR WAY	CHELAN	0.32	2048	2007	2	2.5	N	N
PEEK CURTIS E & TIFFANY L	FULBRIGHT JAY & LAURA	\$1,200,000	2054 MAIDEN LN	WENATCHEE	0.65	5813	1998	5	5.5	N	N
BLAIR NECESSITIES LLC	D & L INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC	\$1,150,000	1320 US HWY 2	LEAVENWORTH	0.15	1840	1984			N	N
SIMMONS ALLAN & JESSIE	304 E WAPATO LLC	\$1,100,000	304 E WAPATO AVE	CHELAN	0.19	3312	1990	5	4.25	N	Y
DIMARCO TIMOTHY & JESSICA L	DORSEY STEVEN A & DARCY D	\$1,060,000	1225 RUE JOLIE	WENATCHEE	1.27	2537	1992	3	3.5	N	Y
LATURNER MATTHEW A & JENNIFER L	ARNOLD DANIEL C	\$1,050,000	10380 EAGLE CREEK RD	LEAVENWORTH	2	2568	2006	4	2.5	N	Y
PELAN ROBERT M & SANDRA K	TAYLOR EDGAR & ROBERTA	\$1,000,000	3672 DIANNA WAY	WENATCHEE	0.96	2022	2003	3	3	N	Y
DUNN JEFF S & SHERI T	BOOTH DANIEL L & HELEN S	\$975,000	564 PORCUPINE LN	CHELAN	0.1	1076	2015	2	2	N	Y
ECHO CABINS LLC	CHELAN OUTDOORS LLC	\$860,000	1800 COOPER GULCH RD	CHELAN	29.82	5004	2015	2	1	N	Y
MAWRENCE LEWIS & SMITH JENNIFER	ROBERTS DOUGLAS F	\$850,000	22932 MAPLE DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.06	1776	1991	2	1.75	N	Y
HMB ORCHARDS LLC	MC CLELLAN'S SNOW CREEK RANCH LLC	\$800,000	231 APPLE ACRES RD	CHELAN	41.48	1460	1970			N	N
HEMSTEAD JEFF R & GAIL L	HABREHAB LLC	\$785,000	110 SAN REMO LN	CHELAN	0.17	1680	2022	4	3	N	Y
KLING KYLER & REBECCA	MARTZ VICKI W	\$758,000	525 SAGE HILLS DR	WENATCHEE	2.67	2220	1928	4	3.5	N	Y
PRESSNALL MICHAEL J & STRIVENS PRESSNALL NICHOLE	COWAN STEPHEN T & MARY E	\$755,000	9753 NIBBELINK RD	PESHASTIN	1.41	2454	1912	4	2.5	N	Y
MILLER JENNIFER & ANTHONY	WARRICK E KEITH	\$755,000	15875 RIVER RD	PLAIN	1.04	1785	2000	2	1	N	Y
SHAPIRO ADAM M & GOLDMAN JESSICA L	JEFFRIES MARVIN J	\$754,000	3080 LAKESHORE DR	MANSON	0.8	1498	1976	3	1.75	Y	Y
INTERWEST INVESTMENTS LLC	MAGNUSSEN RICHARD & JANINE	\$750,000	229 S WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	0.19	4175	1924			N	N
BYRAN ISAAC T & NICE JENNIFER	SLIPSTREAM LLC	\$745,000	3696 CATHEDRAL ROCK RD	MALAGA	20.03	2016	2021	1	2	N	N
LUDERS MICHELLE D	HEBERT MARK & SUSAN	\$710,000	522 SHERBOURNE ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.15	1352	1956	3	1.5	N	Y
CLARK BRYAN & LYNNSEY	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$699,900	982 RACINE SPRINGS DR	WENATCHEE	0.16	0	0			N	N
FINKELSTEIN ELISA A ETAL	SHOULDERS PROPERTIES LLC	\$685,000	130 SUMMER BREEZE RD	MANSON	0.33	1810	2017	2	2	N	N
PEERY KELTON M & PATRICIA A	KLINGINSMITH DARYN R	\$685,000	412 DOGWOOD LN	WENATCHEE	0.18	1960	2004	3	2	N	Y
BYERS MICHAEL G & SUSAN A	MC BRIDE BRIAN K & PAMELA W	\$668,000	2960 MISSION RIDGE RD	WENATCHEE	1.09	1743	1990	2	2	N	Y
STERK IAN S & BORRELLI STERK MARIA	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$659,900	978 RACINE SPRINGS DR	WENATCHEE	0.16	0	0			N	N
A HOME DOCTOR INC	JACK BARBARA	\$652,500	3665 W MALAGA RD	MALAGA	19.54	1720	1911	4	1	N	N
GRUENER DAVID & MIEDEMA GRUENER JOANN G	MC DARMENT JOHN C	\$650,000	2115 SUNRISE CIRCLE	WENATCHEE	0.69	2788	1977	3	2	N	Y
T & H LEGACY HOLDINGS LLC	GRIMNES GARY M & SUSAN C	\$639,000	13093 CHUMSTICK HWY	LEAVENWORTH	0.88	2498	2002	3	1	Y	Y
RICHARDS NOLAN J	WILSON CHARLES JASON	\$637,000	3163 EAGLE VIEW DR	MALAGA	1.76	2113	1992	3	2	N	N
BLECKIN JUSTIN & CHANG ELLA T ETAL	ORCUTT LINDA M	\$630,000	525 ALPINE PL	LEAVENWORTH	1.77	958	0			N	N
MESAROS LORAIN Y & AARON C	BROWN FALCON LLC	\$615,000	525 ALPINE PL	LEAVENWORTH	0	958	0			N	N
SHEATS TYE R ETAL	UPFRONT CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$608,000	17 TEX FORD DR	MALAGA	0.41	1830	2022	3	2	N	N
BURRELL BRANDON W & CARLEY R	CUEVAS-SUAREZ FRANCISCO	\$607,000	1010 SPRING MOUNTAIN DR	WENATCHEE	0.16	1814	2022	3	2	N	Y
YOUNES TULIP	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$599,900	2015 LIGHTNING LN	WENATCHEE	0.15	1826	2022	3	2	N	Y
SOSA PAUL G & SHARMAN M	LUNZ GREG & SHARON	\$573,000	915 PINE ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.145	1326	1939	3	1	N	Y
STONE ANTHONY & LINZY	HUNTER NICOLE A	\$567,500	2201 LARK BROOKE	WENATCHEE	0.27	1956	1999	3	2	N	Y
ARREDONDO ALFREDO & CARRIE	HUBBS ANDREW D & HEATHER D	\$567,500	926 HIGHLAND DR	WENATCHEE	0.14	1620	1926	3	3	N	Y
KOENIG LESLIE	ETTEN JOHN L & CYNTHIA S	\$560,000	1019 GRENZ ST	WENATCHEE	0.23	1707	1975	3	1.75	N	Y
BULLION RODNEY C & KIMBERLY	WINTER ANDREW J & SHAYLA M	\$558,400	1030 7TH ST	WENATCHEE	0.16	1703	1947	3	1	N	Y
CLARK COLE W & LAURA E	THOMPSON DOROTHY M	\$550,000	2507 NO. 1 CANYON RD	WENATCHEE	0.25	1937	2006	3	2	N	Y
FRANK MONICA M & CHRISTOPHER J	TERRELL KATHY ETAL	\$550,000	225 S DIVISION ST	CASHMERE	0.3	1768	1904	3	2.5	N	Y
MAY DOUGLAS L & MC CARTHY MAY CHABELLA	PIESTRUP PHELAN S & NATALIA	\$540,000	415 CENTRAL AVE	LEAVENWORTH	0.36	1638	1912	2	1	N	Y
LEYVA SANCHEZ DAICY & SANCHEZ TAPIA LETICIA	TEJADA CRESENCIO M	\$538,500	120 MCLALLEN LN	MANSON	0.22	1456	2001	4	1	N	N
RIVERA CASAGNON DIEGO & LOPEZ MARIA	WATSON III ARTHUR E	\$535,000	3315 NO. 1 CANYON RD	WENATCHEE	2.33	1896	2000			N	N



