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Chelan-Douglas Health District officers held Omicron Variant press conference

By Megan Sokol
Staff Writer

The Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD) Interim Health Officer Dr. James Wallace and Administrator Luke Davies held a press conference on Jan. 4, at the Town Toyota Center to speak to the public regarding the recent resurgence of the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

The press conference was the beginning of the CDHD's public campaign to address the Omicron Variant situation. Dr. Wallace said that they were not there to alarm the public, but rather to raise awareness on how quickly Omicron is spreading and to better prepare the community.

The Omicron variant was first seen in the Chelan-Douglas region on Dec. 10. Since then, Confluence Health went from a positivity rate of 7% to 20% by Dec. 27. The surge and spread in numbers of this variant means that the current timeline for Omicron to reach its peak will be much shorter than those of previous variants.

"The Delta variant took about four months to peak in our area, and Omicron should only take six weeks," Dr. Wallace explained. "The Delta variant doubled its infection rate approximately every two weeks and in communities around the nation now, Omicron cases are doubling every 2-4 days."

"Based on the facts that we currently know about Omicron and its rate of infection, we expect Omicron to gain momentum within our local communities in the next few weeks," Davies said. "We should expect to see high rates of COVID infection for the month of January and into February."

Dr. Wallace also reported that "researchers believe Omicron may lead to more cases of reinfection in people



who have already had COVID, as well as more cases of break-through infection for people who are fully vaccinated."

Davies states that statewide hospitalizations may be up to or 2.7 times higher than Delta per day at the peak of Omicron in the community. Meanwhile, Confluence Health only has 156 beds for both COVID and non-COVID patients.

"These sort[s] of projections will put our hospitals beyond capacity and put a tremendous strain on Confluence Health, Lake Chelan Health, Cascade Medical, and our federally qualified health centers, Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH) Family Health Centers, potentially forcing hard choices by medical providers," Davies said, who later added:

"This comes at a time when our healthcare system [is] already short-staffed and our healthcare workers are exhausted dealing with pandemic conditions for two years."

"Omicron is a fast-moving, highly infectious variant that's unlike any we've seen in the past two years of the pandemic," Dr. Wallace said. "While this variant appears to be slightly less severe as measured by overall mortal-

SEE CDHD PRESS CONFERENCE, PAGE 8



State agencies begin implementing improvements to WA Cares Fund

Submitted by the Department of Social and Health Services

Gov. Jay Inslee signed two bills, House Bill 1732 and House Bill 1733, which make changes to the WA Cares Fund, a first-of-its-kind program ensuring all Washingtonians have access to affordable long-term care when they need it.

House Bill 1732 enables near-retirees to qualify for partial benefits and delays the WA Cares Fund by 18 months, directing employers to begin withholding premiums starting July 1, 2023.

House Bill 1733 will allow certain veterans with disabilities, spouses and registered domestic partners of military service members, workers on temporary nonimmigrant visas, and employees who work in Washington but live in a different state to opt out of WA Cares.

"Washington is the first state to take bold action to address the looming long-term care crisis," said DSHS WA Cares Director Ben Veghte. "Over the past year, we have heard concerns from the public regarding coverage gaps in the program. The reforms enacted today address those concerns."

The Department of Social and Human Services and the Employment Security Department are two of several state agencies partnering to deliver this benefit to Washingtonians. Some of ESD's responsibilities for the program are employer reporting, premium collection and exemptions while DSHS is generally responsible for WA Cares Fund benefits. Both agencies have started implementing the changes.

Beginning in July 2023, employees will pay \$0.58 per \$100 of earnings into the fund. ESD has started work to delay employer reporting and premium collection by 18 months. It has updated its website with basic information for employers and people who've applied for exemptions. ESD won't accept any WA Cares premium payments for the first quarter of 2022 and will communicate more detailed guidance to employers in February.

"The Legislature and Gov. Inslee's work to improve WA Cares this session will give

employers and the public more time to understand and prepare for this first-in-the-nation program," said ESD Commissioner Cami Feek.

Employers should:

- Stop withholding WA Cares premiums from employee earnings.
- Reimburse employees for WA Cares premiums within 120 days of the date premiums were collected.
- Continue to maintain copies of exemption approval letters for workers who provided them.

Exemptions

ESD is continuing to monitor legislation that could affect exemptions and will communicate any changes as soon as we can.

Benefits

Employees' contributions will allow them to later receive up to \$36,500 in long-term care benefits over their lifetime. Eligible employees will now begin to receive benefits in July 2026. The benefit will be adjusted annually up to inflation. It can be used for services like professional personal care in your home, dementia support, respite for family caregivers and much more. You can read more about the available benefits here.

According to Veghte, "WA Cares will protect many Washingtonians from being driven into poverty by the need for long-term care and serve as a model for the rest of the nation. The program will make it easier for all of us to age with dignity and independence in the setting of our choice."

The number of Washingtonians over 75 is expected to double in the next 15 years. Research shows that 70% of us will need some type of long-term care, yet only 7% can afford private long-term care insurance. Medicare does not cover it, and many families are forced to spend down their savings to qualify for Medicaid. Caregiving can also place a tremendous burden on family members who are often forced to reduce work hours, forego promotions, or leave the workforce entirely to care for a loved one.

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

Brewster

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

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Proposed Highway 2/Icicle Road – traffic flow project.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Proposed Leavenworth pedestrian undercrossing – safety improvement.

Hawkins proposes Highway 2 traffic flow and safety bill

Senate Bill 5603 to identify potential improvements from Wenatchee through Monroe

By Brian Zylstra and Megan Sokol
 Staff Writer

In an effort to improve traffic flow and safety along U.S. Highway 2 between Wenatchee and Monroe, 12th District Sen. Brad Hawkins has introduced a measure to identify improvements for preservation, maintenance, and new projects for the curvy and congested highway.

Hawkins, a member of the Senate Transportation Committee, has proposed the bill with his colleague, Sen. Keith Wagoner of the 39th District. The two senators serve neighboring legislative districts now but are expected to share communities along Highway 2 in the coming year following the completion of the states redistricting process.

Communities along the corridor have expressed growing concerns about safety and traffic flow, Hawkins said. Everyone knows

Highway 2 is dangerous and congested, so let's hear from the communities, assemble the information we have, and identify needed improvements.

Hawkins proposal, Senate Bill 5603, calls for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to conduct public outreach with communities along the highway, including public meetings involving Wenatchee, Cashmere, Leavenworth, Skykomish, Index, Gold Bar, Sultan, and Monroe. The bill also calls for WSDOT to report to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2022, with a summary of existing analysis along the corridor and recommended investments.

"I've met with the City of Sultan and the Sultan mayor, and they have told me about issues where the traffic block backs up for nearly 20 miles on weekends," Sen. Hawkins explained. "There are some people,



Sen. Brad Hawkins

community members in Sultan, that it takes them an hour and a half to get to the grocery store."

The timing of WSDOT's report to the Legislature's transportation committees is critical, Hawkins says, because he believes the Legislature will consider the next large-scale transportation package one year from now during the 2023 session.

For Hawkins, projects like Wenatchee's Confluence Parkway the proposed second bridge across the Wenatchee River will continue to be a high priority while also supporting the needs of other communities, like those along Highway 2 and other areas in his district. Hawkins said he is thankful that the Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council completed a US 2 Upper Wenatchee Valley corridor study in April 2020 for a portion of the highway, identifying potential improvements near Leavenworth.

"Some of those communities like Leavenworth have thousands of tourists, whenever you have the highway traffic, all these tourists that are crossed in the street and run along the sidewalks, it presents a real danger."

Hawkins prefiled the bill for consideration before the start of the 2022 Legislative Session.

Annual homeless Point in Time Count moved to Feb. 24

Submitted by
 Jill M. Fitzsimmons
 Chelan County PIO

Washington state has moved the statewide annual homeless Point in Time Count to Feb. 24 after the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved its request to postpone the event by a month because of ongoing COVID concerns.

Due to the high numbers of COVID-19 cases across the county that are driven by the Omicron variant, HUD allowed states to move the annual count, which is done on the same

day across the country every January, if the case rates would interfere with the count.

After talking to all counties across the state, the state's Department of Commerce announced the change in date.

The local Point in Time count will be held in Wenatchee at Link Transit, 300 S. Columbia St. The event will be held from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. along the Wenatchee Avenue side of the property.

Local non-profits will attend to provide resources they have available to

people who are experiencing homelessness and also raise awareness of their work in the community.

On Feb. 24, homeless housing providers then will be sending outreach teams across Chelan and Douglas counties to connect with individuals and gain an understanding of their situation and provide resources to them.

If you are interested in volunteering with the event, or your nonprofit or business provides services to people experiencing homelessness and you would like an information

table at the event, email Sasha Sleiman, Chelan County Housing Program coordinator, at sasha.sleiman@co.chelan.wa.us.

More information on the Point in Time effort is at www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/annual_point-time-count/.



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Tall Timber releases fundraiser for snow storm damage

By Megan Sokol
Staff Writer

In Tall Timber Director Zachary Miller's Instagram video, Miller stands atop of what seems like a thick blanket of snow on the ground. In reality, he is standing on the roof of Tall Timber's lodge covered in over 9 feet of snow.

Tall Timber was founded in 1965, which operated both children and adult camping experiences as well as weekend rental services.

Miller states that it is common for funds to be low after the fall season, however, the unexpected snow storm of Jan. 6 has left the nonprofit vulnerable.

This is what was written regarding the snow conditions at Tall Timber:

"On January 6 we received almost 4 feet of snow in 24 hours, resulting in power loss and dangerous road conditions. White River Road was un-plowable for 4 days, and since, has continued to be covered by various avalanches."

Miller describes the camp's need for newer equipment to handle snow plowing, along with additional funding for monthly overhead expenses and to compensate full-time staff.

Miller recently created a fundraiser titled "URGENT Equipment and Income Replacement" with a \$60k fundraising goal. As of writing he has raised nearly \$12k.

"One of the pieces that we're looking and hoping to be able to get is [a] new backhoe, because

our D3 Cat pushes snow but it can't lift snow. That piece of equipment itself is quite aging and failing, even repairs for those kinds of machines just runs into the thousands of dollars anytime you take it into the shop to get the smallest thing done with it."

Miller has previously received a total of \$39k funds from both the Giving Tuesday campaign and their year end appeal. e states that those funds were already spent towards monthly overhead fees.

"I don't like to over-hype things or to try to sell people on donating, but I also feel like it's important to be honest. This is one of those seasons where the honest truth is that the storm took a lot out of us that we weren't anticipating."

If Miller can't reach his goal, he states that he may need to resort to potential layoffs or to reduce hours.

During the pandemic, they had already reduced their staff from 11 employees down to 2-3.

"Unfortunately the choices you make when your revenue's running low is to start to lay off staff and other things like that, but then you're not able to actually serve the guests fully. We really need to keep the momentum going and that's why we did put out that campaign to everyone to just say, this is one of those situations when we can really use your help,"



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ZACHARY MILLER

The D-3 Cat bulldozer that is in need of repairs is used by the Tall Timber employees to plow the parking lot.



Tall Timber staff and volunteer housing unit is engulfed in snow.

Miller explained. "If it comes down to it, I'd even reduce my own hours just because I'd rather see, make sure that we first and foremost take care of our staff and, take care of our financial responsibilities here."

He is optimistic that the upcoming spring season will help replenish some of the camp's cost, but notes that operations may

be limited if they are unable to repair foundational elements at the camp.

They will continue to rent out the space for families to use the facility, but they would have to reduce the specially organized camps, retreats, or family camp. They will also continue to cook and run recreational activity on the weekends.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vibe Cellars is owned by two generations of Coopers, twins Michael (left) and Erik Cooper (right) and their dad George (in the next picture).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

George Cooper handles all accounting, financial decisions, vineyard contracts, helps with wine making decisions, and label compliance.

Vibe Cellars rings in the new year by joining Manson Chamber of Commerce

By Norm Manly
Community Volunteer

MANSON – Manson Chamber of Commerce rang in the New Year on a positive note by welcoming our first, new member of 2022. Vibe Cellars, located at 150 Wapato Way, overlooking Manson Bay, joined the Chamber January 1.

Debbie Conwell, Executive Director at the Manson Chamber of Commerce congratulates Vibe Cellars, “We are very excited to welcome Vibe Cellars to the Manson Business Community. The Cooper family’s rich winery heritage, influenced by our local wine technicians, and set in the Manson Valley landscape is sure to be a winning combination. They will definitely bring their own unique Vibe to our community. We look forward to a partnership with opportunities to market and grow their business.”

Vibe Cellars is owned by two generations of Coopers, identical twins Erik and Michael and their dad, George. George handles all accounting, financial deci-

sions, vineyard contracts, helps with wine making decisions, label compliance, and much more. He lives in Des Moines.

Erik is the Winemaker, manages wholesale accounts locally, and runs the tasting room. Erik grew up in Issaquah, went to college at Arizona State University and lived in Arizona for eight years. Erik moved back to Washington in 2008 and lived in Kirkland, before moving to Chelan in 2016.

Michael handles wholesale accounts on the westside of the mountains and helps in the tasting room when in town. He resides in Kirkland.

Vibe Cellar’s tasting room opened on September 10, 2021 and although new to our community, the family has a long history of winemaking dating back to Susa, in the Piedmont Region of Northern Italy, near the Italian/French border.

Give me three reasons you like living in the Lake Chelan Valley, I asked Erik. “The people in the Valley. The beauty of the region

and surrounding areas, the future of the wine industry in the Valley and community support.”

When asked how the name, Vibe Cellars was chosen Erik said, “All of the Coopers love music. We also love wine. About five years ago we were thinking of names we would like for our wine label. Vibe resonated with my brother, Michael and me. Vibe connotes being down to earth about wine, enjoying time with friends, family and how wine and music are the medias that help us enjoy the things we love.”

After Erik moved to the Valley in 2016, he began exploring the possibilities of opening a tasting room. “I knew we didn’t have the capitol to buy a chunk of land, plant a vineyard and build a tasting/production facility. I knew that we would have to start small with a tasting room, rather than an estate. I visited our current location in downtown Manson several times over the last six years and loved the space and most importantly the patio, that

has a view of Manson Bay Park and the amazing fireworks shows on special days. I developed a relationship with the landlord and when the space became available, we jumped at the opportunity,” Erik said.

Vibe Cellars wines are made using Succession Wines production facility in Manson. Like many other local businesses, camaraderie, helpfulness and friendships have aided many new businesses get off on the right foot. Brock Lindsay, owner at Succession Wines and Erik met through the Viticulture program at Washington State University in 2016. When the time was right, Erik reached out to Brock and the rest is history. Production at Vibe began in 2018 with 170 cases, 264 in 2020 and 364 cases

produced in 2021.

“Since we do not own a vineyard, we source all varietals from around Washington State. Grapes for our Sangiovese comes from Chandlers Reach Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon from Candy Mountain Vineyard, our amazing Syrah from Stillwater Creek Vineyard, the Merlot grapes are grown at Candy Mountain Vineyard and our Malbec grapes are from Chuckar Vineyard.

Currently, Vibe Cellars produces six red wines, recently procured a sparkling rosé and is currently working on one or two white wines for next spring. Be sure to ask about Vibe Cellars wine club as they have two releases a year, spring and fall.

Vibe Cellars offers cheese, crackers, almonds, salami,

and fig jams to pair with your favorite wine. “We love to support the local restaurants in town, so we encourage people to bring food into our tasting room. Future plans include entertainment for the summer along with food and ice cream trucks,” Erik went on.

Be sure to add Vibe Cellars to your wine tasting tour. Stop in and say hello to Erik and Michael, if you can tell them apart.

February hours: February 11-14, Friday and Saturday, 1-6 p.m. and Sunday and Monday, 1-5 p.m. and February 18-20, Friday and Saturday, 1-6 p.m. and Sunday and Monday, 1-5 p.m. Then closed until May.

