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Wheel Line Cider Company a female-owned success



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY WHEEL LINE CIDER

View of the outside serving area for enjoying the ciders from 4 taps which are located inside the Airstream which is located in front of the production facility.

By Erin Mullins
Reporter

Susie Jensen, owner of Wheel Line Cider, is finding quick success in her hard cider business. The first ciders were released to the public in late 2017, but the business has already been featured on Good Morning America.

Jensen said that she has owned a farm in Ellensburg for about 20 years. She started planting orchards about 10 years ago on seven acres of the property. Besides her farm in Ellensburg, Jensen has also lived

part time in Leavenworth, splitting her time between the two cities for years. For her, the commute hasn't been a big deal.

"I think it's because I was from California. I don't think of an hour and a half drive as bad. Of course, the pass is beautiful," she said.

The majority of the crops on her Ellensburg farm are a grass called timothy. But the seven acres of her farm that host orchards currently boast about 1,700 trees. Jensen said that when she first attempted to make cider, she ended up making vinegar instead.

So she took a class to figure out how to make cider and discovered that she needed a different type of tree to make it, a tree with bittersweet apples. The tannins in the bittersweet apples give the cider body and complexity.

Jensen said she couldn't find any bittersweet apple trees locally. So she bought about five trees from around the country, from upstate New York to Michigan. Three years after they were planted, she made some, "pretty good cider" from the trees. This led her to planning the business seriously.

Wheel Line Cider is made in Jensen's barn, she said. First, the apples are put in a mill that chops them into a really crude applesauce. Then the crude applesauce is pressed into a juice. The juice then goes into fermentation tanks.

Since juice is full of sugar, when yeast is added to the juice it feeds off the sugar and

SEE WHEEL LINE CIDER, PAGE 8



COURTESY PHOTO

Business owner Susie Jensen holds her special award from the SBA.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chelan Valley Media Group is a partnership made up of Seattle-area media and marketing professionals with ties to the Chelan Valley, L-R: Matt Peters; Melissa Durfee Davis; Karen Heric; Allan Mayer.

Chelan Valley Media Group purchases Icicle Broadcasting's Chelan Radio Stations Deal awaits FCC approval

By Bill Forhan
Publisher

Chelan – Icicle Broadcasting Company has announced the sale of three of its radio stations, including KOZI AM and FM and KZAL "Z-Country," to the Chelan Valley Media Group. KOZI has been on the air for 60 years and was owned by Harriet Bullitt, Principal Owner of Icicle Broadcasting Company. Icicle Broadcasting will continue to own and operate KOHO 101.1 'Hometown Radio' for the Wenatchee Valley from Leavenworth to Wenatchee.

Chelan Valley Media Group is a partnership made up of Allan Mayer, Karen Heric and Matt Peters of Manson, and Melissa Durfee Davis of Seattle. All are former Seattle-area media and marketing professionals with ties to the Chelan Valley, who are eager to serve the market with Country Music on Z-Country and "Community Radio" on KOZI AM and FM.

The sale is expected to close upon FCC approval this fall, at which time Karen Heric will take over as president and general manager. Heric brings 35 years of media expertise to the role, holding positions on all sides of the airwaves at leading Northwest media and marketing organizations like KING 5, GreenRubino, iHeartRadio and Root Sports.

Sale of the radio stations was announced in January of 2021. At the time, Elliott Salmon, General Manager of Icicle Broadcasting said, "Our sales focus will be to find a local buyer. KOZI is a well-known part of the Chelan community, and it is very important to us to make sure that KOZI remain a local resource. Our owner, Harriet Bullitt, has always been committed to local radio, and she feels strongly that KOZI/KZAL should stay in local hands."

Allan Mayer has a 30-year background in marketing management and previous experience as a radio news, sports and talk show announcer. He currently serves as a board member of the Seven Acres Foundation, developers of the future Community Center at Lake Chelan.

Melissa Durfee Davis, former director of media for GreenRubino, a Seattle Advertising and Marketing agency, and DNA/Seattle will be an integral part of developing strategy for the stations and their websites.

Matt Peters has an extensive background in business and finance after serving 40 years with Bank of America in global vendor risk management. Matt also supports the local community as a

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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.

Lake Chelan Mirror
310 E. Johnson Ave.

Brewster

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

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Publisher's Page

Standards go into effect in late August

County commissioners pass new short-term rental code

By Bill Forhan

It has been a long fight often pitting neighbor against neighbor, but the County Commissioners have finally issued new regulations on short term rentals.

Many homeowners have fought to make them illegal while other homeowners saw that as a way to supplement their retirement income.

Many individuals and politicians across the county blamed short term rentals for artificially inflating the cost of homes across the region as out of area owners bought up available homes for their value as a short term rental (STR).

The new regulations do not necessarily resolve the dispute entirely. According to Mayor Carl Florea of Leavenworth, the new regulations do not apply to STR's in the urban growth areas which are controlled by city code.

In Leavenworth's urban growth area, STR's are prohibited according to Florea and will remain that way.

That issue could spur a new debate about the Constitutionality of urban growth areas.

Many individuals living in a UGA have expressed frustration that they have no vote in city elections that make regulations controlling the use of their property.

It is far too early to measure how the new regulations will impact our communities. It is also unknown if home owners who wish to convert their home to an STR or build an accessory dwelling unit to ultimately be used as a rental will challenge the new regulations.

The following is the complete text of the Counties Press Release on the new regulations:

WENATCHEE – The Chelan Board of County Commissioners on July 27 passed a new code that establishes operating standards for the short-term rental industry, which has seen rapid growth locally in most recent years.

The passage of the new code, Chapter 11.88, comes after more than two years of board and community discussions that included public hearings, board workshops and the formation of a task force consisting of both short-term rental owners and their neighbors. The topic has drawn nearly 2,000 comments to the Commissioners' Office.

"Our goal was to find a balance: protecting the character of residential communities across the county while allowing for a reasonable number of short-term rentals in a county dependent on tourism," said Bob Bugert, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

"In crafting this code, we relied on extensive comments we received from the community, as well as a detailed assessment on how other counties have addressed this issue and our own evaluation of the practicalities of implementing a code that's unique to Chelan County."

"I thank the citizen members of both the Chelan County Planning Commission and the Short-Term Rental Task Force, who spent many hours developing recommendations to the commissioners," Bugert added.

"This was a difficult process; however, in the end, it was a decision based upon unprecedented community involvement."

The Community Development Department, which will oversee the permitting of short-term rentals, estimates there are up to 1,500 known rental units

in Chelan County. Most are single-family homes offered as short-term rentals.

A recent report by the county's contractor, BERK Consulting, shows a 55 percent increase in the number of short-term rentals from 2015 to 2019 in unincorporated Chelan County.

The new code will become effective in late August. At that time, a moratorium on the creation of new short-term rentals, which has been in place since August 2020, will end.

All existing short-term rental operators will be afforded the opportunity to apply to be grandfathered in, as long as they meet a set of provisions established by the code.

Among the new code's standards are:

- The code establishes three operation levels: Tier 1, 2 and 3. Overnight occupancy is limited to two people per bedroom.

Tier 1 allows for up to eight people; Tier 2 allows for up to 12 people; and Tier 3 allows for up to 16 people.

Rentals lodging more than 16 people are considered a lodging facility and are governed under different standards.

- Daytime occupancy limits, which match overnight occupancy limits, cannot be exceeded without first applying

for and obtaining a conditional use permit from Community Development. The conditional use permit would be necessary for such events as a wedding or another large gathering.

- All tiers must be operated out of an owner's primary dwelling or a legally established accessory dwelling unit. Recreational vehicles, tents or other temporary or mobile units are not considered short-term rentals.

- The new code holds property owners responsible for resolving nuisance violations (excessive noise, garbage, unlawful parking, etc.) on their properties. Two verified public disturbance noise violations within six months may lead to the revocation of a short-term rental permit.

- Annual registration fees will now apply; they will vary, depending on an applicant's tier level and any issues specific to the property. Registration fees will finance inspections by the fire marshal and health district, permit processing by the county, and recovery of code compliance costs.

- A short-term rental permit expires annually on Dec. 31, regardless of when it was issued. If a permit application is not received by then, a short-term rental must cease operations.

- In most parts of Chelan County, the



Bill Forhan

maximum share of short-term rentals, in relation to total housing units, is capped at 6 percent. The exception is in the urban growth area of Manson, which is capped at 9 percent. Tier 1 short-term rentals are not subject to the cap.

On Monday, Kirsten Ryles, manager of Community Development's newly created Short-Term Rental Division, also stepped into her new role. Ryles will be tasked with helping build the short-term rental program and its processes and with overseeing the implementation and operation of the new division. A new website for the division is in the works. The community should watch for permit applications to be posted to the website in September.

Changes have been made in how Chelan County handles code enforcement, which will play a factor in enforcing the new code and its standards. Earlier this year, code enforcement was moved to the Sheriff's Office and two former law enforcement officials were hired to serve as code enforcement officers.

"It will take us some time to get the enforcement element developed and implemented, and it may take several months before we have a robust response program in place," said Jim Brown, director of Community Development. "We are asking for the public's patience, as the new program will be phased in over a period of time."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chelan Valley Media Group purchases Icicle Broadcasting's Chelan Radio Stations

tennis coach with Chelan High School. He will provide direction with operations and finance.

The team seeks to increase community involvement, promotional opportunities and serve the retail businesses in the Chelan, Manson, Pateros, and Brewster areas. Most importantly, they will continue to deliver local news, music, community stories and relevant valley information, including the popular "2nd Cup of Coffee" morning feature with Jeff Conwell.

"We look forward to continuing Harriet Bullitt's legacy of local ownership and dedication to the people of the Chelan Valley" said Karen Heric, president and general manager for the station group. "Community media is

more important than ever, and we are honored with this opportunity to share the news and create connections within this special place."

"I'm very pleased we were able to find local buyers for KOZI AM/FM and KZAL. The Chelan Valley Media Group shares my vision to keep local radio in the hands of local ownership in order to better serve our communities," said Harriet Bullitt.

KOZI AM and FM can be found streaming at www.kozi.com, and at 1230 AM, 93.5FM or 100.9FM, 103.1FM in Manson, Brewster, Pateros and Methow and on Facebook @KOZICommunityRadio. KZAL can be found streaming at www.zcountry947.com, 94.7 FM and on Facebook @ZCountry947.

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Bank deposits reflect the surge of Federal Money into our local economy



Cashmere Valley Bank, our only locally owned community bank increased their deposits by 15% in 2020 and total commercial loans increased by 64.5 million primarily from PPP loans. Cashmere Valley Bank expects 90% or more of those loans will be forgiven. Net Income for the bank increased 9.1% in 2020.

Photo by Bill Forhan

The best indication of the impact on banks serving our area is to look at the changes in their loan portfolios as reported by the FDIC website.

We compiled a couple charts for all of the banks serving our subscription area. Those charts include the banks major loan categories and what percentage those categories make up of the whole. The five categories are; Real Estate Loans, Commercial Loans, Individual Loans, Agriculture Loans, and Other Loans and Leases.

The loan portfolio analysis provided on the FDIC website under the banks Uniform Bank Financial Report does not break the numbers down by branch. It is also unclear on the larger National Banks which region includes our local branches.

As a result, we did not include JP Morgan Chase, Key Bank, U.S. Bank or Wells Fargo in this analysis.

SEE **BANK DEPOSITS**, PAGE 4

By Bill Forhan
Publisher

Bank deposits are often seen as an indication of the health of the local economy. With the local economy shut down for most of the last two years, one might expect to see deposits falling off. One would be wrong.

Deposits for our local banks

grew 21.5% in 2020 over 2019. The increase was just over \$3.3 billion for all of the bank branches in our region.

Deposit growth for individual institutions varied from a low of 8.3% to a high of 51.1%. Only Key Bank's lone Wenatchee branch showed a decline in total deposits over 2019.

Discussion with local bankers drew a consensus that the increase was entirely caused by the Federal PPP loan program.

Michael Machado of Peoples Bank in East Wenatchee confirmed that their bank had processed \$100 million in PPP loans in 2020. That number is not reflected in their local deposit

growth because the PPP loans were processed through all of the Peoples Banks not just the Wenatchee branch bank. Peoples Bank Wenatchee branch deposits were slightly ahead of the region overall up 21.7%.

The impact of the PPP loans is not fully reflected in the local deposits.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Bank deposits reflect the surge of Federal Money into our local economy

Examination of where the growth in deposits was invested, reveal Commercial Loans were the outstanding winner here. This is a clear reflection of the PPP loan program. Peoples Bank Commercial loans grew \$160 million or 176.9% to 14.1% of their loan portfolio.

Cashmere Valley Bank, our primarily local community bank, more than doubled their Commercial Loan portfolio to \$126 million or 13.3% of their

total loan portfolio.

Most bankers we asked expect 99% of the PPP loans will be forgiven. This means the businesses that took out those loans will not have to pay them back.

Real Estate Loan position varied across the banks. Although all of the banks we talked to reported their home loan and construction loan departments were swamped. With interest rates the lowest in half a century, people were refinancing. They also re-

ported that the one part of the economy that was doing well was construction despite rising costs for lumber and building materials.

We also looked at each banks' income categories. That chart shows Income from loans and leases, Income from investments, and net income overall. We also included the total dividends the bank paid to shareholders for 2020 and 2019.

We were unable to gather

much of the data on the large national banks as it is not always clear which subdivision includes banking in our specific area. Those banks include JP Morgan Chase, U.S. Bank, Key Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank.

At this time, it appears Wells Fargo is reducing its investment in our area as they have closed their branches in Leavenworth and Brewster.

Through the Pandemic, all of our local banks have

shown positive net income except for Umpqua Bank.

Umpqua Bank reported a net loss of \$1.5 billion in 2020. Repeated phone calls to the corporate headquarters were unsuccessful in getting a detailed response. Discussions with stock brokers produced some financial reports that indicate the company is going through a reorganization.

A January report says the loss is attributable to a \$1.8 billion reduction in Goodwill. Last fall the company sold their wealth management division but we were unable to confirm if the sale created the write down in that divisions value. The Spokane Teachers Credit Union received regulatory approval to acquire four Umpqua bank

branches in Medical Lake, Ritzville, Coulee City and Othello. It has been reported that Umpqua plans to shutter 30 to 50 branches over the next two years. We were unable to confirm this with Umpqua officials.

Umpqua officials told us every branch has a direct line to the C.E.O. of the company, but when we attempted to get a local branch manager to dial that number and request an interview, the local branch manager declined.

While the rest of our banks reported a profit for 2020 many were down from 2019. Declines in revenue did not always follow with declines in dividends, but dividend payments generally follow after the books for the year are closed.



