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Republican state senators start 'Freedom Caucus' – 12th District's Brad Hawkins prefers 'general' focus

By Gary Bégin

OLYMPIA – 12th District State Senator Brad Hawkins, in an exclusive interview with NCW Media, stated the following in a response to a group of four Republican senators announcing the formation of a "Freedom Caucus" within the GOP Caucus:

"I fully support my Senate colleagues in their effort to advocate for lower taxes, greater freedoms, and individual rights. As a member of the Washington State Senate, I have worked alongside Senators Padden, McCune, Fortunato, and Ericksen on many issues. They are very articulate, intelligent, and strategic legislators who will do an excellent job in communicating key messages about life, liberty, and prosperity."

Hawkins continued, "My understanding is that these four senators have formed this group as a subgroup of the Senate Republican Caucus, not a splinter group. They support the full Republican caucus, but want to make sure certain issues are a specialty focus. I respect that because they are smart people, long-serving members and care deeply about our state," said Hawkins.

"As a senator of the 12th District, I proudly represent one of the largest geographical areas in Washington state. It includes all North Central Washington, including areas of Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties. The two main caucuses in my chamber are the Senate Republican and Senate Democratic caucuses, but there are actually many other "caucuses" senators can associate with on priority issues," said Hawkins. seems that just about everything is important to us (agriculture, clean energy, outdoor recreation, education, state parks, transportation, etc.)," Hawkins said.

"Given this diversity, the approach that I believe works best for our district is to be a generalist rather than a specialist. I



Sen. Brad Hawkins

care about all issues important to people in our district, and this includes all of those I mentioned as well as lower taxes and liberty issues. I believe my approach of trying to be a knowledgeable advocate in many areas on many things has served the 12th District well, so I'm going to continue that approach. I will say, it's definitely a challenge to represent all the needs in our huge district, but I am very honored to do so and thank the people of our district for that opportunity," Hawkins concluded. (Brad.Hawkins@ leg.wa.gov).

The late January news release by the newly minted "Freedom



Residence Inn by Marriott Suites **'Celebrate nature'**

Story and photos by Gary Bégin

The Wenatchee Business Journal spoke to-Douglas Dreher, the CEO and President of The Hotel Group, owners and operators of the new Residence Inn by Marriott Suites on the Columbia River near Walla Walla Point Park..

Dreher began the interview with this statement: "Our Residence Inn Wenatchee is being designed as a lively property that will celebrate the nature and beauty that is unique to Wenatchee."

Dreher continued: "Wenatchee holds many fond memories for me and my family; so becoming a member of the community was a natural and obvious decision. Being coupled with the Residence Inn brand allows us the opportunity to

Hawkins, Goehner: House 'Wealth Tax' bill 'punishment' for success

By Gary Bégin

OLYMPIA – A rehash of an old Democrat Party idea has come back to the state capitol for a vote. So far it is only in the House, but Senator Brad Hawkins (R-East Wenatchee) is ready with an answer if it ever comes to the state Senate.

"Improving the equity of Washington state's tax code by creating the Washington state wealth tax and taxing extraordinary financial intangible assets – House Bill 1406, was introduced by Rep. Noel Frame (D-Seattle) in late January. Hawkins stated, in an exclusive interview with NCW Media, that "HB 1406 is a new proposal this year, so I don't know how far it will advance. If it does advance, it will probably be one of the final bills of the session and part of the overall budget package.



"We are confident that with our strong market knowledge, dedication to our Hospitality Greatness vision, and experienced operations and marketing team, The Residence Inn Wenatchee will be ingrained in the community for many years to come," he said.

"We have enjoyed our partnership with Stream Real Estate and with the property expected to open soon, look forward to many successful years in the Wenatchee hospitality market."

SEE RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT SUITES, PAGE 2

TAL Holdings donates to fire victims in Okanogan



"We have the wildfire caucus, rail caucus, ferry caucus, open government caucus, and others. The 12th District is so diverse it Caucus" is keen-eyed focused on taxes, spending, individual liberties and restricted government, as its basic platform, according to the dispatch.

A spokesperson for the group stated "Senator Hawkins is not a member" but also acknowledged the group's membership may be increased in the future.

SEE FREEDOM CAUCUS PAGE 7

SEE WEALTH TAX PAGE 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Senior Focus4-5	Keeping Up With People 15-16
SBA on small business PPP8	Real Estate section 17-19
IRS update on deadlines8	Labor Area
Voting facts9	Summaries 20, 22, 23
BNCW Section11-14	Kim Schrieder24



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www.NCWBusiness.com

BILL FORHAN

Publisher Publisher@leavenworthecho.com 509-548-5286

CAROL FORHAN

Advertising Manager carol@leavenworthecho.com 509-548-5286

GARY BÉGIN

Managing Editor gary@ncwmedia.net 509-571-5302

MIKE MALTAIS

News Staff QCHReporter@gmail.com

LINDSAY TIMMERMANS

Advertising Sales Executive Adexec1@ncwmedia.net 509-860-7301

RUTHEDNA KEYS

Advertising Sales Executive ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com 509-682-2213

WBJ OFFICES & CONTACT INFORMATION

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Hawkins, Goehner: House 'Wealth Tax' bill 'punishment' for success

"Since it is a House of Representatives' bill, there hasn't been much talk of it yet in the Senate," Hawkins said.

"While I certainly want everyone to pay their fair share of taxes, this one seems to be targeted toward a few people as almost a punishment for their success. Personally, I think people like Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, the founder of Starbucks, or anyone else who is this fortunate has worked incredibly hard for their earnings, took gigantic risks, made big sacrifices throughout their business careers, and have employed a tremendous number of people in the process," continued Hawkins.

"They happen to also be very sincere in their efforts to support others with generous foundations and personal giving. This bill seems like an effort to extract money from a handful of very successful people to fund more growth in government. To me,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I



COURTESY PHOTO Senator Brad Hawkins

that sends the wrong message," he said.

"While state revenues have taken a modest hit during the COVID pandemic, our state economy is holding steady despite efforts to keep our economy closed. Personally, rather than implementing creative



COURTESY PHOTO Rep. Keith Goehner

new taxes to significantly grow the budget, I would favor using our \$2 billion budget stabilization account reserves and making modest adjustments to balance the budget rather than more tax increases and continued spending," said Hawkins.

"I'm not sure Washington

State can keep this up if the economy and state revenues dip again due to COVID or if our state or country experiences a non-COVID recession in the future. So as much as I would like to keep an open mind about everything, I am concerned about the message this bill sends and the way it might chase off a few people from Washington, people who are among our state's most incredible success stories," Hawkins concluded.

Tom Olson, Washington resident and political commentator, stated on the USAVotes chat site that the Seattle Democrats' tax bill is: "(1) Confiscatory and punitive, (2) hasn't worked elsewhere, (3) expensive and difficult to administer, (4) will be easily circumvented by the 'rich' simply changing domiciles from Washington. Perhaps this should be retitled 'Texas-Florida stimulus act?'"

In another exclusive interview

with the Wenatchee Business Journal, State Representative Keith Goehner (R-Dryden) said about the "wealth Tax", "I am not in favor of a 'wealth tax.' It is important to have equity in taxation, but disproportionately taxing success does not encourage additional investment in the State."

Goehner continued, "We should be providing incentives for reinvestment in our communities by those who are best positioned to manage those investments."

State Representative Mike Steele (R-Chelan) did not respond to an interview request by publication deadline. Keep reading NCW Media publications: Leavenworth Echo, Lake Chelan Mirror, Cashmere Valley Record, Wenatchee Business Journal and the Quad City Herald for updates on this new tax proposition by Washington state Democrats.

Managing Editor Gary Bégin can be emailed: Gary@ncwmedia.net. Comments may be published as a Letter to the Editor in future WBJ editions.

ott purchased the brand in 1987.

Over the years it has been the product that other extended stay hotels have used as a solid benchmark.

We have seen in the past year that the extended stay product has resonated with travelers and has been a leader in their performance.

It is our anticipation that this will continue and we expect our performance to be strong.

For more information, call 509-470-3091, 509-683-3982 or visit Residence Inn - Wenatchee at 1229 Walla Walla Avenue or go to: MarriottInnHotels.com.



Residence Inn by Marriott Suites 'Celebrate nature'

Here's the interview Q&A that took place in late February with Dreher about the new hotel, expected to open this summer:

Wenatchee Business Journal: If the company headquarters knew ahead of time about COVID-19, do you think it would have gone forward with this project?

Residence Inn Douglas Dreher: The Wenatchee market has been one that our ownership has been interested and committed to developing in for several years.

The vision of this development project has not changed from a long-term investment within the community of Wenatchee.

Wenatchee has to offer. keeping entries into guest We continue to have unwavering confidence in the rooms and thoroughly We plan to provide first future of the Wenatchee disinfect all bathroom surclass amenities, including market and look forward faces, buttons, knobs & a "recreation hut" and fato opening this summer. switches, remotes controls, cilities catering to Mission

safety features are in place to ensure the guest's stay will be a worry free onein *light of the pandemic?*

RI-DD: We will adhere to all state and local guidelines, as well as implementing Marriott's Commitment to Clean Protocols.

We will utilize EPA-approved cleaning and disinfecting agents that kill the COVID-19 virus. Face coverings will be worn by all team members and guests along with continuing to follow social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizer stations will be located in high traffic areas and high touch areas within the lobby will be disinfected every two hours.

We will limit house-

racks. etc.

think Wenatchee was the right place for a new branch?

RI-DD: We know that there is demand in the market for a high-quality hotel in the extended stay sector. When the opportunity was available to develop a Residence Inn by Marriott we knew this was the perfect dominate extended stay brand.

The location of this hotel is the best in Wenatchee - providing a one-of-akind atmosphere for our guests along with immediate access to Walla Walla Point Park, Town Toyota Center, the Apple Capital Loop Trail and all that

Ridge visitors.

WBJ: Is this new facility an investment in Wenatchee's future growth?

RI-DD: Absolutely! We see this prime area of Wenatchee continuing to grow and develop over the years and we are thrilled to be a part of that progress.

WBJ: Is your expected forecast in Wenatchee to bea profitable one?

RI-DD: Residence Inn is a pioneer in the extended stay market since Marri-

WBJ: What health and telephones and luggage WBJ: What made HQ

Chelan

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State ESD economist lauds **January WBJ content**

Dear Editor,

The Wenatchee Business Journal (WBJ). Please note that recent editions of LMEA's Labor Area Summaries for Grant County and for the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) were quoted on Pages 22 and 23 of this publication. Outstanding publicity by the WBJ of ESD's Labor Market Information (LMI).

The Wenatchee Business Journal helps our branch (LMEA) of ESD disseminate Labor Market Information (LMI). Plus, there are excellent articles in the WBJ focusing on events impacting residents and business and government organizations in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties. Bottom line: this is a WIN-WIN situation.

Don Meseck

Regional Labor Economist, ESD, Ellensburg





TAL Holdings donates to fire victims in Okanogan

Story and photos by Mike Maltais

OKANOGAN – The Okanogan County Fairgrounds was a hub of activity for nearly two weeks in January where a crew of volunteers managed to construct 30 10-foot x 12-foot wooden storage sheds for victims of last September's Cole Spring wildfire.

Nearly a dozen volunteers from the Western Anabaptist Mission Services (WAMS) in St. Ignatius, Montana, arrived at the fairgrounds in January and over the next 10 days built and roofed 30 enclosed sheds from donated materials. Marson & Marson Lumber, with retail stores in Leavenworth, Wenatchee and Chelan, and Lake Chelan Building Supply in Chelan, both owned by TAL Holdings headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, provided the lumber for the sheds. Three hundred sheets of metal roofing came from Metal Sales Manufacturing in Spokane.

The Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group that formed in 2014 to help victims of the Carlton Complex wildfire and the following year's Okanogan Complex wildfire has been busy coordinating and organizing projects like the WAMS visit and sourcing donations including the lumber and metal supplies that made the sheds possible.

The Mission service, whose vision is to "reach out to people in need and be the hands for Jesus in today's world," has helped communities in Washington, Idaho and Montana rebuild from wildfires over the past several years.

Even the most efficient operation encounters its share of bumps in the road. Indeed, roads turned out to be one of those issues.

The first six sheds that

went out for delivery were loaded three to a trailer for their destinations.

The combination of load weight, January weather, and winter road conditions convinced the delivery crew to resume deliveries in February when road conditions may be more suitable.

Pateros mayor and OCLTRG Executive Director Carlene Anders said a lastminute mechanical breakdown disabled the company truck scheduled to make the metal delivery.

Anders said long-time OCLTRG volunteer Barry Hansen made an emergency trip to Spokane in



WAMS builders employed an efficient assembly line-like system to construct sheds in one of the livestock Quonset buildings on the Okanogan County Fairgrounds.

late January to pick up the roofing metal that allowed the WAMS crew to finish on schedule.



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Resolve to achieve healthy sleep in 2021

(BPT) - According to a recent survey from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), 85% of U.S. adults do not get the recommended seven hours or more of sleep every night.

After a challenging and stressful year, the New Year provides Americans with the opportunity to refocus on the importance of making healthy sleep a priority.

"Our survey findings show a worrying trend of national sleep deprivation," said AASM president Dr. Kannan Ramar.

"Insufficient sleep contributes to the risk for several of today's public health epidemics, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. As such, it is critical that we incorporate healthy sleep habits and routines into our daily lives to be our best in 2021."

Why should we make healthy sleep a New Year's resolution?

The AASM recommends that adults sleep at least seven hours each night to promote optimal health and well-being. In the same survey, slightly more than one-third (34%) of Americans said they sleep for seven or more hours only two nights - or fewer - each week, in line with findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Regularly sleeping less than seven hours per day is associated with an increased risk of developing chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and frequent mental distress. Resolve to make 365 days of healthy sleep your goal for 2021 by keeping in mind its extensive benefits:

Sleep makes you healthier - Without good sleep, both mental and physical health suffer greatly, putting Americans at an increased risk of chronic disease.

Sleep makes you happier - Sleep has a positive effect on mood and overall sense of well-being and can improve relationships with others.

Sleep makes you *smarter* – Getting the right amount of sleep is conducive to learning, memory recall, creativity and cognitive function.

What is inhibiting us from achieving the recommended seven *hours of sleep?*

Despite evidence



showing the importance of adequate sleep, it often can take a back seat to other behaviors we find important. According to the AASM's July 2020 survey, a vast majority (68%) of U.S. adults lose sleep due to drinking alcohol past bedtime.

Americans also report staying up past their bedtime to binge-watch a TV show or stream a video series (88%), read a book (66%), watch a sporting event (58%) and play video games (50%).

How has the pandemic impacted sleep?

With a change in daily routines, the COVID-19 pandemic is also disrupting sleep for Americans. According to the AASM survey, one in five Americans (22%) are sleeping worse due to the pandemic, and 19% are getting less nightly sleep. "Despite the fact that many Americans

are no longer commuting to and from work, it is paramount to establish and maintain morning and bedtime rituals, such as getting up and going to bed at regular times to achieve adequate sleep," added Ramar.

What are some tips for healthy sleep?

Obtain adequate *sleep* – Set a bedtime that allows you to get enough sleep so you wake up feeling refreshed and alert. Identify an appropriate bedtime for your age and lifestyle using the AASM bedtime calculator.

Establish a bedtime and waketime routine - Consider developing a nightly routine that evokes calm and relaxation, which may include reading, journaling or meditating. Even for those working remotely, allow ample time to wake, reflect and prepare for the day ahead.

Ensure the bedroom

is a space for sleep – Limit noise and distractions by making your bedroom quiet, dark and a little bit cool - and only use the bed for sleeping, not watching TV or reading.

Set boundaries for blue light exposure - Consider setting a technology curfew by turning off your TV and other electronic devices 30 minutes to an hour before bedtime. Silence your notifications and charge your devices away from your bed so you are not tempted to look at social media or news alerts.

Limit alcohol, caffeine and large meals before bed - Avoid consuming caffeine after lunch and avoid alcohol near bedtime, as both can disrupt sleep. If hungry after dinner, keep snacks small, sugar-free and easily digestible so as For more information on the importance of healthy sleep,

to not disrupt sleep. visit SleepEducation.org.

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Beating Vaccine – Related Aches and Pains

Two days ago, I got my second COVID vaccination. Yaay!

My COVID vaccine experience was similar to my Hepatitis B vaccine series that I received 30 years ago. A series of 3 shots, spaced out over 6 months, my first Hepatitis B shot didn't cause any discomfort.

The second one that I received one month later was a different story. My left arm felt like someone had punched me HARD, even though I didn't see any bruising. My third and final Hepatitis B shot was even worse. Given six months after my first Hepatitis B vaccine, I could barely move my arm for the next week! Thank goodness that was the last one, because if there had been a fourth dose of vaccine needed, I doubt that I would've gone through with it.

My first COVID-19 vaccination felt much like my second Hepatitis B shot, giving me a sore arm for about a week. Then came my second and final dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which will provide me with 94% immunity from COVID-19 within 2 weeks. This time around, not only did my left arm ache but so did my shoulders and back. I woke up the morning after my vaccination with a headache, severe fatigue, and muscle aches at an 8 out of 10 on a pain scale.

