



BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Port District Named “Washington State Port of the Year”



Submitted by Sarah Deenik

The Washington Public Ports Association has selected the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority as the Port of the Year for 2021. Kathy Pittis, President of the Washington Public Ports Association said, “while there were many deserving Ports, the political courage and leadership of the Port Commissioners from Chelan and Douglas Counties in forming a Regional Port was worthy of being chosen Port of the Year.”

Regional Port Board Chairman Alan Loesback commented, “There are 75 Ports in the state of Washington and this award is highly coveted as an endorsement from your peers that your Port does outstanding work. We are humbled that we were selected.”

The Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority was formed in June 2019. It is a first in the state of Washington that two county-wide port districts functionally consolidated into one regional port.

Geographically, it encompasses 4,843 square miles, making it the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Board of Directors (Left to Right): Commissioner Mark Spurgeon, Commissioner Donn Etherington, Commissioner Rory Turner, Commissioner Alan Loesback, Commissioner JC Baldwin, and Commissioner Jim Huffman.

largest in the state. The Regional Port serves a population of 120,000 citizens with a combined assessed value of \$16.5 billion.

Rory Turner, Regional Board member commented, “On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Regional Port Staff. Since day one, staff has rallied behind the concept and value of a Regional Port. They have worked as an effective team and are facilitating regional economic development projects that are making a difference.”

In early 2019 both Ports endorsed the formation of a citizen’s advisory panel to look into governance issues, specifically as it related to Pangborn Memorial Airport, which is jointly owned by both Ports.

The citizen’s panel and the Port Commissioners soon thereafter endorsed a regional governance model, not only for the airport, but also for the Ports’ economic development efforts in North Central Washington.

Regional Board member Mark

Spurgeon stated, “Thank you to WPPA for recognizing the Chelan Douglas Regional Port as Port of the Year. While it has been a lot of hard work, forming a Regional Port was in the best interest of the citizens we serve. I would also like to acknowledge Lisa Parks, the former Executive Director of the Port of Douglas County. Her leadership along with the current CEO Jim Kuntz helped make it happen.”

One of the Regional Port’s early successes was focused on helping small businesses survive the

COVID-19 business uncertainty.

The Regional Port was the lead entity in facilitating federal, state, and local funds to help small businesses. In Chelan and Douglas Counties, \$4.2 million dollars were awarded to 727 small businesses – 21% of the businesses in the two-county region. The average grant award was \$5,847.

To learn more about current economic development projects taking place within the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, please visit: www.cdrpa.org.

\$255,000 awarded at 2021 Flywheel Investment Conference

Submitted by Jenny Rojanasthien, Executive Director

The annual Flywheel Investment Conference saw \$255,000 awarded to Washington State companies by the Flywheel Angel Network and NCW Tech Alliance on May 20.

The Flywheel Investment Conference is an annual event that generates exposure and resources for early stage companies by bringing entrepreneurs, investors, and community members together.

The conference is organized by the NCW Tech Alliance, formerly known as GWATA, and hosted in partnership with the Flywheel Angel Network who fund the investment offering.

The Flywheel Angel Network is a group of investors who have an affinity for North Central Washington and a desire to support long-term economic develop-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Top Six CEO’s included (from left to right): Kirt Debique, SyncFloor; Rick Beaton, Motis; Gautam Nayak, Cognition Med; Tom Arnold, PetHub; Afshan Abbas, Fuchsia; and David Vachon, Iasis Molecular Sciences.

ment. The network has a mix of individuals with varied backgrounds in healthcare, telecom, agriculture, and the broader corporate world.

This year’s conference had 50 startup companies from across Washington State apply to compete. Those applications were then carefully narrowed

down to just the top six companies who competed live during the conference.

The top six were carefully selected by the Flywheel Angel

Network, and included Cognition Med, Wenatchee; Fuchsia Shoes, Kirkland; Iasis Molecular Sciences, Spokane; Motis, Seattle; PetHub, Wenatchee; SyncFloor, Seattle.

During the conference, each of the Top Six CEO’s were given eight minutes to pitch their company and plans for the future, followed by an additional eight minutes of Q&A with investors on stage.

A limited number of people attended in-person, along with an online audience from across the world. SyncFloor was named this year’s Flywheel

SEE FLYWHEEL AWARDS, PAGE 3

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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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The Pro and Con of Short Term Rentals

A debate has been brewing over the positive and negative impacts of tourism on our local economy.



By
 Bill Forhan
 Publisher

That debate covers issues of traffic, housing and impacts to our environment from overuse of our natural resources.

One of the hottest debates is over the impacts to our neighborhoods from what are commonly referred to as STR's or Short Term Rentals.

Many retired people are converting their homes to vacation rentals.

This causes many to become concerned about issues of noise, excessive traffic and out of control partying.

I am including the following articles here on the Pro and Con of STR's.

PRO

The following was completed by Michael Luis and Associates in support of the Short Term Rental Community. It is an 11 page study, far too long to provide here but we have endeavored to provide the key arguments as covered in the study.

For those who would like to read the entire study we will put it up on our website at NCWMedia.com.

The paper provides an overview of the economic impact of short term rentals (STRs) on Chelan County. It is focused on rentals located in the unincorporated parts of Chelan County, although the impacts are mostly seen on a countywide basis. Following the data and methodological sections, the paper covers four areas.

STR activity. The scope of STR activity is described for both unincorporated and incorporated areas. This is based on data collected from listings by Airbnb, VRBO and HomeAway. The data covers at least 90 percent of STR properties.

Visitor spending. Estimates are provided for spending by visitors who have rented STRs in unincorporated Chelan County.

Spending estimates are provided for (a) food and beverage services; (b) entertainment and recreation activities; (c) retail.

Economic impact analysis. The STR rental activity and visitor spending data are analyzed to derive estimates for total economic

impact of STRs located in unincorporated areas.

The impacts are county-wide, and cover total economic output, labor income and job generation that result from the STR activity in unincorporated areas.

Tax impact analysis. Estimates are provided for the sales tax and lodging taxes generated by STR activity in unincorporated areas that are collected by Chelan County and several agencies that have countywide taxing authority.

Economic impact analyses are based on a number of assumptions, each of which can have a substantial effect on the final estimates.

Every effort has been made to use conservative assumptions, so it is likely that the estimates provided here form a lower bound for the actual impacts.

Property counts and activity measures

The 2,639 properties included in the report all had revenue from at least one visitor-night from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Figure 1 lists basic data for these properties by eight market areas. Cities lie within five of these market areas, and properties are broken out by city and unincorporated areas.

To account for the economic impact of unit ownership, we make three assumptions.

- 10 percent of units are assumed to be owned by Chelan County residents, and all rental revenue from those units stays in the county.

- Locally owned units realize a net of 30 percent of gross rental income after paying management and ownership expenses (interest, taxes, insurance, maintenance).

- For the units not owned by Chelan County residents, we estimate that 14 percent of gross revenue is retained in Chelan County in the form of management fees. All cleaning fees are assumed to be retained in Chelan County.

Short term rental activity in Chelan County has grown significantly in recent years.

Figure 1 shows activity booked through Airbnb, VRBO and HomeAway for the 12 months from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Conclusion

The short term vacation rental market has emerged as an important source of economic activity in places such as Chelan County that have attractive visitor fea-

tures and limited hotel properties.

They stimulate the market for vacation properties by making such properties more affordable through rental income.

While most STR proper-

ties are owned by people outside the county, and therefore much of the rental income itself leaves the county, visitor spending is robust and provides hundreds of jobs in the county.

STRs also stimulate the

balance of the visitor industry.

Spending on STR rentals constitutes over half of countywide accommodation sales, so the spending by patrons of STRs may as

SEE **SHORT TERM RENTALS**, PAGE 4

Market Activity* Sept 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020				
Market Area	Units with revenue	Nights occupied	Average daily rate**	Total annual revenue
Cashmere City	5	542	\$209	\$113,048
Unincorporated	37	4,396	\$133	\$586,626
Chelan City	517	42,260	\$295	\$12,462,893
Unincorporated	146	8,516	\$491	\$4,180,247
Entiat City	1	100	\$84	\$8,350
Unincorporated	8	460	\$183	\$84,178
Leavenworth City	305	27,268	\$281	\$7,651,520
Unincorporated	1,026	111,612	\$345	\$38,484,226
Malaga	6	569	\$177	\$100,535
Manson	367	24,542	\$488	\$11,970,090
Peshastin	63	6,584	\$296	\$1,951,380
Wenatchee City	97	8,111	\$120	\$975,095
Unincorporated	61	5,226	\$214	\$1,120,843
Incorporated total	925	78,281	\$271	\$21,210,906
Unincorporated total	1,714	161,905	\$361	\$58,478,125
Countywide total	2,639	240,186	\$332	\$79,689,031

Based on Market Activity Sept 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020						
Market Area	Average daily rental rate	Estimated daily visitor spending per party				Total all spending per day
		Food & beverage service	Entertain & recreation	Retail	Total daily visitor spending	
Entiat	\$183	\$119	\$51	\$113	\$284	\$467
Leavenworth	\$345	\$224	\$97	\$214	\$534	\$879
Malaga	\$177	\$115	\$49	\$110	\$274	\$451
Manson	\$488	\$317	\$137	\$302	\$756	\$1,244
Peshastin	\$296	\$193	\$83	\$184	\$459	\$756
Wenatchee	\$214	\$139	\$60	\$133	\$332	\$547
Total all markets	\$361	\$235	\$101	\$224	\$560	\$921

Based on Market Activity Sept 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020				
	Annual direct output	Annual total output	Total labor income	Total jobs
Net lodging	\$1,523,976	\$2,076,874	\$480,967	12
Cleaning fees	\$7,678,935	\$11,555,261	\$4,784,744	152
Management fees	\$8,110,159	\$11,052,524	\$2,559,566	65
Food & beverage serv	\$37,991,011	\$54,076,406	\$15,002,650	519
Entertain & recreation	\$16,365,359	\$24,065,260	\$6,367,761	253
Retail	\$36,237,580	\$50,051,346	\$12,951,311	404
Total	\$107,907,020	\$152,877,671	\$42,147,000	1,404

Estimates that spending by patrons of STRs is responsible for over 1,400 jobs. The state Employment Security Department reports about 44,000 covered jobs in the county in 2019, so the STR sector accounts for about 3 percent of the county's employment.



1

Photos submitted by GWATA, NCW Tech Alliance

1. Kirt Debique and Cestjon McFarland of SyncFloor are all smiles following their company pitch at the 2021 Flywheel Investment Conference on May 20.

2. From left to right: Tom Arnold, PetHub; David Vachon, Iasis Molecular Sciences; Kirt Debique and Cestjon McFarland, SyncFloor gather for a photo after being awarded during the Flywheel Investment Conference on May 20.

3. The NCW Tech Alliance team joins David Vachon of Iasis Molecular Sciences for a photo after Vachon was named runner up at the Flywheel Investment Conference on May 20.



2



3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$255,000 awarded at 2021 Flywheel Investment Conference

Conference winner and received a \$150,000 investment offer from the Flywheel Angel Network.

In addition, they received a \$50,000 relocation offer if they choose to relocate their business to Chelan or Douglas counties.

SyncFloor enables businesses of all kinds, including websites, services and apps, to “use music everywhere,” by aggregating content from the world’s best independent catalogs and creating a streamlined discovery and licensing experience via their proprietary technology and platform.

SyncFloor currently offers two online marketplaces for music discovery and are actively building out their platform capabilities so that businesses can inte-

grate SyncFloor’s discovery and licensing experience directly into their website, app or service.

In addition, Iasis Molecular Sciences was named runner up awarded a \$50,000 investment offer. Iasis Molecular Sciences is an advanced materials company developing and commercializing materials science-based solutions to prevent the transmission of infectious pathogens from surfaces.

Local Wenatchee company, PetHub, took home the \$5,000 Fan Favorite cash prize. Over 1,048 votes were cast for the Fan Favorite award this year.

The Flywheel Conference also featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including Dave Parker, DK-Parker, LLC; Max Martina,

Cambridge Leadership Associates; Minda Brusse, First Row Partners; Brian Vierra, EDCO; Cyndi Donahue, Ignite Northwest; James Dorsey, College Success Foundation; Martha Montoya, Agtools; Virginia Emery, Beta Hatch; and Dr. Lisa J. Brown, Washington State Department of Commerce.

The 2021 Flywheel Investment Conference was presented by Moss Adams, Ogden Murphy Wallace, Confluence Health, and Mi-

crosoft. Supporters include City of Wenatchee, Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, Karr Tuttle Campbell, Numerica Credit Union, Native Network, Washington State Department of Commerce, North 40 Productions, Laura Mounter Real Estate and Company, Brighton Jones, Clark Nuber, AHT Insurance, WTIA, GeekWire, Colchuck Companies, LocalTel Communications, Icele Broadcasting, and Cambridge Leadership Associates.

About the Flywheel Investment Conference

The Flywheel Investment Conference is an annual full-day event that generates momentum and resources for early stage companies. The Flywheel Conference is a unique opportunity for angel investors, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, startups and community members to come together to connect, learn, and develop resources for building companies. Held in downtown Wenatchee, the event features an investment competition, educational seminars, keynote presentations, and after-party celebration. More information at www.flywheelconference.com

About NCW Tech Alliance

Formally known as GWATA, NCW Tech Alliance has served as the region’s sole technology alliance since 1999, championing growth and development in North Central Washington. As a 501(c)3, NCW Tech Alliance’s mission is to bring together people and resources in technology, entrepreneurship, and STEM education. Currently, the organization is undergoing a full rebrand and is expanding their efforts to serve six counties across Washington State including Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant and Okanogan. For more information visit www.gwata.org.

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Farmers and business owners file income tax lawsuit

By Jason Mercier



The Opportunity for All Coalition filed a lawsuit today to overturn the new income tax on capital gains (SB 5096).

This is the second lawsuit to be filed against the tax. The plaintiffs are April Clayton (Red Apple Orchards), Kevin and Renee Bouchey (former owners S.K.D. Farms, Inc), Joanna Cable, Matthew Sonderen (Sonderen Packaging), Rosella and Burr Mosby (Mosby Farms), Christopher and Catherine Senske (Senske Services), and Washington State Farm Bureau. All of the plaintiffs are Washington Policy Center members.

It is no surprise to see so many farmers suing after lawmakers failed to address their concerns expressed before adopting the illegal income tax. A recent legislative public record said that farmers can afford to pay the income tax on capital gains since they work “less than half time.”

Discussing the lawsuit, former Attorney General Rob McKenna said earlier this week:

“Our complaint, which will be filed by a group of small business owners and farmers, will argue that the capital gains tax is not an excise tax, it’s an unconstitutional income tax. Even if found to be an excise tax, however, the capital gains tax is illegal because the tax is imposed

on the basis of the taxpayer’s residence, not on where the taxable event occurs. It attempts to reach taxable events outside



Jason Mercier

Washington, which the State’s excise taxes may not do... There is no legal argument that your income is not your property, just a policy argument. Washington’s constitution defines property as everything, whether tangible or intangible, that is subject to ownership.

“Income is certainly part of ‘everything,’ and it is an intangible form of property that is owned by the people who earn it. To suggest otherwise is to say that you don’t own your income; but if I don’t own my income, how can I be liable for paying tax on it?”

Washington’s state Supreme Court has consistently ruled that income is property (meaning you

own it). This is why a graduated income tax has been prohibited without a constitutional amendment and a tax on income must conform with the constitutional restrictions on property taxes.

Every state in the country, the Congressional Budget Office and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) all unequivocally say a capital gains tax is an income tax. According to the IRS:

“This is in response to your inquiry regarding the tax treatment of capital gains. You ask whether tax on capital gains is considered an excise tax or an income tax? It is an income tax. More specifically, capital gains are treated as income under the tax code and taxed as such.”

The fact that a capital gains tax is an income tax is not in dispute anywhere outside of Washington state. So why was this tax adopted? These emails from Sen. Pedersen discuss the goal for the new capital gains income tax:

• **April 30, 2018:** “But the more important benefit of passing a capital gains tax is on the legal side, from my perspective. The other side will challenge it as an unconstitutional property tax. This will give the Supreme Court the opportunity to revisit its bad decisions from 1934 and 1951 that income is

property and will make it possible, if we succeed, to enact a progressive income tax with a simple majority vote.”

• **December 15, 2018:** “I personally believe that adopting a capital gains tax is one of the best things we could do to help advance the possibility of an income tax in our state, because it could help resolve the legal uncertainty about whether an income tax is a ‘property tax’ subject to constitutional limitations. Until that happens, it would take 2/3 majorities in the legislature (and a vote of the people) to adopt an income tax, which makes it very unlikely to happen.”

• **May 11, 2021:** “I feel hopeful that this case will open the door to a more significant overhaul of our tax structure, which many consider to be the most regressive in the United States. I note that there is some irony in the position that you are taking. Five men in 1934 decided that income is property and therefore that major changes to our tax system could not be made by simple majority vote: instead the stars would have to align for 2/3 majorities in both chambers of the legislature and a majority vote of the electorate. That is profoundly anti-democratic, in my view.”

About that legal “uncertainty,” here is what the state Supreme Court said in 1960:

“The argument is again pressed upon us that these cases were wrongly decided. The court is unwilling, however, to recede from the position announced in its repeated decisions. Among other things, the attorney general urges that the result should now be different because the state is confronted with a financial crisis. If so, the constitution may be amended by vote of the people. Such a constitutional amendment was rejected by popular vote in 1934.”

Not liking the clear message from the courts does not make the legal facts uncertain.

I feel confident that with the consistent history of the multiple court rulings invalidating a graduated income tax, the plain language of the 14th amendment defining property to include everything subject to ownership, and the fact voters have already rejected 6 constitutional amendments to overturn the graduated income tax restriction that this illegal income tax on capital gains will also be struck down.