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BANK INCOME & DIVIDENDS

	2020	2019	% Chg
CASHMERE VALLEY BANK			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$38,752	\$41,221	-6.0%
Investment Interest	\$16,597	\$14,093	17.8%
Net Income	\$25,521	\$23,395	9.1%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$13,506	\$5,367	151.6%
BANNER BANK (WALLA WALLA)			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$459,620	\$463,696	-0.9%
Investment Interest	\$52,035	\$49,560	5.0%
Net Income	\$120,956	\$149,353	-19.0%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$76,704	\$116,677	-34.3%
NORTH CASCADES BANK (Glacier Bank - Kalispell, MT)			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$542,029	\$474,056	14.3%
Investment Interest	\$107,785	\$87,947	22.6%
Net Income	\$275,703	\$225,806	22.1%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$188,000	\$142,000	32.4%
PEOPLES BANK			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$71,943	\$74,787	-3.8%
Investment Interest	\$2,373	\$1,930	23.0%
Net Income	\$16,760	\$23,389	-28.3%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$9,649	\$2,547	278.8%
UMPQUA BANK			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$955,949	\$1,059,551	-9.8%
Investment Interest	\$53,214	\$64,229	-17.1%
Net Income	\$(1,510,523)	\$370,866	-507.3%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$213,000	\$216,000	-1.4%
WASHINGTON TRUST BANK			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$237,786	\$224,721	5.8%
Investment Interest	\$47,231	\$42,051	12.3%
Net Income	\$84,479	\$82,929	1.9%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$29,108	\$27,501	5.8%
WASHINGTON FEDERAL			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$545,802	\$578,671	-5.7%
Investment Interest	\$64,414	\$95,015	-32.2%
Net Income	\$144,966	\$223,345	-35.1%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$138,550	\$209,239	-33.8%
WHEATLAND BANK			
Income on Loans & Leases	\$18,464	\$19,185	-3.8%
Investment Interest	\$243	\$934	-74.0%
Net Income	\$6,516	\$5,397	20.7%
Cash Dividends Declared	\$182	\$670	-72.8%

LOCAL BRANCH DEPOSITS

	2020	2019	% Chg
CASHMERE VALLEY BANK			
Cashmere	\$200,007	\$180,152	11.0%
Chelan	\$95,903	\$86,704	10.6%
Leavenworth	\$238,156	\$206,200	15.5%
Wenatchee (Maple St)	\$257,429	\$221,618	16.2%
Wenatchee (Chelan St)	\$101,280	\$92,386	9.6%
Wenatchee (Easy St)	\$175,148	\$145,966	20.0%
E. Wenatchee	\$246,782	\$209,698	17.7%
Total	\$1,314,705	\$1,142,724	15.1%
BANNER BANK			
Wenatchee	\$119,432	\$96,853	23.3%
E. Wenatchee	\$53,793	\$39,965	34.6%
Total	\$173,225	\$136,818	26.6%
NORTH CASCADES BANK			
Chelan	\$120,800	\$96,127	25.7%
Wenatchee	\$68,114	\$42,017	62.1%
E. Wenatchee	\$20,402	\$16,766	21.7%
Waterville	\$17,400	\$16,573	5.0%
Brewster	\$61,503	\$48,939	25.7%
Total	\$288,219	\$220,422	30.8%
JP MORGAN CHASE			
Chelan	\$44,900	\$35,073	28.0%
Wenatchee	\$75,733	\$62,637	20.9%
E. Wenatchee	\$49,222	\$43,484	13.2%
Total	\$169,855	\$141,194	20.3%
KEY BANK			
Wenatchee	\$61,468	\$62,385	-1.5%
PEOPLES BANK			
Wenatchee	\$121,106	\$99,521	21.7%
U.S. BANK			
Wenatchee	\$90,820	\$68,594	32.4%
UMPQUA BANK			
Waterville	\$139,897	\$115,172	21.5%
Brewster	\$110,847	\$89,260	24.2%
Total	\$250,744	\$204,432	22.7%
WASHINGTON TRUST BANK			
Wenatchee Ave. (N)	\$76,148	\$40,159	89.6%
Wenatchee Ave. (S)	\$63,142	\$50,426	25.2%
E. Wenatchee	\$112,621	\$76,085	48.0%
Total	\$251,911	\$166,670	51.1%
WASHINGTON FEDERAL			
Chelan	\$39,536	\$35,280	12.1%
Leavenworth	\$30,229	\$27,418	10.3%
Wenatchee	\$85,137	\$80,380	5.9%
Total	\$154,902	\$143,078	8.3%
WELLS FARGO BANK			
Chelan	\$85,997	\$52,187	64.8%
Wenatchee	\$304,940	\$251,407	21.3%
E. Wenatchee	\$59,477	\$48,931	21.6%
Total	\$450,414	\$352,525	27.8%
WHEATLAND BANK			
Chelan	\$10,274	\$7,030	46.1%
Wenatchee	\$20,154	\$18,102	11.3%
Total	\$30,428	\$25,132	21.1%
TOTAL	\$3,357,797	\$2,763,495	21.5%

LOAN PORTFOLIO

	2020	Percent of Portfolio	2019	% Chg
CASHMERE VALLEY BANK				
Real Estate Loans	\$519,231	54.5%	\$555,608	-6.5%
Commercial Loans	\$126,229	13.3%	\$61,653	104.7%
Individual Loans	\$207,509	21.8%	\$211,259	-1.8%
Agriculture Loans	\$941	0.1%	\$2,391	-60.6%
Other Loans & Leases	\$98,531	10.3%	\$89,434	10.2%
Total	\$952,441	100.0%	\$920,345	3.5%
BANNER BANK (WALLA WALLA)				
Real Estate Loans	\$7,258,975	73.1%	\$7,368,979	-1.5%
Commercial Loans	\$2,106,861	21.2%	\$1,356,091	55.4%
Individual Loans	\$111,275	1.1%	\$141,871	-21.6%
Agriculture Loans	\$157,826	1.6%	\$185,691	-15.0%
Other Loans & Leases	\$300,420	3.0%	\$271,884	10.5%
Total	\$9,935,357	100.0%	\$9,324,516	6.6%
NORTH CASCADES BANK (Glacier Bank - Kalispell, MT)				
Real Estate Loans	\$8,241,325	73.0%	\$7,493,317	10.0%
Commercial Loans	\$1,850,198	16.4%	\$991,580	86.6%
Individual Loans	\$190,186	1.7%	\$174,643	8.9%
Agriculture Loans	\$275,265	2.4%	\$249,903	10.1%
Other Loans & Leases	\$732,294	6.5%	\$672,561	8.9%
Total	\$11,289,268	100.0%	\$9,582,004	17.8%
PEOPLES BANK (BELLINGHAM)				
Real Estate Loans	\$1,281,551	71.7%	\$1,215,021	5.5%
Commercial Loans	\$251,243	14.1%	\$90,730	176.9%
Individual Loans	\$153,906	8.6%	\$142,760	7.8%
Agriculture Loans	\$99,270	5.6%	\$103,707	-4.3%
Other Loans & Leases	\$2,123	0.1%	\$802	164.7%
Total	\$1,788,093	100.0%	\$1,553,020	15.1%
UMPQUA BANK				
Real Estate Loans	\$16,052,136	71.0%	\$16,564,449	-3.1%
Commercial Loans	\$4,824,288	21.3%	\$3,335,029	44.7%
Individual Loans	\$294,296	1.3%	\$409,322	-28.1%
Agriculture Loans	\$239,697	1.1%	\$182,344	31.5%
Other Loans & Leases	\$1,192,528	5.3%	\$1,115,994	6.9%
Total	\$22,602,945	100.0%	\$21,607,138	4.6%
WASHINGTON TRUST BANK				
Real Estate Loans	\$3,181,695	56.9%	\$2,854,185	11.5%
Commercial Loans	\$1,917,962	34.3%	\$1,210,405	58.5%
Individual Loans	\$114,867	2.1%	\$137,487	-16.5%
Agriculture Loans	\$236,216	4.2%	\$226,569	4.3%
Other Loans & Leases	\$140,792	2.5%	\$113,951	23.6%
Total	\$5,591,532	100.0%	\$4,542,597	23.1%
WASHINGTON FEDERAL				
Real Estate Loans	\$10,786,644	82.6%	\$10,644,905	1.3%
Commercial Loans	\$1,993,040	15.3%	\$1,080,812	84.4%
Individual Loans	\$110,780	0.8%	\$115,794	-4.3%
Agriculture Loans	\$8,905	0.1%	\$36,420	-75.5%
Other Loans & Leases	\$155,482	1.2%	\$161,641	-3.8%
Total	\$13,054,851	100.0%	\$12,039,572	8.4%
WHEATLAND BANK				
Real Estate Loans	\$250,336	60.3%	\$223,156	12.2%
Commercial Loans	\$66,227	15.9%	\$24,832	166.7%
Individual Loans	\$1,457	0.4%	\$2,134	-31.7%
Agriculture Loans	\$97,328	23.4%	\$88,819	9.6%
Other Loans & Leases	\$-	0.0%	\$-	
Total	\$415,348	100.0%	\$338,941	22.5%

WaFd Bank partners with Department of Commerce on Flex Fund loan program

Program works with and through trusted local lending institutions to support historically underserved businesses

OLYMPIA – Small business owners and nonprofits across Washington can start applying today for low interest loans of up to \$150,000 through the newly-launched Small Business Flex Fund. The Fund is a public-private partnership aimed at helping small businesses and nonprofits – particularly those in low-income communities – recover and grow as communities across the state reopen for business.

Gov. Jay Inslee in November 2020 approved a foundational investment of \$30 million for the state Department of Commerce to create a recovery loan program. Commerce is partnering with several financial institutions and community-based organizations to lend \$100 million or more to small businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 50 employees and annual revenues of less than \$3 million.

Qualifying businesses and nonprofits can apply for loans up to \$150,000. Loans are available in 60- or 72-month loan terms at interest rates between 3-4.5%.

“Reopening our economy is an incredible milestone and we want to ensure that our smallest businesses and nonprofits have equitable access to flexible financial support to get back on their feet,” said Inslee. “The Small Business Flex Fund will not only aid in our businesses’ recovery from the pandemic, but it will allow them to plan ahead, grow and thrive. And this is a tool that will remain available over many years, to bolster our smallest businesses and nonprofit organizations in times of economic hardship.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic shone a bright light on many of the historic inequities and barriers facing different communities. One of those barriers is access to working capital for small businesses and nonprofits trying to develop and grow, especially those in low-income areas and led by women and people of color,” said Lisa Brown, Director of the Washington State Department of Commerce. “We designed the Small Business Flex Fund to provide more equitable access to growth capital for smaller, local businesses and nonprofits, ensuring a greater economic recovery for all of Washington.”

The Fund works with and through local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), which serve under resourced communities and underbanked businesses the Small Business Flex Fund aims to help.

“Evergreen is proud to bring our decades of experience serving Washington’s small businesses to this effort. We believe this program will be a huge benefit to small businesses and nonprofits in Washington state,” said Patti Kibbe, CEO of Evergreen Business Capital Community Finance, a CDFI based in Seattle.

All small businesses with fewer than 50 employees and \$3 million in annual revenue can apply and culturally-appropriate in-language assistance is available. Interested applicants pre-apply on the Flex Fund’s online portal and, if they qualify, will be matched with a lender. Once matched, the participating lender will assist the business owner throughout

SEE FLEX FUND, PAGE 6

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Banner Bank reports strong results for 2021

Submitted by
Banner Corporation

WALLA WALLA – Banner Corporation (NASDAQ GSM: BANR) (“Banner”), the parent company of Banner Bank, reported net income of \$54.4 million, or \$1.56 per diluted share, for the second quarter of 2021, a 16% increase compared to \$46.9 million, or \$1.33 per diluted share, for the preceding quarter and a 131% increase compared to \$23.5 million, or \$0.67 per diluted share, for the second quarter of 2020.

Banner’s second quarter 2021 results include \$10.3 million in recapture of provision for credit losses, compared to \$28.6 million in provision for credit losses in the second quarter of 2020.

The second quarter 2020 provision for credit losses was primarily the result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first six

	Jun 30, 2021		Mar 31, 2021		Dec 31, 2020		Jun 30, 2020		Percentage Change	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Prior Qtr	Prior Yr Qtr		
Washington	\$ 4,541,792	47.0%	\$ 4,683,600	\$ 4,647,553	\$ 4,787,550		(3.0) %	(5.1) %		
California	2,246,580	23.3%	2,320,384	2,279,749	2,359,703		(3.2) %	(4.8) %		
Oregon	1,753,285	18.2%	1,801,104	1,792,156	1,899,933		(2.7) %	(7.7) %		
Idaho	525,610	5.4%	539,061	537,996	592,515		(2.5) %	(11.3) %		
Utah	92,103	1.0%	92,399	80,704	67,929		(0.3) %	35.6 %		
Other	494,811	5.1%	511,149	532,824	576,369		(3.2) %	(14.2) %		
Total loans receivable	\$ 9,654,181	100.0%	\$ 9,947,697	\$ 9,870,982	\$ 10,283,999		(3.0) %	(6.1) %		

months of 2021, net income was \$101.2 million, or \$2.88 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$40.4 million, or \$1.14 per diluted share for the same period a year earlier.

Banner’s first six months of 2021 results include \$19.5 million in recapture of provision for credit losses, compared to \$52.1 million in provision for credit losses in the first six months of 2020.

“Banner’s second quarter 2021 performance continues to demonstrate the success of our super community bank model, even with the

challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Mark Grescovich, President and CEO.

“We benefited from continued core deposit growth and an acceleration of PPP loan fee income as a result of SBA PPP loan forgiveness. The unprecedented level of market liquidity along with proceeds from new PPP loan originations, and our continued focus on building client relationships contributed to our core deposits increasing 16% compared to June 30, 2020.”

“Due to the ongoing im-

provement in forecasted economic conditions in our markets, coupled with continued reductions in our adversely classified loans, we recorded a \$10.3 million recapture to our provision for credit losses during the current quarter. This compares to a \$9.3 million recapture to our provision for credit losses during the preceding quarter and a \$28.6 million provision for credit losses in the second quarter a year ago.

“Our allowance for credit losses – loans remains strong at 1.53% of total loans

and 481% of non-performing loans at June 30, 2021, compared to 1.57% of total loans and 426% of non-performing loans at March 31, 2021,” said Grescovich.

“Banner has provided PPP loans totaling nearly \$1.61 billion to 13,922 businesses as of June 30, 2021, and as of quarter end, we had received SBA forgiveness for 6,707 PPP loans totaling \$822.3 million. Our essential onsite employees, such as those working in our branches, continue to serve clients in person. In addition, as a result of the accelerated distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine over the past several months and the progress made toward fully reopening businesses in the states we serve, we began to normalize our operations by returning additional groups of employees back to Bank worksites in July 2021.

At June 30, 2021, Banner Corporation had \$16.18 billion in assets, \$9.51 billion in net loans and \$13.64 billion in deposits. Banner operates 155 branch offices, including branches located in eight of the top 20 largest western Metropolitan Statistical Areas by population.

Flex Fund loan program

Continued from page 5

the application process and provide additional advisory support. If a business doesn’t qualify, they will be connected to a trusted community organization that can assist with finding other resources.

Five CDFIs are originating loans for the Fund, including Ascendus, Business Impact NW, Craft3, Evergreen Business Capital Community Finance, and the National Development Council Community Impact Loan Fund. This network of lenders has decades of experience serving Indigenous, rural, and immigrant communities as well as communities of color across Washington.

The CDFIs will also be supported by leading technical assistance and business support organizations including Business Impact Northwest’s Washington Women’s Business Center and Veterans Business Outreach Center, Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CIE), the Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business Center, Sister Sky Inc., and Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP) Financial Access.

The Small Business Flex Fund is administered by National Development Council with funding arranged by Calvert Impact Capital. In addition to funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce, catalytic initial loans are provided by Heritage Bank and WaFed Bank. In a joint statement they said, “As long-term supporters of Washington small businesses and the far-reaching influence they have in their communities, Heritage and WaFed Bank recognize the importance of supporting these vital businesses and are proud to promote unique public-private partnerships like the Small Business Flex Fund that assists in the continuing economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic.”

For more information and to apply, visit: www.SmallBusinessFlexFund.org

New Chelan County grant program awards \$740,000 to local agencies

CPIF dollars will support, encourage economic development

Submitted by Blake Baldwin,
Chelan County

The Chelan Board of County Commissioners recently awarded nearly \$740,000 in grant funding to local agencies that support economic development in Chelan County.

The Cascade Public Infrastructure Fund, or CPIF, is a grant program that was created earlier this year to help finance public projects that facilitate the creation or retention of businesses and jobs in the county.

The newly established grant program had its first call for projects this spring. Commissioners awarded grants to six

agencies: Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, Lake Chelan Reclamation District, the Peshastin Water District and the cities of Cashmere, Leavenworth and Wenatchee.

“The Chelan County Board of Commissioners is excited about this new program and the ability to provide these funds to assist with infrastructure improvements throughout Chelan County,” said Commissioner Kevin Overbay. “This program will provide much needed financial resources to our partner agencies for years to come, which will not only improve the economic vitality of our communities but also the quality of life for our citizens.”