**TOP PROPERTIES CHELAN COUNTY – November 2022 – continued from page 14**

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
COOK SAM W & ALLISON M	ZAMORA DAVID	\$525,000	1604 HORSE LAKE RD	WENATCHEE	0.31	1484	1976	4	3	N	Y
BHATIA KAPIL & GAURIKA	HEMSTEAD JEFF R & GAIL L	\$525,000	808 W MANSON RD	CHELAN	0	1080	0			N	N
MC KINLEY ROOSEVELT A & KELLY BLYTHE	FISCHER PATRICK M & KIMBERLY L	\$515,000	519 DOUGLAS ST	WENATCHEE	0.14	1902	1910	3	1	N	Y
DIETRICH ORCHARDS LLC	DUNN IAN C	\$500,000	11202 NORTH RD	LEAVENWORTH	1	1200	1980	3	3	N	Y
TABLER MATTHEW C & HEATHER E	ROWE JAMES D	\$500,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	19.85	0	0			N	N
NICOL DAVID M & NATASHA E	CLIFFORD JOHN A & CONNIE D	\$490,000	2087 CHAMPION LN	WENATCHEE	0.17	1405	2008	3	2.5	N	Y
BAILEY JAMES M & MARGARET E	SKALISKY DALE E	\$475,000	1246 LOIS PL	WENATCHEE	0.18	992	1961	4	1.75	N	Y
CLIFFORD JOHN A & CONNIE D	WALDEN PARRY H & BRENDA	\$475,000	2046 METHOW ST	WENATCHEE	0.18	1692	2008	3	2	N	N
MENGE KAY A	HENDRICK GREGORY J & BRENDA J	\$459,900	2109 ORCHARD AVE	WENATCHEE	0.4	1782	1998			N	N
NETTO KRISTA & MORTLAND KENNETH	SHEA WILLIAM C	\$455,000	401 PEARL ST	WENATCHEE	0.17	1790	1950			N	Y
VELAZQUEZ ANA I & ACOSTA AIZMAN JONATHAN	MILLER HAROLD C	\$450,000	1711 LEXINGTON PL	WENATCHEE	0.21	1870	1979	3	2	N	Y
IGLESIA DEL DIOS VIVO	LIVING WORD CHURCH OF GOD	\$450,000	1315 9TH ST	WENATCHEE	0.2	2732	0			N	N
STEVENS SANDRA L & GENE A	JOHN A MC NEILL & EVELYN JEAN RVC TRUST	\$445,000	1803 HERITAGE HAVEN	WENATCHEE	0.1	1377	1999			N	N
YENNEY RONALD D	FOLLOWING SEAS LLC	\$439,500	535 DOUGLAS ST	WENATCHEE	0.14	1784	1914	3	1.5	N	N
ROUSE JASON & BLANCA	CSP 2013 LLC	\$430,000	1216 N WESTERN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.78	1452	1920	3	1.5	N	N
FELDMAN LAURIE B	BROWN TERRY C III & CAMILLE L	\$422,000	1040 VISTA PL	WENATCHEE	0.23	1325	1963	3	1.5	N	Y
LEAVENWORTH RENTAL HOME LLC	COLWILL RONNIE & MARY	\$400,000	103 PROSPECT ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.32	942	0			N	N
MARCH SHARON A	HOVDE JONES LINDA M	\$399,000	1601 MAIDEN LN	WENATCHEE	0	1410	0			N	N
WHICH IS PROMISE LLC	NICE JENNIFER L	\$390,000	1339 JOHNSON CT	WENATCHEE	0.12	1272	1990	3	1.75	N	Y
CHRISTENSEN SIERRA & JORDAN	EVANS CINDY SUE & JAMES	\$390,000	300 ANGIER AVE	CASHMERE	0.13	1212	1928	2	1	N	Y
STUEBER SHEEL	MC CLURKEN SCOTT M	\$388,999	20795 KAHLER DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0	1266	0			N	N
TORRES ARIAS JOSE & ARELLANO ORTIZ ANTONIA	WAHL DAVE & SHERRI	\$384,500	3498 MARLETTE PL	MALAGA	0.45	1863	2000			N	N
CRAYER BENJAMIN E & ALSIA N	DETERING DAVID	\$382,900	125 PEARL ST	WENATCHEE	0.17	864	1952	4	2	N	N
NELSON KATHLEEN S & JAMES D	HAY SUSAN R	\$378,000	1697 SUNSET DR	WENATCHEE	0.54	2136	1998			N	N
GEISLER NATALIE J & ST GERMAIN JASPER D	MULLINS KARI K & SETH	\$374,900	717 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.16	847	1951	2	1.5	N	N
CITY OF WENATCHEE	VOLKMANN ROGER & SUSAN	\$373,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	414.16	0	0			N	N
WILSON FORREST H & GEMMA B	STENBERG SARAH T	\$370,000	14915 GOLDEN DELICIOUS ST	ENTIAT	0.21	1782	1997			N	N
OLGUIN JORGE & SOLEDAD	DUEMAN RICHARD R	\$360,000	5565 MILL RD	CASHMERE	0.39	1580	1959	2	1	N	N
MISSION TOWER LLC	VJC ENTERPRISES LLC	\$350,000	300 S WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	0.18	1696	1926			N	N

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS October 2022								
RESIDENTIAL								
Sale Price	Address	Total Acres	Year Built	Residential Area	Basement Area	Bedr.	Bathr.	Garage Area
\$1,025,000	2320 FANCHER HEIGHTS BLVD	0.53	2002	3552		5	3.5	572
\$1,000,000	4007 BLUEROCK DR NE	2.47	2019	2460		3	2	880
\$989,900	444 SYCAMORE CT NW	0.43	2016	1933	1356	4	2.5	835
\$925,000	2290 GRAND AVE	0.77	1991	2995		3	3.5	784
\$899,000	300 W EMERSON DR	0.2	2017	1908	1908	3	3	810
\$843,250	700 SKI VIEW DR	0.35	1977	1464	1400	4	2.5	528
\$750,000	2525 1ST ST SE	0.31	2021	2936		1	1	960
\$724,000	706 BRIARWOOD DR	0.28	1997	2643	1130	4	2.5	529
\$650,000	2764 N BRECKENRIDGE DR	0.3	2020	1903		3	2	580
\$625,000	4790 NW CASCADE AVE	1	1990	1932		3	3	484
\$596,975	970 N NEWPORT LOOP	0.31	2021	1790		3	2	
\$595,000	281 11TH ST NE	0.53	2012	1327	1423	3	2	668
\$571,000	819 N JENNIFER LN	0.25	1978	2016	780	4	3	552
\$550,000	2545 1ST ST SE	0.31	2021	1613		3	2	600
\$510,000	2580 AVIATION DR	0.43	2006	1747		3	2	590
\$500,000	1124 BARTON SQ	0.59	1951	1203	1203	3	2	550
\$490,000	2141 N RIVER DR	0.25	1992	1793		3	2	462
\$460,000	2325 CANYON HILLS DR	0.25	2000	1454		3	2	528
\$459,000	1521 CENTER ST	2.28	2005	1800		3	2	900
\$432,500	413 JULIA CT	0.2	1991	1289		3	2	448
\$425,000	6 31ST ST NE	0.25	1975	924		2	2.5	
\$420,000	306 S HOUSTON AVE	0.34	1978	1404		3	2	336
\$410,000	212 BROADMOOR ST NW	0.18	1975	1280		3	1.5	400
\$388,000	2304 NW ALAN AVE	0.54	1937	1653	1641	3	2	604
\$378,900	1259 THEO WAY	0.14	2021	1516		3	2.5	484
\$375,500	1233 THEO WAY	0.21	2021	1536		3	2.5	440
\$375,000	1820 GLEN ST NE	0.18	1967	1162		3	1.5	294
\$350,000	4 BUYAS DR	7.32	2000	1782		3	2	
\$340,000	1712 N ASTOR CT	0.25	1948	1525		3	1.75	
\$315,000	461 N KELLER AVE	0.32	1973	2440		2	1	
\$300,000	102 SUNSET WAY	11		0				
\$299,900	2204 SE MARLETTE RD	0.12	2022	1288		3	2	440
\$285,000	2123 COLUMBIA BLVD	0.17		0				
\$270,000	2119 ROCK ISLAND RD	0.16	1970	960		3	1	