Jason Mercier is Director, Center for Government Reform for the Washington Policy Center. He can be reached at (509) 491-3393.

Icicle Brewing Celebrates 10th Anniversary

LEAVENWORTH – On April 22, 2021, Icicle Brewing Company celebrated its 10th anniversary by releasing the 10th Anniversary Triple Dry Hopped Double IPA.

This beer is triple-dry-hopped with 10lbs of hops per barrel of Bru-1 hops and Vic Secret hops. This is exciting because the Bru-1 hop was developed by John Hass and Brulotte Farms in the Yakima Valley.

Our founder, Oliver Brulotte, is from a long line of hop farmers in the Yakima Valley and this is a nod to the Brulotte family’s heritage and roots in the hop industry.

Ten years ago, Icicle Brewing Company opened its hearts and doors to the locals and guests of Leavenworth.

When Icicle opened in April, 2011, you could only find their beer at the Icicle Brewing Company taproom and its sister

company, München Haus Bavarian Grill and Beer Garden.

The Brulotte family loves bringing people together for a great craft beer experience every day and as they have organically grown throughout the years it is much easier now to do this as Icicle can be found nearby if you live in Washington State or Idaho. These past ten years have been full of delicious award-winning beers,

fun events, amazing employees, wonderful guests, expanding employee ownership, growth including the construction of a new production facility, re-models including the addition of our small batch taproom brew-house to continue to experiment and evolve, among many other exciting adventures.

The Brulotte family looks forward to seeing what new adventures await the mover the next ten years and beyond.



ABOUT ICICLE BREWING COMPANY

Icicle Brewing Company was founded in 2010 by Pamela and Oliver Brulotte with the goal of bringing the community together with high quality craft beers. Today, Icicle continues to be a 100% family and employee owned production brewery and brewpub in Leavenworth, Washington. It produces award-winning beers with the pristine water of Icicle Creek and hops and malts from Washington state. With a focus on sustainability and community, the brewery is a 1% for the Planet Member donating 1% of distribution sales to environmental non-profits.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The Pro and Con of Short Term Rentals

much as double the size of the non-accommodation tourism sector.

When vacation properties are occupied for more of the year, local retailers, restaurants and other services have a more stable customer base.

CON

Brian Patterson, Ph.D. challenges the economic impacts of STR’s in the MLA Report

In the MLA Report, the author provides quantitative estimates of the economic contribution of short-term rentals (STRs) to the economy of unincorporated Chelan County, Washington. The MLA Report is often cited by the Short Term Rental Association of Chelan County (STRACC) as justification for Chelan County limiting regulation of STRs, despite the well-known negative economic and societal impacts to residential communities resulting from the loss of full-time residents in neighborhoods.

However, by comparing the economic estimates in the MLA Report to sales data provided by the Washington State Department of Revenue (WSDOR) for similar areas and time periods, it’s possible to determine if the estimates in the MLA Report are even plausible. By making these comparisons, the following conclusion can be drawn:

• The estimated retail spending by STR patrons provided in the MLA Report appears to be at least twice what is plausible

based on WSDOR actual sales data.

• The estimated rental revenue collected by STR owners (purportedly resulting in state sales tax revenue) appears to be at least three times what is plausible based on WSDOR actual sales data.

• One potential explanation for the discrepancy between the STR rental revenue estimated in the MLA Report and the WSDOR data is that the majority of STR rental revenue is not being reported to the WSDOR in violation of state tax law. Since proper payment of taxes is a requirement for “existing” STR units in draft versions of proposed Chelan County STR codes, this may preclude many current STRs from being allowed to operate in the future.

These conclusions imply that the MLA report grossly overstates the economic impact to Chelan County’s economy and is not a credible source of information. Additionally, the MLA Report fails to quantify the negative economic impacts incurred by the loss of full-time residents in these housing units, which are expected to exceed any positive impacts. It further completely avoids the negative social impacts of STRs on communities, which cannot be offset by pure economics; residential communities do not exist for the purpose of allowing a subset of homeowners to profit at the expense of the remaining homeowners.

The complete, unedited, con analysis will also be available on our website



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Landscape Architect Sydney Dean during East Wenatchees 9th St. Park construction.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

SCJ Engineer Dave Allen cooks hot dogs at a public outreach event.

Fifteen years and counting; SCJ celebrates growth and success

**Submitted by Dan Ireland, PE
SCJ Alliance Principal**

WENATCHEE, WASH., – Roundabouts. Master plans. Corridors. Parks. Commercial projects. Fish culverts.

Since its founding in May 2006, SCJ Alliance has worked on 3,346 varied projects for public and private clients.

There's a lot to reflect on after 15 years in business. "We've gone from eight people working on Costco folding tables as desks, to 123 folks in ten offices in Washington, Montana, and Colorado," says Jean Carr, SCJ President and CEO. SCJ also became a 100% employee-

owned company in 2019.

SCJ specializes in civil engineering, transportation planning and design, environmental and urban planning, landscape architecture, and public outreach.

In 2011, SCJ expanded to the Wenatchee area with engineering services.

Today the office of 12 people, led by Office Principal Dan Ireland, also includes landscape architects and planners.

Recent regional projects include the East Wenatchee Gateway Park, Chelan Woodin Avenue Bridge, Twisp Economic Revitalization Master Plan, Crescent Bar Park



**Wenatchee Office Principal
Dan Ireland**

& Recreation Area, Wenatchee WinCo Foods, and the Chelan County Master Trails Plan.

Compared to the early days,

projects are much more varied. Planning includes more stakeholders and considerations.

Transportation design goes far beyond roadways and intersections, to include cable-propelled transit and an ever-expanding variety of multi-modal options.

"We have watched new terms develop – such as Transit-Oriented Design, and now Trail-Oriented Design," says Eric Johnston, SCJ's executive vice president who has led strategic initiatives.

"These trends match well with our expertise and experience, as well as our team's passions." Eric adds, "I love seeing our culture

embraced by staff... integrating business groups and offices and striving to turn every project into something of significance."

What will the next 15 years hold for SCJ? Senior Principal and original President Perry Shea forecasts, "If you ask me where our next office will be, I will say it all depends... do you have an idea and business opportunity to explore?"

He then quips, "My second response will be, I've always wanted an office in Hawaii because the sun is good for the soul."

Time will tell.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Newhouse introduces legislation to give organic farmers certainty, reduce government bureaucracy

Submitted by Rep. Newhouse

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On April 30, Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Ron Kind (D-WI), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), and Chellie Pingree (D-ME) introduced the Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act (CIAO Act), bipartisan legislation to improve the federal process for the oversight of organic standards.

The bill will establish a new framework for advancing organic standards and improve oversight and enforcement of new rules and guidance while clearing regulatory red tape that has hampered innovation within the industry.

“Central Washington organic growers should

not be kept in regulatory limbo. I’m sponsoring the Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act so that USDA is required to clear the backlog of recommendations to improve our organic standards,” said Rep. Newhouse.

“As a Co-Chair of the House Organic Caucus, I represent the highest number of USDA-certified organic farmers, ranchers, processors, and distributors in Washington state and the fourth highest in the country.”

“It’s imperative that we provide our organic growers certainty and help spark further innovation and improvement within the organic industry.”

“Each year, more and more consumers are choos-

ing products with the USDA Organic label, yet producers are held back from fully meeting the demand for organic products due in part to slow rule-making at the USDA,” said Rep. Davis.

“Our bipartisan legislation will clear the backlog of rule recommendations from the National Organic Standards Board and speed up and improve rule-making in the future. As a Co-Chair of the House Organic Caucus, I’m proud to support legislation like this that cuts red tape and ensures federal regulators aren’t inhibiting a growing industry like organic.”

“Consumers trust that when they buy food marketed as organic, it meets a high standard approved by the USDA,” said Rep. DeFazio.

“But federal bureaucracy for the past twenty years has gotten in the way of improvements supported by the organic sector, inhibiting innovation in the industry.”

“I’m proud to introduce legislation that will help improve transparency and accountability at the USDA as it considers regulations strongly supported by the industry.”

“It’s time for USDA to cut the red tape, expeditiously act, and allow improvements that both the industry and consumers demand.”

“As co-chair of the bipartisan House Organic Caucus, I’m committed to supporting the future of organic agriculture and working to meet the needs of organic farmers across

Wisconsin and the nation,” said Rep. Kind.

“This legislation will take necessary steps to ensure our organic farmers can continue to succeed and innovate for generations to come.”

“Unfortunately, it’s been way too long since the USDA updated its standards that America’s certified organic producers are required to follow for growing and selling their crops,” said Rep. Panetta.

“Our legislation would mandate the USDA to modernize and maintain its federal organic standards so that farmers can keep up with the 21st century marketplace. As the representative of nearly 500 certified

organic operations on the central coast of California, I’m proud to co-lead this legislation to help our local organic agriculture industry innovate and thrive.”

“For far too long, organic producers have been waiting for the Department of Agriculture to move forward with numerous consensus recommendations to improve organic standards and protect the integrity of the organic label,” said Rep. Pingree.

“As an organic farmer and Co-Chair of the House Organic Caucus, I am proud to support this bill to hold the USDA accountable so we can continue to move the National Organic Program forward.”



Coffee with Bob Bugert

Thursday, June 10 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Please join Commissioner Bob Bugert for a community meeting on Thursday, June 10 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Bob will present some county updates on a number of issues. Rachael Hansen, Chelan PUD’s Senior Communications Strategist will be talking about the PUD’s power outage pilot project.

Mike Kaputa will give an update on the County’s non-motorized pathways plan. These presentations will be followed by questions from participants.

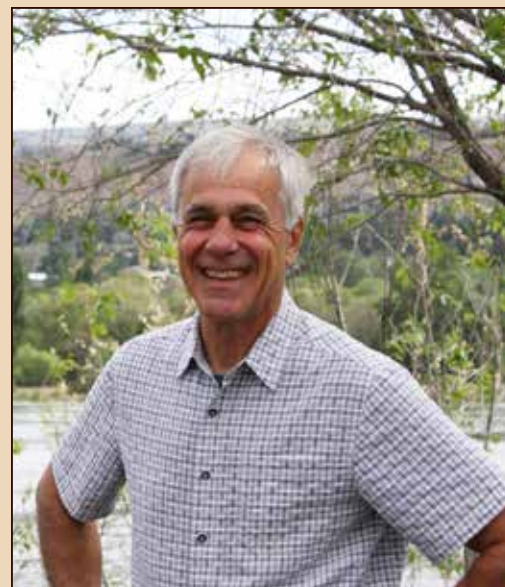
To attend, join the below Zoom link. Pre-registration not required.

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State roads, watersheds, included in latest federal stimulus package

Submitted by Kim Schrier's Office

ISSAQUAH – Congressman Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08) announced that her bill to authorize funding for Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Program under the U.S. Forest Service, will be included in the upcoming House infrastructure bill, the *Moving Forward Act* (HR 2).

“As our climate changes, we are seeing many more ‘hundred-year events’ than our current forest road infrastructure can sustain,” said Rep. Schrier. “The Legacy Roads and Trails Program addresses failing infrastructure on Forest Service lands to protect water quality and habitat for threatened and endangered species. In Washington State this program has been particularly important for facilitating hundreds of culvert repairs for fish passage. Chronic underfunding has left a long backlog of projects. This is a big win for our state, our fish, and our forests, and I look forward to voting for it on the House floor.”

“Our federal forests are key drivers of our local economies, but the Forest Service roads and trails that folks rely on to access these assets are facing significant challenges – including failing culverts that block fish passage, damage water quality, and threaten the structural integrity of critical access roads. The Legacy Roads and Trails legislation will ensure that the federal government steps up to remove these failing culverts and address other critical infrastructure challenges to protect the health of our salmon and improve the safety and accessibility of these roads and trails for generations to come. I appreciate Rep. Schrier’s leadership and partnership on this issue that’s a big priority for the folks I represent,” said Rep. Derek Kilmer (WA-06).

The Forest Service uses roads for resource management, including restoration, vegetation management and fire control. Many roads are not drivable, obsolete, or causing harm to aquatic resources. When roads are not adequately maintained, culverts become clogged with debris, landslides occur, bridges weaken, and roads wash out. Large amounts of sediment can end up in mountain streams, suffocating fish and burying stream channels. Hazards such as washouts due to culvert failures pose serious safety risks to those driving on forest roads, at times even making access impossible. Of the 15,065 sub-watersheds across the National Forest System, 67 percent are negatively affected by inadequately maintained roads.

The *Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation program* (LRT) provides funding to the Forest Service to address failing infrastructure that is causing adverse impacts to degraded water resources, drinking water, and fish and wildlife habitat.

LRT projects can include removal or replacement of stream crossing structures, including culverts, that are barriers to aquatic organism passage; urgently needed road decommissioning, where inaction can lead to water quality issues; and associated activities in environmentally sensitive areas.

“Having seen the positive results in Washington State, Representatives Kilmer and Schrier understand why this program is so critical for forests across the country,” said Tom Uniack, Executive Director for Washington Wild. “We thank them for taking a leadership role in Congress supporting clean water, salmon habitat, recreational access and local jobs.”

“Representative Schrier’s Legacy Roads and Trails bill provides a smart solution to reduce the harmful impacts of poorly maintained national forest roads on water quality and fish, while also providing much-needed jobs and economic benefits to rural communities,” said Megan Birzell, Washington State Director for The Wilderness Society.

“Permanent funding for the U.S. Forest Service’s legacy roads and trails program has been a long time in the making and is a victory for people who love the outdoors and threatened and endangered species. Confronting the problem of obsolete and decaying roads and trails will help wildlife, taxpayers and the 66 million

Americans who rely on our National Forests for clean drinking water. Thank you to Rep. Kim Schrier for her leadership in introducing legislation that is so important



Congresswoman Kim Schrier

for endangered fish and wildlife,” said Jamie Rappaport Clark, CEO and president, Defenders of Wildlife.

“Over 60 million Americans rely on clean drinking water flowing from lands managed by the Forest

Service,” said Marlies Wierenga, Wild Earth Guardians. “Representatives Kilmer and Schrier know how effective the Legacy Roads and Trails program is at reducing threats to our vital forest water supplies, not only in the Pacific Northwest, but across the nation.”

“The Forest Service should be removing old roads, not building new ones,” said Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Senior Legislative Representative at Earthjustice. “That’s why we are so thankful to Congresswoman Schrier for introducing this Legacy Roads and Trails legislation that will invest needed dollars and give shape to an initiative that will help protect the population of everything from Grizzly Bears to bull trout, not to mention strengthening our forests for carbon sequestration. This proposal is the right one to ensure our forests are climate resilient, and Earthjustice is proud to support it.”

“We are so pleased to see that Representative Schrier is stepping up to enhance U.S. Forest Service lands and the incredible coldwater habitat they provide for trout and salmon,” said Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited said. “Forty percent of all blue-ribbon trout streams flow across national forests, and this agency is one of our most important partners. Investments from the Legacy Roads and Trails Program will help us make fishing better, but at the same time improve our water supplies and bring high-paying jobs to rural communities.”

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Proud to support Washington agriculture

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

Growing up in Wenatchee as the son of a tractor dealer, I learned to greatly appreciate the important role of agriculture in our region in all of its beneficial ways, including the jobs it provides, the healthy food to enjoy, and its proud history of innovation.

There is no doubt that the tree fruit and farming industries are hugely important as an overall economic driver to our region and state.

Agriculture is key to Washington's success

Washington produced 134 million boxes of apples in 2020, shipping to domestic and international markets. Washington wines are part of another key farming industry, encouraging tremendous tourism to our region and producing high-quality wines as good as any area of the world.

Our region boasts many successful wheat farms near Waterville. In 2020, Washington wheat growers harvested over 160 million bushels of wheat, much of it grown in Douglas County.

Exciting times for Washington's apple industry

This past year was a very significant year for Washington apples with the release of the newest apple variety, the Cosmic Crisp, developed by the Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee.

The Cosmic Crisp is a hybrid of the

Honeycrisp and Enterprise varieties. It was also the 25th anniversary of the Washington Apple Education Foundation (WAEF), the charity developed by our local tree fruit industry.

WAEF provides college scholarships to farmworker and agricultural families and helps connect our local values with expanded educational opportunities.

WAEF has provided over \$9 million in scholarships to more than 2,000 students since it was founded in 1994. It has been my honor to attend many scholarship luncheons and to observe these amazing students be awarded significant college scholarships.

In partnership with the Washington Apple Commission and WAEF, I sponsored and passed Senate Bill 6032, authorizing the Washington apples license plate to raise money for scholarships.

Washington's wheat growers among nation's best

According to the Washington Grain Commission, "About 80 percent of the wheat grown in Eastern Washington is soft white wheat, one of six classes grown in the United States."

Harvest of wheat in our region can begin as early as July and often continues into September. If you get a chance this year to enjoy a summer drive up Badger Mountain Road to Waterville, you will probably see wheat being harvested.

Washington state is one of the top wheat-producing states in the United States. In 2020, for example, Washington only trailed

Montana, Kansas, and North Dakota in wheat production.

Local wine production is key to our economy

Washington state has over 400 wine grape growers producing over 70 varieties. Many of these growers are located throughout North Central Washington as the soil and temperatures are well suited for grape growing. Many growers also have vineyards and produce wine. Washington state ranks as one of the nation's best for premium wine production, resulting in nearly 18 million cases of wine annually.

As you can imagine, this industry has a hugely beneficial role to our local and state economy. In addition to the production and distribution of wine and wine grapes, regional vineyards and production facilities attract visitors from around the world to sample and enjoy regionally produced wine.

Status of 2021 legislative priorities for agriculture

Below is a recap of some of the more significant agriculture-related bills from the 2021 legislative session:

- **Senate Bill 5045** – Would set aside grant money for training and support for custom meat processors to expand their capacity. (Passed Senate 48-0. Died in House Appropriations Committee.)