First, I tried ibuprofen, two tablets of 200mg, but that only took my discomfort down to a 6 out of 10. Then, I remembered some recent studies showing how taking BOTH Tylenol® and Ibuprofen AT THE SAME TIME could relieve pain better than taking either one separately. In fact, the



Pfizer company just introduced Advil Dual Action®, a combination tablet containing 125mg ibuprofen and 250mg acetaminophen. Taking 2 tablets of 200mg ibuprofen PLUS 2 tablets of 500mg extra-strength acetaminophen every 6 hours eased my muscle aches and headache.

My discomfort level decreased from an 8 out of 10 to 3 out of 10. Not only that, but I didn't experience stomach distress like higher doses of ibuprofen give me.

The most common pain relievers for mild to moderate headache and muscle aches are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen (Motrin-IB®) or naproxen (Aleve®). Other choices include acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and topical agents like IcyHot® or Voltaren® gel for smaller areas.

NSAIDs like ibuprofen, naproxen, or Voltaren® are often more effective than acetaminophen to relieve discomfort from muscle soreness or a sprained or strained muscle. Unlike acetaminophen, NSAIDs can irritate your stomach. Taking NSAID medicines with a full glass of water or some food can reduce stomach burning and discomfort.

If you take prescription medications for pain or inflammation, be extra careful when

6 Ways to Tell If You Have Enough Life Insurance

(StatePoint) If we've learned anything from 2020, it's that life can be unpredictable. Having sufficient life insurance can provide financial stability and security to loved ones during times of uncertainty. Forty-one million Americans say they need life insurance but don't have it, according to LIMRA's 2020 Insurance Barometer Study. Others are insured but don't have enough coverage. If this describes you, your spouse or children could find themselves in a financial lurch, expected to pay off debts, loans and final expenses when you die, especially if you're the main source of income. "Having insurance isn't just about financial protection," says Louis Colaizzo, senior vice president of Erie Family Life. "It also helps maintain some sense of normalcy for family members. Kids can continue their extracurricular activities, partners can maintain their lifestyle and families can stay in the home they know and love." So, how do you know if you have enough? An annual reminder to financially protect loved ones, here are six questions from an insurance expert to help you find out. 1. Do you have enough to cover final **expenses?** Make sure you can accommodate funeral or burial expenses, end-of-life costs or unpaid medical bills. Otherwise, your family may be responsible for paying these. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the national median cost of a funeral with viewing and burial for 2019 was \$7,640 – a steep sum many can't pay out of pocket without notice. 2. Will your family receive enough to cover income loss or debt? If you're your household's primary earner, you'll want to ensure you have enough money to maintain your family's lifestyle. For example, can your policy help pay off a mortgage or multiple car

loans in full or cover expenses like groceries? If not, your spouse or dependents might find themselves struggling, putting them at risk for foreclosure or other financial hardships.

3. Do you have dependents? A dependent is someone who relies on your income to make ends meet. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average cost of raising a child through age 17 is \$233,610, not including the cost of a college education. That's a big strain.

4. What kind of retirement do you want? How do you guarantee you'll have enough for the future and won't need a second career late in life to cover living expenses? One way is to tap into the cash value of a permanent life insurance plan and use it as supplemental income during retirement.

5. Do you have unique lifestyle considerations? Do you own a business or want to leave a legacy when you're gone? Having an insurance plan will protect these assets and give you peace of mind that your money goes exactly where you want it. 6. What if your circumstances change (again)? Some life insurance companies, offer a Guaranteed Insurability Option rider to help with the quickly changing times, making it possible for you to purchase additional insurance later, even if circumstances deem you "uninsurable." This means the death benefit can be increased as your needs change but you won't have to answer medical underwriting questions – a relief for many. To revisit your life insurance policy, contact an independent insurance agent who can discuss your personal options by visiting erieinsurance. com. According to experts, one of the easiest ways to protect loved ones and their financial futures is to prepare for the unexpected.

considering taking over the counter (OTC) acetaminophen or NSAIDs. Prescriptionstrength pain medicines have different brand names and abbreviations for acetaminophen and NSAIDs, setting you up for an accidental overdose.

Check with your doctor before taking OTC ibuprofen or naproxen if you have kidney problems, stomach problems, or heart failure. I recommend drinking a full glass of water whenever taking an NSAID. It dilutes the medicine as it dissolves in your stomach, helping prevent stomach irritation. Extra fluid also helps prevent dehydration while taking an NSAID, protecting your kidneys.

5 Ways to Relieve Discomfort from Vaccinations

1 Plan for possible "downtime" after your COVID-19 or Shingrix® shingles vaccine. These use a "booster" or adjuvant compound to alert your immune system that they need to pay attention to them, like waving a flag at a bull. The resulting muscle aches and fatigue are temporary. However, your symptoms may be similar to someone with COVID or severe enough to keep you home or in bed.

 $2_{\bullet}^{\text{Choose your non-dominant arm.}}_{\bullet}^{\text{Choose your non-dominant arm.}}$

and Moderna COVID vaccines contain a "booster" compound. The booster helps your immune system recognize and react to the vaccine, triggering more soreness.

3. Try an NSAID first for muscle aches, • sprains, or strains. Discomfort from muscle pain usually responds better to an NSAID) than acetaminophen (Tylenol®). Ibuprofen works for about 6 hours, while naproxen works for nearly 12 hours.

4. TIME as an NSAID to get more relief. Taking acetaminophen and an NSAID at the SAME TIME seems to work better than alternating them. They do not interfere with each other, and together they last longer than either of them alone.

5. For more extended relief, try Tylenol Arthritis® Extra Strength with naproxen (Aleve®). Taking Tylenol Arthritis® or Tylenol 8-Hour® 650mg tablets plus naproxen (Aleve®) can give you 10-12 hours of pain relief.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy, is a 40-year veteran of pharmacology and author of Why Dogs Can't Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely. Get clear answers to your medication questions at her website and blog **TheMedicationInsider.com** (® 2021 Louise Achey



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CEO **George Rohrich**

Lake Chelan Health gets \$200k+ in advice from management consultant

By Gary Bégin

CHELAN - Community hospital management consultant Tad Hunt presented a "slide show" at the Lake Chelan Health Board's January 12 meeting. He is listed as a "senior director" of the firm Huron/ Studer Group and his presentation was part of a contract signed with that group about one year ago.

Board Chairman Phyllis Gleasman said, "Tad Hunt is a consultant with Studer/Huron, an organization that provide straining for building individual skills. LCH contracted with Studer/ Huron to develop organizational excellence by providing guidance to employees, for team alignment, productivity, improve collaboration between leadership and their teams, and the Board."

Gleasman continued, "A segment of the contract, and included in the overall coaching, was the Board presentation at the last LCH Board meeting (in January)."

Hunt has decades of experience in the hospital administration field and has been the CEO of two community hospitals.

In his talk to the Board, Hunt mentioned the importance of keeping the Board itself from micro-managing the day-in and day-out operations of the hospital and stated in no uncertain terms that the only targeted employee guided and managed by the Board directly was LCH CEO George Rohrich.

The following criteria was listed by Hunt as the essential duties of the Board:

Articulating and safeguarding the gies/objectives organization's mission

Charting the course for the future through strategic planning

Selecting, supporting, and evaluating the chief executive officer

• Ensuring, promoting and improving the organization's financial viability

• Assessing and improving the quality of care and patient safety to include adopting and maintaining a qualified medical staff

• Serving as an advocate for the organization

• Designing and implementing board education, development, self-evaluation

• Being accountable to the community and key constituents to include complying with all legal and regulatory requirements

In regards to CEO Rohrich, Hunt revealed his opinions of expected performance criteria:

· financial performance and specified financial ratios

• operating indicators, including length of stay, average daily census, admissions, outpatient visits, etc.

quality measures, patient outcomes (mortality rates), infection rates, etc.

- market share growth
- physician satisfaction
- employee satisfaction
- patient satisfaction
- public trust and confidence
- achievement of hospital strate-

Hunt listed nine guiding principles the Board should adhere to:

- Commit to Excellence
- Measure the Important Things
- Build a Culture Around Service
- **Create and Develop Great Leaders** •
- Focus on Employee Satisfaction
- **Build Individual Accountability**

. Align Behaviors with Goals and Values

Communicate at All Levels

Recognize and Reward Success

Hunt also indicated the fiscal responsibilities expected by any health board stating, "Most surveys of top issues confronting hospitals and health systems clearly show financial challenges to be the number one issue." Hunt then expressed these financial expectations of a board:

establishing financial goals for growth, debt capacity, and return on equity, and monitoring progress toward those goals

• approving an annual budget and reviewing the status of the budget routinely

developing and monitoring investment policies and goals

• setting criteria for return on investment and new business ventures

· determining policies on uncompensated care, provision of needed community services, and development of alternative revenue sources.

The contract, officially entitled "Studer Group Coaching Services and

Accelerators," calls for getting periodic coaching and management advice as well as making payments of \$16,846 monthly to the consulting firm. Those payments began in May of last year.

The three-year deal was signed by LCH CEO Rohrich in January, 2020 for a total cost of \$202,153. The agreement contains "opt out" provisions for LCH based on performance of the firm and the satisfaction of same by LCH. Both parties to the contract have a required 90-day notice prior to any cancellation.

The Studer Group is headquartered in Pensacola, Florida, while consultant Hunt gave the presentation from his office in Nebraska. Hunt has more than 30-years of experience in the field and "is passionate about working with organizations to improve the patient experience and empowering employees to provide high-quality care," according to his website.

"The desired outcome of the program is to align all employees with the vision and mission of the hospital; leadership, executive teams, to "boots on the floor" and develop a team building environment," said Chairman Gleasman.

"The Board and leadership continually work towards improving the hospital and quality care for all patients," concluded Gleasman.

Managing Editor Gary Bégin can be emailed: Gary@ncwmedia.net. Comments may be published as a Letter to the Editor in future WBJ editions.

Columbia Basin Water Group Sets March 4 Conference

Submitted by CBDL

The champion of the Columbia Basin Project for six decades, the Columbia Basin Development League, will hold its annual conference "With One Voice" Thursday, March 4, 9 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Virtual, the conference is easy access for all stakeholders in the Columbia Basin to get up-to-date information on efforts to develop, maintain, and improve the Columbia Basin Project.

Topics include a review of the economic impact of the Columbia Basin Project, partner projects, updates from the three irrigation districts as well as the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program.

Speakers will also cover the steps required to complete the Columbia Basin Project, who funds infrastructure projects and the role water law plays with secondary use permits.



Speakers include:

- Melissa Downes, Office of the Columbia **River, Department of Ecology**
- Madison Moore, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Jed Crowther, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District
- Vicky Scharlau, Columbia Basin Development League
- · Representative Mike Steele, Washington State Legislature
- Craig Simpson, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District
- · Roger Sonnichsen, Quincy Columbia **Basin Irrigation District**
- · Dave Solem, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District
 - · Marc Maynard, U.S. Bureau of Recla-

mation, Ephrata Field Office

· Laura Williams, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Washington Visit cbdl.org/support/annual-conference to register and learn more.

The League represents the interests of stakeholders in the Columbia Basin, and advocates at the city, county, state and federal levels for continued development and support of the Columbia Basin Project - the largest reclamation project in the United States. The Columbia Basin Project provides irrigation water to more than 671,000 acres of land across eastern and central Washington. From parks to power and from irrigation to recreation, the Columbia Basin Project is a vital source of strength to the regional and state economy as well as a key component of its high quality of life thanks to efficient, well-maintained, affordable infrastructure and sustainable environmental stewardship.

'Spokane Teachers', Coulee Dam Credit Unions to merge

Submitted by STCU

Two Washington credit unions have agreed to merge, subject to approval by state and federal regulatory agencies.

If approved, the merger of Spokane-based Spokane Teachers Credit Union (STCU) and Coulee Dambased Coulee Dam Federal Credit Union (CDFCU) would be completed later this year. Their two member-elected boards voted unanimously to pursue the merger plan, which maintains current staffing.

"This is an exciting time for our credit union and members," said Colleen Manley, CEO of CDFCU.

"STCU provides a full suite of products and services that will be available to our members."

She added, "Most importantly, our membership will continue to see familiar faces when they visit their favorite branch. In the communities we serve, CDFCU employees are their neighbors and friends."

CDFCU originally served U.S. Bureau of Reclamation employees at Grand Coulee Dam. Some of its 14,000 members can trace their membership to the credit union's founding in 1941.

Today, it has five branches, in Coulee Dam, Brewster, Republic, Creston and Omak, Wash.

STCU started in 1934 to serve schoolteachers during the Great Depression.



The Spokane-based credit union has more than 210,000 members and 29 locations in Eastern Washington, Tri-Cities, the Columbia Basin, and North Idaho.

Both credit unions are financially sound. Yet, it is increasingly difficult for small and medium-sized credit unions like CDFCU to provide the technology and financial products needed to ensure continued success. As one of the nation's

top-100 credit unions, STCU has the resources to meet those challenges.

At the same time, the merger would provide a convenient branch experience for nearly 3,000 existing STCU members who live in Okanogan, Douglas, Ferry and Lincoln counties.

Both credit unions are deeply involved in their communities, including serving leadership positions in chambers of commerce and other community organizations, support for a host of non-profits, and promoting employee volunteerism.

"As we talked with the team at CDFCU, it became apparent that our credit unions are a natural match for a friendly, beneficial merger," said Ezra Eckhardt, STCU president and CEO.

"We're excited to bring these teams together for the good of credit union members and the communities we serve."

The merger is subject to approval by the National Credit Union Administration and the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. STCU and CDFCU hope to complete the merger in late summer or fall.

About CDFCU

A full-service financial institution, CDFCU offers personal and business accounts, home loans, vehicle loans, credit cards, and more. Member services include online and mobile banking and surcharge-free ATMs. Its current assets total \$180 million.

About STCU

With \$4.1 billion in total assets, STCU offers an array of savings and lending products, home loans, rewards and conventional credit cards, and more. Members enjoy 24-hour access to their accounts through online banking, the STCU Mobile App, and nearly 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide.

Chelan County Commissioners keep watch on Olympia House, Senate bills

By Gary Bégin

The early February meeting of the Chelan County Commission was highlighted by the overview and commentary of several House and Senate bills that may affect the county and local cities in both positive and negative ways.

SB5368 is in regards to the annexation of unincorporated territory by state code cities currently under Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundaries.

The annexation must be coordinated between the city and the county it lies within and includes safeguards for continued upkeep of infrastructure, fair evaluation of potential loss or gain to residential properties and potential for revenue sharing agreements. It requires the formation of interlocal agreements. If the bill passes, cities will become eligible for the annexation sales tax credit. The bill was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee February 12.

The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC)*, representing 39 Washington counties, has issued pro or con advice on many of the bills. See the WSAC website for more information (WSAC.ORG).

Commissioner Keith Overbay went through some of the proposed bills and had comments an obvious loss of court revenues to be distributed to county and city entities from convicted offenders.



Kevin Overbay

HB1099 is also opposed by WSAC as it mandates actions by counties cannot be approved unless within guidelines of greenhouse gas emissions regulations.

The bill demands future regulations be, "...supported by scientifically credible projections and scenarios that indicate their adoption is likely to result in reductions of greenhouse gas emissions or per capita vehicle miles traveled."

The proposal also requires actions taken must "substantially reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on people, property, and ecological systems through goals, policies, and programs consistent with the best available science and scientifically credible climate projections and impact scenarios that moderate or avoid harm, enhance the resiliency of natural and human systems, and enhance beneficial opportunities." party (GOP) comments.

Another bill possibly causing angst in rural areas is the call for an addition to "community over-



COURTESY PHOTO Tiffany Gering

sight" in HB1203.

"All local jurisdictions must establish a community oversight board by January 1, 2025. ...To receive complaints from community members regarding the conduct of law enforcement officers and civilian employees of the

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

law enforcement agency." The bill is aimed at any city or county law enforcement agency with at least 15 members on staff.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Upon complaint of any person or on its own initiative, to investigate incidents that occur between members of the public and law enforcement officers or civilian employees of the law enforcement agency, including incidents involving: The use of force by a law enforcement officer; death of or serious injury to any person held in custody; serious abuse of authority or misconduct by a law enforcement officer; allegedly discriminatory stops or other profiling activity; adversarial interactions between law enforcement officers and community members at public assemblies; and other adverse incidents related to the conduct of law enforcement officers or civilian employees of the law enforcement agency."

The bill was referred to the House Appropriations Committee in February.

Continue reading NCW Media weekly publications for updates on these and other bills currently circulating in the State House and Senate.

*Created in 1906, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is a voluntary, non-profit association serving all of Washington's 39 counties. WSAC members include elected county commissioners, council members and executives from all of Washington's 39 counties.

Republican state senators start 'Freedom Caucus' 12th District's Brad Hawkins prefers 'general' focus

COI Bob Bugert

regarding a few specified bills, admitting he would take an entire day to analyze and comment on all of them.

HB1412, said Overbay, "Would cause a revenue hit" on counties and is opposed by WSAC. The bill specifically allows non-payment of fines and/or restitution if "the offender does not have the current or likely future ability to make full or partial restitution."

Overbay, a retired Washington State Patrol officer, explained the proposal to the other two commissioners Tiffany Gering and Bob Bugert. If passed, "At any time, the court may determine that the offender is not required to pay,or may relieve the offender of the required fine to pay," thus causing

Because of the rural nature of most of Washington state, the bill is considered to be mainly one for urban areas to consider and not practical for non-urban entities, where much greater mileage is incurred by necessary vehicular traffic, according to minority "Freedom is the watchword for the new Senate Freedom Caucus," stated the four lawmakers, who are advocating" for lower taxes, responsible state spending, individual liberties and a government that gets out of the people's way."

