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Rep. Schrier holds telephonic townhall, fields districtwide questions

Story and photo by Gary Bégin

ISSAQUAH (VIA TELEPHONE) – U.S. House Representative Democrat Kim Schrier (WA-8) held a telephonic townhall Wednesday, Dec. 9 and responded to a slew of questions from across her district.

The one-hour event had Schrier covering topics from isolationism to COVID-19. Here is some of the Q&A from that night:

“1% of global aid is reasonable,” Schrier said, in response to helping other nations. “Being isolationist backfires.”

She said it was important for the U.S. to remain a “leader in the world.”

In regard to outdoor dining, Schrier explained the airborne nature of COVID-19 noting that

even outdoor tents can result in spread of the virus if it were overcrowded and not following social distancing guidelines.

Schrier said Voter ID is a reasonable idea to most people, but said it may pose a roadblock to those who don’t drive and therefore have no, or an expired driver’s license.

One caller said the COVID-19 “was just another flu,” but Schrier explained that it really wasn’t. The caller wanted to know “why people can’t just go back to living their lives instead of waiting for another stimulus bill” and that he felt he was a hostage in his own home.

Schrier re-emphasized the fact that “this is not the flu” and that the nation is fortunate the pandemic is not infecting young people and children to the extent as it does in the rest of the adult population.

She said COVID can be caught twice in the same

person, is highly asymptomatic and therefore makes it “disrespectful” to not wear a mask, noting this virus is “quite different than the flu and is “10 times more lethal” specifically pointing to the nationwide death toll.

Another caller said she was against making the questions harder on the citizenship test, especially in light of the English as a second language population.

Schrier agreed stating that it “seems punitive” and presents “another hurdle” towards citizenship.

Toxic tire runoff was singled out as the reason for so many deaths among the salmon fingerling populations in and around Puget Sound, according to one caller. Schrier said the issue was being studied.

Apparently, when heavy rains wash road grit into sewer drains and then into local waterways, a chemical involved in the manufacture of tire rubber causes death to the fish once deposited into the water.

Schrier called on President Trump to get take the vaccine in public and tell the country it is safe to do so as well as mask-up and stay socially distanced. Schrier said that our country and the world, is polarized and part of that was because we are listening to different news sources which accept or attack science depending on political points of view.

Schrier agreed that students under age 10 should be in school and an “at home” virus rapid test should be developed to families so they can test their children before sending them to school.

She noted that, although younger Americans may not get



Kim Schrier

SEE REP. SCHRIER HOLDS TELEPHONIC TOWNHALL, PAGE 10

LIBERTY ORCHARDS

Cashmere’s Aplets & Cotlets

100 Years of bliss

By Gary Bégin

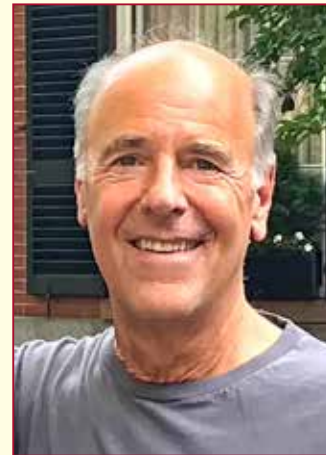
CASHMERE – Ask anyone in a five generation family how great-great grandpa used to love a visit to Cashmere for some Aplets & Cotlets iconic confectionary visions of blissful treats on the tongue. Happiness in the heart.

Just plain yummy at any age. NCW Media spoke with the grandson of the original founders, Greg Taylor, and hereby present the results of that talk:

NCW Media: How has the company retained its family culture over the last 100 years?

Greg Taylor: Liberty Orchards is a family business in more than one way. Most obviously, the company is owned today by the families of founders Mark Balaban and Armen Tertsagian, and the company has always been managed by family members – the founders, then John Chakirian and Dick Odabashian, and for the last 42 years by Greg Taylor, the grandson of founder Tertsagian. But Liberty Orchards is also a business made up of families.

Over the past 100 years, there have been multiple members of the same family working in the business... parents and children, brothers and sisters, and cousins, all from the same family working together. All of



Greg Taylor

that contributes to the family atmosphere. Also, the vast majority of our employees have been with the company for more than 20 years, so we know each other pretty well!

NCW: Over the last century, what has been the company’s mainstay product(s)?



GT: Aplets & Cotlets is our most famous and best selling candy brand. But in many markets, Fruit Delights, a spin-off of Aplets, actually outsell the original brands. And Orchard Bars, our healthy snack bar, have become a popular alternative to our traditional candies.

NCW: You are CEO/President, are there any other family involved currently?

GT: Yes, I’m the company President and the operating head of the business, though most of the work of the business is done by a capable group of dedicated, hard-working employees. As the grandson of founder Armen Tertsagian, I am part of the family and an owner of the company, along with my brother and cousins. I am the only family member working in the company, although a few of my cousins actively serve on our Board of Directors.

NCW: Have sales gone up during the pandemic due to more internet sales?

SEE 100 YEARS OF BLISS, PAGE 3

Lake Chelan’s Campbell’s Resort welcomes Executive Chef Jayson Thompson to ‘family’

Submitted by Campbell’s Resort

CHELAN – After months of searching, Campbell’s Resort is excited to introduce you to their new Executive Chef Jayson Thompson. Campbell’s previous Executive Chef of 17 years, Troy Nesvacil, announced he was interested in pursuing other opportunities. He was a part of the Campbell’s Resort family for 25 years and we appreciate all the contributions he made to our culinary program.

During this transition, Campbell’s started interviewing in earnest, knowing exactly what it was looking to attract; the right mix of energy, enthusiasm, and experience to elevate it’s 120-year-old program.

The Resort screened chefs from across the country and ended up bringing a handful of candidates (and their families) here for a multi-day interview process including a coursed tasting.

SEE EXECUTIVE CHEF JAYSON THOMPSON, PAGE 4



Courtesy photos

Kurobuta Pork Shank (smoked white yam, braised swiss chard, citrus-pine nut gremolata). In medallion Chef Jayson Thompson.

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NEWSSTAND LOCATIONS

Wenatchee

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

East Wenatchee

Safeway, 510 Grant Road

Cashmere

Martin's Market Place
130 Titchenal Way

Leavenworth

Dan's Food Market
1329 U.S. Highway 2
The Leavenworth Echo
215 14th St.

Chelan

Safeway, 106 W. Manson Rd.
Lake Chelan Mirror
310 E. Johnson Ave.

Brewster

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

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THE BOTTOM LINE

Chelan PUD: Current compassion trumps 'more equitable future'

I am a big fan of our Chelan County Public Utility District and its dedicated staff and management. I am a huge fan of efficiencies and frugalities.

I have also lived in other places where the utility company is a citizen-owned cooperative and gave dividends to its owner/customers at the end of the year, if money was made.

Once again, I am a huge fan of the PUD commissioners, all of them, as well as General Manager Steve Wright.

Here's the rub, from a strictly compassionate point of view. Before I rant, please read the below quote sent out by the PUD just after its Nov. 17 meeting. I started the quote with the headline that topped the news release:

"PUD envisions a more equitable future for households who struggle most: Chelan PUD commissioners heard a plan last month to expand energy conservation programs to focus on households that spend more than 6 percent of their income on power bills. About 2,100 households qualify as 'high energy-burdened' because they spend more than 6 percent of their paychecks on electricity. About 98 percent of these households earn less than \$20,000 a year. Staff recommended greater engagement with nonprofits and landlords, as well as greater assistance to help low-income homeowners cover the up-front cost of home improvements."

I am overjoyed that staff has suggested greater interaction and cooperation with the landlords and non-

profits of these unfortunate citizens, but these measures won't occur until sometime in 2021.

How about right now? Can commissioners see it in their hearts, during this,



Gary Bégin
Managing Editor

the greatest modern pandemic to ever hit America, to forgive the 2,100 households' electric bills at least for the month of December?

If anyone out there thinks these poor folk will find out about my idea and thus, throw electric away for the month of December like it was free, think again.

I am writing this idea in the January Wenatchee Business Journal, which few people earning less than \$20,000 ever read.

I am not being mean spirited, just truthful about the demographics of our readers.

There is no harm to the PUD profits if just a small handful of impoverished citizens get a month without an electric bill.

I have never been a member of the Communist Party, my idea is merely a decent gesture to our decent people who need a break in life, especially during this bizarre time of our history.

We are spending millions on the new PUD headquar-

ters in Olds Station (see photo). The salaries of the commissioners and a few senior staff cost more than the forgiveness of 2,100 families' electric bills.

Let these, our fellow citizens, buy a nicer Christmas gift or dinner or fix their beat-up old rigs and let them give that money to local small businesses which will more than make up for the miniscule lost income to our PUD.

I am blessed, as are all readers of the WBJ, to not ever worry about my electric bill. I also believe in efficiencies and frugal living.

This idea is a one-time effort to show forgiveness to those who have little or nothing during this season of love and this era of COVID-19.

I am writing this with the full knowledge that my proposal goes against bureaucratic logic and will immediately be labeled as financially imprudent.

I know this because I have worked for the Marines, Postal Service, Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration and combined, these agencies have allowed me to achieve 23 years as a federal employee and thus qualify for a small pension.

It has also enlightened me as to the brick wall of paperwork that often crushes the hopes of millions nationwide even though it was originally meant to achieve a more just society out of potential anarchy.

I understand bureaucratic paperwork as well as fiscal discipline and I dare any bureaucrat to tell me that they are not slaves to the various rule books that

together sing a mantra of no tolerance for coloring outside of the lines.

Of course it doesn't mean that the individual employees are necessarily evil in any way or myopic to the issue or spend their time conniving ways to disallow compassion, it is merely that they must follow the rules as written.

At home, I am sure most of them are stalwart members of the community, including volunteering with non-profits and walking the walk of whatever religious group they may belong to.

The staff members are approaching their future proposals to the esteemed board of commissioners in a typical bureaucratic way by "partnering" with non-profits, i.e., non-governmental organizations and landlords, when in reality, the commissioners should take the reins incumbent on leaders of their caliber and make a unilateral decision, not wait for a multilateral proposal, watered down by too many self-interested hidden agendas, however well meaning.

I'd like to receive comments from the PUD Commissioners and readers via email. I assure all readers and Commissioners that I will faithfully include the responses (verbatim) as Letters to the Editor (for short pieces) or Guest Opinions (for longer comments) in time for the January edition of the Wenatchee Business Journal.

BTW - I'd like to see the data that states "6%" of income is the agreed upon threshold for "high energy-burdened" families. Are we, as a PUD, telling anyone who has spent "only 5%" that their lives are significantly less burdened?

Why was this proposal put on the agenda at the end of a year beset with a pan-

demic and just before two major holidays?

Chelan PUD General Manager Steve Wright answers Bégin proposal:

Chelan PUD provides 'year 'round' low income help

Dear Editor,

Thanks for your letter suggesting Chelan PUD provide free electricity to low-income consumers for a month in light of the pandemic and associated challenges.

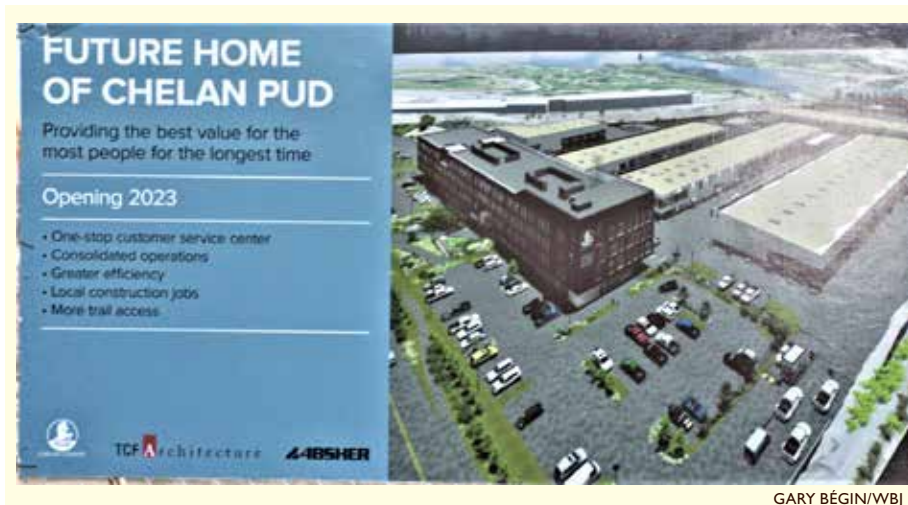
We love to hear from our customer-owners. We appreciate and share your empathy for fellow citizens who are most in need. In fact, the PUD already supports customers with challenges in the following ways:

- We have the lowest or next to lowest electric rates in the country benefiting everyone in Chelan County.
- We have discounts available for low-income and senior customer-owners as well as for disabled customers that apply year round.
- We partner with Community Action Council in helping customers who qualify for energy assistance under the federally-funded Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to cover a large portion of their electric bills.

This program has paid out nearly \$186,000 to over 500 Chelan County households with an average assistance of \$360 since March of 2020.

- We have a policy of no disconnects and no late fees during the pandemic that has been extended until the end of April.
- We support the Helping Hand program where customer-owners can donate any amount they like to support fellow customer-owners who are having difficulty paying their bill.

SEE **THE BOTTOM LINE**, PAGE 6



GARY BÉGIN/WBJ

Letters to the Editor



Pizza parlor owner lauds WBJ December front page article

Dear Editor,

I loved the front page December WBJ article. I have been getting a lot of positive feedback and have actually hired several people who saw the article and came in to talk to me. I now have a full staff and expect to open near the end of January or early February. Thanks again for the awesome job you did in the piece.

Regards,

Jeff Graf,

Owner, Little Italy Pizza, Wenatchee

(Located in the old Cascadian Hotel, bottom floor)

COP TALK

with East Wenatchee Police Chief Rick Johnson



Public Safety Funding

We are all just finishing up budget season. How do we fund our public safety and how far does your dollar go?

When law enforcement leaders speak to public groups, this is often the topic of conversation.

Before we can answer this question let's clarify a couple of things.

In Washington, cities and counties are required by law to provide police services.

Under RCW 35A code cities are defined as any unincorporated area having a population of at least 1,500 may incorporate as a code city, and any city or town may reorganize as a code city.

Code cities are required to appoint a chief law enforcement officer (RCW 35A.12.020).

There are 197 code cities in Washington, by far the most common classification. Towns are required to appoint a town marshal (RCW 35.23.021).

Second class cities are re-

quired to appoint a police chief and the city police department must be under the



control of the chief of police (RCW 35.23.021).

There actually only five second class cities in Washington. Sherriff's Offices are completely different and run by a Sheriff who is an elected official.

Now back to the original question. Your local police and deputies are funded from a variety of sources depending on the type of agency. Cities, which fund city police departments, rely heavily on sales tax dollars to create these funds.

Counties collect their funds from a broader range

of sources, but sales tax revenues are included in this.

Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices provide a wide range of services to the public, but our most basic core function is; you call, and we come.

In order to accomplish this, we need quality trained individuals, outfitted with the proper equipment, and reliable transportation to get them there.

In the budget world, we call each of these employees a Full Time Equivalent or FTE.

As law enforcement leaders we need to know what does each FTE cost and how many do we need.

A law enforcement FTE includes salary, benefits, uniforms, equipment, training costs, vehicle costs, cost of support staff, etc.

In our area, the cost of one FTE is approaching \$185,000. Twenty years ago, that number was closer to \$85,000.

For us, FTE's are calculated based on call volume

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

100 Years of bliss

GT: The pandemic has been a mixed bag for the company. We've taken all the standard precautions, like mask wearing and distancing, and have been fortunate that very few employees have been infected by the virus, and we've been able to continue operations uninterrupted.

Our sales are about the same as a year ago, with two exceptions. Our factory store and tour in Cashmere is down by 50%, as tourism in our area has fallen dramatically.

We actually closed our store for about a month after having three visitors and .75 cents in sales on the last day of March! Fortunately, the lost sales in the store have been more than made up by a 50% increase in online sales at *LibertyOrchards.com*. We are not alone.

Most direct-to-consumer business have thrived during the pandemic as consumers have made fewer trips to retail stores and switched their purchasing to online stores.

NCW: *What percentage of your online sales are out of state?*

GT: 90% of our online sales originate outside of Washington State. Our biggest online markets are the biggest retail markets in the country... California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, etc.

NCW: *What else would you like our readers to know?*

GT: After 100 years, the founding families have decided to sell the company. The pandemic has made it a difficult time to sell a business, but there continues to be interest in the company.

per employee, the population we serve and the geographic area we cover.

It may surprise you to hear but Washington State has the lowest ratio of police officers to residents of any state.

Seattle has the largest municipal law enforcement agency in the state. 1,433 officers serve 747,300 residents for a ratio of 1.9 officers per 1,000 residents.

Typically, this ratio gets lower the smaller the population. Most of eastern

Washington, to include your local agencies, are around 1.25 to 1.4 officers per 1,000 residents.

For perspective, NYPD has 36,000 officers serving 8.4 million residents for a ratio of 4.3 officers per 1,000 residents. The national average is 2.51 officers per 1,000 residents.

For your local agencies', salaries and benefits (quality individual component) account for approximately 80% of our total budgets.

Vehicles and equipment account for about 10% of our budgets (transportation to get them to you).

This leaves about 10% for recruiting, training, and all the other ancillary costs associated with running an organization.

Like many industries, we are being tasked to do more with less.

Be assured your local law enforcement leaders are striving for progressive policing while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

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Courtesy photos
Beet & Crab Salad (arugula, spiced remoulade, sherry vinaigrette).