Those projects awarded grant dollars are:

City of Cashmere: The city was awarded \$50,000 to help with the extension of water and wastewater services to an undeveloped lot in downtown Cashmere. In 1998, the city purchased the site on Railroad Avenue from Burlington Northern Railroad to provide parking for downtown Cashmere. The site later contained a warehouse for loading tree fruit onto trains; however, it was demolished. Development of the now vacant land in the warehouse-industry business district will provide space and an opportunity for

SEE PAGE 7

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Loans are subject to credit approval. Restrictions may apply. NMLSR 410394



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New Chelan County grant program

Continued from page 6

a small business to relocate and expand.

Lake Chelan Reclamation District: The reclamation district was awarded \$100,000 to use toward planned improvements to its Lift Station No. 2, which provides sewer service to the entire Manson area. The reclamation district also plans to add a pump at the lift station to better service the ongoing population growth in the Manson area.

City of Wenatchee: The city was awarded \$115,200 for ongoing revitalization efforts to Lincoln Park, located on the city's south side. The city plans to build a variety of recreation amenities, including a BMX pump track, spray park, group picnic shelter, children's play area, disc golf course, restrooms, a soccer and lacrosse field, and a performing arts state. The project also calls for planting shade trees that will improve storm water absorption, improving parking areas and ADA accessibility, and adding safety features to the park.

Peshastin Water District: The water district was

awarded \$124,000 for improvements that will help the water district better monitor the public domestic water system from possible industrial contamination. The project provides a safe and reliable public water utility for both current and future residential and industrial users.

City of Leavenworth: The city was awarded \$150,000 for storm water improvements needed for continued growth and businesses development on the city's eastside, where most recently 200 new apartments were built. Potential future development includes an office park, retail space and lodging and housing.

Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority: The local port authority was awarded \$200,000 for wood waste remediation efforts at the Cashmere Mill Site. While a portion of the mill site, which has been redeveloped into a business park, has been cleaned up, a 1.5-acre parcel north of Sunset Highway requires remediation for continued growth and to attract a business to the location.

Managed by the Chelan County Economic Develop-

ment department, the CPIF plans to invest nearly \$2.5 million into economic development projects in Chelan County in the next three years. The grant project is funded by existing revenues from the sales-and-use tax for public facilities in rural counties, also called the Rural Counties Tax.

"A good public utility project is one of the greatest tools in the peoples' toolbox for incentivizing economic development," said Blake Baldwin, economic development director for Chelan County. "This program is unique in comparison to other funding sources because the majority of these grants will result in both direct and indirect returns on Chelan County taxpayer investments."

The 11-member CPIF Advisory Committee reviews and scores all applications and submits its recommendations to the Chelan County Board of Commissioners for final decision making. Local government agencies and junior taxing districts in Chelan County can apply for a CPIF grant, which will be awarded annually each spring.



SBA Disaster News Release

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available to Washington Small Businesses

SACRAMENTO, California – Small nonfarm businesses in 24 Washington counties and neighboring counties in Idaho and Oregon are now eligible to apply for low interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced Director Tanya N. Garfield of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in the following primary counties that began April 1, 2021.

Primary Washington counties: Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla,

Whitman and Yakima;

Neighboring Washington counties: Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, King, Lewis, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Pierce and Skamania;

Neighboring Idaho counties: Benewah, Bonner, Kootenai, Latah and Nez Perce;

Neighboring Oregon counties: Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wallowa and Wasco.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster," Garfield said.

Small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses

engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3 percent for businesses and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without

SEE SBA, PAGE 15

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Photo by Carol Forhan

The 1970's Sovereign Airstream trailer was converted into a mobile cider bar with 4 taps of different ciders.



Submitted photo

There is plenty of seating for outdoor refreshments and conversation. The metal sculpture is one of 2 that were commissioned as an added feature.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wheel Line Cider Company a female-owned success

converts into alcohol. After that, a glycol tank chills and carbonates the alcohol.

On the other side of the barn is a cold storage area where the cider is kept before being sold.

Jensen said she entertains guests who are interested in her cider at an outdoor mobile cider bar. She renovated a 1970's Sovereign airstream to serve alcohol. The airstream is equipped with 4 taps.

On Saturday and Sunday, guests are hosted at the outdoor tasting room.

The area is nicely landscaped and has seating, a bocce ball area and an area for kids to play. Since the tasting room is outdoors, kids are allowed to be there.

In order to develop her business, Jensen said she joined the Small Business Association in Washington.

The association helped to guide her business during the coronavirus pandemic. The association helped her understand how to fill out a PPP loan, how to fill out a forgiveness application for the loan and gave her business \$17,000.

Good Morning America contacted the Small Business Association, Jensen said. The show wanted to feature Washington businesses for the first of July because of the statewide reopening.

Wheel Line Cider was one of 20 businesses recommended and only four were chosen for the show. The

cider company was the only business featured from the east side.

"It was just pretty darn exciting. I mean, I was a nervous wreck and everything possible went wrong," Jensen said about the feature.

When the film crew came to film for Good Morning America, Jensen said she lost all electricity and it was 104 degrees outside. She ended up serving cider out of an ice chest and couldn't serve cider donuts and Sunday brunch because the electricity went out.

The film crew wanted to film the orchards, but the trees had recently been

sprayed with chemicals to prevent sunburn and they couldn't go in the orchard. Then they wanted to film the barn, but there wasn't enough light to film because the electricity was out.

The cameraman was from Seattle, Jensen said. The interviewer was from New Jersey and asked her questions about Wheel Line Cider through a phone. She found it quite disconcerting to talk straight to a camera while the person who was interviewing her talked on a phone in a different direction.

Alcohol isn't all that is planned for Wheel Line Cider. Jensen said that she

wants to make granola, a barbeque spice wrap and apple syrup from her apples in her kitchen. She applied for a cottage kitchen license which allows her to make up to \$25,000 of product in her home kitchen.

A byproduct of creating cider is apple pulp, Jensen said. The apple pulp is dehydrated and then can be used to create the granola, barbeque spice wrap, and apple syrup. Creating these products from apple pulp helps to make her business more sustainable.

Jensen hasn't been a businesswoman her whole life. She said that she used to be an art teacher. When she retired, Jensen had too much energy and "couldn't stand doing nothing." Because she really enjoys cider she decided to create a cider business.

An event that really helped to develop Jensen's business was a course on entrepreneurial business through Kittitas and Yakima County.

She learned about marketing, technology, social media, legal strategies, and financial tips from the program.

Because she had such a positive experience with the class, Jensen decided to write a thank you note to the group that hosted her. The person Jensen wrote the thank you to referred to her several times until eventually she was nominated by the Small Business Association with rural business of the year.

Jensen said that is when her business began to snowball. She was connected with business colleagues from countries around the world and hopes to eventually export her alcohol. But despite her success, Jensen isn't interested in creating a giant cider corporation.

"I have no interest in becoming a huge operation. I just want to be local, you know," she said.



Photo by Carol Forhan

In the photo is the front of the production barn and also shown is one of 2 commissioned metal sculptures and a converted apple box seating.

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New Business Licenses July 2021

OUT OF AREA	
Alpine River Runners 221 Croft Ave Gold Bar, WA98251	Rafting Trips
Masonry Restoration Consulting LLC 10510 123rd Ave Ne Lake Stevens, WA 98258	Masonry Restoration Contracting, New Construction & Consulting
Douglas Concrete 17500 25th Ave Ne Marysville, WA98271	Concrete Work For Residential And Businesses
Lamiaceae Planters LLC 7702 45th PI W Mukilteo, WA98275	Long Term Property Acquisition, Management And Sell Of Real Estate
Hummingbird Mint Ventures LLC 7702 45th PI W Mukilteo WA98275	Long Term Manage Property
Echewa Cleaning Services LLC 824 16th St NW Puyallup, WA98371	Cleaning Services
Northwest Traffic, Inc 622 W Valley Hwy E Edgewood WA98372	Street Striping, Signage,
Ground Up Road Construction Inc 1107 140th Avenue Ct E Sumner WA98390	Heavy Road Construction
Jaxi Blu 401 Broadway Tacoma WA98402	Financial Institution
Joy's Portrait's Po Box 257 Olympia WA98507	Photography
Trattoria Bargello Aka Mamma Mia's Little Eat Po Box 257 Olympia WA98507	Food Sales, Delivery Service, Catering, Fast Food Restaurant, Restaurant
Toon Town Studios 1439 Chatham Dr Se Olympia WA98513	Caricature
Suburban Propane, L.P. 620 Se Eaton Blvd Battle Ground WA98604	LPG (Propane)
Good Energy USA 616 Stone View Way Kalama WA98625	Solar Equipment, Sales
WENATCHEE	
Alpine Aire 1306 Walnut St Wenatchee WA98801	Heating, Ventilation And Air Conditioning, Hvac
Romero Lawn Maintenance LLC 2200 Ashley Brooke Wenatchee WA 98801	Lawn Care
Paradise Parties, LLC 1022 Brown St Wenatchee WA98801	Equipment Rental
Northern Peak Construction LLC 1343 Fairhaven Ave Wenatchee WA98801	Contractor, Construction, Construction Estimates
D & V Interior Finish 301 Methow St Wenatchee WA98801	Cabinet And Millwork - Install, Finish Carpentry, Wood Floor Finishing
Nelson Geotechnical 105 Palouse St Wenatchee WA98801	
▶▶▶ SEE PAGE 9	

New Business Licenses July 2021

▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Brothers Fencing Llc	Fencing - Install, Repair
320 Methow St Wenatchee WA98801	
Weinstein Beverage Co.	Whlse-Soft Drinks
410 E Peters St Wenatchee WA98801	
Rudnick & Sons LLC	Moving Earth, Grading, Small Pipe Jobs
448 W Rolling Hills Ln Wenatchee WA 98801	
Icicle River Company LLC	Embroidery And Printing Of: T-Shirts, Baseball Caps, Signs & Banners
220 S Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee, WA98801	
Coria Construction	General Construction
1716 Stella Ave Wenatchee WA98801	
Arctic Refrigeration & Heating, Inc.	Services refrigeration & Heating Installation And Repair
326 N Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee WA98801	
Cottonwood Development and Services	Real Estate Development, Land Development, Landscaping, Lawn Maintenance, Snow Removal Service
1250 N Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee WA98801	
Whatever Design	Design Services For Homes And Businesses
3 N Garfield Ave Wenatchee WA 98801	
Amy Johnson Hair	Cosmetology
103 Palouse St Wenatchee WA98801	
High Tech Irrigation LLC	Irrigation - Install, Repair, Lawn Maintenance, Yard Maintenance, Landscaping
729 Kittitas St Wenatchee WA98801	
Graybeal Signs Inc.	Manufacture Signs/Sales And Service
1909 N Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee WA98801	
Seal Plumbing LLC	New Construction, Remodels And Service Residential And Commercial Plumbing
925 Okanogan Ave Wenatchee WA 98801	
Cascade Central Construction LLC	General Contracting
1285 S Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee WA 98801	
Performance Landscaping	Maintenance Services, Landscaping
768 N Grover Pl East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Jester's Roofing	Roofing
2310 8th St Ne East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Daves Mobile Auto Repair L.L.C.	Mobile Auto Repair
515 Newport Plz East WenatcheeWA 98802	
D&B Backflow LLC	Testing & Repairing Backflow Assemblies On Water 01/10 Backflow Valve Certification
604 Skiview Dr Wenatchee WA 98802	
A&N Plumbing & More LLC	Wholesale, Services plumbing Residential Commercial Buildings And Remodels. New Construction And Remodel Construction
2320 3rd St Ne East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Allthrive Landscaping and Irrigation, LLC	Landscaper And Full Service Lawn Care Company
6330 Batterman Rd East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Super Bee Housekeeping	Residential Cleaning, Housekeeping
579 Eastmont Ave East Wenatchee WA 98802	

▶▶▶ SEE PAGE 10

New Overtime Laws for Agricultural and Dairy Workers

By Erin Mullins
Reporter

Under a new state law, agricultural workers in Washington will be able to earn overtime pay starting on January 1, 2022, according to a press release from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I).

Dairy workers in Washington were eligible to receive overtime starting July 25. Overtime is at least 1.5 times the employee's regular pay.

The overtime standards for agricultural workers will be gradually phased in. In January 2022, the overtime threshold will be 55 hours. In January 2023, the overtime threshold will be 48 hours.

In January 2024, the overtime threshold will be 40 hours. The law also bars employees from seeking retroactive payments for overtime worked prior to the law going into effect.

Agricultural workers, including piece-rate workers, must earn the state minimum wage of \$13.69 an hour in 2021.

In 2020 the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in *Martinez-Cuevas v. De-Ruyter Brothers Dairy, Inc.* that there was no reasonable grounds for dairy workers to be exempt from overtime, which was part of the background for the new law.

Tony Burnett, orchard manager, said that he doesn't make enough money to be able to pay a lot of overtime. He owns 100 acres of orchards in the Wenatchee valley and another 70 acres in Quincy. Part of the issue is that Burnett doesn't get paid for his product for a year.

He said that his fruit is taken with many different growers to storage and stored for a year in warehouses before it is sold. After everything is sold, the warehouses tally up all the expenses and get an end of the year settlement to the growers. If anything goes wrong with the crops, he said, it could push farmers into bankruptcy.

At the same time, the overtime exemptions are put in place to protect workers. Cristina Rodriguez, Agricultural Employment Specialist at L&I, said that the overtime is phased in over three years to help agri-

cultural employers be able to adjust to the new law.

"Agricultural overtime has been a topic within the agricultural sector that was up for discussion for quite a few years," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said that she had heard a variety of explanations about the historical reasons for the exemption but that L&I is dedicated to implementing the new law and making sure that education and outreach about the new law can be disseminated.

L&I investigates all complaints from workers, Rodriguez said. Complaints can be filed in any language. The employment standards program is doing a lot of education and outreach through webinars and other means in order to get the information about the new law across to anyone involved in agriculture.

The new law does not allow for any exemptions for agricultural employers to pay overtime, Rodriguez said, and employees cannot opt out of receiving overtime pay under existing laws.

Burnett said that he pays above minimum wage and tries to do the right things for his workers. He acknowledges that while he would struggle to pay overtime that at the same time picking fruit in an orchard is hard work.

"Picking fruit is very hard. It's hard work. And if I had to do it myself I would go hungry," Burnett said.

He said that the new law would be difficult in the long run for small growers. Burnett also has difficulty finding workers, which isn't a problem he used to encounter. For the last three years, he has had difficulties finding pickers. This has caused some losses in selling fruit that he hasn't been able to pick.



Stock photo

All of Burnett's property and equipment is paid for, but he is still worried about finances. He is not sure at what point he would give up farming but it could be "when the money's gone." His son might take over the family farm, but Burnett isn't sure if that would work out financially.

Burnett isn't sure what the solution could be to help farmers while also ensuring workers can receive overtime pay. He doesn't like the idea of the government setting prices. He said that money from coronavirus relief programs was helpful to farmers, but that isn't a long-term solution.

"The bottom line is the overtime is probably as deserved as anything, but I don't know how I'm gonna pay for it," he said.

Burnett explained that it is easier for larger growers that own both the orchards and warehouses to survive increased costs. Smaller growers that don't own the warehouses have to accept the price that the warehouse gives them for their fruit.

If costs get too high to keep running orchards, Burnett may put his property on the market and sell it or turn the orchards into hayfields. He said that hay takes a lot less labor and time to produce and is "selling like crazy."

Burnett said that you have to have five years of money saved to grow fruit because it takes two years to get any money back. Over the course of five years, he said you will get one catastrophic failure and one good year. Even in bad years where orchardists lose the majority of their crops, they still have the normal expenses to take care of their crops.