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS October 2022				
FARM				
Grantor	Grantee	Sale Price	Street	Total Acres
ASMUSSEN ESTATE, NEIL E	MURISON, BRAD A & NIKKI M	\$1,018,000		3,198.09
KIRSCHNER, THOMAS	SCHROEDER, JASON & KELSEY	\$682,000	116 WAGON RD	119.17
KRC ORCHARDS LLC	GAMBLE, DYLAN & TESSA	\$392,297	131 CRANE ORCHARD RD	19.71
SCHICK JR, ARTHUR K	IRMER, NEIL	\$370,000		628.2
HANNAHS LIVING TRUST	BRANDT, DAVID R & JENNIFER R	\$97,759		147.5
HANNAHS LIVING TRUST	BRANDT FAMILY LLC	\$67,241		82.73
MILLER, SUSAN JANE	JESS, TY T & JAMIE L	\$65,000		156.2

COMMERCIAL				
Grantor	Grantee	Sale Price	Street	Description
STAR I LLC	CARR &, NICHOLAS	\$4,400,000	636 VALLEY MALL PKY	636 BUILDING
PETERS STREET MANAGEMENT LLC	WASH CENTRAL NORTH LLC	\$1,850,000	111 PACE DR	AA RENT A SPACE
PARCELLS, NIMFA	DOUGLAS COUNTY PORT DIST #1	\$190,000		HANGER
WILLET INC	VASQUEZ, RAMJUA ERIK & MELISSA	\$140,000	104 N CHELAN AVE	MIDSTATE ADMINISTRATION

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# 22 organizations to receive lodging tax dollars from Chelan County



Submitted by  
**Jill FitzSimmons,**  
Chelan County public information officer

WENATCHEE – Chelan County commissioners awarded \$328,600 in lodging tax dollars to a variety of tourist-related organizations.

The awards come at the recommendation of the Chelan County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC), which reviewed this year’s applications and interviewed some of the finalists.

“We are especially excited to see some new applicants in this round of annual funding,” said Tiffany Gering, Chelan County commission-

er and LTAC chairman. “Because we had several good applications and tourist-generating projects, the committee also decided to award more money than we originally budgeted – about \$50,000 more.”

In 2023, 22 groups or nonprofit agencies will receive a portion of the \$328,600 allocated in grants.

They will use the money in a variety of efforts, from marketing and outreach to new and well-established festivals to museum exhibits and a youth baseball tournament.

The recipients are:

- Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival (\$15,000)
- Buckner Homestead (\$2,700)
- Cashmere Chamber marketing plan (\$4,800)
- Cashmere Museum (\$7,400)
- Chelan County Expo Center (\$20,000)
- Chelan Rustlers rodeo (\$25,000)
- Icicle Creek Center for the Arts (\$15,000)
- Lake Chelan Arts Council (\$5,500)

- Lake Chelan Wine and Jazz (\$33,000)
- Lake Chelan Wine Alliance (\$30,000)
- Leavenworth Summer Theater (\$15,000)
- Leavenworth Village Voices (\$8,000)
- Manson Chamber pickleball tournament (\$15,000)
- Ohme Gardens (\$30,000)

- Stehekin Heritage guidebook (\$3,500)
- Upper Valley Historical Society (\$17,500)
- Wenatchee Arts Alliance (\$11,000)
- Wenatchee Chamber Rails and Ailes (\$5,000)
- Wenatchee Chamber La Terresa (\$10,000)
- Wenatchee River Bluegrass Festival (\$15,000)

- Wenatchee Valley Museum (\$25,200)
  - Wenatchee Youth Baseball tournament (\$15,000)
- Overall, the county received 30 applications.

Another call for applications related to tourism-related capital projects is expected this spring.

The call for applications will be posted to the county’s website: [www.co.chelan.wa.us](http://www.co.chelan.wa.us).

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

Learn more about LTAC and lodging tax dollars on the county’s website: [www.co.chelan.wa.us/board-of-commissioners/pages/lodging-tax-advisory-committee](http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/board-of-commissioners/pages/lodging-tax-advisory-committee).



Wenatchee River Bluegrass Festival

**\$412,000  
Awarded  
to NCW  
Nonprofits**

**Submitted by  
Jennifer Dolge**

## Community Foundation Awards \$412,000 in Grants to NCW Nonprofits

profits in our region” said Beth Stipe, the foundation’s executive director.

“Over the years, we have continued to shape the grant program to best serve the needs of our region and this round of grants really showcases the breadth of nonprofit work that our communities depend upon.”

Often in philanthropy, the larger and more established organizations have a competitive edge in the grant process, but the Community Foundation strives to support a variety of nonprofits including smaller, volunteer-run organizations.

This year the size of the grant award was based on the size of the organization which allowed the Trustees to focus on providing a balanced number of grant awards across budget sizes.

“We don’t expect organizations to have professional grant writers on staff, so our Board is committed to connecting with every applicant through a site visit with a team at the Foundation

to learn more about their work” said Claire Oatey, director of community grants,

“We find this helps level the playing field and it’s such a rewarding experience to connect with these groups who are so passionate about making their community a better place for all.”

The funding for the grants comes from unrestricted dollars gifted to the foundation and a portion of the fund management fees.

“These grants wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of people in our community who have left legacies to ensure the community they loved continues to be cared for and protected for future generations,” said Stipe.

### 2022 Regional Impact Grant Awards

- Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council: \$14,000.00
- Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition: \$6,000.00
- City of Rock Island

- (Soccer Field): \$6,000.00
- Classroom in Bloom: \$6,000.00
- Common Ground Community Housing Trust: \$6,000.00
- Communities In Schools of NCW: \$14,000.00
- Dadsmove: \$6,000.00
- Eastmont Metropolitan Park District (Community Fitness Court): \$14,000.00
- Entiat Community Historical Society: \$6,000.00
- Family Health Centers: \$14,000.00
- First Tee Central Washington: \$5,000.00
- Fosterful: \$4,000.00
- Green Okanogan: \$6,000.00
- Grunewald Guild: \$10,000.00
- Harvest Against Hunger: \$6,000.00
- Heritage Heights At Lake Chelan: \$14,000.00
- Hope Care Clinic: \$6,000.00
- Icicle Creek Center for the Arts: \$10,000.00
- Lake Chelan Arts Council: \$6,000.00
- Leavenworth Community United Methodist Church (Backpack Food Program): \$6,000.00

- Leavenworth Summer Theater: \$6,000.00
- Loup Loup Ski Education Foundation: \$10,000.00
- Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington: \$6,000.00
- Master Gardener Foundation of Chelan County: \$6,000.00
- Mobile Meals of Wenatchee: \$6,000.00
- Mountain Sprouts Children’s Community: \$10,000.00
- NCW Arts Alliance: \$6,000.00
- NCW Community Toy Drive: \$6,000.00
- Okanogan Borderlands Historical Society: \$6,000.00
- Okanogan County Artists Association: \$4,000.00
- Okanogan Co. Community Action Council: \$14,000.00
- Okanogan Co. Search and Rescue Association: \$6,000.00
- Okanogan Co. Transportation & Nutrition: \$14,000.00
- Okanogan Land Trust: \$10,000.00
- Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus: \$6,000.00

