

A PUBLICATION OF WARD MEDIA | ESTABLISHED IN 1987

Photography Gallery hosts grand opening

Peter James Photography opened its second gallery in Leavenworth in May, hosting a grand opening for it on June 6.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

The gallery showcases photography from all over Washington state, including local iconic spots such as the Enchantments, Icicle Creek and Olalla Canyon.

The 4,000 square foot gallery is designed for visitors to sit and stay awhile, viewing James' nature photography displayed across the gallery's showroom, lounge, and an outdoor deck.

In the lounge, visitors sit and relax with a beverage while using technology to visualize what the photography could look like in their home, or even their outdoor patio.

"From the beginning, our

intention was to create a more experience-oriented business, where it's something to do rather than just being a shop... It's a great place to take a date, you know? And it's the perfect place to buy an anniversary gift for your spouse," said James.

Visitors can take in the "Master Collection," of highly-detailed prints on a single panel up to eight feet wide, or the "Large as Life Collection", in which the photographs are printed across multiple panels six to 30 feet wide. For those looking to take a smaller piece

See **PHOTO GALLERY** Page 17



COURTESY OF PETER JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY
Artists Peter and iMa James pose outside the gallery.

Happy Fudge reopens: a labor of love honoring a legacy



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Davelaar's favorite fudge flavor, dark chocolate raspberry. SEE STORY PAGE 19

Communication, cooperation, common goals, lead Bridgeport revitalization

The city's annual flagship event, Bridgeport Daze, came off without a hitch on the traditional first Saturday in June (the 8th) with its downtown parade and the events that bracketed it. But it was not that long ago that the city's landmark event was on the ropes because there was little in the way of the Chamber of Commerce and communication or coordination between what there was, and the city left much to be desired.

By **MIKE MALTAIS** | Ward Media Staff Reporter

Several years ago, a co-pastor couple from Moses Lake, Carlos and Zuni Henriquez, arrived to reopen a dormant Bridgeport church and, along the way, revitalize the chamber as well.

The couple laid the groundwork for community possibilities when businesses and citizens come together to make their community a better place to raise children.

When the Henriquez couple

departed almost three years ago, they handed the Chamber off to new president, Jose Sanchez, a Bridgeport school custodian.

Since then Sanchez and his dedicated team of volunteers has injected new energy into the Chamber that operates with a year-round vision to not only make existing Chamber events better, but also add new ones as the opportunity arises.

See **BRIDGEPORT** Page 7

inside:

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Resilience, renewal, and the power of community
Page 2

FINANCE

Consider declining to act as power of attorney
Page 3

Navigating the hidden risks of retirement
Page 4

Q&A

Meet Kaylin Bettinger, Executive Director of Upper Valley MEND
Page 5

HEALTH

Cascade Medical bids adieu to Commissioner Mall Boyd
Page 8

MARKETING MATTERS

Omnichannel marketing: The key to reaching customers everywhere
Page 14

REAL ESTATE

Navigating the new real estate landscape in North Central Washington
Page 13

Top Properties Douglas County April
Page 14

Top Properties Chelan County April
Page 15-16

June 2024 Association Newsletter

Welcome to the Danger Zone: 28th Annual Golf Tournament – Page 9

Nothing but Networking with Peoples Bank – Page 11

Out and About – Page 12



\$2

Terry Ward

CEO & Publisher
terry@ward.media
509-731-3284

Amy M. Yaley

COO & Co-Owner
amy@ward.media
509-731-3321

Mike Maltais

Reporter
michael@ward.media

Quinn Propst

Reporter
quinn@ward.media

Taylor Caldwell

Reporter
taylor@ward.media

Sherrie Harlow

Advertising Sales Manager
sherrie@ward.media
253-255-5920

RuthEdna Keys

Advertising Sales Executive
ruth@ward.media
509-682-2213

**WBJ OFFICES &
CONTACT INFO**
**© WardMedia, LLC
2024**

The Wenatchee Business Journal is published on the first Monday of each month. Subscriptions are \$25 for 1 year or \$48 for 2 years in Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties; \$28 for 1 year outside Chelan/Douglas or \$48 for 1 year out of state.

CIRCULATION

For circulation information or to sign up for a subscription, call 509-293-6780

**NEWSSTAND
LOCATIONS**

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

East Wenatchee
Safeway, 510 Grant Road

Cashmere
Martin's IGA
Market Place
130 Titchenal Way

Leavenworth
Dan's Food Market
1329 U.S. Highway 2

Chelan
Safeway,
106 W. Manson Rd.

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

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

The Wenatchee Business Journal is published monthly
29 S. Wenatchee Ave., Suite A
Wenatchee, WA 98801



Resilience, renewal, and the power of community

By **Terry Ward** | CEO and Publisher

As I read through the stories in this month's Wenatchee Business Journal, I'm struck by the common threads of resilience, renewal, and the power of community that weave through each narrative.

In the heartwarming tale of Happy Fudge's reopening, we see how the love and dedication of Jason Stewart and Melissa Wike have breathed new life into a cherished local business. Their labor of love not only preserves the legacy of former owner Beth Davelaar but also showcases the incredible resilience of the human spirit in the face of loss and adversity. By coming together to rebuild and reopen Happy Fudge, Stewart and Wike have created a space that radiates warmth, love, and the enduring spirit of a beloved community member.

Similarly, the Executive

Q&A with Kaylin Bettinger and Upper Valley MEND highlights the transformative impact of community-driven initiatives. Through her leadership and the tireless efforts of staff and volunteers, MEND has expanded its reach and deepened its commitment to meeting the diverse needs of the Upper Wenatchee Valley region with dignity. From the growth of Das Thrift Haus to the acquisition of affordable housing units through the Solid Foundations campaign, MEND exemplifies the power of a community united in its pursuit of a better future for all.

In Bridgeport, we witness the remarkable synergy between grassroots efforts and municipal initiatives in revitalizing the city. The Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of Jose Sanchez and his dedicated team of vol-

unteers, has breathed new life into cherished community events like Bridgeport Daze and introduced fresh traditions like Oktoberfest. Simultaneously, the city's SR-173 Community Revitalization Plan is transforming the downtown landscape, creating a more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly space that complements the Chamber's efforts. This partnership between the city and its citizens showcases the incredible potential for renewal when a community works together towards a shared vision.

These stories remind us that, even in the face of challenges and setbacks, the strength and resilience of our communities can propel us forward. By investing in each other, supporting local businesses and organizations, and working together towards common goals, we create a virtuous cycle of renewal and growth that benefits us all.

From the Publisher



As we move forward, let us draw inspiration from the examples set by Happy Fudge, Upper Valley MEND, and the city of Bridgeport.

Let us embrace the power of community, celebrate the resilience of the human spirit, and work together to build a future that is brighter, more inclusive, and more vibrant

than ever before.

Terry Ward is the CEO of Ward Media and the publisher of the NCW News, Cashmere Valley Record, Lake Chelan Mirror, The Leavenworth Echo, Quad City Herald, and the Wenatchee Business Journal. He can be reached at terry@ward.media.

Empowering the future: The 2024 STEM Summit and AI Expo at Wenatchee

As schools across the region prepare for graduations and summer vacations, the North Central Educational Services District (NCESD) and dozens of regional partners are gearing up to prepare for the 8th annual STEM Summit, a pivotal event that underscores the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the educational landscape of North Central Washington. The summit will take place at the Wenatchee Convention Center from August 19-21, 2024. A constellation of partners, including the Apple STEM Network and presenting sponsor Microsoft, support the annual event to empower and inspire teachers and educational leaders to promote and advance STEM education.

By **Dr. Sue Kane, CEO** | NCW Tech Alliance
Sponsored by Microsoft

STEM education is the cornerstone for future growth in various sectors of the local economy, and the upcoming summit aims to strengthen this foundation.

Educators from across the region can tap into a hub of knowledge sharing, and a series of workshops led by local professionals in the STEM fields.

This year's STEM Summit is set to feature a powerful trifecta of women keynote speakers, includ-

ing Dr. Jennifer Bay Williams from the University of Louisville, who brings expertise in mathematics education, emphasizing the importance of understanding mathematical concepts beyond rote learning.

Dr. Catlin Tucker, a best-selling author and international trainer, will share her insights on blended learning and how to engage students in a dynamic educational environment. Dr. Jenee Myers Twitchell of Washington STEM

will discuss the crucial intersection of education, equity, and policy.

On Wednesday, August 21, NCW Tech Alliance will join in to present the 3rd annual AI Expo. The AI Expo is offered for the greater community, including local businesses and anyone with an interest in AI, to join regional educators attending the summit.

NCW Tech Alliance has an ongoing commitment to investing in the region's most valuable asset - its

people. By nurturing a strong STEM education ecosystem, the alliance is laying the groundwork for a future filled with opportunities for innovation and economic prosperity.

The AI Expo will feature nine interactive sessions that explore the role of artificial intelligence in education and business and its combined potential to reshape the region's future workforce and industrial landscape.

The integration of the AI Expo into the STEM Summit reflects NCESD's recognition of artificial intelligence as a critical component of STEM education. As AI continues to transform various sectors, it is essential that educators are equipped with the knowledge and tools to integrate AI concepts into their curriculum. This will ensure that students are not only consumers of technology but also creators and future innovators with the skills they need to shape our digital future.

NCESD Director of Technology Pete Phillips says, "The STEM Summit and AI Expo aren't just



Pete Phillips, NCESD
Director of Technology

events; they're commitments. They symbolize our dedication to North Central Washington's educational and economic vitality. As educators, industry experts, and community members converge, we create a collaborative environment. STEM education becomes the catalyst for progress, and AI becomes our ally in shaping a brighter tomorrow."

For more information and registration details, interested parties are encouraged to visit the official STEM Summit website.

The summit and AI Expo promise to shape the future of STEM education in the region. www.ncesd.org/event/ncesd-stem-summit-2024

Finance

Consider declining to act as power of attorney

Beau Ruff

Contributor for Ward Media



A power of attorney authorizes a person (an “agent”) to act on behalf of the “principal” when the principal is no longer able to make his or her own decisions (i.e. when the principal is incapacitated). It’s an essential component of a person’s estate plan. But, one important determination that is often overlooked by the named agent is whether the agent should agree to act as the principal’s agent.

The job comes with a slew of legal requirements as well as heightened potential legal and personal liability for the agent.

Before accepting appointment as an agent, take a moment to consider the implications of the appointment... and whether declining to act might be more appropriate than accepting the appointment.

Let’s look at a common scenario. Mary is a widow with two adult male children. Mary has executed a power of attorney naming her sister Sue as her agent and one of her children as the backup (alternate) agent.

Mary prefers her sister because she doesn’t feel that the alternate (her son) is as capable of helping her as Sue.

Mary’s estate plan provides that all her assets will go to her adult children upon her death.

Mary starts showing cognitive decline and her doctor has determined that she can no longer manage her personal affairs. That inability to manage her affairs is typically the trigger to activate a power of attorney.

Sue “accepts” the appointment when she begins exercising her authority or performing her duties as agent.

But, should Sue accept and start exercising her authority? Sue has been put in a difficult position by Mary.

Sue is not an attorney, and she has never acted as an agent under a power of attorney before. She is not familiar with the laws governing the job.

Maybe she has read the power of attorney, but it doesn’t make much sense to her. Still, she feels duty bound to help her sister but also fearful of missteps (as well she should be). Plus, she doesn’t want to ruffle feathers with her nephews (Mary’s kids) by making decisions with which they might disagree.