Be sure to visit their website for more information at www.vibecellars.com



ATTENTION! Chelan County Business Owners Small Quantity Generator Hazardous Waste Disposal Event

When: March 2, 2022 Must pre-register by February 25, 2022

To Qualify: Small quantity generators (SQGs) are businesses in Washington that generate less than 220 pounds of dangerous waste, or less than 2.2 pounds of certain kinds of highly toxic waste, in any month. Up to 2,000 pounds of dangerous waste will be accepted at this event per business.

For more information, prices, and to register see the Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Application at: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/solid-waste-management/pages/household-hazardous-wastes>

For general questions contact: Chelan County Moderate Risk Waste Facility 509-888-1195



P.E.O. Upper Valley Scholarship Application for Local Women Returning to Higher Education

Applications are now being accepted for the Upper Valley Scholarship supported by P.E.O. Chapter JF, Leavenworth, WA.

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist women in need of financial help return to higher education at an accredited university, college or technical school in the State of Washington.

This needs-based scholarship must be used for school expenses and will be paid directly to the school.

Applications must be received for consideration by April 30, 2022. Scholarship funds will be available by the Fall of 2022, and be sent directly to the school financial department upon confirmation of enrollment.

Women applicants must be seeking further higher education at either the undergraduate or graduate level in one of the following ways:

- Applicant must be age 30 or above and reside in Chelan or Douglas County, WA

- Applicant must be currently enrolled in, or returning to, a higher education program after a two-year or more absence.

The colleges, universities, or technical schools where applicants have been accepted must be fully accredited and within the State of Washington. Out-of-state, on-line accredited schools are acceptable.

Applicants may re-submit applications each year until they complete their programs of study.

Women interested in applying for the scholarship may receive more detailed information concerning the application process, as well as request the application form by sending an email to Mimi Keller at the following address: peoleavenworth@nwi.net

Pateros-Brewster Community Resource Center debuts Tech Center

By Mike Maltais

PATEROS – A project that has been three years in the making opened its doors to the public Saturday, Jan. 22, when the Technology Center at Pateros Mall held its grand opening.

With the help of a \$27,000 USDA Rural Development grant, the Pateros-Brewster Community Resource Center (PBCRC) dedicated a space in the same building that houses its office at 169 Pateros Mall to hold the new Tech Center and its array of its business development aids. Start-ups, small businesses, project developers, or just about anyone needing access to tools and some of the latest technology now have a local hub where they can find the equipment and help they need.

The Tech Center offers



AmeriCorps volunteer Natalie Torres.

equipment ranging from computer terminals and digital camera to 3-D and large format printers. A large screen Zoom platform donated by Wenatchee Valley College affords the capability to host virtual meetings. The center has more than a dozen laptop computers, digital pro-

jector unit with document reader, laminating machine, and related equipment.

Gene Dowers, PBCRC Executive Director announced the grand opening date at last week's board of directors meeting after his assistant AmeriCorps volunteer Natalie Torres familiarized

herself with every piece of Tech Center equipment and advised Dowers that all was ready to go.

"We'll be able to demonstrate everything that's in there," said Dowers. "And at that time have our schedule set and our fee schedule set for the general public."



COURTESY PHOTOS PATEROSRESOURCE.COM

The Dremel Digilab printer holds a completed piece by AmeriCorps volunteer Natalie Torres who will be on hand to demonstrate the 3-D technology along with other Tech Center equipment

Great marketing raises morale

By Jennifer Bushong

Great internal marketing emphasizes employee engagement across an organization. After all, employees are your first customers. While some refer to it as internal communications (IC), marketers truly know how to analyze diverse groups of people, survey interests and use analytics to help align the organization.



Jennifer Bushong

Excellent internal marketing breeds outstanding communications.

When employees feel good about their organization's culture, chances are they will be motivated to work longer hours, take pride in their services, and be more suitable to problem solving.

Excellent communication between departments can quickly align employees and create positive workflow for all to reap benefits.

A positive company culture that allows breathing space for creativity, diversity, inclusion, out-of-the-box thinking, and messaging through different channels of communication needs to be delivered to each group.

Marketers are experts at understanding diverse groups and cultures in today's fluctuating workplace environment.

The following are three benefits to internal marketing:

1. Improve brand awareness

Employees will see the shifts in messaging and embrace the culture. When employees read and see their brand on media channels, internal communication tactics (i.e. newsletters, videos, employee of the month, t-shirts, billboards etc.), or physical space, unity will occur. Don't be afraid to highlight your positioning statement, values, mission, and vision statement(s) on the wall. Embrace it. Share it. Love it.

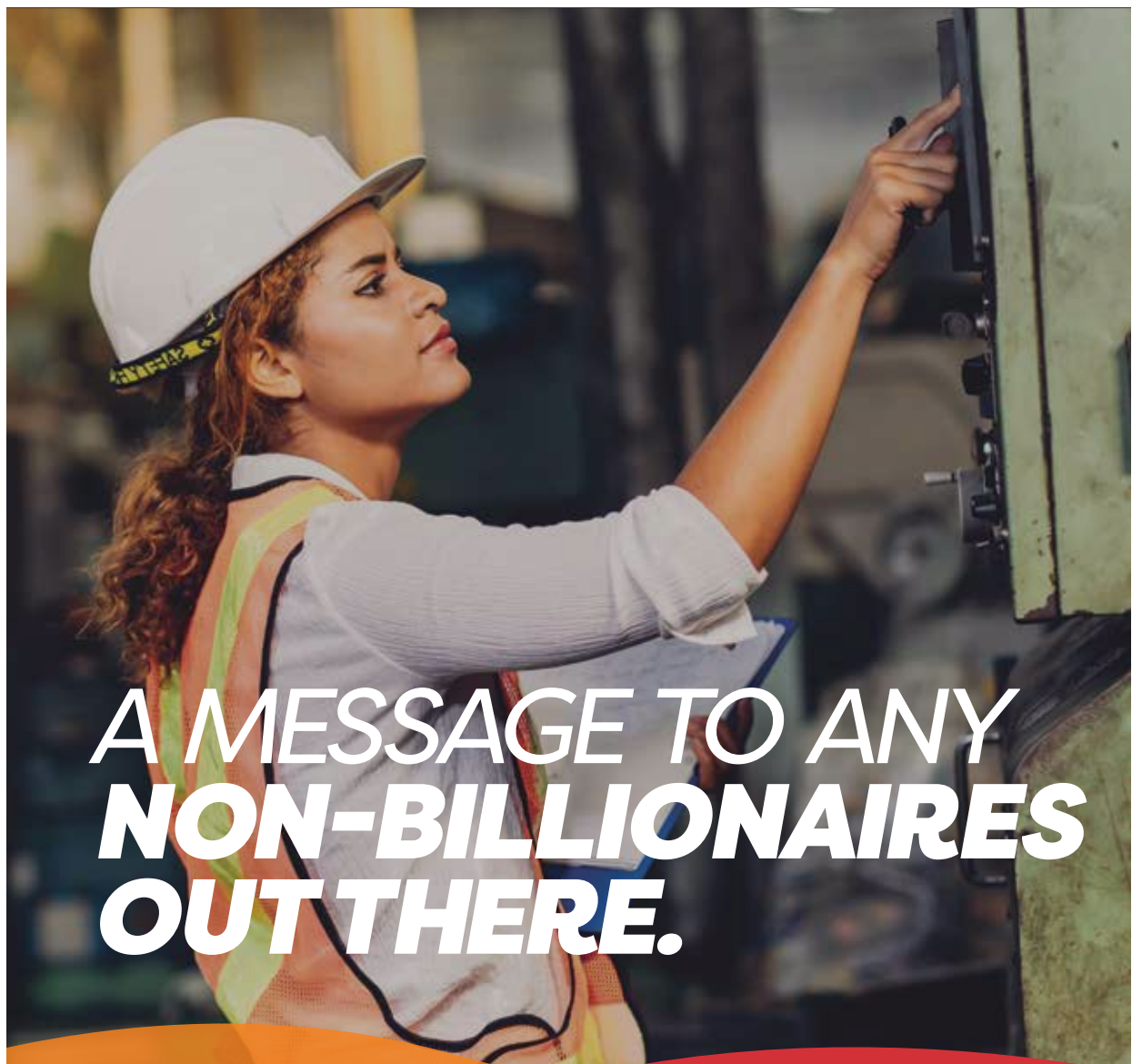
2. Employee morale increases

Every time you see or hear your company name or product, it raises awareness. In essence, the marketing of your products or services make you feel good about where you are working. The buzz is shared and energy increases. The more employees are informed about a new sales product, new branding, or positioning statement, the more they will own it.

3. Marketing is alive

Marketing has drastically shifted in the past few years. Employees can gain instant feedback, gauge consumer opinions through short surveys and share a video in seconds. Communications tactics have changed, so it is important to not ignore your internal customer. The more communication is shared, company growth will follow.

Jennifer Bushong, MA is a seasoned marketer and public relations professional. JBe Marketing Group, LLC. is a full-service marketing firm in Washington State. jennifer@jbemarketinggroup.com www.jbe-marketing.com



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Housing Authority purchases Bavarian Village Apartments in Leavenworth

Submitted by
Alicia McRae
Executive Director

The Housing Authority of Chelan County and the City of Wenatchee (CCWHA) and the Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing (ORFH) today announced the purchase of Bavarian Village Apartments, a 24-unit affordable housing community in Leavenworth, Washington.

“Leavenworth has a severe shortage of affordable housing and we are very pleased that we were able to purchase Bavarian Village and preserve its affordable status in the community,” said Alicia McRae, Executive Director of the Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority purchased the property

for over \$1.7 mil. utilizing funding through the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Housing Trust fund in the amount of \$1,647,900.

The Housing Authority also assumed an existing loan through USDA Rural Development in the amount of approximately \$645k.

An application for additional funding has been submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce for property renovation.

If awarded, Housing Authority officials anticipate construction to begin later this year.

“We cannot afford to lose any affordable housing, particularly in Leavenworth,” said Marty Miller, Executive Director of ORFH.

“The Housing Authority



PHOTO BY CAROL FORHAN

Bavarian Village Apartments in Leavenworth.

of Chelan County and the City of Wenatchee stepped up at a critical moment and now Bavarian Village will continue providing affordable rental opportunities for

decades into the future.”

The 24 units at Bavarian Village include a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments.

All apartments house

families and individuals earning a maximum of 80% of the area median income (AMI), depending on the unit.

Rent will range from \$637

for a one-bedroom apartment to \$697 for a three-bedroom.

The Bavarian Village is located at 330 Prospect Street.

Focus on Chelan Valley Hope

By Michael Gibb,
President, Board of Directors, CVH

We at Chelan Valley Hope, a nonprofit social services agency in Chelan, are extremely happy to introduce our new Executive Director, Tamra Hively.

Tamra was born and raised in Wenatchee. She has a diverse background of nonprofit management, leadership, and has worked with a variety of individuals and families, in a counseling, case management, and social services capacity.

Tamra has owned and managed her own counseling/case management agency, has served as a nonprofit executive director, and has supervised a staff of over 20 employees and volunteers.

As the new leader at Chelan Valley Hope she will be focused on strengthening existing client programs, managing staff and relationships with the community and, in partnership with the Board



of Directors, creating and implementing the goals and strategic plan in support of our overall mission and vision. CVH provides assistance, advocacy, and referral services to under-resourced families and individuals throughout the Greater Chelan Valley.

“I believe it is important to look at a person or situation in a systemic way. I want to understand the issues and look for a solution that works for that specific individual’s needs. I’m thrilled to be part of Chelan Valley Hope and their proactive team of motivated, caring people,” said Tamra.

Chelan Valley Hope provides short

term emergency sheltering in local motels, rapid rehousing through rent assistance, homelessness prevention, utility assistance, food and fuel vouchers, and non-food pantry items such as warm coats, diapers, winter gloves and hats, and personal hygiene kits.

CVH has been for 12 years and is currently contributing to the wellbeing of the most at-risk and in-need regional residents through this menu of client programming and resource referral.

Michael Gibb, Board President said, “We are very enthusiastic about Tamra Hively joining our team and we are confident that she will make significant contributions to Chelan Valley Hope.

“We look forward to her heart and leadership that she will bring to our clients, staff, volunteers, and the community as she supports the mission of Chelan Valley Hope, furthering positive changes in people’s lives.”



Tamra Hively

To volunteer at Chelan Valley Hope, please call 1-509-888-2114. To learn more or to donate to CVH, visit our website at chelanvalleyhope.org. Donations can also be mailed to Chelan Valley Hope, P.O. Box 635, Chelan, WA. 98816

Washington Healthplanfinder ends historic open enrollment with record numbers

240,000 Washingtonians signed up for coverage; Cascade Care enrollment more than doubled in year two

Submitted by
Chris Maccini
Washington Healthplanfinder

OLYMPIA – Washington Health Benefit Exchange recently released its initial 2022 open enrollment data.

A record 240,000 Washingtonians signed up for 2022 coverage through

Washington Healthplanfinder (www.wahealthplanfinder.org) the state’s online health insurance marketplace. This represents an increase of more than 6% over 2021.

In addition, 73% of 2022 customers now receive some form of monthly savings on

their health plan, up from 61% in 2021. The increase was driven by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which provided additional federal tax credits.

As a result, 42% of Washington Healthplanfinder customers now pay less than \$100 per month for

their 2022 coverage and 46,000 pay less than \$10 per month.

This year’s open enrollment period ran from Nov. 1, 2021, to Jan. 15, 2022.

“An unprecedented number of Washingtonians came to Washington Healthplanfinder during this year’s open enrollment looking for coverage, and nearly 60,000 new customers gained coverage since ARPA was implemented in May,” said Exchange CEO Pam MacEwan.

“Increased savings also led to more interest in our

state’s new Cascade Care plans.”

In their second year, Cascade Care plans, which offer lower deductibles, on average, and standard benefits and cost-sharing across carriers, proved more popular than ever.

80,000 customers signed up for a Cascade Care plan during this year’s open enrollment, up from 35,000 in 2021.

This included 8,500 people who chose a Cascade Select

SEE HEALTHPLANFINDER, PAGE 8



New Business Licenses January 2021

WENATCHEE

The Barefoot Florists	Harris, Macy Marguerite
1016 8th St Wenatchee WA 98801-1836	Florists
Yokai Glassworks	Saddler, Shelby Nicole
1400 Central Ave Apt 1403 Wenatchee WA 98801-7527	All Other Home Furnishings Stores
Laustin Legacy Custom Homes	New Single-Family Housing Construction (except For-Sale Builders)
1708 Maiden Ln Wenatchee WA 98801-1030	
Angelina LLC	Civic and Social Organizations
1545 S Mission St Apt. 312 Wenatchee WA 98801-3946	
Ruby's Daycare	Ledesma Garcia, Maria Ruvicelia
1423 Pearview Cir Wenatchee WA 98801-3330	Child Day Care Services
Jays Heating and Air Conditioning LLC	Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors
291 Broad Ave Wenatchee WA 98801-3703	
Nerdlings	Vanweerdhuizen, Kaitlyn
902 Willis St Wenatchee WA 98801-1683	Hobby, Toy, and Game Stores/Book Stores

EAST WENATCHEE

On The Spot	Rivera, Mikayla K
206 Mcgee St SE East Wenatchee WA 98802-5364	Janitorial Services
Film Runners LLC	Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services
786 N Jerome Ln East Wenatchee WA 98802-6018	
L and L Designs, LLC	Gift, Novelty, and Souvenir Stores/Art Dealers
821 Briarwood Dr East Wenatchee WA 98802-8302	
Pats Salon	Wheeler, Patricia A
50 29th St NW Ste 1 East Wenatchee WA 98802-9074	Beauty Salons
Time Well Saved Bookkeeping	Other Accounting Services
2320 NW Cascade Ave East Wenatchee WA 98802-3928	

LEAVENWORTH

Balsamroot Botanicals	Skaggs, Kyra Augustin
11632 Freund Canyon Rd Leavenworth WA 98826-9530	Food (Health) Supplement Stores Drugs and Druggists' Sundries Merchant Wholesalers

CASHMERE

Touchsmart Media	Gilyard, John Weldon
107 Railroad Ave Cashmere WA 98815-1128	Offices of All Other Miscellaneous Health Practitioners

CHELAN

Lake Laundry	Marshlain, Brooke A
619 E Wapato Ave Chelan WA 98816-9761	Janitorial Services
Sanchez Repair & Construction LLC	Residential Remodelers
35 Apple Acres Rd Unit 110 Chelan WA 98816-9672	

Bed Bath and Beyond is shutting Down Valley Mall location

37 stores closing nationwide

By Megan Sokol
Staff Writer

By the end of February, the Bed Bath and Beyond storefront will be a husk of what it used to be as the homegoods chain closes 37 stores nationwide, including East Wenatchee's Wenatchee Valley Mall location. Other stores that will close within Washington include Seattle, Longview, and Union Gap.