"The Freedom Caucus will advocate for core conservative principles. Sen. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale, said the new caucus will tackle big-picture issues that often cannot be encompassed by broader political caucuses that must represent a wide variety of views."

"We need to take a stand for lower taxes, less government regulation and respect for people's constitutional rights," Ericksen said. "Some of us wish to speak more strongly about these issues than others. The people need a voice for freedom in Olympia, and that voice will be the Freedom Caucus."

Founding members of the Freedom Caucus are Ericksen, Sen. Phil Fortunato, R-Auburn, Sen. Mike Padden, R-Spokane Valley, and Sen. Jim McCune, R-Graham.

"Never has the need for a Freedom Caucus been so great," Fortunato said.

"Legislative Democrats this year are pushing one of the most radical agendas in Washington history. While the public is forced to stay home, a narrow band of urban activists are pushing an income tax, measures to increase gas prices, and legislation to erode the people's rights under the Constitution.

"Rather than working to make these bad ideas somewhat better, we need to draw the line and make ourselves heard. We don't want to throw a drowning person a life preserver. We want to pull people out of the water," he concluded.

Managing Editor Gary Bégin can be emailed: Gary@ncwmedia.net. Comments may be published as a Letter to the Editor.



Building on a month of strong results, the Biden-Harris Administration and the U.S. Small Business Administration are taking steps with the Paycheck Protection Program to further promote equitable relief for America's mom-and-pop businesses.

The latest round of Paycheck Protection Program funding opened one month ago and already the Biden Administration has succeeded in making major improvements to the program's implementation:

• For businesses with fewer than ten employees, the share of funding is up nearly 60%

· For businesses in rural communities, the share of funding is up nearly 30%

• The share of funding distributed through Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions is up more than 40%

"The SBA is a frontline agency working to create an inclusive economy, focused on reaching women-owned, minorityowned, low- and moderate-income, rural, and other underserved communities in meaningful ways. While reported data illustrates we have made real strides in ensuring these funds are reaching underserved communities, we believe we can still do better," says SBA Senior Advisor Michael Roth. "The important policy changes we are announcing further ensure inclusivity and integrity by increasing access and much-needed aid to Main Street businesses that anchor our neighborhoods and help families build wealth."

These simple progressive steps by the

Biden-Harris Administration further

demonstrate the commitment to racial

and gender equity, reaching low and moderate-income, rural, urban, and other underserved areas. The SBA will:

• Establish a 14-day, exclusive PPP loan application period for businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees

• Allow sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals to receive more financial support by revising the PPP's funding formula for these categories of applicants

• Eliminate an exclusionary restriction on PPP access for small business owners with prior non-fraud felony convictions, consistent with a bipartisan congressional proposal

• Eliminate PPP access restrictions on small business owners who have struggled to make federal student loan payments by eliminating federal student loan debt delinquency and default as disqualifiers to participating in the PPP; and

• Ensure access for non-citizen small business owners who are lawful U.S. residents by clarifying that they may use Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to apply for the PPP.

These actions will help to lay the foundation for a robust and equitable recovery for small businesses across the country. Small businesses employ nearly half of the American workforce; they create 2 out of 3 net new private-sector jobs; they reinvest 68% of revenues to build and sustain communities.

Borrowers can apply for the Paycheck Protection Program by downloading the First Draw PPP loan application or Second Draw PPP loan application and working with a participating PPP lender through the SBA Lender Match tool.

Pybus Market opened for indoor dining

Pybus Public Market has reopened for indoor seating at 25 percent capacity. Governor Jay Inslee signed the Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery proclamation and this included a new concept for restaurants, taverns, breweries, wineries and distilleries.

The Liquor & Canna-

with Pybus staff to determine if the facility would meet these requirements and it has decided that the Pybus Facility is an "open-air" establishment and are able to maintain CO₂ levels below the required 450ppm (parts-permillion).

The building windows

ing and we will be con-

tinuously monitoring our

The following restau-

levels.

rants and tasting rooms will reopen indoors: Fire, Ice, Cafe Columbia, The Cheesemonger's Shop, Jones of Washington for tastings along with Mc-Gregor Farms for mead tasting.

We welcome you if you are ready (and comfortable) to join us! And bring will remain open daily to a jacket! All shops are



IRS extends April 15, other deadlines, provides relief for Texas storms

June 15 to make 2020 IRA

The June 15 deadline

ly due on April 30. It also

applies to tax-exempt or-

ganizations, operating on

a calendar-year basis, that have a 2020 return due on

In addition, penalties on

payroll and excise tax de-

posits due on or after Feb.

11 and before Feb. 26 will be

abated as long as the depos-

The IRS disaster relief

page has details on other

returns, payments and tax-

related actions qualifying

The IRS automatically

provides filing and penalty

relief to any taxpayer with

an IRS address of record

located in the disaster area.

Therefore, taxpayers do not

need to contact the agency

However, if an affected tax-

payer receives a late filing or

late payment penalty notice

from the IRS that has an

original or extended filing,

payment or deposit due date

falling within the postpone-

ment period, the taxpayer

should call the number

on the notice to have the

In addition, the IRS will

work with any taxpayer

penalty abated.

to get this relief.

for the additional time.

its are made by Feb. 26.

May 17.

WASHINGTON

Victims of this month's contributions. winter storms in Texas will have until June 15, 2021, to also applies to quarterly file various individual and estimated income tax paybusiness tax returns and ments due on April 15 and make tax payments, the the quarterly payroll and Internal Revenue Service excise tax returns normalannounced today.

Following The recent disaster declaration issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the IRS is providing this relief to the entire state of Texas. But taxpayers in other states impacted by these winter storms that receive similar FEMA disaster declarations will automatically receive the same filing and payment relief.

The current list of eligible localities is always available on the disaster relief page on IRS.gov.

The tax relief postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting on Feb. 11.

As a result, affected individuals and businesses will have until June 15, 2021, to file returns and pay any taxes that were originally due during this period. This includes 2020 individual and business returns normally due on April 15, as well as various 2020 business returns due on March 15.

Among other things, this also means that affected taxpayers will have until

Small business USPS program brings value

(NAPSI) - The U.S. Postal Service has be applied to added tiers to the USPS® Loyalty Program future purfor business customers – a move that chases of

who lives outside the disaster area but whose records necessary to meet a deadline occurring during the postponement period are located in the affected area.

Taxpayers qualifying for relief who live outside the disaster area need to contact the IRS at 866-562-5227.

This also includes workers assisting the relief activities who are affiliated with a recognized government or philanthropic organization.

Individuals and businesses in a federally declared disaster area who suffered uninsured or unreimbursed disaster-related losses can choose to claim them on either the return for the year the loss occurred (in this instance, the 2021 return normally filed next year), or the return for the prior year.

This means that taxpayers can, if they choose, claim these losses on the 2020 return they are filling out this tax season. Be sure to write the FEMA declaration number - 4586 - on any return claiming a loss. See Publication 547 for details.

The tax relief is part of a coordinated federal response to the damage caused by these storms and is based on local damage assessments by FEMA. For information on disaster recovery, visit disasterassistance.gov.



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helps small businesses improve their bottom line through incentives.

Tiers are based on qualifying shipping totals from the previous calendar year.

A higher tier equals a larger benefit and there is no limit to the amount of credit that can be earned. Going forward, Loyalty Tiers will be allocated at the beginning of each year.

The USPS Loyalty Program is an incentive plan for business customers who use the Click-N-Ship[®] application to purchase Priority Mail® and Priority Mail Express® labels.

All registered business users automatically are included in the program's Base Tier. Once earned, credits are added to their USPS Click-N-Ship account and are available in 30 days. Credits expire 1 year from the date of issuance. The earned credits can

Priority Mail

and Priority Mail Express labels within the shipping cart at checkout.

• Base Tier users earn \$40 of credit for each \$500 spent on purchases up to \$10,000

• Silver Tier users earn \$50 of credit for each \$500 spent on purchases between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

• Gold Tier status is achieved with at least \$20,000 of qualified purchases in the prior calendar year. Gold Tier users will have access to Commercial Base Pricing, on Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express shipments.

In addition, new USPS business customers using Click-N-Ship are eligible for a one-time \$40 Welcome Bonus credit.

Visit usps.com/loyaltybonus for more information.

March 2021 • 9

WashingtonVotes releases February voting facts

Submitted by Washington Votes

OLYMPIA – "How did my state lawmakers vote in Olympia? Readers of the Wenatchee Business Journal would like to know." *WashingtonVotes.org* provides a free, periodic roll call service to media outlets as long as the Legislature is in session. The reports are customized to the legislative districts in your market area and feature individual legislators' votes on key issues, including recorded votes on amendments.

We encourage you to publish this report in print or on-line to help keep your readers informed and engaged about how their representatives perform in Olympia. To update your information, or to let us know you will publish the report, please drop us an e-mail at *wavotes@ wavotes.org.*

This week, the full House and Senate debated and voted on a number of bills, including measures to provide civil legal aid funds for individuals who are in the United States illegally; to allow minors to continue to get abortions without parental consent, and to mandate cultural and racial equity training for healthcare professionals.

House Bill 1072, Removing one of the restrictions on the use of civil legal aid funds. Passed the House on February 12 by a vote of 56-40, two members excused.

The legislature in 2005 established the Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) as an independent judicial branch agency to administer and oversee state funds appropriated by the legislature for the provision of civil legal aid services to eligible low-income people in Washington.

This law imposed a number of restrictions, including that moneys distributed to qualified legal aid programs by the OCLA may not be used directly or indirectly for representation of individuals who are in the United States without legal authority.

This bill would remove this prohibition, and make legal aid funds provided by taxpayers available for representation of undocumented persons.

	*	
12 Rep.	Keith Goehner (Chelan)	(R) N

12 Rep.	Mike Steele	(Chelan)	(R)	Ν

Senate Bill 5185, Concerning capacity to provide informed consent for health care decisions. Passed the Senate on February 16 by a vote of 30-17, two members excused.

Current Washington law allows adolescents to make health care decisions on their own behalf at age 13 related to behavioral health treatment, at age 14 related to testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and allows decisions related to personal reproductive health care, including abortions, to be made at any age.

This bill would clarify language to affirm that a person is presumed to have the capacity to make health care decisions under current laws, unless subject to a guardianship that includes health care decision making.

A proposed amendment that would remove the capacity of a minor to provide informed consent for abortion services was rejected by voice vote.

12 Sen. Brad Hawkins (Douglas County) (R) N

Senate Bill 5229, Concerning health equity continuing education for health care professionals. Passed the Senate on February 17 by a vote of 35-14.

This bill would require health care professionals to complete health equity education training at least once every four years. It would require these courses to teach skills that enable a health care professional to care effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities, varying in race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, religion, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. During the public hearing on the measure, proponents said the bill is needed, because the health system is not equitable. They said that health professionals should be aware of their own biases, and learn to be more sensitive to the health needs of different communities. No testimony in opposition to the bill was offered. Proposed amendments to allow health care professionals to opt out and to limit the cost of such courses were rejected by voice vote.



three years and does not allow for B&O tax credits to be applied to tax years prior to the creation of the Equitable Access to Credit program. It also specifies the amount of an annual B&O tax credit is \$1 million or 100 percent of the annual contribution to the Equitable Access to Credit program, whichever is less.

House Bill 1028 – Concerning evaluation and recommendation of candidates for residency teacher certification

Substitute offered in the House on February 18, 2021

Adds that each board-approved teacher preparation program must publish and provide to candidates, prior to admission, a list of program completion requirements.

House Bill 1033 – Concerning the Washington customized employment training program

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021 Provides that bill becomes effective July 1, 2021. House Bill 1044 – Creating prison to postsecondary

education pathways Substitute offered in the House on February 16, 2021

Substitute onered in the House on February 16, 2021

Removes a provision ithat required the Department of Corrections (DOC) to assist incarcerated individuals participating in state-funded postsecondary education with filling out a federal or state financial aid form. Instead it requires the DOC to work with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to develop a plan to do this. A null and void clause is added, making the bill null and void unless funded in the budget.

House Bill 1075 – Reducing emissions from vehicles associated with on-demand transportation services

Substitute offered in the House on February 16, 2021

Provides that entities that use only zero-emission vehicles are not considered commercial transportation services providers, and are not required to submit greenhouse gas emissions data, develop and implement greenhouse gas emission reduction plans, or pay associated fees. The bill is null and void if not specifically funded in the omnibus appropriations act.

House Bill 1091 – Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021

Adds a requirement that the Department of Ecology improve its internal processes to expedite the processing of environmental reviews under the State Environmental Policy Act and for permit application for projects related to the production of low-carbon transportation fuels.

House Bill 1139 – Taking action to address lead in drinking water

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021 Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct

Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct lead testing of drinking water in public elementary and secondary schools by specified deadlines and according to stated technical requirements. Designates the DOH, rather than community water systems, as the principal agency in regard to lead testing, remediation, and other actions at elementary and secondary schools.

House Bill 1168 – Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers

Substitute offered in the House on January 29, 2021

House Bill 1227 – Protecting the rights of families responding to allegations of abuse or neglect of a child

Substitute offered in the House on February 16, 2021

Provides that court must hold an additional shelter care hearing within 72 hours if a child is removed from the care of a parent at any time after an initial shelter care hearing. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) must commence an assessment of the home of a relative or other suitable person with whom a child is placed following a shelter care hearing within 10 days of the hearing rather than within 72 hours of the hearing. The effective date is delayed to July 1, 2023, rather than 90 days after the adjournment of the session in which the bill is enacted. The bill is null and void unless funding is provided in the enacted omnibus operated budget by June 30, 2021.

House Bill 1263 – Concerning rural infrastructure Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021

Changes "tribes" to "federally recognized tribes" in the list of eligible applicants for a rural infrastructure grant. In addition, the second substitute bill adds school districts to the list of eligible applicants and to the list of entities that the Department of Commerce may consult with during the application review process.

House Bill 1330 – Providing a retail sales and use tax exemption for the purchase of electric bicycles and related cycling equipment

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021 Provides a sales and use tax exemption for the purchase of new electric bicycles and related cycling equipment.

House Bill 1333 – Providing an extension to the local sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021

Extends until December 31, 2054, the expiration of the local sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties for those counties imposing the full capacity of the tax prior to August 1, 2009.

House Bill 1370 – Concerning grants for early learning facilities

Substitute offered in the House on February 17, 2021

Increases the grant and loan award limits within the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) program. Adds program administration and technical assistance as allowable activities eligible for funding through the ELF program.

House Bill 1380 – Restoring the business and occupation and public utility tax exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021

Reinstates the business and occupation tax exemption for custom farming. Reinstates the public utilities tax exemption for the hauling of farm products.

House Bill 1438 – Expanding eligibility for property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans and senior citizens by modifying income thresholds for eligibility to allow deductions for common health care-related expenses

Referred to the House Appropriations Committee on February 19, 2021

House Bill 1438 – Expanding eligibility for property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans and senior citizens by modifying income thresholds for eligibility to allow deductions for common health care-related expenses

12 Sen. Brad Hawkins (Douglas County) (R) N

House Bill 1015 – Creating the Washington equitable access to credit act

Referred to the House Appropriations Committee on February 19, 2021

House Bill 1015 – Creating the Washington equitable access to credit act

Substitute offered in the House on February 18, 2021 Limits the business and occupation (B&O) tax credit to

A null and void clause is added, making the bill null and void if not specifically funded in the operating budget. House Bill 1194 –Strengthening parent-child visitation during child welfare proceedings

Substitute offered in the House on February 16, 2021

The presumption that supervision for visits between a parent and a child will no longer be necessary following a case conference is removed.

House Bill 1208 – Modifying the learning assistance program

Substitute offered in the House on February 19, 2021 Requires that school districts budget and expend Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funds: (1) immediately and temporarily, to identify and address the academic and nonacademic needs of students resulting from and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and (2) at the end of the Governor-declared state of emergency due to COVID-19 or beginning September 1, 2025, whichever is later, using the framework of the Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol. Substitute offered in the House on February 18, 2021 Expands which medical expenses can be deducted when calculating "combined disposable income" for the purposes of property tax relief programs.

WashingtonVotes.org is a project of the Washington Policy Center. Please visit WashingtonVotes.org and check out our new Olympia news service, Washingtonvotes.org News, which is featured on the home page.We're also on Facebook and Twitter, at washingtonvotes.org.

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Eastmont School District headquarters.

GARY BÉGIN/WBJ

School districts answer Sen. Hawkins: flipping break calendar, maybe... not

By Gary Bégin

EAST WENATCHEE/CHELAN – Eastmont School District Superintendent Garn Christensen, in response to an NCW Media request for a comment on Senator Brad Hawkins' idea for reimagining the school calendar said, "My reaction is brief given the complexities around this suggestion would require a much more detailed and lengthy response. However, I do appreciate Senator Hawkins offering creative and now, we have all students who desire to be on campus attending at least half-time and some even more. This is the norm in Central Washington and is the result of all the hard work of Central Washington Educators to comply with recommended safeguards at all levels. As of today, school districts in our region have yet to be identified as COVID transmission sites."

Eastmont Schools are located mostly within the city limits of East Wenatchee.



COURTESY PHOTO Superintendent Garn Christensen

unique solutions to our ongoing situation and will share this idea with our leadership team for consideration."