- Page Ahead Children’s Literacy Program: \$5,000.00
  - Pateros Apple Pie Jambo-ree: \$6,000.00
  - Pybus Market Charitable Foundation: \$10,000.00
  - Safe Families for Children (Central WA): \$6,000.00
  - Small Miracles: \$6,000.00
  - Spirit of Wenatchee Project: \$6,000.00
  - Stage Kids WA: \$10,000.00
  - Together for Youth: \$10,000.00
  - TREAD (Trails Recreation Education Advocacy Development): \$10,000.00
  - Wellness Place: \$6,000.00
  - Wenatchee FC Youth: \$6,000.00
  - Wenatchee Police Department (Homeless Cold Weather Assistance): \$4,000.00
  - Wenatchee Pride: \$6,000.00
  - Wenatchee Rescue Mission: \$10,000.00
  - Wenatchee Valley Concert: \$6,000.00
  - Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center: \$14,000.00
  - YWCA North Central Washington: \$10,000.00
- TOTAL \$412,000.00**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## Legislature will get another shot at real emergency powers reform

Consider the words of Court of Appeals Judge Bernard Veljacic (appointed by Governor Inslee) in his dissent in a case concerning emergency powers this summer:

“Even so, I am not convinced that the legislature, in making the grant of authority, anticipated such a broad and lengthy imposition of emergency health measures when it first enacted chapter 43.06 RCW. It is true that our Supreme Court has recognized that the broad grant of authority ‘evidence[s] a clear intent by the legislature to delegate requisite police power to the governor in times of emergency.’ But this begs the question: ‘for

how long?’ Certainly, while initial executive response to emergencies should be robust and unhindered by the burden of administrative or legislative oversight, this should not be the case over a longer period of time.

Of course, in the early days of an emergency, Washingtonians would suffer if required to wait on the executive to set a legislative session, assemble the necessary quorum, and oversee a vote on a course of action.

But at some point, over the long term, an emergency grows less emergent. After all, time allows for the opportunity to reflect. That

same opportunity should include legislative review.

In all instances, we must be careful with such broad grants of authority.

We would do well to employ a healthy skepticism of such authority upon objective consideration of who might possibly wield it at some point, or what they might deem an emergency.”

Long-lasting emergency orders should receive the input and affirmative approval of lawmakers following a public process, allowing the perfection of policies through a collaborative weighing of all the options, alternatives and tradeoffs. This is precisely why the people’s legislative branch of government exists - to deliberate and provide guidance to the executive branch on what policies should be in place and how to implement them.

Requiring affirmative legislative approval after a set point in time removes not a single tool from the Governor’s toolbox.

All existing authority remains, the only change is that the closed-door policymaking is required to be justified to the people’s legislative branch of government to continue a policy (i.e., the separations of power and checks and balances envisioned and promised under our republican form of government).

The Governor should not fear being required to make the case to lawmakers why a particular emergency restriction is appropriate to continue, and the legislature should not hide from its constitutional responsibility to debate and adopt policy. At some point, the executive branch should be required to receive permission

from the legislative branch to continue making far-reaching policies under an emergency order.

Our system of governance is not meant to be the arbitrary rule of one behind closed doors.

An emergency order should never last for nearly 1,000 days unless it has received affirmative authorization for continuation by the legislative branch of government.

The legislature must still act to restore the balance of powers for future use of emergency orders. SB 5063 provides a real opportunity to ensure meaningful legislative oversight of the executive’s emergency powers.

**Note:** The state Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments on an emergency powers case (*Gonzales, et al. v. Jay Inslee & State of Wash*) for February 23, 2023.



# OGWRP Watershed Planning Effort Officially Underway

Submitted by  
Jennifer Korfiatis



OTHELLO, WA – Several partners convened at the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) office on December 15 to launch the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP) watershed planning effort.

The funding for this effort has been made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566).

The allocation of federal funding comes through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District to develop a watershed plan that will assist in obtaining future funding for the design and construction of the OGWRP's remaining large infrastructure projects.

ECBID has partnered with the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) to facilitate the watershed plan. OGWRP is a regional effort to implement the Odessa Subarea Special Study FEIS (2012), which is building the necessary infrastructure for

farmers to exchange valid, state-issued Odessa groundwater rights for Columbia Basin Project water.

Partners at the kick-off meeting included ECBID, the CBCD, the Bureau of Reclamation, the NRCS, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River.

Collectively, the partners met with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA), the 501c3 contractor selected through a competitive bid process to complete the plan.

FCA is a recognized leader in the pursuit of water management solutions that benefit both agriculture and the environment.

"Close coordination will continue to be key," said Harold Crose of CBCD, "We fully intend to keep partners, stakeholders, and landowners informed of the OGWRP

Watershed Planning Project every step of the way."

Since 2004, the State of Washington has invested more than \$126 million, and the Bureau of Reclamation more than \$45 million, in the development and early implementation of the OGWRP.

The ECBID has also sold \$16.8 million of landowner-funded municipal bonds to fund the construction of OGWRP delivery facilities.

The OGWRP Watershed Planning Project will build on these significant contributions.

"This meeting marked a significant milestone in the OGWRP project. The OGWRP represents a great opportunity to rescue an aquifer from decline by finding an alternative Columbia Basin Project water supply for existing withdrawals. This will secure more water for our local communities and ensure sustainable agricultural production that many of those same communities rely upon for their economic prosperity. The boost that a watershed plan will bring to achieving our collective goals can't be overstated, and we are hopeful that this watershed plan will allow us to be competitive for additional funding to continue to further develop this project," explained Craig Simpson, Secretary-Manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District.



the Columbia Basin Development League, and local producers.

### About the Partners:

The Columbia Basin Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State of Washington with powers and authorities identified in the RCW 89.08.

The organization is led and operated locally by an elected and appointed Board of Supervisors who oversees staff.

The CBCD serves all of Grant County and the irrigated portion of Adams County, with a main office located in Moses Lake.

Located in central Washington State, the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is the largest district in the state, with authorization to irrigate 472,000 acres.

Currently, 169,000 acres are developed and managed by 4,500 landowners within the federal Columbia Basin Project.

Additionally, the District is involved in the development of 87,000 acres associated with OGWRP. The district provides a reliable supply of water that irrigates the cropland that produces food shipped domestically and internationally.



## NCW Tree Fruit Days



The Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center announced the 2023 North Central Washington Tree Fruit Days. Apple, Pear and Cherry Day will be held in Wenatchee, Jan 17-19. Lake Chelan Horticultural Day will be held Jan 21 in Chelan and Okanogan Horticultural Day will be held Feb 7 in Omak.

The event is co-sponsored by Northwest Cherries, Pear Bureau Northwest, NCW Fieldmen's Association, and the Okanogan Horticultural Association. These events provide the latest research-based information on horticulture, pest and disease management and the ability to network and learn this winter with others in the industry.

This event will be a hybrid in person and online webinar event with flexibility for changing COVID restrictions.

The apple, pear and stone fruit events in Wenatchee also offer a virtual option, and registration is required for virtual participation. No preregistration is required for in-person attendance.

A Spanish-language session is scheduled for Jan. 17.

**New this year:** Networking lunches are planned at the Wenatchee events. Preregistration is required for lunch.

**Jan. 17:** North Central Washington Apple Day – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wenatchee Convention Center, with a virtual option. Apple Day Topics include:

- Natural Enemy Conservation Biological Control
- When is Codling Moth a Problem? – Insights from the Codling Moth Survey

- Refinement of Nonantibiotic Spray Programs for Fire Blight
- The Role of Rootstocks in Plant Nutrition
- Rootstock Replant Tolerance

Three pesticide update credits will be available per day with WSDA and ODA approval. For an agenda and registration links, go to: [treefruit.wsu.edu/event/apple-day-2023](http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/apple-day-2023).