Bed Bath and Beyond Public Relations had commented this in response: "After careful consideration, Bed Bath & Beyond has decided to close the East Wenatchee location

in the coming months, as part of our previously announced store closure plans.

"We previously shared this information with our valued Associates. While the decision to close a store is always a difficult one, customers can always shop Bed Bath & Beyond at bedbathandbeyond.com and our mobile app, where they will receive free ship-to-home for purchases \$39 or more."

To learn more about the Bed Bath and Beyond closures, you can visit this link: <https://www.bedbathandbeyond.com/store/static/closingstores>



Photo by Lindsay Timmermans



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More than 130 years ago, we started with core values that will never go out of style: listen, learn, and help our clients reach their financial goals. Despite what's happening throughout the world today, you can trust that our focus remains helping you dream big and achieve more.

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Contact the team:
Kevin at 509-886-8288
Jake at 509-573-6773
Jonathan at 509-886-8272



Pictured above (l to r): Kevin Vitulli, VP/Senior Commercial Relationship Manager; Jake Hambly, SVP/Commercial Banking Center Manager; Jonathan Hanson, VP/Senior Commercial Relationship Manager.

bannerbank.com

Member FDIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Washington Healthplanfinder ends historic open enrollment with record numbers

plan, the state's public option, a more than 300% increase over 2021. Cascade Care plans were introduced exclusively on Washington Healthplanfinder in 2021 following state legislation passed in 2019.

Over the past year, the Exchange has implemented several initiatives aimed at decreasing customers' monthly health care coverage costs. This includes implementation of a new state premium assistance program for employees of licensed child care facilities.

The Exchange partnered with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (an Exchange-certified Navigator organization) to reach out to these employees across the state.

As a result, more than 2,000 employees of child care facilities have been newly connect-

ed with free or low-cost health care coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder.

During this year's open enrollment, the Exchange also embarked on a statewide "Adventure Tour" to reach customers in their communities. The tour made 10 stops in Washington cities where Exchange staff and certified assisters answered over 300 questions from community members about their health care coverage options.

Reminders:

Enrollment is offered year-round to individuals and families through Washington Apple Health (Medicaid).

Customers enrolled in Apple Health will receive a notice of 60 days before the month they enrolled in or renewed their coverage last year.

About Washington Healthplanfinder

Washington Healthplanfinder is an online marketplace for individuals and families in Washington to compare and enroll in health insurance coverage and gain access to tax credits, reduced cost sharing and public programs such as Medicaid. The next open enrollment period for Washington Healthplanfinder will begin Nov. 1, 2022. Enrollment reports and data are available from the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.

About Washington Apple Health

In Washington, Medicaid is called Washington Apple Health. Free or low-cost coverage is available year-round for those who qualify. Since the Affordable Care Act launched in October 2013, more people have access to preventive care, like cancer screenings, treatment for diabetes and high blood pressure, and many other health care services they need to stay healthy. Apple Health clients enroll and renew online using Washington Healthplanfinder. Apple Health is administered by the Washington State Health Care Authority: www.hca.wa.gov



Washington Apple
Education Foundation

Washington Apple Education Foundation hires new Executive Director

Submitted by Jennifer Witherbee

The Washington Apple Education Foundation (WAEF) announces the hiring of **Dr. Faviola Barbosa** as its new executive director. Today is Barbosa's first day in this role with the tree fruit industry's charity.

"On behalf of the WAEF board of directors, I am thrilled to welcome Faviola Barbosa as the new executive director of WAEF. Her excitement and passion to work with students is easily conveyed when she shares what it means to be able to impact lives through access to educational opportunities," shared WAEF chairman Laurie Knebusch.

"When the selection committee met Faviola and learned about her deep ties in the tree fruit industry paired with her career background working in education, we knew we had found WAEF's next executive director," she added. Knebusch led the search committee process that began in mid-October.

Dr. Barbosa worked within the Washington State Community & Technical Colleges system for over 18 years.

Her passion has been to promote higher education to students from an early age. She believes this position is a perfect fit for her and stated the following, "I am so excited about the opportunity to promote access and support to students from the tree fruit industry pursuing higher education. Furthermore, I look forward to working with such an amazing team and industry, continuing to strengthen the WAEF mission."

Dr. Barbosa migrated from Mexico to the United States with her family at the age of 2. She grew up within the farmworking industry in Orondo, Washington, and is a first-generation Latinx. She earned a BA in



Dr. Faviola Barbosa

Business Administration from Washington State University, an MS in College Student Affairs from Nova Southeastern University, and a Doctorate in Leadership in Higher Education from Capella University.

Barbosa is the fourth executive director in the foundation's 28-year history. She follows outgoing executive director Jennifer Witherbee who served in the position for over 20 years. Witherbee will remain on staff at WAEF in a support role for a few weeks to assist with the transition.

The Washington Apple Education Foundation is the charity of the tree fruit industry. Its mission is to impact lives through access to educational opportunities. WAEF relies on voluntary donations from over 400 contributors annually and the efforts of 200 committed volunteers.

More information about WAEF is found at www.waef.org or by calling the foundation office at (509) 663-7713.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chelan-Douglas Health District officers held Omicron Variant press conference

ity rates and overall hospitalizations, it moves very quickly, and we are going to see everyone becoming sick around the same time."

They stated that the incoming Omicron wave will lead to even more staffing shortages, which may leave businesses no choice but to shut down, along with creating a greater strain on public infrastructure such as hospitals, our schools and area utilities.

The Chelan-Douglas Health District stated the following regarding school operations throughout the area: "We anticipate that there will be staffing issues or community spread that may cause school closures in the next few weeks."

The CDHD encourages the community to get vaccinated and to social distance, along with prioritizing the use of N-95 masks and surgical masks over cloth or bandana masks. If you do wear a cloth mask, make sure to wash it every day and to use a filter within the cloth mask.

"If folks have stopped wearing masks, now is the time to start [again]. If folks have not worn masks thus far, I strongly encourage folks to start," Dr. Wallace states.

CDHD will also provide masks and at-home tests once they become available. The Department of Health is distributing close to one million at-home tests to local health jurisdictions over the next few weeks.

"We will be working to distribute those through different community partners. They [are] also going to be distributing a significant number through schools and healthcare providers as well."

Cascade Medical has also seen a considerable rise in COVID cases, with positivity rates rising from 5% to a 20% positivity rate in the first week of January.

"This will be a busy, strained 4-6 weeks," Clint Strand said. "As far as how we are dealing with this and trying to keep our patients and our staff safe, Jan. 15, Cascade Medical will no longer allow visitors for any patient in any patient care department. The exceptions are two visitors for end of life patients and pediatric patients may have one parent or guardian present."

Both the CDHD and Cascade Medical state that getting vaccinated and getting the booster is the best defense against the new variant, but its effectiveness will wane over time. The FDA has fully approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year-olds and is in the review process of updating their recommendation of shortening the booster wait time from 6 months to 5 months from the primary second dose.

"Now is the time to schedule an appointment for your booster," Davies said. "If you need to get vaccinated, you can sign up on the Chelan-Douglas Health District website or work with a number of our providers who are operating within our local pharmacies."

They also suggest getting a flu shot so that people do not further increase hospital capacity.

In addition, the CDHD is implementing a new Omicron Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and Triage Center at Wenatchee Valley College and should be operating through the end of January to mid-February. Those who have trouble breathing, and if nearby hospitals reach

maximum capacity, may be directed towards the EOC. More information will be sent out once it is made available.

The CDHD will work in conjunction with Columbia Valley Health (CVCH) and Chelan County Fire District #1 on building the EOC and Triage Center. The EOC will also include the assistance of Wenatchee Valley College, which will help handle COVID testing and triage duties.

Updated CDC guidelines state that people who have tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home for five days, regardless of vaccination status.

"If you do not have symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after five days, you can leave your house but should continue to wear a mask in public places as per the Washington mandate," Davies states.

They also recommend that those exposed to someone positive and are unvaccinated, or vaccinated over 6 months ago, should stay home for five days and wear a mask around others, and to get tested on the 5th day of exposure.

The original CDC guideline for a 10-day quarantine will stay in place for congregant settings like food-processing facilities, warehouses, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, transitional housing, temporary worker housing, schools and childcare, factories, and institutions for higher education.

"We are in a precarious point of the COVID pandemic, but I want to stress that this is also a time of opportunity," Davies said. "We as a community can choose to come together quickly and work towards lessening the strain of Omicron on our families, each other, and our healthcare system."

Recommendations on slowing the transmission of Omicron include the following:

- If tested positive, stay home for 5 days.
- If you feel symptoms and can't get tested, quarantine and assume you have Omicron
- If symptoms are less severe, still follow through with isolation.
- If you are high-risk or immunocompromised, do your best to protect yourself.
- Wear a mask in public places and when socializing with people outside of your household.

You can schedule a vaccine and learn more about the Omicron variant here: <https://www.cdhd.wa.gov/covid-19>





MEMBER MESSENGER

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PAGE 1

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Renewing Members This Month

Thank You to the following valued renewing members this month. We're extremely grateful to each of you for your continued membership, involvement and support!

- Dan Beardslee Consulting – 4 years
- Deep Water Home & Electronics – 9 years
- Custom Construction & Cabinetry, LLP – 8 years
- Irrigation Technology & Control, Inc. – 15 years
- Micah's Custom Works – 2 years
- Patriot Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Inc. – 5 years
- Pinnacle Painting – 15 years
- Pipkin Inc. dba Pipkin Construction – 2 years
- Pool to Spa Services – 14 years



- Rent-Me Storage, LLC – 15 years
- Summitt Construction – 24 years
- The Wenatchee Downtown Association – 5 years
- Wenatchee Valley Glass – 8 years
- Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center – 10 years

BNCW Chairman's Corner

As I reflect on the previous year BNCW has had several challenges. We have had staff turnover, Covid restrictions, an interim CEO and have hired a new one. I feel it is safe to say we are gaining some needed traction after some uncomfortable growing pains. There has been one thing that hasn't changed over the last 25 years, it's the voice you hear answering the phone and the smiling face at the reception desk when you enter our office. Kim Fenner has been the one constant staff member that has "been here through it all". I would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work through thick and thin times. Again, thank you and congratulations to Kim Fenner. The return of the Home Show is February 10th -12th. We have an array of vendors, so we hope you decide to take this opportunity to get back out

and enjoy our show, won't you join us? Be on the lookout for your discount coupons for admission, there's also a canned food drive at the door for a dollar off! All donated food will benefit "NCW Vets Serving Vets" also known as "The Bunker". I would also like to say thank you to all our sponsors, vendors, advertisers, volunteers and our committee members. Most of all thank you to the hardest working staff on the planet for pulling this event together and off. Danielle Martin, Kim Fenner and Lee Shepherd, and our former Interim CEO Amy Gustin. Speaking of Lee Shepherd, our new CEO, don't be surprised if you see him pop into your place of business to say hello. You might receive an email or a phone call too, just to see how things are going. Finally, a huge shout out to all our



Ed Gardner
EDY Construction Corp.
BNCW 2022 Chairman

members. Thank you for joining the organization and those of you who continue to renew your memberships. We are a small business organization and without you we couldn't do it. We're a resource for consumers and for our members, so please try to remember to do business with your local and trusted members of Building North Central Washington.

WELCOME NEW BNCW MEMBERS!

To view each of our valued member company's complete profile, we invite you to visit BNCW's website at www.BuildingNCW.org and click on the membership directory tab. Thank you!



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ■ Columbia Cooling & Refrigeration
Dale Lange
509-668-8108 | ■ I & C Construction
Mark Christensen
509-433-8635 | ■ Iztas Real Estate LLC
Alfredo Iztas
509-778-2826 |
|--|--|--|

For more information about becoming a BNCW member, please contact Membership/Events Coordinator, Danielle Martin at (509) 293-5840. We look forward to sharing with you the benefits of membership!

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

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

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



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

FEBRUARY 2022 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

Avoiding Slips, Trips, and Falls at the Construction Site

TOOLBOX TALKS



APPROACH management services

We've all heard this many times, but it's so easy to get distracted and not pay attention to where we are going or what we are doing. **This is how slips, trips, and falls occur.**

Falls are one of the leading causes of injury in the construction workplace. While the most catastrophic of these occur when working from heights, believe it or not, many injuries also happen at the ground level; and many of these accidents occur when walking across uneven ground that is too hard, too soft, wet, or muddy. **Twisted ankles, knee strains, and back injuries** are the most common injuries; but

depending on how a person falls, so are fractured wrists and muscle tears.

What your employees need to know:

- **Distractions rank high on the list of injury cause**

- **Stay focused while navigating uneven ground.** If someone is carrying a piece of equipment, and is startled by a loud noise, moving too fast, or even talking with a co-worker, his/her focus can switch away from the ground conditions.

- **Slowing down when the ground is soft or wet** is a common practice for people who work on dirt or grass. However, conditions can be just as dan-

gerous after the ground has dried out following rainfall.

- **If heavy machinery moved through the area when the ground was wet,** large tire tracks may have been left behind. When the ground dries, these tracks harden leaving deep ruts. These ruts pose a serious trip hazard. Not only that, if someone does trip over one and fall, they are at risk of further injury as he/she will likely land on the same deep, hardened ruts.

What your employees need to do:

- Eliminate the distractions as much as possible. As men-

SEE TOOLBOX TALKS, PAGE 12

BNCW's 2022 Leadership at a Glance

Meet the Board of Directors:

It's important to us that our valued member companies know who comprises Building North Central Washington's Board of Directors – the leadership team charged with the responsibility of advancing our Association's mission, as well as helping to ensure that your membership investment is protected.

Each one of these individuals is always available to speak to our members. You will find their contact information noted on BNCW's website at www.BuildingNCW.org.

We're very proud to introduce BNCW's officers for 2022!

These member leaders serve on BNCW's executive committee and the organization's Board of Directors, working closely with their fellow directors and the CEO in guiding the Association forward to serve our valued member companies and advancing its mission, objectives and goals for the year.

They are:

- ♦ **Chairman of the Board: Ed Gardner,** E.D.Y. Construction Corp.
- ♦ **First Vice Chairman: Shane Covey,** Custom Construction & Cabinetry
- ♦ **Second Vice Chairman: Robert Guerin,** Wenatchee Valley Glass

- ♦ **Treasurer: Jim Blair IV,** North Meridian Title & Escrow

- ♦ **Secretary: Allen Tangeman,** First Choice Collision Center, Inc.

- ♦ **Immediate Past Chairman: Jeff Story,** Story Construction, LLC.

Joining the officers on the Board of Directors will be the following BNCW directors:

- ♦ **Brandon Littrell,** One-Way Construction

- ♦ **Shon Smith,** Wok About Grill

- ♦ **Randy Wessman,** Wessman Construction LLC

- ♦ **Sean Lynn,** Love Leavenworth Vacation Rentals

- ♦ **Michael Berggren,** Berggren's Pool & Spa Services LLC

- ♦ **Travis Turner,** Community Glass

- ♦ **Amy Gustin,** The ADG Media Group

BNCW's Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00am and BNCW members are always welcome to attend! For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Fenner at (509) 293-5840.

We look forward to serving our valued members in 2022!



BNCW membership minute

The Power of Networking!