Sue doesn’t know, for example, her job of managing Mary’s assets as required by law.

She doesn’t know of her duty to keep accounting records for all transactions. She doesn’t appreciate the nuanced distinction between acting as she thinks Mary would

want her to act and the fiduciary duty of acting in Mary’s best interest. Plus, an agent has liability for his or her actions as agent.

A power of attorney can waive liability for the agent. Sue would have appreciated that, but the language isn’t always customarily added to the average power of attorney.

An agent is entitled to reasonable compensation, but because of the relationship, Sue doesn’t feel like she should charge Mary for the work she performs.

Still, the work as an agent can be substantial and time consuming. That means that Sue is doing challenging work, for which she doesn’t get paid, and for which she has personal liability if she fails to do the work correctly. She has nothing to gain from agreeing to act as agent, and much to potentially lose.

The work can last for a very long time and impart emotional distress on Sue.

Luckily, in this case at least, there is a solution for Sue. Mary’s power of attorney listed one of her adult sons as the alternate agent to act if Sue was “unable or unwilling to serve.”

Sue simply needs to write a short letter to the adult son specifying that she is declining to act as the agent under Mary’s power of attorney.

For the son, the calculation is different. He has a vested financial interest in Mary’s assets. He stands to gain from the proper handling of Mary’s affairs. And, he has fewer people to satisfy with his job – he need only satisfy his brother.

Armed with both the doctor’s note specifying Mary’s inability to handle her own affairs and Sue’s signed declination to serve, the son can start his job as agent for his mom under her power of attorney.

An agent under a power of attorney may properly pay for an attorney to advise her on her role.

Indeed, the agent



STOCK PHOTO

should do this as a first act when stepping into the role. But, even before that, the agent should consider whether or not to decline to act in favor of another who might be better positioned to take over the role and all it entails.

Of course, this presupposes there is an alternate

named. One final note: always name an alternate on your power of attorney.

Beau Ruff, a licensed attorney and certified financial planner, is the director of planning at Cornerstone Wealth Strategies in Kennewick, WA.

Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority receives 2024 Job Creator Award

The Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority (CDRPA) has been honored with the 2024 Outstanding Job Creator Award by the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) for its role in attracting Microsoft data center projects to Chelan and Douglas counties.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

The CDRPA’s efforts have resulted in Microsoft investing approximately \$2.4 billion in each county, marking the largest single private investments in the history of both counties.

The data center projects are expected to generate

substantial revenue that will be reinvested in local communities, promoting sustainable economic development and ensuring job availability for years to come.

Each data center will create around 75 jobs per building, with six build-

ings planned for each county site.

The projects have also had a significant impact on the local economy, with investments in infrastructure such as the Malaga waterline, which

See **AWARD** Page 4

WINDERMERE REAL ESTATE CENTRAL BASIN LLC
503 S Central Ave | Quincy | 509.787.4536

Willow Springs
HOMES

WILLOW SPRINGS HOMES

Semi-Custom Craftsman Homes

Let us help you build your Dream Home!

CONTACT US TODAY FOR
YOUR PRIVATE ONE-ON-ONE
TOUR AND CONSULTATION!

- Quartz Counter Tops
- Soft-Close Cabinets
- Lawn Maintenance
- Snow Removal
- 3 ft doorways & NO Steps!
- 2-3 Car Garage
- Gated Secure Community
- 13 different home plans

Debra Adams
509.750.1384

Willow Springs Homes are located off of 10th Ave SW on
M Loop Drive SW - Quincy, WA

www.willowspringshomes.com

Stationary Propane Hot-P/W

Diesel Gas Hot P/W

Diesel Elec Hot-P/W

Acid cleaner

Soap

AUGIE'S AG SALES

Ephrata, WA 98823 • 509-797-5612
augiesagsales@gmail.com
www.augiesagsales.com

New and used Hot water P/W • Parts service

Finance

Tyler Kert

Contributor for Ward Media



Navigating the hidden risks of retirement

Retirement marks a significant milestone in life. It represents the culmination of years of hard work and diligent saving. However, as retirees transition from earning a paycheck to relying on savings and investments for income, they face a new set of financial risks that can threaten their financial security.

The risk that seemingly every retiree focuses on is market volatility. Many act like it is the only risk they have to face on a regular basis while they are retired.

However, there are several other risks that retirees need to address. Being too focused on the risk of being invested in the market can lead to decisions that leave individuals exposed to other serious risks.

This article will outline some of the common risks that retirees face but often don't consider. Effectively managing these risks is crucial to maintaining a secure financial future.

Market Volatility Risk:

As mentioned before, market volatility is one of the most "worried about" risks in retirement. The risk of market volatility threatens to erode investment portfolios and jeopardize long-term financial plans.

To mitigate this risk, retirees should maintain a diversified investment portfolio that aligns with their time frame.

If the time frame is shorter (five years or less), retirees might consider allocating a portion of assets to less volatile investments such as bonds and cash equivalents to cushion against market downturns.

Another strategy to reduce market volatility risk involves the timing of withdrawals. Rather than trying to time the market and sell when investments are up, retirees should consider withdrawing on a regular schedule.

Implementing a systematic withdrawal strategy can provide a steady stream of income while minimizing the impact of market fluctuations on investments.

As life expectancy increases, an increasing number of retirees face the risk of outliving their savings. Longevity risk is one of the reasons that retirement is difficult to plan for. No one knows when they are going to die and therefore it is important to have investments in place that won't be depleted if you live into your 90s or later.

Longevity Risk:

As life expectancy increases, an increasing number of retirees face the risk of outliving their savings. Longevity risk is one of the reasons that retirement is difficult to plan for. No one knows when they are going to die and therefore it is important to have investments in place that won't be depleted if you live into your 90s or later.

To address longevity risk, there are several options retirees should



STOCK PHOTO

consider that have the potential to mitigate this risk entirely. A pension is one lifetime income solution that can solve the problem of longevity risk. Unfortunately, pensions are getting fewer and further between.

Many people don't realize that you can buy a pension. Annuities provide guaranteed income streams for life, just like a pension, and can be "bought" through investing in them. They aren't suitable in every situation, but they should be considered if a retiree is looking for income and financial security regardless of how long they live.

Annuities are also tax deferred and can be used to defer taxable income into later years as needed. Investing in real estate either directly or indi-

rectly can provide protection against longevity risk through rental income.

Renters will always need a place to live. While renting property comes with its own set of risks, the steady stream of rent payments can be valuable to retirees looking for lifetime income.

Inflation Risk:

Inflation erodes purchasing power over time. Many retirees are exposed to inflation risk when they overreact to market volatility risk.

Periods of market downturn can cause retirees to panic and move their investments into cash.

What they don't realize is that in reality, they have only traded one risk for another. For retirees that can't stand the market, Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) or inflation-indexed annuities might be a good option.

These investments adjust returns based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep pace with inflation.

Inflation adjusted options aside, regularly rebalancing the investment portfolio is one of the surest ways to maintain an appropriate mix of assets and outpace inflation.

In conclusion, retirement planning involves many different financial risks, each posing unique challenges to retirees. Many retirees will say, "I just don't want to take any risk."

Unfortunately, it is impossible to avoid every risk. You can avoid market risk by moving all of your money to cash. But, in doing so, you will be exposing yourself to inflation risk as your purchasing power starts to erode. In addition, longevity risk increases exponentially when retirees aren't invested in the market because their retirement accounts aren't growing.

These risks reinforce the importance of establishing a financial plan that addresses and mitigates the risks involved.

A well thought out retirement plan tailored to individual needs and circumstances is the cornerstone of a successful retirement.

Tyler Kert, a licensed financial advisor and CPA, provides financial planning and tax consulting services at Tamarack Wealth Management in Cashmere, WA.

Award

Continued from page 3

will support further residential and commercial development in the area.

"Data centers will provide family-wage jobs without overloading the community with new residents," said Commissioner Mark Spurgeon.

The CDRPA collaborated extensively with local government partners to attract and support these projects.

The Port made substantial contributions and investments throughout the process, including strategic land acquisitions and the construction of essential infrastructure.

"In addition to the jobs being created, Microsoft has funded millions of dollars in upgrading the Malaga water system that will allow additional growth in the community," said Commissioner Donn Etherington.

"None of this would have been possible with-

out the vision, commitment, and hard work of the Port staff, engineers, attorneys, and our community partners."

The CDRPA, the first of its kind in Washington, functions as the principal economic development agency for Chelan and Douglas counties.

The Port Authority expressed its gratitude for the WPPA's prestigious recognition of its efforts to enhance the economic vitality of North Central Washington.

You can
COMPOST
that!



Winton Mfg.®
COMPOST WORKS

**Full service
composting programs
for your restaurant
or business.**

Lower
your
garbage bill
and help
the environment.

**Get started
NOW!**

509-763-0000
connect@wintonmfg.com



NCW
NEWS

WBJ
Wenatchee Business Journal

FOLLOW US

@NCWNewsNetwork

Connect with us for the latest news



Q & A



Meet Kaylin Bettinger, Executive Director of Upper Valley MEND

By **Quinn Propst** | Ward Media Staff Reporter

Kaylin Bettinger stepped into the executive director position at Upper Valley MEND in 2016 after working in communications for the nonprofit organization since 2014. With a background in social services, community organizing, journalism and education Bettinger is a good fit for the mission of MEND.

MEND works to Meet Each Need with Dignity for people in the Upper Wenatchee Valley region by providing support in food, housing, wellness and economic security.

We caught up with Bettinger recently to learn more about her and her goals for the organization.

Tell our readers a little bit about yourself.

I moved to the Wenatchee Valley to work at Stevens Pass and enjoy all of the area's outdoor activities in 2011.

I planned to stay for a year, before looking for a "real job" in a city, but fell

in love with Leavenworth – both the outdoor recreation and the community – and made it my permanent home. I enjoy that my job allows me to help make a tangible difference in the lives of people in my own community, and can see the impact of my work every day.

Please tell our readers about Upper Valley MEND.

MEND stands for "Meeting Each Need with Dignity." Upper Valley MEND is a human services nonprofit organization that serves the Upper Wenatchee Valley region, including Leavenworth, Cashmere, and the areas surrounding those communities. Founded in 1988, MEND provides support in the areas of food, housing, wellness and economic security. A staff of around 20 people and hundreds of volunteers work to provide a safety net for people in the Upper Valley.

What led you to this position?

My education is in journalism, and my first role with MEND was in communications. It quickly became clear what an amazing organization MEND was, and I was honored to become the Executive Director in 2016 when the past Executive Director retired.

What are you most looking forward to in your role as executive director at UV MEND?

It's been a great ride so far. In my time here, the organization has expanded. We moved our thrift store in 2018 to its own standalone location, now called Das Thrift Haus, which has grown into a very well loved little thrift store. At that time, our food bank transitioned to a grocery-style food pantry, where people can shop for the food they want using points, like a little grocery store. We hired a full-time social worker in

2020, which has allowed the organization to help support people who have more diverse needs.

We purchased 31 apartment units in 2023 with the goal of keeping them affordable for folks who work in the local workforce. That exciting campaign is called Solid Foundations, and people can learn more about it at our website, uvmend.org/solidfoundations.

What does a normal day look like as executive director at UV MEND?

It varies a lot by the day. Lots of meetings, with staff, our board of directors, volunteers, or our clients. Often I get to spend time on site at our programs, talking with the people we serve and understanding the things we do well, and the things we can improve.