- **Senate Bill 5172** – This bill follows a State Supreme Court decision to protect agricultural landowners from retroactive overtime payments while phasing in

overtime payments over multiple years, beginning in 2022 (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

- **Senate Bill 5230** – Relates to the permitting process to access groundwater stored as a result of the Bureau of Reclamation. (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

- **Senate Bill 5253** – Creates a designated task force to implement the prior task force's recommendation and the pollinator health strategy through the state Department of Agriculture. (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

- **Senate Bill 5318** – Increases fertilizer application, license, inspection, and late fees. (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

- **Senate Bill 5362** – Strengthens funding for agricultural fairs in Washington by gradually increasing the amount of money shifted from the state general fund to the state fair fund. (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

- **Senate Bill 5396** – Under this bill, housing used for H-2A farmworkers is removed from the farmworker housing sales and use tax exemption. Critics say this will increase the cost of farmworker housing. (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

- **House Bill 1091** – Directs the Department of Ecology to adopt rules establishing a Clean Fuels Program to eventually reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in fuel by 20% by 2035. Critics say it could hurt farmers and cause gas prices to rise substantially, without any benefit for roads. (Signed by Gov. Inslee.)

Brad Hawkins serves the 12th District, which covers much of North Central Washington.

Department of Ecology issues drought advisory for most of the state

Driest March-April since 1926 prompts first-time use of new early warning tool

OLYMPIA – Following an extremely dry couple of months, the Department of Ecology has issued a drought advisory for most of Washington state, including all areas east of the Cascade Mountains, portions of southwest Washington and the Washington coast.

March through April was the fourth driest such period for Washington state since 1895. There are growing concerns for farmers and ranchers in Eastern Washington.

Early observations of crop stress and expectations for reduced yields are being reported, said Water Resources Planner Jeff Marti.

Marti said he's already heard anecdotal accounts of problems

from wheat farmers and hay producers.

Marti warned against getting too optimistic after recent rain in the Spokane area. "We're dealing with long-term precipitation deficits which take more than a day's rain to alleviate," he said. "For example, the Spokane Airport has experienced the lowest amount of precipitation for the Feb. 1 to May 24 period, going all the way back to 1881. It needs more than 4 inches of rain to get back to normal."

While Washington mountains received an above-normal snowpack this year, not all watersheds are fed by melting snow.

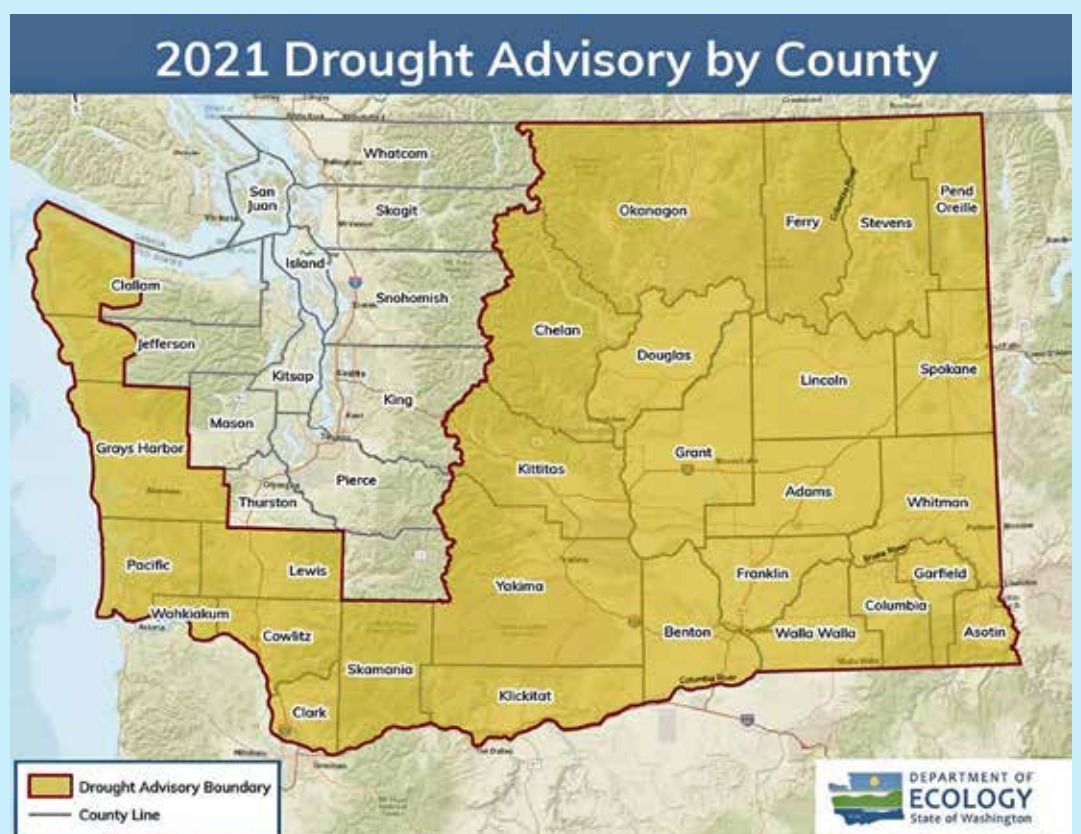
Springtime precipitation is critical for non-irrigated crops and livestock forage. In a few

basins, such as the Pend Oreille, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Snake watersheds, early snowmelt is leaving less than average water levels, and last month's temperatures were higher than normal for most of Washington.

What is a drought advisory?

A drought advisory provides early warning of a possible drought. It promotes awareness and readiness for water users in areas where drought conditions

are developing. Drought advisories are informational only, and include no emergency authorizations or funding. This is the first time the Department of Ecology has issued a drought advisory since it received the authority to do so from the Legislature in 2020.





KEITH GOEHNER
WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE
12TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Emergency powers go unaddressed in 2021 legislative session

By Keith Goehner

The Legislature adjourned the 2021 session without addressing one of the most pressing issues before us – emergency powers reform. Washington state law allows the governor to waive or suspend laws, decide what is essential and prohibit certain activities.

The executive branch needs the ability to respond to pandemics and other emergencies, but there must be limits. Our state government was not designed to be under one-person control or operate under emergency orders and proclamations for what is now going on 15 months.

Despite numerous bills introduced and a procedural motion during debate in the House of Representatives, the majority party was uninterested in addressing this issue.

While the governor announced on May 13 all counties will move to Phase 3 and the state is on track to be fully reopened on June 30, there has been no indication from his office that the “state of emergency” will end at that time.

Businesses are operating, students are back in school, sporting events are taking place with some spectators so when does the “emergency” declaration end? This is far from over.

What happens if there are setbacks with our COVID numbers or the reopening process? Legislators will continue to be shut out of the process.

The 2021 session was definitely amissed opportunity for emergency powers reform.

During session, House Republicans made every effort to bring some balance to this issue. At the end of session, we made a motion that would have allowed us to bring important emergency powers reform legislation to the floor for a vote.

The legislation established a greater role for the Legislature during a state of emergency – without

taking away the governor’s ability to respond quickly to emergencies. It had Republican and Democratic co-sponsors. Unfortunately, our motion was rejected on a party-line vote.

Our efforts started long before session. Below is an excerpt taken from a letter signed by 54 Republican lawmakers to Gov. Inslee, dated May 29, 2020, requesting a special session so we could work together:

“Our state government works best when all branches work together. The legislative branch, as a whole, has remained on the sidelines while you exercised your emergency authority. It is time for

that to change... We want to work collaboratively with you and our majority colleagues in the Legislature to craft legislative solutions to help Washingtonians who are dealing with both the pandemic and economic desperation.”

We have asked for a more collaborative approach for a year, yet here we are – the session adjourned months ago, and we are still under one-person rule.

The governor was right to call an emergency last spring, and we agree with many of the decisions he has made through the process.

However, what constitutes an emergency after 15 months? Shouldn’t lawmakers and the thousands of people they represent have more of a voice?

Citizens deserve to have a stronger voice through those they elected to represent them.

This issue is not unique to Washington state. Legislatures across the country have passed laws aimed at increasing legislative oversight of governors’ emergency powers – both Republican and Democrat states. This is not a partisan issue.

It is about checks and balances.

The Maine Policy Institute recently did a study on states and the terms of their governmental balance of power. Washington state ranks in the bottom four because we bestow on our governor the sole authority to determine when and where an emergency exists, and when an emergency ceases to exist.

All 147 lawmakers representing 49 very different districts deserve to be part of a collaborative process to share and reflect the interests of the citizens we represent, especially after 15 months of operating under the emergency declaration and proclamations.

Complete indefinite control from one branch of government is not the way government was intended to function.

Rep. Keith Goehner, R-Dryden, represents the 12th Legislative District in the Washington State Legislature. He is the lead Republican on the House Local Government Committee and also serves on the House Environment and Energy and Transportation committees.

Build to last: GE, Chelan PUD team up for innovative rebuild at Rock Island Dam

Submitted by Rachel Hansen
Chelan PUD

ROCK ISLAND, WA – Chelan PUD and GE Renewable Energy reached an agreement designed to achieve a higher standard of quality and innovation for the modernization at Rock Island Powerhouse II.

The 42-year-old turbines will be rebuilt one by one starting in 2022, with expected completion of all eight in 2030. The cost is estimated at \$210 million.

To ensure long-term value and quality, GE and Chelan PUD negotiated an extended correction period, significantly exceeding the standard two-year warranty for hydroelectric turbines.

“We are appreciative that GE has responded to our plea for the hydropower industry to develop longer-term commitments and quality control,” said Steve Wright, general manager at Chelan PUD.

“This innovative and important agreement represents our commitment to our customer-owners to strive for best value over the long run. I am grateful to GE and Chelan PUD staff for their creativity and tenacity.”

As part of the Powerhouse II rehabilitation, Chelan PUD and GE are innovating a more environmentally friendly turbine design. Turbines like the ones in Powerhouse



II are traditionally lubricated with oil and safeguarded with trunnion seals.

The new design allows the turbines to be filled with oil, water, or air, which gives Chelan PUD the flexibility to use new technologies without compromising the mechanical integrity of the turbine.

“We want to thank Chelan PUD for the collaborative approach their team has promoted in the past two years by working in full transparency, building trust, and defining a common approach towards shared goals,” said Pierre Marx, General Manager GE Hydro Solutions, North America. “As a result we’ve been able to develop a customized solution that meets the needs of Chelan PUD, a project with less risks, more focus on the outcomes,

and a path for a successful execution shared by both parties.”

Chelan PUD commissioners approved the purchase Monday of several specialized parts that require a long-lead time to manufacture, including a generator stator, runner hub and wicketgates, from GE Renewable Energy. The board also approved the extended correction period agreement.

GE Renewable Energy is a branch of General Electric that has one of the broadest portfolios in the renewable energy industry, including GE’s Hydro Solutions business that specializes in the design and manufacture of hydroelectric turbines and generators.

Rock Island Dam is the second largest of three hydroelectric sites operated by Chelan County PUD.

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Legislature adjourns the session following budget approvals

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

The Legislature recently completed its hybrid session in Olympia on April 25 as scheduled. It consisted primarily of Zoom meetings and conference calls with some work completed in-person. It was a busy time for me as I continued as the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee's ranking member. This session was particularly busy for education committee leaders due to the school issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. I worked on many COVID-related education issues, including a statewide focus as school employee vaccinations and learning recovery. I also sponsored a few individual bills and budget requests, many of which were approved. In the end, the Legislature approved all three budgets for the 2021-23 biennium and authorized many federal stimulus dollars. The operating budget (\$59.2 billion), transportation budget (\$11.8 billion), and capital budget (\$6.3 billion) were finalized on the final days of session after much negotiation. I voted for the transportation budget and capital budget, but I voted against the final operating budget.

Operating budget (\$59.2 billion for 2021-2023)

The operating budget funds the day-to-day operations of the state, including early learning, K-12 education, higher education, health and human services, criminal justice, natural resources, courts, and other areas. For the 2021-2023 biennium, the House and Senate majorities significantly increased the size of the operating budget to a record \$59.2 billion. As with any budget or other large-scale legislation, there are always things to like and things not to like. However, I could not support the broad scope of spending in the final budget and voted against it. Despite the COVID pandemic, state revenues are still projected to be positive, with more dollars flowing into the state than what was projected earlier in the pandemic. Unfortunately, the final budget spends all of this revenue in the coming years and also fully exhausts the state's \$2 billion Budget Stabilization Account, also known as our rainy-day fund. In another unnecessary move, the Legislature approved a new tax on capital gains income to raise more revenue for expanded programs. I have major concerns about the sustainability of this budget. I have major concerns about what the state will do if future revenues decline. The 2021-23 operating budget of \$59.2 billion was approved by the House 57 to 40 and in the Senate 27 to 22. I voted "no" in the Senate.

Transportation budget (\$11.8 billion for 2021-2023)

The transportation budget funds the construction and maintenance of the state transportation system, including the maintenance and preservation of roads, bridges, and ferries. This budget also funds the state agencies and commissions that serve our transportation system, including the Washington State Patrol, Department of Licensing, Department of Transportation, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, County Road Administration Board, Transportation Improvement Board, Transportation Commission, and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board. The budget also funds numerous previously approved road projects based on their construction schedules. Due to the lack

of driving during the COVID pandemic, much of the gas tax and other revenues that the transportation budget depends upon was significantly less than in past years. Additionally, a Supreme Court case involving fish-blocking transportation culverts has forced the state to invest billions of dollars to fix them. The combined loss in transportation revenues as well as the increase in fish passage restoration projects has created a strain on the overall system. This resulted in a lean 2021-23 transportation budget with few new additions. I am pleased that a fast-charging and hydrogen fueling station in the Wenatchee Valley was funded based upon an amendment I sponsored in the Senate Transportation Committee. The big news of the session on transportation is that none of the gas tax/new revenue investment proposals passed. However, there is ongoing speculation that Gov. Inslee could call the Legislature back into a special session in the fall in an attempt to advance new revenue ideas for additional transportation projects. Without any expanded proposals, the renewed 2021-23 transportation budget of \$11.8 billion was approved by the House 90 to 6 and in the Senate 41 to 8. I voted "yes" in the Senate.

Capital budget (\$6.3 billion for 2021-2023)

The state capital budget funds the construction and maintenance of state buildings, public school matching grants, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets. In recent years, the 12th District team has been able to generate big wins for our region through this budget, including the replacement of key infrastructure following tragic wildfires, the expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities that improve our economy and quality of life, and enhancements to key community response systems.

Our legislative team, with the help of Representative Steele, who helps negotiate the capital budget, has been able to successfully secure many of our regional priorities, including the Wells Hall replacement for Wenatchee Valley College, Chelan County Emergency Operations Center, Twisp Civic Building, Winthrop Library, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Wenatchee Landing sewer extension, Saddle Rock soil remediation, and a variety of recreation and park facility improvements. The 2021-23 capital budget was a success for our district as well, most notably including the Nason Ridge Community Forest, Chelan Airport water extension, small-school modernization grants, Wenatchee City Pool renovation, Winthrop Ice Rink support, Leavenworth Ski Hill restrooms, Soap Lake City Hall repairs, North Central Washington Libraries funding, and other facility or infrastructure investments. The 2021-23 capital budget of \$6.3 billion was approved by the House 98 to 0 and in the Senate 49 to 0. I voted "yes" in the Senate.

The session included a variety of other legislation, some of which is new to our state. I look forward to updating you on those changes in the weeks and months ahead. If you have any questions, please contact my office anytime. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator.

Brad Hawkins serves the 12th District, which covers much of North Central Washington.

A closer look into our property tax system

By Sen. Brad Hawkins

As your state senator, I am not opposed to taxes outright, but I do care greatly about the tax burden placed upon you. Taxes are applied to us at all levels of government (local, state, and federal), and government should always demonstrate a prudent use of tax dollars. As a state legislator, I am involved in "state" level taxes, not local or federal taxes. The primary taxes for Washington state budgeting include sales taxes and business taxes.

Understanding the property tax system

Of all the taxes that exist, the one I receive the most questions about is the property tax. Understanding the property tax system is very challenging. For a full understanding, I encourage you to contact your county assessor. Assessors determine the value of the property and local treasurers collect tax revenues. It is important to note that neither the assessors nor treasurers determine the actual taxes approved. Those decisions are the responsibility of other local governments officials or voters within your jurisdiction.

Property taxes can vary depending on where you live

The property tax bill that you receive is actually a collection of multiple different property taxes and assessments, most of which pertain to the local jurisdiction in which you live. The property tax statement includes an itemized list showing the responsible entity for the property taxes you pay. Think of your overall property tax bill as one round-shaped pie.

Various entities receive their revenue from slices of the pie. Since the state relies primarily on sales and business taxes to fund its programs, only a slice of what you pay in property taxes is actually the state portion.

Remaining slices are from various local governments for such things as school levies, school bonds, fire response efforts, libraries, and other local services. Some of these property taxes, such as local school district levies and bonds, are subject to the approval of local voters and the amounts are often increased.

Residents of one jurisdiction can pay more or less in property taxes than others depending on the measures approved by voters in certain areas.

Payment of property taxes

How you pay your property taxes may also vary based on your personal prefer-

ences. Some residents pay their annual property taxes twice a year with half payments by April 30 and October 31. Many property owners have their property taxes included with their monthly mortgage payments as part of their escrow account. While that is certainly a convenient option, it may somewhat disguise what you are paying in property taxes. I often hear from senior citizens over concerns about rising property taxes.