As a member of BNCW, you have access to multiple networking events, dinners, committees, and much more throughout the year. Since you likely can't attend and participate in everything (after all, you do have a business to run), choosing how and where to spend your time is very important.

You might consider beginning by giving thought to what your ultimate goals are when it comes to networking.

- ♦ Do you enjoy attending a Nothing but Networking evening event where you can spend some time meeting people in an environment where you can come and go?

- ♦ Do you enjoy spending an evening having dinner with new people, socializ-

ing around the room and at your table?

- ♦ Or maybe you enjoy being a part of a committee and spending a few months helping to plan an event, while really getting to know other fellow BNCW members in the process.

Either way, there are a lot of options for you as a member of BNCW to use the POWER OF NETWORKING! Understanding what your goals and interests are a great way to prioritize your networking opportunities! You might not be able to attend them all, but deciding which events and activities are best-suited for your business will help you grow through networking!

Canned food drive at

the 2022 BNCW Home Show

When you visit this year's BNCW Home Show, we hope that you will consider bringing a non-perishable food donation to support NCW Vets Serving Vets aka "The Bunker". With your contribution, you will also receive a discounted ticket into the Show.

NCW Vets Serving Vets will have a booth at the show this year (#1) and will also be helping with ticket sales. Don't miss visiting with them in their booth! For more information on, please visit their website at www.ncwvetservingvets.net or on facebook at facebook.com/vets-serving-vets-437572769612652/. Thank you!



JOIN US AT THE

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THURS. 3 PM - 6:30 PM • FRI. 2PM - 6:30 PM • SAT. 12PM - 4:30 PM

21+ MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO ENTER

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BNCW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Johanna has over 20 years experience of bookkeeping, finance and business management, and HR. Eighteen years of managing dealerships and handling finance and HR.

In 2019, she made the decision to start her own business at home to accommodate her family. Johanna has experience in multiple industries; retail, restaurant, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and home owner's associations. She also offers notary public services and is a certified signing agent for real estate transactions.

Johanna grew up on a wheat farm in Eastern Washington and is still involved in the family farm. She is married with 3 daugh-

ters, 3 stepchildren and 3 grandchildren, two of whom she and her husband are raising.

Top 5 Things to Know About Us:

1. Full service bookkeeping services or minimal; (whatever needed)
2. Notary Public & Certified Signing Agent
3. Administrative duties
4. Multiple locations available
5. Over 20 years of bookkeeping experience

For more information please call Johanna Carveth at 509-641-0888

email: pinkcollarbookkeeping19@gmail.com, website: www.pinkcollarbookkeeping.com.

Pink Collar Bookkeeping is located at 1210 June St. SE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

FEBRUARY 2022 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3

Why should YOU visit the 2022 BNCW Home Show?



2022 Home Show Committee

Home shows are a one-stop-shop for any project you might have in mind for today, tomorrow or next year. It is the one place you can meet scores of industry professionals – all face-to-face. No playing phone tag or trying to find a convenient time that works for both of you to meet. You can talk to the contractors, tradespeople and other professionals right there. Finding the right professional for your project is key. Most projects: remodels, custom homes, additions, etc. can take a great deal of time. You need to not only trust your contractor, but you need to enjoy working with them as well.

If you aren't looking to buy, build or remodel, there is still plenty for you to see and do. Take advantage of special offers and discounts on products and services.

As you stroll through the Show, you will be greeted by friendly faces that are eager to answer

your questions. It is possible you could find out that something you have always wanted to do that was out of reach is easier to get started than you think.

So mark your calendar and come visit the 2022 BNCW Home Show, located at the Town Toyota Center on February 10th, 11th & 12th. Tickets are just \$6 for general admission, kids 10 and under are free. You can find \$1 off tickets online at www.BuildingNCW.org or at local businesses throughout the Valley. You can also receive a \$1 off by bringing a non-perishable food item that will benefit NCW Vets Serving Vets.

You can also find additional information on our valued sponsors, vendors, and other Show information online at www.BuildingNCW.org. If you have specific questions, we invite you to call the BNCW office at (509) 293-5840.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone of the following individuals who served on this year's event planning committee – without their involvement and contribution, this event would not happen.

Chair: Sherrie Harlow, The Wenatchee World

Ryan Kelso, Complete Design

Ed Gardner, EDY Construction Corp.

Rodney Bullion, Marson & Marson Lumber

Amy Gustin, The ADG Media Group

Gregory Olson, Numerica Credit Union

Jennifer Henderson, Express Employment Professionals

Joanna Avila, Alpine Group – Keller Williams

Billie Bohannon, Alpine Group – Keller Williams

Gavin Johnson, Alpine Group – Keller Williams

BNCW HOME SHOW

SPECIAL

February 10th, 11th & 12th
THUR.-SAT. 4PM - 7PM

PULLED PORK SANDWICH SIDES OF COLESLAW & HOUSE MADE MACARONI SALAD

\$12

TOWN TOYOTA CENTER

NO VACCINE CARD OR NEGATIVE TEST REQUIRED

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2022

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MEDIA PARTNER: ALPINE MEDIA, KIDS ZONE, the Y, LOWE'S, Trinity Inflatables

BNCW Offices 509-293-5840 Tickets: General Admission \$6 Kids 10 & under FREE

NEW THIS YEAR!
BEER GARDEN THURSDAY-SATURDAY & DINNER SPECIAL THURSDAY-SATURDAY

www.buildingncw.org



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

FEBRUARY 2022 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4



The Right Choice for
BNCW Members.
Health Insurance solutions
that just make sense.

Our members say one of their largest expenses is Health Insurance.
-We've heard you loud and clear.

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

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

Building North Central Washington members will receive a customized proposal that is simple and easy to understand, with side-by-side comparisons of the most competitive health rates in Washington State.

Plus, members will receive one-on-one customer service from a licensed agent to assist with questions, enrollment, and claims issues – saving our members time and money.

Mitchell, Reed & Schmitten Insurance offers health plans for self-employed individuals and group plans for member businesses between 1 – 1,000 employees.

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BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's February Board of Directors Meeting

■ **Wednesday, February 16, 2022**
7:00am to 9:00am
at Building North Central Washington
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee
Chairman: Ed Gardner

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

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

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

BNCW's February CPR & First Aid Training

■ **February 22, 2022** from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Held at Building North Central Washington,
2201 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee

Class size is limited to 16 people.

\$49/person, includes Continuing Ed credits and is good for new and recertification.

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

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

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

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

You may also register online at BuildingNCW.org.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

tioned above, walking at a speed appropriate for the conditions is a must.

- Avoid distractions, such as carrying tools or equipment with you. Maybe these items can be transported on one of the site vehicles in the area.

Survey the jobsite each day in order to identify problem areas to be aware of or avoid. This includes:

- Identifying the ruts, slippery conditions, and other uneven ground on the worksite.

- Identifying holes and trenches on the site. Cover them and/or rope them off with caution tape to prevent access to the area.

- Keeping shoe and boot tread clean to provide better traction.

- Do not take shortcuts

through debris piles.

- Make sure walkways and areas around ladders are always kept clear of tools or debris.

- Pay close attention to placement of cords and hoses as these can also create tripping hazards.

Remember:

Discuss with your employees how being distracted increases the risk of injury and strategize on how best to avoid those distractions.

Discuss the ground conditions you will be working with and seek out ideas on how best to avoid the hazards created by those conditions.

Identify an obvious hazard – such as slippery conditions or a deep rut caused by heavy machinery – and demonstrate

the risks involved and how to navigate these areas.

Emphasize the importance of keeping shoe or boot soles clean. Provide a tool such as a small brush or even a stick where workers can easily clean off the dirt or mud while in the field.

Remind employees to report any unsafe conditions.

Practice good housekeep-

ing: if you drop it, pick it up. Return all tools, hoses, and cords to their proper location.

By taking the extra time to avoid distractions, surveying the ground conditions, and identifying different safety hazards, your employees will get in the habit of looking for trouble spots and avoiding them.



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Dr. Jim Richardson

WVC President Dr. Jim Richardson retires

By Megan Sokol
Staff Writer

On Jan. 19, Wenatchee Valley College's longest serving president Dr. Jim Richardson announced his retirement, with his departure set for June 30, 2022.

Dr. Richardson stepped into his presidential role in July of 2005, with a career in higher education since 1976. He moved into his WVC role after serving as president of Southeastern Community College (SCC) from West Burlington, Iowa. He has also served locally on the North Central Washington Workforce Development Board, Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, Wenatchee Sunrise Rotary and president of the Numerica Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Richardson earned his Ph.D. from

Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn. with an M.A. in speech from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. in communications from Winona State University.

In a personal statement published on the WVC website, Dr. Richardson states the following: "Over the past 45 years, I've experienced the most important and satisfying work of my life. In the past 17 years, not a day has gone by when I've not been inspired by the work of this college and those who comprise it. But Kim and I have decided that the time is right for me to retire as president of Wenatchee Valley College."

Dr. Richardson oversaw the first introduction to four-year degrees along with the construction of new buildings including Wenatchi Hall, the Music and Art Center,

the Hazel Allen Burnett Hall on the Omak campus, the Student Recreation Center, and the Mish ee twee building.

Dr. Richardson said that he and his wife Kim Richardson hope to return to his home state of Wisconsin and be closer to family.

A special board meeting will be scheduled on January 25 to oversee the search for the next WVC president.

"It is time for fresh leadership at Wenatchee Valley College. Time to continue the work we are doing as a team and build on our accomplishments," Dr. Richardson writes in his personal statement. "The time is right as we have a strengthening financial situation and a strong leadership team who will be able to make the transition to a new president as smooth as possible."

District 2 Commissioner Bob Bugert announces his retirement

By Megan Sokol
Staff Writer

At the beginning of his term, Commissioner Bob Bugert stated that he would only serve a max of two terms. Now Bugert has announced that he will step down from his seat as District 2 Chelan County Commissioner at the end of December 2022.

"I'm at the age where I would like to focus some of my energy on some volunteer work

within the community and to explore other passions." Bugert's professional career has included work on the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, while also focusing on housing, transportation, and climate change issues. He hopes to continue working within local non-profit sectors.

Bugert was elected to his current District 2 seat in November, 2017. District 2 oversees matters within Leavenworth, Cash-

mere, and western and central Wenatchee.

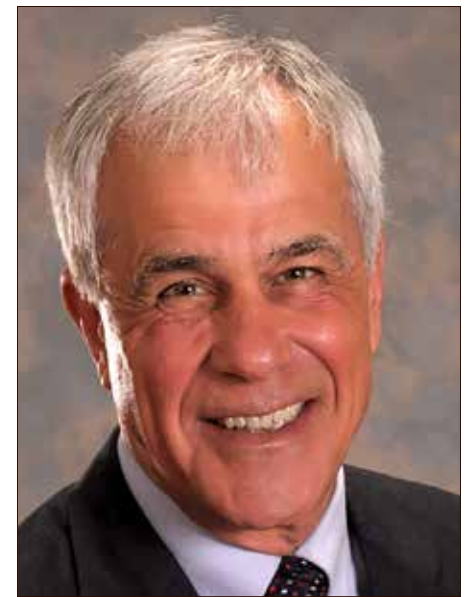
He describes his term as a productive four years in office and wanted to give enough time for potential candidates to work on their campaign.

"It's the diversity of the job is what really makes it challenging, but also makes it the most rewarding. A person can work on a number of issues ranging from homelessness to wildfires to some of our major public works projects going on to management of the jail and our veterans program. It is really a remarkably diverse program. A suite of responsibilities, which makes it very challenging yet rewarding."

Bugert states that he wished to have more time to assist with the potential development of a lumber mill within the county. He is most proud of his involvement with the Chelan County's adoption of the Climate Change Resiliency Strategy, the creation of Equity Alliance, and with finding a solution to the challenging short-term rental situation.

"It's been an enriching and rewarding experience, and I encourage those folks that are considering it to take the plunge and do it. It's has many rewards."

Those interested in running for the



Bob Bugert

Chelan County Commissioner seat must reside in District 2 in order to qualify. The election filing date will be due during the week of May 16-20, 2022.

To learn more about campaign resources, you can visit this link for more information. www.co.chelan.wa.us/elections/pages/candidate-resources.

Superintendent DePaoli announces his retirement



Barry DePaoli

of those in the Lake Chelan School District.

In his retirement letter that he read to the Board, he stated that "it has been a privilege to work with some of the brightest, most compassionate, and highly committed administrators, teachers, staff, and students".

He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to provide leadership at both the building and the district level. Perhaps his greatest reward was the fact that he got to know so many amazing young people. He commented that "having a front row seat watching students grow and reach for their goals was the gift of a lifetime."

He also thanked past and present Board members for their insights, advocacy and support and for providing him with the opportunity to develop as a District leader.

Barry's last day will be June 30 of this school year.

Submitted by Georgia Mashayekh
Lake Chelan School District

CHELAN - At the January 11 board meeting, Barry DePaoli announced his retirement. Barry has spent 35 years in the education profession, 22