He went on to say, "Eastmont already revised our calendar after it was initially approved to add some COVID days in anticipation of possibly needing to shut down consistent with the state requirements for starting the 2020-21 school year. We have found these days unnecessary as shutdown days as there have been no directives in our region to shut down due to COVID in our schools. Educators though have appreciated the sporadic extra days without students. In our current environment, it has not been at all normal working in person with students and is both emotionally and physically exhausting as educators manage all the unknowns and comply with very strict requirements for having students in classes."



Superintendent Barry DePaoli

Christensen said, "Unfortunately, only time will tell what variants emerge over the next few months or if COVID burns itself out and disappears. History clearly shows pandemics can go either way."





Under GWATA umbrella: Technology Hub Project

Submitted by GWATA

GWATA is excited to take over managing the Technology Hub project, one of seven game-changers in the Our Valley Our Future Action Plan.

As part of the Technology Hub project, GWATA will be hosting monthly Tech Hub meetings. Every month we convene technology companies and partners. Meetings include guest speakers sharing their tech adoption stories and challenges, as well as discussion on tech hiring needs, technology problem solving strategies, etc. Tech Hub meetings are free and open to the public.

"Our nonprofit is excited about the opportunity to bring stakeholders from across Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties as we work together to build our tech community, tech workforce, and support industry," said GWATA Executive Director, Jenny Rojanasthien. "My team and I will be working hard to bring in new partners from across the region as we build on the foundation Our Valley created."

Upcoming Tech Hub meetings are scheduled for Thursday, March 11 at 9 a.m., featuring Kevin McKee of Chelan County PUD and Judi Kuntz of Centricity, and Wednesday, April 14 at 1 p.m. with Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) program. Both Tech Hub meetings will be held on Zoom.

To sign up for Tech Hub meeting invitations and information, contact Chanet Stevenson of GWATA by emailing *chanet@gwata.org*.

The Technology Hub project was developed from input from more than 3,000 residents in 2015-16. Since then, several key components of the project have been accomplished, including the

About GWATA

Since 1999, GWATA (the Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance) has served as the region's tech alliance, championing growth annual Flywheel Conference, an angel investors network, co-working spaces, and a technology study conducted by Washington State University. GWATA hosts the annual Flywheel Investment Conference and leads the angel investors network.

Since 2018, Our Valley Our Future (OVOF) has been facilitating monthly Technology Hub Working Group meetings and communicating progress with the project. OVOF also oversaw the 2019 WSU technology study and coordinated three focus group sessions in 2020 to gather more information on local tech sector growth.

"One of OVOF's goals is for other organizations to lead game-changers in the Action Plan. The time is perfect for GWATA to take on the Tech Hub project and to bring more industry folks into the conversation and to take the project to another level regionally," said Stacy Luckensmeyer, OVOF past president and a Tech Hub Working Group member.

"OVOF is pleased to hear GWATA will create space within its own organizational structure for the Tech Hub project," said Steve Maher, OVOF coordinator. "A lot of work and resources have gone into expanding the Tech Hub over the past few years. Those who have stepped up include GWATA, the Flywheel Conference, Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, Wenatchee Valley College Center for Entrepreneurship, the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, the school districts, the PUDs, SkillSource, Chelan County, Salcido Enterprises, AgTools, and The Mercantile Building, Wenatchee Work-Space, and Mission Street Commons co-working spaces."

About OVOF

Our Valley Our Future, founded in 2015, is a nonprofit organization that brings together residents and organizations to improve the

Christensen continued, "Fortunately, Eastmont has managed to serve students on campus since we began this school year by offering a very limited summer school last July. Since then, we have increased our on-campus services every month. As of

"It has been a difficult year for students, parents, and school officials. With a limited percentage of Washington school districts offering in-person instruction and very few districts, if any, back to their usual operations, I am urging districts to think differently about how to maximize their 180 statefunded school days for the remainder of the school year," said Hawkins.

"I am a big proponent of reimagining the school calendar in the long term, especially as our state prepares to pull out of this pandemic, but this year is unique and also presents an opportunity for us to think differently," said Hawkins.

He is a former school board member, father of two public school students, and the ranking Republican member on the Senate's Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee.

Hawkins is urging the state's $295 \gg$

and development in North Central Washington. As a 501(c)3, GWATA's mission is to bring together people and resources in technology, entrepreneurship, and STEM education. For more information visit gwata.org.

region's quality of life. Its guiding document is its Action Plan, which includes projects and programs led by partnering organizations. OVOF serves as convener, facilitator, datacollector, planner and communicator in furthering the community's vision.

with the extended spring break.

Hawkins added, "The state provides districts full flexibility on how they spread their 180 instructional days. Most school districts would agree that in-person instruction is ideal. With the state taking so long for school employee vaccinations and few districts seemingly eager to resume their full operations, it makes sense to me to cut those losses, swap those breaks, and move ahead."

SEE THE SCHOOL CALENDAR MATTER, PAGE 21

>> school districts to consider swapping their normal one-week spring break with their usual 10-12-week summer break and then resuming the remainder of their 180 school days throughout the summer, inperson, to prepare for the 2021-22 school year. By doing this, Hawkins says, school staff will be vaccinated, COVID rates will likely be down, and all districts could offer full in-person instruction.

"Also, the districts will have had plenty of time to prepare for the summer instruction,

PAGE 1



MARCH 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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



LOCATED AT: 2201 N. Wenatchee Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801

PHONE: (509) 293-5840

FAX: (509) 665-6669

Email us for more information: Info@BuildingNCW.org

Visit us online at: www.BuildingNCW.org

Randy Gold

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

of you for your continued membership, involvement and support!

Renewing Members This Month Thank You to the following valued renewing members this month. We're extremely grateful to each

- Allemandi Construction 23 years
- Augustedge Real Estate 2 years
- Carlisle Classic Homes 3 years
- Chelan Glass and Door 2 years
- Consolidated Supply Company 1 year
- DC Custom Construction Inc. 2 years
- Deep Water Home & Electronics 8 years
- NCW Media, Inc. 8 years
- Northwest Geodimensions, Inc. 23 years
- Numerica Credit Union 17 years
- Peoples Bank 18 years
- Valencia Fencing, LLC 2 years
- Washington Trust Bank 23 years

Update From BNCW's Government Affairs Director – Dan Beardslee

This past year, the Chelan County Commissioners have been in the process of adopting a new "water code." It effectively is an attempt to ameliorate the issue of sioners purchased some water limited water supplies in rights and these can be purthe Wenatchee, Chelan, and chased to "mitigate" water Entiat river basins. These withdrawals where needed. drainage basins (with the exception of Chelan, which to charge for any withdrawal has its own unique rule) in any of these basins, but are subject to "instream based on testimony from flow rules" adopted by the BNCW and others, the fees State that limit the amount were drastically reduced and of groundwater that can be are now much more palatdrawn for domestic use.

basins, such as the Mission County Commissioners. Creek, Icicle, and Chumstick sub-basins are close to the table:

capacity, while the lower Wenatchee and the Entiat have adequate water supplies for quite a long time.

The County Commis-

The original proposal was able. This was a good piece Certain parts of these of work by our Chelan

See the adopted code in

ADOPTED Code Revision Proposal to Support Administration of Chapter 13.30: Water Mitigation Program

Chapter 3.24 Community Development Department Fees 3.24.010 Fee Schedule

Application Type	Geographic Area	Fee
Water Mitigation	Lake Chelan Basin	\$1,000
	Upper Wenatchee and Wenatchee Tributaries	\$1,000
	Lower Wenatchee River	\$0
	Entiat Basin	\$0
Water Mitigation Administration	Wenatchee, Entiat and Lake Chelan Basins	\$1,000
Water Mitigation Annual Assessment	Wenatchee, Entiat and Lake Chelan Basins	\$0
Excess Water Usage Assessment	Wenatchee, Entiat and Lake Chelan Basins	\$0

Powder Coat it Tough!



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!

Short Term Rental Alliance of Chelan County Zelda Holgate 509-433-

Working to bring your project ideas to Reality.

509-663-0980 | 11 Bridge St, Wenatchee cascadepowdercoating.com

- Smithson Insurance Agency Kathy Smithson 509-884-5195
- Urethane Connection John Barry 509-679-3772
- Chelan Valley Housing Trust **Rachael Goldie** 425-275-2002

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!



BNCW MEMBER MESSENGER CONTENT PROVIDED BY BUILDING NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

South Central Washington

MARCH 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

BNCW's:

FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Worker Wages

President Biden's proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour will have quite unequal effects. In high-cost states like DC, MA, CT, WA, NY, and MD where \$15/hour is roughly 65% of the median wage, the impacts will be much less than in MS, AR, WV, and LA where it is minimally 90% of the minimum wage! Rather than a uniform rate, base the minimum wage on median home prices."

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



Getting Involved Pays Dividends!

One of the best ways to leverage your BNCW membership, while establishing new relationships with other Association member companies, is to get involved in one of the many committees, events and leadership opportunities that are available! In addition to being a fun way to help advance the mission of your Association, such opportunities have a way of leading to new relationships and new business opportunities, too!

It's important to note that we fully appreciate that our members' schedules vary

TOOLBOX TALKS

Working Safely Around Electricity

Industry runs on electricity. It is safe to use when you know what you are doing and take proper precautions. When precautions are not taken, electricity can be a killer.

Your actions can protect your safety.

Read and follow instructions before handling anything electrical.

If you do not understand the instructions, get qualified help: Do not guess.

Plugs should only be inserted in receptacle outlets with the same slot or blade pattern, (unless proper adapters are used). Do not force or alter a plug by bending, twisting, or removing blades to make it fit into a receptacle outlet.

Water conducts electricity.
Keep wet hands from touching electri-

cal equipment or light switches.
Firmly grip the plug, not the cord,

when disconnecting equipment.

Yanking the cord can damage the cord, plug, or receptacle outlet and result in a shock or fire.

BNCW Members SAVE on your cell and health insurance costs! CALL 293-5840 TO LEARN HOW Because electricity is present even when the switch is in the "off" position, unplug equipment, appliances, and extension cords when not in use and before inspecting, cleaning, or fixing them.

Recognize signs of overloaded circuits including flickering or dimming lights, blown fuses, warm wall plates or extension cords, and tripped circuit breakers.

Receptacle outlets and switches

should not be painted or covered with wallpaper paste.

APPROACH management services

There is no margin for error when working with electricity.

Conditions vary so much that without understanding the exposure, you may make a mistake and cause injury to yourself or fellow workers.

Let us be safe out there!





BNCW Seeks Membership/Events Coordinator

Building North Central Washington is currently looking for a new team member for our Membership/Events Coordinator. This Fulltime position is responsible for selling and maintaining BNCW membership along with a key role in coordinating all BNCW events such as: the BNCW Home Show, Tour of Homes & Remodeling Expo, Golf Tournament, monthly social events and more. This is a fun fast paced job in a social environment. We are looking for a team player with strong sales and customer service experience along with organization & communication skills. Digital design, website and social media experience is a plus. For a complete job description visit *bncw.org*. Full Benefits package-Salary Depending on Experience. BNCW is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PAGE 2

widely, so, we seek member committee involvement at whatever level suits our members' wishes and comfort level; in other words, we want you at whatever level of involvement is comfortable for you!

Here are a few committee examples where we are seeking member involvement.

- 2021 BNCW Virtual Auction Planning Committee
- 2021 BNCW Golf Tournament Planning Committee



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

Please submit cover letter and resume today to Amy Gustin, at *amy@buildingncw.org*, or PO Box 3556, Wenatchee, WA 98807

BNCW MEMBER MESSENGER CONTENT PROVIDED BY BUILDING NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON





MARCH 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3

BNCW at a Glance

As we head into month three of the new year, we want to take this opportunity to revisit who BNCW is as an organization and what our valued members can expect from their investment in the Association.

If you wish to speak in greater detail about any aspect of your BNCW membership, you are always invited to speak with any one of the BNCW directors or staff. Simply visit us online at *www.BuildingNCW. org* for contact information! We always look forward to hearing from our members.

Mission Statement:

BNCW promotes and protects the North Central Washington building

industry for the preservation and growth of the local economy, small business, and quality of life.

Vision Statement:

BNCW envisions a community where people want to live and small businesses thrive.

Values Statement:

The following values guide BNCW's behavior in all that we do: Dedication, Accountability, Courage, Advocacy, Value, Knowledge, Professionalism, Proactive and Voice.

As a valued member of BNCW, you can expect your Association to focus on the following objectives:

• To associate organizations and individuals engaged in small business, in order to protect small business through the promotion of the principles of free enterprise.

• To be aggressively involved in local policy-making in order to support good legislation, and defend against harmful legislation that impacts small businesses.

• To ensure a fierce commitment to the accountability of local elected and non-elected officials.

• To defend private property rights and protect against further erosion caused by ever-increasing regulation of land-use. • To provide educational opportunities for both Association members, as well as the general public, in an effort to help improve the small-business climate.

• To develop and maintain strategic partnerships with other business and trade groups as a means for helping to accomplish the Association's mission.

• To market and refer our members' businesses to the public, while promoting events and networking opportunities that help to provide our members with a distinct competitive edge.



To preserve the right to lien, any contractor agreeing to perform any repair, alteration or construction of four or fewer residential or accessory structures on residential property, when the contract price totals \$1,000 or more, must provide their customer with a disclosure statement/notice to customers prior to starting work on the project.

In substance, the notice or disclosure statement covers the following points:

- Contractor's business name
- Contractor's registration number
- Contractor's bond dollar value

Expiration date of contractor's registration Additionally, the disclosure must include information that informs the customer that the contractor's bond may not be sufficient to cover the work done within the agreed upon contract, and that, the customer may withhold a contractually defined percentage of the contract amount for a stated



period of time to provide additional protection. This disclosure statement must also notice the customer that their property could be subject to a lien by either a materials supplier, or an employee or subcontractor of the prime contractor if they are not paid. The customer must also be informed that they may request lien release documents from each supplier or subcontractor on the project.

Lastly, the contractor must have the customer sign the disclosure statement and retain a copy in the contractor's files for a minimum of three years – being able to produce a signed copy of the statement to the Department of Labor & Industries upon request.

For contractors repairing, alteringor constructing a commercial building, the same requirements apply, but the contract price is at least \$1,000, but not more than \$60,000. The Department of Labor & Industries recently updated the Disclosure Statement Notice to Customer form.

BNCW members can access this new



The Right Choice for BNCW Members. Health Insurance solutions

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, LifeWise, United Healthcare, Cigna, Aetna, HealthNet, Kaiser, Assurant Health, Ambetter, 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.

NC. The instance solution that just make sense.

Iowest Why settle for one Health Insurance quote, when you can Regence choose from them all?

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

form and other related resources by logging into the members' only area of the BNCW website at *www.BuildingNCW.org*.

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to give the BNCW office a call at (509) 293-5840.

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





124 E. Penny Road, Suite 101 Wenatchee, WA 98801 www.mrandsinsurance.com 509-665-0500 • 1-800-253-1142



How can BNCW help BOTH parties involved?

For member contractorswho may already be booked out, consider recording your outgoing voicemail message to let the caller know you are fully booked and won't be able to accept additionalprojects until after a specific date. You might even consider adding to your outgoing message something like, "if my timeline doesn't match up with your needs, please consider contacting BNCW at 509-293-5840 and they can help you with contractor referrals."

SEE BNCW MEMBERSHIP MINUTE, PAGE 14

For a consumer, one of the most frustrating aspects of trying to find a contractor/tradesman to look at their project is having to leave messages and getting no return phone call. How long should they wait before moving on to the next contractor? For a contractor, the frustration comes by receiving too many messages and trying to find the time to return them. It isn't easy to return a message saying you are too busy to work with them or that the project they have is too small, too big, etc.

BNCW MEMBER MESSENGER CONTENT PROVIDED BY BUILDING NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON



MARCH 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

TOOLBOX TALKS **Tire Wear Inspection**

The condition of your tires is one of the most important mechanical factors in vehicle safety. Here are 4 ways you can improve the safety and performance of your tires:

Keep tires properly inflated.

Check them at least monthly to notice if tire pressure appears to be getting low. Incorrect tire pressure can cause uneven tire wear, poor handling, excessive heat buildup, and possible tire failure.

Check your vehicle manual for recommended tire pressures. If you have new tires installed, check their pressure.

Recommended tire pressures can vary depending on the brand of tire.

When you check tire pressure, do so the first thing in the morning for an accurate reading. Driving the car heats up

the tires and changes their pressure. Rotate tires to increase life.

Follow the rotation schedule in your car's owner's manual

Keep tires balanced 3 and aligned.

Improperly balanced tires can produce an uneven ride that can result in poor handlina.

Defective alignment can cause excessive tire wear and the vehicle to pull to the side. Replace tires when ■the tread gets too low.

What is too low? All tires have "treadwear indicators" built right into them. These indicators are molded into the bottom of the tread groves and will appear as "bands" when the tread depth reduces to the size of 1/16th of an inch.

When the indicators appear in two or more adjacent grooves, the tire should be replaced. Look in your vehicle's manual for more information. Usually, the manual will

have a picture showing what the tread wear indicators look like.

Look at your tires on a regular basis.

Have a professional check them out further if you have any doubts about their safety.