Many people believe that seniors on fixed incomes are the most concerned among us about property taxes. While that is possible, I think another possibility is because they are the ones among us who are more likely to have their homes paid off. As a result, their property taxes are no longer included in their monthly payments, requiring a separate payment for property taxes. Those payments are both more noticeable and more painful. In case you are wondering, property owners of a \$400,000 home in North Central Washington pay approximately \$4,500 in annual property taxes.

Understanding your assessed value and overall community valuation

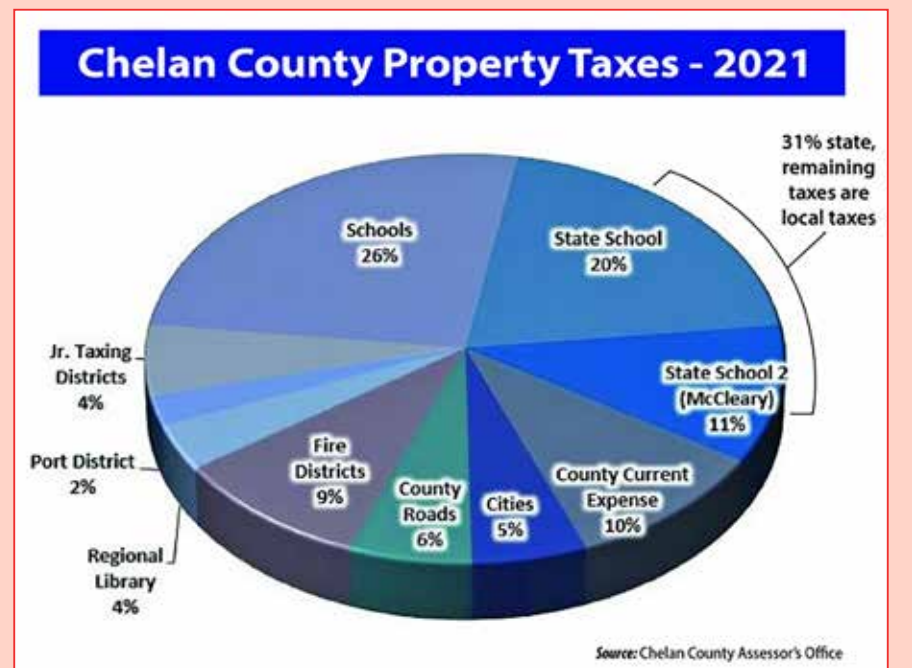
The assessed value of property in addition to the tax rates is a contributor to what property owners pay. If a tax rate remains the same but a property's value increases, a property owner likely pays more.

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

Most property taxes are determined locally

The Washington state operating budget relies primarily on sales and business taxes for its revenues. Only a portion of our property taxes is collected for state government purposes. Most of our property taxes serve local purposes and are either approved by various local elected officials or subject to a local vote.

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





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

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!

- A & G Brothers General Const. – 1 year
- American Land and Water Consulting – 1 year
- Arseneault Automation, LLC – 7 years
- Builders FirstSource – 23 years
- Cascade Autocenter – 18 years
- Costco Wholesale #112 – 13 years
- Gold Construction, Inc. – 24 years
- Kelly's Ace Hardware Inc. – 1 year
- Lensen Homes – 18 years
- Noble Truss & Lumber Inc. – 24 years
- Okanogan County Energy, Inc. – 17 years
- P & P Remodeling Services LLC – 3 years
- Plumb Perfect – 1 year
- Rains Contracting, Inc. – 14 years
- Sangster Motors, Inc. – 24 years
- SMART Association – 4 years
- Tumwater Drilling & Pump, Inc. – 21 years
- Village Life – 17 years
- Western Ranch Buildings LLC – 24 years



Need a Meeting Room?

As a valued BNCW member company, you're welcome to utilize the BNCW conference room if you require a place to meet with clients or prospective clients, or simply need access to a meeting room. The room will seat up to 16 people comfortably, has wireless internet access and other amenities.

Please contact Kim Fenner at (509) 293-5840 to make the necessary arrangements.

This is a membership benefit and is available to you at no additional cost!

Top 5 Issues That Chris Young, Chelan County Building Official is Working On

- During the May BNCW Board meeting our directors had a chance to visit with Chelan County's new Building Official Chris Young.
- The Directors were pleasantly surprised at Chris' common-sense approach and are hoping to build a long-lasting relationship. We asked Chris what his top 5 issues are that he is working on to update the system and this is his reply.
1. Implemented Standardized Plan Review for model homes (only requires initial plan review and the model home does not require any subsequent reviews).
 2. Simplified Energy Credit Worksheet (on the county's website that provides 3 compliance options with the

- path of least resistance).
 3. Implementing electronic plan review and submittal (should be up and running by end of June).
 4. Eliminated separate permit fees for plumbing and mechanical for SFR's. Permit includes these costs.
 5. No longer require Heat Load Calculations or Glazing Schedules for residential submittals as part of the submittal package.
- If you have any questions for Chris, you can contact him at:
 Chris Young, Building Official
 Chelan County Community Development
 509-667-6222
 Chris.young@co.chelan.wa.us

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!

- American Land and Water Consulting
 Bill Sullivan
 509-888-8081
- Asbestos Central
 Justin Wood
 509-888-5542
- KTS Development LLC
 Kyle Steinburg
 509-393-4975
- Pipeology Plumbing
 Brandon Sandine
 509-470-9111
- TestandSeal.com
 Megan Kramer
 509-780-6508

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

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

BNCW's:

FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE
Solemn Soldiers

“Originally known as Decoration Day, as Americans would decorate graves of Civil War soldiers and celebrated on 5/30, Memorial Day became an official national holiday, and its date was changed to the last Monday in May effective 1971. This year, 37.1 million Americans will travel, up from 23.1 million last year, down from the record 42.8 million in 2019. Thank you to those who gave their lives for our freedom.”

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



TOOLBOX TALKS

Heavy Equipment Visibility

At times it is nearly impossible for an operator to see a person standing right next to their equipment. An operator must always remain **patient and cautious**. **Never proceed or use reverse** to back into an area without knowing what is there. Here are some of the more common safety tips to help improve operator visibility.

- Before operating at the worksite:**
- Know the locations where personnel commonly work or visit.
 - Understand where the restricted zones are located.
 - Identify traffic hazards, poor road conditions, obstructed intersections, and areas where the equipment will be operating in reverse (parking, loading, and unloading locations).
 - Always do a walk around of equipment prior to startup.
 - Use a spotter in all situations where it is impossible for the operator to use the

First Move Forward Policy, and when it is impossible to verify it is safe to proceed. As a reminder, do not operate in a work area if it is not clear. Ensure personnel in the work area are wearing clearly marked high viz vests.

- Tips for improving operator visibility on mobile equipment:**
- Make sure windows are clean and unobstructed.
 - Verify mirrors are clean** and in a position to provide the best visibility to the ground, wheels, and adjacent objects.
 - While sitting in the cab, identify the areas of limited visibility and risk each presents.

- Ensure the back-up alarms, horns and other audible controls are working.**
- Always use audible and visual control signals to alert others when you will be moving.
- Routinely inspect the condition of windshield wipers and replace when signs of deterioration exist.
- Periodically review and follow all safe work practices, start up and shut down procedures when operating any equipment or machinery.



Calling all builders & remodelers!

We're excited to be having the BNCW and Banner Bank Home Tour & Remodeling Expo in person again.

The Tour draws thousands of people out to enjoy touring through beautiful homes and getting some one-on-one time with the builders and other industry professionals!

As an industry leader, this is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to highlight a building professional's product to a very targeted and qualified group of consumers.

For those who have not participated in the Home Tour & Remodeling Expo before but have considered doing so, now's the time to begin giving it serious thought.

Are you building a custom or spec home? Maybe you are completing a full-house remodeling project.

Perhaps, you are not sure if your homeowners would want to have their home in this year's Tour.

September 17th, 18th & 19th
www.BuildingNCW.org

There are plenty of incentives for your homeowners to consider.

Discounts on things like appliances, fixtures, materials and much more are

SEE 2021 HOME TOUR, PAGE 13

BNCW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CORDELL, NEHER & COMPANY, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants

At Cordell, Neher & Company, our experience translates into proactive business advice and our service is tailored to meet your organization's needs.

We can help you find the financial strength to serve your organization and fulfill your mission. Cordell, Neher & Company, PLLC maintains a full-service Financial Planning department: CNC Financial Group.

Our team approach of including a CPA in your financial planning discussions and brokering creates a seamless transfer of information in your financial planning discussions.

We provide tax-smart, holistic financial planning, full-service investment brokering, and top-notch service.

Securities offered through Avantax Investment Services SM, Member FINRA, SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Avantax Advisory Services SM.

1. We Assist Our Clients On Their Path to Success.

2. We offer a wide range of services, tailored to individuals, businesses, and wealth management.

3. Our experience translates into proactive business advice and our service is tailored to meet your organization's needs.

4. We are also committed to giving back to the communities we serve. Since 1988 we annually complete a Community Service Day. This is an annual event where the office is closed for an entire business day while the firm participates in a community betterment project. Our professionals are actively involved in a variety of service clubs, schools, churches and other civic organizations.

5. We invest substantial sums in training to enable us to keep clients informed of changing economic, legislative, and financial reporting conditions.

For more information please call 509-663-1661, email: info@cncpa.com, website: www.cncpa.com. Cordell, Neher & Company, PLLC is located at 175 E. Penny Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801.



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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available when local providers know that their products and services will be featured in the BNCW Home Tour & Remodeling Expo.

This can save your homeowners thousands of dollars! Discounts are also available for spec homes, too. Yet another important intrinsic benefit to participating homeowners is the value that comes from being able to market their home in the future as a previous Tour home.

BNCW’s Home Tour & Remodeling Expo attendees are more likely to be serious prospects, who are in the market to buy, build, or remodel. Again, this means that participation in this event provides industry professionals access to the perfect targeted audience.

In turn, the three-day event provides consumers the unique opportunity to meet industry leaders, face-to-face, in an informal setting, while gaining access to invaluable information – all the while helping to establish relationships that other forms of marketing simply cannot match.

The BNCW Home Tour & Remodeling Expo is one of the most effective methods for matching up industry professionals with consumers seeking trusted professionals!

This year’s Tour takes place September 17-19. Participation in the 2021 BNCW and Banner Bank Home Tour & Remodeling Expo is limited.

So, if you’re considering participation this year, we encourage you to act early! For more information about how you can be a part of this keystone event, please call the BNCW office at 509-293-5840!



Searching for culinary experts!

Do you fancy the finest in culinary arts? We are searching for some of the valley’s finest culinary experts to be featured in this year’s BNCW Chefs on Tour event!

This event is an EXCLUSIVE feature of the BNCW and Banner Bank Home Tour and Remodeling Expo.

This will be the 8th Annual Chefs on Tour in which we will be featuring up to five of the finest chefs in a head-to-head competition to see who will be voted Best Chef for 2021!

BNCW Chefs on Tour this year will be held on Thursday, September 16th. Each chef will be paired with a Tour Builder and a local Columbia Distributing beverage provider!

Being a featured chef is an excellent opportunity to showcase your fabulous cuisine to an exclusive audience that will sample it for themselves!

We will only be accepting the first five chefs that apply!

BNCW
Chefs
On Tour™
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
4:00 TO 9:00 PM

So don’t delay – If you would like to have your hat thrown in for an opportunity to be selected, all you need to do is call Building North Central Washington for more details at 509-293-5840. *Don’t hesitate, call now!*

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COME AND HAVE SOME FUN!

Calling All Members!

Our 25th Annual Golf Tournament is only a few weeks away! And we are looking for a few volunteers to help with some fun things on Friday June 18th!

This is a fun, rewarding and enjoyable way to play a role in producing

one of the Association’s most anticipated events of the year!

Please contact Kim at BNCW – (509) 293-5840 for more information.

We have several different options for you to help at this very FUN event!



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25th BNCW Annual Golf Tournament • Highlander Golf Club • Friday, June 18th



MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, please call Craig Field at 509-665-0500 or 1-800-253-1442



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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 June Board of Directors Meeting

■ Wednesday, June 16, 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 June CPR & First Aid Training

■ **June 3, 2021** from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Held at Building North Central Washington,
2201 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee

BNCW's June 23 CPR & First Aid Training

■ **June 23, 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.

\$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.



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Ad director, **Carol Forhan** 548-5286
Carol@leavenworthecho.com

New Planning and Development Manager at Link Transit

Link Transit announces the hiring of **Cristina Barone** as their new Planning and Development Manager. In this capacity, she will manage short and long range transit planning, service design, and oversee marketing, outreach and transit analysis. She will work with a team of four. Barone will be joining Link Transit in mid-September.



Cristina Barone

A native of Florida, Ms. Barone received her B.A. in English from the University of Florida in 2007, and her M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning in 2009, also from the University of Florida. Between 2009 and 2013, she held various transit planning roles in Gainesville and Tampa, Florida. Since 2013, she has served Project Manager for Nelson/Nygaard, a transit planning consultant based in Seattle, WA. Her experience at Nelson/Nygaard included developing transit plans and service analysis for Mason Transit Authority, Kitsap Transit, and Intercity Transit, Whatcom Transit, Everett Transit, and Link Transit.

Cristina currently lives in Wenatchee, WA, and is active in outdoor pursuits such as skiing, hiking, biking, and paddling.

Wenatchee Valley Humane Society Lead Veterinarian Looks Forward to Serving Community

Dr. Nicole Vega, DVM, lead veterinarian for the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society (WVHS), is ready to continue serving the greater Wenatchee area through veterinary services provided at WVHS.



Dr. Nicole Vega

Vega accepted the position of WVHS Lead Veterinarian in the fall 2020 and began shortly after. Born and raised in Lake Chelan, she moved back to the Wenatchee area in the summer of 2020 with her dog, Banjo, a 9-year-old English Springer Spaniel.

Vega received her Bachelor of Science in Zoology with Pre-Vet specialization from Washington State University, where she also received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine.

Vega will lead the WVHS medical team as it launches the opening of the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society Veterinary Clinic later this month. The Clinic will offer expanded Spay and Neuter services to income qualified community members to begin, and eventually expand to additional limited services to qualified pets.

"In my role as lead veterinarian, I am excited to continue developing and instituting medical protocols and standards that ensure shelter animals are getting high quality medical care at WVHS. In addition, as a non-profit veterinarian clinic, we can now provide services to income qualified pet owners," Dr. Vega said. "While our current goal is providing affordable spay/neuter services, the long-term goal is to ensure that all pet owners have equal access to veterinary services."

Vega has been practicing as a small animal veterinarian for 4 years. Her fields of focus within veterinary medicine are soft-tissue surgery, dental surgery, and shelter medicine. She is a member in good standing with the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association, Portland Veterinary Medical Association, and American Veterinary Medical Association.

Wenatchee Valley Humane Society Announces New Executive Director

WENATCHEE, WA—Wenatchee Valley Humane Society (WVHS) has announced **Taylor Sharp** as the new Executive Director.

Sharp has worked in animal sheltering/welfare in various capacities for over ten years, starting with cleaning kennels and walking dogs at shelters in the Midwest. She began work with Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) in 2015 where she held various roles, but spent most of her time as Pacific Regional Specialist. In this time, she worked with over 400 shelters/rescues to enhance lifesaving efforts including creating community



Taylor Sharp

cat programs, community outreach, grant oversight, board alignment, coalition building, SOP creation, ordinance work, Animal Control

Officer training, and more.

In 2019, Sharp was selected as Maddie's Fund Executive Leadership Fellow as a Fellow at Humane

Society Silicon Valley, the only shelter in the country to be designated a model shelter by completing all 543 standard-of-care guidelines put forth by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians to give animal welfare organizations a roadmap to improve their care of animals. As a member of the Executive team, she led the creation of community programs and end-to-end stakeholder experience design.

Sharp is also a co-founder of the Pet Alliance of Washington (PAW), a statewide organization designed to bring shelters together and increase Live Release Rates (LRR) in Washington state, and currently serves as secretary. Before her journey to Wenatchee, Sharp worked to support dozens of shelters through the COVID-19 pandemic nationwide and helped them navigate the rapid changes it had on animal shelters.

"I am honored to join the talented and passionate Wenatchee Valley Humane Society team at a time when WVHS has both a strong foundation and ambitious plans to further our mission," Sharp said. "I want to express my gratitude for Dawn's incredible leadership over the past decade. With the support of an amazing staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donors, the growth WVHS has made during her tenure is truly inspiring."

Tamara Dezellem retires

Cordell, Neher & Company has announced the retirement of **Tamara Dezellem**. Dezellem joined the firm in 2003 and serves as a CPA and Manager. Her last day will be June 15, 2021.

Dezellem was born and raised on a farm in Bridgeport, Washington and attended Washington State University, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in Business Administration and a spe-



Tamara Dezellem

cialization in Accounting. She began her career with a local public accounting firm in Spokane and then

moved to Chelan County and spent 18 years in the hospitality and agricultural industries before joining Cordell, Neher & Company.

Cordell, Neher & Company, PLLC is hosting a retirement drive-by parade on Tuesday, June 15 from 3:00-4:00pm.

The public is invited to participate and share congratulations, memories, and a laugh. The celebration will be held at 175 East Penny Road in Wenatchee.

Douglas County PUD awards service pins



COURTESY DOUGLAS COUNTY PUD

Left to right: Commissioner Viebrock, Mike Snyder (awarded 20 year service award), Darren Robertson (25 year service award), Commissioner Simpson, and Commissioner Skagen.

EAST WENATCHEE – Douglas County PUD Commissioners Aaron J. Viebrock, Molly Simpson and Ronald E. Skagen recognized two long term employees during the April 26 Commission meeting.

Customer Engineer **Mike Snyder** was honored for his 20 year service award. Commissioner Viebrock thanked Mike on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service. Mike thanked the Commission

and said "I work with a lot of customers and the way the District is run makes my job easier."