While the long-term future for some farmers may be uncertain, in the short term programs are in place to help them get through tough times. On July 21, U.S. Senator Patty Murray announced assistance that is available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help Washington Farmers impacted by the recent extreme heat conditions.

The assistance helps eligible orchardists, livestock owners, conservation programs, and farmers. It provides compensation for farmers' losses in counties marked by severe drought. In addition to financial assistance, the program can provide emergency loans to farmers who need it.

But short-term relief programs do not solve the supply and demand problems of agriculturists in the long-term. Although workers deserve to be properly compensated, the future for some small farmers may be uncertain.

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Photo Credit: Department of Ecology

By Erin Mullins
Reporter

On October 1, a single use plastic bag ban will begin in Washington, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology.

The ban was scheduled to begin in January of this year, but an emergency proclamation delayed the ban due to supply issues with compliant bags. The law applies to retail, grocery, and convenience stores, restaurants, temporary stores and any event where goods are sold.

Jay Inslee rescinded the emergency proclamation on July 13. The alternatives to single use bags will be reusable bags, paper bags that are made with at least 40% recycled content, plastic carryout bags made of at least 20% recycled content that are at least 2.25 mm thick, and compostable bags.

Exemptions to the plastic bag ban include packaging used inside stores for bulk items, produce, frozen food, meat, fish, flowers, potted plants, prepared foods, bakery foods and prescription drugs, according to Ecology. Additionally, bags sold in packages with mul-

tiple bags, like food storage, garbage, or pet waste are exempt from the ban.

Additionally, there will be an 8 cent fee charged per bag which will be kept entirely by the merchant to provide an incentive for consumers to bring their own bag and help businesses recover the cost of providing the bags, according to Ecology. Food banks and individuals receiving government assistance are exempt from the fee.

Shannon Jones, Materials Management Coordinator for the Department of Ecology, said that she has not received any direct feedback from stores about the plastic bag ban but manufacturers are still having some issues manufacturing compliant bags.

Jones said that there are a number of different bag manufacturers and suppliers in various states. The reason for the supply chain issues was due to masks being manufactured for the coronavirus pandemic. While compostable bags are an option, most places do not have the composting infrastructure in place to handle composting.

King County is the only place that has the composting infrastructure in place, Jones said. In the rest of the state, compliant bags can be made of recycled paper, thick plastic, or weed straw. The paper bags have to be marked with their percentage of recycled content. The reason that the thicker plastic bags are allowed is they are designed for multiple uses.

The enforcement strategy for the plastic bag ban is based on complaints they receive from the public, Jones said. But businesses won't be fined for non-compliance right away. Businesses will be contacted with educational letters, personal contact, and a number of other communication strategies before receiving any monetary penalty.

The law was passed in response to a growing concern about plastic litter, Jones said. Additionally, in the recycling stream plastic bags cause a lot of contamination that can significantly impact the entire recycling system.

Another reason a state law was passed was to create a universal bag ban, Jones said. There are 39 bag ban ordinances at multiple locations across the state which all have minor differences, which is difficult for businesses with multiple locations around the state and travelers to navigate.

There should be enough time for businesses to adjust to the plastic bag ban, Jones said. The October 1 decision for the ban was made by the governor's office in conjunction with industry groups like the Washington Hospitality Association and the Washington Food Industry Association.

Wes Worthen, one of the owners of Dan's Food Market in Leavenworth, said that Dan's will likely start liquidating all their single use plastic bags and stocking up on reusable bags in

September. He said that it likely won't be an issue to buy compliant bags and they haven't had issues getting grocery bags in the past.

"It's kind of one of those things that we're not there yet. It's like, we'll have to cross that bridge when we get there," he said.

Some customers may be irked by the plastic bag ban, Worthen said, while others will be really glad because it is good for the environment. He said that it may be a struggle for a while to adjust but that the rules apply to everyone in the state so people will figure it out.

Worthen said that he hopes that Dan's will be able to recoup the costs for the compliant bags with the required fee. Paper bags cost Dan's about ten cents each and they are currently giving them out for free. Worthen doesn't want to anger any customers with the fee, but thinks that people will adjust.

"In this business we can't afford to tick off any customers so there [will] be a while there where it will take some getting used to," he said.

Other countries have mandated bag bans already, Worthen said, and that is just the way it goes. He said that Dan's is "happy to do what we can" to protect the planet because a lot of plastic ends up in the ocean but that there is a debate about which type of bag is worst for the environment.

"Obviously, anything plastic is awful for the environment, but there is speculation and research out there that canvas bags and paper bags can be just as harmful if not more harmful than plastic," he said.

Worthen said that deciding the most environmentally friendly bag just depends on what you read or who you listen to. At the same time, he said that his grocery store is going to be compliant with the law and "do what we can."

New Business Licenses July 2021

▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Hotdog	Mobile Concession Trailer
1961 Rock Island Rd East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Dirty Birds	Construction Landscaping Remodel
2968 NW Empire Ave East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Apple Valley Pumping Inc	Septic Services, Portable Toilet Rentals
24 N Venture Rd East Wenatchee WA98802	
Cascade Finish Work And Flooring, LLC	Finish Carpentry Install Floors, Doors Window Trim, Cabinets
227 Mccauley Ct East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Valley Central Drywall LLC	Drywall - Install
2422 Sunset Hwy East Wenatchee WA 98802	
Baren Construction Services	Building Construction Consultant, Contractor, Excavating - Construction.
1727 N Aurora Ave East Wenatchee WA98802	

ARDENVOIR

Junk Rescue & Dumpster Rental LLC	Junk Removal And Dumpster Rental (Trailer)
226 Arden Rd Box 380 Ardenvoir WA98811	

CASHMERE

Tacos Chavo	FullService Restaurant
5647 Sunset Hwy Cashmere WA 98815	
Los Tres Pueblos Market Place #2	Grocery Store With Snack Bar Restaurant
5655 Sunset Hwy Cashmere Wa 98815	
The Lovely Crab	Restaurant, Cafe, Eatery, Bar & Grill
200 Apple Annie Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
V.I.P. Roofing Construction, LLC	Roofing
195 Skyline Dr Cashmere WA 98815	
Overwinter Farm	Growing And Selling Vegetables And Cut Flowers
5894 Pioneer Dr Cashmere WA 98815	
Teams Learning Center	Full Time Child Care Provider
200 Titchenal Rd Cashmere WA 98815	
Affordable Residential Cleaning	Svchousecleaning
103 Perry St Cashmere WA 98815	
Trek Rentals	Auto Rental, Motorcycle Rental
115 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Colchuck Consignment	Consignment Store
207 Mission Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
La Tortuga Loca 2	Restaurant
106 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Columbia Electric	Electrical Contractor
1395 Mission Creek Rd Cashmere WA 98815	
Bangs Life LLC	Mental Health Counselor
211 1/2 Paton St Cashmere WA 98815	
Cashmere Mailing House, LLC	Storage Facilities - Wine
203 Mission Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Allison Excavation LLC	Construction: Equipment, Excavating, Grading, Demolition
7280 Brender Canyon Rd Cashmere WA 98815	

▶▶▶ SEE PAGE 19

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Building! MEMBER MESSENGER

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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!

- Allied Plumbing & Pumps – 3 years
- Caliber Home Loans – 3 years
- Homesley Construction – 8 years
- Icycle Broadcasting, Inc. – 9 years
- Industrial Cutting & Coring – 20 years
- Native Network – 2 years
- Precision Waterjet, Inc. – 15 years
- Stetner Electric Inc. – 2 years
- Three Cedars Home Inspection – 5 years



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:

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 Visit us online at:
 www.BuildingNCW.org

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Featuring: Four Tour Homes, Four Chefs, Two Wineries, One Beer, and A Hard Cider
Date: Thursday, September 16th, 4pm – 9pm
 Tickets go on sale August 24th
 Log on for more information at www.buildingncw.org or call the BNCW office at (509) 293-5840

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!

■ Alpine Group - Keller Williams Joanna Avila 206-823-9043	■ Cornerstone Home Lending, Inc Craig Ronning 509-293-4434
■ Abadan Business Solutions Brandon Smith 509-699-6006	■ H Drafting & Design Cosme Hernandez 509-306-8182

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



MEMBER MESSENGER

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PAGE 2

BNCW's:

FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Retirement Reckoning

“Two reasons for the worker shortage that get little attention include retirements and business formation. From 2012 through 2019, annual retirements averaged about 2 million/year. In 2020, 3.2 million workers retired! In 2018 and 2019, business applications were 3.5 million/year. In 2020, 4.4 million, and through 5/21 2.5 million, a 6 million/year pace. Worse, the Labor Department's monthly jobs report does a poor job counting staff at newly established firms.”

Elliot F. Eisenberg, Ph.D.
GraphsandLaughs LLC, elliot@graphsandlaughs.net
Cell: 202.306.2731,
www.econ70.com



Hand Tool Safety

An old proverb in the building trades states that “A craftsman is only as good as his tools.” Every competent tradesman, regardless of his field, must possess an extensive hand tool collection.

Hand tools in disrepair are a hazard to the person using them and to others nearby.

A worker's hand tools must be maintained in good repair to ensure safety for the user and to assure the quality of their work.

OSHA regulations state that “Employers shall not issue or permit the use of unsafe hand tools.”

Recommended Practices for General Hand Tool Safety:

General Tools:

- Always wear Personal Protective Equipment that is appropriate for the tool being used.
- Damaged, worn-out, or defective tools should be tagged and removed from service. Do not perform “make-shift” repairs to tools.
- Never use a tool if its handle has splinters, burrs, cracks, splits or if the head of the tool is loose.
- Do not use impact tools such as hammers, chisels, punches, or steel stakes that have mushroomed heads.
- When handing a tool to another person, direct sharp points and cutting edges down

and away from yourself and the other person.

- Carry all sharp tools in a sheath or holster. Do not carry sharp or pointed hand tools such as screwdrivers, scribes, snips, scrapers, chisels, or files in your pocket unless the tool is sheathed. Transport hand tools only in toolboxes or tool belts.
- Use tied off containers to keep tools from falling off scaffolds and other elevated work platforms.
- Avoid carrying tools in your hand when you are climbing. Carry tools in tool belts or hoist the tools to the work area using a hand line.
- Do not throw tools from one location to another or from

TOOLBOX TALKS

one employee to another.

Hammers:

- Do not use a hammer if your hands are oily, greasy, or wet.
- Never strike another hardened steel tool or surface, such as a cold chisel, with a claw hammer.
- Avoid striking nails or other objects with the “cheek” of the hammer.
- Do not strike one hammer against another hammer.

Never use a hammer as a wedge or a pry bar.

Hand Saws:

- When using a hand saw, hold the work piece firmly against the worktable.
- Do not use an adjustable blade saw, such as a hack saw, or a coping saw if the blade is not taut.
- Avoid using any saw with a dull blade; always keep blades clean and sharp
- Keep hands and fingers

away from the point of cut when using any saw.

- Never carry a hand saw by the blade.

Screwdrivers:

- Do not use a screwdriver if your hands are wet, oily or greasy.
- Always match the size and type of screwdriver blade to fit the head of the screw.
- Never hold the work-piece against your body while using a screwdriver.

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PAGE 3



Timberloom was started in 2015 in Naches, Washington and has become one of the premier live edge wood sources in the state offering ‘tree to table’ services.

Earlier this year Timberloom expanded to Wenatchee and partnered with Willy’s Custom Log Furnishings of East Wenatchee to open a Timberloom Store locally.

The store in Wenatchee is a mixture of both businesses offering a variety of salvaged live edge pieces, log furniture, interior décor, art, resin work and much more.

The name Timberloom – timber ‘wood’ is our canvas and the Loom from ‘heirloom’ is to represent a one of a kind custom wood piece that will be handed down through generations.

At Timberloom we strive to foster long-lasting relationships within our community and each individual who walks through the doors.

Timberloom looks forward to sharing their business, hobby, and

passion with each and everyone of you.

Top 5 things to know about us:

1) We offer live edge slab wood; pine, oak, redwood, cedar, elm, black walnut, catalpa, juniper and many others.

2) We make custom log furniture that you help design.

3) You can purchase live edge slabs or we can build your perfect piece of furniture to have in you family for generations.

4) The customer gets to be an intimate part of the process from picking out the slab of wood, design, to the completion of the piece.

5) We also do river tables, resin/epoxy work, intrigue design works.

For more information please call *Chris Piepel* or *Dan Austin* at 509-888-1588 or 509-679-6676.

You can also email: timberloomwen@gmail.com.

Facebook: *Timberloom & Timberloom Wenatchee*.

Timberloom is located at 200 South Columbia Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

➤ Avoid putting your fingers near the blade of the screwdriver when tightening a screw.

■ Use a drill, nail, or an awl to make a starting or pilot hole for screws.

■ Do not force a screwdriver by using a hammer or pliers on it.

■ Never use a screwdriver as a punch, chisel, pry bar, or nail puller.

■ When performing electrical work, ensure the screwdriver has a properly insulated handle.

Wrenches:

■ Discard any wrench that has spread, nicked, or battered jaws, or if the handle is loose, broken or bent.

■ Do not use a shim to make a wrench fit the fastener.

Pliers:

■ Do not use pliers that are cracked, broken, or sprung.

■ Never use pliers as a wrench or a hammer.

■ Do not attempt to force pliers by using a hammer on them.



ing electrical work, use pliers that have properly insulated handles.

■ When using diagonal cutting pliers, shield the loose pieces of cut material from flying into the air.

Having a good collection of the “Tools of the Trade” is important to any craftsman who intends to make a decent living in his chosen field.

It is equally important that the hand tools be maintained and used in a manner that ensures safety to the one using the tools and others in the immediate work-zone. Follow these guidelines for safe hand tool practices.

2021 SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	Chefs on 16 Tour	Home Tour 17	Home Tour 18
Home Tour 19	20	21	22	23	 BANNER BANK & BNCW HOME TOUR & REMODELING EXPO September 17 th -19 th BNCW CHEFS ON TOUR September 16 th	
26	27	28	29	30		

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PAGE 4



The Right Choice for
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Why settle for one Health Insurance quote, when you can choose from them all?

Mitchell, Reed & Schmitten Insurance offers BNCW members competitive health insurance rates from several insurance carriers.

BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's August Board of Directors Meeting

■ Wednesday, August 18, 2021
7:00am to 9:00am
Building North Central Washington
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee
Chairman: Jeff Story

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 August CPR & First Aid Training

■ **August 11, 2021** from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Held at Building North Central Washington,
2201 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee

Class size is limited to 12 people. (NOTE - there are only 5 spaces left!!)

\$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 12 and fill-up quickly, so reserve your spots early!

You may also register online at BuildingNCW.org.

**BNCW Members SAVE on your cell and health insurance costs!
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Dr. Richard Johnson appointed to the NCESD Board of Directors



Dr. Richard Johnson

Johnson will represent District #1 which includes Okanogan, Omak, Oroville, and Tonasket school districts.

Johnson comes to the NCESD board of directors with over 40 years of experience in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education in Idaho

and Washington. In 2018, he retired from his role as Superintendent of Okanogan School District after serving for 30 years.

Johnson said he is excited to be part of a team that is responsible for guiding the lives of over 40,000 students across the region.

"It is an exciting and demanding undertaking," Johnson added. "I am ready to contribute to, and work with, the NCESD board members to help our region's students become successful adults."

Johnson is a 30-year member of Okanogan Kiwanis Club and is the current President; he also is the Past President of Okanogan Chamber of Commerce.

About NCESD

North Central ESD covers just over 12,600 miles and provides services to schools in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant Counties serving over 42,000 students. The Board is composed of seven regionally elected members including: Dr. Richard Johnson (District 1 Representative), Dr. Michael Musick (District 2 Representative), Ed Daling (District 3 Representative), Larry MacGuffie (District 4 Representative), Mary Kunkle (District 5 Representative), Marcia Henkle (District 6 Representative), Susan Albert (District 7 Representative).