APPROACH management services



BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's March Board of Directors Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12 Managing Your Messages

The caller will appreciate you for being upfront with your timeline, as well as caring enough to provide them with a referral to a trusted organization - like BNCW - that can help them to identify a solution to their immediate need if they are unable to push off

their project. As for the consumer - all you need to do is call BNCW first and ask us to assist you in finding contractors that are able and ready to look at your project in a timely fashion. This process has proven to be a WIN for the consumer and

a WIN for the contractor. Contact BNCW at 509-293-5840 or, visit www.BuildingNCW.org to view a complete list of local, trusted professionals in your area. All BNCW members are licensed, bonded and insured companies.

Why have an Accident Prevention Program?

It's required by L & I - DOSH Rules (Division of Occupational Safety & Health)

> Safety & Health Core Rules - WAC 296-800-140



Safety Standards for Construction - WAC 296-155-110

Other standards - agriculture, logging, etc.

Wednesday, March 17, 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 theAssociation and is responsible for the business affairs of the Corporationaccording 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 March CPR & First Aid Training

■ March 16, 2021 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm Held at Building North Central Washington, 2201 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee

Due to COVID19, class size is limited to 5 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.

APP rules are nearly identical for all types of businesses. In most cases, if you are visited by a DOSH inspector, he or she will look for your APP. If the inspector finds serious hazards and no APP or major deficiencies in the APP, you could receive a citation with monetary penalty.

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

Pre-registration Required. Seats are limited to 15 and fill-up quickly, so reserve your spots early! You may also register online at BuildingNCW.org.



BNCW MEMBER MESSENGER CONTENT PROVIDED BY BUILDING NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON



- Ready Mixed Concrete
- Sand & Gravel
- Crushed Rock
- Concrete Supplies & Blocks
- 3 Locations to Serve You

We are creating a team of highly skilled people working safely to build long-term relationships with our customers and communities. Integrity, superior quality, and exceptional service will continue to be the foundation of our future."

886-1070 886-4853 Rock Island E. Wenatchee Billing: 662-6375



(509) 886-4114 Cell 670-2021

Pat Brown Lic# INDUSCI011L3

101 South Roland East Wenatchee, WA 98802

KEEPING UP WITH PEOPLE

PAGE **15**

Wenatchee Business Journal / ncwbusiness.com

Coldwell Banker Chelan, Wenatchee agents earn major awards

TOP 5%

INTERNATIONALLY

Submitted by Coldwell Banker

CHELAN/WENATCHEE - Coldwell Banker Cascade Real Estate has announced 2020 sales awards for its top-performing real estate brokers.

The firm is the leading residential real estate firm in North Central Washington by sales volume and also achieved the highest average sales price amongst all real estate brands in 2020 in the region.

The firm was recognized for 700+ closed transaction sides for over \$315M in total sales. That growth represented a 21% increase over 2019 sales volume.

Based on that growth and sales volume, Coldwell Banker recognized the Cascade Real Estate firm as an International President's Circle Office.

In total, 20 licensed brokers from Coldwell Banker Cascade Real Estate received distinguished awards from the Coldwell Banker Home Office based on sales volume by adjusted gross commission or sold housing units. That represents more than one-third of the licensed agents in the firm.

International Society of Excellence

Awarded to individual sales associates/representatives who produce a minimum of \$1,000,000 in Closed Adjusted Gross Commission Income or 160 Total Units.

The criteria for this category targets less than 1% of individuals worldwide.

Justin Skaar – Chelan

International President's Circle

Awarded to individual sales associates/representatives who produce a minimum of \$245,000 in Closed Adjusted Gross Commission Income or 35 Total Units.

The criteria for this category targets the Top 5% of individuals worldwide.

- Adam Rynd Chelan
- Anita Day Chelan •
- Dave Thomsen Winthrop ٠
- Jessie Simmons Chelan •
- Kathy Curtiss Winthrop .
- Kathy Jo Porter Chelan
- Kim Skaar Chelan
- Perrin Cornell Wenatchee

International Diamond Society

Awarded to individual sales associates/representatives who produce a minimum of \$165,000 in Closed Adjusted Gross Commission Income or 25 Total Units. The criteria for this category targets the Top 10% of individuals worldwide.

- Betsy Loomis Wenatchee
- DeAnn Compton Wenatchee •
- Debra Meehan Chelan •
- JoAnna Holland Wenatchee
- Madie Warren Chelan
- Shannon Kraft Wenatchee
- Steven Ortolf Chelan
- Tana Wood Wenatchee

EXCELLENC ЧО SOCIETY

CHELAN







KATHY JO PORTER CHELAN









JUSTIN SKAAR



ANITA DAY CHELAN

JOANNA HOLLAND

WENATCHEE

ANDRÉ PETERS

WENATCHEE

DIAMOND SOC



DAVE THOMSEN WINTHROP



PERRIN CORNELL

MADIE WARREN

CHELAN

ANNETTE JOHNSON

WENATCHEE



TOP 10%

INTERNATIONALLY

Percentages based on Coldwell Banker Real Estate Agents Worldwide!

KATHY CURTISS



DIAMOND SOCIET

DEANN COMPTON WENATCHEE



SHANNON KRAFT

WENATCHEE

CAROL ORTOLF

CHELAN

STEVEN ORTOLF CHELAN



EMILY GIBSON WINTHROF

International Sterling Society

Awarded to individual sales associates/representatives who produce a minimum of \$120,000 in Closed Adjusted Gross Commission Income or 18 Total Units.

The criteria for this category targets the Top 15% of individuals worldwide.

- Andre Peters Wenatchee
- Annette Johnson Wenatchee

Carol Ortolf - Chelan

STERLING SOCIE

Emily Gibson – Winthrop

Coldwell Banker Cascade Real Estate is located at 135 N. Mission St. Wenatchee. Coldwell Banker Lake Chelan Properties is located at 101 E. Woodin Ave in downtown Chelan, and Coldwell Banker Winthrop Realty is located at 503 Hwy-20 S. in Winthrop, Washington. To view their team of 75+ brokers, browse featured listings, and more - the firm can be found at CBCascade.com.



SOC

DIAMOND

RLING

KIM SKAAR CHELAN





WENATCHEE





TOP 15%

INTERNATIONALLY

MARCH 2021



























Wenatchee AAA welcomes Diane Caldwell, Travel **Agent/Hawaiian Islands Specialist**



AAA Washington recently hired Diane Caldwell as a Travel Agent/Hawaiian Islands Specialist at its Wenatchee location, 221 N. Mission St. Caldwell, formerly of Journey Travel & Tours, enjoys helping her clients design dream vacations - booking honeymoons, destination weddings, group and family travel - to the Caribbean, Mexico, across the ocean to Europe and seeing wonderful monuments across the United States.

Diane Caldwell

A previous resident of Maui, Caldwell brings an insider knowledge of this Hawaiian island to her clients, guiding them to the "little hidden gems" most other travelers never see or experience.

Diane can be reached at 509-665-6298 or DianeCaldwell@aaawa.com AAA Washington has been serving members and the traveling public since 1904. Courtesy photo

BUSINESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

You have to be burning with an idea, or a problem, or a wrong that you want to right. If you're not passionate enough from the start, you'll never stick it out." - Steve Jobs

Give NCW: A Hail Mary that Filled our Hearts

By Denise Sorom Director of Philanthropy at the Community Foundation of North Central Washington

It was a long shot, a gamble – a Hail Mary even - but ultimately, a huge success. Last year's Give NCW campaign was unlike any of its predecessors.

Typically, this crowdfunding campaign promotes 25 nonprofit organizations that have received grants from the Community Foundation and asks the public to donate online to increase the amount of the grant awards.

It runs from Thanksgiving through the end of the year and results have been steady: CFNCW usually puts in about \$225,000 and the community usually contributes roughly same amount

But 2020 was different. The unrestricted dollars that we normally use for Give NCW had already been committed to emergency Covid relief grants.

We knew this community had already done so much charitable giving to respond to the pandemic and feared it may be too exhausted to give more. But nonprofits still needed help, so what were we going to do?

We decided to open the flood gates: We invited any nonprofit in Chelan, Douglas or Okanogan County to par-



Denise Sorom

ticipate in Give NCW as long as they were in good standing with the IRS and had received at least one grant from us in the past.

We did not have any grant money to seed their awards; we just said "y'all come" and we will see what happens.

The result was phenomenal. Sixty nonprofits participated in the campaign representing the arts, environment, education and health and human service organizations throughout the region. Our Trustees committed \$90,000 to the campaign for matching challenges and this community stepped up as never before with an additional \$471,189.

The campaign raised a total of \$561,189 for the sixty organizations - the highest amount ever raised through Give NCW!

So while we may have thrown that Hail Mary pass, it was you - our incredibly generous community - who caught it.

Time and time again we are astounded by the generosity of the people of North Central Washington. Whether it is helping folks rebuild after wildfires, offering pandemic relief, or support for beleaguered healthcare workers, this community steps up to answer the call.

Take for example, one donor who said of the experience of making donations through Give NCW: "I always look forward to Give NCW every year. It's a great reminder, especially when things are tough, of how many wonderful people there are in our communities. I'm proud to contribute in the little ways that I can. It really is a wonderWhat is your legacy?

Provide for your family and future generations. Leave a gift to your community, forever. www.cfncw.org • (509) 663-7716

ful program." Or, another donor, "I really enjoyed watching the amounts increase for all the nonprofits. I also was amazed to see all the nonprofits out there that I had no idea existed, I probably would never have known about them if it were not for Give NCW."

Furthermore, 61% of people who participated in Give NCW said they gave more than they normally do and 38% said they gave to nonprofits that were new to them.

We have witnessed this generosity for the better part of 40 years at the Community Foundation and we realize we have something special here.

The more opportunities we offer for people to give to help their neighbors – the more they give.

We send a huge thank you out to everyone who participated in the 2020 Give NCW campaign and we invite you to discover all the ways you can be part of this community of giving at www.cfncw.org. Expect to see more "y'all come's" in the future!

*To learn more about Give 10, visit cfncw.org/give10

Craig Brown recognized as one of LPL financial's top financial advisors

Press Release

Bellingham, WA - Craig Brown, an independent LPL Financial advisor at Multi-Gen Wealth Services in Bellingham, today announced his inclusion in LPL's Director's Club.

With more than 17,000 LPL-affiliated advisors nationwide, LPL awards select advisors with this distinction based on an advisor's business success*.

"On behalf of LPL, I congratulate Craig on reaching this milestone in their professional career," said Angela Xavier, LPL executive vice president, Independent Advisor Services.





Craig Brown

independent broker/dealer**. We serve independent financial advisors and financial institutions, providing them with the technology, research, clearing and compliance services, and practice management programs they need to create and grow thriving practices. LPL enables them to provide objective guidance to millions of American families seeking wealth man-

Brewster Chamber moves ahead with 2021 event plans

Story and photo by Mike Maltais

BREWSTER - The regular February Zoom meeting of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce focused on plans for events that are still scheduled for later this year including the Fourth of July and Brewster King Salmon Derby in August.

Chamber President Mike Mauk said plans are going forward "with the knowledge that they may not happen or may need to be adjusted to comply with the restrictions set forth by the federal, state and city governments and the county health officials."

that happen."

One of their principal concerns of city businesses and a reason for joining the Chamber is their effort to keep outside vendors from



Chamber is key to having their businesses and catering during these events."

Mauk said business owners have been meeting and want to bring a combined Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day event to Brewster.

"The businesses will provide the vendors and entertainment and the Chamber has agreed to host the event with advertisements and help get sponsorship," said Mauk.

"They plan to do the same for Mexican Inde-

market and the nation's largest

"Business owners, American investors and industries at large faced extraordinary challenges throughout 2020. In the advisor-mediated financial advice market, investors showed how much value they place on a trusting relationship with a financial advisor. We applaud Craig for his commitment to clients and resiliency as a business owner, and we are inspired by his dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of his clients. It is an honor to support Craig and wish

his entire team continued success as they continue to add value for clients and in their business in the years ahead."

Craig Brown is affiliated with LPL Financial, the nation's largest independent broker-dealer** and a leader in the retail financial advice market. LPL provides the resources, tools and technology that support advisors in their work to enrich their clients' financial lives.

About LPL Financial

LPL Financial is a leader in the retail financial advice

agement, retirement planning, financial planning and asset management solutions. LPL.com.

*Achievement is based on top 30% of annual production among LPL Advisors only.

**Based on total revenues, Financial Planning magazine June 1996 - 2020.



Vice-president Manny Hurtado reported that city businesses have been meeting and are all joining the Chamber to work together to bring the town together and help our businesses during these uncertain times.

"We know that as a group we have a better chance of having our voices heard," said Mauk. "Businesses know the

Craig Brown

competing against them during the events the Chamber holds.

"They are here yearround and even in the slow times they provide their services to the community," said Mauk of city businesses.

"They do not like that others come to town for the one- or two-day events. With that being the goal, they are going to do all they can to make that happen by bringing their booths and opening

pendence Day most likely on Sept 20."

Mauk said the Salmon Derby is moving forward and looks to be the largest event in Brewster this year. Mauk said the city is coordinating with the North Central Washington Economic Development District and Economic Alliance on a \$30,000 grant that will be used to bring consultants to Brewster to offer strategies to make local businesses more acceptable to retail and visitors. The next regular Chamber Zoom

meeting is at 1 p.m., March 4.