What is your favorite part of your job and why?

I feel very lucky to get to work with a great group of people.

Our staff, board, and volunteers are all people who care a lot for their community, enjoy each other, and generally like to have fun. Working with them is my favorite part of my job.

What are some of your goals for UV MEND?

My goals for the organization are for us to live up to our mission of Meeting Each Need with Dignity. I have a goal of excellence for each of our programs, regardless of how that program is helping to work towards our mission.

In most of our programs, that means reducing barriers for people who could benefit from our programs, and having great customer service for everyone who walks through our doors.

I also have a goal of taking good care of our staff and volunteers, and ensuring this is a meaningful

and impactful place to be involved.

Who or what inspires you?

I'm inspired by a lot of Upper Valley MEND's clients. Many people have experienced a lot of challenge and struggle in their lives. It can be very hard to ask for help, in some cases so much so that people will struggle on their own. I'm inspired by the people who visit our programs, many of whom are trying to improve their lives and find stability. I'm inspired by their courage.

What do you like to do with your free time?

When I'm not at work, you can find me in the mountains or on the river, spending time with my husband and two-year-old daughter, or enjoying the company of friends.

*Quinn Propst:
509-731-3590 or
quinn@ward.media*

NCW Tech Alliance announces Summer of Innovation events

The NCW Tech Alliance has announced a series of Summer Tech Events aimed at fostering innovation and community engagement in North Central Washington. Since 1999, the organization has been connecting people with technology while supporting entrepreneurs, STEM education, and technology adoption in the region.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

The summer lineup begins with the Summer Scholarship Fundraiser - Golf Tournament, presented by Sabey Data Centers, on Thursday, August 1, at the Highlander Golf Course.

The event combines friendly competition and fundraising to support STEM scholarships for local students and educators, which will be awarded at the Annual Innova-

tor Awards Luncheon in the fall of 2024.

In collaboration with the North Central Educational Service District (NCESD) and the Apple STEM Network, NCW Tech Alliance will host the fourth annual AI Expo on Wednesday, August 21.

The expo will feature keynotes and breakout sessions on topics such as AI use policies, economic impacts, prompt engineer-

ing, multimedia creation, entrepreneurship, open-source utilization, and data analysis.

From August 22 to 25, the NCW Tech & STEM Showcase, presented by the Apple STEM Network, Microsoft, and Yahoo, will take place at the NCW Fair in Waterville. The showcase will provide hands-on

See **SUMMER TECH** Page 7

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE FEATURED IN A WENATCHEE BUSINESS JOURNAL Q&A, EMAIL QUINN@WARD.MEDIA

Summer starts here!

NORTHWEST SWAG WORKS
APPAREL & PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

White glove service so you can focus on your business.
509-731-3624

STYLEZ STUDIO
20 23
BARBERSHOP

429 South Chelan Avenue, Wenatchee
Book your appointment on Instagram @stylezstudio

Keeping Up with people

New Executive Director brings personal connection to Wellness Place mission

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

Wellness Place, a local nonprofit that supports individuals facing cancer in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties, has named Marissa Collins its new Executive Director.



Marissa Collins

Collins, a Wenatchee native, brings a wealth of nonprofit experience and a deeply personal connection to the organization's mission. Diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 31 in 2019, Collins has firsthand experience with the impact Wellness Place has on individuals and families navigating cancer.

"I am honored and humbled to take on the role of Executive Director at the Wellness Place," Collins said. "Having been a beneficiary of their services, I understand firsthand the impact this organization has on individuals and families facing cancer. I am committed to building upon the foundation laid by my predecessors and working together to expand services and impact."

Prior to her appointment, Collins served in various roles at the Numerica Performing Arts Center and 501 Consultants.

She also coordinated Wellness Place's annual Wine Women & Shoes fundraiser in 2023 before joining the organization's

Board of Directors.

Collins replaces interim Executive Director Mary Hart, who helped revitalize the organization following the departure of former Executive Director Julie Lindholm in early 2023.

Casey Vogt, President of the Board of Directors, expressed enthusiasm for Collins' appointment, stating, "Her leadership, coupled with her personal connection to our mission, makes her the ideal candidate to lead our organization into its next chapter of growth and impact."

Collins was officially announced as the new Executive Director at Wellness Place's Wine Women & Shoes annual fundraiser on April 19. The fundraiser raised over \$100,000 for the organization's ongoing efforts to provide compassionate support and free resources to those affected by cancer in the region.

Heritage Heights 'breaks ground' on Memory Care Unit, End-of-Life Suites

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

Heritage Heights of Lake Chelan, a nonprofit residential facility providing assisted living and respite services for the past 28 years, held a groundbreaking ceremony on May 15 to mark the start of a \$3.4 million renovation project.



RUTHEDNA KEYS/WARD MEDIA
Maria Jan, RN, Director of Wellness for Heritage Heights

The project aims to upgrade both the interior and exterior of the facility, including a kitchen remodel, flooring and furnishing upgrades, and an increase in bed capacity from 30 to 38.

The renovation, primarily funded through federal, state, county, and city grants, as well as private donations, will allow Heritage Heights to expand its services by adding a memory care unit and end-of-life suites.

The Memory Care Unit will cater to individuals with advanced stage dementia, while the End-of-

Life Suites are being funded by the Tipler Charitable Trust through the sale of their home in Wenatchee.

In addition to the facility upgrades, Heritage Heights has hired Maria Jan, RN, as their new Director of Wellness.

Jan brings extensive clinical experience in clinic management and home health and hospice nursing for Chelan and Douglas County.



RUTHEDNA KEYS/WARD MEDIA
Heritage Heights board members are shown with the Bull's Eye, where the kitchen remodel will begin at the 'groundbreaking' held on May 15. Front row, left to right: Leslie Meyers (secretary) and Susie Hepner (vice-chair); back row, left to right: Melissa Robins (board chair), Steve Firman (treasurer), Sharon Lukacs, and Bruce Bain. Board members not shown are Sally Harper, Dr. Dan Weakly and Matt Russell.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by several distinguished public service officials who were instrumental in the fundraising efforts, including Chelan County Commissioner Kevin Overbay, Mayor Erin McCardle of the City of Chelan, Ruby Gaston from Congresswoman Kim Schrier's of-

fice, and retired WA State Senator Linda Evans Parlette.

Other speakers at the event included Heritage Heights Board Chair Melissa Robins, Patti Westby of Westby Associates, Timi Starkweather, former Heritage Height Board Chair,

See RENOVATION Page 7

Wenatchee Valley College trustees attend leadership conference in Yakima

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

On May 2 and 3, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) Trustees Paula Arno Martinez, vice chair of the WVC Board of Trustees, and Wilma Cartagena, the board's legislative liaison, attended the Association of College Trustees (ACT) conference in Yakima, Washington. They were accompanied by WVC President Dr. Faimous Harrison.

The ACT conference provides a platform for trustees from Washington

State's 30 community and technical colleges to connect, share ideas, and enhance their leadership and advocacy skills. The event offers valuable opportunities for attendees to network with their peers and discuss strategies for effective governance at their respective institutions.

"Attending the conference in Yakima afforded us, as trustees, the invaluable opportunity to connect with our peers while receiving leadership edu-

cation and reinforcement on the vital responsibilities of effective governance at our institutions," said Cartagena.

Arno Martinez emphasized the importance of the conference, stating, "ACT conferences are invaluable because they provide opportunities for us to connect with trustees from other community and technical colleges and help us become more effective leaders at our own institutions."

During the conference, trustees, state board members, and college presi-

dents convened to discuss the 2024-25 budget and elect board and committee members. These discussions and decisions are crucial in shaping the future of community and technical colleges in Washington state.

Community and technical colleges in Washington are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the governor. The ACT plays a vital role in supporting these trustees by providing conferences and other opportunities for leadership development and advocacy for students and colleges.

APPLESOX SINGLE GAME TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

PURCHASE SINGLE GAME TICKETS THROUGH WWW.APPLESOX.COM/SCHEDULE OR THE OFFICIAL APPLESOX TICKETING PROVIDER WW.SAFERSEATING.COM/HOME



2024 APPLESOX HOME SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
JUNE	1 PAL 5:35	2 RED 6:35	3 PAL 6:35	4 PAL 6:35	5 PAL 6:35	6 PAL 6:35
	7 VIC 1:05	8 VIC 6:35	9 BEL 6:35	10 BEL 6:35	11 BEL 6:35	12 BEL 6:35
	13 KAM 2:05	14 DSF 6:35	15 YVP 6:35	16 YVP 6:35	17 YVP 6:35	18 YVP 6:35
	19 WWS 5:35	20 KEL 6:35	21 KEL 6:35	22 KEL 6:35	23 BEL 6:35	24 BEL 6:35
	25 BEL 1:35	FIREWORKS - JULY 3RD				

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
JULY	1 NAN 1:05	2 VIC 6:35	3 VIC 7:05	4 VIC 6:35	5 NAN 6:35	6 NAN 6:35
	7 CCL 5:35	8 EDM 6:35	9 EDM 6:35	10 EDM 6:35	11 EDM 6:35	12 CCL 6:35
	13 YVP 5:35	14 KAM 6:35	15 KAM 6:35	16 KAM 6:35	17 KAM 6:35	18 EDM 6:05
	19 EDM 12:05	20 KEL 6:35	21 KEL 6:35	22 KEL 6:35	23 KEL 6:35	24 KEL 6:35

AUGUST

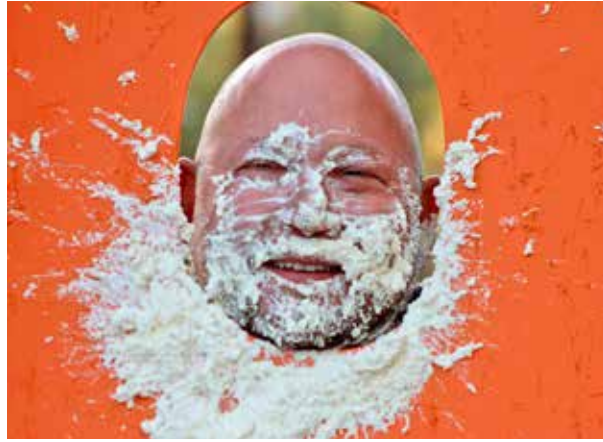
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
AUGUST	SAT				1 NAN 6:35	2 NAN 6:35
	3 NAN 5:35	4 BEN 6:35	5 BEN 6:35	6 BEN 6:35	7 BEN 6:35	8 WCL PLAYOFFS
	9 WCL PLAYOFFS	10 WCL PLAYOFFS	11 WCL PLAYOFFS	12 WCL PLAYOFFS	13 WCL PLAYOFFS	14 WCL PLAYOFFS
	15 WCL PLAYOFFS	16 WCL PLAYOFFS	17 WCL PLAYOFFS	18 WCL PLAYOFFS	19 WCL PLAYOFFS	20 WCL PLAYOFFS
	21 WCL PLAYOFFS	22 WCL PLAYOFFS	23 WCL PLAYOFFS	24 WCL PLAYOFFS	25 WCL PLAYOFFS	26 WCL PLAYOFFS
	27 WCL PLAYOFFS	28 WCL PLAYOFFS	29 WCL PLAYOFFS	30 WCL PLAYOFFS	31 WCL PLAYOFFS	

52 OFF TUESDAYS | WINATCHEE WEDNESDAYS | THIRSTY THURSDAYS
HOME GAME AWAY GAME WCL PLAYOFFS

509-665-6900



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Bridgeport Chamber Secretary Lorena Lopez, left, and President Jose Sanchez address the Bridgeport city council.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Bridgeport Elementary Principal Jesse Macy was a special cream pie target for students.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA
Chamber member Darla Creveling decorates a happy face at Oktoberfest.