Meterman **Foreman Darren Robertson** was honored for his 25 years of service. Commissioner

Viebrock thanked Darren on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County. Darren thanked the Commission and said "I enjoy what I do. I have a great crew and this is a great place to work. I'm happy to be here."

KEEPING UP WITH
PEOPLE

New hires, promotions, special training, awards?
Share your company's news with other businesses
through the Wenatchee Business Journal

We love our PIGS!

By Denise Sorom

Director of Community Philanthropy,
Community Foundation of NCW.

Yes, pork is delicious, but we don't mean those pigs, we mean our Partners In Giving – a group of donors who make annual gifts to support the work of the Community Foundation.

Our PIGs, as we affectionately call them, took shape in 2013 due to an unlikely event: being turned down for a major grant.

We had applied for a competitive grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust to help us expand our staff.

Our evaluator, who came and visited with us in person, was impressed by everything we did – our grantmaking, our capacity building workshops for nonprofits, and our scholarship program – except for one – thing: He felt that we did not have enough people in the community that made annual, unrestricted gifts to support our work. (Our main source of operating income came from the management of the mul-

titude of charitable funds that we steward.)

He asked us how we would ever build up enough unrestricted funds to help us weather unforeseen



Denise Sorom

challenges such as natural disasters, fluctuations in the stock market or a surge of unemployment.

After 2020 and the devastating wildfires of the past few years, we wonder: perhaps this man had a crystal ball?

While it was a let-down to be denied the grant, we took his criticism to heart and decided to launch

the Partners In Giving program.

We started by asking board members and former board members to donate as little as \$50/year to become a "PIG."

We found a mascot, an adorable stuffed plush pig named "Pardner," and started to promote the opportunity in our marketing materials and over social media.

The campaign took off. People far and wide sent us gifts to become PIGs and our favorite day was when 9-year-old Carly Everson dropped by with money she had saved up in her piggy bank.

Almost 200 individuals and businesses have signed on to become PIGs since 2013, generating over \$300,000 in unrestricted funding for the Community Foundation!

Our PIGs have paid for dozens of critically important projects since this time:

- Every year our PIGs "round up" our scholarship awards giving students an extra boost in their financial support and last year, we surprised our most financially needy scholarship recipients with new iPads to help them get a leg up on their college career.

- PIGs have supple-



- mented our budget for grant making, allowing us to award more grants when nonprofits really needed our help.

- About every 2 to 3 years, our PIGs help us pay for special training opportunities for our nonprofit leaders such as peer to peer coaching for leadership development or workshops with nationally known fundraising experts such as Susan Howlett.

- PIGs have helped us

transform our space, improving our conference rooms with new technology that we offer free of charge to nonprofits in our region.

- Perhaps most impressively, PIG funds helped us launch GiveNCW in 2015 – a crowdfunding campaign that now raises several hundred thousand dollars a year for dozens of nonprofits each year.

- In 2021, our PIGs will be providing an opportunity for nonprofits to receive

customized strategic consulting, ensuring that our most valued charitable organizations survive the challenge of the COVID era and continue to serve this community for years to come.

Our work without our PIGs would be like a BLT without the bacon. They make everything that much better.

To learn more, visit www.cfncw.org/PIG.

Sleiman to oversee housing programs

The Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Director has been selected to oversee Chelan County's housing program.

Sasha Sleiman has accepted the position of Housing Program Coordi-



Sasha Sleiman

nator for Chelan County. Her last day with the Chamber will be May 31, she joins Chelan County on June 1.

Sleiman played a key role in the Chamber's ability to be a credible resource and trusted advocate for businesses as they navigated the pandemic response.

"Sasha lived the Chamber's core values, breathed our mission, and played a key role in the Chamber's effort to advocate for a consistent regulatory environment for our business during the pandemic," said

Shiloh Burgess, Executive Director Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce "I know Sasha will make a positive impact on the regions housing challenges in her new role."

Sleiman will be managing the homeless and affordable housing programs for both Chelan and Douglas counties. Her new responsibilities will have her leading systemic planning efforts that allow for an effective and coordinated response to homelessness and affordable housing outcomes in the region.

"We are excited about Sasha becoming a part of our county family and look forward to seeing her energy, passion, enthusiasm and work ethic on display as we transition this program from the City of Wenatchee to Chelan County," Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner.

It has been an honor to have Sleiman as part of the WVCC team. The contributions she made to this organization and our community in her 14 months with us are significant – the epidemy of right person, right time, right seat," Shiloh Burgess, Executive Director Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Announces \$4.5 Million in Grants to Get Kids Outside

Submitted by Susan Zemek

OLYMPIA – Getting kids outside to explore parks and other wild places will be a bit easier this year thanks to \$4.5 million in grants, Gov. Jay Inslee announced today.

Awarded by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the No Child Left Inside grants focus on programs that expand outdoor education and recreation opportunities to under-resourced communities throughout Washington State. This year's grants will help more than 50,000 kids spend nearly 1.5 million hours outside, doing everything from hiking to kayaking to camping.

"Getting kids outside is so important to the health and well-being of our children that awarding these grants is something I'm proud to be part of," Inslee said. "We know that when kids spend time outside, they learn more, experience less stress, get more exercise and improve their social skills. That is especially important this year because the pandemic disrupted so many of their normal activities. These grants will make it easier for many kids to spend time in Washington's great outdoors."

Funding for the No Child Left Inside grant program comes from the state general fund and was one of a dozen recommendations of the Governor's

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation in 2014. The task force was charged with finding ways to increase participation in outdoor recreation, which has significant social and economic benefits.

"Kids need to get outside – for their physical, mental and spiritual health," said Peter Mayer, State Parks director. "These grants help level the playing field by providing opportunities for so many who otherwise don't have a way to experience the outdoors. We hope the grants also will help create a positive future for these kids."

This is the highest amount of funding the No Child Left Inside Program has received in its 5-year history. In total, grant applicants submitted 117 proposals requesting more than \$6.8 million and 63 percent will receive funding. Funding last biennium covered only 16 percent of the projects. "This funding couldn't come at a better time," said State Senator Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island), who was instrumental in getting the increased appropriation. "With things beginning to open up, these grants will enable new opportunities for so many kids all across our state. They deserve to have a good summer. It's wonderful to have this level of commitment from the Legislature."

"All of our children should have access to the benefits of spending time outside," said Megan Duffy, director of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers the grants. "These grants are important to make sure that all kids have the opportunity to hike a trail, play in a park and paddle around a lake. It's really core to our sense of what it means to live in Washington."

Grant recipients match the state funding and are contributing more than \$5.3 million in donations, equipment, labor, additional grants and other resources.

Visit <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NEWS-235-NCLIGrantDescriptions-2020.pdf> to see descriptions of each grant:

Chelan County Received \$221,620. Grant and Okanogan County did not receive any funds.

Successful applicants can begin their projects as early as July 1. Projects will wrap up in June 2023, with the Recreation and Conservation Office likely accepting new applications in August 2022. More information about No Child Left Inside grant program is online.

Susan Zemek can be reached at 360-764-9349 or through email at susan.zemek@rco.wa.gov

REAL ESTATE

TOP PROPERTIES – April 2021

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Garage Area
LUCAS VENTURES LLC	MAC DONALD BRENT/AFNI	\$2,850,000	104 E WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0.1300	11000	1926			0
WHEELER RIDGE LLC	MATTHEWS B J TRUSTEE	\$2,500,000	4402 LOOP RD	WENATCHEE	13.2800	2503	1980	2	2	638.0
THREE EAVES LLC	SI SU MANAGEMENT CORP	\$2,400,000	833 FRONT ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.0700	9450	1910			0
SS MARKET LLC	DE CHENNE G MARK	\$2,000,000	3821 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	3.0800	13684	1953	2	1	0
LENOSKI DANIEL E 2013 RVCBL TRST	WHITE DORTHEA H & ANNA M LIVELY	\$1,995,000	12625 MAPLE ST	LEAVENWORTH	1.0000	3984	2016	6	5.5	1160.0
MANSON WINE COMPANY	TROUT BLUE CHELAN INC	\$1,850,000	135 WAPATO WAY	MANSON	1.5600	33660	1984			0
KUTZLE BRENT & LESLIE JACQUELYN	ECKROTH LIVING TRUST	\$1,800,000	1410 DEMPSEY RD	LEAVENWORTH	4.3900	5392	2004	4	5	1200.0
SCHMIDT FRANCINE M & CRAIG J	LALLY JOHN E & BARBARA A	\$1,725,000	227 CRYSTAL DR	CHELAN	0.3200	2823	2018	6	4	784.0
SAMJI MOHAMMED A & ASHRAF	PAULSON ERIK & TERESA	\$1,695,000	281 BOBCAT LN	CHELAN	0.1200	2133	2019	3	4.5	752.0
SPAULDING RACI O & THOMAS D	PARRISH GREGORY L	\$1,435,000	176 JOYFUL PL	LEAVENWORTH	1.5000	2290	2006	3	2.5	552.0
STRIZHAK PETER & YELENA	GEHRIG THOMAS ETAL	\$1,400,000	UNASSIGNED	MANSON	1.7000	0	0			0
ZINKOVSKY IGOR & KOVAL IRENE	BURKE JOHN N & RACHEL L	\$1,300,000	15910 CEDAR BRAE RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.4800	1012	1982	2	1	0
ANDERSON ERIK & ALEXA A	MARTIN MATTHEW D & COURTNEY T	\$1,300,000	136 N SHORE DR	CHELAN	0.1600	1887	2018	4	4	0
DAYLEY BROCK & KRISTIN	DORSEY DAVID J	\$1,270,000	13994 S LAKESHORE RD	CHELAN	0.1600	1384	1971	2	2	308.0
BHITA LLC	CHUNG JAEWOOK	\$995,000	300 S QUETILQUASOON RD	MANSON	0.8000	12000	1992			0
BURKETT CHRISTOPHER A	SLIPSTREAM LLC	\$995,000	173 DIEDE HILLS LN	WENATCHEE	1.8100	3609	2020	4	4	400.0
PAYNE JARRETT & LUCYANNE	STOBER DARREN ETAL	\$950,000	20563 MIRACLE MILE	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.3300	2238	2004	3	2.5	0
ROESNER KENNETH GF & ROBYN L	MC CLEARY MYRNA J	\$895,000	242 W NIXON AVE	CHELAN	0.1500	2880	2006			0
WEAKLY DANIEL E & DEBORAH H	EWING TIMOTHY J & GINGER E	\$895,000	982 WASHINGTON ST	MANSON	0.7500	1325	1986	3	1.75	840.0
18 S MISSION LLC	CAMP ROBERT E	\$892,300	18 S MISSION ST	WENATCHEE	0.2800	19005	1910			0
COLVARD JOHN & KATHLEEN	COOK JAMES & LEAH	\$885,500	16632 FIR RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.0500	1370	1974	3	2.25	575.0
WEBER LAUREN & LETTRICH STEPHEN	MUMFORD ANTHONY R & ANGELA J	\$855,000	1450 WESTPOINT PL	WENATCHEE	1.2000	3395	1995	3	2.5	933.0
PIERCE CAROL LYNN	WAHLSTROM ASA K TRT	\$844,800	15311 LAKEVIEW ST	ENTIAT	0.2200	0	0			0
VIDAL CHRISTOPHE & PANCHAGNULA SIREESHA	WANGEN MARY JO TRUSTEE	\$835,000	9768 DYE RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.2800	2120	2007	3	2.5	400.0
ROMERO DAVID SCOTT & CHERI JEAN	CARLSON LIVING TRUST	\$825,000	782 SUMMIT BLVD	MANSON	1.6200	2148	2014	3	2	576.0
THOMPSON JASON R & JEANNE	WILFONG JORDAN	\$810,000	152 MAYER DR	CHELAN	0.2900	2081	2019	3	2.5	840.0
HECKERT CHRISTINE & GRAVES LAWRENCE	SHEPARD ROBERT J & LAURA L	\$806,000	15332 LAKEVIEW ST	ENTIAT	0.2700	1387	2008	4	2.5	650.0
AVERILL DAVID M & JULIE A	DERBY DDD I LLC	\$805,000	9656 NORTH RD	PESHASTIN	1.2200	1944	1986	3	2.5	864.0
VAUGHN VENTURES GROUP LLC	MYERS RALPH & ANN M	\$800,000	11650 EAGLE CREEK RD	LEAVENWORTH	1.6000	0	0			288.0
STEWART KYLE C & BRIANNA J	MACKAY MICHAEL H & KAREN J	\$795,000	205 PINNACLE PL	CHELAN	0.2400	1920	2018	3	2	1015.0
GARETSON JAMES R & STOJSIC-GARETSON DRAGANA	TIMBERWOOD HOMES LLC	\$780,802	95 LONE RAM LN	WENATCHEE	0.5100	0	0			0
MINTON RYAN T & LOGAN ANNE M	VAN BIENE MATTHEW J	\$766,000	230 PROSPECT ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.1800	2832	2017	3	2	280.0
POOLE SIMON G & KEITER ERICA A	PLOCH TYRONE C & ANGELA M	\$765,000	746 KINGS CT	WENATCHEE	0.5100	2800	1996	3	2.5	714.0
MILLS JOHN K & AMANDA C	SMITH JAROLD M JR & PATRICIA S	\$756,000	15 SUNVIEW LN	MANSON	0.2300	1296	2018	3	2	704.0
SNOHO TRIANGLE LLC	BRIGHT ANGEL TRUST	\$729,000	130 PORCUPINE LN	CHELAN	0.0800	484	2017	2	1.5	325.0
CARLISLE MATTHEW & HURD STACEY C	BECKER HOMES LLC	\$729,000	210 PINEGRASS ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.1400	0	0			0
BLODGETT SALLIE REVOCABLE LVG TRST	JONES JACK E	\$720,000	UNASSIGNED	WENATCHEE	20.0000	0	0			0
BELLON RANDALL & CAROL	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$714,450	720 W GOLF COURSE DR	CHELAN	0.2800	216	1945			0
DUNDAS CASEY & NATALIE	SNIDER DOUGLAS F & STACEE	\$710,000	45 VOILA LN	CASHMERE	0.7300	3072	1992	4	1.5	888.0
KHACHATUROV ALBERT & SARINGIOLIAN SIOUZANNA	HIRSCHBERGER HANS DONALD & EVELYN PORTER	\$710,000	621 MOUNTAIN VIEW DR	CHELAN	0.2400	1485	1972	3	3	0
BROWN PETER	PARISH ROBERT & AMANDA C	\$705,000	617 CEDAR ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.0800	1630	2008	4	3.5	0
ANDERSON FAMILY TRT	RUNNING HORSE RANCH LLC	\$700,000	UNASSIGNED	MONITOR	78.0000	0	0			0
SCOTT DANIEL C & SARAH J	WAGNER DAVID C	\$675,000	5794 CAMPBELL RD	PESHASTIN	1.9900	1482	1979	3	2.25	0
HOWE DAVID W & BARBARA S	CHELAN LOOKOUT LLLP	\$670,000	1341 DRAGONFLY CT	CHELAN	0.1000	0	0			0
KIMBREL ANDREW & ANNE J	GWINN DALE	\$650,000	1526 WASHINGTON ST	WENATCHEE	0.3700	2076	1975	3	1.75	625.0
HOLLAND JOELLYN	MITCHELL WILLIAM F & PATRICIA A	\$650,000	21811 WELCH LN	PLAIN	0.4400	1764	1984	3	1.5	480.0
HEWITT BRIAN C & JAMIE R	TURNER IAN & CORY	\$625,000	1802 ASPEN CREEK LN	WENATCHEE	0.2800	2316	1995	4	3	440.0
STRINGHAM CRAIG & ANDREA S	LUNDGREN RACHEL S & ANNE M MC DERMIT	\$625,000	1016 EASY ST	WENATCHEE	0.8000	1662	1912	4	1.75	0
LUNDE GREG J & PATTI J	BROWN SCOTT	\$621,000	2109 SAGE GROUSE RD	WENATCHEE	0.2100	2658	2010	4	3.5	713.0
OAK GROVE RANCH LLC	NIEMELA WILLIAM F & LAURA F	\$620,000	UNASSIGNED	MONITOR	80.0000	0	0			0
SKIRDE ABBE L & GREGORY R	ELLINGTON JULIE K	\$606,000	786 QUEENS CT	WENATCHEE	0.2800	1934	2006	3	2.5	645.0
BAVARIAN CEDAR LLC	WEST KENNETH ETAL	\$600,000	106 FIR ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.6900	1184	1940	2	1	0