Chelan PUD Names Two Senior Leaders: Shawn Smith & Rosario Nystrom

Submitted by Rachel Hansen, Chelan PUD

WENATCHEE – Chelan County PUD has named two new leaders to its senior team: **Shawn Smith** as Managing Director, Energy Resources and **Rosario Nystrom** as Managing Director, Human Resources.

Smith comes to Chelan PUD with more than 20 years of experience with public and investor-owned utilities and start-up companies. Most recently, he held senior energy positions with the City of Anaheim, Calif., and Southern California Edison. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from University of California, Los



Rosario Nystrom

Angeles, and a certificate in project management.

Nystrom has more than 15 years of experience in human resources and administrative management, most recently with the Chelan County and the Orondo School District in North Central Washington. She holds a Bachelor of



Shawn Smith

Arts in Business Administration from Central Washington University and a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University, Washington. She also is certified by the Society for Human Resources Management and in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The Contract
Unveiling the healing power of forgiveness
A novel by local writer William E. Forhan.

Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez was quoted as saying, "All human beings have three lives, public, private and secret."

In our modern world of the Internet search engines and DNA testing, keeping our private and secret lives separate is increasingly difficult. Sometimes they can come crashing in on our public lives when we least expect it.

Father Robert McCarthy is a middle-aged priest who is suddenly and unexpectedly confronted with his secret past. How he deals with the revelation of that past with his family, his congregation and the impacts of

that secret life is inspirational. How McCarthy discloses the news of his college indiscretion requires him to take everyone involved on a journey of confession. That journey forces him to deal with issues of homosexuality, judgmentalism, divorce and pride.

His pastoring skills and the depth of support from his wife help him bring forgiveness and restoration to many broken relationships.

The bonds of three families are ultimately restored through celebrations of life experiences including fishing, holiday gatherings, the discovery of unknown family connections and a wedding.

Bill's Book is now available online through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Apple iBook The paperback is \$16.99 and the ebook is \$8.99. Or you can order the book directly from Bill at The Leavenworth Echo (509-548-5286), the Lake Chelan Mirror (509-682-2213), or by emailing your contact information to Bill.Forhan@gmail.com. Orders placed directly with the author have the added advantage of being signed including a short message if you like. Sales tax applies and if you request mail delivery add \$3.00 for postage. There is no charge if your order is picked up at the Echo or Mirror office.

Sunrise Rotary Club of Wenatchee announces new Officers

Submitted by Sunrise Rotary

The Rotary of Wenatchee Sunrise is pleased to announce the installation of its officers for the upcoming fiscal year which began July 1, 2021. Serving as President is Kathleen McNalty. Ms. McNalty resides in East Wenatchee and owns and operates a local tutoring business, Tutor Doctor. She is joined by President-Elect, Robin DeRock who lives in



Kathleen McNalty

Wenatchee and is a health care professional.

The Treasurer role is filled by Craig Reese who

lives in Wenatchee and is the CFO of The Sister Connection, a local non-profit serving widows and orphans in Burundi, Africa.

The Secretary is John Schapman, a Wenatchee resident who is Deputy Director of the North Central Accountable Community of Health. We look forward to fulfilling our Rotary mission of community service throughout the upcoming year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

SBA Disaster News Release

hardship," Garfield said.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on June 22, 2021. Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Ser-

vices Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>.

Applicants may also call

SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.



Boaters, Find a Pumpout Station Near You — Download the **Free** Pumpout Nav App!
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Local Charitable Funds Make Good Things Happen

By Denise Sorom

Director of Philanthropy,
Community Foundation of NCW

More energy efficient lighting for city hall. New planters to beautify main street. An after-school program at your local library branch. Updated medical equipment for the ambulance that services your community.

These types of projects embody the concept of “Think Globally, Act



Denise Sorom

Locally.”

They move the needle on large issues while making tangible benefits for people at home. They are perfect examples of the types of small projects that a charitable fund focused on your town can make possible.

At the Community Foundation of North Central Washington, we have two of such regional funds: the Waterville Community Fund and the Methow Valley Fund.

Every year local folks from Waterville and the Methow review a set of grant applications for projects that make an immediate difference for the

residents of those communities.

Every year, good things happen due to the generosity of a few charitable souls.

Take the Waterville fund for example: In 1989, five community members in Waterville each donated \$5,000 to start the fund for an initial balance of \$25,000.

Over the years, the fund has received several small donations as well as bequest gifts totaling roughly \$60,000, making total donations to the fund approximately \$85,000.

However, because this fund is endowed, the principal stays intact, and a spendable amount can be awarded as grants each year. This ensures the fund’s longevity and its growth over time.

Because of the miracle of compounding interest, the Waterville fund has now awarded over \$130,000 in grants to local organizations and maintains over \$200,000 as its endowed balance.

This is a fantastic example of how everyday community members can make a lasting difference in their hometowns.

In the Methow Valley, the idea of a local fund came from CFNCW’s board of directors.

They recognized that due to the density of nonprofits in the Methow, our general grant program would not cover the needs in that community.

To address this, they carved out the Methow



COURTESY PHOTO

The Town of Waterville has received financial support from the Waterville Fund nearly every year since the fund was established in 1999. Over \$17,000 has been invested in the City Pool alone, providing safe, fun recreation for kids and families.

from our general grant program and seeded a specific community fund for the Methow that would be matched each year by an anonymous donor with interest in that area.

Like Waterville, grants are reviewed by a committee of local citizens who understand the needs of their community.

Over the years, residents of the Methow have noticed the impact of this local fund and recently the Methow Valley Fund received a bequest that will double its grant-making budget in perpetuity.

While it can feel paralyzing to grapple with large and complicated issues such as climate change, income inequality and global health, it is possible can make changes at the local level through regional funds such as those in Waterville and the Methow Valley.

If starting a fund like this is something that interests you for your local

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Community Foundation of North Central Washington

town, please reach out to us. If you have the vision, we have the infrastructure

and capacity to make good things happen in your town year after year.

For more information, call (509) 663-7716 or visit www.cfncw.org.



PHOTO BY VOORTEX PRODUCTIONS, CASHMERE.

Will Young is brewing beer for Milepost Brewing Company.

By Erin Mullins
Reporter

Melissa McClendon, owner of Milepost Brewing Co. in Cashmere, is currently facing a staffing shortage at her restaurant after emerg-

ing from a pandemic. During the pandemic when takeout was the only option, she said that she had to scale back staff and purchasing of ingredients. Sales were minimal.

Despite the minimal sales, McClendon said that she felt that locals and tourists helped to get her restaurant through the pandemic when they were required to do takeout meals.

Milepost Brewing faces staffing shortages

“We could not have done it without people coming in, you know, and keeping us afloat. Local people did everything they could,” she said.

Now that things have opened up, the restaurant is dealing with an “unprecedented” staffing shortage. McClendon said that she puts out ads but no one is answering them. Five years ago, if she posted an ad McClendon would get 40 applicants. Two years ago, she would get 10 applicants. This year, zero people have responded to the ads.

“Sales are good, as compared to previous years, right now but we don’t have the staff to support what we’re doing,” she said.

McClendon said that she has hired younger staff to

back up the kitchen and the front of the house. Additionally, she has closed one day a week because of the lack of staff and is considering closing two days a week. She said that burnout of current staff is “always on the back of my mind.”

The reasons for the lack of staff are a combination of many things, she said. Unemployment is keeping people at home, people have found jobs elsewhere or they have moved on somewhere else, McClendon said. The restaurant industry as a whole has nobody to staff the restaurants, she said.

McClendon said that she thinks it will take a while for things to equalize and get back to normal. She thinks that it will take a full

year to get back to the staffing she had before. If fully staffed, Milepost Brewing Co. could be “doing so much more business”. The restaurant hasn’t added any more tables since it opened at 50 percent capacity and those tables are full all the time.

Milepost Brewing Co. is not currently accepting reservations because people are not always timely. To fulfill a reservation, a table has to be open 30 to 45 minutes before guests arrive. During the wait, no one is sitting at that table while other people are waiting to get in the door. Until things get better, the plan is to remain walk-in only.

Currently, McClendon is

REAL ESTATE

TOP PROPERTIES – June 2021

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
LORD ACRES HILL LLC	WHISKEY RANCH LLC	\$6,750,000	33 DIETRICH RD	CHELAN	19.7300	1336	1928	3	1	N	N
HANSEN SIGURD & JUNE	LANGE ANDREW	\$2,800,000	106 SHYPOKE PL	ENTIAT	0.8500	4823	2018	4	4.5	Y	Y
KENNEY CHRIS J & SHERWIN MARY C	BEVERICK MIKE & CINDY	\$2,400,000	17357 N SHORE DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.1000	2144	2018	3	2.5	N	N
MAHER ROBERT J & BRIGGS MAHER AMY	CHAPMAN DONALD S	\$2,050,000	1484 DEMPSEY RD	LEAVENWORTH	2.1100	2109	1998	5	4.5	N	Y
WHISKEY RANCH ESTATES LLC	EASTERN WA CONSTRUCTION INC	\$1,950,000	130 SR 150	CHELAN	16.2400	0	0			N	N
BEIDLER KURT & CHEN FANG	ELDREDGE LES W	\$1,950,000	UNASSIGNED	PLAIN	5.0000	0	0			N	N
LITTLE GARY W & MARVA H	COOPER JEFF & RENEE	\$1,900,000	556 DOVE HOLLOW RD	CHELAN	40.1100	3163	2017	3	2.5	N	N
THIER JONATHAN M & HANA G	BURKE SHAWN & D'ARCY	\$1,885,000	1905 W WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0.2400	3756	2017	4	4.5	Y	N
CRUZ RENTAL LLC	ALDRIDGE WILLARD D	\$1,859,200	300 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE	1.7500	21246	1961			N	N
CRUZ RENTAL LLC	ALDRIDGE WILLARD D	\$1,859,200	300 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE	1.2500	0	0			N	N
MOUNTAIN VALLEY ACRES LLC	KEIZER ELIZABETH L ETAL	\$1,575,000	UNASSIGNED	PESHASTIN	5.0000	0	0			N	N
MOORE CARRIE & BRIAN	STAHL KJRSTJN	\$1,550,000	10672 S LAKESHORE RD	CHELAN	0.1200	1072	1976	2	1.5	N	N
LIBERTY ORCHARDS INC	TAYLOR GREGORY ETAL	\$1,500,000	UNASSIGNED	CASHMERE	0.3300	0	0			N	N
BERMAN 4 LLC	WENATCHEE WELCOME INN	\$1,450,000	232 N WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	0.5800	13884	1961			N	N
MILLER JUNE & GROTHE JEFF	JANKELSON ROBERT	\$1,400,000	310 PAINTBRUSH RD	CHELAN	0.3400	2616	2006	3	4	N	Y
GARZA RICHARD & VIVIAN L	KRONMAL RICHARD A & VIRGINIA E ETAL	\$1,400,000	237 PORCUPINE LN	CHELAN	0.1000	1176	2016			N	N
CRUZ RENTAL LLC	DEACONESS APARTMENTS LLC	\$1,340,800	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	0.0000	29059	0			N	N
SMITH BLAINE S & JACQUELINE J	SPENCER JOEL D	\$1,250,000	3804 STRUTZEL RD	MONITOR	9.3700	3655	1997	4	2	N	N
TPR CHELAN 2 LLC	MULVANNY DOUGLAS & LINDA RVCBL TRST	\$1,225,000	654 BOETZKES AVE	MANSON	1.3600	0	0			N	N
VANDER WEL AMY C ETAL	SAND BRIAN & DIANE	\$1,200,000	1886 BROADVIEW	WENATCHEE	1.2800	3852	2003	4	5.5	N	Y
TVEDT DAVIS HEATHER J & DAVIS DEREK R	LELLELID NANCY A	\$1,199,000	12797 RANGER RD	LEAVENWORTH	2.0100	2674	2015	3	2.5	N	Y
PETERSON KATHERINE L & ENGLISH PATRICK J	PEWITT JAMES B	\$1,150,000	1128 DEMPSEY RD	LEAVENWORTH	2.0000	1500	2004	2	3	N	N
MINDT JEFFREY L	GALE AARON	\$1,150,000	2370 W MALAGA RD	MALAGA	17.4200	3014	1905	3	1	N	N
DATTO LLC	DUBOIS LISA L	\$1,095,000	6310 HAY CANYON RD	CASHMERE	2.1000	3065	2003	3	3	N	Y
HILL DENNIS & ELLEN	WILLENBACHER JOHN R & ANN L	\$1,092,000	108 ELDORADO PL	CHELAN	0.4100	3200	2001	4	3	N	Y
SMS INVESTMENTS PROPERTIES	SADLER LYNN A	\$1,000,000	112 OLDS STATION RD	WENATCHEE	0.4200	3840	2001			N	N
LEVANTE PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC	FERKATS LLC	\$900,000	110 S WATER ST	CHELAN	0.2200	3053	1951	4	4	N	N
KNELLEKEN JARED & GONIA HILARY P	DAVIES DAWN S	\$900,000	2225 SLEEPY HOLLOW HTS	WENATCHEE	4.4000	2209	1998	3	1	N	Y
YOST GAVIN	JKL PROPERTIES LLC	\$880,000	UNASSIGNED	ENTIAT	3.7900	0	0			N	N
COUNTRYMAN DAVID C & JENNIFER A	SMILEY RONALD & AMBER	\$870,000	4145 SUNNYBANK DR	CHELAN	0.3000	2538	1987	3	2.75	N	Y
BAIRD JAMES C & HART HEATHER	FANT JOSEPH & BONI	\$860,000	2101 PINE CT	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.5100	2244	1991	2	2	N	Y
WITT JAMES T & KRUSE JENNIFER L	GATENS CLAY M & JESSACA	\$830,000	6620 PINNACLE VIEW RD	DRYDEN	0.5000	1914	1978	3	2	N	Y
KIRKSEY JEFFREY J	TIMBERWOOD HOMES LLC	\$822,747	281 BURCH HOLLOW LN	WENATCHEE	0.7400	0	0			N	N
BARTLETT DAMARIS & THOMAS R	NICKLES BEN K & RUTH A	\$816,000	115 DIEDE HILLS LN	WENATCHEE	1.1000	2238	2019	3	2	N	Y
KIMBLE RICHELLE L & SIADAK AUSTIN B	SNIDER DOUGLAS F & STACEE	\$805,000	6299 KIMBER RD	CASHMERE	0.4900	2594	1994			N	N
HUGHES WILLIAM J & BEVERLY R	ZALEWSKI RICHARD B & SUSAN E	\$800,000	2881 LAKESHORE DR	MANSON	0.3300	1709	1997	2	1.75	N	Y
GIAUDRONE DOMINIC & MIKACENIC CARMEN	MC COMAS LUCAS	\$800,000	3018 MEMORY LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.3400	1430	2016	3	3	N	Y
DOROSH ANGELINA & PATHAK RISHI	DEVLIN TIMOTHY S & RHONDA M	\$800,000	115 BEACH LN	CHELAN	0.3600	1040	2014	4	2	N	Y
NAIK DARSHAN R & UMA	DOLAN MICHAEL	\$790,000	25404 RIATA ST	PLAIN	0.3100	870	1993			N	N
KHAN SHEHRYAR & ALI NAUREEN AMIR	DZIUK SARAH AND MICHAEL W/H	\$766,200	21202 STETSON RD	PLAIN	0.3100	1625	2007	2	2.5	N	Y
KINNESTRAND SVEN S & REBECCA	BARTLETT THOMAS R	\$760,000	21841 PINTO LN	PLAIN	0.2700	1606	1990			N	N
CHERRY GERALDINE	MARKS GARY H	\$752,000	20642 MIRACLE MILE	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.3100	2369	2002	3	2.5	N	N
WYSHAM THOMAS R & BARBARA E	WAPITI NORTH LLC	\$751,000	119 STARLIGHT AVE	WENATCHEE	0.3600	2066	2020	4	2	N	Y
KENDRICK JESSIE M & ROBERT W II	KLEIN GEORGE & RENE TRUSTEES	\$749,000	3991 CAMAS CREEK RD	PESHASTIN	3.1200	2100	1993	1	2	N	Y
ANDERSON LARRY & RILEY A	ZANE PERRY	\$735,000	11030 WENDING LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.6000	1120	2019			N	Y
REKAI CHRISTIANE	STULL ROBERT & BRENDA	\$700,000	3875 SUNRIDGE LN	WENATCHEE	1.2600	1676	2015	4	2.5	N	Y
WILLIAMS DANIEL L & CYNTHIA D	HICKS BRIAN&SHANNON	\$696,500	5550 NAVARRE COULEE RD	CHELAN	11.3000	3031	2009	3	2.5	N	N
FEDOR VITO & OLENA	GRAHAM CUSTOM HOMES LLC	\$678,000	86 BONHAM LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.5000	0	0			N	N
HIGGINS THOMAS M & CASTRO ROXANA M	QUALLS JAMES C & TAMARA	\$673,000	2148 W HONEYSETT RD	WENATCHEE	0.1600	2525	2008	4	3.5	N	Y
FODE RUSS & SHEILA	DUNNAVAN NOEL L & JANET W	\$672,000	209 PARKWAY DR	MANSON	0.0800	2242	1997	4	3	N	Y