### Speakers at the NCW Apple Day include:

**Christopher Adams** an Assistant Professor of Tree Fruit Entomology at the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Hood River. His lab is focused on pests of pear and cherry including our current invasive species, spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) and the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*). Other projects include the understanding the ecology and control of the leafhoppers that vector the phytoplasma responsible for cherry X-disease, and the landscape ecology and biocontrol of pear psylla.

**Kirti Rajagopalan** is part of the Land, Air, Water Resources, and Environmental Engineering emphasis area of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at Washington State University. Her modeling group develops and utilizes a variety of modeling approaches to better understand and manage water and agricultural resources.

The group focuses on trans-disciplinary efforts to problem solving and works closely with colleagues from a broad range of disciplines including engineering, economics, entomology, physiology, statistics, and agronomy.

**Rob Curtis** is a Research Entomologist for WSU at the Tree Fruit Research Center in Wenatchee.

**Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris**, Research Entomologist USDA ARS. Her lab focuses on biological control of arthropod pests of tree fruit, including apples, pears, and cherries.

**Tianna DuPont** is a Tree Fruit Extension

## Five arrested on drug charges – all part of same drug trafficking organization

Submitted by Commander Chris Foreman,  
Columbia River Drug Task Force

WENATCHEE – On December 8, 2022, Chelan County Deputies responded to a male passed out in a vehicle in Manson, WA. Deputies that arrived on scene recognized the male as Caleb Ritz, a 39-year-old male from Brewster, WA.

Ritz was arrested on drug related charges and search incident arrest; Ritz had a loaded revolver on his person. Ritz is a convicted felon. Ritz's vehicle was seized for a search warrant. Deputies worked with the Columbia River Drug Task Force Detectives and a search warrant was served on the vehicle resulting in suspected Fentanyl pills, suspected heroin, and suspected methamphetamine seizure. Ritz was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the 1st Degree, Possession with Intent Fentanyl, Possession with Intent Methamphetamine, and Possession with Intent Heroin.

On December 9, 2022, Detectives from the Columbia River Drug Task Force served a search warrant in the 700 block of North Grover Place in East Wenatchee, WA.

The search warrant resulted in over 8,000 suspected Fentanyl pills being seized.

A second search warrant was obtained for the resident of the property's vehicle which resulted in roughly 400 more suspected Fentanyl pills along with 2 ounces of suspected methamphetamine, an ounce of suspected heroin and a large amount of cash. Shawn Drummond, a 36-year-old resident of East Wenatchee was arrested

for Possession with intent to distribute Fentanyl, Heroin and Methamphetamine.



On December 16, 2022, Detectives with the Columbia River Drug Task Force conducted an investigation at the Red Lion Hotel in Wenatchee, WA where it was determined Fentanyl pills were being dealt out of one of the hotel rooms. Numerous known drug users were seen coming and going from the suspect's room.

A search warrant was served at the suspected hotel room which resulted in the arrest of Kasey Cooper, a 34-year-old resident of East Wenatchee, WA. When Cooper was contacted in the hotel room by law enforcement, he destroyed evidence by flushing suspected drugs down the toilet. Additional drugs to include suspected Fentanyl pills and suspected Methamphetamine were recovered in the hotel room.

Cooper was arrested for Possession with Intent for Methamphetamine and Fentanyl. He was also charged with Maintaining Drug Property and Obstruction.

Over the course of the investigation, it was determined that Shawn Drummond, Kasey Cooper, Matthew Hendricks, Caleb Ritz, and Casey McKinstry are all part of the same drug trafficking organization.

CRDTF detectives are working with our Federal counter parts with Homeland Security Investigations and the AUSA of the Eastern District of Spokane to indict these suspects under federal charges where they could face longer prison time. Ritz, Drummond, and Cooper joined their counter parts currently housed at the Chelan County Regional Justice Center.

The Columbia River Drug Task Force is committed to targeting Fentanyl drug dealers in the Wenatchee Valley. There have been too many lives lost and countless lives affected by this poison being distributed in our community.

CRDTF is committed to working with our federal partners as well as the Chelan and Douglas Prosecutor's office to hold these drug dealers accountable to the highest extent of the law.



# LABOR AREA REPORTS

## Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – November 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 (November 2021 and November 2022) and average annual data changes (between 2020 and 2021).

### Unemployment rates

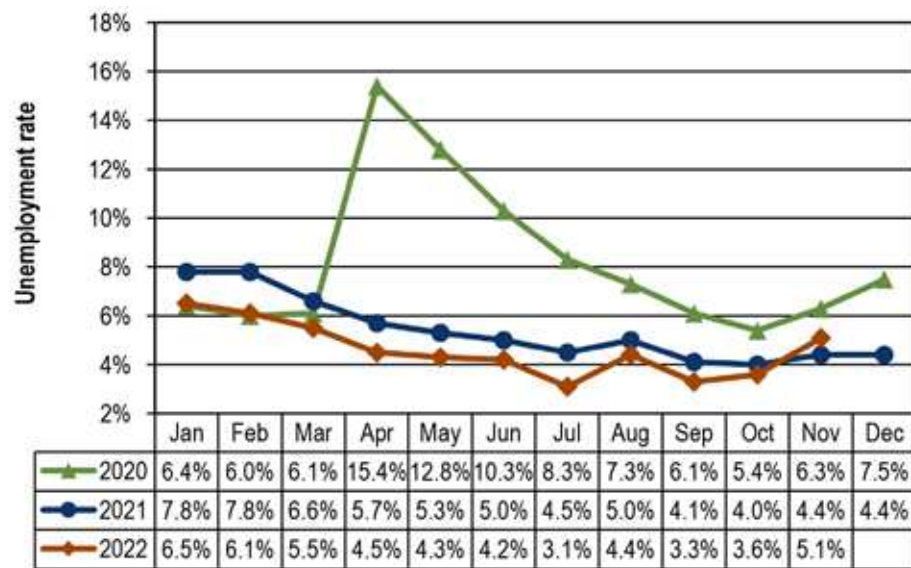
Civilian Labor Force (CLF) data show that Washington's not seasonally adjusted average annual unemployment rate fell from 8.5 percent in 2020 to 5.2 percent in

2021. From April 2021 through October 2022 (i.e., for 19 consecutive months), Washington's unemployment rates had decreased - before elevating three-tenths of a point between the Novembers of 2021 and 2022.

In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate fell from 8.2 percent to 5.4 percent between 2020 and 2021.

Monthly rates had also dropped for 19 consecutive months (April 2021 through October 2022) before rising seven-tenths of a point between the Novembers of 2021 and 2022.

**Wenatchee MSA unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, January 2020 through November 2022**  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate rose by seven-tenths of a percentage point between November 2021 and November 2022.