Salmon Romesco (charred cauliflower, arugula, charred lemon).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lake Chelan's Campbell's Resort welcomes Executive Chef Jayson Thompson to 'family'

The message to these chefs was simple: cook food that shows what you're about (leveraging elements from the valley). The ultimate hope was to give them the freedom to show a true sense of who they were as a chef, but also to see how their style of cooking could truly highlight the bountiful elements of our valley. Immediately, Jayson impressed Campbell's staff with his professionalism, leadership and culinary talent. He is a chef cut from a fine dining cloth, but he also isn't afraid

to put a "jumbo tater tot" on the menu. Campbell's felt that any chef that moved here must bring both serious culinary skills and the ability to instantly become part of a tight-knit community. Not to mention, the tighter-knit Campbell family business that embraces genuine hospitality and cuisine with equal fervor.

The Resort is excited to share his ultimate vision; to elevate the historic Campbell's Resort culinary identity with hyperlocal ingredients, inspired plating, and innovative menus.

Thompson started his culinary journey working in kitchens throughout Southern California and attended Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts (Pasadena, California), where he was introduced to different styles of cooking on kitchen lines throughout Southern California.

Jayson later served as the Executive Chef at Nordstrom, opening restaurants around the country. Following that role, Jayson

served as the Sous Chef at the Grand Hyatt Kauai, then the Executive Sous Chef at the art-driven Hotel Andaz in Scottsdale, Arizona. Just before moving to Chelan, Jayson was the Executive Chef at the Princeville Resort (former St. Regis) in Kauai, Hawaii.

Chef Thompson reported for duty at the beginning of November and has been completely immersed in the business, while navigating through the current pandemic and restaurant closure.

He's been working hard to integrate Campbell's past, present, and future into his own style of cooking that will ultimately interface with the classics that reflect our restaurant's history.

Please welcome Jayson and his son Bishop, to the Chelan community. Campbell's is thrilled to embark on this new culinary chapter in our long and storied history.



Fresh Dungeness Ravioli (Patagonian prawn, lobster mushroom, English pea, saffron cream, Romano, parsley).

AWB honors Alaska Airlines with 'Resiliency' award

AWB press release

OLYMPIA — The Association of Washington Business presented its top awards to nine employers at the annual Evening of Excellence in December.

The event, sponsored by Banner Bank, was presented as a live online broadcast from AWB's studios in Olympia. The program celebrated the innovations of the private sector in a challenging year.

Family-owned firms, businesses that support veterans and employers that have successfully adapted to the pandemic were among those honored.

"Washington employers continue to create jobs and innovative solutions that support our state during the coronavirus pandemic," AWB President Kris Johnson said.

"Employers have kept our supply chains open, switched their operations to make personal protective equipment, and set good examples of safe operations during the outbreak. This is our chance to say thank you."

Washington Resiliency Award: Recognizing an employer that has shown resilience and determination overcoming difficult obstacles and demonstrates leadership in carrying out initiatives addressing safety, community resiliency, or financial threats related to an emerging, immediate

or long-term community crisis, while considering the varying needs of all residents of the region.

Winner: When facing the biggest drop in ticket sales in the history of aviation, Alaska Airlines developed a three-part plan to get through the pandemic.

This included implementing their Next-Level Care program to maintain the health and safety of their employees and guests, reducing costs and capacity to ensure long-term survival, and through it all, maintaining the high level of excellence that customers have come to expect.

In the second quarter of this year, Alaska returned 43 jets back into service, and reinstated all Horizon Air and Skywest Airlines aircraft.



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About

Formed in 1904, the Association of Washington Business is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association, and includes more than 7,900 members representing 700,000 employees. AWB serves as both the state's chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association. For more about AWB, visit awb.org.



CHELAN COUNTY

New technology paves the way for a more efficient Chelan PUD

Submitted by Chelan PUD

Chelan PUD is developing new sensor technology and predictive models for its hydro projects to operate more efficiently, reduce downtime and generate more clean, reliable power.

PUD commissioners heard a report from Hydro Engineering Manager John Yale about several tools in development. Once deployed, the PUD can use the new technology and data to:

Predict how changes in operating conditions affect the lifespan of its generators. Staff is working with members of the Hydropower Research Institute to calibrate the predictive data models to apply to different kinds of hydro projects around the world. Keep hydro operators and engineers apprised of small anomalies – such as a slight change in vibration or temperature – that could be an early signal of a developing issue.

Detect when water has entered a turbine hub. In the past, the unit would shut down for three days while crews inspected the inside of the turbine. The new sensor would reduce downtime to 10 minutes.

"This is real innovation and we committed to that in our strategic plan," said Commissioner Ann Congdon. "This is pretty exciting. This is how it should work."

Approved the 2021 budget after two hearings and no public comment.

Heard a preview of relevant issues under consideration during the state leg-

islative session. Heard a report that the PUD has exceeded its energy conservation goals by working directly with industrial, residential and commercial customer-owners to save energy.

Chose to delay until spring plans to ask the public for more ideas for Public Power Benefit projects with the hope that Covid-19 vaccine availability will create more opportunities for the public to be involved.

Extended an agreement with local internet service providers to continue offering free Wi-Fi hotspots through 2021.

Editor's Note: For more about hydropower, be sure to read State Senator Brad Hawkins' story on the subject in this issue of the WBJ.



"There are better ways to log off."



LAKE CHELAN WINTER FEST 2021



JANUARY 15-18
LakeChelanWinterfest.com



GARY BÉGIN/WBJ

'Trees4Joy' brings Christmas tradition to non-profits, elderly

The Wenatchee Valley Humane Society was the recipient of a beautiful Christmas tree courtesy of Augustedge Real Estate. The tree was delivered to the shelter at noon, Thursday Dec. 10.

The program, "Trees4Joy," was developed by JBe Marketing Group and features Country Financial as the overall program partner as well

as the Colville Confederation of Tribes (12 Tribes Casino).

Humane Society and Augustedge staffers pictured from left: Renee Parkins, Shannon Gahimer, Star Montgomery, Beth Beebe, Thea Cooper (with puppy), Anel Ramirez, Spencer Brown, and JBe Marketing namesake, Jennifer Bushong. Additional Christmas tree gifts to the

Humane Society were provided by PetSmart and Kuranda Sheltor bed.

Several assisted living facilities throughout Chelan and Okanogan counties received trees courtesy of the Colville Confederation.

Bushong said she handmade the pillows for each location and spent three months working on the program.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The Bottom Line

Last month, PUD Commissioners also directed staff to advance aggressive energy efficiency programs that are targeted at low-income customers.

We believe these programs provide substantial benefit because they provide long-term lower bills.

Reducing electricity use also allows the PUD to sell the power in the wholesale market offsetting the cost of the energy efficiency investment and reducing the impact on other customer-owners.

We reviewed your proposal while keeping an eye on your other concern that we not become unduly bureaucratic in our response.

The difficulty with providing free electricity to low-income customers is that the PUD does not maintain income records for our customers.

We would have to find a way to get this information, match it up with our billing records and make changes to our billing systems – all for one month's bill reduction. That's a lot of bureaucracy and administrative cost. We think there may be a better alternative.

The Board has considered in recent months the possibility of making some form of a PUD contribution to the

Helping Hand program.

We are still doing the legal research, but this might be done as a match for any dollars customer-owners contribute.

We have been actively tracking customer overdue bills since the pandemic began. We have only a modest increase in overdue residential accounts.

We think an amount of roughly \$50,000 would keep our overdue balances about equal with previous years.

This should assure that the unique challenges created by COVID-19 are addressed.

So, on January 4 our Board will consider and take public comment on making a contribution to our Helping Hand program.

We will do this in public session in order to fulfill our firm commitment to transparency.

Thank you for your suggestion and the contribution the WBJ makes to our community.

Steve Wright,

General Manager, Chelan PUD

Readers can send comments on my proposal to:

Gary@ncwmedia.net for publication in the February Wenatchee Business Journal.



IRS warns taxpayers, tax professionals as 2021 tax season starts

Submitted by IRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service warned in December to all taxpayers and tax professionals to beware of scams and identity theft schemes by criminals taking advantage of the approaching tax season and coronavirus concerns.

"This is generally the hunting season for online thieves, but this year there's a dangerous combination of factors at play that should make people more alert," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The combination of the approaching filing season and more of us working remotely puts people more at risk. People can help avoid becoming victims of scams or identity thefts, by taking a few simple steps to help protect sensitive tax and financial information."

Tips on basic safeguards everyone should take:

Here are a few basic steps everyone should remember

as the 2021 tax season approaches:

- Don't forget to use security software for computers and mobile phones – and keep it updated.
- Make sure purchased anti-virus software has a feature to stop malware, and there is a firewall that can prevent intrusions.
- Phishing scams – like imposter emails, calls and texts – are the No. 1 way thieves steal personal data. Don't open links or attachments on suspicious emails. This year, fraud scams related to COVID-19 and the Economic Impact Payment are common.
- Use strong and unique passwords for online accounts. Use a phrase or series of words that can be easily remembered or use a password manager.
- Use multi-factor authentication whenever possible. Many email providers and social media sites offer this feature. It helps prevent thieves from easily

hacking accounts.

- Shop at sites where the web address begins with "https" – the "s" is for secure communications over the computer network. Also, look for the "padlock" icon in the browser window.
- Don't shop on unsecured public Wi-Fi in places like a mall. Remember, thieves can eavesdrop.
- At home, secure home Wi-Fis with a password. With more homes connected to the web, secured systems become more important, from wireless printers, wireless door locks to

wireless thermometers. These can be access points for identity thieves.

- Back up files on computers and mobile phones. A cloud service or an external hard drive can be used to copy information from computers or phones – providing an important place to recover financial or tax data.

Working from home? Consider creating a virtual private network (VPN) to securely connect to your workplace.

In addition, the Summit partners note these security

measures include mobile phones – an area that people sometimes can overlook. Thieves have become more adept at compromising mobile phones. Phone users also are more prone to open a scam email from their phone than from their computer.

Taxpayers can check out security recommendations for their specific mobile phone by reviewing the Federal Communications Commission's Smartphone Security Checker. Since phones are used for shopping and even for doing taxes, remember to make sure phones and tablets are just as secure as computers.

The IRS will not call, text or email about your Economic Impact Payment or your tax refund. Nor will the IRS call with threats of jail or lawsuits over unpaid taxes. Those are scams.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued warnings earlier about fraud and scams related to the pan-

demic. It specifically warned of COVID-19 schemes related to taxes, anti-body testing, healthcare fraud, cryptocurrency fraud and others. COVID-related fraud complaints can be filed at the National Center for Disaster Fraud.

The Federal Trade Commission also has issued alerts about fraudulent emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control or the World Health Organization. Consumers can keep atop the latest scam information and report COVID-related scams at [FTC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus).

The IRS, state tax agencies, the private sector tax industry, including tax professionals, work in partnership as the Security Summit to help protect taxpayers from identity theft and refund fraud. This is the first in a week-long series of tips to raise awareness about identity theft. See [IRS.gov/securitysummit](https://www.irs.gov/securitysummit) for more details.





Senator Brad Hawkins: Looking ahead to the legislative session

The final days of the 2020 legislative session last March presented some real challenges. The Legislature worked diligently to wrap up its session as some of the first cases of COVID-19 in the United States were confirmed in our state.

Lawmakers approved all three state budgets (operating, transportation, and capital) along with a \$200 million COVID-19 response bill. In those final session days and in the days that would soon follow, the governor began issuing his statewide executive orders. One of the earliest included a statewide closure of schools.

At that time, most of us never would have anticipated the full scope of challenges the COVID pandemic would bring to our country and others.

Since the end of the 2020 legislative session, we have suffered significant economic impacts and loss of life and also received various local, state, and federal assistance.

Many thanks to our first responders, teachers, health care providers, and others who have stepped up during these difficult months to continue providing us important services.

When the legislative session ended last March, I certainly did not anticipate a nearly year-long pandemic.

For so many of us, our lives have been turned upside down by this virus.

Our region has sadly suffered many unfortunate deaths along with impacts to businesses, schools, and families.

This long-lasting pandemic has also created unprec-

edented circumstances for the state Legislature.

For the first time ever, the upcoming 105-day session – set to begin on January 11 – will be conducted almost entirely online.

In recent years, the Senate implemented limited remote testimony for committee hearings.

In the upcoming session, remote testimony will likely be the only form of testimony received.

Zoom calls are now commonly used by businesses and organizations. This type of technology – as well as traditional phone calls – will become the new normal for constituent meetings and caucus gatherings.

The bigger challenge will be facilitating House and Senate floor debates and navigating the fast-paced

nature of floor amendments and contentious discussions. It's likely that fewer bills will advance this session because of expected slowdowns in legislative activity. However, fewer bills is probably good news.

As our state has grown in population and complexity, it is very challenging to process through and fully understand every aspect of legislation in such high volume and limited number of days.

A more manageable collection of bills may help ensure better final products in what does become law.

In addition to the ongoing challenges with COVID response, balancing the state operating budget could be a challenge.

As a result of past increased spending and

reduced revenue, state economists are forecasting a projected budget deficit of nearly \$3 billion.

This deficit is much less than what was previously expected, but it could grow larger if the state economy is impacted again by recent COVID restrictions.

While the current projected deficit is certainly bad news, the \$3 billion figure is actually based on a four-year budget projection, impacting a four-year budget equivalent of over \$100 billion.

By utilizing the state's \$2 billion Budget Stabilization Account – often referred to as the "Rainy Day Fund" – and making some measured and modest reductions in programs, I believe lawmakers can achieve a balanced budget without tax increases. Others may use the revenue losses from the pandemic to justify increased revenues.

Legislators will probably authorize the use of the Budget Stabilization Account with little disagreement.

The big divide will be over whether to choose budget reductions or new taxes to make up the remaining

difference. Whether Governor Inslee will be the one to sign our final budget is another issue as well.

If he is indeed selected for a position in the Biden administration, then the governor's duties will temporarily fall to newlyelected Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck.

This is, of course, until a new governor is elected – likely in November 2021 – in what could very well be a Battle Royal of officials seeking to fill the remaining three years of Governor Inslee's term.

The 2021 legislative session will certainly prove interesting and challenging.

I look forward to joining my seatmates, Representatives Steele and Goehner, to advocate on your behalf.

If you have questions or comments about state government or the legislative session, please contact me anytime. I am truly honored to serve as your state senator.

Brad Hawkins is our 12th District state senator representing North Central Washington in Olympia. He may be contacted at 360-786-7622 or brad.hawkins@leg.wa.gov.

12th District senator emphasizes North Central Washington as continued leaders of clean energy

Sen. Hawkins promotes hydrogen-powered vehicles

Submitted by Sen. Brad Hawkins

OLYMPIA – The first bill of the upcoming legislative session has been introduced. Following his successful effort with Senate Bill 5588 in 2019 to authorize public utility districts to produce and sell "renewable hydrogen," Sen. Brad Hawkins has prefiled a bill for the 2021 legislative session to establish an eight-year statewide pilot project for the reduction of sales tax on purchases of fuel-cell electric vehicles. The bill so far has gained commitments of bipartisan support from nearly 20 co-sponsors.

"The people of North Central Washington have been leaders in clean energy for decades and new state efforts to promote renewable hydrogen and zero-emissions vehicles will help us continue our innovative work," said Hawkins.

Hydrogen can be created from a process that separates the hydrogen and oxygen molecules in water.

The Douglas County PUD in Hawkins' district, plans to utilize its surplus hydropower to do just that, creating renewable hydrogen from excess renewable hydropower and possibly also building hydrogen fueling stations.

Hawkins' proposal, Senate Bill 5000, is eligible for legislative consideration this month, aims to extend a similar exemption in vehicle sales tax that purchasers of traditional electric vehicles receive. With the first hydrogen fueling stations in Washington state expected to be operational by 2022, the bill would allow a total of 650 vehicles to receive a 50 percent sales tax exemption in fiscal years 2023 through 2029.

Even though hydrogen vehicles are newer to the market and slightly more expensive due to having not been in mass production nationwide, they have shown tremendous promise given how quickly they refuel and the limited infrastructure required to get the fuel to the station.

Hawkins mentions that his bill would help establish important parity between fuel-cell electric vehicles and traditional plug-in electric.

"In our efforts to promote carbon-free vehicles, our state policies should be 'technologically neutral' so that we can give ourselves varied opportunities to reduce emissions and not unintentionally bias ourselves in the process," Hawkins said.

"Similar to diesel and gas, maybe there will always be multiple fuel sources for next-generation cars or maybe someday hydrogen vehicles will be the preferred choice."

Supporters of the bill include Douglas County PUD, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance, Western States Hydrogen Alliance, and Toyota.

What the bill's supporters are saying:

"We are thankful for Senator Hawkins' leadership for renewable hydrogen. His support has created an opportunity for us to increase efficiencies at our Wells Hydroelectric Project and increase value for our customers." **Molly Simpson, Douglas County PUD President**

"The Renewable Hydrogen Alliance is proud to support the expansion of clean vehicle incentives to fuel cell electric cars just as Washington begins creating clean hydrogen from the state's ample supply of renewable electricity." **Ken Dragoon, Executive Director of the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance**

"Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles will be critical to the future of a decarbonized transportation sector. This bill is a meaningful step

to ensuring the state incentivizes a portfolio approach to electrifying Washington's transportation sector. WSHA could not be more pleased to support Senator Hawkins in this effort." **Roxana Bekemohammadi, Executive Director of the Western States Hydrogen Alliance**

"Senator Hawkins' pilot incentive program is an important first step to help accelerate the adoption of hydrogen, fuel cell and electrification accessibility in Washington state. Paving the way for emissions-free technologies will further generate awareness, interest and acceptance in communities seeking cleaner options." **Doug Murtha, Group Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Planning at Toyota Motor North America**

"As we work to reduce transportation emissions in Washington state, incentivizing clean energy through an increased use of hydrogen could play a significant role toward accomplishing our climate goals. I look forward to working across the aisle with Senator Hawkins on this policy, and to continue protecting our state's incredible natural environment." **Sen. Liz Lovelett, 40th District, D-Anacortes, Lead Co-Sponsor**



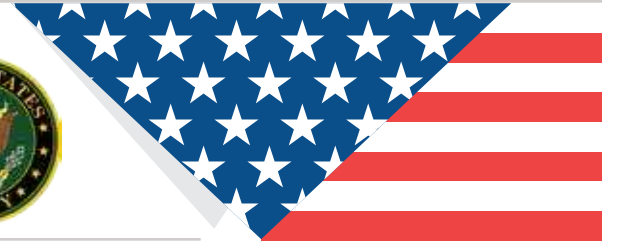
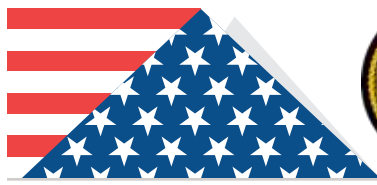
Toyota Mirai and Capitol.