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REAL ESTATE

TOP PROPERTIES - CHELAN COUNTY December 2021

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City
DOVEX FRUIT COMPANY	STEMILT GROWERS LLC	\$9,096,000	1603 N MILLER ST	WENATCHEE
GRANDVIEWS RIVERFRONT VILLAGE LLC	RIVERFRONT VILLAGE PHASE 1 LLC	\$8,600,000	315 N WORTHEN ST	WENATCHEE
GRANDVIEWS RIVERFRONT VILLAGE LLC	RIVERFRONT VILLAGE PHASE 1 LLC	\$8,600,000	N WORTHEN ST	WENATCHEE
AWAKEN WENATCHEE CHURCH	WATER WORKS PROPERTIES LLC	\$4,300,000	2 5TH ST	WENATCHEE
FARMTOGETHER CASCADE LLC	THOMAS K MATHISON ORCHARDS LLC	\$4,275,000	353 STAYMAN FLATS RD	CHELAN
H4IT PROPERTIES LLC	DRIGALLO ALEKSANDR	\$3,450,000	23336 LAKE WENATCHEE HWY	LAKE WENATCHEE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA	TTS LAND COMPANY II LLC	\$3,200,000	145 S WORTHEN ST	WENATCHEE
DOVEX FRUIT COMPANY	STEMILT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LLC	\$2,904,000	1530 N MILLER ST	WENATCHEE
DOVEX FRUIT COMPANY	STEMILT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LLC	\$2,904,000	1560 N MILLER ST	WENATCHEE
FARMTOGETHER DAYBREAK LLC	THOMAS K MATHISON ORCHARDS LLC	\$2,713,000	261 STAYMAN FLATS RD	CHELAN
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA	TTS LAND COMPANY LLC	\$2,400,000	139 S WORTHEN ST	WENATCHEE
HORROBIN MICHAEL E & CATHY L	MULVANEY KEVIN J	\$2,000,000	2155 SUMMER CAMP RD	CHELAN
HORROBIN MICHAEL E & CATHY L	MULVANEY KEVIN J	\$2,000,000	2165 SUMMER CAMP RD	CHELAN
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CHELAN CO & CITY OF WEN	BAVARIAN VILLAGE ASSOCIATES	\$1,753,471	330 PROSPECT ST	LEAVENWORTH
SUNDANCE SLOPE LLC	SELIN DAN & VICKI	\$1,675,000	90 MADRONA LN	CHELAN
JONES FAMILY REVCBLE TRUST	MC CONNELL LIVING TRT	\$1,645,000	4135 SUNNYBANK DR	CHELAN
JONES DARLENE & GLEN	STULL FRANKLIN	\$1,550,000	16885 CAMP 12 RD	PLAIN
GRUENWOLDT PETER & KELSEY	WHITE DONALD D	\$1,500,000	8735 E LEAVENWORTH RD	LEAVENWORTH
MALIK EHTASHAM & MANUCHARYAN INESSE	TELFORD BRETT W & DEANNE J	\$1,455,000	4095 W EAGLEROCK DR	WENATCHEE
MALIK EHTASHAM & MANUCHARYAN INESSE	TELFORD BRETT W & DEANNE J	\$1,455,000	4095 W EAGLEROCK DR	WENATCHEE
CROTHALL ANDREW D & CLARISSA M	STEFANKO GLEN SHELLEY	\$1,450,000	12300 INGALLS CREEK RD	PESHASTIN
SUNRISE PHOENIX REV TRUST	GOWING ANN L ETAL	\$1,430,000	8040 OLD BRIDGE RD	LEAVENWORTH
MILNE STANLEY D & PATRICIA R	MULDERS ANDREA & HANS	\$1,399,000	4120 LAKEVIEW PL	CHELAN
TALBOTT SETH & TALBOTT PETER	JONES WILLIAM & DEBRA	\$1,300,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN
VAUGHN TANNER G & CINZIA	JAMESON JOSHUA DAVID	\$1,300,000	9029 ICICLE RD	LEAVENWORTH
GREEN MICHELLE A & GORDON ROBERT S	PICKTHORN DARREN&REBECCA	\$950,000	4362 JIM SMITH RD	WENATCHEE
MACK MICHAEL & LAURA	RASMUSSEN ADAM T & CYNTHIA A	\$945,000	947 CLOUDLESS DR	MANSON
MILLER JENNIFER & JEREMY	AXELSON MATTHEW	\$925,000	22729 LAKE WENATCHEE HWY	LAKE WENATCHEE
LIVNG TRST	WALTER JOSEPH W & DEANNA C	\$899,700	1085 RIDGE CREST DR	WENATCHEE
STAFFORD JAMES I	BUSTOS ANTONIO NUNEZ & ALEJANDRINA CABRERA DE NUNEZ	\$899,000	407 LAKESHORE DR	MANSON
THORPE TODD D & CATHERINE V	HENDRICKS MIKE & CINDY	\$899,000	320 WHITMAN ST	LEAVENWORTH
BATTIS MICHAEL R & RACHEL L	GREINER KURT	\$895,000	4680 MISSION CREEK RD	CASHMERE
CHIEREK CHRISTOPHER & GREENE COOPER SUSANNAH	CLARKE KAREN B	\$875,000	4275 W EAGLEROCK DR	WENATCHEE
NIELSEN BRYNN & COVEY JAMES	STRONG KYLE & LAURA	\$835,000	322 BRINLEY LN	WENATCHEE
NIX JAMES R & MINDI J	OMMEN PATRICIA L	\$832,500	4864 RANK RD	CASHMERE
HEDIN MARK A & JOYCE L	BEEBE CHARLES W	\$815,000	35 CHESTNUT ST	CHELAN
BRAMELD COLOCCI LIVING TRUST	BRAMELD DAVID/KARIN TRUSTE	\$795,000	12120 TITUS RD	LEAVENWORTH
BRINKLY THOMAS E JR & MAHAN COURTNEY M	HOWARD TERRY D	\$795,000	102 SAN REMO LN	CHELAN
BOEHL KURT E	YOUNG-SANFORD JOANNE & WILLIAM	\$784,000	652 MEADOWS DR	WENATCHEE
BONAM KASTURI & PASUPULETI HANDRASEKHAR ETAL	EIDER PROPERTIES LLC	\$771,500	921 3RD ST	WENATCHEE
GAZAY KYLE	TCHITCHKAN DMITRI & JULIA MOUKHARSKAYA	\$755,000	808 AUTUMN CREST DR	WENATCHEE
TKCI LLC	DB WENATCHEE LLC	\$740,000	739 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE
HOPPER JENNIFER M & BRYAN	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$734,000	1010 RACINE SPRINGS DR	WENATCHEE
GILLUM ASHLEY M & GREGORY S	DUNMORE JAMES E MANAGEMENT TRUST ETAL	\$730,000	6210 HAY CANYON RD	CASHMERE
STRONG KYLE & LAURA	GANN CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$725,000	862 AUTUMN CREST DR	WENATCHEE
NAIN SANDEEP	FRAKER TODD & TANYA	\$720,000	267 SCHOLZE ST	LEAVENWORTH
BACKCOUNTRY ASSETS LLC	FRAGNITO JOHN J JR	\$675,000	217 SAN REMO LN	CHELAN
STABLEIN CHRISTOPHER M & JENNIFER M	HEBERT MARK & SUSAN	\$675,000	311 BENTON ST	LEAVENWORTH
UPTON RICHARD L & PAULINE H	NELSON JAMES A	\$662,000	613 MEADOWS DR	WENATCHEE
RAMEY LARA E & DANIEL R	HOLMAN MATTHEW J & PAULA J	\$660,000	7136 UNION VALLEY RD	CHELAN
WATTERS CAMERON S & ELIZABETH L	COBB JASON M & SNYDER SHAWNA	\$660,000	1000 SAGE CREST DR	WENATCHEE
FRANKLIN SHIRLEY A & GEORGE N	CHASE STANTON O JR & DAWNA S	\$655,000	77 JOHN TRUETT DR	MALAGA
WITT DAVID G & LUCINDA M	FORSMANN MARK B	\$650,000	5538 CAMPBELL RD	PESHASTIN
ZIELASKO LYNN	DEMERS J PAUL & DOROTHY M	\$645,900	10765 LONE PINE DR	PESHASTIN
BLOYER DAVID E & ERHO KAY D	DEMERS J PAUL & DOROTHY M	\$639,000	3061 TAHOE ST	MALAGA
MALO SHARON K	WARTHEN ERIC E	\$630,000	2325 KINNICKINICK DR	LAKE WENATCHEE
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	TORRES CARLOS A	\$625,800	5309 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA
STANTON CHASE O JR & DAWNA S	BAYNE JOHN F ETAL	\$620,000	1818 NUMBER 2 CANYON RD	WENATCHEE
WALLITNER RAYMOND & ULRICA A	HARRIS ORCHARD CO L P	\$602,880	UNASSIGNED	ENTIAT
TORRES CARLOS A	ED KANE ORCHARD LLC	\$599,000	1889 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA
TOMALTY KEVIN & JAYNA	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$585,380	1011 RACINE SPRINGS DR	WENATCHEE
HALL AMY R & THOMAS M	WAPITI NORTH LLC	\$580,000	125 LOST SPOKE LN	WENATCHEE
BARKHAUSEN JOHN & REX WALLER CAROLINE	SAXBY GLEN J & ANDREE	\$562,000	114 S FRANKLIN AVE	WENATCHEE
GETTMAN KIM & DANNY	MECKEM KENNETH & GAYLE TRUSTEES	\$550,000	4470 JOE MILLER RD	MALAGA
BANGS THOMAS D & ASHLEY R	TOMALTY KEVIN & JAYNA	\$535,000	410 VALLEY VIEW DR	CASHMERE
PENDLETON CREED J & KYLAN M	HEG JAMES T & JANET A REVOCABLE LIVING TRT	\$530,000	213 S EAST CENTER ST	CHELAN
FOLDEN ALEXANDER C & BRITO SELAH	LEEDS MICHAEL J & KAYLENE A	\$524,900	1736 LINCOLN PARK CIR	WENATCHEE
DIAZ GUILLEN MARIA D	GRUBB PATRICIA J	\$520,000	1213 POE ST	WENATCHEE
PERMIN DENISE A	MICHAEL JEFFREY D & KATIE M	\$520,000	1740 CENTRAL AVE	WENATCHEE
LAITALA THOMAS & STACY	PERMIN DENISE A	\$519,900	1903 HIDEAWAY PL	WENATCHEE
RAY DONALD E & STACY J ETAL	STANLEY DENNIS G JR & NIKKOLY S	\$500,000	1614 WALNUT ST	WENATCHEE

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS December 2021

RESIDENTIAL	
Original Price	Street
\$775,000.00	703 N NILE AVE
\$770,000.00	3 HOLCOMB DR
\$758,000.00	2458 BERKLEY LOOP
\$695,000.00	1521 HANNAH WAY
\$683,500.00	226 STUHMILLER RD
\$682,500.00	1009 JACKIE LN
\$679,000.00	790 10TH ST NE
\$675,000.00	1434 SUNSET HWY
\$658,000.00	58 YARBROUGH DR
\$655,000.00	548 S JAMES AVE
\$635,000.00	2354 PRAIRIE DR
\$599,000.00	105 CHIPMUNK TRAIL RD
\$590,000.00	940 N GALE AVE
\$585,000.00	1973 LEGACY PL SE
\$575,000.00	134 MANHATTAN SQ
\$572,000.00	2936 CASCADE RDG
\$570,000.00	1921 LEGACY PL SE
\$552,000.00	2327 NW CASCADE AVE
\$550,000.00	206 SUN VEIL LN
\$549,000.00	2439 NEIGHBOR PL SE
\$530,000.00	1344 TRACTOR LOOP
\$526,000.00	1251 WHEATRIDGE DR
\$522,000.00	2590 FANCHER HEIGHTS BLVD
\$519,900.00	352 HAMMOND LN
\$514,200.00	500 HAMMOND LN
\$495,000.00	994 HIGHLINE DR
\$484,500.00	1108 N BAKER AVE
\$475,000.00	420 HAMMOND LN
\$450,000.00	2173 S MELODY LN
\$448,615.00	408 HAMMOND LN
\$444,900.00	1059 N GUERIN LN
\$443,000.00	220 21ST ST NW
\$441,000.00	1502 N BAKER AVE
\$439,900.00	161 11TH ST NE
\$439,900.00	226 21ST ST NW
\$439,000.00	1749 5TH ST SE
\$435,300.00	1308 TRACTOR LOOP
\$429,000.00	2683 SEMOLINA LOOP
\$416,500.00	1354 CLEMENTS CIR
\$416,500.00	1350 CLEMENTS CIR
\$415,000.00	485 N JUNE AVE
\$415,000.00	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE
\$410,000.00	3213 SUNSET HWY
\$407,700.00	478 S KANSAS LOOP
\$405,000.00	481 N IOWA AVE
\$405,000.00	4475 NW CASCADE AVE
\$400,000.00	605 N MINOR AVE
\$389,900.00	17592 BADGER MOUNTAIN RD
\$385,000.00	15 HADLEY ST NE
\$384,900.00	758 8TH ST NE
\$375,000.00	311 N JUNE AVE
\$360,000.00	120 N JOSEPH AVE
\$355,000.00	311 E LOCUST ST
\$350,000.00	43 N KELLER AVE
\$335,000.00	1061 S LYLE AVE
\$332,000.00	1090 S NEW OAK LN
\$330,000.00	1051 N BAKER AVE
\$312,000.00	1807 GLEN ST NE
\$305,000.00	1115 S NEWBERRY LN
\$304,900.00	1099 S NEW OAK LN
\$304,900.00	1111 S NEW OAK LN
\$300,000.00	1125 N DEVON AVE
\$300,000.00	1101 S NEWBERRY LN
\$299,000.00	225 ROCK ISLAND RD
\$275,000.00	445 W ENTIAT DR
\$270,000.00	667 4TH ST NE #L-102
\$245,000.00	667 4TH ST NE #L-302

TOP PROPERTIES – CHELAN COUNTY December 2021 – continued from page 14

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City
CLIFTON ANGLE LAKE LLC	BROWNLEE ERIC C & NICHOLE M	\$499,900	2107 5TH ST	WENATCHEE
ZEVELY GREGORY R & ALEXANDRA C	HARRIS ORCHARD CO L P	\$471,000	UNASSIGNED	ENTIAT
SMELTZER NATHANIEL D & KATHRYN M	BORTH KATRINA	\$465,000	615 MARIAN AVE	WENATCHEE
KORR LLC	BRAY BLAKE & ASHLEY	\$459,000	203 BLUEBELL CT	CHELAN
CALVILLO FELIPE C & QUIROZ MARIA G	GETTMAN DANNY	\$454,000	1208 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE
COOK JAIMEE & COOK KRISTINA	MAXWELL PROPERTIES LLC	\$450,000	404 S CHELAN AVE	WENATCHEE
GARIANO ERIN ETAL	BREMMER DAVID F	\$449,900	98 SARATOGA LN	MALAGA
BODELL PATRICK E & MABEL A	STARR GRETCHEN S	\$445,000	1413 SOMERSET DR	WENATCHEE
NUMBER TWO CANYON LLC	CUSICK SANDRA J	\$445,000	1998 NUMBER 2 CANYON RD	WENATCHEE
LORANG JOHN	CEDAR STREET HOUSE LLC	\$442,000	621 N CEDAR ST	CHELAN
DUKE ASHLEY	MADER PAULA	\$440,000	507 CEDAR WOOD LN	WENATCHEE
HIRSCHEL LELAND O & KATHERINE C	BAUGHER MICHELLE & RONALD	\$440,000	1422 MILLERDALE AVE	WENATCHEE
FRAZIER JOSEPH	PEARSON KARL A & JUDY A	\$439,000	505 CASTLEWOOD PL	WENATCHEE
THOMPSON DREW A & KAYLEE D	MARDEN JUSTIN T & KATHERINE	\$435,000	5820 SUNSET HWY	CASHMERE
INDEPENDENT WAREHOUSE INC	RODUNER DONNA M	\$430,000	8535 MAIN ST	DRYDEN
FOERSTER BLAIR J & SARAH K	COVEY REX N	\$427,000	611 KING ST	WENATCHEE
MC CABE ERIN	DUFFY NAILA B & ZACHARY J MENDENHALL	\$425,000	123 N FRANKLIN AVE	WENATCHEE
BAIS ROLAND & SHAWNA	BG&T INVESTMENTS LLC	\$400,000	608 S WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE
DENNISON ETHAN & JULIA	MENLEY MICHAEL A & KRISTINA L	\$400,000	921 WALKER AVE	WENATCHEE
HOMER PAUL & MARIANNA	DAVIS JACK & SHEILA	\$400,000	148 SHYPOKE PL	ENTIAT
NEUKOM SAMUEL D	LANNING MICHAEL	\$400,000	8709 SCHOOL ST	DRYDEN
YAPLE BRAD & OPPEN AMY	FAUGHNAN SIMON M & MELISSA L	\$400,000	392 MARGAUX LOOP	MALAGA
CHANG TYLER	SOULE ALISA M	\$399,000	339 METHOW ST	WENATCHEE
SALLAS JESTIN F & CHASITY F	SMIDDY JON M & MELANIE F	\$385,000	1122 LINWOOD AVE	WENATCHEE
AHSMANN CLAUDIA N & KEELER KYLE T	GOLDY DALE S	\$384,900	1007 DARTMOUTH AVE	WENATCHEE
CLARKE JAMES R & TAUNYA M	MC CORVEY WANDELL&LAUREL	\$380,000	18586 HAZEL LN	PLAIN
GARCIA FERNANDO & SANCHEZ LESLIE	DAWES RALPH L	\$380,000	1309 3RD ST	WENATCHEE
BAUMANN CHARLES	WEBB CHANTZ M & VALLERIE	\$375,000	806 KITTITAS ST	WENATCHEE
GIBBONS ROGER N & PIERIDES MARIA	PRONGHORN LLC	\$375,000	322 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN
ANDRIST JEREMY & AGA NATALIE	SHULL DEL	\$370,000	139 MOUNTAIN RIDGE LN	CHELAN
ANDERSON FAMILY TRUST	MOXLEY FAMILY LLC	\$365,000	216 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE
HIATT JOYCE A	LAUVE RANDALL	\$365,000	1238 HILL ST	WENATCHEE
AMADOR GABRIELA	LA FRENIERE RONALD E	\$360,000	1036 FULLER ST	WENATCHEE
BECKER RANDY R SR & KAREN E	MONTES CONSTANTINO G	\$355,000	860 SR 150	MANSON
CLYMENS JEFFERY	AGUIGUI AMY D	\$355,000	400 SUNNYSLOPE HEIGHTS RD	WENATCHEE
WARFIELD THOMAS JS III & KAREN L	SELECT HOMES INC	\$355,000	324 APPLE AVE	CHELAN
BICKFORD MONROE L & DIANA J	ESTES E DIANNA	\$350,000	UNASSIGNED	MALAGA
MCGLAULFIN MICHAEL L	SCHWALM CHRISTOPHER C	\$350,000	19011 GILL CREEK RD	LAKE WENATCHEE
DAUGHERTY JARED & JENSEN ELISHA	DAVIDSON MARIAN	\$345,000	UNASSIGNED	LEAVENWORTH
GILKISON DON & FAYE	BELL TRACY G	\$340,000	1310 CASTLEROCK AVE	WENATCHEE
DASHNAW MARK A & ASHLE B	LEE MELISSA L & CEANN C	\$335,500	604 KITTITAS ST	WENATCHEE
CARROLL DENNY	MC DONALD DANNY & PENNY	\$332,400	4248 PENDLETON CT	MALAGA
JORDAN CODY ETAL	TILEY MARGARET A	\$330,000	3432 SHELBY CT	WENATCHEE
KNIERY RYAN S & HANNAH A	MORROW LINDA	\$326,500	2885 SIERRA BLVD	MALAGA
GARCIA FARIAS ERICK I	VARGAS VITALINA F	\$320,000	133 E ALLEN AVE	CHELAN
MULHALL TY G	HOUGHTON FRANCES L	\$320,000	1431 2ND ST	WENATCHEE
PRATT WILLIAM D	KITTERMAN EVELYN A TRUST	\$320,000	118 WHITE BIRCH PL	CASHMERE
MTNS LLC	TAYLOR ORCHARDS LLC	\$315,000	15008 ALLISON PL	ENTIAT
LOPEZ OLGUIN PAUL R & ALVAREZ SANCHEZ ANA P	GOFF TRACY D	\$311,000	1311 9TH ST	WENATCHEE
MARTINEZ SALVADOR	MCGILL DEBRA	\$308,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE
CANTU MARIO & ELIZABETH	HANSEN BILLY D	\$305,000	220 PENNY RD	WENATCHEE
BASTIDAS MONTERO JESUS A & MATA SANTANA LISSETH C	CARTER ASHLEY R & MELISSA	\$302,400	920 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE
NICOLAS FAITH K	NICOLAS JOSEPH & BRANDY	\$300,000	114 OAK ST	CASHMERE
PHELPS DON & JUDY	KUHLMAN DAVID	\$300,000	1200 WASHINGTON ST	MANSON
CORULLI EDWARD A	MILNER SCOTT	\$299,900	415 S CHELAN AVE	WENATCHEE
HAMILTON ROBERT & MICHELLE ETAL	CHELAN LOOKOUT LLLP	\$296,000	1412 COTTAGE LN	CHELAN
BEVAN KEARY P R & ERMIZINA MARIA	GBS LAKE HILLS LLC	\$290,000	849 LONG DR	CHELAN
BHARADWAJ SIDDHARTH & MAHAPATRA KABITA	CHELAN LOOKOUT LLLP	\$290,000	1414 COTTAGE LN	CHELAN
DOTSON BENJAMIN & FARRAH L	STOLLER STEVEN G	\$290,000	UNASSIGNED	CASHMERE
BROADSWORD MIKE & MAURYA	MC DONALD GARALD E	\$285,000	15294 LAKEVIEW ST	ENTIAT
GARCIA ALEJANDRO & KAYLEE M	BROWN ROBERT D & BETH A	\$285,000	416 ELBERTA AVE	CASHMERE
GIBBS MATTHEW & JESSICA	LAYMANCE BARBARA E	\$275,000	3311 US HWY 97	PESHASTIN
CROSS CREEK FARM LLC	GALLOWAY JOHNNY J TRUST	\$270,000	715 S WESTERN AVE	WENATCHEE
ASHLEY ANGELA E & AEMMER TIMOTHY	FRYER LEWIS	\$265,000	13100 ENTIAT RIVER RD	ENTIAT
LAITALA LEAH M	DODSON KEVIN M	\$265,000	305 N DELAWARE AVE	WENATCHEE
MADRIGAL MENDOZA CARLOS & CARDENAS NUÑEZ MARIA	EHRENBERG WAYNE C	\$265,000	1310 MONITOR AVE	WENATCHEE
HENWOOD JAY & KIMARIE	PELLEY DON W	\$250,000	325 DIVISION ST	LEAVENWORTH
DE CARLO LINDA	GBS LAKE HILLS LLC	\$247,000	113 BIRDIE DR	CHELAN
KAEGEBEIN TERRY & KARA	COLLINS JOE M	\$245,000	7395 RIDGEVIEW DR	CHELAN
WILLIAMS KENNETH C & ESMEE A	KWON ALEX	\$242,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE
JOHN ANGELINA	ZIMMERMAN CHARLES A & SUSAN V	\$240,000	3019 MEMORY LN	LAKE WENATCHEE
WESTOVER GEORGE B & LISA W	JONES TOD R	\$240,000	11155 S LAKESHORE RD	CHELAN
HINCH NICHOLAS	PEDERSON CARL A	\$232,000	407 OREGON ST	WENATCHEE
SANCHEZ RAFAEL & OYOS BIANEY ETAL	COX LANNIE H	\$225,000	801 EMERALD AVE	CASHMERE