Bridgeport

Continued from page 1

Last fall the group introduced Oktoberfest complete with a Halloween theme.

The well-received, family-oriented debut featured popular activities like face painting and the cream pie throw at game school staffers who served as targets. It will, no doubt, become a regular part of the autumn agenda. Now, an interesting conjunction is happening along the way.

As the Chamber moves ahead with signature events like Bridgeport Daze, the Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Comes to Town, and others, the city is pursuing parallel infrastructure and capital improvements that dovetail with those efforts.

Part of the reason is Bridgeport's SR-173 Community Revitalization Plan adopted in 2021 that is making progress every month. Examples:

Bridgeport Daze: The celebration that centers on Columbia Avenue, downtown's main street, is soon to see major upgrades to its multi-block route that will dramatically improve its appearance.

Revitalization Committee Chair Leslie Robb participated in a recent survey of downtown business owners and reported her findings to the committee last month.

"Overwhelmingly people definitely want this part of downtown to look different," said Robb. "So it stands out as a downtown core."

Upgrades may feature widened pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with zones for pedestrians, street furniture, buffers, and perhaps a bike lane. Inlaid crosswalks and other visual amenities are other options.

"They are really, really supportive of wider sidewalks," Robb said of the survey respondents.

Berryman Park: The city's largest park is the go-to site for the Chamber's large turnout of Easter Egg hunters. This year the event had to be moved to a smaller venue because the city won a Recreation and Conservation Office grant to completely renovate the park with new playground equipment, restrooms, picnic shelters, and more.

Santa Comes to Town:

The gazebo in downtown's Bouska Park provides sheltered seating and lighting for Santa and Mrs. Claus to listen to Christmas lists. The city plans to replace the aging structure with a new one so the Christmas couple should find more comforts when they visit this year. The Chamber staff - Secretary Lorena Lopez, Treasurer Deycy Monge, Interim Vice President Edgar Meza, City Rep Ariana Cruz, and members Monse Meza, Keirstin Stansbury, Michelle Simmons Orozco, Jennifer Bush Munson, Diana Espino, and Darla Creveling - are not through yet.

"Maybe in September we might host a dance to

celebrate Mexican Independence Day (Sept. 16)," Sanchez said.

No doubt that, too, will find an annual home on the calendars - and in the

hearts - of appreciative Bridgeport citizens.

Mike Maltais:
360-333-8483 or
michael@ward.media

Quick Read

The Chamber has injected new energy into the community by not only improving existing events but also introducing new ones like Oktoberfest. The city is also pursuing infrastructure and capital improvements that complement the Chamber's efforts, such as upgrading Columbia Avenue, renovating Berryman Park, and replacing the gazebo in Bouska Park. The Chamber staff is considering hosting a dance in September to celebrate Mexican Independence Day, which is likely to become another annual event in Bridgeport.

Renovation

Continued from page 6

Norm and Janice Strums, caregivers of the Tipler's, and Maria Jan, RN, Director of Wellness for Heritage Heights.

The renovation project is expected to be completed within nine months, further enhancing the services provided by Heritage Heights of Lake Chelan and ensuring that the facility continues to provide a full continuum of care, including assisted living, memory care, and end-of-life care, to the Lake Chelan Valley community.



RUTHEDNA KEYS/WARD MEDIA
Timi Starkweather, former Heritage Heights Board Chair, is shown with Christian Hansen (left) and Mike Campeau (right) of the CareAge Construction crew who has started construction of the Memory Care Unit, End-of-Life Suites and kitchen remodel, and other upgrades at Heritage Heights.

Summer Tech

Continued from page 5

opportunities for students, teachers, and businesses to engage in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Concluding the summer's events is the Tech Trailblazers Unite - Digital Equity & Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Thriving Together NCW and Microsoft, on Thursday, September 10, at Pybus Public Market.

The event will recognize organizations across Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and

Okanogan counties that have committed to enhancing digital equity in the region and feature an Entrepreneurial Panel highlighting

visionary cross-sector entrepreneurs. For more information and to register for these events, visit NCWTech.org.

Reach your target audience
at **UNBEATABLE PRICES!**

WBJ
Wenatchee Business Journal

Elevate your brand with cost-effective advertising in the Wenatchee Business Journal **TODAY!**

CALL 509-731-4392

NCW Libraries VIRTUAL

Curious Conversations SERIES

July 9: Learn to Listen - Listen to Learn
July 11: Conflict Styles & Dynamics
July 16: Taming our Triggers
July 18: Compassionate Communication
July 23: Iceberg of Conflict
July 25: Judging vs. Curious Dialogue

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
JULY 9TH - 25TH 12-1:30 PM
Online: ncwlibraries.org

Join us for this engaging series led by Wenatchee Valley Dispute Resolution Center's Executive Director, Jennifer Talbot. Each session is eligible for OSPI approved clock hours for Educators. Feel free to drop-in for one session or the entire series.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS?
INFO@NCWLIBRARIES.ORG | 1-800-426-READ | NCWLIBRARIES.ORG

NCW Libraries f

Health

Cascade Medical bids adieu to Commissioner Mall Boyd

After a decade of dedicated service, Commissioner Mall Boyd bid farewell to her role on the Cascade Medical Board of Commissioners, marking the end of an era in community healthcare leadership.

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL** | Ward Media Staff Reporter

"It has been a great pleasure to work with Mall. She focuses on what is best for patients, employees, and our community. She is well-prepared with thoughtful opinions and perspective but continues to listen to others who may think differently.

The result can be better thinking than any of us would have done individually," said Board Commissioner Bruce Williams.

During her time on the

board, Boyd worked with other commissioners to guide Cascade Medical through the pandemic and implement behavioral health services and the mobile clinic.

"In addition to her depth of knowledge about health care, she brings a perspective that is pragmatic, intuitive and also curious. She is an excellent listener, always respectful, and brings thoughtful insights and wisdom to every deliberation," said Cascade Medi-

cal Center CEO Diane Blake.

Before the pandemic, Boyd initiated community leader dinners at the hospital, which allowed the hospital to share its work with community representatives and hear feedback and ideas on how to better serve its district area.

"I think that was very beneficial. We had a lot of positive feedback... I think it really helped us as far as relations within the community," said Boyd.

Boyd brought a lifetime of experience to the role. She worked as a personnel director, owned a local business with her husband, and was the Director of Marketing at Wenatchee Valley Medical Center, now Confluence Health, for 25 years.

Additionally, she has served on many local boards, such as the Community Foundation of North Central Washington, Rotary Clubs, Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, and the school board.

Boyd moved from Estonia to Michigan when she was five years old. Growing up, she loved people and was always actively involved in different clubs and organizations.

"I tend to jump in with both feet," said Boyd.

Boyd started her people-oriented career early on as a personnel director, but things took a 180-degree turn in 1972 when she and her husband moved to Leavenworth and bought a lumberyard.

While the small town was an adjustment for Boyd, she quickly fell in love with the community's connectedness.

"We'd have morning coffee at John the

Baker's with a lot of the other business community members and kind of solve the problems of the world in the community... People came and wanted to be involved in the community, and I see that continuing today," said Boyd.

However, the repetition



After a decade, Mall Boyd is wrapping up her term on the Cascade Medical Board of Commissioners.

at the lumberyard led Boyd to strive for more community involvement, prompting her to join the school board when her son entered kindergarten.

Boyd served on the board for eight years, overseeing and navigating the consolidation of the Peshastin-Dryden and Leavenworth school dis-

tricts.

She and other board members stood their ground as they faced backlash for allowing the PD and Leavenworth students to choose a new mascot together as an act of inclusion.

"[A fellow board member] said, 'Do you think we're doing the right thing?' and I said, 'We are absolutely doing the right thing,'" said Boyd.

After selling the lumberyard, Boyd took a part-time job billing for the local clinic, was promoted to managing the clinic, and then, after some structural changes to the area's hospitals, was offered a job as a marketing coordinator in Wenatchee.

"I certainly didn't have the necessary skill set. I hopefully developed that with time, but I've had a lot of good mentors, in my various various roles," said Boyd.

Boyd stepped into the role with a learning attitude and focused on what she knew best: people.

She helped the hospital organize its schedule to allow for new patients,

See **BOYD** Page 14

Think you can't open a sweet new business?

Yes, you can.

You want to turn your hobby into a full-time gig. We're here to help make it happen. Because at Washington Trust Bank, we believe you can do anything you set your mind to.

Visit watrust.com to get started.

Washington Trust Bank
Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2024 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1



Welcome to the Danger Zone: 28th Annual Golf Tournament

We are on the final count-down to the 28th Annual Building NCW Golf Tournament presented by **American Rock Products** and **Wenatchee Sand and Gravel!** A special thank you to our Dinner Sponsor **Intermountain West Insulation**.

We have great ideas planned for our full field of 144 golfers and are looking forward to another year of networking, fundraising, and enjoying the sun at **Highlander Golf Course!** We would like to thank all our sponsors; without them, we would not be able to have this incredible event every year.

This year our Welcome Beverage is made possible by the generosity of **Precision Water Jet**. Bottled water provided by the sponsorship

from **Apple Valley Pumping** can be kept cold with drink koozies sponsored by **A-Central**. As our golfers take to the course, they will have food available for them to enjoy courtesy of **Fig**. Thank you to **Ward Media** for all our advertising for the June Golf Tournament.

We have had several local businesses donate to our fundraiser already! We would like to say a big thank you to the following:

- Lince family Construction
- Ward Media
- A-Central
- Gold Construction
- E.D.Y. Construction
- Love Leavenworth Rentals
- Sangster Motors
- Cashmere Valley Mortgage

- Numerica Credit Union
- Engel and Volkers Kara Meloy
- Jer Pro Auto Wash
- US Bank Home Mortgage – Shelli Schlotfeldt
- Wenatchee Wild Hockey Team
- Wenatchee Valley Super Oval
- Community Glass
- Wok About Grill
- Leavenworth Adventure Park
- Cascade Auto Center
- JBe Marketing
- Ag Supply

We are still accepting donations and we still have sponsorships available for our individuals! Please feel free to reach out to Building NCW offices for more information on how to be a part of this amazing event.



The Building NCW Summer Golf Tournament held at Highlander Golf Course and is sponsored by American Rock Products and Wenatchee Sand and Gravel.



The 2023 Golf Tournament had a great turn out and was an excellent day. Building NCW is looking forward to another.



Sangster Motors' golf team won first place for Best Dressed in 2023 for the Miami Vice theme.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

C & E Landscaping LLC

Holiday Inn Express
AN IHG HOTEL

WELCOME TO THE DANGER ZONE

BNCW GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsorships Available

We have a **FULL FIELD** of Golfers!

There are still sponsorship opportunities available to gain exposure or donate a prize!

Email Danielle at danielle@buildingncw.org

FRIDAY JUNE 21ST AT HIGHLANDER GOLF COURSE

Supercharge your visibility and growth and maximize your marketing budget with special offers designed just for BNCW members!

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS Today!

WARD MEDIA
your local partner for all your marketing needs, including print, digital marketing, and promotional products.