Wells Hydroelectric Project.

Submitted photos

VETERAN-OWNED & OPERATED BUSINESS



Chelan County VSO Sandoval gets custom made wooden flag in honor of his service



Pictured above, from back row left, Washington State Representative of Hometown Heroes Lourence Dormaier of Ephrata, VSO Tony Sandoval, front from left are Tony's daughters Scarlett and Rain.

Story and photo
by Gary Bégin

Chelan County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Tony Sandoval, an Army veteran, was awarded a custom-made wooden American flag from Hometown Heroes, a national organization that honors state citizens who have served the veteran community in a demonstrably dedicated way.

Sandoval's efforts have brought millions of dollars of revenue through veteran's benefit compensation to the county and to the veterans themselves over the last few years.

That compensation from the Veterans Affairs Administration, a federal agency, is then spent by recipients throughout the county and adjoining areas. On top of that, veterans also receive an increase in medical and other benefits which is often used in the Chelan and Douglas counties area at a huge variety of medical practitioner's businesses.

The tank on the front of the flag represents Tony's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). The green stripe represents the U.S. Army.

The ceremony took place in late December in the Wenatchee VSO office.

Although Sandoval's service area includes all of Chelan County, the Hometown Heroes award is based in Quincy (Grant County), and it recognizes citizens from all over Eastern Washington. Tony has also helped many veterans from Douglas County and other areas.

The flag was made by Charred Chisel owner Ethan Kinney (Ethan@CharredChisel.com).

Washington State Representative of Hometown Heroes, Lourence Dormaier, presented the flag to Sandoval. Dormaier, an Army veteran, owns and operates Next Mission Farms (NextMissionFarms@gmail.com) in Ephrata.

Manson American Legion gives \$1k to Heritage Heights senior living center

By Norm Manly
Manson American Legion
Post 108 Service Officer

MANSON – The Manson American Legion, Post 108 continues its support of our community with a \$700 donation to Heritage Heights, the only senior living facility in the Valley.

Norm Manly, Post 108's Service Officer and Craig Pittson, Post 108 member and Santa for the day, presented the check to Heritage Heights board member, Timi Starkweather.

Heritage Heights was built in 1996 as a senior living facility and has 32 rooms.

Since the pandemic struck earlier this year, the number of residences has decreased to 24. The lack of income and increased cost, more staff, Covid cleaning expense and higher food prices, has dramatically affected their bottom line.

Heritage Heights is a 501-C-3 and is a great choice for your tax-deductible gift.

Executive Director Amanda Ballou has overseen Heritage Heights for 15 years with a staff of 25 employees, all working

long hours and keeping everyone safe.

Currently there are eight board members and plans are to expand the board. If you have an interest in serving on the Heritage Heights board contact Amanda at 509-682-1998.

A side note to this story. Craig Pittson plays Santa Claus throughout the Christmas season.

Recently, at Wapato Point Cellars one of the customers was so impressed with Craig's depiction of Santa he reached in his wallet and pulled out \$300 and told Craig, "Wish my grandchildren were here to enjoy you. Give this to your favorite charity."

Craig donated the \$300 to Heritage Heights bringing the total to \$1,000.

American Legion Commander Clyde McCullough said, "We are very happy we have the ability to financially assist people in our community."

"Assisting veterans, helping youth and giving back to our community are some of the reasons the American Legion was chartered by the United States Congress in 1919."



Santa Claus, Timi Starkweather and Norm Manly pose with the donation check.

COURTESY PHOTO



VETERAN-OWNED & OPERATED BUSINESS

Manson American Legion honors Len Carlson

By Norm Manly,
American Legion Post Service Officer

On November 27, at high noon, seven members of the Manson American Legion, Post 108 gathered at the home of Leonard Carlson on Summit Boulevard, where he has lived since 2004 to honor, say goodbye and wish him a Happy 90th Birthday.

The honor guard marched down the driveway and ended up on the front porch where they sang Happy Birthday. Leonard moves to the Kenmore Retreat Home on November 28 to be closer to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Joining the American Legion Honor Guard were Clyde McCullough, Brian Strausbaugh, Norm Manly, Carole Hanson, Craig Pittson (Santa), Jim Young and Alan Carnahan.

Leonard has been part of the American Legions since 2015 and has been an active member in Manson, Post 108 helping serve our community.

Leonard was born on December 7, 1930 in Astoria, Oregon and has one younger brother, Larry.

He spent his youth southeast of Astoria, up the road from his grandfather's family farm on Tucker Creek. Leonard says "I could hear the ocean from where I grew up!"

He joined the Air Force after graduating Astoria High School in 1948, and became a Staff Sergeant at age 19. He was based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska, the home of Alaskan Air Command and Alaskan NORAD Region.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Air Force, Leonard attended Oregon State University, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Len Carlson in uniform.

Upon graduation Leonard was immediately hired by the Boeing Company where he enjoyed a 40-year career, retiring in 1992.

Leonard and his wife, Frances, also from Astoria, were married for 60 years. Unfortunately, Frances passed away after a short battle with cancer in 2013.

Their family includes two sons, David and Michael with seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. His hobbies include books, books and more books, salmon fishing and world travel.

As for joy, besides family, Leonard enjoyed 30 years as a gentleman farmer on seven acres bordered by the Snoqualmie River near Fall City, Washington.

Most recently spending six years perched atop Summit Boulevard, watching morning sunrises and evening sunsets reflected gloriously by the azure waters of Lake Chelan, with neighbors and visiting friends. A place he daily greeted, "it's another day in Paradise."

Post 108 Vice Commander, Brian Strausbaugh says, "We are really going to miss Len. We wish him the very best with this new adventure in his life."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Len Carlson today.

The Mask of Anger

By Heather Hill
Veterans Counseling Services
of Central Washington

Did you know that anger is a secondary emotion? Its true. There is always another emotion that is laying beneath the surface of anger and rage. There is often an event that elicits the emotional response.

Events can be a variety of things: a confrontation, someone not following through as previously indicated, a death, a stressful day at work, etc.

The difficulty with anger is we communicate our rage and often fail to communicate the why.

For some, it is difficult for us to identify the cause for our anger because our emotional response has already taken over leading to irrational thought and communication. This is no different for Veterans.

Veterans, like others, often allow themselves to be overcome with anger and fail to communicate the actual issue which is causing the emotional disturbance.

It is critical for relationships, as well as the wellbeing of the Veteran



Heather Hill

or individual, to be able to identify the underlying emotion that is being masked by the anger and rage that is being expressed.

Often, the anger is disproportionate to the "event", and during conflict the primary reason the anger is being expressed is lost.

Common underlying emotions include disappointment, helplessness, hopelessness, despair,

feeling inadequate, worthlessness, FEAR, or feeling vulnerable.

These primary emotions can be compounded if the Veteran or individual feels too overwhelmed or feels unsafe.

As a result, the primary emotion is expressed in anger, hatred, feeling numb, shutting down, being narrow minded and rigid, and being overly protective in order to distract from feeling the primary emotion.

Anger and avoiding the primary emotion for Veterans and others leads to the Veteran attacking, criticizing, minimizing, rationalizing, distracting self from the issue.

This can lead to self-medication which can take a variety of forms to include addiction to drugs, alcohol, porn and work.

World War II Veterans and Vietnam Veterans were especially good at using overinvestment in work as a distraction.

Anger and rage can lead to pushing others away



View From the Hill

and destroys intimacy in relationships.

So now what? It is critical that Veterans and others take time to reflect what is causing their anger in order to appropriately and effectively communicate their experience and needs.

Christmas time can often be very difficult for combat Veterans. They have deployed to countries abroad and have seen real poverty that does not have the assistance of governmental support and aid.

They have seen people struggle to find food to eat and clean water to drink.

These experiences have caused the veil of "first world problems" to be torn.

The commercialism and excess of Christmas in the United States can be frustrating and revolting

to them. Their anger lies in the lack of empathy our families and country can display in the chaos of the holidays when they have firsthand knowledge and experiences that have shown them what need actually is and it does not include the new iPhone or X-Box.

This anger is rooted in resentment and frustration which is often not communicated effectively to those around them which leads to a lack empathy and awareness.

Day to day conflict that occurs in most households, military or not, is often due to the lack of communication of the primary emotional source.

A wife may express anger when their husband walks through the freshly vacuumed or mopped

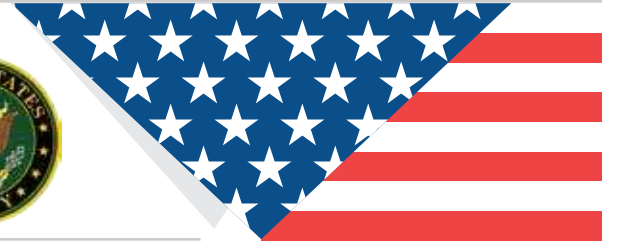
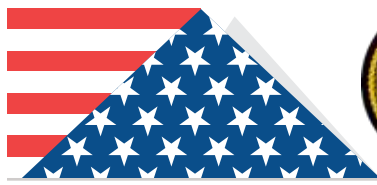
house with dirty boots leaving a bread trail of mud waffles left from their boots.

If not handled appropriately, this expression of anger can cause an ever-escalating conflict that may cause the husband to minimize the issue - "what's the bid deal - I'll vacuum it later." Or "you're overreacting - its just a little mud". Oh buddy - watch out- if you thought Fukushima or Chernobyl were bad - which wait and watch for the atomic meltdown that follows these types of responses.

The underlying emotion in this scenario can be feelings of being disrespected.

If a wife was able to effectively and calmly communicate that she felt disrespected that her hus-

VETERAN-OWNED & OPERATED BUSINESS



Chelan Mayor accepts 'gift' from Chelan PUD, city council



GARY BÉGIN/WBJ

From left, VFW Post #6853 Commander Jacques "Butch" Sims, city of Chelan Mayor and veteran Bob Goedde and fellow veterans, Brian Thompson, Sr. and Dan Wilson stand in front of a building that has been "gifted" to them for the use of veterans activities. Goedde said it was through the generosity of the PUD as well as the Washington Revised Codes of 1946, which allows a municipality to give bona fide veterans groups the right to use a municipal building at no charge. Monthly meetings of the VFW will be held at the new Veterans Hall. For more information, email Goedde: bgoedde@cityofchelan.us.

VetCorps project helps veteran's quality of life



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left are Douglas County VetCorps Navigator Jose Solis, Nancy Murtaugh, Ken Murtaugh and Chelan County VetCorps Navigator Trent Mortensen. Jose and Trent decided it was a good idea that Ken receive better access to his home before Christmas and so they built a walkway ramp for Ken and his wife Nancy. The two men are part of the VetCorps Navigator program, but in this case, they played Santa Claus(es) sans beards and red suits.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Miller Family.

Wenatchee Network Group aids fire, COVID stricken family

Submitted by Wenatchee Network Group

In November 2019, Jason and Miranda Miller, along with their five children, were preparing to retire for the

night when they noticed a wall in the living room glowing red.

Soon, they noticed the glow had spread to an adjoining wall and realized there

was fire inside the walls.

The family was able to escape the home, but fire consumed their life as they had known it.

For the next year, they

lived out of a motel room. Covid-related layoffs early in the year saw both parents out of work.

Covid-related closures also meant the construction company could not begin rebuilding their home.

Recently, Miranda has been able to return to work, but the construction company has not yet begun work on the home.

A Go-Fund-Me account was established to help them get into a rental when insurance funds ran out in December this year, but they encountered problems and are still working with their bank to access these funds donated by family, friends, and anonymous donors. Christmas was going to be very minimal for the family.

Wenatchee Network Group, comprised of local business owners and employees, "adopted" the Miller family for the holidays.

Members purchased gifts, hats and gloves, and Christmas stockings stuffed with treats for the children, as well as gift certificates for haircuts and a grocery store.

A car load of gifts were delivered to a very appreciative family just before Christmas.

Editor's Note: The names of the children were withheld as a safety policy.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

View From the Hill

band did not regard her hard work and efforts to clean their home, it can effectively shift the conversation to a productive one.

The tone of the conversation evolves and hopefully impacts the husband in such a way that he has remorse that his perceived carelessness impacted his wife in this way.

In order to stop the cycle of anger and rage Veterans and others much seek connection, personalize the experience, ask for what they need or want, and communicate their experience.

We are often blinded by our emotions and are unable to communicate our experience or needs when anger overcomes us. We must:

STOP: Don't react! Freeze. Your emotions are attempting to control you and you may act or speak without thinking. Stay in control.

TAKE A STEP BACK: Assess the situation. Take a break, let it go, breathe! Do NOT let your emotions excuse you to act impulsively and use words carelessly.

OBSERVE: Notice what is going on inside of you – reflect. What is the situation? What are your thoughts and feelings? How are others impacting you?

PROCEED MINDFULLY: Act with awareness and take your thoughts and emotions into account as well as the thoughts and feelings of others.

Identify your goal in communication with others and be thoughtful of how actions or words will make the situation better or worse.

Anger and rage is like anything else – the first step to overcome it is identifying that there is a problem and being aware that you must be intentional and disciplined in overcoming it.

The next time you feel overcome with anger – ask yourself the most important question! WHY?

Veteran Crisis Hotline Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone. Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder. Heather Hill is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

BUSINESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“ Play by the rules, but be ferocious.”

former basketball coach Phil Knight

The brand that gave us “Just do it!” qualifies that tagline, which always felt a bit broad, to include boundaries. You can't “just do it” without regard to the rules, as Knight clearly states. Those rules are what level the playing field and protect fair competition. But rules have nothing to do with the passion in which you play within them.




Building! North Central Washington MEMBER MESSENGER


"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

JANUARY 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1



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.



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Visit us online at:
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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Renewing Members This Month



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

- Active Employment Solutions – 10 years
- Artisan Flooring, LLC – 15 years
- Berggren Pool & Spa Services LLC – 2 years
- BOA Construction Co. – 23 years
- Cascade Tub Repair, LLC – 23 years
- Dick's Heating & A/C of Wenatchee – 23 years
- First Choice Collision Center, Inc. – 17 years
- LocalTel Communications – 15 years
- Lopez Design, LLC – 12 years
- Mitchell, Reed & Schmitt Insurance – 23 years
- Moonlight Tile & Stone – 14 years
- Sav-Mart – 17 years
- Smith Excavation – 15 years
- The Floor Factory, Inc. – 14 years
- The Good Life – 13 years
- Torrence Engineering, LLC – 14 years
- Valley Tractor & Rentals – 17 years

Thank You Chairman White!

As we start a new year, we want to take a moment to recognize BNCW's 2020 Chairman of the Board, Greg White – G.L. White Construction, Inc., for a job well-done! As Chairman, Greg dedicated a significant amount of time to help lead our Association forward during this most difficult year! His vision and commitment to Building North Central Washington have brought great value to not only the strategic discussions in the boardroom but have helped to pave the way for BNCW moving forward. We owe a debt of gratitude to Greg, as our organization has reaped the benefits of his leadership!

We look forward to his continued leadership on our Board of Directors in 2021 as our Immediate Past Chairman!

Thank you, Greg for all you do in support of "BNCW" and our mission – you are sincerely appreciated! We want to sincerely thank Greg's wife, Cheryl, too!



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BNCW's:

FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Spending Shifts

“Personal spending rose 0.5% in October, but ignoring inflation, remains down 1.6% from where it was in February 2020, pre-Covid-19. More interestingly, spending on durables like cars, laptops, and sporting goods is up 15.2% from February, while spending on nondurables, which includes food, clothes, and shoes, has risen 4% since 2/20. By contrast, spending on services, the largest spending component, and which covers baseball, ballet and bars, is down 5.8%.”



Pension Payments

“The last Civil War veteran to die was Albert Woolson (1850-1956). The last Civil War bride to die was Maude Hopkins (1914-2008), who at 19 married William Cantrell, age 86. The last person to receive a Civil War pension, \$73.13/month, was Irene Triplet, who died this past June at 90. Amazingly, her father fought in the Civil War, which ended in 1865, 155 years ago!”

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



There's something exciting about a new year. The idea of a fresh start, rejuvenated hearts and minds after the holidays, new goals, and a rekindled hope in what is yet to be brings a smile to my face. After a year like 2020, it is my wish to you that you're able to find some excitement in what is yet to come and maintain a positive outlook in what is bound to be a challenging time for many. To do that, I want to extend my help as your Membership & Events Coordinator in any way that I can. Building North Central Washington is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and representing our members and community to the best of our ability. We work hard every day to bring you value, protection, and a voice in arenas that you might not otherwise be heard. A new year brings so many opportunities for growth, change and development. Some new problems may arise, but with a little help, a whole lot of gumption and a smidge of “can-do” attitude, this fresh start

can be prosperous, even with uncertainty.