### Total nonfarm employment

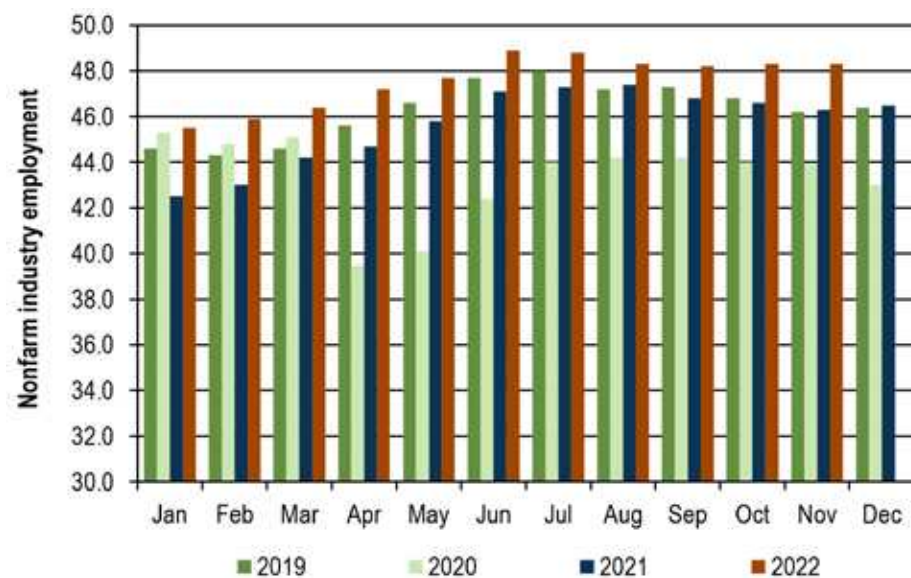
Between 2020 and 2021, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 81,100 more nonfarm jobs, an average annual increase of 2.5 percent. Year over year, Washington's nonfarm market has expanded in each of the past 20 months (April 2021 through November 2022). This November, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,590,300 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,459,400 in November 2021, up by 130,900 jobs and 3.8 percent.

The Wenatchee MSA's economy added

2,300 jobs during 2021, a 5.3 percent upturn, more robust than Washington's 2.5 percent growth rate between 2020 and 2021. Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market contracted for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) prior to employment increases during the past 20 months (April 2021 through November 2022).

This November, total nonfarm employment netted 2,000 more jobs than the 46,300 jobs tallied in November 2021, a 4.3 percent increase. In fact, the two-county Wenatchee MSA economy provided 2,100 more nonfarm jobs (up 4.5 percent) this November 2022

**Wenatchee MSA nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted, in thousands Washington state, January 2019 through November 2022** Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA increased by 4.3 percent between November 2021 and November 2022.



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

**Wenatchee MSA labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, November 2022** Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES)

	Preliminary Nov-22	Revised Oct-22	Revised Nov-21	Change		Percent change
				Oct-22 Nov-22	Nov-21 Nov-22	Nov-21 Nov-22
<b>Wenatchee MSA</b>						
<b>Labor force and unemployment</b>						
Civilian labor force	65,375	67,580	65,497	-2,205	-122	-0.2%
Resident employment	62,069	65,145	62,611	-3,076	-542	-0.9%
Unemployment	3,306	2,435	2,886	871	420	14.6%
Unemployment rate	5.1	3.6	4.4	1.5	0.7	
<b>Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)</b>						
Total nonfarm <sup>1</sup>	48.3	48.3	46.3	0.0	2.0	4.3%
Total private	38.9	39.0	37.5	-0.1	1.4	3.7%
Goods producing	6.0	6.1	6.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
Mining, logging and construction	3.2	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-0.1	-3.0%
Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	0.1	3.7%
Service providing	42.3	42.2	40.3	0.1	2.0	5.0%
Private services providing	32.9	32.9	31.5	0.0	1.4	4.4%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	10.1	9.9	10.0	0.2	0.1	1.0%
Retail trade	6.7	6.6	6.7	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Education and health services	8.5	8.4	7.8	0.1	0.7	9.0%
Leisure and hospitality	6.8	7.1	6.3	-0.3	0.5	7.9%
Government	9.4	9.3	8.8	0.1	0.6	6.8%
Federal government	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	25.0%
State government	1.0	1.1	1.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
Local government	7.4	7.2	7.0	0.2	0.4	5.7%
Workers in labor/management disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

<sup>1</sup> 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 48,300 jobs in November 2022, a gain of 2,000 jobs since November 2021.

(48,300 jobs) than in the pre-COVID month of November 2019 (46,200 jobs), demonstrating that the nonfarm job market has rebounded above pre-pandemic levels.

### Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) edged downward by 15,964 residents (a -0.4 percent downturn) between 2020 and 2021. Year over year, the state's CLF has expanded during each of the past 16 months (August 2021 through November 2022). Recently, Washington's labor force grew by 22,632 residents (up 0.6 percent), from 3,966,632 residents in November 2021 to 3,989,264 this November. However, although the state's labor force has been growing, year over year, for 16 consecutive months; growth rates have generally been decelerating since February 2022 - a trend to watch in forthcoming months.

The Wenatchee MSA's CLF revived from 66,257 residents in 2020 to 66,818 in 2021, a 0.8 percent upturn. However, year over year, the local labor force has retrenched in each of the past six months (June through November 2022). Current Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) estimates indicate that there were 122 fewer Chelan or Douglas County residents in the CLF in November

2022 than in November 2021, a -0.2 percent downturn. Another concern this November is that the number of unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA rose from 2,886 in November 2021 to 3,306 in November 2022, a 14.6 percent increase. This substantial increase in the number of unemployed combined with a modest decrease in the labor force combined to push the local unemployment rate up from 4.4 percent in November 2021 to 5.1 percent in November 2022. Also, when compared with the pre-COVID era of 2019, the shrinkage of the local labor force becomes even more apparent.

The Wenatchee MSA's CLF contracted in each of the seven months from May through November 2022 below the corresponding seven months in 2019 (i.e., in the pre-COVID era). CLF loss rates from May through November 2022 ranged from -1.1 percent (from May 2019 to May 2022) to -4.8 percent (from July 2019 to July 2022). This November's labor force (65,375 residents) was down -1.3 percent below the pre-COVID month of November 2019 (66,231 residents). The bottom line: a shrinking labor force is seldom considered good economic news.

### Nonfarm industry employment

Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market contracted for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) prior to employment increases during each of the past 20 months (April 2021 through November 2022). Between November 2021 and November 2022, total nonfarm employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA) rose from 46,300 to 48,300 jobs, a 2,000 job and 4.3 percent upturn, a bit more rapid than Washington's nonfarm job growth pace of 3.8 percent during this period.

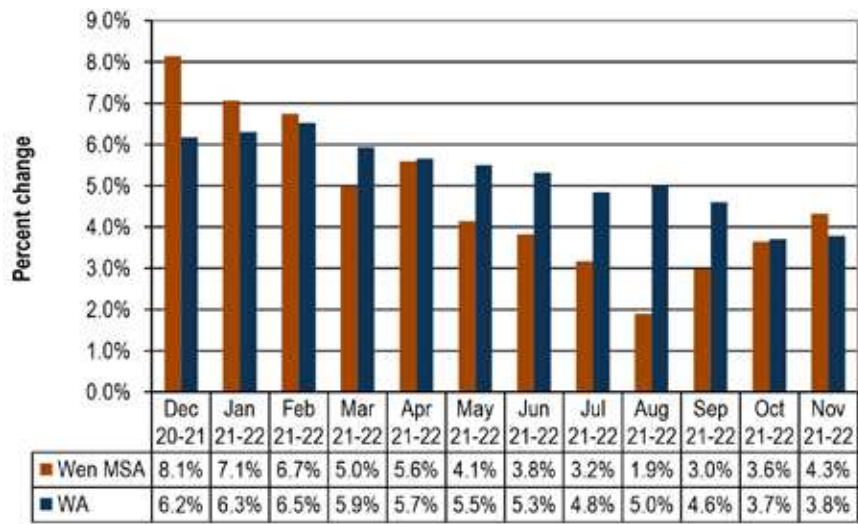
Summaries of employment changes/trends between November 2021 and November 2022 for three local industries (construction, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality) are provided as follows:

- ◆ In the mining, logging and construction category, most jobs are in "construction." Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded from December 2020 through July 2022 but stagnated or contracted from August through November 2022. This November, construction provided approximately 3,200 jobs in the