TOP PROPERTIES – June 2021 – continued from page 17

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Pool	Fire-place
KREBSBACH BRENT T & GONZALES KREBSBACH JENNIFER	FLOREA MICAH J & ELIZABETH M	\$657,000	414 S ELLIOTT AVE	WENATCHEE	0.2700	1125	2004	4	2	N	Y
STOCKWELL SUSAN	PAYNE JAMES H	\$650,000	3418 MARI LANE DR	WENATCHEE	0.6600	2346	1976	4	3.5	N	Y
PISTORESI JOHN	XU SHIHUA	\$650,000	239 PROSPECT ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.0900	1820	2018			N	N
PHILLIPS DAVID E & EDEE J	RICHFORD RICK T	\$650,000	9365 E LEAVENWORTH RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.5000	1144	1971	3	1.5	N	Y
FIREBIRD PROPERTIES LLC	NORRIS JAMES W JR	\$650,000	313 N MISSION ST	WENATCHEE	0.1800	4800	1949			N	N
DE JARNATT ANDREW C & JULIE C	K & L HOMES LLC	\$650,000	422 SUNNY BROOKE LN	CHELAN	0.1900	0	0			N	N
JAWA HITESH & MALHOTRA ALPA	CARR DANIEL M ETAL	\$645,000	167 W WHITMAN ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.2800	1848	1982	2	2	N	Y
CHRISTENSEN SAVANNAH J	DAVIS NICKEY L	\$645,000	403 LOMBARD LN	WENATCHEE	0.4800	1999	1989	3	3	N	N
GILES JOHN M	GRAHAM CUSTOM HOMES LLC	\$640,000	74 BONHAM LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.5000	1584	2021	2	2	N	Y
ROTHAUS DENNIS & SANDRA	SAYER REVOCABLE TRUST	\$635,000	1813 TROON AVE	WENATCHEE	0.2200	2102	2015	3	3	N	Y
WADE JENNIFER M	MAYHEW JULIE A	\$630,000	1703 BRAMBLING BRAE LN	WENATCHEE	0.2100	2189	2017	3	2.5	N	Y
SABATELLO MICHAEL A & OLIVIA	HUTCHINSON BRIAN & DELISHA	\$630,000	2201 MICHAEL BROOKE	WENATCHEE	0.3800	1859	2000	4	2	Y	Y
LAMMERT KEVIN & KARIN	LAMMERT PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC	\$630,000	2014 MAIDEN LN	WENATCHEE	0.5000	2880	1997			N	Y
BELL LEA	HENLEY WILLIE L	\$615,000	130 N FRANKLIN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.1800	1848	1930	3	2	N	Y
NIEMEYER RYAN & REBECA	JONES JASON & JODI	\$612,000	4977 RED APPLE RD	CASHMERE	1.9300	2403	1912	4	3	N	N
ST GERMAIN GORDON H & DARLA M	CLARK TIMOTHY M & SANDRA A	\$610,000	440 SUNNYSLOPE HEIGHTS RD	WENATCHEE	0.6500	2720	1999			N	N
RIM LLC	WINSOR LLC	\$610,000	203 S DIVISION ST	CASHMERE	0.1400	2135	1910			N	N
STUART KUCHA SANDRA ETAL	GRAHAM DOUG & CHRISSY	\$600,000	62 BONHAM LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.5000	1667	2021	2	2	N	Y
DE ARMENT LYLE M & MARIA T	SHULL CHARLES O	\$600,000	1404 N WESTERN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.7100	2186	2006			N	N
BRINE TIFFANY & DAVIES WILLIAM	WARRINGTON MARK E & SALLY	\$590,000	331 ORCHARD ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.2500	1384	1914	4	2	N	N
ALL LACEY N & WHITE AMY L	BATY RODNEY K	\$590,000	22421 STIRRUP RD	PLAIN	0.3600	1824	2008	3	2	N	N
CPC INVESTMENTS LLC	NORTHBROOK PROPERTIES INC	\$585,000	912 S COLUMBIA ST	WENATCHEE	0.5500	5680	1977			N	N
MARRON JUAN	MELTON KELLY & MARY	\$580,000	6160 PIONEER DR	CASHMERE	0.7200	1728	2007	3	4	N	N
EATON NATHAN R & DESIREE E	MILLER BRANDON D & ELIZABETH J MOUNTER	\$580,000	5167 MISSION CREEK RD	CASHMERE	0.6100	2472	2013	3	2.5	N	Y
SENYITKO ALISSA J & CARLSON RICHARD L	D & T CAMPBELL INVESTMENTS LLC	\$579,000	142 MANZANITA DR	MANSON	0.2300	0	0			N	N
KRUEGER MARIA D & DANIEL O	STERNOD TIMOTHY J & ROXANNE	\$570,000	1713 DANNY BOY LN	WENATCHEE	0.1600	1994	2017	3	2.5	N	Y
CURRAN ROBERT H & JANIS S	KUNTZ FRANK T RESIDUARY TRUST	\$565,000	1718 CENTRAL AVE	WENATCHEE	0.0000	2011	2015	3	2	N	Y
HARRELL JIM W III & LAYCE J	LOEFFLER SANDRA B (S) & LOEFFLER MARTHA M (S)	\$564,900	9650 OLALLA CANYON RD	CASHMERE	20.0000	2240	2014	4	3	N	N
PINO BRIAN M	KUMAR ANKITA & ANUNEET	\$557,277	7185 OLALLA CANYON RD	CASHMERE	2.2000	1200	1988	3	2.5	N	N
PINA HERNANDEZ ROMUALDO & PINA PEREZ ERIKA J	TALBOT TERRY S & SUSAN J CO-TRUSTEES	\$555,000	312 NORMAN AVE	CASHMERE	0.1700	1062	2007			N	Y
KING JESSIE J & KING CHRISTIE	KRAUSE AARON J	\$555,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	0.1100	0	0			N	N
SUNDANCE SLOPE LLC	HUFFMAN GREG & JOHANNA	\$550,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	15.3200	0	0			N	N
SUNDANCE SLOPE LLC	HUFFMAN GREG & JOHANNA	\$550,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	12.8800	1140	1967		1	N	N
ENTIAT 23 LLC	MOUNTAIN PACIFIC BANK	\$550,000	UNASSIGNED	ENTIAT	23.4700	0	0			N	N
DAVISON DENNIS L & JANET M	ROGERS KAMI	\$550,000	548 CIRCLE ST	WENATCHEE	0.1800	1923	2016	3	2	N	N

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Milepost Brewing faces staffing shortages

not worried about the long term future of her business but she is more worried about her staff, both emotionally and financially. It is hard to pay her staff what they want and the work can be overwhelming.

Staff can be buried for three hours with no break because the tickets just keep coming, she said. An employee may be the only one serving and they cannot get to their tables fast enough because they are dealing with three tables by themselves.

There are between eight to 10 tables that could be open in the restaurant, McClendon said, which would almost double the restaurant's seating. However, opening more tables would

ruin the customer experience because of how short staffed they are.

"We just... are just trying to keep our heads above water at this point," McClendon said.

Milepost Brewing Co. is currently profitable but when they had to close for takeout they were not profitable, McClendon said. Whenever there has been in person seating, Milepost Brewing Co has been profitable. The staff and customers are compassionate and understanding, McClendon said. Around "95 to 98 percent" of people that come in understand that Milepost Brewing Co. is "trying really hard to do the best job we can."

Some of the Milepost

Brewing Co. staff have been with the restaurant as long as it has been open, McClendon said. Most of her staff that were there from before the coronavirus pandemic have come back. Meanwhile, McClendon is just trying to take things one day at a time.

"I can't really look too far ahead, I'm trying not to, otherwise it'll just make you go crazy," she said

Despite the staffing shortages, the restaurant is still focused on quality. At Milepost Brewing Co. everything is made from scratch, McClendon said. Almost all of the salad dressing and sauces are made in-house. The burgers and fries are made by hand. Baked goods are sourced from the local bakery in Cashmere.

A local lady makes the pies and works in-house, McClendon said. She has been making pies since she was just out of high school and is well-known. A local man is the brewer for the restaurant. Catering is managed by Jamie Gere, who is a 10% owner of the business.

In 2021 the goal of Milepost Brewing Co. is to rebrand their image as more of a brewery than a restaurant, McClendon said. Milepost Brewing Co. has a bar with liquor selections for those who do not like beer. There is a patio outside of the restaurant that is dog friendly and most of the restaurant is kid friendly.

"We have a little bit of everything for everybody," McClendon said.

Milepost Brewing Company is located at 407 Aplets Way in Cashmere and the company can be reached by calling (509)-888-0222.



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New Business Licenses July 2021

▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Kit And Caboodle Estate Sales	Estate Sales, Interior Designer, Floral
225 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Niederstadt Management Services	Management Company
107 Evergreen Dr Cashmere WA 98815	
The Laser Guy	Engraving, Etching, Jewelry Making
101 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Almond Blossom Roasted Nuts	Food Sales, Food Processor, Food Wholesale
102 Aplets Way Cashmere WA 98815	
Armbrust Pottery	Ceramics, Pottery
221 Libby Ln Cashmere WA 98815	
Nutrition Cabrillas & Zumba	Activity Planning
101 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Roadkillz, LLC	Food Truck
5661 Pioneer Dr Cashmere WA 98815	
Innovative Food Services	Catering
206 Washington St Cashmere WA 98815	
All Valley Painting And Gutters LLC	Painting - Construction, Gutter - Install, Repair
117 W Pleasant Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Botas El Gallo	Shoe Sales
5454 Binder Rd Cashmere WA 98815	
Dolls Boutique	Clothing, Apparel
103 Valley St Cashmere WA 98815	
RMC Construction LLC	Construction: Framing, Contractor, Building Maintenance, Property Maintenance
6011 Sunset Hwy Cashmere WA 98815	
Curb Appeal Landscape Supply, LLC	Landscape Supplies
5501 Mill Rd Cashmere WA 98815	
The Loft At Urban LLC	Clothing, Apparel, Clothing Store
126 Cottage Ave Cashmere	
One Love Preschool, LLC	Academy
342 Sunset Hwy Cashmere WA 98815	
Sirens Skincare	Esthetician
203 Mission Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Tamarack Tax And Consulting Llc	Tax Preparation Service
209 Woodring St Cashmere WA 98815	
Samoah	Event Equipment Distributor, Event Planner
203 Washington St Cashmere WA 98815	
Everything Skin	Facials And Waxing
133 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
The JJ Adventures	Clothing, Apparel
321 Elberta Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Lockjaw Wine Coalition LLC	Data Processing, Multimedia Marketing, Wine Club, Wine Distributor, Wine Retailer
110 Birch St Cashmere WA 98815	

▶▶▶ SEE PAGE 20

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



Crunch Pak® Adds Gusseted Bags To Package Options

Submitted by Crunch Pak

CASHMERE – Crunch Pak®, the sliced apples specialist, is adding gusseted, stand-up bags to its list of packaging options and will launch the new SKUs with a limited item promoting Paw Patrol the Movie from Paramount Studios.

Available the end of July in select stores, the gusseted bags come in 14-ounce and 24-ounce sizes and with options of sweet, tart, peeled or mixed apple slices.

The bags are resealable and are made with materials that maintain product freshness.

“We are excited to continue the Crunch Pak legacy of innovation in products and packaging, said Ozgur Koc, senior vice president, new business and product development. Family-size packaging represents 35 percent of sliced apple business and these bags maximize shelf space with no lost space between facings and the graphics and vertical pre-

sentation create awareness and encourage impulse purchase.”

Initial tests show the durability of the bag protects the contents’ integrity which translates to less shrink and more satisfied shoppers.

The gusseted bags will launch with Paw Patrol characters and then transition after the promotion to Crunch Pak branding.

For more information visit www.crunchpak.com

About Crunch Pak

Crunch Pak® is the industry leader in fresh sliced apples. Founded in 2000, Crunch Pak® is committed to providing the highest quality organic and conventional sliced apples in the market. Crunch Pak’s family of brands includes Crunch Pak with Disney, Crunch Pak with Nickelodeon, and Crunch Pak® Organics. The primary distribution is via retail channels; annually Crunch Pak creates more than 1 billion apple slices at plants in Cashmere, Wash., and New Jersey.



Changes in Regulations to Deal with Forests and Fires

By Erin Mullins
Reporter

With extreme heat, wildfires, and drought conditions prevalent across the state managing forests is an increasing challenge. Legislation has been introduced to help deal with the clean-up of damaged forest lands and manage controlled burns in Washington. Additionally, the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) filed emergency rules on July 16 to protect employees from wildfire smoke.

The rules require employers to train employees about wildfire smoke, ensure that employees showing symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure are monitored and receive care and reduce exposure to wildfire smoke when feasible, according to L&I.

The rules state that employers cannot retaliate against employees for seeking treatment for wildfire smoke. They also encourage employers to provide employees with respirators at no cost. Employees who work indoors, in cars with air filters and firefighters engaged in wildland firefighting are exempt from the new rules.

Washington is just the second state to issue regulations regarding workers and wildlife smoke, according to L&I. The emergency rules were effective on the day they were enacted, but employers were given a brief grace period before enforcement began. L&I created the rules with stakeholder impact and by referencing California’s existing smoke rules.

The most concerning hazard of smoke is the smallest smoke particles that are less than 2.5 micrometers, according to L&I. These particles can get deep in the lungs and

worsen conditions like asthma, increase the risk of death and impact heart health.

While workers will now receive some protection from the smoke, a new bill has been introduced to the House of Representatives by local U.S. Representative Kim Schrier and three other bi-partisan representatives to fund the clean up of damaged forest service lands.

On July 16, the National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act was introduced, according to a press release from Schrier’s office. The bill would fund

forest cleanup by allowing the Forest Service to collect and keep the interest earned on settlement funds.

Settlement funds are fines that are collected for damage and destruction of public lands, said Elizabeth Carlson, Communications Director for Congresswoman Kim Schrier. Settlement Funds are collected from bad actors who create a mining problem, wildfire, or other catastrophe on Forest Service lands.

When settlement funds go to agencies like the Department of the Interior (DOI) or Environmental Protection Agency, those funds go in a bank account and collect interest, said Schrier. The funds can then be used for clean-up projects within the agency. Most government organizations are permitted to use their own interest from settlement funds.

However, when the Forest Service collects settlement funds, interest from those funds goes to the general fund, Schrier said, instead of back to the Forest Service. If the bill was passed, settlement



File photo



Submitted photo

12 Tribes Colville Casinos Provides RV Oasis Amid Heat Wave

Submitted by Whitney Devereaux

MILLBAY – 12 Tribes Mill Bay Casino announced the official opening of the 12 Tribes Mill Bay Casino RV Park. Reservations are now available online or at the Players Advantage Club.