My goal this year is to help you find ways to grow and prosper.

I want to be able to provide you with support where you need it, work with you to utilize services and resources, solve problems, or even just lend an ear if you need it. We're working to develop viable solutions for our members to thrive this year. New marketing campaigns, a couple new events, and some adjustments to the familiar events are in the works now and as always, we are working for you.

If you'd like to learn more about our government affairs, upcoming events, membership discounts and benefits, or anything else, please feel free to reach out to me at rachel@buildingncw.org at any time. I am here to help.



Rachel Beardslee



Virtual Event

JOIN BNCW & JOSH MORSE WITH BROAN-NUTONE TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW ENERGY CODE COMING FEBRUARY 1ST, 2021

**CONTACT RACHEL OR VISIT
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TO SIGN UP TODAY**





MEMBER MESSENGER

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JANUARY 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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BNCW's 2021 Leadership at a Glance

Meet the Board of Directors:

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

Each one of these individuals is always available to speak to our members.

You will find their contact information noted on BNCW's website at www.BuildingNCW.org.

We're very proud to introduce BNCW's officers for 2021!

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

They are:

- ◆ **Chairman of the Board: Jeff Story**, Story Construction, LLC
- ◆ **First Vice Chairman: Ed Gardner**, E.D.Y. Construction Corp.
- ◆ **Second Vice Chairman: Shane Covey**, Custom Construction & Cabinetry
- ◆ **Treasurer: Robert Guerin**, Wenatchee Valley Glass
- ◆ **Secretary: Jim Blair IV**, North Meridian

Title & Escrow

- ◆ **Immediate Past Chairman: Greg White**, G.L. White Construction, Inc.

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

- ◆ **Dan Beardslee**, Dan Beardslee Consulting
- ◆ **Allen Tangeman**, First Choice Collision Center, Inc.
- ◆ **Brandon Littrell**, One-Way Construction NW, Inc.
- ◆ **Shon Smith**, Wok About Grill
- ◆ **Randy Wessman**, Wessman Construction LLC
- ◆ **Sean Lynn**, Love Leavenworth Vacation Rentals
- ◆ **Michael Berggren**, Berggren Pool & Spa Services LLC

Also joining the Board of Directors will be our Lifetime Directors:

- ◆ **Randy Gold**, Gold Construction, Inc.
 - ◆ **Dustin Christensen**, Tonka Landshaping & Excavating
 - ◆ **Ryan Kelso**, Complete Design, Inc.
- BNCW's Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00am and BNCW members are always welcome to attend! For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Kim at 509-293-5840. We look forward to serving our valued members in 2021!



Membership Benefits

- ✓ **Member Referral Program** – Helping to Increase Your Business!
- ✓ **Industry Advocacy/Representation** – Leveraging Your Voice on Issues that Impact Your Livelihood!
- ✓ **Health Insurance Plans** – Matching Your Needs with the Most Competitive Rates Available!
- ✓ **Workers' Comp Retro Program** – Get Some of Your Hard-Earned Dollars Back for Being Safety Conscious!
- ✓ **Networking Opportunities** – Enjoyable Member Events and Activities!
- ✓ **Access to Discounted Marketing, Advertising & Promotional Opportunities** – More Bang for Your Buck!
- ✓ **Complimentary Custom APP (L & I Required Safety Plan)** – Avoid Expensive Fines & Penalties!
- ✓ **Access to Members-Only Discounts** – Save Money on Purchases You're Already Making!
 - Office Supplies
 - Wireless Service
 - Maintenance & Repairs
 - Travel
 - Fleet Management and More!
- ✓ **Member to Member Discounts** – Take Advantage of Exclusive Discounts Offered by Fellow Members!
- ✓ **Member Discounts on Ed Classes** – Save Money on Required Classes Like CPR/First Aid and Others!
- ✓ **Various Directory Listings (online/print)** – Your Company Listing Included in all Print & Online Listings!
- ✓ **Access to Initial Legal Consultation** – All Members Gain Access to Initial Complimentary Legal Service!
- ✓ **Complimentary Notary Public**

Service – In a Hurry and Need Documents Notarized... Let Us Help!

- ✓ **Member Discounted Printing/Copying (Color and B/W)** – Members Pay Only .20¢ Color; .05¢ B/W!
- ✓ **Complimentary Access to Required State and Federal forms** – Avoid Fines and Penalties!
- ✓ **Complimentary Access to Business Forms; Letters; Contracts** – Save Time and Money!
- ✓ **Complimentary Meeting Room Access (Wireless Wi-Fi; Phone; Copy Machine)** – Client Meetings!
- ✓ **Access to Building Permit Lists** – Let Us Do the Work for You!
- ✓ **Complimentary Subscription to Wenatchee Business Journal** – Stay Informed About Business in NCW!
- ✓ **Access to Community Relationship Building Opportunities** – Great Opportunities to Give Back!
- ✓ **Leadership Opportunities** – Great for Personal Development and Opportunity to Make a Difference!
- ✓ **Access to Key Industry Information** – Stay Informed of Important Changes in Industry and Business!
- ✓ **Affiliation with a Trusted Professional Trade Association** – Demonstrates You're an Industry Leader!
- ✓ **Lucrative Rewards for Member Recruitment** – Earn Cash for Introducing New Members to BNCW!

Update From BNCW's Government Affairs Director - Dan Beardslee

No. 1 – Regulation of Short-Term Rentals (STR's)

Chelan County has been working on this for a couple of years now. It started out as a simple land-use ordinance that would give the County some enforcement tools to help regulate the few bad actors that cause long-term residents grief. It has morphed into something much more complicated now.

The current proposal now calls for a limitation on the number of STR's allowed in the counting and in various zip codes, particularly the Leavenworth-Lake Wenatchee area and Manson-Chelan.

Depending on who is doing the counting there are around 1500 STR's in Chelan County. There are about 12,500 single family residences in the unincorporated portions of the County so roughly 12% of them are STR's.

The County is proposing to limit the number to around 5% of the total residences so you can do the math – roughly 625 of the STR's will have to go away.

The economic impacts of this strategy are huge. According to a report prepared by the consulting firm Michael Lewis and Associates, the current proposal will cost the County 314 jobs and \$9.5 million in labor income, as well \$976,000 per year in foregone sales tax and lodging tax revenue annually.

This study, however, only looked at the impact on two zoning designations, and the proposal affects other zones substantially, so the total impact might be twice as much as the study concludes.

BNCW has been engaged in this issue since the outset.



We actually submitted an alternative proposal many months ago, but to date it has gained no traction with the County Commissioners.

The County Commissioners are having a public hearing on the final draft on December 22, and plan to act on it on December 29.

They are getting a lot of resistance from the STR owners and operators and business owners that will be affected. We'll have to see what happens.

To stay up to date follow this link: <https://co.chelan.wa.us/community-development/pages/short-term-vacation-rentals-str-code-development>.

As of this writing 209 people have signed up to testify at the hearing. It is a foregone conclusion that this will be challenged in court if adopted.

No. 2 – Water Mitigation Code

Chelan County is also proposing a water mitigation program. In a nutshell, anyone applying for a building permit that involves a new water withdrawal in the Wenatchee, Entiat, or Chelan river basins will have to pay a “mitigation

fee” of somewhere between \$3500 and \$5000.

BNCW has been engaged in this process. It is being rushed along, and we have many questions that have yet to be satisfactorily answered.

The Commissioners held a hearing on the proposal on December 14, and because of the questions we raised, they have delayed adoption and continued that hearing until mid-January.

The proposal is being forwarded by the County Natural Resources Department and is being sold as necessary to prevent the Department of Ecology (DOE) from threatening to “close” those basins to further withdrawals. We have heard nothing from DOE on that, however.

If you want to discuss this contact our Government Affairs coordinator, Dan Beardslee.

Follow this link to see the actual code proposal: <https://co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/water-resources-management>





MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JANUARY 2021 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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TOOLBOX TALKS



Cold weather stress



Working under cold conditions can lead to injuries or health effects, which are collectively known as **cold stress**.

Workers may experience cold stress when working:

- Outdoors on a cold day
- In a refrigerated room
- In an unheated building
- In cold water, rain, or snow
- While handling

The hazardous effects of cold on the body may include:

- dehydration
- numbness

- shivering
- Frostbite
- hypothermia

Hazards associated with cold stress are categorized into **systemic** and **local** effects.

Local effects impact the part of the body where the exposure to cold is the greatest.

Systemic effects impact the whole body.

How can you recognize cold stress?

Shivering is the body's response to cold stress and serves as a protection mechanism by increasing the rate

of metabolism. Be on guard for cold stress if workers are shivering because it is an important sign of cold stress and possible hypothermia. Recognizing cold stress in the workplace requires regular interactive communication with potentially exposed employees.

Behaviors that may indicate cold stress exposures include:

- Seeking warm locations
- Adding layers of clothing
- Increasing their work rate

If there is a **noticeable drop in manual dexterity** for workers, local cold stress may be occurring.

Manual dexterity decreases with cold, which could result in safety hazards to the worker and coworkers.

Employers can help protect workers from cold stress by providing training, controlling temperature and wind exposure by using heaters and windbreaks, and rotating workers in cold jobs so that no one is exposed too long.

Schedule work at warmest times, encouraging self-pacing and extra breaks if necessary.



Establish a buddy system and keep first aid supplies and equipment on site.

Equally important, **employees can do their part** to prevent cold stress.

Proper insulation and good ventilation are critical for clothing worn during cold

stress exposures.

Better insulation is achieved by layering clothes rather than by wearing just one warm garment.

Layering allows a person to add or remove layers to adjust for different insulation needs during the work period.

Winter driving



Winter is on its way. Fog, rain, ice, snow, slippery

roads, and poor visibility can be dangerous for pedestrians,

drivers, and other vehicle operators. There are some simple precautions you can take to minimize the risk of accidents and injuries.

This winter season, before you get into a vehicle, take a little extra time to make sure everything in and about the vehicle is in good condition and operating correctly.

- Are the windshield and

side windows clear?

- Do the windshield wipers work?
- Are the blades in good condition?
- Can you see in all the mirrors?
- Are the headlights clean enough to allow for proper visibility?
- Do the tail and the brake lights work?
- Do the emergency lights work?

Check for any blockage on the dash vent to assure maximum coverage.

- Does the defroster work?
- Do the tires have good tread and adequate pressure?
- Are the brakes working properly?
- Is there more than a quarter tank of gas?
- Do you have emergency or repair equipment in the vehicle, including flashlights, flares, fire extinguishers, and

chains where applicable?

Check all of these things before winter weather comes.

Remember also to reduce driving speed on wet, muddy, oily, or icy roads, and be especially alert for pedestrians and animals. It will make your driving experience easier and safer.

Preventive maintenance and extra caution can save you from a potential accident during the dark days of winter.

Protecting Roofing Workers

Worker safety is important on any construction job. Working on roofs is no exception.

Falls account for more serious injuries and deaths in construction than anything else.

Accidents occur not only to those building roofs, but also people maintaining, cleaning, demolishing, and inspecting roofs. Any work on a roof is high risk. Working safe on a roof may vary from one job to another, but not providing safeguards is unacceptable.

Factors that contribute to potential accidents while working on roofs.

■ Pitch of the roof – the steeper the pitch, the more difficult it is to maintain your footing.

■ Moisture – rain, snow or frost may cause slippery conditions on the roof.

■ Dirt or Sawdust – may cause slippery conditions on the roof.

■ Footwear – the traction of shoes/boots varies, always wear good traction shoes/boots.

■ Tripping hazards – tools, electric cords, etc. can create a tripping hazard.

Pre-planning for roof

work

■ Risk assessment – identify the risks and hazards before performing the specific tasks.

■ Getting on and off the roof – find a secure way to enter and exit the roof.

■ Fall arrest system – a fall arrest system is required if a worker may fall from elevation.

■ Falling Material – maintain good housekeeping on the roof to stop falling material.

■ Training – roof workers need the knowledge, skills,

and experience to work safely.

■ Weather conditions – work should not occur during icy, rainy, or windy conditions.

■ Ladders and scaffolding – make sure they are structurally sound and installed properly.

If you have questions, talk to your supervisor.

Safe Work Practices

■ Keep your center of gravity low and over your feet.

■ Keep your knees bent and be aware of things around you.

■ Do not carry too much or have your hands too full.

■ Do not drop things or let them roll off the roof.

■ Go up and down ladders facing the ladder.

BNCW EVENTS

BNCW's January Board of Directors Meeting

■ Wednesday, January 20, 2020
7:00am to 9:00am
Building North Central Washington
2201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee
Chairman: Jeff Story

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

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

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



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Shane Bickford gets 25-year service recognition, promotion from Douglas County PUD



Shane Bickford

Awarded and recognized promotion of Assistant Manager – Natural Resources and Dam Safety Shane Bickford with his twenty-five year service award. Commissioner Simpson thanked Shane on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service. Shane thanked the Commission and said “It has been humbling to be able to work on complex and challenging projects. I appreciate the District entrusting these projects to me and I am looking forward to the next chapter.”

GGW law firm adds Matt Hitchcock to team

Gatens Green Weidenbach announces the addition of attorney **Matthew Hitchcock** to their team.



Matthew Hitchcock

The addition of Hitchcock furthers the team’s decades of experience in practice areas including real estate, litigation and land use. Matt has been practicing law in the Wenatchee valley for over four years. He served his country in the Army before attending Boise State University and obtaining his Juris Doctorate from the University of Idaho. “We are excited to welcome

Matt to the team at Gatens Green Weidenbach,” shared Partner Lindsey Weidenbach. “Bringing on an attorney with Matt’s experience and skills will benefit our entire practice group and allow us to further our goal of providing quality legal services to our region.”

April Emry promoted to Vice President, Retail Branch Manager, Peoples Bank Wenatchee Financial Center

April Emry, Manager of the Peoples Bank Wenatchee Financial Center, has been promoted to Vice President, Retail Branch Manager. April has over 30 years of banking experience. She joined Peoples Bank in 2005 and has been a vital part of the Bank’s success in the Wenatchee market. A lifelong Wenatchee resident, April served as board treasurer of Mobile Meals of Wenatchee, an organization founded in 1971 to deliver nutritious meals to residents in need,

while also volunteering as a driver for the organization for the past twelve years.

Peoples Bank is headquartered in Bellingham. It was founded in 1921 and operates 23 branches located throughout the state. Peoples Bank was awarded a superior five-star rating from Bauer Financial. Learn more about Peoples Bank at peoplesbank-wa.com/.

Okanogan PUD’s Don Coppock wins the WPUA William T. Elmgren Public Service Award for 2020

Interim General Manager, Director of Accounting, Finance & Administration, and Auditor for Okanogan PUD Don Coppock has been awarded the Washington PUD Association (WUPDA) William T. Elmgren Public Service Award for 2020.

AAA Washington Board of Trustees hires Russell Reynolds and begins CEO search

Kirk Nelson, AAA Washington President & CEO, to retire summer 2021

Kirk Nelson, President & CEO of AAA Washington the preeminent provider of emergency road service in Washington and North Idaho, plans to retire next summer after 10 years in the driver’s seat.

AAA’s Board of Trustees recently retained Russell Reynolds to begin a CEO search.

Nelson has served as president and CEO since April 2011 after a lengthy career at Qwest Communications where he was Washington President.

Nelson’s vision led AAA Washington through innovation initiatives like GIG Car Share Seattle and the modernization of its retail locations; grew membership to more than 1.2 million; focused the organization on a dynamic strategic plan; and when he retires next year, will leave his successor a company with a strong financial foundation and bright future.

During his business career, he has also been active in the community, having served as chair of the Association of Washington Business,



Kirk Nelson

the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Seattle Sports Commission and the Community Development Roundtable.

He currently serves on the boards of the Benaroya Research Institute, American Commerce Insurance Company and Forterra, Inc.

“I’ve thoroughly enjoyed leading the great team at AAA Washington who cares deeply about each other and our members,” said Nelson.

“The team is dedicated to moving the member-centric organization forward through innovative initiatives, collaboration and a drive for success. I will miss working with everyone on a daily basis, but I’ll be a member for life!”

The AAA Washington Board of Trustees has ac-

quired the professional expertise of Russell Reynolds to execute the CEO search.

The search committee will be led by incoming board chair Greg Bever (retired publisher of Spokane Journal of Business), and Sheila Edwards Lange (president of Seattle Central College).

Interested candidates can email Russell Reynolds at AAAWashington@russellreynolds.com.

“On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Kirk Nelson for his outstanding leadership, commitment to our members and employees, and countless achievements. He leaves AAA Washington in a strong position for the next CEO,” said Board Chair, Carolyn Kelly.

“The Board has begun a comprehensive search to identify a strategically driven leader who can leverage innovation and experience to continue to move the organization forward.”

About AAA Washington

AAA Washington has been serving members and the traveling public since 1904.

The organization provides a variety of exclusive benefits, including roadside assistance, discounts, maps and personalized trip planning, to its 1.2 million members.

In addition, its full-service travel and insurance agencies provide products and services for members and the public. Additional information is available through the company’s stores in Washington and northern Idaho, at AAA.com, or by calling 1-800-562-2582.



East Wenatchee Councilman Tidd given Certificate of Municipal Leadership

OLYMPIA – Councilman **Robert Tidd** of the city of East Wenatchee, recently received a Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

AWC’s Certificate of Municipal Leadership program recognizes city and town elected officials for accomplishing training in four core areas:

- Roles, responsibilities and legal requirements
- Public sector resource management
- Community planning and development
- Effective local leadership

“Cities and towns around the state are continually transforming in light of changing laws and the need to meet new challenges and opportunities,” said AWC Chief Executive Officer Peter B. King.