REAL ESTATE

Page **17**

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL / NCWBUSINESS.COM

MARCH 2021

TOP PROPERTIES – December 2020

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street		City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed- rooms	Bath- rooms	Base- ment Area
TRIAD MAPLE LLC	BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATES	\$10,625,000	MAPLE	ST	WENATCHEE	32.9400	792	1930	2	I	720.0
CHELAN EXPRESS STORAGE LLC	VANS SELF STORAGE CHELAN LLC	\$3,500,000	SR 150		CHELAN	2.1400	38020	2015			0
SWEENEY JUDY CHELAN RESIDENTIAL TRUST ETAL	SWEENEY JULIA G	\$2,085,168	BOETZKES	AVE	MANSON	2.7400	3743	2009			0
BARTHELD CORY & FRIESEN LAUREN E	DELVO JONATHAN P & ANGELA L	\$1,900,000	APRIL	DR	WENATCHEE	2.3700	3080	2019	5	4	2401.5
MAY DOUGLAS L & MC CARTHY MAY CHABELLA	LYNN FRANCIS W & KATHLEEN E	\$1,590,000	LEAVENWORTH	RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.7200	2142	1996	6	5	1602.0
LYNCH BRENDON & KRISTIN	ICICLE WEDGE LLC	\$1,310,000	ICICLE	RD	LEAVENWORTH	1.0000	2136	2009	3	3	0
PRICE RANDALL E & SUZANNE M	ROCKWELL CAROLYN J ETAL	\$1,170,000	SUNCREST	DR	LEAVENWORTH	2.5100	3905	2003	4	4.5	1508.0
NIELSEN THOMAS C	COLLINS CASEY	\$1,135,000	HUGO	RD	CHELAN	5.0000	3450	1986	3	3	0
HOPKINS BRIAN & LAURIE	OISHI CHAD A & NICOLE E	\$1,055,000	LAKESHORE	RD	CHELAN	0.5500	888	1948		I	280.0
GIACOBBE ANTONIO & GAIL B	WHEELER JON D & MARGARET C	\$1,000,000	SKI HILL	DR	LEAVENWORTH	0.8000	3556	1994	4	3	0
NGUYEN DU & XU PING	DU VAL TIMOTHY A & DAGNY E	\$990,000	US HWY 2		LEAVENWORTH	0.3600	1260	1985	4	3	800.0
BAUGHER CRAIG L & PATRICIA E	CLARK CHRISTINA H	\$965,000	ICICLE	RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.7900	1350	1976	2	1.5	1350.0
LEASE KERRY & CHRISTINE	SNYDER KARL J & ABIGAIL A	\$905,000	MOUNTAIN BROOK	LN	WENATCHEE	0.7900	2902	2006	4	3.5	2165.0
RD6 PROPERTIES LLC	2035 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC ETAL	\$899,770	UNASSIGNED		WENATCHEE	0.1300	0	0			0
RD6 PROPERTIES LLC	2035 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC	\$899,770	BROWN	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1600	5288	2004			0
SALERNO JACK C & CAROL C	WILLIAMSON RANDY H & ANNETTE L	\$890,000	LAKESHORE	RD	CHELAN	0.1600	1027	1990	I	I.	572.0
SALERNO JACK C & CAROL C	WILLIAMSON RANDY H & ANNETTE L	\$890,000	LAKESHORE	RD	CHELAN	0.1600	1027	1990	Ι	I	693.0
BEIDLER KURT & CHEN FANG	HEBERT MARK A & SUSAN R	\$889,000	ALLEN	RD	PLAIN	3.4800	2616	1972	2	2	1296.0
CRIDDLE ANTHONY W & KATIE J	MORGAN H STEVE & DEBBIE	\$885,000	ICICLE	LN	LEAVENWORTH	0.5200	3360	1983	5	3	0
KYLE & FAMILY FARM LLC	MC MULLEN ORCHARD PROPERTIES LLC	\$872,000	SHERRON	LN	WENATCHEE	30.6400	0	0			0
BERRY LEGACY LLC	SEAWELL INVESTMENT GROUP LLC	\$870,000	GS CENTER	RD	WENATCHEE	0.6700	6090	1989			0
GRANDPRE JESSIE & TED	WESTFALL LINCOLN & REBECCA	\$857,000	MANSON	BLVD	MANSON	0.9500	2600	1945	3	2	720.0
NORDHOY IAN & STACY D	COOK LEE & TERI	\$790,000	RIVER	RD	PLAIN	1.4500	1288	1987	2	I	0
SIMRELL CHARLES R & DEBORAH L GILES	HILL MICHAEL P & CAROL M	\$780,000	TITUS	RD	LEAVENWORTH	1.1300	2003	1995	3	2	0
GALLANAR ANDREW & AMANDA T	MILLER BROCK A & CAROL A	\$780,000	ORCHARD VIEW	DR	CHELAN	0.2600	2268	1973	4	2.5	495.0
YOUNG SHELLEY L & SMITH WARREN C	BUNDY CHAD R & SHELLY W	\$780,000	PORCUPINE	LN	CHELAN	0.1800	1446	2015		2	0
DEVEREAUX ANAHI Y & RYAN N	HARRISON JOHN R & SHARON K	\$770,000	MALAGA ALCOA	HWY	MALAGA	1.4200	2789	2007	4	3.5	1456.0
DIML LLC	BROGAN DAVID T ETAL	\$769,500	HORSE LAKE	RD	WENATCHEE	1.1300	0	0			0
HART KYLE M & DANIELLE J	GRAY ROBERT L & BEVERLY	\$750,000	LOST SPOKE	LN	WENATCHEE	2.1900	2627	2004	3	2.5	0
THOMAS GREGORY W & AMY L	YOUNG JAMES L & SHIRLEY A	\$747,000	GOBBLERS KNOB	LN	MANSON	1.3200	1444	1994	3	2.5	1024.0
LOHOLT MICHAEL & RAMANI ARATHI	WILSON JAMES D & STEPHANIE A	\$745,000	STAYMAN FLATS	RD	CHELAN	1.0400	840	2014			0
SAUVAGE AGNES	TORKELSON BENJAMIN & STEPHANIE M	\$710,950	IOYFUL	PL	LEAVENWORTH	1.0000	1560	1979	5	1.5	1560.0
FERNANDEZ HEATHER L & TOMAS M	RIEFFLIN TIMOTHY J	\$705,000	RIVIERA	PL	CHELAN	0.1900	1797	1979	4	3	1952.0
BOARDMAN LETITIA N	BECKER HOMES LLC	\$687,700	PINEGRASS	ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.1400	2592	2020	4	2.5	0
WASHINGTON CASCADE PHARMACY LLC	ILB LLC	\$680,000	WENATCHEE	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.2500	4106	1957	•	2.5	0
BROWNLEE GEORGE W & ELIZABETH ETAL	BROWNLEE LERIN	\$634,000	ALPENSEE STRASSE		LEAVENWORTH	0.2000	1518	1977	2	1.75	1518.0
BUTLER HEATHER B	POTTER THOMAS	\$624,438	LEAVENWORTH	RD	LEAVENWORTH	0.2000	1284	1994	2	1.75	0
BUSSER STEVEN W & LYNN M	WAPITI NORTH LLC	\$619,900	STARLIGHT	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.3600	2280	2020	3	2.5	0
NIKOLAS DEANNA L & COURTNEY L BEUTLER	KELLEY CAROLYN M	\$615,000	DOGWOOD	LN	WENATCHEE	0.2000	3277	2020	5	3.5	0
COURNOYER BRETT W	PARRISH MARY H	\$615,000	HILLS	DR	WENATCHEE	0.7000	3312	1980	5	4	956.0
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO I	SCHMITTEN ORCHARDS INC	\$613,000	WHITEFISH	DR	CASHMERE	7.1100	0	0	,	7	0
MONNAHAN AMANDA M & JAY M	DISETH RICHARD A & LINDA M	\$603,000	SUNBURST	ST	WENATCHEE	0.2300	3022	1993	3	2.5	0
MANSON FIREHOUSE LLC	J W PEDERSEN INC	\$600,000	WAPATO	WAY	MANSON	0.2300	2916	1993)	2.5	0
KYLE & FAMILY FARM LLC	MC MULLEN ORCHARD PROPERTIES LLC		STEMILT HILL	RD	WENATCHEE	10.0000	2886	1950			
KYLE & FAMILY FARM LLC	MC MULLEN ORCHARD PROPERTIES LLC	\$597,880 \$597,880	STEMILT HILL		WENATCHEE	10.0000	2886	1977			0
		. ,		RD					2		0
KYLE & FAMILY FARM LLC	MC MULLEN ORCHARD PROPERTIES LLC	\$597,880	STEMILT HILL	RD	WENATCHEE	6.8200	1072	1907	2	2 [0
TORNABENE JOSEPH A & DEBORAH J	NOYD BRIAN E & CYNTHIA E	\$580,000	SKYLINE	DR	WENATCHEE	0.3100	2292	1965	6	3.5	2292.0
GUEMPEL JOHN & TERRINA	MASON DENNIS J & DEBORAH J	\$580,000	IST	ST	CHELAN	0.1400	1926	2020			0
CLENNON BARTON H & SHEILA	BERRY KAREN SUE REMLEY	\$567,500	DANA	ST	WENATCHEE	0.2500	1883	1970	3	1.75	1084.0
EMBERNATE STEPHANIE & RANDY	KINZEBACH GARY & WILDA	\$563,000	LOWER MONITOR	RD	MONITOR	1.0200	1536	1977	3	1.5	1536.0
ZAHN JON & PEGGY	CRAIG BRENT W	\$555,000	HEATHER	LN	WENATCHEE	0.3100	3530	1981	4	4	0
ZAHN JON & PEGGY	CRAIG BRENT & VOIE MICHELLE	\$555,000	STONEYBROOK	LN	WENATCHEE	0.4600	0	0			0

TOP PROPERTIES – December 2020 - SEE PAGE 18

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street		City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed- rooms	Bath- rooms	Base men Area
BUSHY MICHAEL D & LINDA C	WEBBER EMORY C	\$550,000	YAKSUM CANYON	RD	CASHMERE	6.1400	1824	1979	5	2.5	1512.
KRAEV ALEXANDER & CLEMENT CHRISTINA	NELSON GEORGE B	\$546,000	IST	ST	WENATCHEE	0.2500	2629	1982	3	2	0
SLONE JUSTIN & RACHEL	LCVH LLC	\$535,000	GREEN	AVE	MANSON	0.2500	1008	2009	3	2.5	784
KIM KIL D & GRACE H ETAL	D & T CAMPBELL INVESTMENTS LLC	\$527,205	PIPPIN	LN	MANSON	0.2400	2261	2020	3	3	0
GBI HOLDING CO	PACIFIC RIM LAND INC	\$511,000	WENATCHEE	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.0900	0	1929			0
BAGLEY LUCAS L & CHRISTIE D	STRONG RUSSELL A & OLGA	\$510,000	WOHLERS	RD	CASHMERE	0.5500	1681	1965	2	2	980
COURTRIGHT ZACHARY J & SARAH R	LAUGHLIN CLYDE A	\$500,000	COLOCKUM	RD	MALAGA	23.4000	1302	1940	2	I	0
AMEEN FAMILY 2020 TRUST	THRESHER MICHAEL A	\$500,000	RIVER	ST	CASHMERE	0.3200	2834	2002	4	2	432
VALDES LETICIA A & ALONSO BENEGAS	MOLINA RONALD D & MARY L	\$500,000	GOLF COURSE	RD	CHELAN	0.5500	1368	1987	3	2.5	0
KING BRADLEY L & STACY B	OUILLETTE JAMES E ESTATE	\$500,000	MANSON	BLVD	MANSON	9.4200	0	0			0
SMITH RONALD L & KNOBEL MARSHA	BERRY NATHAN J & TORRIE	\$500,000	COBB	СТ	MALAGA	0.3700	2134	2018	3	2.5	0
COURTRIGHT ZACHARY J & SARAH R	LAUGHLIN CLYDE A	\$500,000	UNASSIGNED		MALAGA	18.3000	0	0			0
GDSS CHELAN LLC	MC GOVERN LLC	\$490,000	WOODIN	AVE	CHELAN	0.0400	2088	1923			C
HANSEN NICOLE & SHAWN	A HOME DOCTOR INC	\$489,500	MARGAUX	LOOP	MALAGA	0.3100	1848	2020	3	2	(
PASCHKE DEVIN P & LAUREL A JACKSON	MURAUSKAS JOSHUA G & MOLLIE B	\$485,000	PITCHER CANYON	RD	WENATCHEE	5.0000	1408	1981	3	2.75	140
AGOSTINELLI BRANDON	PVR PROPERTIES LLC	\$465,000	WOODIN	AVE	CHELAN	0.3200	2508	2007			(
ATKINSON CHARLES E & CARLEE	MC GAHUEY DONALD L & LINDA D	\$460,000	4TH	ST	WENATCHEE	0.2100	1656	1968	3	1.5	52
DRURY TIMOTHY A & NICKOLINE M ETAL	SKILLMAN LYLE L & MEGAN M	\$460,000	SHETLAND	RD	PLAIN	0.3100	0	0			(
KELLEY CAROLYN M	SHERWOOD JERRY R & JO ANNE	\$455,000	LARS	LN	WENATCHEE	0.2500	1842	2005	3	2	(
CRAIG BRENT W	FILES DONALD & KATHLEEN	\$455,000	4TH	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1800	1416	1968	5	2.25	69
WILLIAMS GARTH E	HARDING KELSEY & RICARDO CHAVEZ	\$455,000	SUMMERSET	PL	MANSON	0.2500	1404	1997	3	2	C
MC CART RANDY L & KAREN L	HAAG CODY R & MIHKAELA K	\$455,000	LUTHER	CT	MALAGA	0.4300	1630	2018	3	2	(
COWEN JEFF & STACY	TINGELSTAD LARRY D	\$450,000	SUNRISE	CIR	WENATCHEE	0.6200	2255	1972	3	2	C
HIPPE LINDSEY R & SCOTT R	BARKER JEFF D & CINDY L	\$450,000	RAYMOND	ST	CHELAN	0.1600	1640	2006	3	2	(
LANUZA ALEJANDRO & MARIA C	LUEBECK TERRY K & LINDA	\$450,000	LOCUST	LN	CASHMERE	0.3400	2145	2011	3	2	C
BEATTY BRUCE & BETH	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$440,750	GOLF COURSE	DR	CHELAN	0.2000	0	0			0
ANDERSON JOSEPH W	FORSBERG JEREMY W & RONDA J	\$440,000	CRAIG	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.1700	2497	2017	4	2.5	C
BLACKBOURN RYAN J & HANNAH L	ELLERTSON MARK & KAREN	\$436,000	ALPENHOF	LN	LEAVENWORTH	4.1700	0	0			(
GARCIA MARCO A & SILVIA GARCIA MENDOZA	COCKRUM MICHAEL E	\$430,000	SQUILCHUCK	RD	WENATCHEE	2.7000	1756	1982	3	1.75	(
KMO HOLDINGS LLC	MC MULLEN ORCHARD PROPERTIES LLC	\$427,500	UNASSIGNED		MALAGA	13.0000	0	0			(
BOON DANNY M & STACEY L	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$425,475	GOLF COURSE	DR	CHELAN	0.2700	0	0			(
SMITH CONSTANCE J LIVING TRUST	BECKER HOMES LLC	\$425,000	BROWN	RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.9000	2133	1986			(
RUFF NICHOLAS G & NATASHA C	RENDERFRANCE SAUL H ETAL	\$420,000	MILLER	ST	WENATCHEE	0.3300	1900	1978	4	2.75	190
EASTERN WA CONSTRUCTION INC	FLATWATER IV LLC	\$419,000	SANDERS	ST	CHELAN	0.1000	2000	1976			(
MINER CENCI R	HILL STEVEN C & SHERYL A TRUSTEE'S	\$414,000	MISSION CREEK	RD	CASHMERE	5.5900	1180	2001	3	2	(
WHITWORTH BRITTON & ASHLEIGH	GLENN CHARLES & MARCIE	\$410,000	LAKESHORE	RD	CHELAN	0.2500	576	2012	2	1	0



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Grant County places 10th

Chelan County in top five of state with individual federal tax debt

Submitted by SmartAsset

money was owed per taxpayer in each where people owed the most taxes in U.S. county. The places with the largest Washington. Additional information on the study, including the methodology and interactive map, can be found here: smartasset.com/ taxes/tax-return-calculator#Washington/taxOwed.



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A new study by SmartAsset finds the places in Washington where people owe the most in taxes. This study analyzed IRS data to determine how much

tax amount owed were the places that ranked highest in the study. Check out the table below for a look at the places

Rank	County	Number of Taxpayers that Receive Refunds	ταλ Απισυπτ	Number of Taxpayers that Owe Taxes	Average Tax Amount Owed	Taxes Owed Index
1	King, WA	759,410	\$3,198	300,770	\$8,861	26.62
2	San Juan, WA	5,050	\$3,021	3,000	\$8,074	23.77
3	Skamania, WA	3,670	\$2,676	1,210	\$7,265	20.84
4	Chelan, WA	28,200	\$2,827	8,310	\$6,821	19.23
5	Kittitas, WA	14,630	\$2,637	4,280	\$6,514	18.11
6	Klickitat, WA	7,330	\$2,765	2,460	\$5,850	15.70
7	Skagit, WA	44,040	\$2,855	13,420	\$5,722	15.24
8	Kitsap, WA	95,380	\$2,808	28,140	\$5,711	15.20
9	Clark, WA	166,750	\$2,875	54,800	\$5,691	15.13
10	Grant, WA	33,420	\$2,942	6,960	\$5,607	14.83