TOP PROPERTIES – April 2021 – continued from page 17

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street		City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Garage Area
FARRISH CHERYL J & DAVIS MARK K	MAHLUM SCOTT ALLEN & KRISTINE A	\$600,000	900	MAIN ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.0000	1247	0			0
SCHNEIDER JOHN A & JULIE A	HECHT MILDRED A	\$600,000	11370	RIVER BEND DR	LEAVENWORTH	0.2500	0	0			0
JANCZAK ROBERT M & LEAH L	PETERSON JULIANNE L & RYAN H	\$600,000	10355	MERRY CANYON RD	LEAVENWORTH	19.8000	1362	2015		2	0
RAY ABIGAIL & ISAAH	PINNACLE CUSTOM BUILDERS INC	\$599,900	330	PINEGRASS ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.1400	0	0			0
WESTCOTT GARY & PAIGE RVCBL LVNG TRUST	MAC DONALD BRENT & AFNI	\$595,000	481	OLD VINE LN	CHELAN	2.5000	0	0			0
CHELAN SOUTHSORE PARTNERS LLC	MAITRI LIVING TRUST	\$595,000	2205 W	WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0.1500	922	1906	4	3.5	391.0
ODEN DANIEL R & CATHERINE A	JAMES JENNIFER & PATRICK FARRAR	\$580,000	1624	OVERLOOK DR	WENATCHEE	0.3800	2896	1965	3	2.5	667.0
WILKINSON JESSE D & COURTNEY E	ESPARZA RUTH E & JIM M WEST	\$575,000	2106	SUTTON PL	WENATCHEE	0.2300	2826	1992	4	2.5	988.0
SHEEHAN KAHLIN D & GEORGE MICHAELA	LEENDERS GLEN A & DARLENE	\$560,000	421	LARS LN	WENATCHEE	0.2500	2624	2004	4	2.5	686.0
MCGRAW AIMEE & JACOB	CALDWELL JAMES	\$560,000	244	LILLY LN	WENATCHEE	0.3000	2107	2009	4	3	725.0
CLINE SHELLEY & BAKKEN JOEL	MOON BEAM RANCH LLC	\$554,875		UNASSIGNED	PLAIN	2.3800	0	0			0
KOCH AXEL & MARTHA M	RYLAARSDAM DARRIN J & NERY R	\$554,000	236	SCHOLZE ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.3100	1740	1965	4	1.5	920.0
COVEY DANIEL SHANE & MARINA DAWN ETAL	BROWN HEIDI M	\$550,000	309	ORCHID ST	CASHMERE	0.2000	2468	1959	4	2.5	760.0
HEBERT MARK & SUSAN	GOMEZ ALFREDO G ETAL	\$550,000	311	BENTON ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.2500	1120	1912	2	1	432.0
DRACHLER PAUL & JACOBS ELISSA P	TRAMMELL DAVID D	\$550,000	20892	KAHLER DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.2300	2078	2000	3	3	572.0
TIEDEMAN SCOTT W & JULIE S	WICKEL LISA M	\$540,000	2110	IONE ST	WENATCHEE	0.7400	1538	1969	4	2.5	528.0
SPIEGEL MICHAEL A	FRIEDMAN MARK A & MARY L	\$540,000	76	GRAHAM LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.4100	1400	2013	2	2	0
MORRIS SEAN M & ERIN L	SYNHORST NANCY	\$529,000	501	OAKWOOD DR	MANSON	0.1900	1633	2013	3	2	461.8
BOWERS JERRY R & DAVIS BOWERS CYNTHIA M	SITES DON & LORI	\$525,000	5205	MISSION CREEK RD	CASHMERE	0.8000	1872	1979	3	2.5	768.0
NEUMANN CHRISTOPHER S & REBECCA B	JANCZAK ROBERT	\$525,000	16684	BROWN RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.0100	1296	1988	3	1.5	0
AXTMAN BRUCE	WU AMY	\$515,000		UNASSIGNED	MANSON	5.2500	0	0			0
ZACHER AMBER & TYEE	LINDHOLM AARON & JULIE J	\$509,000	314	FIRCREST DR	CASHMERE	0.7700	1707	1974	4	3	672.0
HARRIS DONOVAN L & MICHELLE R	HANNAH LAUREL	\$505,000	15305	CHUMSTICK HWY	LEAVENWORTH	2.1600	2098	1995	3	2.5	552.0
PIPER JOHN & HEIDI	FALLON EDWIN & CHERRY FAMILY TRUST	\$505,000	2355	LAKESHORE DR	MANSON	0.9200	192	2019			0
DALF EXCHANGE FACILITATOR LLC	AVELAR ANGEL	\$490,000	1111	WALLA WALLA AVE	WENATCHEE	0.4200	5857	0			0
HATRIDGE KYLE D & SARAH	PLIMMER KELLY	\$490,000	11272	CLARK CANYON RD	LEAVENWORTH	2.4700	1860	1973	3	2	0
LYNCH BARI R & MICHAEL J	MC LENNAN DALE & MARYANN	\$480,000	440	SPRING VIEW PL	CHELAN	0.1700	1638	2018	3	2	400.0
BEEHLER CARL & CHYMBURJEHLE BLAIR	TIEDEMAN SCOTT W & JULIE SAMARA	\$479,000	14 S	FRANKLIN AVE	WENATCHEE	0.2300	1620	1929	4	2.5	672.0
EATON EDWIN D & MELISSA	RAINES CHRIS & MEG	\$479,000	228 W	ALLEN AVE	CHELAN	0.1500	1332	1952	2	1	308.0
CARLETON ROBERT D JR & THERESA R	NUNEZ ANTONIO & ALEJANDRINA CABRERA DE NUNEZ	\$475,000	432	WHISPER PL	CHELAN	0.1800	0	0			0
ZONTEK EDWARD F JR	PERMIN JEFFREY M	\$471,000	1926	HIDEAWAY PL	WENATCHEE	0.1900	2020	1996	4	2.5	576.0
GOAT ROCKS IMPROVEMENT LLC	HEDGES R WENDELL&LYNN	\$470,000	525	ALPINE PL	LEAVENWORTH	0.0000	958	0			0
TOMALTY KEVIN & JAYNA	BARNHART JEAN A	\$465,000	410	VALLEY VIEW DR	CASHMERE	0.2700	2322	1961	3	2	0
REDLAND DAWN M	SPENCE CLARENCE	\$462,500	4333	UNION VALLEY RD	CHELAN	1.7000	1664	2014	3	2	1280.0
RICE DANIEL W & CHRISTINE M	CONNER JAMES M	\$460,000	1509	WALNUT ST	WENATCHEE	0.9800	1936	1947	2	1.75	0
GODWIN PETER N & KERRY L	WEIDENMAN WAYNE L & ELIZABETH S	\$460,000	900	MAIN ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.0000	1247	0			0
WHITLEY LUZ A & ROGER M	D & T CAMPBELL INVESTMENTS LLC	\$450,958	23	MANZANITA DR	MANSON	0.2400	0	0			0
DILLY SCOTT J	DILLY SCOTT J	\$450,000	10170	MAIN ST	PESHASTIN	0.1500	3000	1947			0
KIELE SETH E & JILL N	SKILLMAN LYLE L & MEGAN M	\$450,000	21823	COLT RD	PLAIN	0.2900	2751	1977			350.0
BRADBURN MICHAEL P & CORDELIA C	WOOD AMY K & ROBERT M	\$450,000	1538	SONGBIRD LN	WENATCHEE	0.1600	1845	1999	4	2.5	806.0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Fee changes proposed at selected Forest Service recreation sites in central Washington

“We don’t plan to increase fees at all approved locations at the same time.”

The proposal includes changing fees at over 60 recreation sites including campgrounds, lookouts, trailheads, and rental cabins across the forest and establishing new fees at 25 sites.

Sites with proposed changes can be found at this link: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/rec-fee-proposal

“Recreation fees and money collected from overnight rentals and campgrounds is kept on the forest to operate and maintain these sites. Besides routine

operation and maintenance, monies are used to chip away at major projects to reduce backlog maintenance, fix old or install new picnic tables and toilets, and more,” Cable said.

Forest Service staff hope to present the proposed fee changes to members of the Resource Advisory Committee for review fall or winter of 2021.

The public is welcome to comment in writing prior to advisory committee meetings.

The exact meeting times, location, and agenda will be announced on the forest website

and through local media.

Comments on the proposed fee increases should be mailed to Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, ATTN: Recreation Fees/Suzanne Cable, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801, or emailed to SM.FS.FeeProposal@usda.gov. Comments must be received by July 31, 2021 to be considered. Questions on fees proposed for specific sites should be directed to the District where that site is located.

Chelan Ranger District 509-682-4900; Cle Elum Ranger District 509-



USDA FOREST SERVICE PHOTO.

A family of campers enjoys the amenities at an Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest campground.

852-1100; Entiat Ranger District 509-784-4700; Methow Valley Ranger District 509-996-4000; Naches Ranger District 509-653-1401; Wenatchee River Ranger District 509-548-2550; Wenatchee River Ranger District 509-548-2550; Tonasket Ranger District (Colville) 509-486-2186.



SBA Administrator Issues Statement on the Closure of Paycheck Protection Program

By Melanie M. Norton
Regional Communications Director

WASHINGTON – U.S. Small Business Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman issued the following statement on the closure of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to new loan guaranty applications, which has provided over \$798 billion in economic relief to small businesses and nonprofits across the nation, keeping employees employed and helping businesses come back stronger than ever.

“The Paycheck Protection Program provided over 8.5 million small businesses and nonprofits the lifeline they needed to survive during a once-in-generation economic crisis. I’ve heard story after story from small business owners across the country about how PPP funds helped them keep the lights on, pay their employees – and gave them hope,” said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman.

“At the same time, millions of underserved businesses – particularly our

smallest businesses and those owned by women and people of color – were left out of early rounds of relief.

“I’m proud of the work we did to begin to rectify these inequities – in 2021, 96% of PPP loans went to small businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Moving forward, we will continue to prioritize equity in all SBA’s programs and services.”

The Paycheck Protection Program, among the first COVID-19 economic disaster relief programs to provide emergency funds to small businesses affected by the pandemic, has played a historic role in America’s recovery.

The Biden-Harris Administration has pushed an effective and equitable implementation of this program, with a focus on ensuring small businesses receive the backing they need to stay afloat and continue to employ millions of Americans.

The program has supported the smallest of small businesses with 32 percent of the loans going to Low-and-Moderate



Income (LMI) communities. Additionally, Community Financial Institutions (CFIs) played a pivotal role in 2021 PPP lending to underserved communities during this period, providing 1.5 million loans totaling \$30 billion.

PPP loans in 2021 averaged \$42,000, another indicator of targeted relief to the smallest small businesses.

The PPP is only one of eight disaster relief programs established by Congress to assist small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other programs include Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), EIDL Advance, Targeted EIDL Advance, Supplemental EIDL Advance, Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, and SBA Debt Relief program. To

learn more about these programs, please visit www.sba.gov/relief.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

Data reports and individual PPP loan data have all been updated through May 31 and are available on the PPP Data portion of the SBA website. More information about all SBA Relief Programs available at www.sba.gov/relief.

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Print Only - In County - \$40 per year

ECHO RECORD MIRROR HERALD

Online Only - In County - \$40 - E-Edition (Paper as printed)

ECHO RECORD MIRROR HERALD

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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, judgementalism, 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.



Chelan PUD and Puget Sound Energy Finalize Clean Energy Contract

Submitted by Rachel Hansen
Chelan Public Utilities

WENATCHEE, WASH. –For the fifth consecutive year, Chelan County PUD received national recognition as one of the best-performing fleets by an industry trade organization.

The National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) announced Chelan PUD's fleet ranked 75th in the top 100 fleets in the Americas. The organization tracks more than 38,000 public fleets. It developed the 100 Best Fleets program 20 years ago to recognize the best practices and help taxpayers better understand the value that public fleets provide.

Judges select the winners based on 12 criteria, including accountability, use of technology, team collaboration, creativity in addressing challenges and a high-trust culture.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, utilities have had to take extra measures to continue safe operations. Fleet staff found creative ways to keep up with the workload, training, and communication. The PUD's fleet assets tend to be older overall, but outsourced maintenance was 20% lower than industry standard. Chelan PUD's target goal in a normal year is 95% availability for critical assets, and fleet staff

achieved 97.6% in 2020.

"For the last five years, our customer service surveys have been at or near 100%, and that says a lot," said Fleet Supervisor Lance Knudtson.

Fleet Services manages nearly 1,000 pieces of equipment, including line trucks, digger derricks, cranes, tugboats, snow cats, backhoes, mobile substations and much more. The fleet operates in a wide range of seasons and geography in Chelan County, including lowland marshes, shrub steppe, forested mountains, rivers, and lakes. Chelan is the third largest county in Washington state.

"This isn't a department award, it's a District award," Knudtson said. "Everyone at the PUD is working hard serving our community. Keeping the vehicles and equipment safe and operating rests on these guys' shoulders, and they do an amazing job."

The PUD ranked 24th in 2020, the highest ranking since the utility earned a spot on NAFA's top-performance list four years ago.

"The competition gets steeper each year and with that the ranking will go up and down. We will continue to strive to become number one, but until then, it is an honor to be in the top 100," Knudtson said.



CHELAN COUNTY

Chelan PUD and Puget Sound Energy Finalize Clean Energy Contract

Submitted by Chelan PUD

WENATCHEE – Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Chelan County Public Utility District (PUD) announced a new contract for renewable hydropower from two PUD hydro projects on the Columbia River. The contract will bolster PSE's supply of carbon-free energy, in line with the goal of becoming a "Beyond Net Zero Carbon" energy company by 2045, while also supporting Washington state's Clean Energy Transformation Act goals.

The five-year "slice" contract supplies PSE with 5% of the output from the PUD's Rock Island and Rocky Reach hydropower projects from 2022 through 2026. The contract complements an existing contract between the two utilities, while generating revenue for the PUD to provide continued rate stability for its customers.

"We value our positive, long-term relationship with PSE, and we're pleased to have the opportunity to help PSE meet its carbon-free energy goals," said PUD General Manager Steve Wright. "This supports our power marketing strategy moving forward and demonstrates the value hydropower offers to support carbon emission reduction goals."

PSE secured the contract following a competitive bidding process in the first quarter of 2021.

"We are excited to be working with Chelan PUD on this renewable hydropower which gives our customers an addition-

al carbon-free resource," said PSE Vice President of Energy Supply Ron Roberts. "This agreement reflects our commitment to combating climate change and creating a clean energy future that benefits all of the customers and communities we serve."

In January 2021, PSE set its aspirational "Beyond Net Zero Carbon" energy company goal. PSE will target reducing its own carbon emissions to net zero and go beyond by helping other sectors to enable carbon reduction across the state of Washington.

About Chelan PUD:

Chelan Public Utility District was created by a vote of the people in 1936 and delivered its first power in 1947. The PUD is governed by a locally elected five-member Board of Commissioners. The general manager uses the policies and guiding principles set by the commissioners to operate a utility system that delivers electricity from three dams to more than 51,000 retail customers in the county as well as other utilities across the Pacific Northwest. The PUD also provides water, sewer and wholesale telecommunications services.

About Puget Sound Energy:

Puget Sound Energy is proud to serve our neighbors and communities in 10 Washington counties. PSE is the state's largest utility, supporting 1.1 million electric customers and nearly 900,000 natural gas customers. PSE aspires to be a beyond net zero carbon energy company by 2045. For more about us and what we do, visit pse.com.

Okanogan PUD wins NWPPA safety award, third time since 2010



OKANOGAN – For the third time in the past 10 years Okanogan PUD has been recognized for its safety record by the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA).

"Workplace safety is a top priority for the utility industry as a whole and a high priority for Okanogan PUD," General Manager Steve Taylor said.



Mike
Maltais
WBJ Staff
Writer

NWPPA announced its 2020 safety awards at its annual Engineering and Operations Conference held virtually on April 11-14. NWPPA based its awards on a review of each utility's number of recordable illness and injury cases and lost workdays last year. Okanogan PUD placed second behind Inland Power & Light Company in the 150,001-500,000 hours of exposure category. Okanogan crews stayed safe despite extra hours and challenges in the wake of the Cole Spring wildfire last September.

"This past year we saw fires and snowstorms that required us to work in adverse conditions," Taylor said. Yet, we managed successfully to get the lights back on safely. I am proud to work with such a dedicated and safe team." Okanogan PUD last won first place NWPPA awards in 2010 and again in 2017.

BUSINESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down.”

Charles F. Kettering

Grant County

Labor Area Summary – March 2021

Overview

This report provides an update on the Grant County economy incorporating not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data.

Analysis focuses on year over year (March 2020 and March 2021) and average annual data (between 2019 and 2020) in the labor market.

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.

Between March 2020 and March 2021, the rate rose modestly by three-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.8 to 6.1 percent.

In Grant County, the average annual unemployment rate rose from

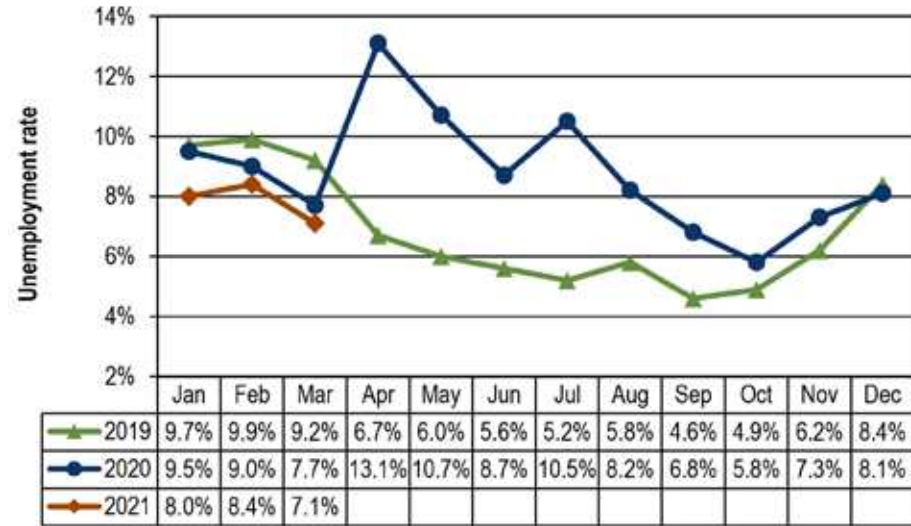
6.8 percent to 8.8 percent between 2019 and 2020.

COVID-19-related layoffs pushed unemployment rates upwards, year over year, from April through November 2020.

But Grant County's unemployment rate has declined during the past four months (December 2020 through March 2021) – a step in the right direction for the local economy.

Grant County nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, January 2018 through March 2021

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



The Grant County unemployment rate declined six-tenths of a point from March 2020 (7.7 percent) to March 2021 (7.1 percent).

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2019 and 2020, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 184,000 fewer nonfarm jobs, an average annual decrease of 5.3 percent.