“Our Certificate of Municipal Leadership program helps mayors and councilmembers sharpen the tools they need today to understand the legal landscape, plan for the future, manage their resources, and foster strong relationships.

“The elected officials who earn this certificate demonstrate a commitment to continuous learning and a desire to bring new ideas back to their community.”

Councilmember Tidd completed more than 30 hours of

training credits to earn this distinction.

Tidd was appointed to the City of East Wenatchee City Council on August 20, 2019. He and his wife Bealinda have been residents of the City of East Wenatchee since 2009.

Tidd graduated from Waterville High School, then attended Washington State University and graduated Willamette University in Salem, Oregon with a degree in Economics.

He then went on to obtain a law degree from San Francisco Law School, through its evening law school program.

Tidd is currently employed as a project manager for an affordable housing developer.



Robert Tidd

AWC serves its members through advocacy, education and services. Founded in 1933, AWC is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington’s 281 cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and with regulatory agencies.

Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare welcomes David McClay as CEO

OMAK – Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare (OBHC) is pleased to welcome **David McClay** as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective December 14.

The OBHC Board of Directors selected McClay to fill the position following the recently announced resignation of Bill Snyder, who is returning to Colorado due to family health concerns.

“David comes to OBHC at a newly reinvigorated time in our history,” said OBHC Board Chair Dennis Rabadou.

“We look forward to the experience and expertise he brings to the role continuing our forward and upward momentum as Okanogan County’s largest and most comprehensive behavioral health care provider.”

David holds an M.B.A. in Health Care Management from Western Governors University, and a B.S. in Management Information Systems from Washington State University.

He has served the last six years as CEO of Columbia Wellness in Longview, Washington, where he also served as Chief Operat-

ing Officer for two years, and as Chief Financial Officer for three years prior to that.



David McClay

His accomplishments during his eleven years there include enhancing patient access using technology; transforming the organizational culture to produce measurable outcomes; and reducing staff turnover by twenty-one percent.

Under his leadership, Columbia Wellness was named the 2018 Nonprofit of the Year by the Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce.

David’s family, including his wife and daughter, will be joining him as part of our community.

Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare is the largest, most comprehensive, and longest-serving behavioral healthcare organization in Okanogan County, and is the designated Medicaid provider of behavioral healthcare. Its caring and compassionate professionals provide individual, family and youth mental health care; mental health crisis response; treatment and recovery support for substance/opioid use disorders; therapeutic court programs helping participants maintain crime- and substance-free lives; and developmental disabilities services coordination.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured (from left to right), Zack Hambleton, DVM; Debbie Piepel; Ed Womack, DVM.

Cascade Veterinary Clinics announce Piepel retirement

For 41 years, **Deb Piepel** has provided excellent customer service, sincere friendship, and unwavering support to our community through her work with Cascade Veterinary Clinics. In that time, she has interacted with thousands of pet-owners throughout the Wenatchee Valley and beyond. From her start as a receptionist

at the original North Wenatchee Avenue clinic, then as office manager, and more recently helping to establish and actively manage the Leavenworth clinic – Deb has made a difference in the lives of many. Her commitment to Cascade Veterinary Clinics, clients and pets has been remarkable and will be sincerely missed.

BUSINESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Business opportunities are like buses, there’s always another one coming.”

Richard Branson

Branson’s Virgin has proven that from record labels to airlines, where there is a will there is a way. The door isn’t always open, but sometimes it’s ajar or the key is on the floor. All you must do is pick it up and turn the lock. Basically, the right environment for success ebbs and flows, but a keen businessperson is never passive.

Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center’s Executive Director Talbot provides leadership for state association

Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center (WVDRC) is pleased to announce that **Jennifer Talbot**, Executive Director, was recently elected to serve as Co-President for Resolution Washington beginning in July 2021.

Talbot currently serves as Vice President for the state level association.

Resolution Washington is a membership network of 21 nonprofit Dispute Resolution Centers across the state committed to supporting cost-effective conflict resolution services and training.

In addition to her role on the association’s Executive Committee, Talbot serves on the Marketing and Develop-



Jennifer Talbot

ment committee and the Restorative Practices Committee for Resolution Washington.

Luna given National Association for Community Mediation award

Each year, the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) selects four outstanding volunteer mediators from nominees across the country who are recognized by their local dispute resolution center for their service and devotion to community mediation.

Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center is proud to announce that one of their special volunteers, **Concie Luna**, was chosen to receive this prestigious award and recognized for her many years of service in building transformative peace in our community.

The award was presented virtually on December 3rd by representatives from NAFCM and with WVDRC staff, fellow mediators, Board members, and representatives from Resolution Washington in attendance. Upon receiving the award, Concie said, “Thank you, [mediation] is such a worldwide difference making that I am proud to be part of.”

The NAFCM Outstanding Volunteer of the Quarter exemplifies the nine hallmarks that define the practice of mediation including: Illustrating that the practice of mediation is open to all;

Being a community mediation center’s greatest referral source while



Concie Luna

helping to reduce barriers to service; and Increasing public awareness and educational activities about the values and practices of mediation. Concie has been described by staff, other mediators and disputants as:

- A warm and compassionate mediator with an infectious sense of humor.
- As one who cares deeply about the disputants, remains fair and neutral, and works hard to move the mediation in a positive direction.
- As one with a great sense of humor and uses it to deflate difficult situations and put people at ease.

Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center certifies new mediator

Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center (WVDRC) is pleased to announce that **Sarah Walker** has completed WVDRC’s mediator certification program and is committed to serving on the organization’s Mediation Team.

After completing the requisite training, practical experience, and an interview with WVDRC’s Certification Committee, the WVDRC Board recognized the certification of Walker at its December Board meeting.

Walker joins a team of mediators, who voluntarily offer their services to WVDRC clients in a variety of areas including divorce, property settlements, parenting plans and their revision, as well as disputes between parents/teens, tenant/landlord, small claims, employee/employer, business/consumer, neighbor/neighbor, school, family, and property/business problem-solving.



Sarah Walker

About



WVDRC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Chelan and Douglas counties, provides cost effective mediation, training, community education, and other programs to assist people in reaching the peaceful resolution of their conflicts. For further information on mediation training program or to inquire about mediation and other services please visit the WVDRC website at wvdr.org or call (509) 888-0957.

REAL ESTATE

DECEMBER 2020

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL / NCWBUSINESS.COM

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TOP PROPERTIES – NOVEMBER 2020

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Garage Area
CASTLEROCK WENATCHEE 139 LLC	CASTLEROCK VENTURES LLC	\$20,100,000	CASTLEROCK AVE	WENATCHEE	5.8000	93228	1976			2232.0
RISELAND BRIAN & JANETT L GARCIA-RISELAND	LUKER TERRY R & SHIRLEY A	\$1,800,000	WATER ST	CHELAN	0.1100	2710	2006	4	3.75	0
LARSON ERIK & JODI	MILLER WILLIAM C & TARA M	\$1,645,000	HIGHPOINT PL	CHELAN	2.5000	3436	2016	3	2.5	2360.0
LEE MICHAEL C & ROSANA M BISHAI	SNYDER MATTHEW M & AMY T	\$1,425,000	FOXBRIDGE LN	LEAVENWORTH	10.0400	1906	2016	3	3	990.0
VEERS CHARLES R	HAGEN STEVE E & NANCY A	\$1,350,000	TELEMARK LN	LAKE WENATCHEE	1.0000	0	0			0
HAYNES SCOTT A	DAHL DAVID R & BRENDA L	\$1,300,000	US HWY 97A	ENTIAT	0.4900	1588	2000	3	3	1008.0
SWENSON ROBB L & CINDY L	CAMERON TONY & VANESSA ETAL	\$1,150,000	EMIG DR	LEAVENWORTH	1.0100	4070	2018	4	3.5	2600.0
WHITEHEAD LUKAS & TURNER ROXANNE	GREEN BRIAN	\$1,050,000	BARDIN JAMES RD	MONITOR	6.0900	3016	1998	5	3.5	576.0
GUEMPEL JOHN & TERRINA	DE NOMA JAY & STEPHANIE L	\$1,050,000	HIGHPOINT LN	CHELAN	2.2300	2012	1997	3	2.5	1073.0
CHELAN MAINTENANCE FACILITY LLC	WORD KARL & DEBORAH	\$1,000,000	WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	0.4000	0	0			0
NIELSEN CRISTIAN ETAL	PIEROTTI KEVIN J & RICHARD L PIEROTTI TIC	\$960,000	PARK ST	CHELAN	0.0000	2156	0			0
VANDERKOLK NAILLA	TVETEN BRANDON & SHARON	\$932,500	SKI HILL DR	LEAVENWORTH	1.2100	1889	1984	5	3.5	648.0
BOLLSCHWEILER JEFFREY R & CORTNEY C	CARY CHARLES L & KATHLEEN M REVLIVTRT	\$930,000	CHELAN RIDGE RD	CHELAN	0.6300	2641	2008	4	3	1040.0
LOHSE DR GRANT R & DR LIZA K PARTLOW	OLRUN GRACE E	\$915,000	WASHUT LN	MANSON	0.8300	0	0			0
HIRAI RICK Y & AMY L	BRUGGMAN TIMOTHY E	\$903,000	AUTUMN CREST DR	WENATCHEE	0.5800	1947	2015	4	3.5	814.0
BRUNSON GLENN S	HOLT DOUGLAS W & CATHERINE M	\$900,000	COTTONTAIL LN	CHELAN	20.0000	0	0			0
BRUNSON GLENN S	HOLT DOUGLAS W & CATHERINE M	\$900,000	CAGLE GULCH RD	CHELAN	19.6300	0	0			0
RUIZ WILLIAM & BRITTNEY	DESAI NEELKANTH N & JOHANNA B WHITE	\$892,000	JACKRABBIT LN	CHELAN	0.1000	1552	2018	3	2.5	0
KALLIO WILLIAM R & CHELSEA R GLOBE	MOORE RICHARD L & MAXINE J	\$870,000	SUMMIT BLVD	MANSON	2.9600	2912	2006	4	2.5	384.0
KALLIO WILLIAM R & CHELSEA R GLOBE	MOORE RICHARD L & MAXINE J	\$870,000	SUMMIT BLVD	MANSON	2.9600	2912	2006	4	2.5	950.0
TWIN PEAKS HOLDINGS LLC	CARLTON VISTA LLC	\$847,500	CHELAN AVE	CHELAN	0.1900	6160	1968			0
PERALTA JORGE & ERIN	RESSLER JOHN & PENNY C	\$830,000	SUMMIT AVE	LEAVENWORTH	0.4000	4051	1924	4	3.5	865.0
MUMFORD ANTHONY R & ANGELA J	PROSISE RONALD C	\$825,000	WESTPOINT PL	WENATCHEE	1.2000	3395	1995	3	2.5	933.0
MUNROE KRISTOFFER R & KATE G	TAYLOR DONALD M & SUSAN L	\$805,000	LITTLE BUTTE RANCH RD	CHELAN	20.0000	0	0			0
LEEDOM JOSEPH S & JENNIFER	BECKER HOMES LLC	\$795,000	CHUMSTICK HWY	LEAVENWORTH	2.2500	2328	1961	6	3	1375.0
DE CAMP BRANDON	KOZIKOWSKI THEODORE E & CHRISTINE E	\$790,000	SAGE CREST DR	WENATCHEE	0.4800	3824	2004	3	3.5	884.0
LEIGH ANDREA & WILLIAM J	OVERTURF TRACY L & RANDY S	\$760,000	HAIGHT DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.3100	3080	2006	3	3.5	832.0
TALBOTT SETH ETAL	PETERSON CARL A	\$760,000	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	1.4000	0	0			0
JUCO MARYROSE & ABNER ETAL	EASTERN WA CONSTRUCTION INC	\$750,000	BAY VIEW LN	MANSON	0.2900	3780	2020			0
CAMERON RICHARD S & PATRICIA A	TIMBERWOOD HOMES LLC	\$749,990	BURCH HOLLOW LN	WENATCHEE	0.4100	2034	2019	4	3.75	816.0
PELLATT WADE	TILLY E BART & COREEN B	\$735,000	MAIDEN LN	WENATCHEE	0.3300	3863	1999		3	795.0
COHEN SHANNON M & GABRIEL B	MCCARTY MICHAEL & TINA	\$725,000	WILLIAMS CANYON RD	DRYDEN	22.0900	1739	1994	2	3	0
COHEN JASON & SHAWNA	MAC KAY JOYCE L	\$725,000	MIRACLE MILE	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.3000	2018	2006	3	3	0
MULLEN ROBERT C & JEAN M	HARRIS ADAM C	\$712,500	FORK RD	CASHMERE	20.1600	1522	2007	2	3	0
BLANKENBURG CHRIS A & CHANTAL M	SEHORN JEREMY J & ALICIA H	\$702,000	APRIL DR	WENATCHEE	2.3000	3426	1992	3	4	1270.0
GRAFTON EDWIN C & ALICE C	COONFIELD RODNEY	\$700,000	WALNUT PL	WENATCHEE	1.0300	1650	1986	4	3	1020.0
JACKSON SCOTT & PATRICIA A BEARES	KORZYNEK PETER & MIRJANA	\$700,000	LAKESHORE DR	MANSON	1.1100	1249	2004	2	2	1152.0
FRIEDRICH MARION A	TIMBERWOOD HOMES LLC	\$699,990	BURCH HOLLOW LN	WENATCHEE	0.4200	2139	2020	4	4.25	640.0
PETERSEN ROBERT M & CYNTHIA P W LIVING TRUST	ANTOINE ORCHARDS INC	\$685,505	SR 150	MANSON	2.4800	2703	1962	4	2	864.0
DALES RANDOLPH K & MARILYN A TYLER	MEDITZ NICHOLAS J	\$680,000	MIRACLE MILE	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.2700	1904	2014	3	2	496.0
BUSK RYAN R & JANIE L	BATES FAMILY TRUST	\$659,000	KNOWLES RD	WENATCHEE	0.8100	2350	1991	2	4	972.0
SMITH CAMERON	SMITH JEREMY & STEPHANI	\$647,900	TANAGER LN	CASHMERE	0.4100	1918	2017	1	1	1344.0
NEROUTSOS NEIL S	THIELEN ERIC & JOANNE	\$630,000	WESTCHESTER DR	WENATCHEE	0.3100	1392	1993	4	2.5	484.0
TALLEY RANDY & LISA	MACON BRYAN A	\$600,000	MAJESKA LN	CASHMERE	1.3200	2299	1998	6	3.5	776.0
RAND CHAD C & MORGAN	EVANS RICHARD L	\$595,000	BROADWAY PL	WENATCHEE	0.4200	2667	1996	5	3	0
TOFTNESS KIMBERLY & TROY	SEALE JANICE L TRUSTEE	\$579,900	HALVORSON CANYON RD	WENATCHEE	23.3000	1209	1972	2	1	616.0
HART NICHOLAS W	CURRY WHITNEY & WILLIE R	\$579,000	RIVER RD	PLAIN	2.5100	1056	2017	2	1	0
HOUGHTON TERRY JR & AISHA	BLODGETT FRED E JR & TINA J	\$575,000	WILSON ST	LEAVENWORTH	1.0000	1196	1977	3	2	988.0
VAN RUFF WILLIAM K & SUSAN R	STAMBAUGH TAMARA M	\$575,000	SQUILCHUCK RD	WENATCHEE	4.0700	2556	1999	3	2	1200.0
HARDEN DANIELLE E	HOYT ALEXANDER A & ALLIE	\$565,000	SUMMER BREEZE RD	MANSON	0.2300	2634	2018	4	3	480.0
BUDISELICH WACO	LESMEISTER ROBERT R & SUZANNE L	\$559,000	TURK RD	MANSON	2.8400	1464	1979	3	1.75	528.0