MSA, down 100 jobs and -3.0 percent from the 3,300 jobs recorded in November 2021. According to the November 2022 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates there were 126 fewer closed sales of single-family homes or condominiums in the first eleven months of 2022 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo, and Rock Island, WA) compared with closed sales from January through November 2021. This equated to a -13.1 percent downturn as closed sales fell from 962 (January through November 2021) to 836 (January through November 2022). Simultaneously, the number of active listings has skyrocketed from 74 listings in November 2021 to 161 in November 2022 (up by 87 listings and 117.6 percent); hence, many more units are currently "on the market." Reference home prices in the Wenatchee market; they've been surging. This Real Estate Snapshot newsletter stated that the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee market accelerated from approximately \$437,000 Year-to-Date (YTD) in November 2021 to \$500,000 YTD in November 2022, a jump of 14.4 percent. State-



**Wenatchee MSA and Washington state total nonfarm employment changes Washington state, November 2021 through November 2022.** 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 20 months (April 2021 through November 2022). Washington's nonfarm market has also grown from April 2021 through November 2022.

wide, construction employment has been rising for 20 months (April 2021 through November 2022). Between November 2021 and November 2022, the number of construction jobs across Washington advanced by 4.4 percent (up 10,100 jobs) from 227,300 jobs to 237,400. Over one half (56.4 percent) of this year-over-year upturn in Washington's construction industry has occurred amongst specialty trade contractors (i.e., roofing contractors, electrical contractors, plumbing contractors, painting/wall covering contractors, etc.) where the number of jobs grew by 5,700 from 145,600 in November of last year to 151,300 in November 2022 (up 3.9 percent). On a percentage basis however, Washington's nonresidential building construction firms increased the number of workers on their payrolls at a more rapid 14.0-percent pace, from 22,800 jobs in November 2021 to 26,000 in November 2022.

Between the pre-pandemic year of 2019 and calendar year 2021, average annual education and health services employment in the Wenatchee MSA rose from 7,600 to 7,800, a 200 job and 2.4 percent upturn. In this combined (private 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 20 months (April 2021 through October 2022) with job growth picking up steam as 2022 has progressed. For example, year over year, private education and health services employment was stable in January 2022 and elevated by 2.6 percent in February 2022; but by October and November 2022 year-over-year growth rates were 6.3 percent and 9.0 percent, respectively. Between November 2021 and November 2022, the number of local education and health services jobs advanced from 7,800 to 8,500 respectively, a robust 700-job and 9.0 percent increase. Statewide this industry has added jobs during each of

the past 20 consecutive months (April 2021 through November 2022). Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates indicate that Washington's education and health services employers tallied 531,800 jobs this November versus 509,600 in November 2021, a 22,200 job and 4.4 percent upturn. Nearly half (45.9 percent), or 10,200 of these 22,200 new education and health services jobs generated statewide between the Novembers of 2021 and 2022 were in the social assistance subsector (NAICS 624). Social assistance is comprised of the following organizations/businesses: individual and family services, community food and housing, vocational rehabilitation services, and child day care services.

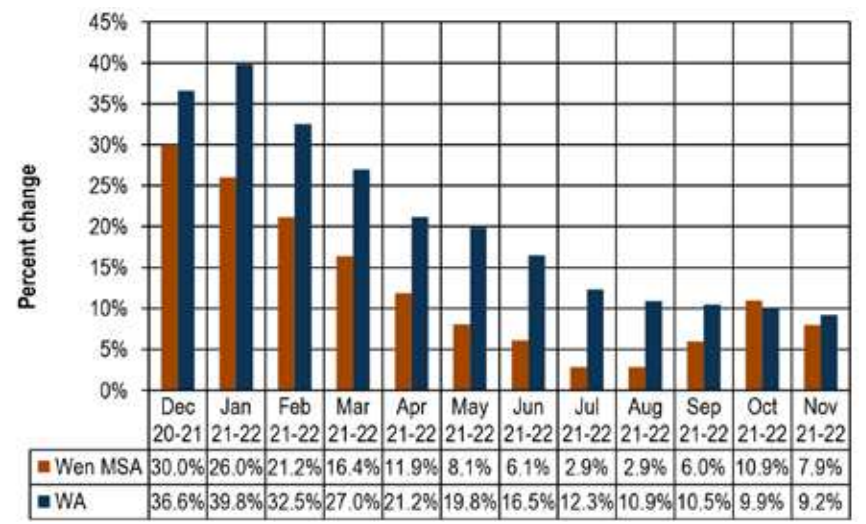
COVID-19-related layoffs in leisure and hospitality were more severe than layoffs in any other Wenatchee MSA industry during 2020. In fact, of the 2,900 nonfarm jobs lost in 2020 across the MSA, 1,600 jobs, or 55.2 percent, were in the leisure and hospitality sector. Conversely, re-hiring in the local leisure and hospitality industry was stronger than re-hiring in any other Wenatchee MSA industry during 2021. Of the 2,300 nonfarm jobs gained in 2021 across the MSA, 900 jobs, or 39.1 percent, were in the leisure and hospitality sector. Year over year, employment in the local leisure and hospitality industry has increased for 20 consecutive months (April 2021 through November 2022). Between November 2021 and November 2022, leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation services) added 500 jobs across the MSA, a 7.9 percent upturn, as employment revived from 6,300 jobs to 6,800. The number of leisure and hospitality jobs in the two-county Wenatchee MSA this November (6,800) was also 300 jobs and 4.6 percent above the 6,500 jobs tallied in the pre-COVID month of November 2019. This indicates that the local leisure and hospitality industry has begun to recover

**Wenatchee MSA and Washington construction employment changes Washington state, November 2021 through November 2022.** Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



Year over year, construction employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded from December 2020 through July 2022 but stagnated or contracted from August through November 2022. Statewide, construction employment has been rising for 20 consecutive months (April 2021 through November 2022).

**Wenatchee MSA and Washington leisure and hospitality employment changes Washington state, November 2021 through November 2022.** 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 November 2022. Employment in Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has also expanded from April 2021 through November 2022.

to an employment level approximating that of the pre-pandemic era. Employment in Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has also registered year-over-year gains in each of the past 20 months (April 2021 through November 2022). Recently, leisure and hospitality employment advanced by 9.2 percent from November 2021 (305,100 jobs) and November 2022 (333,200). Washington's "food services and drinking places" sector jumped from 234,600 jobs in November 2021 to 258,000 jobs in November 2022 (up 10.0 percent), accounting for 83.3 percent of the leisure and hospitality upturn.

**Agricultural employment / production**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) program, conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department provides agricultural and nonagricultural employment and wages for firms, organizations and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act. Frequently termed "covered" or "QCEW" data, this information provides a reliable data set for comparing employment and wage trends at the county level. In November 2022, revised average annual QCEW data for calendar year 2021 became available. An analysis of industry employment and wage changes from 2011 through 2021 shows that in Chelan County:

Total covered employment rose from 38,939 in 2011 to 42,277 in 2021, a 3,338 job and 8.6 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 0.8 percent. However, agricultural employment (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 9,419 jobs in 2011 to 8,080 in 2021, a significant downturn of -14.2 percent and loss of 1,339 jobs, equating to an annualized loss rate of -1.5 percent. In 2011, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 24.2 percent of total covered employment; but ten years later (in 2021), this industry provided only 19.1 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of total covered employment sank by five and one-tenth percentage points (from 24.2 to 19.1 percent) in Chelan County during this ten-year period.

Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$1.29 billion (in 2011) to \$2.08 billion (in 2021), a \$787.3 million and 61.0 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 4.9 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$193.4 million in 2011 to \$271.5 million in 2021, a \$78.1 million and 40.4 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 3.4 percent. In 2011, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 15.0 percent of total covered wages, but by 2021, agricultural wages tallied 13.1 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of total nonfarm payroll decreased by one and nine-tenths percentage points (from 15.0 to 13.1 percent) during this timeframe. This dip in the agri-

cultural 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 upturn with an annualized growth rate of 2.7 percent. In 2011, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 17.5 percent of total covered wages, and by 2021, agricultural wages tallied 13.5 percent of total covered payroll. Hence, the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered payroll) showed a four-percentage points contraction from 2011 to 2021 whereas agricultural employment showed a plunge of nine and two-tenths percentage points during this timeframe.