In March 2021, business and government organizations statewide tallied only 3,305,100 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,471,500 in March 2020, a

loss of 166,400 jobs and a 4.8 percent downturn. Washington's year-over-year loss rate of 4.8 percent in March 2021 was the lowest loss rate in the past 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021).

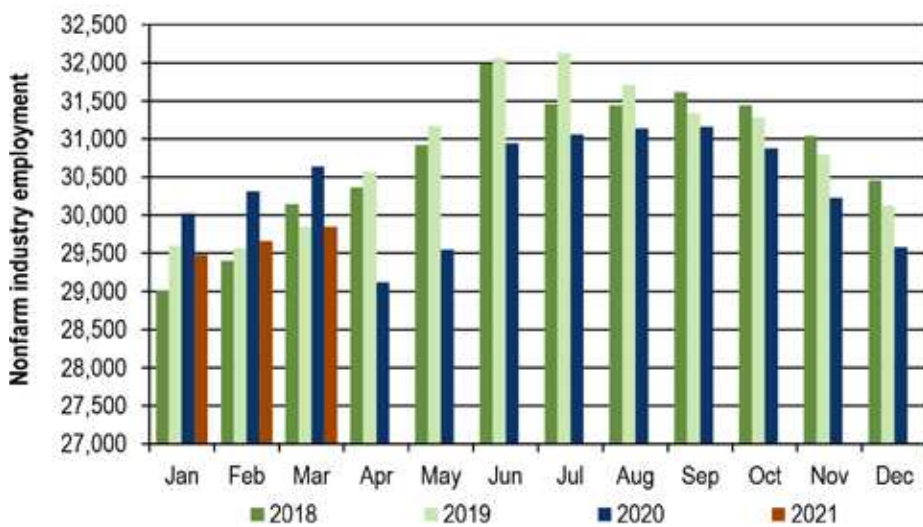
Estimates indicate that Grant County's economy lost 460 jobs in 2020, a -1.5 percent downturn, less than Washington's -5.3 percent loss rate during 2020.

The local nonfarm market

has contracted in each of the past 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021). Fortunately, since the start of COVID-19-related layoffs in April 2020, job-loss rates locally have been less severe than loss rates statewide. In March 2021, total nonfarm employment in Grant County provided 790 fewer jobs than in March 2020, falling from 30,640 jobs to 29,850, a -2.6 percent downturn.

Grant County nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, January 2018 through March 2021

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



Nonfarm employment in Grant County slipped by -2.6 percent between March 2020 and March 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 has been shrinking for the past five months (November 2020 through March 2021);

contracting by -1.0 percent, from 3,930,706 residents in March 2020 to 3,892,706 in March 2021.

Grant County averaged 47,150 residents in the CLF in 2019 and 47,595 ➤



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Grant County labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, March 2021

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

Grant County	Preliminary Mar-2021	Revised Feb-2021	Revised Mar-2020	Change		Percent Change
				Feb-2021 to Mar-2021	Mar-2020 to Mar-2021	Mar-2020 to Mar-2021
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	48,229	45,821	45,687	2,408	2,542	5.6%
Resident employment	44,813	41,979	42,149	2,834	2,664	6.3%
Unemployment	3,416	3,842	3,538	-426	-122	-3.4%
Unemployment rate	7.1	8.4	7.7	-1.3	-0.6	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	29,850	29,660	30,640	190	-790	-2.6%
Total private	21,530	21,450	21,850	80	-320	-1.5%
Goods producing	5,420	5,400	5,770	20	-350	-6.1%
Mining, logging and construction	1,660	1,650	1,610	10	50	3.1%
Manufacturing	3,760	3,750	4,160	10	-400	-9.6%
Durable goods	1,350	1,360	1,530	-10	-180	-11.8%
Nondurable goods	2,410	2,390	2,630	20	-220	-8.4%
Service providing	24,430	24,260	24,870	170	-440	-1.8%
Trade, transportation and utilities	6,280	6,280	5,990	0	290	4.8%
Wholesale trade	1,730	1,750	1,500	-20	230	15.3%
Retail trade	3,460	3,460	3,420	20	60	1.8%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,070	1,070	1,070	0	0	0.0%
Information and financial activities	1,490	1,480	1,420	10	70	4.9%
Professional and business services	2,490	2,470	2,450	20	40	1.6%
Education and health services	2,990	2,990	3,000	0	-10	-0.3%
Leisure and hospitality	2,300	2,280	2,620	20	-320	-12.2%
Government	8,320	8,210	8,790	110	-470	-5.3%
Federal government	760	760	750	0	10	1.3%
State and local government	7,560	7,450	8,040	110	-480	-6.0%
State and local government education	3,490	3,400	4,000	90	-510	-12.8%
Workers in labor/management disputes	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 Grant County nonfarm market provided 29,850 jobs in March 2021, a loss of 790 jobs since March 2020.

➤➤ in 2020, a modest 0.9 percent expansion. Estimates indicate that, year over year, Grant County's CLF has expanded in three of the past four months (December 2020, January 2021 and March 2021). There

were 2,542 more residents in the local labor force this March than in March 2020, a 5.6 percent upturn. Concurrently, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 122, from 3,538 in March 2020 to 3,416 in March 2021.

The labor force growth combined with a decrease in the number of unemployed residents caused Grant County's unemployment rate to decline to 7.1 percent this March from 7.7 percent in March 2020.

Nonfarm industry employment

Between March 2020 and March 2021, total nonfarm employment in Grant County decreased from 30,640 to 29,850 jobs, a 790 job and -2.6 percent downturn. In fact, since the start of COVID-19-related layoffs in April 2020, job-loss rates in Grant County have not been as severe as job-loss rates statewide:

Specifically, the March 2020 to March 2021 job-loss pace of -2.6 percent county-wide was slower than Washington state's nonfarm job-loss rate of -4.8 percent during this timeframe. Also, job-loss rates statewide have moderated since COVID-19-related-layoffs began in

earnest during the second calendar quarter of 2020. The year over year nonfarm job-loss rate statewide was -10.6 percent in May 2020 and this pace generally slowed throughout 2020 and into the first quarter of 2021. Between March 2020 and March 2021, Washington's job-loss rate slowed to -4.8 percent. Although it is certainly not good economic news that Washington's nonfarm market is still shrinking, it is encouraging that this job-loss rate is decelerating.

Summaries of employment changes between March 2020 and March 2021 for four local industries (construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, and state and local government education) follow:

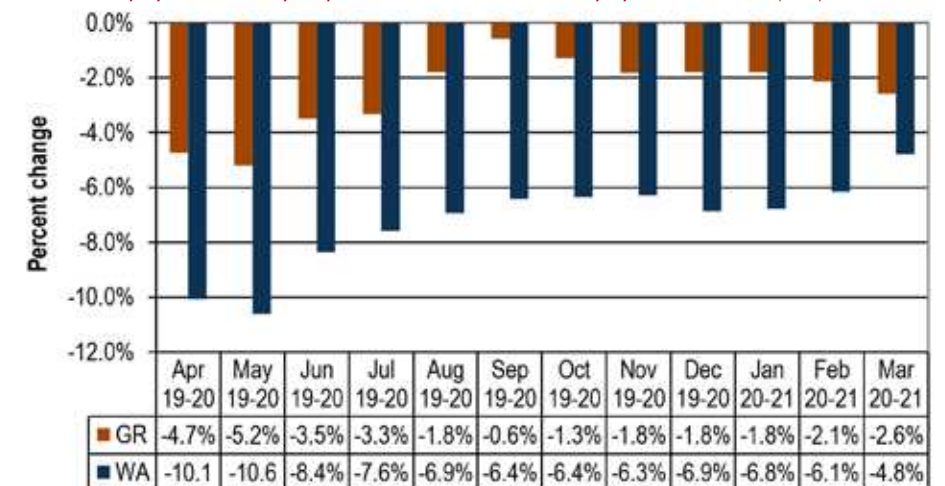
◆ In the mining, logging, and construction category most jobs are in "construction." Estimates indicate that year over year employment in Grant County's construction industry has risen in the past 16 months (December 2019 through March 2021).

In March 2021, construction provided 1,660 jobs, up by 50 jobs and 3.1 percent from the 1,610 tallied in March 2020. Statewide, construction employment retrenched by -15.3 percent in April 2020, but loss rates decelerated through December 2020; and since January 2021, Washington's construction contractors have been posting year-over-year employment gains.

◆ Year over year, manufacturing and state and local government education) follow:

Grant County and Washington total nonfarm employment changes Washington state, April 2019 through March 2021

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



Year over year, monthly nonfarm employment has been contracting in Grant County for the past 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021) but these job-loss rates have consistently been lower than job-loss rates statewide. Washington's nonfarm market has also contracted for 12 months, with a -4.8 percent job-loss rate in March 2021 - the lowest statewide loss rate during this 12-month period.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Grant County Labor Area Summary – March 2021

facturing employment in Grant County has contracted for 39 months (January 2018 through March 2021). In March 2021, manufacturing tallied 3,760 jobs, down by 400 and a -9.6 percent decline from the 4,160 provided in March 2020. On an average annual basis in 2020, manufacturing did not have a good year in Grant County. This industry shed 310 jobs, a -6.8 percent downturn. Approximately 300 of the 310 jobs lost last year occurred at durable goods manufacturers, as em-

ployment dropped from 1,760 jobs in 2019 to 1,460 in 2020, a -17.0 percent retrenchment. Conversely, manufacturers of nondurable goods (primarily food processors) shed only 10 jobs countywide during 2020 (down -0.4 percent).

Across Washington, the manufacturing industry has registered year over year job losses for 13 months (March 2020 through March 2021).

◆ Year over year in Grant County, wholesale trade employment has either stabilized or increased in

each of the past ten months (June 2020 through March 2021). Nearly six out of ten jobs in Grant County's wholesale trade sector (NAICS 42) in 2019 were categorized within the wholesale trade of nondurable goods subsector (NAICS 424), according to revised Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data. Most wholesale trade of nondurable goods businesses are dependent upon Central Washington's agricultural industry. Preliminary estimates indicate that between March 2020 and March 2021, this industry climbed from 1,500 jobs to 1,730, a strong 230 job and 15.3 percent increase. Conversely, statewide, wholesale trade employment has de- ➤

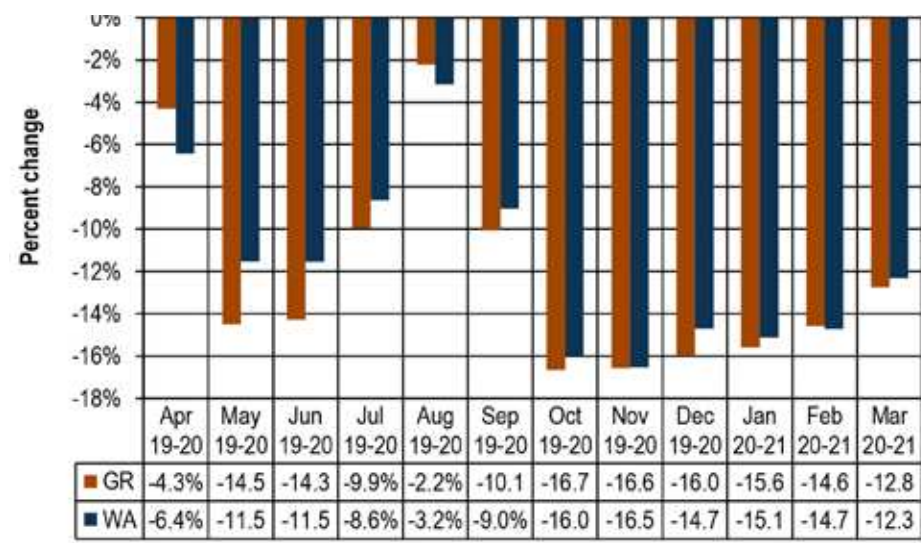
creased from April 2020 through March 2021 (the past 12 months).

◆ State and local government education employment in Grant County and across Washington has shed jobs, primarily due to COVID-19-related layoffs, which began in April 2020. Between

March 2020 and March 2021, state and local government education in Grant County slackened from 4,000 jobs to 3,490, a 510 job and 12.8 percent downturn. State and local government education lost more jobs countywide this March (versus March 2020) than any other major

sector. Nearly two-thirds (64.6 percent) of all nonfarm jobs lost in Grant County between March of last year and March 2021 were in this employment category, which includes faculty, staff, and student employment at Big Bend Community College (BBCC) in Moses Lake.

Washington state and Grant County, state and local government education employment changes Washington state, April 2019 through March 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Year over year in Grant County, employment in state and local government education has shed jobs, primarily due to COVID-19-related layoffs, from April 2020 through March 2021. Across Washington, state and local government education has also contracted for 12 consecutive months (April 2020 through March 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 in major industries at the county level. In September 2020, revised annual average QCEW data for calendar year 2019 became available. An analysis of employment changes from 2009 through 2019 shows that in Grant County:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 34,753 in 2009 to 39,886 in 2019, a 5,133 job and 14.8 percent upturn with annualized employment growth between 2009 and 2019 of 1.4 percent. The

number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) increased from 9,071 in 2009 to 9,462 in 2019, a 391 job and 4.3 percent uptrend with annualized employment growth between 2009 and 2019 of 0.4 percent. In 2009, Grant County's agricultural industry accounted for 26.1 percent of total covered employment. In 2019, agricultural employment accounted for 23.7 percent of total covered employment. The share of agricultural employment (versus total covered employment) dropped two and four-tenths percentage points (from 26.1 to 23.7 percent) in Grant County during this ten-year period. One could generalize that during this most recent ten-year timeframe, the agricultural industry has become less "influential" in Grant County's economy (in terms of the agricultural employment to total covered employment ratio).

◆ Total covered wages rose from \$1.124 billion (in 2009) to \$1.765 billion (in

2019) a \$641.7 million and 57.1 percent upturn with annualized payroll growth between 2009 and 2019 of 4.6 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$184.7 million in 2009 to \$301.6 million in 2019, a \$116.9 million and 63.3 percent uptrend with annualized payroll growth between 2009 and 2019 of 5.0 percent. In 2009, Grant County's agricultural industry accounted for 16.4 percent of total covered wages, while in 2019, agricultural wages accounted for 17.1 percent of total covered wages. Hence, the share of agricultural wages (versus total covered wages) earned in Grant County edged upwards by a marginal seven-tenths percentage point (from 16.4 to 17.1 percent) during this ten-year period. One could generalize that during this most recent ten-year timeframe, the agricultural industry has shown little change in Grant County's economy (in terms of the agricultural payroll to total covered payroll ratio).

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

Overview

This report provides an update on the Wenatchee MSA economy incorporating not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year over year (March 2020 and March 2021) and average annual data (between 2019 and 2020) in the labor market.

Unemployment rates

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

justed average annual unemployment rate jumped from 4.1 percent in 2019 to 8.4 percent in 2020.

Between March 2020 and March 2021, the rate rose modestly by three-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.8 to 6.1 percent.

In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate soared upwards from 7.0 percent to 9.7 percent between 2019 and 2020.

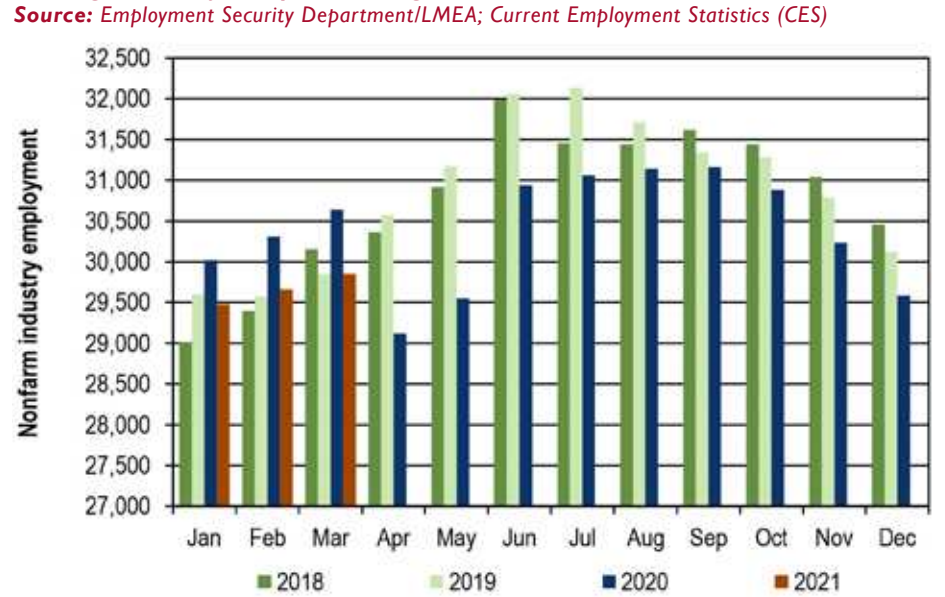
COVID-19-related layoffs

have pushed unemployment rates upwards, year over year, from April 2020 through February 2021, but the Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate fell seven-tenths of a percentage point between March 2020 (6.6 percent) and March 2021 (5.9 percent).