TOP PROPERTIES – November 2020 - SEE PAGE 18

TOP PROPERTIES – November 2020 – continued from page 17

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Street	City	Legal acreage	Living area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Garage Area	Pool	Fire-place
P1 HOLDINGS LLC	NCW PRECISION PROPERTIES LLC	\$550,412	COLUMBIA	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1800	7950	1968				0
RICHERSON LINDSAY & KYLE	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$539,900	SPRING MOUNTAIN	DR	WENATCHEE	0.1600	2065	2020	3	2		486.0
BOONE LEIGH A	LAWSON DAVID K	\$500,000	BRIDLE	LN	PLAIN	0.2000	1336	1994			1	0
GUEMPEL JOHN & TERRINA	DE NOMA JAY & STEPHANIE L	\$500,000	HIGHPOINT	LN	CHELAN	2.7700	0	0				0
SPOHN KENNETH & CHERYL CHATHAM SPOHN	PHELPS ELAINE L	\$500,000	WAPATO LAKE	RD	MANSON	3.7300	1512	1996				0
SALMON KATHRYN A	HOURIGAN RICHARD J	\$500,000	DELAWARE	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.2800	1997	1929	3	3		528.0
MC MURRAY KEVIN & JENNIFER ROSE	CRAWFORD ALICE BASFORD	\$495,000	EAGLE ROCK	DR	WENATCHEE	1.6700	1504	1997				528.0
STICKLEY KENNETH D & COLETTE M TRUST	HARVEY PATRICK W & THERESA A	\$495,000	WOODIN	AVE	CHELAN	0.0000	902	0				0
HULL MICHAEL A & TINA E UM	HOAAS KAREN G TRUST	\$490,000	WOODIN	AVE	CHELAN	0.0000	902	0				0
FARAG PAUL & MARY	SANDRA D MONTGOMERY TRT	\$478,000	WOODIN	AVE	CHELAN	0.0000	844	0				0
REED AUDRA B & RICK E	SLAUGENHAUPT JAMES B & SUZANNE K	\$475,000	FAIR	WAY	CHELAN	0.4200	2311	1992	3	2		525.0
DURRANT STEPHANIE L & BENJIMAN L	GEREN LENARD & WENDY	\$465,000	PIONEER	DR	CASHMERE	0.3500	1587	2018	3	2		636.0
CADMAN CONRAD & JENNIFER	RODE STEVEN & CHERYL	\$462,000	JEFFERSON	ST	WENATCHEE	0.3000	4096	1976				0
MITCHELL MANDY ETAL	MORTON MARTHA GENELLE	\$460,000	ORCHARD	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.6900	3554	1949	3	3		0
REED SEAN T	STEWART DARRELL & KATHLEEN	\$455,000	SKI BLICK STRASSE		LEAVENWORTH	0.0000	2149	0				0
THRONEBERRY JASON L & ANGELA T RUSSELL	KRIETER SCOTT ETAL	\$450,000	RIVIERA	BLVD	MALAGA	0.3200	864	1969	3	1.75		625.0
MC CORD TYLER & AMBER	BRUNNER MATTHEW C & JANINE D	\$445,000	ANGIER	AVE	CASHMERE	0.2000	1250	1930	3	2		288.0
DEFOE KENNETH G & MIKE L	MAUSSER JOHN & JANICE	\$445,000	GEHR	ST	WENATCHEE	0.2000	2423	2007	3	3		528.0
KSONDZYK PETRO & MARIYA V	LEIGHTON SARA A	\$440,000	RIECHE	RD	LAKE WENATCHEE	0.1700	980	2000	3	1.5		0
GUIDOTTI SANDRA	GAVIN NICHOLAS E & HILARY KNELLEKEN	\$427,000	COLUMBINE	ST	WENATCHEE	0.1400	1218	1940	3	1.75		240.0
JACS LAND GROUP LLC	NEETHER LARRY A & EDITH TRTEES	\$425,000	US HWY 2		LAKE WENATCHEE	7.7500	7164	2000				0
BUSCH JULIE M & GABRIEL M WARNER	CLAUGHTON DAVID	\$425,000	WATERFRONT TERRACELN		MANSON	2.2700	288	1991				0
HARGRAVES BRADY	GIDEON VAN & CORRINA	\$422,000	HUMMINGBIRD HILL	LN	MALAGA	0.7700	1597	2020	3	2		576.0
JIRSA JOHANNA	WILBUR MATTHEW & AARON	\$415,000	VISTA	PL	WENATCHEE	0.1800	1008	1961	4	1.5		480.0
MORRELL BLAKE A & TALENA A	ANDRE NYLUND TY & CARYL A	\$410,000	WESTWOOD	AVE	WENATCHEE	0.1200	1801	1993	4	2.5		210.0
GORTON IAN & JAN NASH	LAMOREAUX ALTEENE	\$409,000	BRANDI	LN	WENATCHEE	0.1600	1782	1995	3	2.5		496.0



Chelan Valley Housing Trust receives \$15k+ grant

Submitted by CVHT

CHELAN – The Chelan Valley Housing Trust (CVHT) was recently awarded \$15,750 from a non-profit reemergence grant funded by the Community Foundation of NCW.

The Nonprofit Reemergence Grant is a temporary grant program to support 501(c)3 charitable organizations located in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties as they recover



Clint Campbell



Mike Cooney

from the Covid -19 health crisis and adapt their operations for future viability. “Building affordable

homes for our valley’s workforce relies on public and private funding,” says Mike Cooney, Executive Director for the CVHT.

“The Community Foundation understands that our public health crisis has caused challenging times for many donors and non-profit organizations. We appreciate the Foundation’s efforts to help fill that gap.”

The Chelan Valley Housing Trust’s first afford-

able home project is now under construction and scheduled for completion January 2021.

Featuring five 2-bedroom townhomes selling for \$200,000 each, this development has been eponymously named Emerson Village, located at the corner of Emerson St. and Chelan Ave. in Chelan.

CVHT also recently purchased nine acres on Anderson Rd. near Chelan

Fruit to build more homes for Chelan valley wage earners.

Cooney reports that this property could accommodate up to 35 new homes.

For more information visit chelanvalleyhousing.org.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

CRUTs: A Practical Path to a Lasting Legacy



Denise Sorom

By Denise Sorom
Director of Philanthropy

Today we'd like to introduce you to the Charitable Remainder Unitrust, also known as the CRUT.

CRUTs can be a donor's best friend, providing them an income stream for life and allowing them to establish a legacy once they pass.

Consider this story from local attorney, Russ Speidel:

In 1995, an investment advisor called me for help. He had an elderly retiree-client, a single man who owned about \$1 million of appreciated Alcoa stock.

The advisor was looking

for a way to sell the stock, to avoid paying capital gains tax, AND increase his client's monthly income. This was a tall order, but when I inquired and learned that the retiree might have a charitable intent, there was an easy solution: form a Charitable Remainder Unitrust with the Community Foundation. It worked marvelously.

The retiree transferred his Alcoa stock to the Community Foundation, which could sell it tax free. Then, during the remainder of the retiree's lifetime, the CRUT paid to the retiree all of its net income, a sum much greater than the Alcoa dividends. The retiree, Roy Hill, established a lasting legacy through a Scholarship Fund and a Designated Fund.

To this day, those funds support students and provide income to his favorite charity every year.

In the 20 years since he passed in 1998, approximately \$1.1 million has been awarded in grants and scholarships and the funds



Russ Speidel

have grown in value with a balance today of over \$1.4 million – allowing his legacy to continue on, forever.

Roy Hill loved music. He cared deeply about ensuring the future of aspiring musicians and also supporting the Wenatchee Valley Symphony, one of his favorite nonprofits.

By establishing a CRUT, Mr. Hill secured a larger income for himself during the remainder of his life, and he left an astonishing gift to the community by creating the Roy W. Hill Music Scholarship and a designated fund to benefit



the symphony.

CRUTs work particularly well when people have an appreciated asset and want to avoid capital gains tax.

People who own rental properties – and are tired of being landlords – can gift their rental properties to

CFNCW to establish a CRUT.

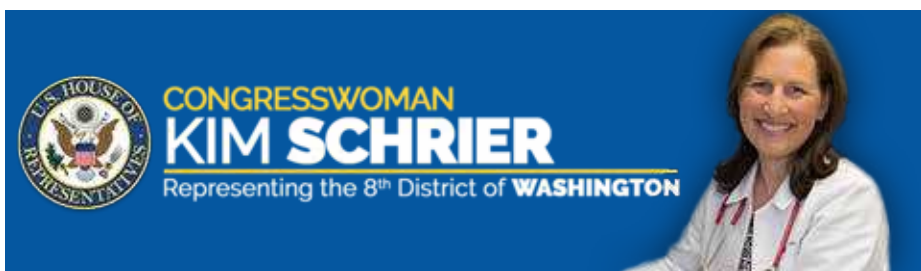
Often the interest income from the CRUT provides as much if not more income than they would have received from tenants, without all the hassle of maintaining the property.

CRUTs provide tax advan-

tages and provide a charitable deduction for the donor.

And the best part: They will have established a charitable legacy in the process.

For more information about any of the programs above, or the work of the Community Foundation, visit www.cfncw.org.



Schrier to serve on Energy, Commerce Committee

Submitted by Rep. Kim Schrier's Office

ISSAQUAH – Congresswoman Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08) today announced that she has been selected to serve on the House Energy and Commerce Committee for the 117th Congress.

"I am honored and thrilled to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee next Congress," said Rep. Schrier.

"As our country continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, I am eager to put my two decades of health care experience to work overseeing our public health response.

"As the only woman doctor and first pediatrician to serve in Congress, I look forward to being a voice for America's 74 million children and to continue my work to lower health costs for families, expand health care access for children and to improve vaccine confidence and coverage.

"This committee provides the platform to address many of the issues that matter most

to my constituents –like rural health care, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, progress toward a carbon neutral future, closing the digital divide and supporting the innovators and job creators in our state's strong digital, commercial aerospace, and life sciences sectors."

Rep. Schrier will be the first Washington Democrat to serve on the committee since Governor Jay Inslee in 2012. Rep. Schrier has been a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the Committee on Agriculture for the last two years.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce is the oldest continuous standing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and has the broadest jurisdiction of any authorizing committee in the House.

It legislates on many issues including health care, climate change, energy policy, environmental protections, medical research, and telecommunications.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rep. Schrier holds telephonic townhall, fields districtwide questions

infected as easily as the older population, they can still infect their parents and grandparents living at home, especially in multi-generational households.

Eastern Washingtonians will get the vaccine in a timely manner, she assured one caller from Chelan, but it was a matter of logistics as the Pfizer vaccine needed to be kept at extremely cold storage, -70 degrees, so special freezer units were needed. S

chrier, the only pediatrician in Congress, said such freezers were not typically found in smaller clinics, but were usually in larger hospitals.

Schrier tackled a question from Auburn regarding a business owner who was upset that his previously received stimulus money would be taxable, per the IRS, and so it would be a great financial harm to his company.

She said "it was not Congresses intent to hit" stimulus recipients with a tax bill and that she wanted the PPP money to not be taxed. Schrier said the 8th District has received 12,000 loans from the previous bailout and saved 100,000-plus jobs in the process.

Rep. Schrier complained about the "highly gerrymandered" Congressional districts across the nation which leads to House members pandering to their political bases and not willing to open dialogs in order to compromise on many issues. She said she would call on her pediatrician background to "teach members to learn to play nicely with one another in the sandbox."

In her answer to yet another COVID-19 question, Schrier stated that isolation at home can cause PTSD, anxiety and depression among the elderly and teenage populations. It also meant less exercising leading to weight gain.

Schrier recommended constituents go to the Covidhelpwa.org state website for more information on getting help to combat the pandemic.

A Seattle Seahawks question came up regarding why the Seahawks can field a team and play close contact football games while small retail shops can't even stay open.

The caller said it sounded like rich entities were getting favorable treatment as opposed to smaller companies with little lobbying power.

Schrier explained why the Seahawks were allowed to play, stating it was a matter of getting tested constantly, isolating themselves in a cocoon or "bubble" and thus not mixing themselves in with the rest of the potentially infected population.

One caller stated his unemployment money just ran out and his wife's was about to and they are expecting a baby soon so why wasn't there more urgency for a new stimulus bill.

Schrier said both sides of the aisle were still in negotiations to get that done before the end of the year.

For more information from Rep. Schrier call (509)-850-5340 to speak to her Wenatchee (Central Washington) office.

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Washington residents scammed for millions

DFI's Securities Division collaborates with state, feds

Submitted by DFI

OLYMPIA – Last fall, three collaborative enforcement efforts by the Securities Division came to fruition involving a nationwide scheme that took in \$185 million from 1,600 investors, 29 of whom were in Washington State.

First, with the help of the Washington Attorney General's office, the Securities Division joined with the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and with agencies representing 28 other states in a civil action brought in federal court in Texas against metals.com and Barrick Capital.

The purpose of the action was to stop the sale of a fraudulent investment program which marketed overpriced precious metals to older investors who were encouraged to liquidate their investments in retirement accounts and to use the proceeds to buy the precious metals offered by those firms.

This is the first case where the Securities Division has joined with the CFTC in a case in federal court, although it has worked with the CFTC on various matters in the past.

Second, the Securities Division participated in a coordinated enforcement effort

with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), against the Bellevue based cryptocurrency firm Unikrn, Inc.

The Securities Division and the SEC each entered into settlement agreements with Unikrn. The company ran an online gaming and e-sports gambling site, conducted an unregistered initial coin offering of its UnikoinGold digital coins. The SEC's and the Securities Division's settlements are complementary. The SEC's settlement requires that Unikrn pay \$6.1 million, substantially all of its assets, to a Fair Fund to be used to repay investors.

It also requires that Unikrn stop trading in its digital coins. The Securities Division settlement, which focuses on Unikrn's unregistered sales to Washington investors, requires Unikrn to pay \$10,000 for the costs of the Securities Division's investigation.

Finally, the Securities Division and the Texas Securities Board brought coordinated enforcement actions against a Washington resident, Devon Shigaki, and his company, Trademining, Inc. who sold unregistered securities.

The securities included licenses for the Infinity Trade Engine, which was to gen-

erate profits for investors by directing cryptocurrency trading in accounts the investors set up.

Trademining and the investors were to share the profits from the trading. Shigaki and Trademining solicited investors through social media and craigslist postings, and on Trademining's website.

The Securities Division's summary order to cease and desist alleges, in addition to sales of unregistered securities, misleading statements to investors.

The statements were misleading because Shigaki and Trademining omitted material information such as who

managed the trade engine, the specifics of the trade engine, as well as Shigaki's background, which included tax liens, child support liens, civil actions, and three criminal convictions.

The Texas Securities Board alerted the Securities Division to the investment solicitations Shigaki and Trademining were making from our state.

In addition to ceasing all unlawful activities, DFI is also seeking a fine of \$10,000 from Trademining, Inc., aka Trademining.io and Shigaki.

Shigaki and TradeMining have the right to challenge the Texas and Washington orders.

\$500k Ponzi* scheme alleged in arrest of local financial advisor

By Gary Bégin

EAST WENATCHEE — 51-year-old East Wenatchee resident Greg Lone was arrested three weeks ago and charged with five counts of theft after he purportedly scammed seven local clients of nearly \$500,000.

Lone's seven defrauded clients were in their eighties or nineties, according to investigators, and resided in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Cashmere.

The financial advisor was charged with first-degree theft after an investigation by Douglas County sheriff's deputies and the state Department of Financial Institutions.

The alleged crimes took place between 2016-2019 with regulatory and law enforcement officials calling it a Ponzi scheme, wherein one investment is then used to pay promised dividends on another while the money itself is never actually invested anywhere.

Lone's firm, Paramount Financial Advisors, 616 Suite B, Valley Mall Parkway here, has been closed and no statements have been issued by Lone after emailed requests by NCW Media regarding the alleged crimes.

He allegedly advised clients to withdraw funds from their current investments and place them with Paramount-managed funds. The monies were then used to pay his personal and business expenses, according to the complaint.

Lone was administratively barred in August from acting as a securities broker in Washington.

The case was then referred to Douglas County authorities, where he made his first appearance in Superior Court in November. He is currently free on \$5,000 bond.

Paramount's website states: "Greg has 24 years of experience in the financial and insurance industries. After studying finance and business management, he began working for an investment advisory firm.

"Three years into his career, he started his own practice, specializing in international portfolio management. He is currently the founder of Paramount Financial Advisors, LLC, a firm that brings almost a quarter-century of financial planning and insurance experience to its clients.

"Greg's mission is to use his experience to help individuals and families achieve their financial goals. Whether those goals are retirement, funding your child's college education, or insurance, he stands ready to help make your financial future a success."

Lone's son Connor, also works at the firm with the website stating: "Upon receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, Connor moved back to Washington and, after receiving his life insurance license, he joined Paramount Financial Advisors (in Wenatchee).

The son and another employee, Todd Hansen, were not charged.

Another Cashmere financial consultant, who spoke off the record, stated he was almost bilked for thousands by Lone, but when confronted, Lone returned the money that was invested.

Lone's arraignment was Monday, Dec. 21. He plead not guilty to 5 counts of 1st degree Theft with aggravating circumstances; 2 counts are "economic inconvenience" and 3 counts of "violating a position of trust." Trial has been set for Monday, Jan 25th.

Among his alleged victims were an elderly couple and a blind disabled veteran.

* In a Ponzi scheme, investors are duped by being promised high returns with little or no risk on their investments. The scammers then rely on cash flow from recent investors to provide returns to older investors.

Keep reading the Wenatchee Business Journal for future developments in the case.



Greg Lone

An open letter to the Chelan County Commissioners

Resort owner approves of short-term vacation rentals

I hope this letter finds you well. As Vacation Rental owners, we need you to understand that 99% of us mean no harm, we mean no ill will, we are simply trying to run a business and like any business owner we have done everything that we ever thought that we needed to do to be legal, law abiding and therefore successful. We actively set out to find a property where the area had a long-standing history of legally and successfully operating vacation rentals.

When I bought my first place in 2007 I had never heard of VRBO... Airbnb didn't exist, the only thing that did exist at that time, that I knew of, was Destination Leavenworth, a company that had been in operation for quite a while and which had been managing vacation rentals for some time. When I began my business, I went to the county and asked if I needed a license or a conditional use permit or any other variance and I was told, "No."

I successfully operated that Vacation Rental for seven years before I even considered buying another property, in those seven years I did not hear, not even one single time, that Vacation Rentals were illegal or were even a problem.

The next property that I bought in 2014 was a Bed and Breakfast on Icicle Road, formerly called Prusik Peak BNB. Being that it was a BNB I again went to the county to see if I needed any special licensing to turn it from a BNB to an unoccupied Vacation Rental. I was again told, by a county clerk, that I didn't need to submit any paperwork or request any licensing.

Three years after that I bought yet another former Vacation Rental on Cedar Brae Road formerly called the "Lakeview Inn".

I again went to the county to see if there was anything I needed to do to continue to operate it as a Vacation Rental (license transfer, etc.) but I was again told that I didn't need to do anything. I merely needed to

follow existing county code, pay my taxes, etc.

So now with three successful Vacation Rentals I felt that I really leaned up my finances that I could leave my job as a financial advisor, move to Leavenworth and not have to work in corporate America anymore. So, I bought another property, poured a large portion of my life savings into it and settled into the area.

At no time did anyone say that what I was doing was illegal. Every property that I bought was in an area that had other existing vacation rentals in my proximity. I kept my guests in line with rules and with contracts. If neighbors had issues, which were super few and far between, I immediately jumped in to correct them.

I paid my taxes. You graciously accepted these tax payments for years and years.