MEMBER MESSENGER

"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

JUNE 2024 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2



Peoples Bank

Peoples Bank



BNCW

Nothing but Networking with Peoples Bank

On Tuesday, May 21st we had a great night at the Building NCW Nothing but Networking event at the new East Wenatchee Peoples Bank branch.

Our attendees enjoyed mingling with our hosts and touring the new office building. The new office space was built this past year and

officially opened its door in January. We had a wonderful turnout and enjoyed some delicious snacks and beverages. A special THANK YOU to Peoples Bank for the amazing night.

Please feel free to visit either location in Wenatchee or East Wenatchee to learn more about all the services

that Peoples Bank offers.

Networking events are a fantastic opportunity to meet and greet other local business owners and to grow your business contacts. Building NCW prides itself on promoting and protecting small businesses.

Nothing but Networking events are a terrific way

for individuals to come out and meet new contacts and connect with individuals in our community.

The events are always free and if you have yet to visit one, we would love to invite you to visit our incredible members at a Nothing but Networking event.



BNCW

Calling All Builders!

Building NCW's 30th Home Tour and Remodeling Expo presented by Banner Bank is this September 20-22, 2024. Kicking off at 4 pm on September 19 with the annual Chefs on Tour. Local Builders open their new home builds and their recent remodels to showcase their skills, talents, and craftsmanship. This is an excellent way for builders to meet clients and for the

community to meet their next home builder or remodeler.

This year is the 30th Annual Home Tour and the staff at Building NCW has been working to make this the biggest and best Home Tour with surprises planned for the attendees. This self-guided tour takes attendees around the Wenatchee Valley to different homes on their own schedule. They can choose to

spread the tour out over the three days or visit them all in one day.

Chefs on Tour presented by E.D.Y. Construction is an exclusive 21+ night on September 19th, featuring a preview of four of the homes paired with local chefs and beverage. This is the event you don't want to miss! This year we are excited to welcome back People's Choice Winner

2023 KTS Development and Lexar Homes as well as welcoming back Carlisle Classic Homes and Roberts Construction. Want to showcase your recent home build or remodel? Reach out today to the Building NCW office to get your home on the Home Tour and Remodeling Expo.

Are you a restaurant, catering company, local chef, or beverage maker? Reach out today to meet with Building NCW about our Chefs on Tour!



KTS Development

ALL PHOTOS BY MD PHOTOGRAPHY



Carlisle Classic Homes



Roberts Construction



Lexar Homes

The Floor Factory is...
FlooringAmerica
 where friends send friends™

13 S Weantchee Ave (509)662-1421 www.thefloorfactory.com

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM STONE COUNTERTOPS
NEW SHOWROOM
 5564 Industry Lane,
 Unit A, East Wenatchee
 509.782.2161

Moonlight StoneWorks Inc.
 www.moonlightstoneworks.com

- Quotes in 3 business days
- Natural Stone over 100 slabs in stock
- Template 7-10 business days
- Quartz 12 colors in stock
- Install 7-10 business days
- We sell and install sinks too!

COMPLETE DESIGN, INC.
 Architecture ~ Engineering ~ Land Surveying
 509-662-3699 www.completedesign.cc

MEMBER MESSENGER

“Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business”

JUNE 2024 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 3



Out and About

In the month of May, Building NCW stayed BUSY! With the sunshine out, Building NCW staff kept the pedal to the metal on networking and advocating. Our staff attended **Community Glass's** 40th Anniversary Party, **Inspired Closets' Ribbon Cutting** in Entiat, Nothing but Networking at **Peoples Bank** in East Wenatchee, and **Pioneer Title's** Networking Night.

“It is important for Building NCW staff to attend events that our Members host, we want to show support for them!” said Building NCW’s CEO Danielle Martin.

“We understand how hard it is to host and plan these and if we can help, we try to

in any way shape or form!”

The staff at **Community Glass** were excited to celebrate 40 years in business in the Valley. They even brought out an old friend, Jack!

Community Glass has been a Building NCW Member since 2017 and has shown support in multiple events for the organization such as The Home Show, The Home Tour & Remodeling Expo, and our Fall Classic Golf Tournament. Most recently staff sat down with Morgan and chatted about her DIY Bathroom remodel. Congratulations to everyone at Community Glass for all the hard work you have done over the years!



One of our newest Member’s, **Inspired Closets**, opened a new location in Entiat off State Highway 97A. A Kirkland-based company that builds custom closets and organization systems offers a wonderful service to the Chelan, Entiat, and Wenatchee areas. With live radio remotes and amazing food and drink the Ribbon Cutting was a huge hit!

To wrap up the month of May, Building NCW Staff visited **Pioneer Title's** Open House. Pioneer Title went above and



beyond to showcase their new office off Western Avenue in Wenatchee. Live music welcomed attendees inside with amazing food and a dessert bar along with a fun beverage bar outside.

Building NCW staff were able to mingle with industry leaders and learn more about the team at **Pioneer Title**.



Home Builders & Home Runs!

Building NCW is proud to announce the **Home Builders & Home Runs!** Building NCW is proudly partnering with the **Wenatchee AppleSox** this summer to host a baseball night full of fun and lots of HOMERUNS! We are thrilled to partner with our local WCL baseball team and sponsor a game night on July 19th at the amazing **Wenatchee AppleSox** home stadium. Visit www.buildingncw.org for game night information.



Building NCW loves the valley and community we call home. The staff at Building NCW works hard to stay engaged in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties and support small businesses. Partnering with the beloved **Wenatchee AppleSox** is one way that this is lived out.

The **Wenatchee AppleSox** was established in 1999 and has been affordable community entertainment at Paul Thomas Senior Stadium since 2000.

Young athletes from surrounding areas leave their colleges for summer and visit Wenatchee for nearly 3 months to keep playing the sport they love and hone

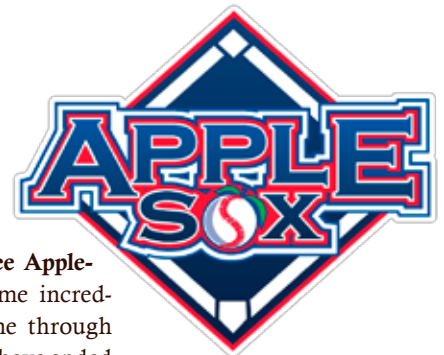
their skills.

The **Wenatchee AppleSox** has had some incredible players come through their lineup that have ended up playing at a higher level!

Players such as Jason Hammel, Tommy Milone, Marco Gonzales, and Clayton Mortensen are some of the great names to come through the organization.

Building NCW is excited to join the summer tradition of peanuts, sunflower seeds and baseball in the Wenatchee Valley!

We also strive to always provide amazing Membership benefits. This year we are proud to say we have secured four tickets



available for each home game for Building NCW Members!

Please reach out to Morgan at morgan@buildingncw.org to sign up for a game night*.

In addition, the **Wenatchee AppleSox** have provided Building NCW 100 tickets to pass out to Building NCW Members for Home Builders & Home Runs on July 19th. Building NCW Members, reach out today to claim your tickets! *

*Subject to availability.

McDonald Building
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

15303 Lakeview Street
Entiat • 509-670-1420
info@mcdonaldbuilding.com

Contractor Registration
#MCDONBL036RN

LUXURY CUSTOM HOME CONSTRUCTION

See our work at mcdonaldbuilding.com

Now Hiring
CUSTOM HOME CONSTRUCTION
CREW FOREMAN

Compensation includes competitive wages, company vehicle, health insurance and HSA contributions. Please call Tim at 509-670-1420

Call now for new construction and remodeling

Serving the Wenatchee Valley for 44 years

GOLD Construction

Randy Gold

Gold Construction Inc.
509-663-4946 www.goldconstruction.org
GOLDCL077NO

ASBESTOS CENTRAL LLC

A locally owned asbestos, mold, and lead testing and removal company

SERVING WASHINGTON SINCE 2008

Residential & Commercial Projects
Licensed, Bonded, & Insured – ASBESCL804PL

Justin Wood, Owner
509-888-5542 • Justin@a-central.com • www.a-centralwa.com



MEMBER MESSENGER

"Driven to Promote and Protect Small Business"

JUNE 2024 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PAGE 4

Upcoming Events

JUNE

JUNE 21ST - ANNUAL SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENT
 JUN. 26TH - BOARD MEETING

JULY

JULY 4TH - OFFICE CLOSED
 JULY 17TH - BOARD MEETING
 JULY 19TH - BNCW APPLESOX GAME
*REACH OUT FOR TICKETS!

AUGUST

AUGUST 21ST - BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 19TH - 10TH ANNUAL CHEFS ON TOUR
 SEPT. 20TH - SEPT. 22ND- HOME TOUR
 SEPT. 27TH - NOTHING BUT NETWORKING
 HOSTED BY MOONLIGHT STONE WORKS

2024

OCT. 7TH - RRP CLASS
 OCT. 16TH - BOARD MEETING



VISIT OUR NEW UPDATED WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Address Office:
 2201 N. Wenatchee Ave.
 Wenatchee WA 98801
 P : 509-293-5840
 E : danielle@buildingncw.org

RRP Lead Class Registration Form

This class is a full day training taught by N.I.C.A Training. The course covers new regulations by the EPA for renovating, repairing or painting a home built before 1978. Businesses that are involved with Home Improvement and Renovations, Remodelers, Painters, Plumbers, Electricians, Maintenance Personnel, Property Managers.

Space is limited Pre-Registration is required

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Attendee : _____
 Company : _____
 Email : _____
 Phone : _____
 Mailing Address : _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Includes course materials

Course	BNCW Member Rate	Non Member Rate
Initial Class	\$260	\$350
'Refresh' Re-Certification Class	\$230	\$275



THANK YOU FOR REGISTRATION

CLASS INFORMATION

October 7TH

Class Location : BNCW Offices
 2201 N. Wenatchee Ave. Wenatchee

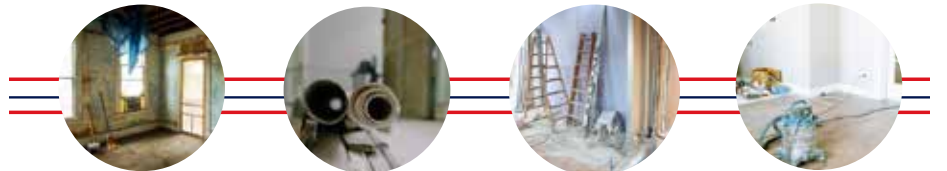
Check In : 7:45 AM

Refresh Session : 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Initial Class : 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Signature

Cancellation Policy & Payment Information - Payment must be made in full before the course starts. Failure to pay will include late charges. Cancellation must be done 48 hours in advance for a partial refund. If less than 48 hours no refund will be given to customer. By Signing you understand and agree to this policy.



More Information : Please contact the BNCW Offices at 509-293-5840 or visit our website www.bncw.org



WANT TO BE A BNCW MEMBER?

BNCW MEMBER BENEFITS

- Home Show Booth Discount
- Home Tour Ticket Discount
- Discounted Advertising in multiple programs
- Safety Class Discount
- Opportunity to host Nothing but Networking Nights
- Annual BNCW Membership Appreciation Event AND MORE!

Visit **BNCW.ORG** for more information

MORGAN DOBBINS

Morgan@BuildingNCW.org
 509-293-5840

Need a Meeting Room?