Total nonfarm employment

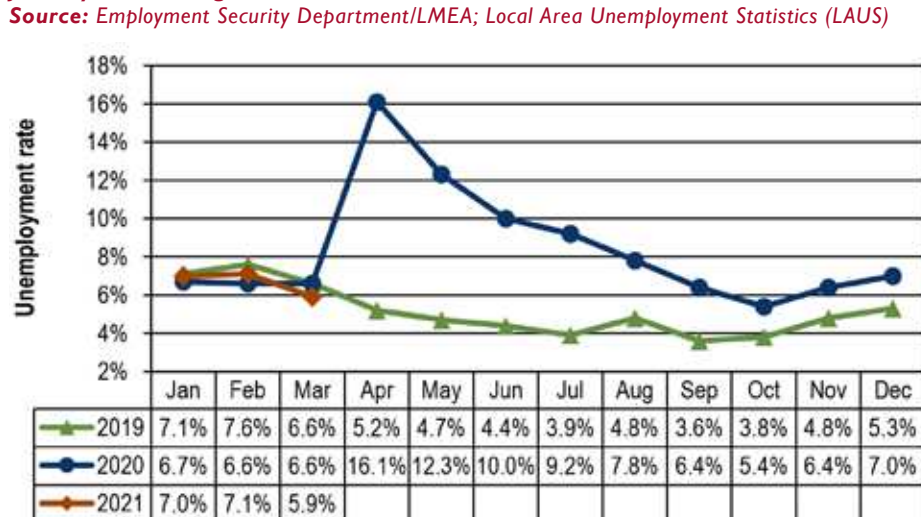
Between 2019 and 2020, estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 184,000 fewer nonfarm

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



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA declined by 3.5 percent between March 2020 and March 2021.

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



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate fell seven-tenths of a percentage point between March 2020 and March 2021.

jobs, an average annual decrease of 5.3 percent.

In March 2021, business and government organizations statewide tallied only 3,305,100 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,471,500 in March 2020, a loss of 166,400 jobs and a 4.8 percent downturn. Washington's year-over-year loss rate of 4.8 percent in March 2021 was the lowest loss rate in the past 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021).

Estimates indicate that the Wenatchee MSA's economy lost 3,000 jobs in 2020, a 6.4

percent downturn, a bit more severe than Washington's -5.3 percent loss rate during 2020.

The local nonfarm market has contracted in each of the past 12 months (April 2020 through March 2021).

However, the loss rate for this March was the lowest since the start of COVID-19-related layoffs in April 2020. In March 2021, total nonfarm employment across this two-county area provided 1,600 fewer jobs than in March 2020, falling from 45,100 jobs to 43,500, a 3.5 percent downturn.

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 has been shrinking for the past five months (November 2020 through March 2021); contracting by -1.0 percent, from 3,930,706 residents in March 2020 to 3,892,706 in March 2021.

The Wenatchee ➤

Wenatchee MSA Labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, March 2021

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

Wenatchee MSA	Preliminary Mar-2021	Revised Feb-2021	Revised Mar-2020	Change		Percent change
				Feb-2021 to Mar-2021	Mar-2020 to Mar-2021	Mar-2020 to Mar-2021
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	67,460	62,006	64,507	5,454	2,953	-4.6%
Resident employment	63,487	62,006	60,281	1,481	3,206	-5.3%
Unemployment	3,973	57,585	4,226	-53,612	-253	-6.0%
Unemployment rate	5.9	7.1	6.6	-1.2	-0.7	
Industry employment (numbers are in thousands)						
Total nonfarm ¹	43.5	42.5	45.1	1.0	-1.6	-3.5%
Total private	34.8	34.1	35.5	0.7	-0.7	-2.0%
Goods producing	5.1	4.9	5.1	0.2	0.0	0.0%
Mining, logging and construction	2.8	2.6	2.8	0.2	0.0	0.0%
Manufacturing	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Service providing	38.4	37.6	40.0	0.8	-1.6	-4.0%
Private services providing	29.7	29.2	30.4	0.5	-0.7	-2.3%
Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities	9.5	9.3	9.5	0.2	0.0	0.0%
Retail trade	6.3	6.1	6.2	0.2	0.1	1.6%
Education and health services	7.9	7.9	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Leisure and hospitality	5.3	4.9	6.1	0.4	-0.8	-13.1%
Government	8.7	8.4	9.6	0.3	-0.9	-9.4%
Federal government	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-0.1	-12.5%
State government	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.1	-0.1	-8.3%
Local government	6.9	6.7	7.6	0.2	-0.7	-9.2%
Workers in labor/mgmt. 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 43,500 jobs in March 2021, a loss of 1,600 jobs since March 2020.

MSA's CLF shrank from 66,981 residents in 2019 to 65,471 in 2020, a 2.3-percent downturn. Preliminary estimates indicate that after posting year-over-year losses from May 2020 through February 2021 the local labor force expanded by 4.6 percent

between the Marches of 2020 and 2021. Simultaneously, the number of unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) declined from 4,226 in March 2020 to 3,973 in March 2021, a 6.0-percent decrease. Hence, the expansion in

the labor force coupled with a decline in the number of residents out of work between March 2020 and March 2021 caused the Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate to decrease from 6.6 percent to 5.9 percent during this timeframe.

Nonfarm industry employment

Between March 2020 and March 2021, total nonfarm employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA) decreased by 3.5 percent, from 45,100 to 43,500 jobs, a 1,600 job and -3.5-percent downturn. In fact, the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has contracted during each of the past 12 months; but the loss rate this March was the lowest since the start of COVID-19-related layoffs in April 2020 – a bit of good news for the local economy.

Washington state's nonfarm market has also contracted for 12 months, but with a slightly larger -4.8 percent loss rate this March.

Similar to year-over-year change trends in the Wenatchee MSA, Washington's nonfarm market experienced a general de-

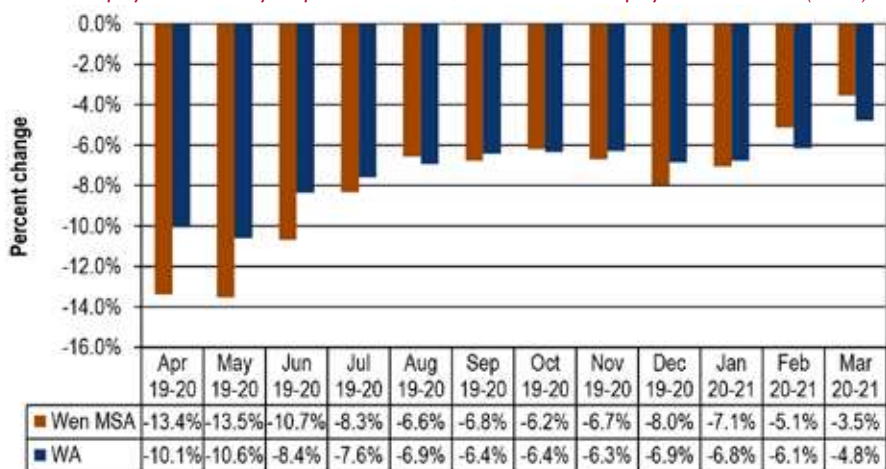
celeration in job-loss rates since the onset of pandemic-related layoffs in April 2020. This -4.8 percent downturn in Washington's nonfarm market between March 2020 and March 2021 was the lowest since major COVID-19-related layoffs began in April 2020. Summaries of employment changes between March 2020 and March 2021 for three local industries (construction, leisure and hospitality, and local government) are provided as follows:

◆ In the mining, logging, and construction category most jobs are in "construction." Although the Wenatchee MSA's construction industry had lost jobs, year over year, from April 2020 through January 2021, the job market stabilized, year over year, in February and March 2021. Most recently, construction provided ap-

proximately 2,800 jobs in the two-county MSA in March 2020 and in March 2021. A glimpse at the number of closed sales in March 2020 versus March 2021 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo and Rock Island, WA), from the March 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 dropped from 214 closed sales from January through March 2020 to 196 closed sales in first quarter 2021, down by 18 sales and 8.4 percent. The number of active listings plummeted during this timeframe, from 132 listings in March 2020 to only 30 in March 2021 (down by 102 listings and 77.3 percent). However, this reduction in

Wenatchee MSA and Washington state total nonfarm employment changes Washington state, April 2019 through March 2021

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



The Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm market has contracted for 12 consecutive months. However, the loss rate for this March was the lowest since the start of COVID-19 related layoffs in April 2020. Washington's nonfarm market has also contracted for 12 months but with a -4.8 percent loss rate this March - the lowest statewide loss rate in this 12-month period.

active listings is likely occurring simply because homes/condos are selling so quickly. One indicator of course, is rising home prices.

The March 2021 Real Estate Snapshot also states that the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee market soared from approximately \$335,000 year to date (YTD) in March 2020 to \$410,000 YTD in March 2021, a rise of 22.4 percent. Statewide, construction employment retrenched by -15.3 percent in April 2020, but loss rates decelerated through December 2020.

Since January 2021, Washington's construction contractors have been posting year-over-year employment gains.

◆ COVID-19-related job losses have hit leisure and hospitality businesses in the Wenatchee MSA harder than any other industry. Year over year, this local industry plummeted by -44.8 percent in April 2020 (12 months ago), but by March 2021, the loss rate had decelerated

to -13.1 percent. Between March 2020 and March 2021, leisure and hospitality employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (primarily at hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation businesses) dropped from 6,100 jobs to 5,300, an 800 job (-13.1 percent) abatement. Across Washington, leisure and hospitality employment has generally followed a similar trend, except that this industry has been shedding jobs since March 2020 (13 months ago). The common thread here: although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe jobs losses in the leisure and hospitality industry, locally and statewide, the trend is moving in the right direction

◆ Local government organizations accounted for 7,600 jobs in March 2020 and 6,900 this March, a 700 job, and -9.2 percent contraction.

Since the onset of COVID-19, local government employment in the Wenatchee MSA has retrenched in each of the past 12 months (April

2020 through March 2021). Across Washington, local government expanded for 80 consecutive months (August 2013 through March 2020) before also contracting in each of the past 12 months.

In 2020, almost half (48.3 percent) of "total local government" jobs statewide were in "local government education services" (primarily at public elementary, middle, and high schools). In March 2021, Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates show that "total local government" in Washington lost 31,400 jobs between March 2020 and March 2021 (down 8.5 percent) with "local government education services" dropping by 21,400 (down 11.6 percent). Hence, over two-thirds (68.2 percent) of all local government jobs lost statewide this March were at local government schools. It is safe to assume that a similar ratio holds for the March 2020 to March 2021 local government downturn in Chelan and Douglas counties.

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 September 2020, revised average annual QCEW data for calendar year 2019 became available. An analysis of industry employment changes from 2009 through 2019 shows that in Chelan County:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 39,137 in 2009 to 44,225 in 2019, a 5,088 job and 13.0 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 1.2 percent. However, the number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 3,138 in 2009 to 2,961 in 2019, a 177 job and 5.6 percent downturn with an annualized growth rate of -0.6 percent. In 2009, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 24.5 percent of total covered employment. In 2019, agricultural employment accounted for 21.4 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of total covered employment decreased three and one-tenth percentage points (from 24.5 to 21.4 percent) in

Chelan County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$1.254 billion (in 2009) to \$1.892 billion (in 2019), a \$637.7 million and 50.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 4.2 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$189.3 million in 2009 to \$277.3 million in 2019, an \$88.0 million and 46.5 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 3.9 percent. In 2009, Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 15.1 percent of total covered wages, but by 2019, agricultural wages tallied 14.7 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of wages dipped four-tenths of a percentage point (from 15.1 to 14.7 percent) during this ten-year period. One could generalize that during this most recent ten-year timeframe, the agricultural industry has become less "influential" in Chelan County's economy (in terms of the agriculture/total covered employment and the agriculture/total covered wage ratios).

For Douglas County, an analysis of industry employment changes from 2009 through 2019 shows that:

◆ Total covered employment rose from 10,924 in 2009 to 12,496 in 2019, a 1,572 job and 14.4 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 1.4 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 3,138 in 2009 to 2,961 in 2019, a 177 job and 5.6 percent downturn with an annualized growth rate of -0.6 percent. In 2009, Douglas County's agricul-

tural industry accounted for 28.7 percent of total covered employment. In 2019, agricultural employment accounted for only 23.7 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of employment contracted by five percentage points (from 28.7 to 23.7 percent) in Douglas County during this ten-year period.

◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$307.7 million in 2009 to \$488.6 million in 2019, a \$180.9 million and 58.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 4.7 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$52.4 million in 2009 to \$80.6 million in 2019, a \$28.2 million and 53.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 4.4 percent. In 2009, Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 17.0 percent of total covered wages, and by 2019, agricultural wages tallied 16.5 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of wages slipped by five-tenths of a percentage point (from 17.0 to 16.5 percent) during this period. One could generalize that during this most recent ten-year timeframe, the agricultural industry has become substantially less "influential" in Douglas County's economy (in terms of the agriculture/total covered employment ratio) and somewhat less "influential" (in terms of the agriculture/total covered wage ratio).

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

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

The Washington Outdoors Report



Great Fishing Out of Neah Bay!

J. KRUSE

Sea otters at play near Neah Bay.



J. KRUSE

Burlingame and Rick Hoffert with a quality black rockfish.



J. KRUSE

One of the murals inside the Inn at Neah Bay.

By John Kruse

Our annual trip to Neah Bay near the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula was a longtime coming, but well worth the wait. My fishing buddy Rusty Johnston and I made the trek to Neah Bay in May of 2018 and 2019 to spend time with Tom and Dora Burlingame, the owners of the Inn at Neah Bay and Excel Fishing Charters. Both times we enjoyed great fishing for rockfish and ling cod both times in a wondrous natural setting. However, the Coronavirus pandemic put a crashing halt to our spring trip last year, so this year's return was full of anticipation.

The Inn at Neah Bay is a clean, well-kept basecamp for adventures that features four spacious suites with comfortable beds and private bathrooms.

Ours, the Marshland Suite, looks out over the beach and Strait of Juan de Fuca, both located just across the road from the Inn. Walking upstairs to the common area you'll notice murals leading from the bottom of the sea on the ground floor to the surface as you emerge upstairs. Other murals featur-

ing fish, wildlife and marine mammals cover the interior walls at the Inn. There are comfortable sofas to lounge on, fresh coffee, hot water for tea, and grab and go breakfast items here too.

The inn is located a short drive from Neah Bay. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, this port town that sits on the Makah Reservation remains closed until at least October 1st. That meant after a good night's sleep we drove 20 minutes east instead to the marina at Sekiu. That's where we found Captain Tom Burlingame waiting for us on his boat, the 28-foot long "Cabazon". That's also where we met the two other people joining us on this charter, Dixie and Rick Hoffart, residents of Sequim who have been fishing with Tom as clients for years.

After a safety brief we were off to the fishing grounds. The two powerful engines of the Cabazon helped us cut through the waters at good speed and along the way we saw sea otters, harbor porpoises, numerous sea lions, seals and plenty of bald eagles. After a two-hour run over calm waters, we

dropped lines not far from Cape Alava and immediately were rewarded with bites on the jigs we were fishing below shrimp flies. Unfortunately, the first fish were blue rockfish and relatively small.

After safely releasing them, we made a very short move, dropped lines again to a depth of about 100-feet, and the fishing was on! Within 30 minutes we had 35 black rockfish on the boat. These were solid fish, similar in appearance to largemouth bass and often referred to as sea bass. Many of the fish we caught were in the three-pound range and several fish were pushing five pounds in size.

After rapidly catching our limit of rockfish it was time to look for ling cod. They were located in this same area of the Pacific Ocean off a series of surf-battered rocks and wind-swept islands with a backdrop of unspoiled rainforest on the nearby mainland. It often takes considerable time to catch a limit of lingcod but we had our ten fish in no time in all. This included one large one that weighed some 15 pounds which gave my friend Rusty

quite a fight before he was able to wrestle it into the boat. It took us just over an hour to catch our limit of ling cod and "Just like that", to quote Forrest Gump, we were done. We had left the dock at 6 AM and by 9:45 AM we had 35 rockfish and ten lingcod on the boat for the five of us. Fishing trips don't get much better than that.

With time on our side, we motored close to Cape Flattery, the northwestern tip of the Continental United States, where we viewed holes in the walls of the rocks formed by winds and waves over thousands of years. We also took in the sights of the

newly renovated lighthouse on Tatoosh Island.

The lighthouse, no longer in operation, is a National Historical Site. After checking out some of the marine life in this area the powerful engines of the Cabazon took us back to the marina at Sekiu where Tom quickly filleted our catch and sent us on our way with satisfied smiles on our faces and some great fishing stories to tell.

Tom Burlingame is well established, affable and popular charter captain.

In fact, he's so popular he only has limited openings for the bottom fishing trips and summer salmon trips he

offers out of Sekiu this year.

However, there are always cancellations and if you are flexible, you may be able to book a trip with him in the weeks ahead.

As for The Inn at Neah Bay, this destination is open not just to clients booking trips with Excel Fishing Charters.

Other anglers, boaters or individuals coming to the area to explore this part of the Olympic Peninsula or take in some world-class bird watching opportunities are welcome too.

The website to book a fishing trip or a stay at the Inn is the same, <http://excelfishingcharters.com>.



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Fee changes proposed at selected Forest Service recreation sites in central Washington



COURTESY PHOTO BY KATE GALAMBOS

The Tyee Lookout on the Entiat Ranger District is one of several new fee sites proposed. The lookout would be made available for reservations for overnight use.

Submitted by Victoria Wilkins, Public Affairs Officer

Wenatchee – The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is proposing to raise fees and establish new fees at certain Forest Service recreation sites in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and the Tonasket Ranger District of the Colville National Forest and is soliciting comments from the public now through July 31, 2021.

Fee changes are being considered to allow the forest to continue to provide services, such as garbage collection and drinking water, and to provide for the health and public safety expected by visitors at recreation sites. These fees will also be used for large scale maintenance and improvement projects at sites where fees are collected.

"Raising fees will help offset the increased costs of maintenance at the

sites," said Forest Recreation Program Manager Suzanne Cable.

"The last time fee increases occurred on recreation sites in the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest was in 2010."

Public input on the proposed changes is a welcome and a valued part of the overall process. Forest Service staff will evaluate and later present the public comments and input to a citizen advisory committee. The advisory committee will review all recommended fee changes before making recommendations to Forest Service Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa, top manager over all national forests in Oregon and Washington. Changes would not go into effect until after Casamassa's approval.

"Once approved, the dates the fee changes go into effect will vary," Cable said.