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

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



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Wenatchee River Institute Programs

Submitted by Wenatchee River Institute

### Snowshoe Strolls

Thursdays-Saturdays (and select Sundays) in January and February.

Begin the year with new discoveries. Join WRI for a Snowshoe Stroll through winter wonderland at either the WRI campus or the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. We will learn about native wildlife and ecology and the history of Leavenworth with many scenic,

snowy views along the way.

### NWAC Avalanche Awareness Class

Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30-8 p.m.

Whether you ski, snowshoe, snowboard, or snowmobile, recognition of avalanche danger is an essential and potentially lifesaving skill. In this FREE class, NWAC instructors will explain how to access avalanche and mountain weather forecasts and recognize basic signs of avalanche danger.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

WRI Avalanche Class

### Night Sky Snowshoe Stroll and Planetarium

Thursday, January 26 at 5-7:30 p.m.

Witness the night sky during different seasons throughout the year, learn winter constellations and get to know our sun, moon, and stars like never before. You'll enter our planetarium for a realistic view of our night sky before heading out on snowshoes to see the real thing.

### Red Barn Event: The Many Adventures of the Riding Writer

Thursday, January 12 at 7-8 p.m.

Join WRI and Link Transit for a Red Barn Event. Danielle Worley is a "Riding Writer" and author. She uses her time in transit to up her weekly word count on her books.

Selina Danko will also be joining us to share the myriad of travel options offered by Link Transit.

### Red Barn Event: Leavenworth Mill Dam Rehabilitation and Recreation Improvement Project Wednesday

Wednesday, January 18 at 7-8 p.m.

The Chelan County Natural Resource Department has selected the Leavenworth Mill Dam for a development of conceptual design for rehabilitation and recreation improvement.

This event will give the opportunity to share ideas with the community and gather feedback to help guide the direction of project development.

### Red Barn Event: Grizzly Grub – Bear Habitat in the North Cascades

Wednesday, January 25 at 7-8 p.m.

Join Dr. Bill Gaines, Wildlife Ecologist and Director of the

Washington Conservation Science Institute, for a presentation about grizzly bear habitat and recovery.

He will talk about their diverse habitat and how the North Cascades could have enough remote areas to support their potential reintroduction and recovery.

### Passing the Baton Event

Saturday, January 21 at 4-5:30 p.m. at WRI River Haus.

Join us for a "passing the baton" open house to welcome Canuche and bid farewell to Carolyn. This will be a great opportunity to meet Canuche, get to know him, and ask questions.

It will also be a great time to bid a fond farewell to Carolyn and honor her time and stewardship over the last 4 years. There will be light snacks and drinks available.

Stay tuned for more details.

## Lake Chelan Winterfest tickets now on sale

Submitted by Mike Steele, Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce

LAKE CHELAN – Lake Chelan Winterfest is quickly approaching - January 13-22 - and Winterfest Buttons, Winterfest Wine Walk, Ice Bar and Bubble Bar tickets are now for sale on-line at [LakeChelanWinterfest.com](http://LakeChelanWinterfest.com).

Back by popular demand is our Wine Walk in downtown Chelan!

Shop and sip as you stroll through Downtown Chelan, enjoying the region's newest wineries along with familiar favorites in the Winterfest Wine Walk.

Tickets are limited. Held on Saturday, January 14 from 12-6 p.m. Ticket also

includes one Winterfest Button and a commemorative glass.

Winterfest Buttons are your ticket to extra discounts and deals at participating businesses and wineries throughout the duration of Winterfest, as well as access to activities like the Ice Bar, apple bin train rides, and the Ice Slide.

Our famous Ice Bar is Winterfest's premier entertainment venue featuring live music, special tastings and more.

The Ice Bar Package includes a Winterfest Button (required for Ice Bar Admission) plus four or six drink tickets valid for the Ice Bar. Valid January 13-14 in Chelan's Ice Bar, and January 21

in Manson's Ice Bar.

NEW this year, use your Ice Bar tickets and redeem them for a glass of something delicious at participating wineries, breweries and cideries in downtown Manson on Saturday, January 21 from 12-6 p.m.

A crowd favorite, we will be hosting a Bubble Brunch in both Manson and Chelan. The Bubble Brunch is a showcase of bubbles produced in the Lake Chelan Valley.

Enjoy bubbles, a catered brunch from Even Keel Roadhouse, and learn a

little about the sparkling wine produced here in Lake Chelan. Ticket also includes one Winterfest Button and a commemorative glass.

For more information on tickets and to see a full schedule of events, visit [LakeChelanWinterfest.com](http://LakeChelanWinterfest.com).

### About the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce:

The Chamber has been in operation since 1924 and currently has nearly 500 members. It exists to drive economic growth through leadership, advocacy and promotion that enhances the quality of life in Lake Chelan.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

## NCW Tree Fruit Days

Specialist. Her work focuses on helping growers understand and apply research based solutions for tree fruit pests and pathogens.

**Ken Johnson** is a Professor of Plant Pathology with Oregon State University. His recent work has focused on control of fire blight in pear and apple and area for which he is world known, as well as epidemiology of blackberry rust, rapid detection of bacterial pathogens on seeds and flowers, and utilization of systemic acquired resistance for enhancement of plant health.

**Jennifer Adam** is the Berry Distinguished Professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Washington State University. She received her graduate degrees in Civil Engineering at the University of Washington, and her undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado.

**Noah Willsea** is a Master's student in WSU Department of Horticulture. His work focuses on tree fruit physiology, specifically apple sunburn management, red color development, and fruit quality.

**Lee Kalcits** is an Associate Professor in WSU Department of Horticulture. His work focuses on tree fruit physiology, abiotic stress, plant nutrition and impacts of preharvest environment on postharvest physiology.

**Tracey Somera** is a Microbiologist at the USDA-ARS, Tree Fruits Research Unit in Wenatchee, WA. Her research is largely geared toward engineering soil and plant-associated microbiomes to directly benefit fruit tree production systems. This includes utilizing host plant genetics in combination with other strategies as part of an integrated approach to mitigating the detrimental

effects of apple replant disease.

**Jan. 18:** North Central Washington Stone Fruit Day – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wenatchee Convention Center, with a virtual option. Stone Fruit Day Topics include:

### Session 1: Insect & Disease management

- Western Cherry Fruit Fly and Spotted Wing Drosophila – Best Management Practices, New Cultural Controls and Techniques Coming Down the Pipeline
- X-disease and Little Cherry Disease
- Powdery Mildew

### Session 2: Pollinators and Pollination • Cherry Horticulture Updates

- Alternative Pollinators
  - Pollination in a Changing Environment
- Three pesticide update credits WSDA and ODA.

**Jan. 19:** North Central Washington Pear Day – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wenatchee Convention Center, with a

virtual option. Pear Day topics include:

### Session 1: Pest and Disease Management

- Post Harvest Pathogen Prevention
- Natural Enemy Releases
- Pear Psylla Management

### Session 2: Production, Quality and Profits

- High Density Pears Virtual Tour
- Impacts of Hot Weather on Storage
- Optimizing Fruit Set

Three pesticide update credits will be available per day with WSDA and ODA approval.

For registration links, go to: <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/pear-day-2023>.

Washington State Department of Agriculture approval is expected for pesticide recertification credits to be awarded for program attendance, with two to three credits available per session. For more information visit: [treefruit.wsu.edu/events](http://treefruit.wsu.edu/events)

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