“Lake Chelan is a beautiful area and given our pristine location we decided to expand and provide an oasis for our guests,” said Kary Nichols, Colville Tribal Federal Corporation (CTFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO). “With

the increase in outdoor recreation, we are excited to open and provide 30/50-amp RV Park spaces near the 12 Tribes Mill Bay Casino and Lake Chelan.”

The new RV park offers competitive pricing and discounts for Players Advantage Club members. It also features 21 pull through spaces that include power, water, and internet and is the perfect summer vacation spot near Lake Chelan.

For more information and reservations, visit: <http://colvillecasinos.com/mill-bay-casino/rv-park>

The 12 Tribes Colville Casinos include 12 Tribes Omak Casino Hotel in Omak, 12 Tribes Lake Chelan Casino and 12 Tribes Lake Chelan Casino’s Amphitheater near Lake Chelan in Manson, and 12 Tribes Coulee Dam Casino in Coulee Dam. All three Washington State casinos are owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. As casino operators, we provide authentic connections through memorable experiences and individual player recognition by delivering more than expected. For more information, visit www.colvillecasinos.com.

New Business Licenses July 2021

▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Boyer Mtn Door & Pool, Inc.	Pool And Spa Installation, Excavation
4960 Mission Creek Rd Cashmere WA 98815	
Overall Handyman Services	Handyman Construction Services
129 Cottage Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
J.S. Builders LLC	Construction (Siding)
417 Norman Ave Cashmere WA 98815	
Carla's Country Grooming	Animal Groomer
109 Railroad Ave Cashmere WA 98815	

DRYDEN

Eastside Dreamscapes	Construction
6630 Frontage Rd #341 Dryden WA 98821	

LEAVENWORTH

First Choice Electric LLC	Electrical Installation
11734 Us Highway 2 Leavenworth WA 98826	
Hol Construction	Residential Remodel And Construction
179 Ogrady St Leavenworth WA 98826	
A-Team Total Care LLC	Janitorial, House Cleaning
12613 Prowell St Leavenworth WA 98826	
Anderson Residential Design	Residential And Light Commercial Building Design Services
802 Pine St Leavenworth WA 98826	
Form	Concrete Counter Tops
9286 E Leavenworth Rd Leavenworth WA 98826	

MALAGA

JP General Construction LLC	Concrete, Sheetrock, New Residential And Remodel Homes, Siding, Framing
68 Ambrosia Ln Malaga WA 98828	

MANSON

Granite Peak Electric	Electrical Contractor
195 Proctor Blvd Manson WA 98831	

PESHASTIN

A P Construction	Contractor, Construction, Garbage Hauling, Timber Removal (Personal Property), Photographer.
5674 Mountain Lane Rd Peshastin WA 98847	

ROCK ISLAND

Greenthumb Lawncare LLC	Lawncare Maintenance
1381 Douglas St Rock Island	

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REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Changes in Regulations to Deal with Forests and Fires

funds could be used by the Forest Service within their own agency.

These funds could be used for fire prevention efforts like controlled burns or pulling out small diameter trees and brush, she said. The money could also be used for other forest restoration efforts.

According to the Forest Service’s Inspector General’s report, if the forest service had had the ability to retain interest on settlements from 2015 to 2019, it would have received \$7.6 million in funding for forest restoration work.

Schrier is not sure when the bill will be passed, if ever. She is trying to fit the bill into a package that makes sense, like a public lands package or agricultural package, because most bills do not pass by themselves.

“There’s a lot of momentum around forest fire prevention and getting our forest service funded. And so, you know, I’m hoping that this will go through quickly,” she said.

In addition to the Na-

tional Forest Service and Remediation Act, Schrier said she is in the process of introducing another bill to protect forests. The other bill, the National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021, would markedly expand the use of controlled burns and prescribed fires in the forests.

The bill gives minimum amounts of acreage that need to be burned, Schrier said, and gives states incentives to get controlled burns done. Doing controlled burns can help communities to avoid devastating wildfires.

It would take something like 70 years to take care of all the forest land we need to take care of, said Schrier. Forest service land cannot be maintained and forgotten about, instead it needs to be maintained regularly to prevent fires.

The National Prescribed Fires Act of 2021 would institute a \$300 million account for the Forest Service and the DOI to plan, prepare, and conduct controlled burns, according to a press release from

Schrier’s office.

Additionally, a \$10 million collaborative program to implement controlled burns on county, state and private land at high risk of burning in a wildfire would be established, according to the release. The act would also establish a workforce development program for fire related jobs.

“Prescribed fire is one of the most important factors to achieve healthier forests and to minimize risks of catastrophic wildfire. I’m thankful to Congresswoman Schrier for helping to

lead the way at the federal level to reduce our wildfire risk,” said Washington State Senator Brad Hawkins, District 12 in the release.

Although neither the National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021 or the National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act have passed, both would increase management of forest service land and take efforts to reduce wildfires. With forest fires an annual threat to many Washington communities, it is important to have a preventative plan in place.



Redistricting, payroll tax for long-term care, impacts of police reforms

By Keith Goehner

Redistricting

Every 10 years after the federal government has compiled their census information, Washington state redraws the boundaries of our legislative and congressional districts to reflect our state's changing populations to ensure each district represents an equal number of residents.

The Washington State Redistricting Commission consists of four voting members – two Democrats and two Republicans – picked by the leaders of the Democratic and Republican caucuses in the state House and Senate. A fifth, nonvoting chairperson is then picked by the voting members.

The public can participate in the process. The commission is currently working on drawing the lines of the 10 congressional districts.

Our region is currently split among the 4th and 8th Congressional Districts. Meetings for these districts are coming up.

Congressional Districts 4 and 5 (Round 2), July 24, 2021, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Congressional Districts 8 and 10 (Round 2), July 31, 2021, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

A list of redistricting meetings can be found at <https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/commission-meetings>. You will find the option to register for public comment in the details of each meeting.

New payroll tax

I have heard from some of you about the new payroll tax related to the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Program. While the tax will be new, starting on Jan. 1, 2022, it actually comes from legislation passed by the majority party in the 2019 legislative session.

When the tax kicks in, employees in Washington state will pay 0.58 percent per \$100 of their earnings to fund the Long-Term Care Trust Act.

Those who pay into the Trust Program are eligible for a lifetime maximum benefit of \$36,500 (adjusted annually by no more than the Consumer Price Index

once they vest). This benefit is available for Washington residents only and for care provided in the state of Washington. It is not transferable, so if you plan to retire to another state, you lose your entire contribution into the system.

To utilize the benefits, you must also need assistance with at least three of 10 Activities of Daily Living (ADLs): medication management, personal hygiene, eating, toileting, transferring, body care, bathing, ambulation/mobility, dressing and cognitive impairment. Individuals who meet these requirements may begin applying for benefits in January 2025.

Also, if you plan to retire within the next 10 years, you will not receive a benefit for your contribution because you must work 500 hours per year for 10 years to be vested. Even if you work the next nine-and-a-half years, then decide to retire, you will lose your entire contribution into the system.

The funds can only be utilized with providers who are on a Department of Social and Health Services approved list for services.

Funds can be spent on nursing facilities, residential settings like assisted living and adult family homes, professional caregiving like home health care, wheelchair ramps, emergency alert devices, medication reminders, Meals on Wheels, rides to doctor appointments, dementia education, caregiver support, and care coordination.

To opt out, you must purchase a qualified long-term care insurance plan before Nov. 1, 2021.

Do we need to do a better job at long-term care planning? Sure. Unfortunately, this program is riddled with flaws. It penalizes those who retire out of state and employees who are within 10 years of retirement, has a limited maximum benefit and is poor policy.

You can find more on this issue here: <https://house-republicans.wa.gov/2021/06/22/fdq-long-term-services-and-supports-trust-program/#ltc-4>

Washington is open! Or is it?

On June 30, the governor lifted the pandemic restrictions and reopened Wash-

ington. Restrictions have been lifted on restaurants, bars, churches, concert halls, movie theaters and more. However, businesses are still allowed to set their

own standards, if they so choose.

The governor announced a while ago people who have been fully vaccinated can stop wearing masks and social distancing both indoors and outside. This aligns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated guidelines which states people who have been fully vaccinated can safely stop wearing masks. There are exceptions and businesses can still require their customers to wear masks, and they may ask for proof of vaccination.

However, the biggest question that still remains

is, when is our emergency over? Inslee recently announced a new emergency order related to evictions and rental assistance, but he didn't mention that order also extends the emergency declaration through Sept. 30.

Washington state's "emergency" is approaching 500 days and is the longest running in the nation. COVID-19 is not over, but as I, and many other elected officials and citizens have said, we should not be under one person control, especially for 16 months.

There is simply no reason to be operating under this emergency order any longer.

SEE GOEHNER UPDATE, PAGE 22

SPORT CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT & HELICOPTER BALL DROP

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

HIGHLANDER GOLF COURSE

Registration: 4-5:30 pm

- Putting & Chipping Contests: 4:30 pm
- Putting Hole In One: \$5,000 Cash Prize
 - Closest to the Pin Awards
 - Long Drive Awards
- Dinner & Awards Ceremony following tournament

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Register your team of 4 or as an individual at sportclassicgolf.com

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

Overview

This report provides an update on the Wenatchee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) economy incorporating not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year over year (May 2020 and May 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 jumped from 4.1 percent in 2019 to 8.4 percent in 2020. However, between May 2020 and May 2021, the rate fell from 12.7 to 5.3 percent, a seven and

four-tenths percentage points downturn.

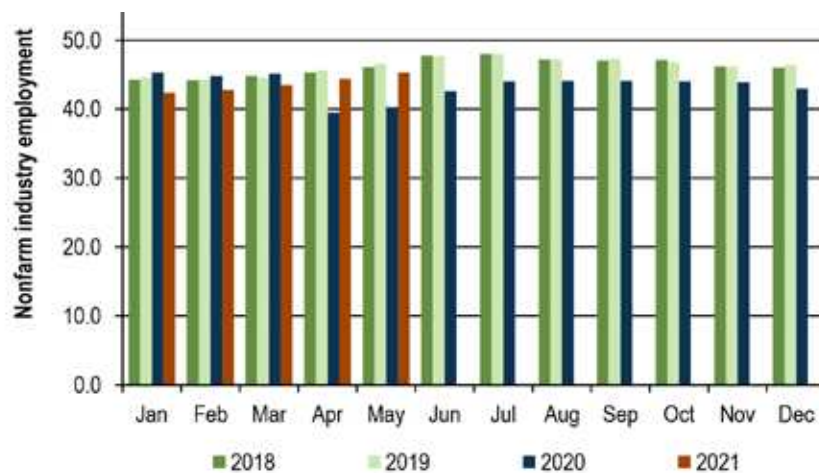
In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate rose from 5.1 percent to 8.4 percent between 2019 and 2020. COVID-19-related layoffs pushed monthly unemployment rates upwards, year over year, from April 2020 through March 2021, but rates plummeted to 5.8 percent in April 2021 and to 5.3 percent this May – steps in the right direction for the local economy.

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2019 and 2020, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 184,400 fewer nonfarm jobs, an average annual decrease of -5.3 percent. In May

2021, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,358,800 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,109,900 in May 2020, a gain of 248,900 jobs and an 8.0 percent upturn. Washington's labor market also contracted the 12 months from April 2020 through March 2021 prior to 7.4 percent and 8.0 percent increases in April and May 2021. Estimates indicate that the Wenatchee MSA's economy lost 2,900 jobs in 2020, a -6.2 percent downturn, higher than Washington's -5.3 percent loss rate during 2020. The Wenatchee MSA nonfarm market contracted, year over year, for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) before expanding by 12.4 percent in both

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



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA increased by 11.0 percent between May 2020 and May 2021.

April 2021 and May 2021. This May, nonfarm employment rose 5,000 jobs over the May 2020 job level of 40,300. The downside: the local economy has still not recovered all jobs lost since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two years ago, in May 2019, total nonfarm employment across the MSA provided 46,600 jobs, 1,300 more jobs than the 45,300 jobs tallied in May 2021.

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. Most of this expansion occurred in the first half of 2020. Statewide, the labor force retrenched from October 2020 through April 2021 before edging upwards 0.2 percent, from 3,899,857 residents in May 2020 to 3,908,226 this May.

The Wenatchee MSA's CLF

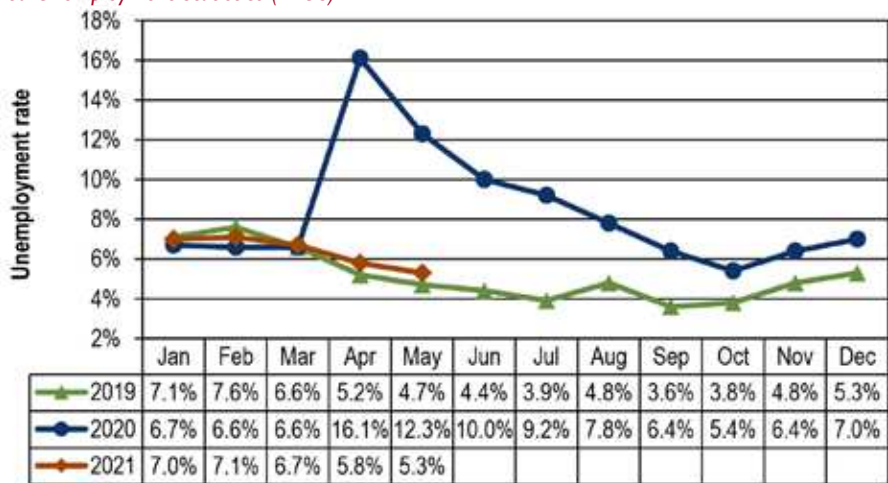
shrank from 66,981 residents in 2019 to 65,471 in 2020, a -2.3 percent downturn. Year over year the Wenatchee MSA's labor force contracted for 12 months (May 2020 through April 2021) before expanding by 0.3 percent in May 2021. This recent 184 resident and 0.3 percent increase in the local CLF between May 2020 (64,060 residents) and May 2021 (64,244 residents) is an encouraging indicator. Why? May 2021 was the first month in the past 13 during which the local labor force expanded. When county-level nonfarm employment and CLF estimates for June 2021 are released on 20 July 2021, it will be interesting to see whether this recent labor force growth was just a "blip on the radar screen" or if it has become a trend. Also, the number of unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas coun-

ties) plummeted from 7,853 in May of last year to 3,390 in May 2021, a dramatic -56.8 percent decrease. Hence, the modest growth in the labor force combined with this drop in the number of residents out of work between May 2020 and May 2021, caused the Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate to free-fall from 12.3 percent to 5.3 percent.

Nonfarm industry employment

Between May 2020 and May 2021, total nonfarm employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA) increased from 40,300 to 45,300 jobs, a 5,000 job and 12.4 percent upturn. Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market had contracted for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) prior to 12.4 percent employment increases in April and

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



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate fell by seven percentage points between May 2020 and May 2021.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Redistricting, payroll tax for long-term care, impacts of police reforms

Overall crime up in 2020

Recent figures released from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs show that crime increased overall in 2020.

The report shows that in 2020, murders were up almost 47% and have increased overall 67% since 2016. A couple other glaring statistics include:

- Washington is ranked 51st out of the 50 states and District of Columbia for the number of officers per thousand people.
- Reported cases of officers assaulted was up 6%

in 2020 and has increased 67% since 2016.

This comes on the heels of the majority party passing legislation many believe will make the job of law enforcement officers more difficult, drive officers out of this profession and make our communities less safe.

The Columbia Basin Herald recently ran an article, "Who can respond? New use-of-force law changes police work in Moses Lake; police chief warns of limitations," that discusses the challenges law enforcement in our

region face with the new legislation.