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS December 2021 – continued from page 14

RESIDENTIAL

Original Price	Street
\$195,000.00	7 HAMILTON ST
\$195,000.00	1338 N ASHLAND AVE
\$193,000.00	306 S FRANKLIN AVE
\$180,000.00	605 2ND ST SW
\$150,083.00	201 N NILE AVE
\$105,000.00	1099 S NEW OAK LN
\$105,000.00	1111 S NEW OAK LN
\$105,000.00	1090 S NEW OAK LN
\$105,000.00	1101 S NEWBERRY LN
\$105,000.00	1115 S NEWBERRY LN
\$100,000.00	2169 BLACK ROCK RD
\$100,000.00	627 SR 173
\$85,000.00	220 CENTRAL ST
\$55,000.00	215 COLUMBIA AVE
\$15,000.00	210 FAIRVIEW AVE
\$7,000.00	929 MAPLE ST SP 163

YP in Wenatchee: Agriculture and Economy at Faire Le Pont Winery

For the first time ever, YP is coming to Wenatchee! On February 24th from 2-4pm, join us at the beautiful Faire Le Pont Winery to discuss local economic, environmental, and agricultural issues. This event will feature two Washington Policy Center researchers, Todd Myers and Pam Lewison, as well as local pear orchardist and agricultural consultant Ray Schmitten. Light appetizers and wine will be served.

Pam Lewison is the Director for the Washington Policy Center Initiative on Agriculture and is based in the Tri-Cities office. She farms in Eastern Washington and is a tireless advocate for agriculture both in Washington state and around the country.



Pam Lewison

Before entering the public policy world, Pam spent nearly a decade as a journalist in the Northwest and got her feet wet as the coordination clerk for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program. She holds a Master of Science from Texas A&M University (Gig ‘em!) and a Bachelor of Arts from Washington State University (Go Cougs!).

When she is not in the office, you can find her helping with irrigation and other work on her family farm, shuttling kids to 4-H meetings, or working as the superintendent for the agriculture building at the Grant County Fair.

Todd Myers is the Director of the Center for the Environment at Washington Policy Center. With nearly two decades in environmental policy, Todd’s experience includes work on a range of environmental issues, including spotted owl habitat, energy policy, old-growth forests and salmon recovery. Currently, he serves as a member of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council and was a member of the executive team at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.



Todd Myers

Todd is a nationally recognized expert in free-market environmental policy, including issues ranging from energy, climate, forestry and salmon-recovery. He has appeared before the Canadian Parliament, provided Congressional briefings, and worked with legislators from several states and provinces. His writing has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the BBC, National Review, Seattle Times, USA Today, and he has appeared on numerous news networks including CNBC, Fox News, and CNN.

A former computer programmer, Todd has a bachelor’s degree in Politics from Whitman College and a master’s degree in Russian/International Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. He and his wife Maria live in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Washington state with 100,000 honeybees.

Ray Schmitten is an orchardist in the Wenatchee River Valley of Washington state. Ray grew up in Cashmere, WA, where his family homesteaded – including a sawmill and logging operation – in 1902. After graduating from WSU in 1985 with a degree in Tree Fruit Production and Agriculture

TOP PROPERTIES DOUGLAS December 2021

COMMERCIAL

Grantor	Grantee	Sale Price	Street	Business Name
PRAZER HOLDINGS LLC	KC INTERNATIONAL LLC	\$2,440,000	349 URBAN INDUSTRIAL WAY	
ABRE LLC	ABBY'S RE LLC	\$1,000,000	702 GRANT RD	ABBYS PIZZA
THOMASON & TRADUP HOLDINGS LLC	RTZ LLC	\$750,000	3741 AIRPORT WAY	AIR METAL FABRICATORS
DB WENATCHEE LLC	TKCI LLC	\$535,000	685 GRANT RD	DUTCH BROS
JC-CREW LLC OF WASHINGTON	A3 ENTERPRISES LLC	\$525,000	1300 SUNSET HWY	HILDEBRANT SIGNS
WILSON, EARL L	BERSENADZE & DAVID	\$265,000	859 VALLEY MALL PKWY	MOOSE LODGE
109 SO CHELAN LLC	HERITAGE INVESTMENTS OF WENATCHEE LLC	\$150,000	109 S CHELAN AVE	HARRISON'S PARTS

FARM

Grantor	Grantee	Sale Price	Street
P & F HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$13,703,882	
BRIZENDINE, ADAM G & JENNIFER L	PROCK &, TAMI J	\$1,350,000	31 SAGELAND RD
LE RAY, ROGER & CAROL	FORTUITY LLC	\$1,250,000	28 LERAY RANCH RD
DJ CUSTOM HOMES INC	CHAMBERS, ROBERT T & CHERYL A	\$767,000	2660 PATRIOT WAY SE
WILLETT, DAVID & LAURIE	CLOUGH &, RANDALL A	\$395,000	169 BANKS LAKE VIEW RD
P & F HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$319,948	
P & F HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$318,380	
P & F HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$317,203	
BRIZENDINE, ADAM	PROCK &, TAMI J	\$300,000	37 SAGELAND RD
HALE, SARAH E & BILLY D	CHRISTENSEN, SAVANNAH JOY	\$300,000	
HARDWAY HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$253,303	
HARDWAY HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$250,558	
LEGACY LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$235,920	4020 10TH ST NE
LEGACY LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$235,920	4020 10TH ST NE
LEGACY LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$235,920	4020 10TH ST NE
HARDWAY HOLDINGS LLC	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	\$220,366	
MCCALL, PATRICK N & JULIE A	WARNER, RAYMOND L & JEANINE M	\$220,000	US 97
SAFLEY, NEAL & SARAH	BREMMER CONSTRUCTION INC &	\$161,370	102 S VALIANT DR
HALE, SARAH E & BILLY D	NILES, EMILY & TYSON	\$155,000	
HALE, SARAH E & BILLY D	HOOD REVOCABLE TRUST	\$94,000	
RICE FAMILY ENTERPRISES LLC	FROTHINGHAM, ANN VA & DONALD M	\$92,000	
HALE, SARAH ELIZABETH ROSE & BILLY DANE JR	BARAJAS VERDUZCO, ALMA ESTHER	\$80,000	
HUNT, RODNEY G & JULIE A	DORSEY, DEAN A	\$45,000	
HALE, SARAH E & BILLY D	CHRISTENSEN, SAVANNAH JOY	\$30,000	

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

TOP PROPERTIES - CHELAN COUNTY December 2021 - continued from page 15

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City
LOGAN MATTHEW & MICHELLE L	SMITH STEPHEN A & AUDREY E	\$222,600	218 WEST ST	LEAVENWORTH
ORONDO ORCHARD LLC	RINKER CHARB	\$213,000	525 ORONDO AVE	WENATCHEE
CORNELIO NOEL & SANDRA	HASTINGS ANDREW	\$211,000	406 N FRANKLIN AVE	WENATCHEE
DION MARINA & OBERFELDER SPENCER F	DION JAMES & JERRI	\$210,000	1649 HOWARD FLATS RD	CHELAN
MORRIS STEPHEN T & BECKY S	VEREB CARI L	\$207,500	220 ANTLES AVE	WENATCHEE
MARTINEZ SALVADOR R	CHANDLER SHARON	\$205,000	116 CHANDRIN LN	MALAGA
LARSEN AIDAN J	ESTATE OF KING JAN A	\$200,000	407 OREGON ST	WENATCHEE
SCOTT LOWELL A	IRLE TRADITIONAL HOMES LLC	\$200,000	106 PARKHILL ST	CASHMERE
SMITH JAMES D	WILLIAMS ROBERT L	\$200,000	1111 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE
THRASHER BETHANY & MARK	RAMAKER BRENT S	\$200,000	8090 TILLY LN	WENATCHEE
BETZING JOHN & PATRCIA	EVANS RONALD W	\$187,648	1126 8TH ST	WENATCHEE
R & M BUILDERS LLC	KAHLER GLEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	\$185,000	20705 MIRACLE MILE	LAKE WENATCHEE
DESKIN FRED ETAL	CAMPBELL JULIE ETAL	\$178,000	13176 ENTIAT RIVER RD	ENTIAT
NEMETH MICHELLE D & ROBERT L	GBS LAKE HILLS LLC	\$175,000	100 BIRDIE DR	CHELAN
WIGGS JOSEPH D & JENNIFER A	COLWELL STEVE	\$174,325	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE
RTZ LLC	RICH & PATTI LLC	\$173,512	2131 N WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE
COREY BRADEN	NIEBUHR CARL V	\$169,000	UNASSIGNED	PESHASTIN
MUSILEK DARALYN E & KYLE	SAYLER CRAIG	\$162,500	1907 CASTLEROCK AVE	WENATCHEE
FIRST ORCHARD LLC	HUBBARD DUANE INC	\$150,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON
JONES LAURA R	RIEDLINGER JEFFREY & COLLEEN	\$150,000	1601 FAIRVIEW AVE	WENATCHEE
DREHER JOHN & KRESA	SUNSET MARINA LLC	\$134,950	W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN
BOLLINGER AMBER	CRAIN ALAN K	\$126,000	6299 ALDER CT	WENATCHEE
MIRANDA RICARDO & SPRING N	DSJS LAND LLC	\$95,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN
DUFFY WILLIAM J & JILL M	SUNSET MARINA LLC	\$93,950	W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN
ESPINOZA NICOLE & MIGUEL	SPRINGWATER DEVELOPERS LLC	\$89,985	986 SPRING MOUNTAIN DR	WENATCHEE
BURNEY SANDRA G	POIRIER DONALD & JEANNE	\$85,000	9999 OLALLA CANYON RD	CASHMERE
DAY LARRY & ANITA	SUNSET MARINA LLC	\$85,000	W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN
A & G BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION LLC	NORTON RAMONA M	\$80,000	332 ROOSEVELT AVE	WENATCHEE
MACINTYRE KATHRYN E	FOSTER DONALD	\$80,000	1133 FOOTHILLS LN	WENATCHEE
WOOD JOCELYN & KELLY	VISTA ROCK PROPERTIES LLC	\$79,000	UNASSIGNED	ENTIAT
DICKINSON KAREN M ETAL	BRIXEY ANDREA D & CHRISTOPHER H	\$75,000	38 BRUCE LN	LAKE WENATCHEE
VALLADARES ADRIANA	ELLER JOANN ETAL	\$75,000	JAGLA RD	WENATCHEE
CLARK FAMILY TRUST	CLARK LEWIS & MARIBETH	\$72,428	W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN
ROBB KATHLEEN L	HERRING NORMA J	\$51,000	919 CRAWFORD AVE	WENATCHEE
ROSER MIKE & CLARA	CORTEZ ANTHONY & JANICE	\$50,000	W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN
ESPINOZA NICOLE & MIGUEL	PINE SHADOW LAND CO LLC	\$40,015	986 SPRING MOUNTAIN DR	WENATCHEE
NOYES GARY E	CITY OF WENATCHEE	\$37,200	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE
DRAIN ANDREW & KELSEE	WHEELER DIANNA & ROLAND	\$25,000	2017 MAPLE ST	WENATCHEE
RILEY SHAWN P & TAMMY L	ROSSNAGLE JOHN & MOIYA	\$25,000	UNASSIGNED	LEAVENWORTH
SOPERANEZ RENE & SANDRA E LOPEZ GONZALEZ	HOFSTETTER ETTA	\$23,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE
KENOYER KEVIN	MISSION CANAL COMPANY	\$10,500	UNASSIGNED	CASHMERE
RAMIREZ MARTIN & FLORES MARCO A	FICKER KEN & ELLEN	\$4,600	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE
DIBBLE WAYNE	LEHDE RALPH R	\$3,500	103 N PARK & WOODIN AVE	CHELAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

YP in Wenatchee

Economics, Ray went on to work as an agricultural consultant on apples, pears, and cherries for various growers and fruit packing operations throughout the state.