I know this story sounds boring to you, our County Commissioners, because you've heard it a thousand times and I know that after a while they all start to sound the same, but this story matters to me and it matters to Vacation Rental Owners, people who have risked their financial future to start a capital intensive business such as this, because your decisions and your choices have the potential to ruin not just our lives but the lives of so many others.

The fact of the matter remains. Vacation Rentals have not been the problem that you've stated them to be. The complaints that have come in have been few and far between and have come from just a couple of problem properties.

The problem has been that you were never bothered to enforce existing codes, you never bothered to regulate or limit vacation rentals or long-term rentals or perhaps even homeowners. You waited and happily collected our taxes and spent those tax dollars for years and now it appears that even though you continue to collect these taxes you are still running a budget

shortfall in the county and have had to dip into a special reserve fund. How much worse is the county budget about to get when you eliminate the 150 million dollars that Vacation Rentals generate either directly or by proxy?

This doesn't even mention the millions you are going to have to spend on one major lawsuit plus the hundreds of additional individual suits. Vacation Rentals have been the sole bright spot during Covid-19 as families have felt safe leaving their home bubble to come to their Vacation Rental bubble. It's the one thing that's helped to maintain their sanity, just simply being able to stare at four new, different walls.

That said, if you eliminate Vacation Rentals to the depth and breadth that you plan to you are only going to face decreased revenues to deal with ever growing budgets. As you are forced to lay off employees and cut programs you have to understand that this too is going to fall on your shoulders.

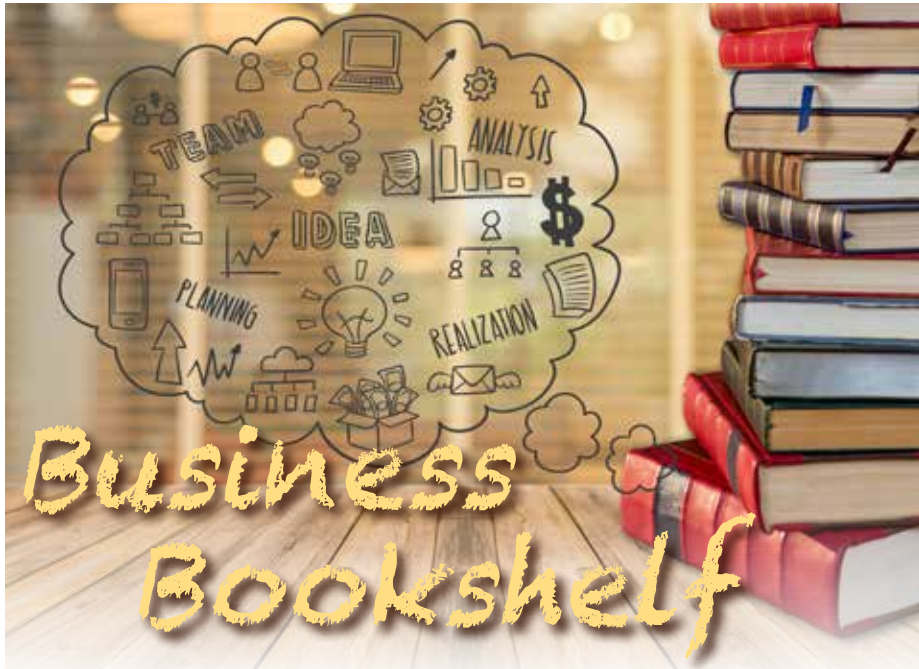
Based on the types of homes generally used as short-term rentals, it is highly unlikely that any of these properties will find themselves becoming long-term rentals or affordable housing. Vacation Rentals by their very nature rarely fall in the affordable housing category.

Most homes will simply turn back into vacation homes, a few will survive as Vacation Rentals or as owner occupied Vacation Rentals, some homes in the 600k+ range will end up being sold to folks looking for a second home of their own or looking for a place to telecommute from, some may be purchased for investment and simply be sat on but very few are going to become affordable housing and many will find themselves sitting empty and this will not help your neighborhood theory.

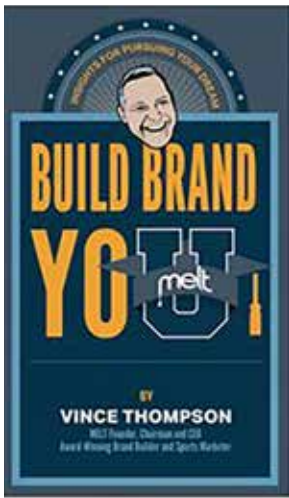
It seems that you've had every chance to create affordable housing but have not. To think that you can create affordable housing by creating an

SEE OPEN LETTER, PAGE 24





5 ways companies can give back, make profits, promote good will



By Vince Thompson

to do good right now is one of the most important things a person or a company can do.

“Good will reinforces a company’s purpose, which reinforces esprit de corps. Externally, philanthropy is good PR for your business, especially for small businesses that depend on their communities to keep them afloat.

“People are watching how companies respond in tough times, and that good will is reciprocated by new customers and the continued loyalty of regulars.

“Philanthropic actions strengthen both a company’s internal bonds and its ties with the community.”

Thompson suggests five ways companies can give back and help their own business at the same time.

Expand your reach. Thompson’s company welcomes college interns every summer. Part of the program includes engaging them with several national brands, through guest speakers and field trips.

But last summer, due to the coronavirus outbreak, he evolved his business model into a remote platform, expanding into a year-round virtual series of classes and podcasts, and substantially increasing enrollment while staying connected with his

business’ primary partners.

“It was a way to share more career development advice with college students and give them some help they really need during these perilous times,” Thompson says.

Encourage employees to help. “A company can create positive change by leveraging its strong team culture,” Thompson says.

“Allow employees company time to organize outreach activities. Find out what causes they’re passionate about. You’re then sending the importance of the philanthropic message to your workforce. Getting employee involvement from the strategic phase onward helps the philanthropic initiatives align with company goals.”

Launch a charity drive. Start a collection for a particular cause. Your company can collect non-perishable food items for distribution at food banks. Toy drives are popular around the holidays.

“You can set up automatic donations through virtual giving platforms,” Thompson says.

“You could even leave out a collection jar at your place of business and cash in the collected amount to send through an online portal.”

Provide selected pro bono work. Philan-



thropic planning must be precise, especially during a pandemic as companies strategize on what’s financially feasible and what is not. But Thompson says there’s usually room to do a few extra jobs for free, which could go a long way for someone without the means to hire you otherwise.

“Research and reach out to people who can use

your services but can’t afford them,” Thompson says. “Involve your team in the nominating process. These are win-win feel-good actions.”

Help other businesses. “Buying from local businesses is one of the best ways to give back, especially when so many are struggling,” Thompson says.

“Leave nice reviews and link to your favorite local

companies on your website. Look for beneficial cross-promotions that are good for your business and your partners.”

“More and more businesses are now realizing the importance of giving back,” Thompson says.

“It simultaneously improves employee and customer engagement while making a great impact on people’s lives.”

Women’s Resource Center receives Numerica donation to fight homelessness

Submitted by
Numerica Credit Union

Over 30 homeless people – representing more than 20 families including 16 children – are transitioning out of a shelter and into a permanent, stable home this season.

A \$100,000 donation from Numerica Credit Union funded the effort, in partnership with four regional nonprofits, which includes Wenatchee’s Women’s Resource Center.

“We are carrying out our mission of enhancing lives, fulfilling dreams and building communities by helping these families have a safe home to live their dreams,” CEO Carla Cicero said.

“We know there’s no place like home for the holidays. Together with our nonprofit partners, we are truly changing lives.”

Marie, a mom moving into

a Wenatchee home, praised the stability provided by the transition after years of “living from place to place.”

“To know we can give the security the children need and deserve gives us just what we need for Christmas,” she said.

Numerica decided on the holiday partnership after seeing its nonprofit partners respond to growing demands for support services in 2020.

As emergency needs competed for limited funds, moving clients into permanent housing proved to be a struggle.

“This year, COVID-19 disproportionately impacted our community’s most vulnerable populations,” Cicero said.

“Those experiencing homelessness have been hit hard. We are honored to help move families and individuals out of shelters and into homes.”

“Each December, I have the pleasure of a front-row seat as Numerica generously gives back to our communities with a special holiday surprise,” Cicero said. “I’ve witnessed first-hand the impact Numerica’s year-end giving makes.”

Headquartered in Spokane Valley, Numerica has more than 158,000 members throughout Central and Eastern Washington and North Idaho and \$2.9 billion in assets. It offers a full line of financial products and services, including mortgages and business products, and is committed to giving back 5 percent of its earnings to the community each year. Numerica is federally insured by NCUA and an Equal Housing Opportunity lender. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or worships in the state of Washington or the Idaho Panhandle.



UVCares starts collaboration with Whitworth University

Submitted by UVCares

UVCares is a nonprofit organization in Leavenworth that ensures mental health access to everyone throughout the Upper Valley communities via tele-health. Looking forward, UVCares intends to increase mental health services to include the Lower Valley. UVCares further expands mental health services to the Upper Valley communities with its newest collaboration with Whitworth University (Spokane). With the new agreement, students working toward their Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy within the curriculum of the Marriage and Family Therapy program will immediately begin to provide counseling services through UVCares.

Marriage and Family therapists are clinicians that specialize not only in individual therapy but also the family unit. The emotionally unhealthy dynamics that relationships can experience is often challenging to address in order to move the relationship to a place of peace and healthy interactions. Whitworth University specializes in training clinicians specifically for that challenge. The Upper Valley is fortunate to have that area of expertise now available to them. Resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, many people have experienced a significant increase of emotional stress while attempting to navigate a new way of existing.

Learning to deal with the associated anxiety has caused undue emotional burdens on people and their relationships.

Similar to student teachers training within school districts, the student clinicians with provisional licenses, will have reached a point in the Marriage and Family Therapy training

program which requires them to perform 500 counseling hours in community settings while being supervised by an experienced and state-approved clinician at the doctorate level. UVCares is extremely fortunate to have John Thoburn, PhD, ABPP as the supervisor. Dr. Thoburn has been nationally recognized by the American Psychological Association and received the International Humanitarian award for his extraordinary service and promotion of mental wellbeing among underserved populations around the world. Additionally, Dr. Thoburn has extended his expertise to academic platforms. Previously, he developed the PhD program at Seattle Pacific University and has recently become a professor at Whitman University where he will develop a PhD program.

Additionally, Dr. Thoburn applies his psychological expertise in responses to international disasters and trauma.

UVCares is excited to open additional individual, couples, and family counseling services for adults and children. Payment for services is based on ability to pay however, UVCares continually works to remove all barriers to counseling. What is most important is that when needed, services are there. If you do not have insurance, or cannot afford either the copays or the deductible, UVCares will take care of that for you from a fund that supports financial assistance. Children 12 years and under will require a parent’s permission, yet children 13 years and older can contact UVCares on their own.

To make a counseling appointment, contact UVCares at 509-300-1113.



About the author

Vince Thompson (meltatl.com) is the founder, chairman and CEO of MELT, one of America’s most successful sports marketing and branding agencies, and author of Build Brand You. An award-winning brand builder and sports marketer, Thompson has worked on brand strategies for some of the most famous brands in the world, including The Coca-Cola Company and Aflac.

Grant County Labor Area Summary - October 2020

Overview

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

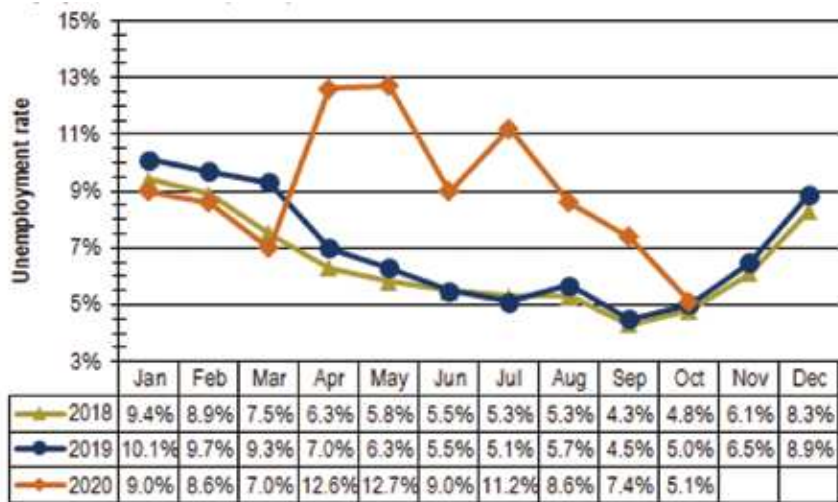
nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year (between October 2019 and October 2020) and

average annual (between 2018 and 2019) changes in the labor market.

Unemployment rates

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Grant County, January 2018 through October 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 edged upwards by one-tenth of a percentage point between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020.

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2018 and 2019, Washington's labor market provided 67,100 new nonfarm jobs, an annual average increase of 2.0 percent.

In October 2020, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,324,600 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,497,800 in October 2019, a substantial loss of 173,200 jobs and a 5.0-percent downturn. Year-over-year job losses are never encouraging, but Washington's monthly job loss-rates have consistently decelerated from minus-10.4 percent in May 2020 to minus-5.0 percent this October – small steps in the right direction.

Between 2018 and 2019 Grant County's economy provided 80 new nonfarm

jobs, an average annual increase of 0.3 percent, considerably less robust than the 2.0 percent statewide growth rate. Year over year, nonfarm

employment increased in Grant County in each of the past three months (August through October 2020).

Most recently, between

(CLF) data show that Washington's not seasonally adjusted average annual unemployment rate declined from 4.5 percent in 2018 to 4.3 percent in 2019.

However, between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020 the rate escalated by two percentage points, from 3.6 to 5.6 percent.

In Grant County, the average annual unemployment rate rose from 6.4 percent in 2018 to 6.9 percent in 2019. Y

ear over year, COVID-19 related layoffs pushed monthly rates upwards from April through October 2020.

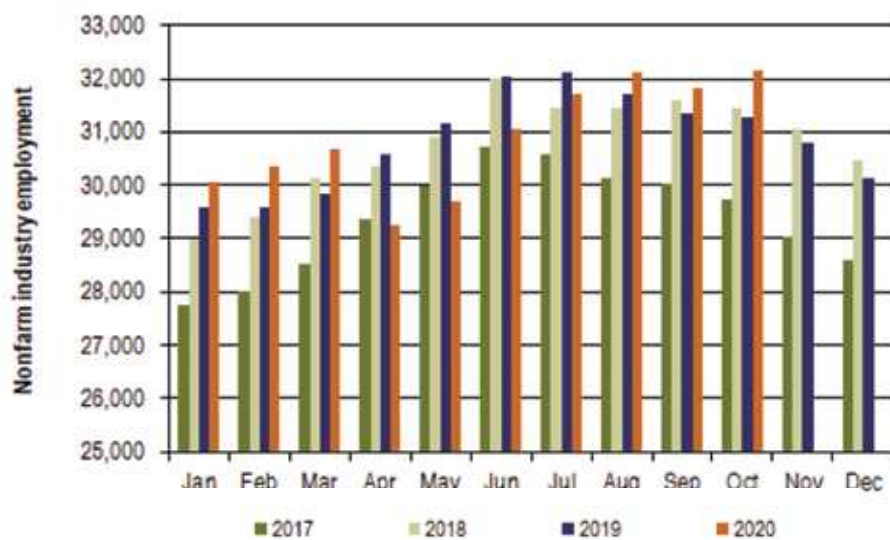
The local rate inched upwards by one-tenth of a percentage point, from 5.0 percent in October 2019 to 5.1 percent in October 2020.

This 5.1-percent rate is the highest October reading in Grant County in four years (since the 5.2-percent rate in October 2016).

the Octobers of 2019 and 2020 employment in Grant County rose 2.8 percent, from 31,280 jobs to 32,170 – a gain of 890 jobs.

Nonfarm industry employment Grant County, January 2017 through October 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA); U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 32,170 nonfarm jobs in October 2020, a 2.8-percent upturn since October 2019.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) grew by 107,141 residents (a 2.8-percent upturn) from 2018 to 2019.

Year over year, the CLF subsided 0.3 percent in June 2020, expanded in July and August 2020, contracted in September, and expanded 1.4 percent in October 2020. Grant County's CLF ex-

panded by 444 residents (a 1.0 percent increase) from 2018 to 2019. Year over year, the County's labor force also increased in September and October 2020, following over-the-year losses from June

through August 2020. Preliminary estimates indicate that the number of residents in the labor force advanced from 47,617 in October 2019 to 54,552 in October 2020, equating to 6,935 more Grant County residents in the CLF (up 14.6 percent). However, the number of unemployed residents swelled by 416 (up 17.4 percent) during this timeframe (as shown in Figure 3). This labor force expansion (good news) was virtually eclipsed by rising numbers of unemployed (bad news). The result: Grant County's unemployment rate edged upwards from 5.0 percent in October 2019 to 5.1 percent in October 2020.

Nonfarm industry employment

Estimates indicate that Grant County's nonfarm employers provided 890 more jobs in October 2020 than in October 2019, a 2.8-percent upturn, while Washington's nonfarm market shrank by 5.0 percent during this period. The following paragraphs highlight changes in several local industries between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020:

- ◆ Year over year employment in Grant County's construction industry has increased in each of the past eleven months (December 2019 through October 2020). The lion's share of jobs in this category are in the construction industry. Grant County's construction contractors tallied 2,100 jobs this October, a 540-job and 34.6-percent upturn since October 2019. Statewide, construction employment expanded for 97 months (from March 2012 through March 2020) before plummeting by 14.7 percent in April 2020 with loss-rates decelerating to minus-1.7 percent in September and then reviving to a 1.5-percent growth rate between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020.