	TOP PROPE	RTIES	5 – Janu	ary	2021					
Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street		City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bedroom	s Bathroo
CHELAN SECOND STREET LLC	EIDER PROPERTIES LLC	\$3,300,000	2ND	ST	CHELAN	0.5300	11280	2020		
WA JOLLA LLC	EVERGREEN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC	\$3,150,000	LAVENDER	CT	WENATCHEE	1.3000	10296	1948		
SIENNA 41 LLC	MC KITTRICK PLACE LLC	\$2,860,000	SIENNA	RD	WENATCHEE	0.1500	0	0		
HMJD-COLLINS LLC	GROVER COLLINS ORCHARD INC	\$2,155,500	APPLE ACRES	RD	CHELAN	11.3100	0	0		
HMJD-COLLINS LLC	GROVER COLLINS ORCHARD INC	\$2,155,500	HUGO	RD	CHELAN	45.7100	4456	2007	2	I
MIKEDUKE LLC	GLACIER BANK	\$1,100,000	WOODIN	AVE	CHELAN	0.0400	1478	1983		
CBWP LLC	OLSON PETE	\$1,050,000	MISSION	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1400	5900	1940		
NIMS CREON R & BONNIE S	DICK MICHAEL & DONNA	\$875,000	SLEEPY HOLLOW	HTS	WENATCHEE	3.7000	2805	1992	4	3
CONNER PAUL O	TRIPLE R CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$875,000	JOSHUA	LN	WENATCHEE	0.8400	3329	2018	4	3.5
HAYNES SHAWN E & MARY E	DINWIDDIE RANDALL R	\$850,000	SILVER BAY	RD	STEHEKIN	0.3600	576	1986	I	1
TURNER IAN A B & CORY	FUNK KARLYNN	\$759,900	MOUNTAIN BROOK	LN	WENATCHEE	0.5300	1655	2007	4	3
COWAN ANDREW & RENAE	LUKACS SHARON L	\$750,000	WAPATO	AVE	CHELAN	0.1900	3312	1990	5	4.25
EMNEINA AHMAD S & OSMAN NEHAL	RICHARDS GREGGORY G & FAITH E		METHOW	ST	WENATCHEE	2.6400	2038	2008	4	3
		\$699,900							4	
GINGERICH ANDREW & TAMARA	LOUNSBURY MARK & VIVIANNE	\$692,000	PITCHER CANYON	RD	WENATCHEE	6.8200	3088	1978		2
FITZGERALD IAN M & SARAH X	IRLAND STEVEN G & JEANNE M	\$686,000	LAURIE	DR	WENATCHEE	0.5200	2844	2008	4	4
MOORE CHRISTOPHER M ETAL	BOWEN CHRISTOPHER J & EMILY K	\$685,830	SADDLE	ST	PLAIN	0.2600	1656	1969	4	I
HOLMAN PETER B & MARIA E	NELSON GARY R & MARGA H	\$675,000	WESTERN	AVE	WENATCHEE	1.0600	2496	1991	3	2.25
RYLAARSDAM DARRIN J & NERY R	SADLER STAN R & KATHY	\$665,000	KNOWLES	RD	WENATCHEE	1.0000	2486	1994	5	3.5
PARKER ZACHARY	HENKE TERRY T	\$649,900	WARM SPRINGS	DR	WENATCHEE	0.4100	2024	2005	4	4
WALKER YVONNE J & NICHOLAS L	PUGET SOUND QUALITY CONSTRUCTION INC	\$640,000	CLOUDLESS	DR	MANSON	0.2800	0	0		
ATKINSON PATRICIA K ETAL	CANTIBEROS KRISTIN & MICHAEL	\$630,000	COTTONWOOD	LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.7800	1705	1979	3	2
T8 DEVELOPMENT LLC ETAL	EIDER CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$625,000	UNASSIGNED		CASHMERE	6.0000	0	0		
CAHILL DEBORAH L & PAGE GUY S	BARATTA JUDITH AP & PEMBERTON THOMAS C	\$625,000	BRAMBLING BRAE	LN	WENATCHEE	0.2100	2128	2018	3	2
CLARK CHRISTINA H	CLAYTON LAURIE R	\$595,000	COOPERS HAWK	LN	LEAVENWORTH	5.0400	0	0		
CHURCHILL GARRETT B & JENAE N	EDMONSON STEVE S & TARRI L	\$585,000	RED HILL	RD	ARDENVOIR	5.0000	1837	2015	3	2
ENDURANCE INVESTMENTS LLC	SCHAB SCOTT	\$575,000	UNASSIGNED		CHELAN	20.0000	0	0		
CORNWELL CHERYL J	GALLUP BRIAN R & DENISE M	\$545,000	CANYON RANCH	RD	MANSON	24.4100	2012	2005	3	2.5
FURNISS TUCKER & GERMAIN SARA ETAL	FREE HAZEN L	\$544,000	EVERGREEN	DR	CASHMERE	0.2000	1240	1940	3	I
BECHTEL MARC-ANDRE & MALIA GREENING	PUTNUM PROPERTIES LLC	\$540,000	WHITMAN	ST	LEAVENWORTH	0.1400	1996	1988	2	2
LINTERMAN WILLIAM H & MARILYN G	BURRIS WANDA S TRUSTEE	\$535,000	DANA	ST	WENATCHEE	0.3200	1611	1988	3	2
BURNETT GAVIN M ETAL	LOPEMAN PHILLIP L & LINDA D	\$525,000	US HWY 97A		ENTIAT	0.1600	768	1974		2
EVENSON OLE GENERATION SKIPPING TRUST	MULVAHILL TODD & KELLY	\$520,000	LUPINE	DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.2100	1656	2000	3	2
M&D LAKEFRONT LLC	VINSON BRAD F & JODY	\$519,000	UNASSIGNED	51	CHELAN	1.3900	0	0		-
HUYNH VIETNAM L & WALKER HOLLY R	OLSEN STEVEN E	\$517,000	EVERGREEN	ST	CHELAN	0.3400	1909	1904	3	2
									J	L
SAGE HILLS PROPERTY LLC	STIRLING BOB & JULIE	\$500,000	WORTHEN	ST	WENATCHEE	0.8600	4096	1953	4	2.5
ELDER MARTI	HANSON KEVIN & KING CASEY	\$500,000	ORCHARD	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.2500	2544	1977	4	3.5
MILL BAY MARINE & STORAGE LLC	ARRIZA JACQUIE	\$495,000	TOTEM POLE	RD	MANSON	9.5400	1440	1989	4	4
MULTICARE MEDICAL SERVICES LLC	MT STUART PROPERTY MGMT LLC	\$490,000	CHUMSTICK	HWY	LEAVENWORTH	0.0000	1089	2006		
GORE PAMELA & MICHAEL	MORENO GERARDO L	\$482,000	SASKA	WAY	ENTIAT	0.2600	1584	2018	5	2.5
MORRIS MATTHEW	DUNN TIMOTHY S & BARBARA S	\$479,000	DELAWARE	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.3000	2524	1906	4	3
YORK ROBERT ETAL	ALEJO JOSE L & MARIA G	\$475,000	WASHINGTON	ST	MANSON	2.0100	1224	1989	3	2
B & G VENTURES LLC	BUCHANAN KIM L & CAROL J	\$475,000	MISSION	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1900	2596	1921		
ROSSER DOUGLAS L & TOMMA L	HULLIGAN DAVID M & SHIRLEY M	\$470,000	PINE FLATS LOOP	RD	DRYDEN	0.3700	1660	1969	3	I
ALLAN LESLEY ETAL	STEPHENS S KELLY	\$450,000	LAKESHORE	RD	CHELAN	1.7600	668	0		
CHANG EDWIN Y & LEE GRACE H	TIDBALL STEVEN E & KAREN M JTRS	\$450,000	MEMORY	LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.2500	926	1976		I
CHIAPPONE JOHN ETAL	HARGROVE SCOTT D & LESLIE A	\$445,000	HIGHLAND	AVE	CHELAN	0.2000	1722	2005	4	2
ACOSTA LUIS A & MALLORY	HOFFMAN CHRISTOPHER J & JENNIFER A	\$439,000	STIRRUP	RD	PLAIN	0.3000	832	1987	2	I
PULLIAM MICHAEL & JULIANNA	HOLMAN PETER B & MARIA E	\$430,000	CUMBO	CT	WENATCHEE	0.3200	2130	1997	3	1.75
GAHRINGER WILLIAM & WHITNEY	SNYDER STEFAN & KIRSTEN M CHISSUS	\$419,900	GEHR	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1600	2200	2006	5	2.5
GRAFFIS CARRIE & DANIEL	A HOME DOCTOR INC	\$417,000	MARGAUX	LOOP	MALAGA	0.3500	1566	2020	-	
CHELAN HQ LLC	SWEENEY ROBERT E & KAREN M	\$415,000	IOHNSON	AVE	CHELAN	0.2100	2880	1987		
CAREY KYLE G & KAROLYN U			•						4	1
CAREL VILL V & NARVLIN V	BECKWITH BARROS JORDANNE V	\$415,000	RAMONA	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.1300	1188	1952	4	2
		# 410 000	HANCEL	L M	DECHACTIN	0 4 4 0 0			`	
RIGAZIO ANDREW D ETAL KELLEY JEREMY & MELISSA	MUSSER NICHOLAS & ERIN FORD JOHN JR & WYNELL	\$410,000 \$405,000	HANSEL	LN CT	PESHASTIN MALAGA	0.4400 0.4600	1348 0	1985 0	2	I

Okanogan County Labor Area Summary – December 2020

Overview

This report provides an update on the Okanogan County economy incorporating not seasonally adjusted,

nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-overyear (between December 2019 and December 2020) and

average annual (between 2019 and 2020) changes in the labor market. **Unemployment rates**

Preliminary Civilian

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Okanogan County, January 2018 through December 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



The Okanogan County unemployment rate stabilized at 8.0 percent in the Decembers of 2019 and 2020.

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2019 and 2020, preliminary estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 160,900 fewer nonfarm jobs, an annual average decrease of 4.6 percent.

In December 2020, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,318,500 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,507,500 in December 2019, a substantial loss of 189,000 jobs and a 5.4-percent downturn.

For the past five months (August through December 2020) Washington's nonfarm job loss-rates have shown little improvement and, in fact, have "plateaued" in the minus-five-percent range during this timeframe.

Okanogan County's total

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) expanded by 18,131 residents (a modest 0.5-percent upturn) from 2019 to 2020, with most of this upturn occurring in the first half of 2020. The State's labor force had a noticeably slow finish to 2020, retrenching year-over-year by a minus-3.3 percent in November 2020 and by minus-2.4 percent in December 2020.

nonfarm labor market averaged 12,000 jobs in 2020, an average annual decrease of 5.6 percent and a net loss of 710 jobs from the 12,710-job average in 2019.

Year over year the local economy lost jobs, due to COVID-19 related layoffs, in each of the last nine months (April through December) of 2020.

Between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020, total nonfarm employment declined from 12,530 jobs to 12,020; a loss of 510 jobs and a 4.1-percent downturn.

Nonfarm industry employment Okanogan County, January 2017 through December 2020 Source: Employment Security Department/Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA); U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES)



since December 2019.

cember 2020) and between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020 the CLF dwindled by 1.2 percent (from 19,101 residents to 18,873). Fortunately, the number of unemployed residents decreased from 1,537 in December 2019 to 1.510 this past December, a 1.8 percent downturn. Hence, the shrinking labor force precisely countered this decline in the number of unemployed and the County's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stabilized at 8.0 percent between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020.

County's nonfarm employers lost 510 jobs between December 2019 and December 2020, a 4.1-percent downturn. Washington's nonfarm market shrank by 5.4 percent during this period. Following is a summary of changes in several major Okanogan County industries between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020:

construction). In December of 2019 there were 570 construction jobs in Okanogan County; which equates to a respectable 60-job and 10.5percent upturn. Statewide, construction employment retrenched by 14.7 percent in April 2020 with

Labor Force (CLF) data ►► loss-rates decelerating show that Washington's through September 2020. not seasonally adjusted But, employment in this inaverage annual unemploydustry then rebounded modestly, posting year-over-year ment rate increased from 4.3 percent in 2019 to 8.3 gains in each of the last three percent in 2020. Between months of calendar year 2020. the Decembers of 2019 and ◆ Year over year, em-2020 the rate escalated by ployment in Okanogan County's retail trade industhree and two-tenths pertry contracted from March centage points, from 4.0 to 7.2 percent. through November 2020 Okanogan County's not before a 4.4-percent upturn seasonally adjusted unemin December 2020. Preliminary estimates indicate that ployment rate increased this sector netted 50 fewer two and six-tenths percentjobs in 2020 (1,790 jobs) than age points between 2019 and 2020, from 6.8 to 9.4 in 2019 (1,840 jobs), a 2.7-

percent. Year over year, COVID-19 related layoffs pushed local rates upwards from April through November 2020. However, the unemployment rate in Okanogan County stabilized at 8.0 percent between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020, a small step in the right direction for the local economy.

percen downturn. Statewide, retail trade employment decreased from April through August 2020 before increasing from September through December 2020. When comparing the number of jobs in Washington state's retail sector in December 2020 versus in December 2019, it's observed that employment rose at building material and garden supply stores, food and beverage stores, general merchandise stores, and at other retail trade establishments (i.e., internet shopping). Hiring in these subsectors countered layoffs amongst Washington's motor vehicle and parts dealers, furniture and home furnishing stores, health and personal care stores, and especially at clothing and accessories stores. The result: a 1.5-percent upturn (up 6,200 jobs) in retail trade employment across Washington state between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020. Agricultural

tistics' 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 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 Okanogan County:

 Total covered employment decreased from 17,659 in 2009 to 16,794 in 2019, an 865-job and 4.9-percent downturn, with annualized employment growth between 2009 and 2019 of minus-0.5 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 5,652 in 2009 to 4,392 in 2019, a 1,260-job and 22.3-percent downtrend, with annualized employment growth between 2009 and 2019 of minus-2.5 percent. In 2009 Okanogan County's agricultural industry accounted for 32.0 percent of total covered employment. In 2019 agricultural employment accounted for just 26.2 percent of total covered employment countywide.

◆ Total covered wages rose from \$457.3 million (in 2009) to \$594.0 million (in 2019) a \$136.6-million and 29.9-percent upturn, with annualized wage growth between 2009 and 2019 of 2.6 percent.

The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$94.9 million in 2009 to \$105.9 million in 2019, an \$11.1million and 11.7-percent uptrend, with annualized wage growth between 2009 and 2019 of a modest 1.1 percent.

employment In 2009 Okanogan Coun-The Bureau of Labor Staty's agricultural industry accounted for 20.7 percent of total covered wages. In 2019 agricultural wages accounted for 17.8 percent of total covered payroll countywide. Hence, the share of agricultural wages declined by 2.9 percentage points (from 20.7 to 17.8 percent) in Okanogan County from 2009 through 2019. One could generalize that in relative terms, within this most recent ten-year timeframe, the agricultural industry has become less "influential" in Okanogan County's economy in terms of employment and payroll. trends in major industries

Okanogan County's CLF drove downward by 7.9 percent in 2020. Year over year, the County's labor force has been shrinking for 22 consecutive months (March 2019 through De-

Nonfarm industry employment

Preliminary estimates indicate that Okanogan

 Estimates indicate that, year over year, Okanogan County's construction industry has expanded for past five months (August through December 2020). In December 2020 there were approximately 630 mining, logging, and construction jobs countywide (with most of these jobs in

New contractors Chelan-Douglas February 2020

Name	Address	City
CENTRAL WASHINGTON ROOTER LLC	1129 COLUMBINE ST	WENATCHEE
CENTRAL WA STEELWORKS LLC	PO BOX 895	WATERVILLE
ELEMENTAL EARTHWORKS	1018 DAKOTA ST	WENATCHEE
HENRI SERVICES	PO BOX 397	LEAVENWORTH
HOUSE ON ROCK CONSTRUCTION LLC	1905 PENSIONE PL	WENATCHEE
J.S. BUILDERS LLC	417 NORMAN AVE	CASHMERE
RMC CONSTRUCTION LLC	6011 SUNSET HWY	CASHMERE
RUIZ DRYWALL LLC BY ANTONIO	319 PENNSYLVANIA AVE	WENATCHEE



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

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL / NCWBUSINESS.COM

PINIONS

Removing the Snake River dams is another bad decision



Declining salmon runs, just like global warming/ climate change is just another misunderstood problem that could be solved without removing any dams or spending small fortunes employing lawyers and environmentalists that do not understand the problem.

Page **21**

Even if the dams are removed salmon runs will continue to decline. Why? Because the biggest problem comes from overfishing off the coasts of North America and British Columbia.

Native Americans un-

Managing your money



fortunately are part of the problem here.

Before you start calling me a racist we need to examine current fishing practices.

Runs were plentiful before modern fishing techniques, that is, fishing trawlers were employed



by commercial fishermen many of which are Native American.

Go salmon fishing off the coast today and you are liable to get run over by trawlers sweeping nearly everything in their path into their holds. You want to test the theory? Put a fishing ban off the coast for five years. Pay the fishermen, including the Native Americans, to park their boats. We have paid farmers not to grow wheat and other crops why not pay fishermen not to fish.

British Columbia tried a partial ban in the early 90's and quickly saw a huge surge in salmon runs.

I appreciate the Native American culture that wants to protect the salmon, but if we don't get a better handle on over fishing salmon will become extinct and the dams will have to be rebuilt in order to recreate clean energy, reduce flooding and provide a way for farmers to get their grain to market.

MARCH 2021

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Emotional Investing and Social Media

(NAPSI) – When it comes to gathering information to make an investment decision, investors have access to a variety of online information sources, from investment platforms to news and social media. No matter where you get your trading insights, know this: Where there is opportunity, there is also risk.

Stock markets go up and they go down – and the steeper the rise or the fall, the easier it can be to derail a long-term strategy with a snap, emotionally driven decision.

Fortunately, you can use these tips to keep emotions in check.

Be mindful. Mindfulness can be helpful, even with investing. Before you make an investment decision, ask yourself whether an investment aligns with your financial goals. Small-dollar

around a security might turn into big gains, but they can just as easily turn into big losses.

2. Mitigate your risk. Make sure your investment decision involves a level of risk you, not necessarily others, are comfortable with. Some people have the means to take risky bets, but many do not. Short-term trading in a volatile market carries significant risk of loss. Above all, if you seek short-term returns, don't sacrifice money you cannot afford to lose. Remember that diversification - spreading out your investments both across and within different asset classes - can help you manage your risk.

3 Consider your 3 Source. Some companies offer tools that analyze or aggregate information from social media sources to help investors make investment decisions. sented, this social sentiment information – particularly real-time discussion platforms and buy/sell indicators driven by social sentiment – can lead to impulsive investment decisions, which can be a risky way to approach investing.

4. Some investors believe they can maximize investment returns by taking early withdrawals from retirement accounts or borrowing against their homes. Be aware that leveraging long-term assets for short-term gains can have significant consequences – from fees and taxes to risk of loss and more.

5. Understand the **5**. costs and risks of margin investing. Trading in a margin account – an account which lets you borrow money to purchase securities – also involves risk and you can lose more in a margin account. Your firm can force the sale of securities in your accounts to meet a margin call, sell your securities without contacting you and increase its margin requirements at any time without providing you with advance notice.

6. Get the basics on trading. Options are contracts that give the purchaser the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a security at a fixed price within a specific period of time. Options can help investors manage risk or increase buying power. But buying and selling options also involves risk, and it is possible to lose money.

7. Know the rules **7.** if you are day trading. Are you actively trading stocks? If so, it's important to know what it means to be a "pattern day trader" because there are School districts answer Sen. Hawkins: flipping break calendar, maybe... not

Hawkins acknowledges that a mid-year school calendar change is not without its challenges, including gaining support from unions and local bargaining groups. The Legislature just approved House Bill 1368, which allocates \$2.2 million in COVID relief, including over \$700 million for K-12 education assistance.

"Districts can utilize some of those dollars or savings from other areas of their operations during the pandemic to negotiate a one-time fix for the summer schedule," said Hawkins.

"We definitely can't have the teachers union or some districts resisting the reopening of schools because they are so fundamental to our communities and families. We all need to work together to make sure all students receive the education they deserve. I'm proposing another option to help do need to figure out something. Our students and families deserve it."

Also responding to an NCW Media request for comment was Lake Chelan School District Superintendent Barry DePaoli who said, "While I applaud Senator Hawkins for his innovative thinking, I can't say I support his current proposal of flipping spring break with summer break."

DePaoli continued, "Such a proposal would cause financial hardship to our students and families regarding summer employment and would also impact our business community.

"Many of our students rely on their summer jobs to be able to afford college and in some cases to help their families with expenses.Given that our businesses and ag sector rely heavily on our students to make up their workforce.

investments based on hype Depending on how it is pre- money than you deposit



requirements associated with this kind of trading.

To protect investors and ensure the market's integrity, FINRA, a governmentauthorized not-for-profit organization that oversees U.S. broker-dealers, works every day to ensure that everyone can participate in the market with confidence. If you are aware of unfair practices or specific instances of abusive or prohibited conduct, FINRA wants to know about it immediately.