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



Please contact **Morgan Dobbins** at 509-293-5840 to make the necessary arrangements.

NEED TO BE CPR CERTIFIED?

We got you

UPCOMING CLASSES

JUNE

27TH

4 PM - 6 PM

JULY

24TH

4 PM - 6 PM

EMAIL DANIELLE@BUILDINGNCW.ORG OR MORGAN@BUILDINGNCW.ORG

SMITHSON INSURANCE SERVICES

Medicare Planning • Medicare PDP Rx
 • Individual Health Insurance
 • Exchange Plans • Group Benefits Packages • Life • Vision • Dental

Kathy Z. Smithson • Katy Dalan • Karen Gonzalez
 509-884-5195
 720 Valley Mall Pkway E. Wenatchee • smithsoninsuranceservices@gmail.com

Powder Coat it Tough!

CASCADE
 POWDER COATING & METAL FABRICATION

Working to bring your project ideas to Reality.

509-663-9080 | 11 Bridge St, Wenatchee
cascadepowdercoating.com

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.

NCHBA

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

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

Real Estate

Adam Rynd

Contributor for Ward Media



Navigating the new real estate landscape in North Central Washington

Every spring, the sunny slopes of North Central Washington green up with grasses and sage, accentuated with the bright gold of arrowleaf balsamroot and purple lupine spikes. And every spring, our local real estate market also comes back to life after the snow recedes.

This region offers a unique blend of natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and thriving small-town communities.

In recent months, I've observed a gradual shift in the real estate landscape that suggests promising opportunities for both buyers and sellers.

1. Inventory Levels on the Rise

For years, North Central Washington has been a hidden gem, attracting those seeking a quieter, more laid-back lifestyle.

More people discovered the region when COVID-19 lifestyle and workstyle changes allowed many people to relocate to where they chose to live, not where they needed to work.

However, limited housing inventory often posed a challenge for prospective buyers.

The good news? Inventory levels are increasing, with Chelan County's active home listings up 47% year-over-year for April.

Douglas County active home listings have grown even more, with a 59% year-over-year increase. As more homeowners list their properties, buyers

have a broader selection to choose from.

There are more options for everyone, whether it's a cabin in Leavenworth or Mazama, new construction in East Wenatchee, a mature home on a spacious lot in Wenatchee, or a vacation rental home overlooking Lake Chelan.

2. Demand Remains Strong

Despite the pandemic's initial uncertainties, demand for North Central Washington properties has remained robust. Remote work arrangements have allowed professionals to escape crowded cities and embrace the tranquility of this region.

Families, retirees, and outdoor enthusiasts are drawn to the area's hiking trails, wineries, and recreational opportunities.

As a result, homes are selling faster than ever, often receiving multiple offers, especially for well-priced properties in the heart of Wenatchee.

3. The Appeal of Small-Town Living

North Central Washington's small towns – such as Cashmere, Chelan, Leavenworth, and Manson – offer a refreshing change of pace.

Residents enjoy close-knit communities, locally owned businesses, and breathtaking views.

Whether you're sipping coffee at a riverside café or exploring apple orchards, the charm of small-town living appeals to many seeking refuge



STOCK PHOTO

from urban chaos.

Retirees to North Central Washington are often locals returning home to the communities where they grew up, after living for years in more urban and suburban cities.

Tips for Buyers and Sellers

1. Buyers: Act Swiftly

With inventory levels improving, buyers should act swiftly.

Consult with a local real estate professional who understands the market and will help you succeed.

Be prepared to make competitive offers, especially for well-priced properties. And be sure to work with a mortgage professional so you are pre-approved for a mortgage before you begin shopping.

2. Sellers: Price Strategically

Sellers must take advantage of increased interest, but can't be too ambitious. Home prices have been slowly increasing in North Central Washington since 2022. Price your home strategically – neither too high nor too low – with the help of a real estate professional.

3. Don't Be Afraid of Mortgage Rates

Interest rates have deterred many buyers and sellers for the past two years from taking action, but life doesn't wait for rates to fall.

The best time for you to buy is when you're ready for a new home. The best time for you to sell is when you're ready to leave the home you have. Mortgage rates are now trending below 7%, which is roughly the 50-year historic average mortgage rate.

Affordability is a consideration and mortgage payments can be reduced through rate buydowns and other financing solutions.

Conclusion

As the seasons change, so does the real estate market in North Central Washington, and a healthy real estate market is an active real estate market.

Real estate inventory levels are increasing and now is an excellent time to explore the possibilities.

Whether you're thinking about buying or selling this year, the market is likely better than you think. Talk to a trusted real estate professional to explore the options and make a sound decision.

Adam Rynd, a licensed real estate Managing Broker, is the Owner and Designated Broker of Coldwell Banker Cascade Real Estate

Inflation eases for first time in 2024. Will it be enough to cut rates?

The first few months of the year brought back the specter of rising inflation during a long fight to bring prices back under control. In May, the first signs of optimism in 2024 arrived.

By **Rachel Siegel** | The Washington Post

New data released from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed prices rose 3.4 percent in April compared with the year before. That's down a bit from the 3.5 percent notched in March, and the shift follows months of hotter-than-expected reports. Prices rose 0.3 percent compared with the month before.

In a particularly encouraging note, a key reading of inflation known as "core" -

which strips out more volatile categories like food and energy - rose 0.3 percent. That measure was up 3.6 percent on an annual basis, the lowest year-over-year increase since 2021. Policymakers pay close attention to that gauge because it helps them tease out stickier sources of inflation from the kinds of rising prices that typically bounce around month to month.

The takeaway: Inflation is still higher than normal,

and Federal Reserve officials are far from declaring victory. But the streak of discouraging data finally broke in the report released Wednesday. It's too early to know whether the trend from April will continue, or if seasonal quirks were ultimately driving the reports for the first quarter. Still, for now, policymakers are probably breathing a small sigh of relief.

See **INFLATION** Page 16

EVENTS
PORTRAITS
PRODUCTS

INNHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY

InnHousePhotography.com

Hilton Garden Inn

The Garden Grille & Bar

25 N. Worthen St Wenatchee, WA 98801

Restaurant open to the public!

Start your day with our cooked-to-order breakfast and enjoy cocktails and dining on our patio in the evenings.

Breakfast:	Mon-Fri: 6am-10am Sat & Sun: 7am - 11am
Dinner:	Mon-Sun: 5pm-10pm

Marketing Matters

AMY YALEY

COO of Ward Media



Omnichannel marketing: The key to reaching customers everywhere

Nowadays, customers jump between devices like phones, tablets, and computers and different platforms like websites, apps, print, and in-person stores. They interact with businesses in lots of different ways.

This constant switching by customers demands that businesses market themselves consistently no matter where or how the customer engages with them. Whether online, on mobile, in print, on air, or in a physical store, the business needs to provide a unified experience. In the marketing world, this is called an omnichannel approach.

While providing that unified experience across channels has clear benefits, such as increased customer satisfaction, improved brand loyalty, and valuable insights into

customer preferences and behavior for small to medium-sized businesses without extensive marketing resources, implementing a consistent marketing strategy across all channels can seem challenging.

At the core of an omnichannel approach lies a deep understanding of the customer journey.

Understanding how customers interact with your business enables you to identify the different ways customers engage with your brand, pinpointing frustrations or challenges customers face, preferred channels, and opportunities for engagement. This insight allows for the improvement of marketing efforts across different channels.

Integrating channels is crucial for delivering a seamless experience.

Key components include consistent branding,



STOCK PHOTO

such as using the same logos and colors, tailoring your marketing message based on what you know about your customer, and technologies that enable smooth transitions between online and offline interactions.

Coordinating promotions and campaigns across channels further reinforce a cohesive brand experience. While large corporations may have dedicated teams to man-

age omnichannel marketing, small to medium-sized businesses often lack the resources to handle such complex strategies. This is where partnering with a reputable marketing agency can be invaluable.

A skilled marketing partner can help you understand how customers interact with your business, identify the most effective channels for your target audience, and develop a consistent market-

ing plan tailored to your business goals and budget.

With their expertise, you can use effective tools and proven strategies to maintain a consistent brand experience without overspending.

Moreover, a marketing partner can provide ongoing support, monitoring, and improve your omnichannel campaigns based on customer feedback and data insights. This ensures that your marketing efforts remain relevant and effective, adapting to the ever-changing landscape of consumer behavior.

Embracing an omnichannel approach is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity for businesses of all sizes to meet the evolving expectations of modern customers.

By partnering with a reputable marketing agency, small to medium-sized

businesses can leverage the power of omnichannel marketing without the need for a large in-house team or exorbitant budgets.

Take the first step towards providing a seamless and memorable customer experience by exploring a consistent marketing strategy tailored to your business needs across all channels.

Your customers are engaging with your brand in a variety of ways; it's time to meet them where they are, consistently and in a coordinated way, to foster lasting relationships and drive growth for your business.

Amy Yaley is the COO of Ward Media and the co-owner of Apple Capital Marketing & Northwest Swag Works. She can be reached at amy@ward.media.

Real Estate

Top Properties Douglas County April 2024

Residential

Sale Price	Address	Total Acres	Year Built	Residential Area	Basement Area	Bedr.	Bathr.	Garage Area
\$2,750,000.00	100 DESERT SHORES DR)	1.23	2001	2805	2850	4.00	4.00	1794
\$1,695,000.00	23215 COLUMBIA POINTE LN)	0.6	2008	3100	911	4.00	3.50	576
\$920,000.00	3296 NW DAVID AVE)	0.74	1994	2662	1662	4.00	3.50	864
\$892,450.00	2645 PARKETTE ST SE)	0.29	2020	2728		4.00	2.50	732
\$875,000.00	822 BRIARWOOD DR)	0.39	2005	1905	1905	4.00	3.50	920
\$850,000.00	939 N BAKER AVE #1)	0.23	1977	4284				
\$790,000.00	502 DESERT CANYON BLVD)	0.33	2007	2146		3.00	2.50	690
\$769,000.00	1550 EASTMONT AVE)	0.28	1996	2318	1934	7.00	6.50	440
\$711,900.00	1556 HOLLY LN)	0.25	2000	2399	748	3.00	3.50	856
\$700,000.00	2213 N DEVON AVE)	0.7	1985	2062	2062	2.00	2.00	567
\$652,500.00	1979 DIAMOND CT)	0.28	1996	2215	1296	3.00	2.50	781
\$650,000.00	876 N NEWPORT LOOP)	0.27		0				
\$642,500.00	1613 HANNAH WAY)	0.25	1998	2186		3.00	2.00	984
\$630,000.00	1330 N ARBOR TER)	0.39	2019	1817		3.00	3.00	1008
\$615,750.00	223 MCCAULEY CT)	0.38	1998	2070		3.00	2.50	500
\$609,000.00	351 19TH ST NE #19)	0	1991	1527	797	3.00	2.50	600
\$570,000.00	1414 COPPER LOOP)	0.17	2008	1874		3.00	2.00	601
\$555,000.00	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE)	0	2015	1422		3.00	2.00	529
\$554,000.00	909 12TH ST NE)	0.18	1987	2069		3.00	2.50	580
\$545,000.00	272 HAMMOND LN)	0.15	2022	1980		3	2.00	570
\$542,000.00	705 N NILE AVE)	1.28	2000	1608		3.00	2.50	616
\$534,900.00	901 KENROY TER)	0.32	1962	1421	1363	4.00	3.00	280
\$529,900.00	3978 NE BLUERIDGE DR)	0.25	2007	1204	1204	4.0	3.0	400
\$505,013.00	2720 CASA MIA DR)	0.52	1983	1248	1248	3.00	2.50	528
\$500,000.00	1380 EASTMONT AVE #102)	0	1994	2284		2.00	2.00	648
\$499,000.00	2452 NW COLUMBIA AVE)	0	2015	1621		3.00	2.00	504
\$470,000.00	201 N NILE AVE)	1.66	1969	1685	688	3.00	2.00	
\$469,000.00	2210 MARYHILL ST SE)	0.16	2018	1478		3.00	2.00	462
\$440,000.00	530 N LYLE AVE)	0.15	1972	1032	990	4.00	2.00	
\$439,900.00	2342 FANCHER FIELD RD)	0.2	2004	1380		3.00	2.00	440
\$436,333.00	705 N LYLE AVE)	0.18	2003	1276		3.00	2.00	400
\$412,000.00	44 MORRIS LN)	3.2	1966	1270	1270	3.00	2.00	
\$398,400.00	3021 AIRWAY ST SE)	0.46	1942	1320	252	3.00	1.00	
\$375,000.00	601 10TH ST NE)	0.19	2009	1458		3.00	2.00	528
\$360,000.00	2049 COLUMBIA AVE)	0.18	2023	1526		4.0	2.0	440