He and his wife Trish have raised 4 boys on their family farm in Dryden. He and Trish have been active in many start-up businesses together, including fruit packing-operations, a recreational snowcat skiing business, a laundromat, and commercial greenhouses.

Ray's heart is anchored in Agriculture and his sons represent the 5th generation of the Schmitt family making a living on the same Wenatchee River watershed. He currently farms 90 acres of pears with his son, Mike. He is the Director for Ag Services for Washington's largest pear-packing cooperative, Blue Star Growers, in Cashmere. He enjoys his industry advisory rolls in pear marketing and promotion at the Pear Bureau Northwest and the PNW Pear Research Committee.



Ray Schmitt

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Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – November 2021

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 2020 and November 2021) and average annual data changes (between 2019 and 2020).

Unemployment rates

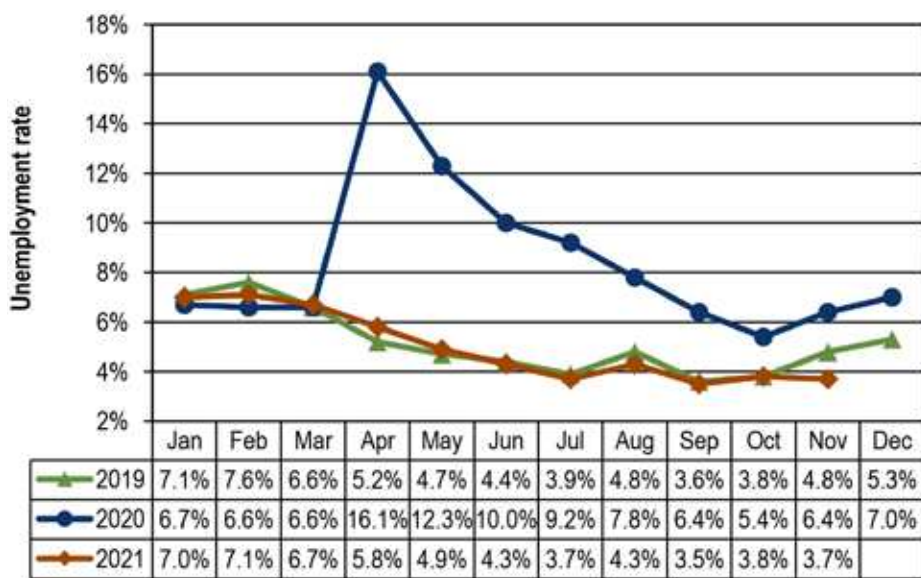
Civilian Labor Force (CLF) data show that Washington's not seasonally adjusted average annual unemployment rate soared from 4.1 percent in 2019 to 8.4 percent in

2020. Between November 2020 and November 2021, the rate fell from 6.5 to 3.4 percent, a three and one-tenths percentage points downturn.

In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate rose from 5.1 percent to 8.4 percent between 2019 and 2020. However, unemployment rates have declined dramatically from April through November 2021.

The present 3.7 percent reading is the lowest rate for the month of November in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) since data began to be recorded electronically in 1990.

Wenatchee MSA unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, January 2019 through November 2021. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate fell by two and seven-tenths percentage points between November 2020 and November 2021.

Total nonfarm employment

The Wenatchee MSA's economy lost 2,900 jobs during 2020, a -6.2 percent downturn, higher than Washington's -5.3 percent loss rate between 2019 and 2020. Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market also contracted for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) prior to employment increases from April through November 2021.

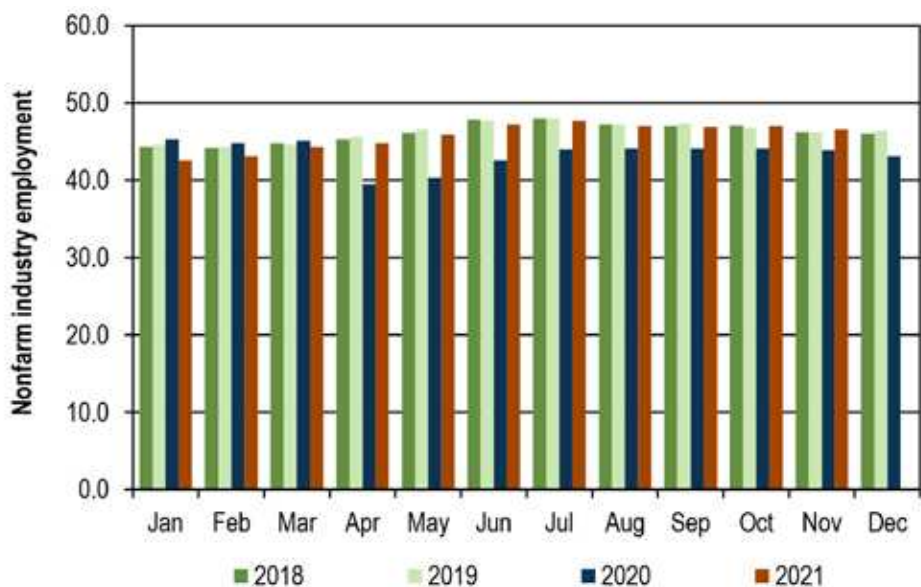
This November, total nonfarm employment netted 2,700 more jobs (up 6.2

percent) than the 43,900 jobs tallied in November 2020.

In aggregate, the local economy appears to be on its way to recovering the number of jobs lost during last year's COVID-19 related layoffs.

Specifically, total nonfarm employment in the two-county MSA this November (46,600 jobs) was 400 jobs and 0.9 percent greater than the 46,200 jobs provided in November 2019 (two years ago).

Wenatchee MSA nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted, in thousands Washington state, January 2018 through November 2021. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA increased by 6.2 percent between November 2020 and November 2021.



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 2021. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES)

	Preliminary Nov-21	Revised Oct-21	Revised Nov-20	Change		Percent change
				Oct-21 Nov-21	Nov-20 Nov-21	Nov-20 Nov-21
Wenatchee MSA						
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	62,845	65,265	61,775	-2,420	1,070	1.7%
Resident employment	60,535	62,814	57,829	-2,279	2,706	4.7%
Unemployment	2,310	2,451	3,946	-141	-1,636	-41.5%
Unemployment rate	3.7	3.8	6.4	-0.1	-2.7	
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	46.6	47.0	43.9	-0.4	2.7	6.2%
Total private	37.7	38.1	35.3	-0.4	2.4	6.8%
Goods producing	5.7	5.6	5.5	-0.1	0.2	3.6%
Mining, logging and construction	3.2	3.3	3.0	-0.1	0.2	6.7%
Manufacturing	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Service providing	40.9	41.2	38.4	-0.3	2.5	6.5%
Private services providing	32.0	32.3	29.8	-0.3	2.2	7.4%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	9.8	9.4	10.1	0.4	-0.3	-3.0%
Retail trade	6.6	6.5	6.6	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Education and health services	7.9	8.0	7.8	-0.1	0.1	1.3%
Leisure and hospitality	6.6	6.7	5.3	-0.1	1.3	24.5%
Government	8.9	8.9	8.6	0.0	0.3	3.5%
Federal government	0.8	0.9	0.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
State government	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Local government	6.9	6.9	6.6	0.0	0.3	4.5%
Workers in labor/management disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

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 46,600 jobs in November 2021, a gain of 2,700 jobs since November 2020.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) edged upwards by 5,550 residents (a marginal 0.1 percent upturn) from 2019 to 2020. But virtually all this expansion occurred from January through May 2020. COVID-19 pressures then caused Washington's labor force to shrink, year over year, from June 2020 through May 2021 (apart from a slight, 0.9 percent upturn between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020).

The CLF then posted year over year growth from June through September 2021, dipped by -0.9 percent in October 2021, but rebounded at a 2.0 percent clip this November. Specifically, Washington's labor force grew by 77,711 residents (up 2.0 percent), from 3,857,075 residents in November 2020 to 3,934,786 in November 2021. The Wenatchee MSA's CLF shrank from 66,981 residents in 2019 to 65,471 in 2020, a -2.3 percent downturn. However, year over year the Wenatchee MSA's labor force has expanded in five of the past six months (June through November 2021) – good economic news. Only between October 2020 (65,889 residents) and October 2021 (65,265 residents) did

the CLF dip by -0.9 percent. Recently, between November 2020 (61,775 residents) and November 2021 (62,845 residents) the civilian labor force bounced back with a 1.7 percent upturn.

Also, the resident employment growth pace was and even more robust 4.7 percent between the Novembers of 2020 and 2021 (up by 2,706 residents) indicating that some residents either commuted or teleworked to jobs outside of Chelan or Douglas counties. Finally, the number of unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA plunged from 3,946 in November 2020 to 2,310 in November 2021, a -41.5 percent decrease. In effect, the 1.7 percent expansion in the CLF and the -41.5 percent drop in the number of residents unemployed combined to lower the Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate from 6.4 percent in November 2020 to 3.7 percent in November 2021.

The downside when analyzing Civilian Labor Force (CLF) trends in Wenatchee MSA is that the CLF this November (62,845 residents) shrank by 2,243 residents (-3.4 percent) compared to two years ago, in November 2019 (65,088 residents). Hence, the local economy is "not out of the woods yet."

Nonfarm industry employment

Between November 2020 and November 2021, total nonfarm employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA) increased from 43,900 to 46,600 jobs, a 2,700 job and 6.2 percent upturn. 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 eight months (April through November 2021). Washington's nonfarm market also contracted from April 2020 through March 2021 and posted year over year employment upturns from April through November 2021.

However, job growth rates in the Wenatchee MSA from April through November 2021 have been a bit faster than job growth rates, for corresponding months, across Washington – an encouraging local economic indicator.

Summaries of employment changes/trends between November 2020 and November 2021 for three local industries (construction, retail trade and leisure and hospitality) are provided as follows:

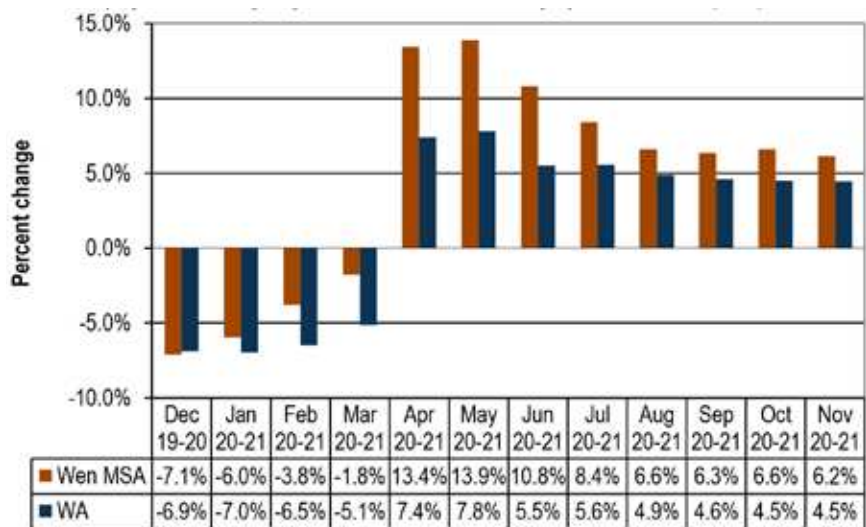
◆ In the mining, logging and construction category, most jobs are in "construction." Year over year, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's construction industry has expanded from January through November

2021. This November, construction provided approximately 3,200 jobs in the MSA, a 200 job and 6.7 percent upturn from the 3,000 tallied in November 2020.

A glimpse at the number of closed sales of single-family homes or condominiums in November 2020 versus November 2021 in the Wenatchee market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo and Rock Island, WA), from the November 2021 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates, shows that the number of sales in the Wenatchee market year to date (YTD) slipped by -2.8 percent. Specifically, from January through November 2020, there were 990 closed sales in the Wenatchee market. This ebbed to 962 closed sales in the first eleven months of 2021, down by 28 sales and -2.8 percent. However, the number of active listings has increased, from 60 listings in November 2020 to 74 in November 2021 (up by 14 listings and 23.3 percent). Also, home prices in the Wenatchee market have been escalating.

The Real Estate Snapshot newsletter stated that the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee market soared from approximately \$370,000 YTD in Novem-

Wenatchee MSA and Washington state total nonfarm employment changes Washington state, June 2019 through November 2021. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has expanded during each of the past eight months (April through November 2021). Washington's nonfarm labor market also expanded from April through November 2021, but at growth-rates slightly less robust than those in the Wenatchee MSA.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

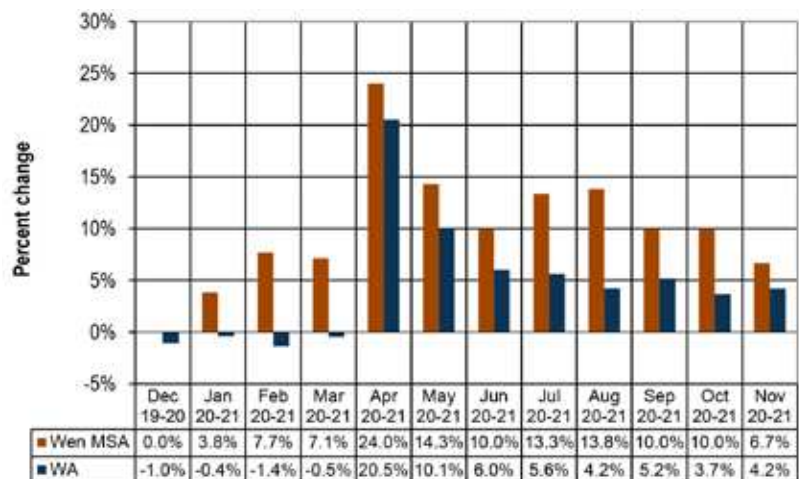
ber 2020 to \$437,000 YTD this November, a jump of 18.1 percent. Across Washington, construction employment retrenched for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) before increasing monthly from April through November 2021

◆ Year over year, retail trade employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded from January to October 2021 before stabilizing in November 2021. The retail trade sector is comprised of the following subsectors: motor vehicle and parts dealers, furniture and home furnishing stores, building material and garden supply stores, food and beverage stores, health and personal care stores, clothing and clothing accessories stores, general merchandise stores, and other retail trade businesses (i.e., internet shopping). In aggregate, between November 2020 and November 2021, the number of part- and full-time jobs in the Wenatchee MSA's retail trade sector stabilized at 6,600 jobs. Across Washington state, retail trade employment rose in each of the 14 months from September 2020 through October 2021 before backsliding by -0.4 percent this November. Specifically, the state's retail sector slackened from 408,400 jobs in November 2020 to 406,800 in November 2021, a 1,600 job and -0.4 percent abatement. Of all major retail trade subsectors in Washington state, two subsectors accounted for most of the job losses in November 2021 versus November 2020. Other retail trade (which includes online shopping businesses) netted 2,400 fewer retail jobs this November than in November 2020 and building material and garden supply stores contracted by 2,100 jobs during this period. Conversely, general merchandise stores provided 2,600 more part- and full-time jobs in November 2021 than in November 2020.