For further information on protecting your money or to file a tip or complaint, visit www.FINRA.org/LearnMore. this," added Hawkins. Hawkins concluded, "We they too would be impacted," he concluded.



"Denim doesn't seem very businesslike, so on Casual Fridays I wear sticky notes!"

Grant County Labor Area Summary – December 2020

Overview

This report provides an update on the Grant County economy incorpo-

rating not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted

Grant County, January 2018 through December 2020 Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



The Grant County unemployment rate decreased by one percentage point between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2019 and 2020, preliminary estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 160,900 fewer nonfarm jobs, an annual average decrease of 4.6 percent. In December 2020, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,318,500 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,507,500 in December 2019, a substantial loss of 189,000 jobs and a 5.4-percent downturn. For the past five months (August through December 2020) Washington's nonfarm job loss-rates have shown little improvement and, in fact, have "plateaued" in the minus-five-percent range during this timeframe.

Preliminary estimates indicate that between 2019 and 2020 Grant County's economy provided 20 new nonfarm jobs, a marginal average annual increase of 0.1 percent. However, this modest employment upturn was considerably more robust than the minus-4.6-percent downturn

Nonfarm industry employment

which occurred statewide last year. Year over year, monthly nonfarm employment has been expanding in Grant County for the past five months (August through

on year-over-year (between

December 2019 and De-

cember 2020) and average

annual (between 2019 and

December 2020). Between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020 employment in Grant County rose 3.2 percent, from 30,120 jobs to 31,070 - a gain of 950 iobs

2020) changes in the labor

Unemployment rates

Labor Force (CLF) data

show that Washington's not

seasonally adjusted average

annual unemployment rate

increased from 4.3 percent

in 2019 to 8.3 percent in 2020.

Between the Decembers of

2019 and 2020 the rate es-

calated by three and two-

tenths percentage points,

In Grant County, the

average annual unemploy-

ment rate rose from 6.9 percent in 2019 to 8.8 percent

in 2020. Year over year,

COVID-19 related layoffs

pushed monthly rates

upwards from April through

November 2020. However,

the local rate decreased by

one full percentage point,

from 8.9 percent in Decem-

ber 2019 to 7.9 percent in

December 2020.

from 4.0 to 7.2 percent.

Civilian

Preliminary

market.

Nonfarm industry employment Grant County, January 2017 through December 2020 Source: Employment Security Department/Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA); U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES)



ubturn since December 2019.

Employment and unemployment

Civilian Washington's Labor Force (CLF) expanded by 18,131 residents (a modest 0.5-percent upturn) from 2019 to 2020, with most of this

upturn occurring in the first half of 2020. The State's labor force had a noticeably slow finish to 2020, retrenching year-over-year by a minus-3.3 percent in November 2020 and by minus-2.4 percent in

December 2020. Grant County's CLF expanded by 674 residents (a 1.4 percent increase) from 2019 to 2020; the only county in the five-county North Central WA Workforce Development Area (WDA) to do so in 2020. Preliminary estimates indicate that the number of residents in the labor force advanced from 44,287 in December 2019 to 49,899 in December 2020, equating to 5,612 more Grant County residents in the CLF (up 12.7 percent) while the number of unemployed residents edged upwards by eleven (up 0.3 percent). Hence, Grant County's unemployment rate declined from 8.9 percent in December 2019 to 7.9 percent in December 2020.

>> more jobs in December 2020 than in December 2019, a 3.2-percent upturn, while Washington's nonfarm market shrank by 5.4 percent during this period. The following paragraphs highlight changes in several local industries between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020:

◆ Year over year employment in Grant County's construction industry has increased in each of the past 13 months (December 2019 through December 2020). Preliminary average annual employment estimates indicate that the growth in this Grant County industry during 2020 was phenomenally good. Construction employers averaged 390 new jobs in 2020, a 26.4-percent increase - more robust than any other major Grant County industry. This past December, local construction contractors tallied 1,980 jobs, a 480-job and 32.0-percent upturn since December 2019. Statewide, construction employment expanded for 97 months (from March 2012 through March 2020) before plummeting by 14.7 percent in April 2020 but with loss-rates decelerating to minus-1.7 percent in September. Then, construction employment rebounded modestly in each month during the 4th Quarter of 2020.

 Manufacturing employment in Grant County had contracted, year over year, for 31 months (from January 2018 through July 2020) before posting gains for the past five months (August through December 2020). The number of manufacturing jobs in Grant County increased from 4,220 in December 2019 to 4,690 this December, a gain of 470 jobs and an 11.1-percent upturn. All the "strength" in these manufacturing numbers occurred in nondurable goods manufacturing (primarily in Grant County's food processing sector). Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates indicate that the County's non-durable goods manufacturers have been increasing the number of employees on their payrolls from July through December 2020. Conversely. Washington's nondurable goods manufacturers have been shedding jobs, year over year, since March 2020 (the past ten months). Agricultural employment

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. 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 countywide. 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 tenyear 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.

BUSINESS TERM OF THE MONTH



Matrix management is commonly used in organizations if they have a need to share resources across functions (i.e, different departments). In a matrix management system, an individ-



ual has a primary report-to boss and also works for one or more managers, most typically on projects.

Nonfarm industry employment

Estimates indicate that Grant County's nonfarm employers provided 950



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

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

Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary – December 2020

Overview

This report provides an update on the Wenatchee MSA economy incorporating not seasonally adjusted,

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted

Wenatchee MSA, January 2018 through December 2020

nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on yearover-year (between December 2019 and December

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor

2020) and average annual (between 2018 and 2019) changes in the labor market. **Unemployment rates** Preliminary Civilian



Decembers of 2019 and 2020.

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2019 and 2020, preliminary estimates indicate that Washington's labor market provided 160,900 fewer nonfarm jobs, an annual average decrease of 4.6 percent. In December 2020, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,318,500 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,507,500 in December 2019, a substantial loss of 189,000 jobs and a 5.4-percent downturn. For the past five months (August through December 2020) Washington's nonfarm job loss-rates have shown little improvement and, in fact, have "plateaued" in the minus-five-percent range during this timeframe.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the Wenatchee MSA's economy lost 3,000 jobs

in 2020, a 6.4-percent downturn – even more severe than Washington's minus-4.6-percent loss rate during 2020. In December 2020, total nonfarm employment across this two-

county area provided 3,500 fewer jobs than in December 2019, contracting from 46,400 jobs to 42,900, a 7.5-percent retrenchment. In fact, yearover-year nonfarm job lossrates across the Wenatchee MSA have "stagnated" in the minus-six- to minus-sevenpercent range in each of the past five months (August

through December 2020).

Labor Force (CLF) data

show that Washington's not

seasonally adjusted average

annual unemployment rate

increased from 4.3 percent

in 2019 to 8.3 percent in 2020.

Between the Decembers of

2019 and 2020 the rate es-

calated by three and two-

tenths percentage points,

In the Wenatchee MSA,

the average annual un-

employment rate soared

upwards from 5.1 percent

to 8.4 percent between 2019

and 2020. COVID-19 related

layoffs have pushed unem-

ployment rates upwards

from April through Decem-

ber 2020. Recently, the rate

in the Wenatchee MSA in-

creased one and five-tenths

percentage points, from 5.4

percent in December 2019

to 6.9 percent in December

2020. This 6.9-percent rate

is the highest December

reading since an identical

6.9-percent rate in Decem-

ber 2015.

from 4.0 to 7.2 percent.

Nonfarm industry employment Wenatchee MSA, January 2017 through December 2020 Source: Employment Security Department/Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA); U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES)



2019 and 2020.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) expanded by 18,131 residents (a modest 0.5-percent upturn) from 2019 to 2020, with most of this upturn occurring in the first half of 2020. The State's labor force had a noticeably slow finish to 2020, retrenching year-over-year by a minus-3.3 percent in November 2020 and by minus-2.4 percent in December 2020. The Wenatchee MSA's CLF shrank from 67,080 residents in 2019 to 65,588 in 2020, a 2.2-percent downturn. Preliminary estimates indicate that the local labor force increased by 1,665 residents

between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020, from 65,121 to 66,786 (up 2.6 percent). The downside was that the number of unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas timeframe; from 3,532 in December of 2019 to 4,624 in December 2020, a 30.9-percent increase. Hence, a tepid expansion in the labor force was more than countered by a surge in the number of residents out of work between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020 causing the Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate to increase from 5.4 percent to 6.9 percent during this timeframe.

Nonfarm industry employment

Between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020 total employment nonfarm in Chelan and Douglas counties decreased by 7.5 counties) surged during this percent. from 46,400 to 42,900 jobs. Washington's nonfarm market contracted by 5.4 percent during this timeframe. Highlights of year-over-year changes follow: the mining, ♦ In logging and construction category most jobs are in "construction." Preliminary estimates indicate that, year over year, job loss-rates in the Wenatchee MSA's construction industry decelerated from minus-16.7 percent in April to minus-3.4-percent in December 2020. The local construction industry provided 2,900 jobs in December 2019 versus 2,800 in December 2020. a 100-job downturn.

>> sales just for the month of December 2020 showed that sales activity accelerated 28.6 percent above December 2019 (i.e., 90 closed this December versus 70 closed sales in December 2019). However, the number of active listings declined substantially during this timeframe, from 121 listings in December 2019 to only 31 in December 2020 (down by 90 listings and 74.4 percent). Meanwhile, the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee Market increased from \$349,900 Year to Date (YTD) as of December 2019 to approximately \$372,250 YTD in December 2020, a rise of 6.4 percent. Statewide, near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020, construction employment dropped by 14.7 percent (below April 2019).

◆ COVID-19 related job losses have hit local leisure and hospitality businesses harder than any other industry. Year over year for example, employment in the Wenatchee MSA's leisure and hospitality industry plummeted by minus-43.3 percent in April 2020. Loss-rates steadily decelerated (good news) to minus-20.0 percent in November before accelerating (bad news) to minus-30.9percent in December 2020. Between the Decembers of 2019 and 2020 leisure and hospitality employment (primarily at hotels, eating and drinking places, and amusement and recreation businesses) dropped from 6,800 jobs to 4,700 a 2,100-job decrease. Job loss patterns in Washington's leisure and hospitality sector have followed a similar trend, losing jobs at a minus-38.5 percent pace in April 2020. Job loss-rates then decelerated monthly to a minus-20.7 percent pace in October 2020 - before accelerating in November 2020 (minus-21.1 percent) and in December 2020 (minus-28.5 percent). 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 annual average QCEW data for calendar year 2019 became available.

◆ Total covered employment rose from 39,137 in 2009 to 44,225 in 2019, a 5,088-job and 13.0-percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 1.2 percent. However, the number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 9,598 in 2009 to 9,474 in 2019, a 124-job and 1.3-percent downtrend with an annualized growth rate of minus-0.1 percent. In 2009 Chelan County's agricultural industry accounted for 24.5 percent of total covered employment.

 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 upturn 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.

A glimpse at the number of closed sales Year-to-Date (YTD) in the twelve months of 2020 versus January through December 2019 in the Wenatchee Market (i.e., in Wenatchee, Malaga, East Wenatchee, Orondo and Rock Island, WA), from the December 2020 Real Estate Snapshot newsletter published by Pacific Appraisal Associates, shows that the number of single-family homes or condominiums sold in the Wenatchee Market increased from 1,035 closed sales in 2019 to 1,080 closed sales in 2020 (up by 45 sales and 4.3 percent). Closed $\rightarrow \rightarrow$



... and finally, to my business partner I leave my corporate parking space."



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

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



CONGRESSWOMAN KIM SCHRIER, M.D. Serving the 8th District of Washington

Schrier has multi-topic, Wenatchee-based townhall, her second in three months

Story and photos by Gary Bégin

On Wednesday, Febru-17, Representative arv Kim Schrier (D-Issaquah) held a town hall meeting for Central Washington constituents co-hosted by Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz.

Kuntz sorted out questions submitted by email prior to the meeting and also added occasional commentary.

Kuntz said it was almost exactly one year ago that we started to hear about COVID-19 and sure enough Schrier fielded several questions on that very subject.

"We have to treat this novel virus as a novel virus," she said.

Schrier, a second term Congressman representing Washington's 8th Congressional District, said she wanted to get home COVID-19 testing kits out en mass, stating that it was of the utmost importance to test those that are asymptomatic (exhibiting and feeling no symptoms) because they are the ones spreading the virus.

Schrier said the "hospitality and entertainment industries are the hardest hit." She wants the government to mass produce, buy and distribute testing kits, saying "COVID-19 will most likely be with us for a very long time."

Schrier told listeners (Zoom attendees) that she likens Washington state and her district especially to a microcosm of the country as a whole because it has everything from big cities to farms, mountains, orchards and a huge variety of demographics living within it. She said there was great diversity representing "both sides of the mountains."

The Wenatchee Business Journal asked her if she felt threatened while at the Capitol during the riotous and deadly insurrection last month and she responded by stating, "As time goes by it almost rocks me more. I knew it was going to be a scary day. I kept hearing about security briefings, but didn't get one."

Schrier said she was not in the Capitol building itself, but in her office in an adjacent building when the chaos ensued.

"I watched the president (Trump) on tv and saw the texting and emails about being evacuated and to keep away from windows and doors. Suspicious packages were found. It lasted six hours. We need to make sure this never happens again," Schrier concluded.

Back to the subject of COVID-19, Schrier stated, "I don't understand the governor's (Inslee's) plan on opening, reopening or phases."

On another subject, Schrier said statistics show that immigrants start to become contributors to our communities' economy after about seven years from arrival.

Regarding the wildfires that have plagued North Central Washington over the last few years, Schrier said that the climate has been "drier and hotter" and that the forests have not been managed appropriately over time.

"Managing forests around towns needs to be done with



Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz

a combination of mechanical clearing and controlled burns," she said.

Schrier said she is working on a bill to address "forest health and con-



trolled burns."

She said she is working with Wenatchee Mayor Kuntz and others on evacuation plans so when citizens are confronted by fire emergencies, they know what to do.

Brewer and restaurateur Pam Brulotte of Leavenworth (Icicle Brewing) asked if Schrier could do anything about the criteria for receiving PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) funding?

Brulotte said she invested in her companies in 2019 only to be thwarted by the 2020 COVID-19 crisis



Brewer

Pam Brulotte

causing massive revenues losses.

She stated her businesses lost 24 percent in gross revenues from the previous year, but that was skewered because of the previous investments. The criteria to receive "bailout" monies from the SBA was a minimum of a 25 percent loss, so her business didn't qualify.

Schrier agreed and said Brulotte only missed the relief package by 1 percent and it was a matter of bad timing, but said maybe the parameters of using "gross revenues" was not the right thing to focus on when qualifying for funding. She said she would look into it further. Schrier agreed that Brulotte shouldn't be punished for having the courage to invest in the future of her



Rep. Kim Schrier

must be more energy resources than solar, wind and battery storage. Kuntz said, "It makes us think about having duplicate resources" as backup systems when

emergencies occur. The state has 75 percent clean energy due to hydropower, according to Schrier.

The one-hour meeting had questions from Issaquah to Leavenworth, East Wenatchee and Entiat and covered several other topics such as Schrier's role on the House Agriculture Committee.

Rich from Entiat asked if Schrier could do anything about the unfair import/ export practices of Japan when it came to apples?

Schrier assured him that orchardists' concerns about unjustified demands from other countries would be part of her agenda on the "Ag Committee."

Tom of Leavenworth wanted to know if it was feasible for the government to start a "citizen's climate corps" much like President FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) did during the depression era of the 1930s when he created the Works Progress Administration (WPA)* putting hundreds of thousands of Americans to work building infrastructure and other projects across the country?

He said it would be a good way to use local exper- mamish. Issaguah. Auburn). tise and labor and Schrier agreed, taking the idea under advisement, and will see what President Biden has in store. Patrick of Wenatchee asked what was the biggest obstacle to the economy right now besides the pandemic? Schrier said she felt the two opposing political and scientific views that have polarized the nation depending on what news

need to change the algorithms" so as to not "simplify divisiveness."

Mayor Kuntz agreed and stated he "watches a diverse array of news sources."

Kuntz also said he was working on homelessness and mental illness issues in his city and expressed concern that so many indigents ended up in jail or hospital emergency rooms. He said he believed in "housing first" and that mentally ill persons should be made safe and secure in supportive shelter environments.

Another topic briefly covered was the "decoupling" of mandatory health insurance from employer obligations and allowing employees to seek health plan options.

The meeting ended with a question from Dan in Leavenworth who asked Schrier, a pediatrician, if she supported the rights of the unborn?

Schrier answered that she supported choice for pregnant women and that it was between "women, health care providers and God, not the government."

She said there should be a common goal of having all pregnancies occur as planned pregnancies, part of the larger sphere of family planning.

Schrier's district spans western Washington (Sam-

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Allen from Peshastin asked if using more nuclear power in response to climate change was doable and Schrier responded by saying "Every type of energy has pros and cons."

company in 2019.

Both Mayor Kuntz and Rep. Schrier agreed there source a person listens to, watches or reads.

She said, "We are operating with two different sets of facts," and blames "propaganda media and social media." Schrier said, "we

Ellensburg, and east of the Cascades (Wenatchee, Chelan, Leavenworth).

* May, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was just one of many Great Depression relief programs created under the auspices of the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act, which Roosevelt had signed the month before.

Managing Editor Gary Bégin can be reached at: Gary@ncwmedia.net. Comments received may be reprinted as a Letter to the Editor in future NCW Media publications.