- ◆ Manufacturing employment in Grant County had contracted, year over year, for 31 months (from January 2018 through July 2020) before posting year-over-year gains in August, September, and October 2020. The number of manufacturing jobs in Grant County increased from 4,670 in October 2019 to 4,990 this October, a gain of 320 jobs and a 6.9-percent upturn. All the "strength" in these manufacturing numbers occurred in nondurable goods manufacturing. Grant County's non-durable goods manufacturers have been increasing the number of employees on their payrolls from July through October 2020. Conversely, Washington's nondurable goods manufacturers have been shedding jobs, year over year, since March 2020 (the past eight months).

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 Secu-

riety Act. Frequently termed "covered" or "QCEW" data, this information provides a reliable data set for comparing employment and wage trends in major industries at the county level. In September 2020, revised annual average QCEW data for calendar year 2019 became available. An analysis of employment changes from 2009 through 2019 shows that in Grant County:

- ◆ Total covered employment rose from 34,753 in 2009 to 39,886 in 2019, a 5,133-job and 14.8 percent upturn with annualized employment growth between 2009 and 2019 of 1.4 percent. The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) increased from 9,071 in 2009 to 9,462 in 2019, a 391-job and 4.3 percent uptrend with annualized employment growth between 2009 and 2019 of 0.4 percent. In 2009 Grant County's agricultural industry accounted for 26.1 percent of total covered employment. In 2019 agricultural employment accounted for 23.7 percent of total covered employment 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 ten-year timeframe, the agricultural industry has become less "influential" in Grant County's economy (in terms of the agricultural employment to total covered employment ratio).

- ◆ Total covered wages rose from \$1.124 billion (in 2009) to \$1.765 billion (in 2019) a \$641.7 million and 57.1 percent upturn with annualized payroll growth between 2009 and 2019 of 4.6 percent. The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$184.7 million in 2009 to \$301.6 million in 2019, a \$116.9 million and 63.3 percent uptrend with annualized payroll growth between 2009 and 2019 of 5.0 percent.

In 2009 Grant County's agricultural industry accounted for 16.4 percent of total covered wages while in 2019 agricultural wages accounted for 17.1 percent of total covered wages. Hence, the share of agricultural wages (versus total covered wages) earned in Grant County edged upwards by a marginal seven-tenths percentage point (from 16.4 to 17.1 percent) during this ten-year period.

BUSINESS TERM OF THE MONTH

What Is Burden Rate?

Burden Rate

$$\text{Labor Burden Rate} = \frac{\text{Labor Burden Cost}}{\text{Total Labor Cost}}$$

Burden rate refers to personnel burden, the sum of employer costs over and above salaries (including employer taxes, benefits, and so on).



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 Employment Security Department
 Kittitas County WorkSource, 510 N. Pine Street,
 Ellensburg, WA 98926
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Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas Counties) Labor Area Summary - October 2020

Overview

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

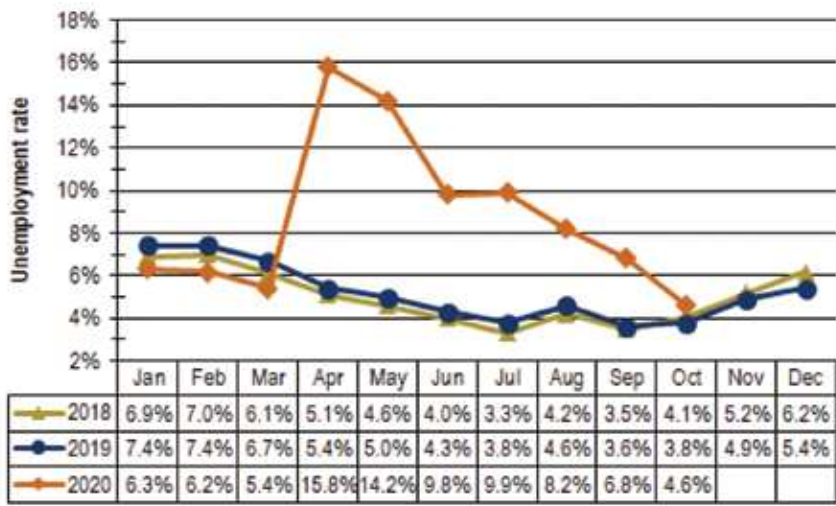
nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year (between October 2019 and October 2020) and

average annual (between 2018 and 2019) changes in the labor market.

Unemployment rates

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted Wenatchee MSA, January 2018 through October 2020

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



The Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate rose eight-tenths of a percentage point between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020.

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2018 and 2019, Washington's labor market provided 67,100 new nonfarm jobs, an annual average increase of 2.0 percent. In October 2020, business and government organizations statewide tallied 3,324,600 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) compared with 3,497,800 in October 2019, a substantial loss of 173,200 jobs and a 5.0-percent downturn.

Year-over-year job losses are never encouraging, but Washington's monthly job loss-rates have consistently decelerated from minus-10.4 percent in May 2020 to minus-5.0 percent this October – small steps in the right direction.

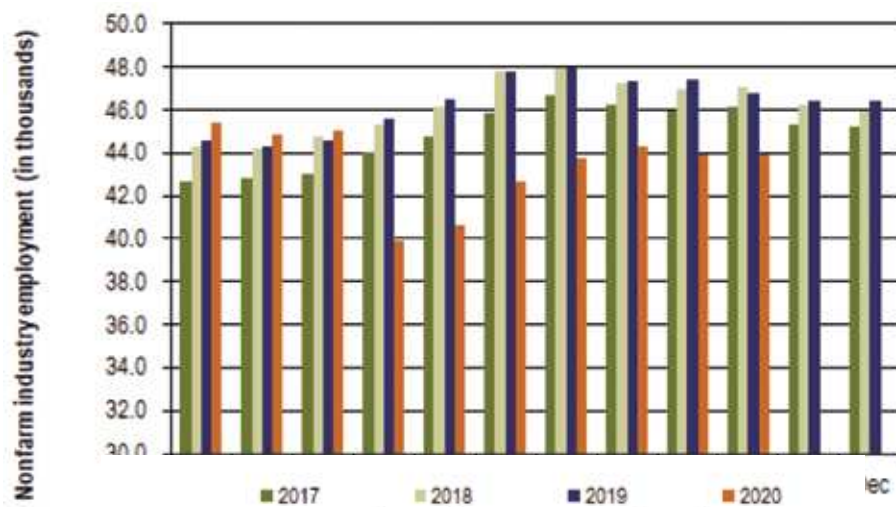
The Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm labor market netted approximately 100 new jobs

in 2019, a 0.3-percent upturn – considerably less robust than Washington's 2.0-percent growth rate during 2019. In October 2020, total nonfarm employment across this two-

county area provided 2,900 fewer jobs than in October 2019, contracting from 46,800 jobs to 43,900, a 6.2-percent abatement. In fact, year-over-year nonfarm job loss-

Nonfarm industry employment Wenatchee MSA, January 2017 through October 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA); U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES)



Nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA receded by 6.2 percent between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) grew by 107,141 residents (a 2.8-percent upturn) from 2018 to 2019. Year over year, the CLF subsided 0.3 percent in June 2020, expanded in July and August 2020, contracted in September, and expanded 1.4 percent in October 2020.

The Wenatchee MSA's CLF grew from 66,879 residents in 2018 to 67,080 in 2019, a modest 0.3-percent upturn. Preliminary estimates indicate that the local labor force rose sharply by 10,929 residents between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020, from 68,206 to 79,135 (up 16.0 percent) while the

number of unemployed residents in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) surged during this timeframe; from 2,565 in October of last year to 3,607 in October 2020, a 40.6-percent increase (see Figure 3). Hence, the strong expansion in the CLF was outweighed by a greater, COVID-19 related rise in the number of residents out of work. This caused the Wenatchee MSA's unemployment rate to elevate from 3.8 percent in October 2019 to 4.6 percent in October 2020.

Nonfarm industry employment

Between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020 total nonfarm employment in Chelan and

Douglas counties decreased by 6.2 percent, from 46,800 to 43,900 jobs. Washington's nonfarm market contracted by 5.0 percent during this timeframe. Highlights of year-over-year changes follow:

- ◆ In the mining, 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-3.2-percent in October 2020. The local construction industry provided 3,100 jobs in October 2019 versus 3,000 in October 2020,

(CLF) data show that Washington's not seasonally adjusted average annual unemployment rate declined from 4.5 percent in 2018 to 4.3 percent in 2019. However, between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020 the rate escalated by two percentage points, from 3.6 to 5.6 percent.

In the Wenatchee MSA, the average annual unemployment rate edged upwards from 4.9 to 5.1 percent between 2018 and 2019. Year over year, COVID-19 related layoffs have pushed local unemployment rates upwards from April through October 2020. The rate in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) increased eight-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.8 percent in October 2019 to 4.6 percent in October 2020. This 4.6-percent rate is the highest October reading since the 4.8-percent rate in October 2016.

closed sales in October 2019). Also, the number of active listings declined substantially during this timeframe, from 165 listings in October 2019 compared with only 84 in October 2020 (down by 81 listings and 49.1 percent). Meanwhile, the median sales price of homes/condos sold in the Wenatchee Market increased from \$348,250 Year to Date (YTD) as of October 2019 to approximately \$368,500 YTD this October, a rise of 5.8 percent. Statewide, construction employment dropped by 14.7 percent in April 2020 (near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic) with loss rates decelerating monthly through September 2020 before rising by 1.5 percent between the Octobers of 2019 and 2020.

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. An analysis of industry employment changes from 2009 through 2019 shows that in Chelan County:

- ◆ Total covered employment rose from 39,137 in 2009 to 44,225 in 2019, a 5,088-job and 13.0-percent 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. In 2019 agricultural employment accounted for 21.4 percent of total covered employment countywide.

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

- ◆ Total covered employment rose from 10,924 in 2009 to 12,496 in 2019, a 1,572-job and 14.4-percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 1.4 percent.

The number of agricultural jobs (a subset of total covered employment) decreased from 3,138 in 2009 to 2,961 in 2019, a 177-job and 5.6-percent downturn with an annualized growth rate of minus-0.6 percent. In 2009 Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 28.7 percent of total covered employment. In 2019 agricultural employment accounted for only 23.7 percent of total covered employment countywide. Hence, the agricultural share of employment contracted by five percentage points (from 28.7 to 23.7 percent) in Douglas County during this ten-year period.

- ◆ Total covered wages (not adjusted for inflation) rose from \$307.7 million in 2009 to \$488.6 million in 2019 a \$180.9 million and 58.8 percent upturn with an annualized growth rate of 4.7 percent.

The agricultural payroll (a subset of total covered wages) advanced from \$52.4 million in 2009 to \$80.6 million in 2019, a \$28.2 million and 53.8 percent uptrend with an annualized growth rate of 4.4 percent.

In 2009 Douglas County's agricultural industry accounted for 17.0 percent of total covered wages and by 2019 agricultural wages tallied 16.5 percent of total covered payroll; meaning that the agricultural share of wages slipped by five-tenths of a percentage point (from 17.0 to 16.5 percent) during this period.

WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Resort owner approves of short-term vacation rentals

artificial housing crash, which is going to create, as a byproduct, the loss of hundreds of jobs simply doesn't make sense. If these codes are passed I will most certainly lose my livelihood and many of my independent contractors will lose theirs as well. I just don't see who you think you are going to help economically by doing this?

Our county has millions of acres of open land. Surely if New York City or Chicago could take millions of dollars in tax revenue and use it to build sizeable amounts of affordable or subsidized housing Chelan County could do the same.

Creating affordable housing by throwing hundreds of million dollars plus of sub million-dollar vacation rentals onto the market, all at once, is not going to help one single working family of this town. Not with tens of thousands of millionaires just on the other side of the pass ready to snatch up these homes.

As far as the other economic impacts are concerned. It's been clearly stated that your decision is going to cost Chelan County 9.5 million dollars in labor income, 314 jobs and a million dollars in sales tax and lodging tax. Less tax dollars mean layoffs, less jobs mean more unemployment benefits, but this is just the first ripple in a very wide pool of ripples and this is going to end up a double-edged sword that creates a vicious downward cycle of lost jobs and lost opportunities.

The owner of Plain Hardware and many other businesses in the Plain Area have said that they cannot make it without Vacation Rentals.

Besides the businesses you won't shut down you will hurt many others to the point that there will be layoffs, cutbacks and reduced hours.

You are therefore embarking on an experiment that will most likely have dire consequences, some of which will be felt immediately and some that will be felt over time. Simply put, there is no way that you can eliminate half of the lodging in this county and in this town, a town that clearly relies heavily on tourism, which will not create an economic collapse or crisis over time.

You currently have people who can only afford their dream cabin or their retirement dream home by renting it out part of the time. Leavenworth and Chelan have always been second hometowns. I may be wrong, but I believe that, historically, 60% of the homes in Leavenworth and Chelan have always been second homes, so when you force these middle-class people, these strivers, these savers and investors to sell out, they will most likely be forced to sell out to people who can afford these mortgages with no problem and this too will fall on your shoulders.

This isn't about creating affordable housing and I think you know that. How many times have the high net worth used the premise of "helping the less fortunate" to push forward their own agenda?

As a means of compromise, we are in favor of the "measured regulation" that you promised to pursue in 2019, we don't know how this got so far off track from where this all began. We don't mind that you

want to eliminate the transfer of licenses, we don't mind that you want to add a reasonable cap on the number of people that can stay in a house, we don't mind that you would like to see some natural attrition over time, we don't mind that you want to have better rules around noise, garbage and parking.

There is still a chance to turn this around, if we work together and take our time to do it right. There is still time to save your county and the towns contained within, to save tourism and to create some rational codes that work for everybody. We are ready to help.

There is no doubt that each side is ready for the fight. We are pretty sure that if we don't do something now that this is going to end up in the State Supreme Court and we are fairly certain that their hand is going to be forced to determine whether or not vacation rentals are going to remain legal in this state or not.

We are talking about thousands of vacation rentals, tens of millions in revenue, millions of tax dollars, hundreds upon hundreds of jobs. We are talking about the destruction of dozens of small town ecosystems based on one single stroke of the pen.

For half a century we have been a Vacation town, a tourist town, a vacation rental town and for 47 of those 50 years Vacation Rentals, all things equal, have not been a problem whatsoever.

Vacation Rentals are the entity that has made this town great, has helped this town and this county to grow, has provided jobs and supported

businesses and has allowed entrepreneurs to not only survive but to thrive.

To end it all is not sensible. There are dozens of things that we can do to make this work better for all of us and to control the numbers over time. But to think you can end this one problem and not create a thousand more is simply some of the fuzziest math I've ever been witness to.

Our current hotel inventory based on its size, the demographics it caters to and so forth simply cannot support the amount of tourism this town needs in order to be able to make it. Perhaps, like Tahoe, we will tear down and rebuild or simply build dozens of hotels over time but is that what we want the character of the town to be? Do we want to be Tahoe?

Vacation Rentals add to the charm of the town not detract from it.

Let's work to bring back some sanity here. We understand that compromises need to be made. We are ready to work with you. The ball is in your court.

Kelly Kortman, Icicle Creek Investments, LLC, Managing Member
Owner / Proprietor: The Cabin at Eagle Creek, The Chalet at Icicle Creek, The LakeView at Cedar Brae, The Rustic at Lake Wenatchee

(Editor's Note: After the above letter was received by NCW Media (WB), on Tuesday, December 29, the Chelan County Commissioners voted to create a 90-day Short Term Rental (STR) Taskforce to study the issue and report back to the Board. Director of Community Development Jim Brown said he has received more than 400 new comments since the previous December meeting on the STR subject. Existing county regulations will be enforced until the task force has returned its report and advice. The moratorium on new rentals will not be extended until the commission gives the public proper notice. The moratorium issue is scheduled for discussion and a vote on Tuesday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. Chelan County Commissioner Tiffany Gering will be replacing Doug England for that meeting as the newly elected commissioner representing the Manson/Chelan area.)

NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS PAGE



Photo courtesy of 12 Tribes Casino.

12 Tribes Mill Bay Casino donates Christmas tree to Heritage Heights

CHELAN - 12 Tribes Mill Bay Casino donated a Christmas tree to Heritage Heights Senior Living home in Chelan. Pictured is Angel (the dog) and Linda Tate, who both reside at Heritage. The donation in December was part of a program by JBe Marketing Group called Trees-4Joy to donate Christmas trees to non-profits and other organizations and to bring cheer and good spirits during this unusual year tainted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall sponsor of the program was Country Financial of Wenatchee. Jennifer Bushong, owner of JBe Marketing, handmade throw pillows for each location and spent three months working on the project.

Excerpt from Chapter 1 DNA

The Contract
A novel by local writer William E. Forhan.

Most mothers can tell you the moment their child was born. It's not the same for fathers. But I can tell you precisely the moment I met my daughters. It was 2:46 on a Sunday afternoon in October. I had rushed back from church and just sat down to watch the game of the week. My Denver Broncos were playing their most despised of opponents – the Oakland Raiders. My game was interrupted by a knock on my front door. My wife had taken our two sons to help her with grocery shopping. So I had to get up from my game to respond to that irritating knock. I opened the door to two attractive young women. They seemed surprised. "You're a priest?" one queried.

In my rush to watch the game I had not removed my clerical collar. "Well, yes I am," I responded. Fully expecting they were a couple of young evangelists looking to tell me about the gospel. There was a sudden and distinctly deafening pause. "Can I help you?" I finally said. They looked at each other. Then almost in unison burst out, "We think you're our father!" In an instant twenty-three years of guilt and remorse overcame me. I could not help it. Tears poured out like a river. My heart began to pound and I could not hear a sound. We looked at each other for what seemed like an eternity. None of us knowing what to say next, but I knew in my heart they were correct.

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

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