Commercial

Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	DOR CODE	Acres
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO 1 OF CHELAN COUNTY	DOUGLAS COUNTY PUD #1	186000	45 - TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY	5.6

Farm

Seller	Buyer	Sale Price	Street	Total Acres
DUFENHORST, DAVID & MICHELLE	REINER, JASON & MELISSA	\$1,245,000.00	86 SKEELS RD	5.07
LONDON, JEFFREY & KIMBERLEY	DAHL, DARRIN & STEPHANNIE	\$1,000,000.00	15410 US HWY 2	20
GLESSNER, LARRY E & LINDA B	RCM FARMS LLC	\$960,000.00		2396.02
STROUD, DENETTE	MORGAN, KATHLEEN & JUSTIN ROYCE	\$524,400.00	13740 US Hwy 2	47.3
STRECKER &, TERRI L	DOLAN, MATTHEW & KATIE	\$400,000.00		15.1

Boyd

Continued from page 8

and worked with doctors to improve their interpersonal skills.

The elevated customer experience helped the clinic thrive. Boyd was promoted, and spent 25 years as the Marketing Director.

Boyd retired in 2014 and then discovered an opening for a commissioner position at Cascade. Now, ten years in, she's ready to pass the baton to someone new.

"That's long enough. They need new ideas, new energy. We've got a really good board. I think there's a lot of interest in not only making sure that things are running well and such but also just in keeping up with current things," said Boyd.

Taylor Caldwell:
509-433-7276 or
taylor@ward.media

NORTH CASCADES
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, Inc.
509-784-4822
www.northcascadesheating.net

"The Professionals"

Real Estate

Top Properties Chelan County April 2024

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Address	City	Living Area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Garage Area	Pool	Fire-place
SUNDANCE SLOPE LLC	RIGGAN MAC A & CARMYN C	\$4,530,000.00	4052 US HWY 97A	CHELAN	1647	1999	4	3	1080	N	Y
RIGGAN MAC & CARMYN	PULSIPHER JOHN L JR	\$3,210,000.00	8250 S LAKESHORE RD	CHELAN	1553	2018	2	2	900	N	Y
FOREMAN JAMES S & ALLISON R	HOLMBERG ERIK	\$2,150,000.00	2017 BROADVIEW NORTH	WENATCHEE	5074	2001	6	5.5	950	N	Y
NEAL ANGELA & TYLER	NORMAN KIRT & JENNIFER	\$1,980,000.00	44 VIA VISTA LN	CHELAN	3363	2019	4	3.25	904	Y	Y
TAYLOR LEO	DAVISON DAVID & WENDOLYN	\$1,935,000.00	7506 OLALLA CANYON RD	CASHMERE	3223	2018	4	4	925.8	N	Y
APOGEE PROPERTIES LLC	NEW VINTAGE PROPERTIES LLC	\$1,500,000.00	103 S WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	10200	1914			0	N	N
STICKNEY JOSHUA R & ALLISON M	CURRIT STEVEN E	\$1,375,000.00	15109 N LAKESHORE DR	ENTIAT	1621	1995	3	3	550	N	Y
WENATCHEE VALLEY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOC	CHELAN COUNTY PUD	\$1,204,350.00	327 N WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	94956	0			0	N	N
AUXIER CYNTHIA A & ANDREW C	BUENTING 2013 REV TRT	\$1,125,000.00	16740 N SHORE DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	2028	1994	3	2.75	647	N	Y
UPPER DECK CHELAN LLC	TRIPEN INC	\$1,125,000.00	101 BURBOT LN	CHELAN	0	0			0	N	N
SCHROEDER IAN E & NICOSIA JANET M	SCHIMELFENIG PAUL & LINDA J COLASURDO	\$1,092,500.00	10265 SKI HILL DR	LEAVENWORTH	2052	1993	3	2.75	624	N	Y
PETTER JANE E IRREVOCABLE TRUST	DOUBLE D WINERY LLC	\$1,000,000.00	212 E WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	3027	1953			0	N	N
STONE GEORGE & JENIFER	RUSSELL NICOLA L ETAL	\$969,000.00	2413 SALAL DR	LAKE WENATCHEE	2750	1990	3	2.5	1055	N	N
PETTY JACOB G & AVA A	PARK RICK & JILL	\$880,000.00	2175 SUMMER CAMP RD	CHELAN	600	2005		1	600	N	N
BENSON DERIN M & KRISTEN L	OULES GREG & KRISTINE M	\$850,000.00	966 BUZZARD PERCH LN	CHELAN	1502	1979		2	0	N	Y
MUNDELL WILLIAM C & BETH C	LEWIS STEPHEN M & SUSAN K	\$833,500.00	625 MEADOWS DR	WENATCHEE	3074	1993	4	2.5	962	Y	Y
GRAIKA BRAEDON & ELLE	BAIL KRISTIN M & ALAN BARRON	\$830,000.00	75 SUNNY MEADOWS LOOP	WENATCHEE	2482	2016	3	2.25	808	N	N
PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY	BAKER JOSEPH M & KERI L	\$800,000.00	5043 MALAGA ALCOA HWY	MALAGA	1877	1979	2	1.75	1000	Y	Y
KELLY DAN P & KRAFT VIRGINIA A	ROUNDS JEFFREY B	\$770,000.00	970 BENTLEY LN	WENATCHEE	2177	2022	4	2	440	N	Y
ROY GARY	ISAACSON GARY	\$750,000.00	701 POPLAR AVE	WENATCHEE	12128	1947			0	N	N
GILKISON TIFFANY D & BENJAMIN T	MALONE VERNON & WANDA	\$735,000.00	405 PINE ST	LEAVENWORTH	1960	2000	3	2	616	N	Y
GRITZNER SARAH R	SIMPSON JON W & AMY J	\$725,000.00	519 N WILSON ST	CHELAN	1795	2014	3	1.75	441	N	Y
ADAMS JEREMY & SHAYLA	HARRINGTON GABRIEL	\$720,000.00	7053 COLOCKUM RD	MALAGA	1236	1984	2	1.75	1152	N	Y
NELSON BRADLEY D & SHERIDAN AIMEE K	CISNEROS ANGEL JR & MARCELA ANAYA	\$715,000.00	118 LONG DR	CHELAN	896	1992	3	1.75	472	N	N
UPPER VALLEY MEND	MARSON FAMILY HOLDINGS INC	\$704,000.00	147 W WHITMAN ST	LEAVENWORTH	2794	1995			0	N	N
HAMMONS JAKE & RACHEL	ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$699,900.00	2003 LIGHTNING LN	WENATCHEE	0	0			0	N	N
BROOKS KADEN	ADAMS MICHAEL L	\$699,000.00	2960 RIVIERA BLVD	MALAGA	1764	1978	3	2.25	720	N	Y
HESTER ALLISON & JAMES	PAUL MARY M & SCOTT E	\$690,000.00	920 RIDGE CREST DR	WENATCHEE	2034	2005	3	2	384	N	Y
DUGGER JEFFREY & LACEY	NEIER DENNIS R	\$680,000.00	178 SUN VALLEY DR	WENATCHEE	2538	2013	3	2.5	484	N	Y
WANER SCOTT A & DONNA L ETAL	CARPENTER CAROL	\$649,000.00	501 N WILSON ST	CHELAN	1675	2014	3	2	440	N	N
KNIGHT TIM V & PHUONG A	ALTO JAIME R & ANGELICA V	\$645,000.00	2195 METHOW ST	WENATCHEE	1504	2013	4	3	546	N	N
DICKINSON AUBREY ANNE	DORAIS JOHN F & ARLAND L	\$640,000.00	1620 OKANOGAN AVE	WENATCHEE	1458	1910	3	2	1162	N	Y
STOUDT BRETT W TABITHA A ETAL	NORMAN BETTY	\$635,000.00	1125 COMMERCIAL ST	LEAVENWORTH	1484	1903	3	1	0	N	Y
LENTING TIMOTHY J & LESA J	BOZZUTI ANTHONY J	\$635,000.00	100 LAKE CHELAN SHORES DR	CHELAN	884	0			0	N	N
MCMULLEN SHELLY & MCCALESTER LORANA	DAVIS STEVEN B & ANGELA A JUCHMES	\$625,000.00	2256 ASHLEY BROOKE	WENATCHEE	2168	1999	3	2.5	767	N	Y
SELBY MATTHEW J	WALL ARLIE H	\$625,000.00	304 TUMWATER DR	LEAVENWORTH	1465	1995	3	2	462	N	N
FULLER HERBERT	SUAVE MICHAEL & APRIL	\$607,350.00	1020 CREST LOOP	ENTIAT	1930	2015	4	2	840	N	Y
FINE HARRISON W & SYDNEY C	COLLINS-FEAY NICHOLAS ETAL	\$585,000.00	1824 ORCHARD AVE	WENATCHEE	1824	1976	3	1.75	500	N	Y
VARELA EDUARDO & MOORE ANNA	CALDWLL JAMES & BERNICE RVCBLE LVNG TRST	\$577,000.00	1707 WINDSOR CT	WENATCHEE	1976	1995	3	2	462	N	Y
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH	NEIGHBORS MARGARET J	\$575,000.00	324 TUMWATER DR	LEAVENWORTH	1260	2002			456	N	Y
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH		\$575,000.00	224 BENTON ST	LEAVENWORTH	2796	1980			0	N	N
FISHER TONY & QUIN	KORR LLC	\$544,000.00	203 BLUEBELL CT	CHELAN	0	0			0	N	N
VANDEWAY JAMES F & DARLA R	BROWN VICKY A	\$540,000.00	194 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	1713	2022	3	1.75	420	N	Y
COLLINS CASEY P & WINNETT LAUREN	TOV HOMES DEVELOPMENT LLC	\$539,900.00	117 FREEDOM HILLS	CASHMERE	0	0			0	N	N
WA MISSION & KITTITAS COMMERCIAL LLC	RAMIREZ LUIS M	\$525,000.00	220 S WENATCHEE AVE	WENATCHEE	6000	1923			0	N	N
KALCAT RENTALS LLC	OPPENHEIMER PROPERY TRUST	\$520,000.00	231 BRITTANY PARADISE LN	MANSON	1848	1989			0	N	N
PATCH RAYMOND R	GERBER JARED	\$515,000.00	12704 PROWELL ST	LEAVENWORTH	1676	1942	1	1	0	N	N
VAN WEGEN MITCHEL J & NEFF MICHELLE N	PARA MICHAEL & TERI	\$510,000.00	1507 SUMMIT BLVD	MANSON	0	0			0	N	N
PAGH CARL	COULTER DEVELOPMENT LLC	\$505,000.00	UNASSIGNED	LAKE WENATCHEE	0	0			0	N	N
NEIGHBORS MARGARET J	TIMPE TERRI L	\$500,000.00	1800 STORY LN	WENATCHEE	1368	1995	3	2	483	N	Y
STEPANOV TIHON & TIMMI	WETZEL CLAUDE E & LORNA A MARSHALL	\$500,000.00	263 S HARRIS AVE	MANSON	2043	1922	4	2	0	N	Y
RO & M PROPERTIES LLC	COLLINS JOE	\$499,900.00	422 E WOODIN AVE	CHELAN	1008	1922	2	1.75	0	N	N
LOPEZ VASQUEZ KRISTEN	RAYMOND STEVEN & NANCY	\$495,000.00	9455 MERRY CANYON RD	LEAVENWORTH	1524	1997	3	1.75	0	N	N
MOSES TELENA H & RICHARD D	DOZAL GLORIA E & JOSE A	\$495,000.00	576 SADDLE ROCK LOOP	WENATCHEE	1619	2008	3	2.5	473	N	N