◆ 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

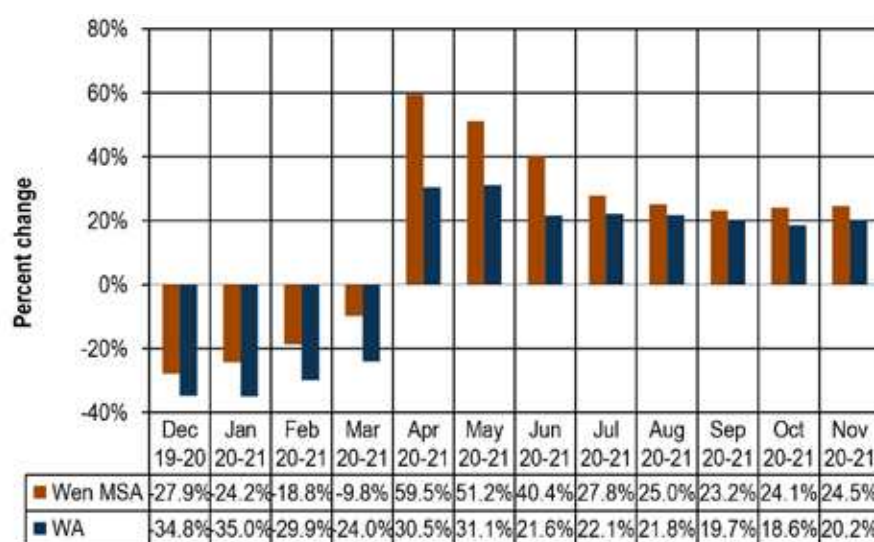
in 2020 across the MSA, 1,600 jobs, or 55.2 percent, were in the leisure and hospitality sector. Employment in the Wenatchee MSA's leisure and hospitality industry retrenched for 13 months (March 2020 through March 2021) before expanding in each of the past eight months (April through November 2021). Between November 2020 and November 2021, leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation services) added 1,300 jobs across the MSA, a lively 24.5 percent upturn, as employment revived from 5,300 jobs to 6,600. In fact, between November 2020 and November 2021 leisure and hospitality businesses added more jobs to the Wenatchee MSA nonfarm economy than any other major industry, accounting for 48.1 percent of total nonfarm growth during this timeframe. Herein lies another piece of upbeat news for this tourism-dependent industry: leisure and hospitality employment in November 2021 (6,600 jobs) was up 100 jobs and 1.5 percent from the 6,500 jobs provided in November 2019 (two years ago). This is an indicator that this industry is back to providing approximately the same number of jobs as in the pre-COVID days of 2019. Employment in Washington state's leisure and hospitality industry retrenched for 13 months (March 2020 through March 2021) before also posting year-over-year job gains from April through November 2021. Statewide, leisure and hospitality employment elevated by 20.2 percent between the Novembers of 2020 and 2021 with arts, entertainment and recreation businesses (i.e., fitness centers, golf courses, casinos, museums, etc.) within this leisure and hospitality sector rising by 29.3 percent, from 32,400 jobs in November of last year to 41,900 in November 2021. Conversely, food services and drinking places across Washington (within the leisure and hospitality sector) increased at a respectable, but relatively less robust, 18.8 percent pace, from 219,300 jobs in November 2020 to 260,600 in November 2021.

Wenatchee MSA and Washington construction employment changes Washington state, December 2019 through November 2021 Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; Current Employment Statistics (CES). Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



Year over year, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's construction industry has expanded from January through November 2021. Statewide, construction employment has been rising from April through November 2021, but at less robust growth rates than in the Wenatchee MSA.

Wenatchee MSA and Washington state leisure and hospitality employment changes Washington state, July 2019 through November 2021. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Year over year, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's construction industry has expanded from January through November 2021. Statewide, construction employment has been rising from April through November 2021, but at less robust growth rates than in the Wenatchee MSA.

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. An analysis of industry employment changes from 2010 through 2020 shows that in Chelan County:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 38,179 in 2010 to 40,871 in 2020, a 2,692 job and 7.1 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 0.7 percent. However, agricultural employment (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 8,983 jobs in 2009 to 8,708 in 2020, a 275 job and -3.1 percent downtrend with an annualized loss rate of -0.3 percent. In 2010, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 23.5 percent of total covered employment; but ten years later in 2020, this industry provided only 21.3 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of total covered employment fell by two and two-tenths percentage points (from 23.5 to 21.3 percent) in Chelan County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$1.23 billion (in 2010) to \$1.88 billion (in 2020), a \$649.5 million and 52.6 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 4.3 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$171.8 million in 2010 to \$279.1 million in 2020, an \$107.3 million and 62.5 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 5.0 percent. In 2010, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 13.9 percent of total covered wages, and by 2020, agricultural wages tallied 14.8 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of total nonfarm payroll advanced a marginal nine-tenths of a percentage point (from 13.9 to 14.8 percent) during this timeframe. Hence, the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered payroll) showed a marginal upturn, whereas agricultural employment trends showed that the agricultural industry has become less influential in Chelan County's economy (when comparing the agriculture/total covered employment ratios in 2010 and in 2020). Certainly, agriculture is still a seasonal industry in Chelan County, but anecdotal evidence indicates that more agricultural workers are being hired into full-time year-round positions (with relatively fewer hires into part-time/seasonal positions); plus, automation

in the picking, packing, and sorting of fresh fruit and vegetables appears to have reduced the need for labor. These are two apparent reasons why the agricultural share of total covered employment receded during this most recent ten-year period (see previous paragraph) while the agricultural share of total covered wages/payroll edged upwards.

For Douglas County, an analysis of industry employment changes from 2010 through 2020 shows that:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 10,823 in 2010 to 11,875 in 2020, a 1,052 job and 9.7 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 0.9 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 3,038 in 2010 to 2,690 in 2020, a 348 job and -11.5 percent downturn with an annualized loss rate of -1.2 percent. In 2010, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 28.1 percent of total covered employment. In 2020, agricultural employment accounted for only 22.7 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of employment contracted by five and four-tenths percentage points (from 28.1 to 22.7 percent) in Douglas County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$312.9 million in 2010 to \$502.4 million in 2020, a \$189.5 million and 60.6 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 4.8 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$51.7 million in 2010 to \$80.6 million in 2020, a \$28.9 million and 55.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 4.5 percent. In 2010, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 16.5 percent of total covered wages, and by 2020, agricultural wages tallied 16.0 percent of total covered payroll. Hence, the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered payroll) showed only a negligible five-tenths percentage point dip whereas agricultural employment trends showed that the agricultural industry has become considerably less influential in Douglas County's economy (see previous paragraph) when comparing the agriculture/total covered employment ratios in 2010 and in 2020. Certainly, agriculture is still a seasonal industry in Douglas County, but anecdotal evidence indicates that more agricultural workers are being hired into full-time year-round positions (with relatively fewer hires into part-time/seasonal positions); plus, automation

Web link to Monthly Employment Report (MER) for Washington state
<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

Studies show extent of strain to Washington's food access and food production systems due to COVID-19



Submitted by Hector Castro

OLYMPIA – Two studies commissioned by the Washington State Department of Agriculture <<http://www.agr.wa.gov>> (WSDA) released in January explores how the COVID-19 pandemic affected access to food in Washington, in the areas of both food production and food assistance, and how the state can learn from the pandemic and take advantage of new opportunities.

The two studies, also available on the WSDA website <<https://agr.wa.gov/about-wsda/focus-on-food>>, are:

“The State of the Washington State Food System During COVID-19: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead <<https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/DO/Communications/WAFS-FinalReport.pdf>>,” authored by researchers with the University of Washington who synthesized several rich datasets and surveys that were collected throughout Washington about the state food system during the pandemic.

“Assessing WA Food System Through an Equity Lens: Bridging the Gap Through a Culturally Relevant Approach <<https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/DO/Communications/WSUFood-SystemsReport-Final-Acc.pdf>>,” conducted by an informal BIPOC leadership team that was assembled in collaboration with the Washington State University Food Systems Program.

Researchers involved in both studies reviewed existing sources, case studies, and conducted interviews.

Both teams also examined how communities made up of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) fared during the pandemic.

“We have known that the COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for food producers and those involved in food access, but we wanted to better understand the extent of the impact, and also where there was imbalance,” WSDA director Derek Sandison said.

“These studies make it clear that, although many people and organizations have worked diligently for years on hunger relief, there is still work to be done to bring resilience and equity to all aspects of our food systems.

“My intent is that we use the information these researchers have provided to inform our decision making as we continue to restructure and improve the state’s food security system in the aftermath of the pandemic.”

The UW team found that the disruptions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic pushed Washington’s food systems close to breaking, but that some unique aspects of our state food assistance and agricultural systems kept them from collapse.

Among the UW team’s findings:

Food assistance needs

increased greatly and required temporary adaptations across all food access channels, due to rapid market shifts, distribution disruptions, logistical and labor challenges, rising operational costs, food shortages, transportation barriers, and other factors.

Food producers and households alike faced COVID-19 challenges, though the effects were uneven.

Some households experienced far greater food insecurity than others.

The pandemic strained, but did not break Washington’s food production system due to the diverse

dimensions of Washington’s food system, real-time innovations and collaborations, high adaptability among producers, strong leadership, and many other factors.

New food access channels made food more available to hard-to-reach populations, though the reports make clear that specific communities may need targeted attention.

Significant opportunities exist for creating a more resilient and economically viable food system by, for instance, improving food access and food security, creating systems that serve specific groups with higher

needs, addressing labor and staffing challenges, and making strategic investments.

“The crisis has offered glimpses of what future resilient food systems in Washington State might look like as farmers have networked with one another to create new solutions, as governments have expanded and modified food and nutrition services, as hunger relief organizations have sought to expand free meals and incorporate more culturally relevant foods, as food supply chains have renewed interest in local and regional foods, and as businesses have

grappled with improving the health and safety of their workers,” said Jennifer Otten, associate professor and Food Systems Director in the UW School of Public Health and research lead.

“The pandemic has prompted many to imagine how we might use lessons learned from this crisis to prepare for anticipated food system disruptions due to climate change and increased incidence of extreme weather events or to future economic shocks,” said Sarah Collier, assistant professor in the UW School

SEE WSDA STUDIES, PAGE 20

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North Central Educational Service District Board welcomes newly elected board member Cathi Nelson

Submitted by
Becca Freimuth

The North Central Educational Service District (NCESD) is excited to welcome Cathi Nelson to the agency's board of directors.

Nelson will represent District #3 which includes Brewster, Bridgeport, Coulee-Hartline, Grand Coulee Dam, Mansfield, Nespelem, Orondo, Palisades, Pateros, Methow Valley, and Waterville school districts. This position was previously held by Ed Daling who resigned after 29 years of service on the NCESD Board of Directors.

Nelson comes to the NCESD board of directors from a longtime career in

education, including serving 26 years at the Waterville School District as an elementary teacher, principal, and then Superintendent until her retirement in 2018.

Nelson's journey to leading the Waterville School District started in the Monroe School District as a paraprofessional. Encouraged by her school's principal, Nelson earned her Bachelor of Arts and teacher's credentials at Seattle Pacific University while raising two young boys and doing a "work study" job in the Monroe School District.

After graduating, Nelson taught in Snohomish and Monroe before moving to Waterville in 1993, where she taught as an elementary teacher for 10 years and earned her Master's degree from Heritage University. Through a Teacher of Special Assignment, Nelson earned her Administrative credentials while at the Waterville School District. She then served as the elementary principal for five years and K-12 principal for one year before becoming Waterville School District Superintendent. Nelson retired in 2018.

During her time at Waterville School District, Nelson partnered with NCESD in



Cathi Nelson

a number of capacities, including the development of a district-wide leadership model which today continues to provide a high level of instruction for students, staff and family professional development, leadership training and support, and staff and facility safety.

"I learned to rely on the ESD for important networking opportunities that kept all of us current, connected, and relevant," Nelson said in her Candidate Statement submitted to the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Nelson was elected to serve on the NCESD Board of Directors during the fall 2021 elections conducted by OSPI which fills the expiring Educational Service District (ESD) Board of Di-

rector positions for the nine ESDs throughout Washington. ESD board members are elected by each current member of a public school board of directors (school board members) within the educational service district.

In addition to Nelson, the following board members were re-elected for another term on the NCESD.

Board of Directors:

- Richard Johnson, District 1 Representative
- Mary Kunkle, District 5 Representative
- Susan Albert, District 7 Representative

NCESD covers just over 12,600 square miles and provides services and support to schools in Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties serving over 48,000 students. The Board is composed of seven regionally elected members including: Dr. Richard Johnson (District 1 Representative), Dr. Michael Musick (District 2 Representative), Cathi Nelson (District 3 Representative), Larry MacGuffie (District 4 Representative), Mary Kunkle (District 5 Representative), Marcia Henkle (District 6 Representative), and Susan Albert (District 7 Representative).

Skillsource names new Executive Director Lisa Romine

Submitted by
Aaron Parrott

SkillSource, the fiscal agent for the North Central Workforce Development Board, has announced that managing director **Lisa Romine** will assume the role of executive director as of January 1, 2022.

Her assumption of the executive role at SkillSource follows the retirement of former director Dave Petersen, who held that position for nearly forty years and retired on December 31st.

Under his leadership, the organization assisted approximately forty thousand residents of North Central Washington in obtaining career skills, and worked with hundreds of local businesses to train and retain quality employees.

Romine describes the changeover of SkillSource's leadership as "undoubtedly its most significant transition to date".

Romine is originally from Colorado, came to work with SkillSource as a training counselor in 1993, when the organization was still known as the Private Industry Council.

In 1997 she took a position with the Fresno Workforce Development Board as their planning and development manager. She returned to Wenatchee and SkillSource in 2000 as the managing director.

"When Dave recruited me to come back to Wenatchee and rejoin SkillSource in

2000, I returned because of the vision and values he had. For over 20 years we have worked closely together to strengthen this organization, as we have helped people prosper and businesses profit by building skills and opportunities for both.

"SkillSource plays a significant role in improving the skills and quality of life for many people, supporting businesses and strengthening communities. I am excited about the opportunity to lead in this capacity," states Romine.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Chair of the North Central Workforce Development Board stated "the board is excited to have Lisa as the new executive director leading SkillSource. Lisa was the right choice for this position as she is a proven leader in workforce development. Her dedication to NCW and improving the lives of those in this region will be instrumental as we continue offering essential services and respond to employer needs during this pandemic and into the future."

SkillSource builds workforce skills with business and one-stop partners to increase economic prosperity throughout North Central Washington and the Columbia Basin.

About NCESD

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



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Studies show extent of strain to Washington's food access and food production systems due to COVID-19

of Public Health and UW research co-lead.

"The challenge is to turn system weaknesses into new beginnings. The data and interviews that form the basis for this report point to tangible steps to take."

For its study, the WSU worked with a BIPOC leadership group, which lead data collection to examine the impact of the pandemic on people in marginalized communities.

WSU's key takeaways included:

- Producers were deeply affected by COVID-19 and pivoted rapidly to adapt. BIPOC farmers and producers, in particular, need more financial and logistical support.
- Food assistance needs increased dramatically and inequities were exacerbated but the formation of new partnerships and creative approaches helped address the growing need.

At the same time, WSU researchers found that the

systems supporting food production and food access are fragile, relying extensively on unpaid and underpaid labor.

- Supply chains became stressed and are still evolving.

Equity-centered funding is needed to boost supplier and supply chain diversification and capacity building, expand business development opportunities, and increase access to tools to help BIPOC-led efforts thrive.

- Greater equity in Washington's food system will take an investment of resources and an increase in BIPOC participation in food system programs and policy-directed interventions.
- Equitable food system changes will require that efforts center on racial equity, construction of a collaborative infrastructure, and the development of more robust equity assessment tools.

"Our food system is going to remain completely

inequitable until communities of color, especially Black people, are in positions of power," the study's project lead Mercy Kariuki-McGee said.

"BIPOC's presence in developing components of the Washington food system has to be felt broadly. Inclusion is not a model that we can follow anymore.

"Full equity in resources and full trust in the potential of BIPOC to gain ownership within the food system is the only means of empowering BIPOC's voice in eradicating food insecurity."

Both studies are available on the WSDA Focus on Food webpage <<http://www.agr.wa.gov/about-wsda/focus-on-food>>.

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