Transportation revenues increase

On June 23, the Transportation Revenue Forecast Council unveiled the most recent transportation revenue forecast. Highlights include:

- The June 2021 baseline transportation forecast of revenues total \$6.1 billion for the current biennium, which is up from the March 2021 baseline forecast by \$52.2 million or 0.9%. Most of the increase in revenue is due to fuel taxes and toll revenues.

- Over the next 10 years, the baseline transportation revenues are projected to be \$34.46 billion, which is up from the last forecast by \$396 million or (1.2%) from March.

The largest upward adjustments have been fuel tax collection, driver-related and business-related revenues.

Kreidler bans credit scores for use in setting insurance rates

On June 20, Office of the Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler's emergency rule banning credit scoring kicked in.

For three years, until after the COVID-19 pandemic is declared over, the insurance companies can no longer use credit scores to determine premiums for

home, auto and renter's insurance policies.

I have heard from some of you on this issue. I am very concerned that government is once again telling businesses how to function. This will likely penalize many people. According to Kreidler's office, approximately 1.3 million policyholders could see rate changes, but how many will be paying more versus those who will pay less is not known.

The credit score is a very accurate tool to use for the rating process, but under this new rule the insurance industry expects to see rate increases of up to 5 - 10%. According to AAA, Washington senior citizens could pay 20% more.

Water rights

I continue to work on

a number of issues this interim.

Water in our region continues to be one of my priorities.

We did get \$2 million in the capital budget for water banking in the Methow region.

However, that is only one piece of the many different issues related to water.

I continue to work on fine tuning my water rights transfer legislation this interim and hope to gain more traction in the upcoming session.

While the legislative session is over, I am available to meet with you, listen to your ideas, answer questions and help you navigate problems with state government. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

You can follow state government news throughout the interim with the following websites/news services.

- The Washington State Ledger: This is a legislative news aggregator administered by state House Republicans.

It is a great source for information related to state government, public policy and the legislative process. It is updated frequently.

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Aaron Barnett at aaronb5@uw.edu



Wenatchee MSA labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, May 2021. Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES)

Kittitas County	Preliminary May-21	Revised Apr-21	Revised May-20	Change		Percent change
				April-21 - May-21	May-20 - May-21	
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	64,244	63,020	64,060	1,224	184	0.3%
Resident employment	60,854	59,366	56,207	1,488	4,647	8.3%
Unemployment	3,390	3,654	7,853	-264	-4,463	-56.8%
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.8	12.3	-0.5	-7.0	-
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	45.3	44.4	40.3	0.9	5.0	12.4%
Total private	36.0	35.5	31.4	0.5	4.6	14.6%
Goods producing	5.6	5.5	4.9	0.1	0.7	14.3%
Mining, logging and construction	3.2	3.1	2.8	0.1	0.4	14.3%
Manufacturing	2.4	2.4	2.1	0.0	0.3	14.3%
Service providing	39.7	38.9	35.4	0.8	4.3	12.1%
Private services providing	30.4	30.0	26.5	0.4	3.9	14.7%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	10.1	10.1	8.7	0.0	1.4	16.1%
Retail trade	6.4	6.4	5.5	0.0	0.9	16.4%
Education and health services	8.0	8.0	7.5	0.0	0.5	6.7%
Leisure and hospitality	6.2	5.9	4.1	0.3	2.1	51.2%
Government	9.3	8.9	8.9	0.4	0.4	4.5%
Federal government	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0%
State government	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Local government	7.2	7.0	6.8	0.2	0.4	5.9%
Workers in labor/management disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-

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

The Wenatchee MSA nonfarm market provided 45,300 jobs in May 2021, a gain of 5,000 jobs since May 2020.

➤➤ May 2021. Hence, these year-over-year employment increases in April and May of 2021 were the first upturns since the start of COVID-19-related layoffs in April 2020 – welcome news for the local economy.

Washington’s nonfarm market contracted from April 2020 through March 2021 prior to 7.4 percent and 8.0 percent increases in April and May 2021. But Washington’s year-over-year nonfarm job-growth rates (of 7.4 and 8.0 percent, respectively) were not quite as robust as the 12.4 percent accelerations in employment in the Wenatchee MSA during this timeframe.

Summaries of employment changes between May 2020 and May 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.” The Wenatchee MSA’s construction industry lost jobs year over year from April through October 2020, stabilized in November and December 2020, and expanded from January through May 2021. This May, con-

struction provided approximately 3,200 jobs in the MSA, a 400 job and 14.3 percent upturn from the 2,800 tallied in May 2020. A glimpse at the number of closed sales in May 2020 versus May 2021 in the Wenatchee market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo and Rock Island, WA), from the May 2021 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates, shows that the number of single-family homes or condominiums sold in the Wenatchee market year to date (YTD) rose by 7.6 percent.

From January through May 2020, there were 345 closed sales in the Wenatchee market. This elevated to 371 closed sales in the first five months of 2021, up by 26 sales and 7.5 percent. The number of active listings however, plummeted during this timeframe, from 129 listings in May 2020 to only 36 in May 2021 (down by 93 listings and 72.1 percent). This reduction in active listings is likely occurring simply because homes/condos are selling so quickly. One indicator of this “hot” residential market is rising home prices. The newsletter also stated

that the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee market soared from approximately \$349,900 YTD in May 2020 to \$420,000 YTD in May 2021, a rise of 20.0 percent.

◆ Year over year, retail trade employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded from February through March 2021. Between May 2020 and May 2021, employment in this industry climbed from 5,500 to 6,400, an appreciable 900 job and 16.4 percent increase (Figures 3 and 5). Statewide, retail trade employment decreased from April through July 2020, stabilized in August 2020, and increased from September 2020 through May 2021. Recently, Washington state’s retail sector advanced from 351,800 jobs in May 2020 to 400,900 in May 2021 (up by 49,100 jobs and 14.0 percent). All retail trade subsectors posted gains this May compared with May 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began to depress Washington’s labor market.

But of all of retail trade subsectors statewide (i.e., motor vehicle and parts dealers, building material and garden supply stores, food and beverage stores,

general merchandise stores, other retail trade stores, etc.), the subsector which accounted for nearly half (49.9 percent) or 24,500 of the 49,100 retail jobs added during this timeframe, was “other retail trade” (i.e., internet shopping firms).

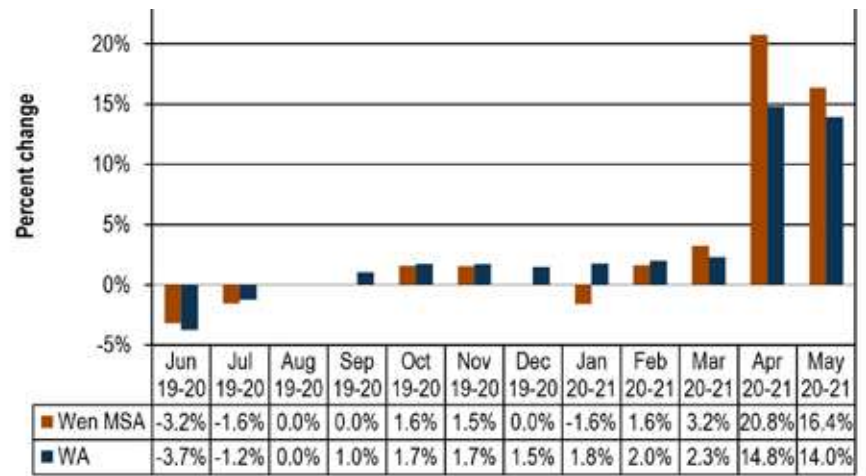
◆ COVID-19-related layoffs in leisure and hospitality were more severe than layoffs in any other Wenatchee MSA industry during 2020. In fact, of the 2,900 nonfarm jobs lost in

2020 across the MSA, 1,600 jobs, or 55.2 percent, were in the leisure and hospitality sector. However, between May 2020 and May 2021, leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation) added 2,100 jobs across the MSA, a sharp 51.2 percent upturn, as employment rose from 4,100 jobs to 6,200.

Between May 2020 and May 2021 leisure and hospitality added more jobs to the

Wenatchee MSA nonfarm job market than any other major local industry. Nevertheless, leisure and hospitality employment this May (6,200 jobs) was still down from the 7,000 jobs provided in May 2019. Across Washington state, employment in this industry retrenched for 13 months (March 2020 through March 2021) before posting growth rates of 31.7 and 32.8 percent in April 2021 and May 2021.

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



Year over year, retail trade employment in the Wenatchee MSA expanded from February through May 2021. Statewide, retail trade employment has increased in each of the past nine months (September 2020 through May 2021).

Agricultural employment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) program, conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department provides agricultural and nonagricultural employment and wages for firms, organizations and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act. Frequently termed “covered” or “QCEW” data, this information provides a reliable data set for comparing employment and wage trends at the county level. In July 2020, preliminary average annual QCEW data for calendar year 2020 became available. 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 40,905 in 2020, a 2,726 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 8,749 in 2020, a 234 job and -2.6 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 21.4 percent of total

covered employment county-wide. Hence, the agricultural share of total covered employment fell by two and one-tenth percentage points (from 23.5 to 21.4 percent) in Chelan County during this ten-year period.

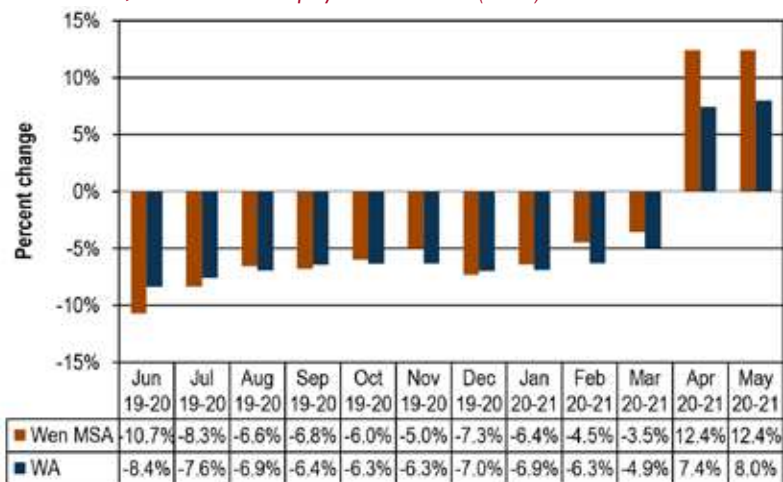
◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$1.23 billion (in 2010) to \$1.88 billion (in 2020), a \$650.5 million and 52.7 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 4.3 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$171.8 million in 2010 to \$280.2 million in 2020, an \$108.4 million and 63.1 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 14.9 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of total nonfarm payroll advanced a modest one percentage point (from 13.9 to 14.9 percent) during this timeframe. Hence, the agricultural share of wages (versus total covered payroll) showed a modest 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 ag-

riculture 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 11,907 in 2020, a 1,084 job and 10.0 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 1.0 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 3,038 in 2010 to 2,728 in 2020, a 310 job and -10.2 percent downturn with an annualized loss rate of -1.1 percent. In 2010, Douglas County’s agricultural industry accounted for 28.1 percent of total covered employment. In 2020, agricultural employment accounted for only 22.9 percent of total covered employment countywide.

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



Year over year, the Wenatchee MSA’s nonfarm market contracted for 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) prior to 12.4 percent employment increases in both April and May 2021. Washington’s nonfarm market contracted from April 2020 through March 2021 prior to 7.4 percent and 8.0 percent increases in April and May 2021.

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Sound of Music Starts Again After Pandemic

By Erin Mullins
Reporter

This year marks the 25th anniversary production of the Sound of Music and the first year back after the coronavirus pandemic. Since the statewide reopening, many aspects of the performances have returned to normal. But that wasn't always the case.

Phil Lacey, Executive Director of Leavenworth Summer Theater (LST) said that the last several months have been very uncertain in regard to how the coronavirus restrictions would be rolled back. Because of that, LST decided to just focus on producing the Sound of Music.

"We were kind of hoping against all hope we would be able to produce this year," said Lacey.

As Executive Director, Lacey plans the rehearsals, puts together the schedules and insurance waivers and does other behind the scenes things. He basically does all of the "non glamorous" aspects of making theater.

The audience is incredibly excited to be able to go out to the theater again, Lacey said. The cast and crew are so happy to be able to see each other, make art together and give high fives. It was not hard to find cast members this year, despite the uncertainty during the pandemic.

Because of the pandemic, auditions had to be virtual, Lacey said. Auditions took

place in late winter and early spring and most of the country was still shut down. Surprisingly, Leavenworth Summer Theater received a record number of auditions. Since they were one of the few companies trying to move forward during the pandemic, that caught people's attention.

The theater received about 400 total auditions, 250 adults and 150 kids, said Lacey. The cast has a total of 44 people. About a third of the cast is coming in from out of the area, so the majority who act in the show are local.

"There are incredibly talented performers here in the valley and we rely on them every year and are thrilled that they're involved," said Lacey.

For those who are from out of town, LST has been able to help cast members with housing for the first time. A community member in Peshastin who runs several homes as Airbnb's is working with LST to provide housing for actors who are not local.

The Sound of Music started rehearsing on June 13th, so the cast had about three weeks of rehearsal before opening night. It takes "an incredible amount of work" to pull together a show in three weeks, said Lacey.

Tiffany Mausser, the director and choreographer for Leavenworth Summer



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY EXE. DIRECTOR PHIL LACEY

L-R are Swayze Fromm, Cora Smith, Eve Gunter, Henry Mott, Faithlynn Swanson, Leo Floyd, Marina Pierce and Adelaide Turnage as Maria.

Theater, worked seven days a week for six to eight hours a day for about 21 consecutive days to prepare for the show, said Lacey. The actors were not there the whole time as people rehearsed different parts of the show at different times.

Mausser has directed for many years in the past, said Lacey. She was originally contracted to direct Music Man for LST, but when they were unable to perform that musical she offered to direct the Sound of Music.

The show also has three music directors: Susan Wagner, Susan Gubsch and Ally Atwood. Wagner directed for the soloists. Gubsch directed for the nuns. Atwood

was the kids vocal director.

Gubsch has been a part of LST since the beginning, said Lacey. She has been an actor in the plays every single year except for one and plays Mother Abbess. Besides acting, she works with the kids, helps backstage and talks to patrons.

"She's honestly more of a tradition than the show itself is. And people have come for years and really love her performance," Lacey said.

The Sound of Music is based on a true story and is based during the time leading up to World War II, Lacey said. In Austria, a family of seven children, a widowed father, and a young nun who is sent from an abbey to be a governess escape from the Nazis through the mountains of Switzerland.

The nun taught the children how to sing. After escaping the Nazis, the family toured around Europe and the US singing in order to survive. Although certain aspects of the play, like



Adelaide Turnage as Maria praying "and God bless Liesl" as she is climbing in the window. Remaining performances are August 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21 at the Leavenworth Ski Hill Amphitheater.

the choice of songs in the musical, may not be songs that the family actually sang, much of the story is true.

LST has been working hard to make sure that no one who comes in contact with production ends up getting sick, Lacey said. Until June 30, LST only sold about half the seats so the audience could be distanced. The stage was built to be larger than normal to accommodate past social distance requirements.

During the pandemic, LST received a lot of support from

local agencies, said Lacey. The Icicle Fund gave LST a substantial grant that helped them to produce this year. LST also received federal aid from the Payroll Protection Program and the Shuttered Venues Operators Act.

There is still time to catch The Sound of Music in theater. Leavenworth Summer Theatre still has tickets and is performing through August 21, Lacey said. According to the LST website, performances will take place at 8 p.m. at the Leavenworth Ski Hill.



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Singing in the Abbey.

Top left clockwise are Maria Tramontozzi, Ally Atwood, Susan Gubsch as (Mother Abbess), Anneliese Floyd, Kelsey Sanders, Marina Pierce, Talen Schoening, Reilly Schoening, Allison Bergstrom, Abbey Mott, Carolyn Dunbar and Cathy Bronson.