Buyer	Seller	Sale Price	Address	City	Living Area	Year Built	Bed-rooms	Bath-rooms	Garage Area	Pool	Fire-place
KSC PROPERTIES LLC	G & B PROPERTIES EAST LLC	\$475,000.00	UNASSIGNED	PLAIN	0	0			0	N	N
FEATHERSTONE CHRISTOPHER & TARA K	COBB JEFFREY M & DEBBIE L	\$475,000.00	42 SIENNA CT	CHELAN	0	0			0	N	N
HART MAXIMILIAN	COULTER DEVELOPMENT LLC	\$475,000.00	UNASSIGNED	LAKE WENATCHEE	0	0			0	N	N
COOKE CLARK & PAMELA	SCHMITTEN RAYMOND C	\$467,983.00	UNASSIGNED	CASHMERE	0	0			0	N	N
SIEMERS DAVID W ETAL	MILLER DONALD K & JUDITH E G	\$462,800.00	904 HIGHLAND DR	WENATCHEE	1530	1928	4	1.75	360	N	Y
OLSHAVSKY MICHAEL A ETAL	OLSHAVSKY GREGORY T	\$450,000.00	3420 ALPINE CT	WENATCHEE	1359	1966		1.5	912	Y	Y
OLSEN SHERY L & STANLEY D	BECKER ANNE A	\$450,000.00	1419 OAK ST	WENATCHEE	1144	1957	3	2.25	400	N	Y
PROSIO RYAN W & LILY Y	NEBINGER PAUL & COREY	\$430,000.00	1795 SUMMIT BLVD	MANSON	0	0			0	N	N
SCOTT JANET C & RODNEY E	WOOD JEAN J	\$425,000.00	1203 WOODS ST	WENATCHEE	1350	2001			576	N	N
WILSON ALEXA	PALMGREN DONELDA E	\$415,000.00	204 S MILLER ST	WENATCHEE	1744	1930	4	2	0	N	Y
MORA YARA	PALMER JOYCE & DANIEL	\$410,000.00	208 PENNSYLVANIA AVE	WENATCHEE	1158	1915	3	1.75	308	N	N
SCHRODER LORRAINE M	LA CHAPELLE ANTHONY A & SUSAN G	\$409,000.00	2435 W MALAGA RD	MALAGA	975	1907	2	1	0	N	N
MARTIN SUZANNE M	FOSSUM SEAN & FOSSUM DARRIN	\$408,000.00	1252 WOODS ST	WENATCHEE	1400	2004			484	N	N
CASSIDY EDWARD J & HEIDI C	SAGE HOMES LLC	\$407,900.00	336 EMMA DR	WENATCHEE	0	0			0	N	N
LACHICA LUCAS & INSKEEP HELENA	SMITH TERESA C	\$405,000.00	763 MONROE ST	WENATCHEE	960	1926	2	1	408	N	N
SOTIROPOULOS NICHOLAS	MURRAY BRIAN K	\$402,500.00	243 N EMERSON AVE	WENATCHEE	1198	1930	4	3	360	N	Y
BRYAN JAY & HEIDI	MAGNAGHI PAUL	\$400,000.00	25603 CAMP 12 RD	PLAIN	832	1998	2	2	0	N	Y
BRYAN JAY & HEIDI	MAGNAGHI PAUL	\$400,000.00	25604 CAMP 12 RD	PLAIN	0	0			0	N	N
ELLINGSON JOEY & BRETT	MAYHEW JULIE A	\$400,000.00	UNASSIGNED	CHELAN	0	0			0	N	N
WEBER ELIJAH J & RAQUEL R	ZACHARIASH JEREMY A	\$385,000.00	945 VASSAR AVE	WENATCHEE	906	1950	2	1	594	N	N
MALAGA WATER DISTRICT	FORD JOHN L III	\$379,500.00	UNASSIGNED	MALAGA	0	0			0	N	N
6500 NAVARRE COULEE LLC	KEATING TERRY A & ALMA J	\$375,000.00	6500 NAVARRE COULEE RD	CHELAN	864	1966	2	1	0	N	N
QUINONES RODRIGUEZ ERNESTINA ETAL	MIKKELSEN COREY D	\$350,000.00	507 RAMONA AVE	WENATCHEE	940	1930	3	1	0	N	N
LUEBBER DILLON J	FRY ROGER D	\$350,000.00	UNASSIGNED	MALAGA	0	0			0	N	N
JARED DEVIN C & MACKENZIE	HOUSE LEROY E SR & PEGGY M	\$350,000.00	1610 WOODLAND DR	WENATCHEE	1096	1992	2	2	440	N	N

Inflation

Continued from page 13

Financial markets did, too: All three major stock indexes closed at record highs, buoyed by the prospect of interest rate cuts later this year.

"It did slow," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM. "The question is: Is it slowing enough for the Fed to cut rates in September? That remains to be seen."

Housing and gas costs continued to be a main driver of overall price increases, as they have for a while now, and together accounted for more than 70 percent of the monthly rise. The shelter index, which is made up mostly of rent, was up 5.5 percent over last year, and continued a streak of 0.4 percent monthly increases.

For more than a year, economists have argued that the official statistics in the consumer price index are delayed and aren't accounting for real-time measures that show rents falling in many places. But

the shift still hasn't shown up, puzzling policymakers and experts who concede that the longer progress takes, the harder it will be to wrestle overall inflation down.

Speaking Tuesday before the Foreign Bankers' Association, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell said that even though rents are clearly easing, the lags are proving longer than anyone thought.

"It will show up. It's just a question of when," Powell said. "That may affect your confidence. But we have to wait for it to happen."

In a statement, President Biden pointed to his moves to tackle costs for housing, prescription drugs and groceries and called fighting inflation his "top economic priority." Even though inflation has come way down, prices are still higher than they were just a few years ago, disgruntling many voters who strain to cover the basics.

"I know many families are struggling, and that even though we've made progress we have a lot more

to do," Biden said.

The energy index was up 1.1 percent over the month. Gas costs rose 2.8 percent, and the food index stayed level. Car insurance, medical care and apparel were also up. Cars - both old and new - and home furnishings posted modest drops.

The looming question is whether April saw the end of seasonal quirks that can interfere with pricing data. Normally, economists expect those effects to stay contained to January data, as costs for products like insurance reset, making data collection somewhat wonky.

But that timeline may be longer now, as economists and forecasters still struggle to keep a sharp read on pricing dynamics in real time after the pandemic's disruptions.

"Hopefully you get a couple months of this, and you get disinflation," said Doug Holtz-Eakin, president of the conservative American Action Forum. "We'll get some hindsight at some point and figure out what was going on.

We've had trouble with the seasonal adjustments since the pandemic. But three [hot reports] in a row was a lot."

The latest snapshot comes as the Fed is grappling with inflation data that continues to surprise them. Central bankers entered the year bolstered by hopes that inflation was falling enough that they would be able to lower interest rates multiple times this year. But just a few months later, it's unclear when Fed leaders will be able to trim borrowing costs or whether inflation is settling just enough above normal levels to keep victory out of reach.

Officials have made clear that rates are going to stay high for as long as it takes to get inflation back to the Fed's 2 percent target. (The Fed prefers a different inflation metric than the one updated Wednesday. That gauge clocked in at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in March.) Powell said any future decisions depend on "where the inflation data fall."

"I expect that inflation will move back down on a monthly basis to levels that were more like the lower readings we were having last year," Powell said. "I would say my confidence in that is not as high as it was," based on data from the first quarter.

As the months tick by, there's also the growing likelihood that the Fed could end up lowering rates right around the presidential election. The Fed closely guards an independence from politics, and its leaders say its decisions don't depend on the electoral calendar. But for officials to feel comfortable cutting rates, they'll need months of encouraging data to outnumber the disappointing reports that have piled up recently. Under the most optimistic scenarios, that could mean a cut in late summer or early fall, right as Republicans and Democrats are vying for votes from Americans disgruntled with inflation.

Inflation peaked at an annual rate of 9.1 percent in 2022, driven by bro-

ken supply chains, unprecedented government stimulus and the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Fed was initially slow to respond as prices climbed. But then, policymakers sprinted to hoist borrowing costs to levels steep enough to meaningfully slow the economy.

Central bankers eventually brought the benchmark interest rates to between 5.25 and 5.5 percent - the highest level in more than two decades. They've left rates there since July, arguing that they don't need to push rates up even more to keep pressure on the economy. But nothing is guaranteed.

"There's considerable, now, uncertainty about what the next few months of inflation will be and what we should do in response," San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly said on the "Macro Musings" podcast this month.

"The reaction to uncertainty, to me, isn't to make more projections with definitiveness."



Buying? Selling?
Building?
Call Me for
Real Results!

Kristen Bryant
REALTOR® / BROKER
Client Focused for Real Results!



WWW.BUYSELLBUILDWITHKRISTEN.COM

REAL RESULTS BY KRISTEN | FACEBOOK

TOP VOLUME PRODUCER

2021, 2022 & 2023



CALL / TEXT
509.670.8159

KRISTEN@CBCASCADE.COM

Real Estate

Existing home sales slipped in April, but prices hit a record high

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell for the second straight month in April as a stubbornly low supply of properties on the market and rising mortgage rates made the process of buying a house more difficult for many Americans.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

According to the National Association of Realtors, existing home sales declined 1.9% from March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.14 million. That's slightly below the 4.22 million home sales

pace of April 2023.. "Home sales changed little overall, but the upper-end market is experiencing a sizable gain due to more supply coming onto the market," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist.

"Home prices reaching a record high for the month of April is very good news for homeowners. However, the pace of price increases should taper off since more housing inventory is becoming available."

The median existing home price for all housing types reached \$407,600 in April, up a solid 5.7% from a year earlier.

It was the tenth straight month of year-over-year price increases and the highest April price on records going back to 1999.



STOCK PHOTO

Photo Gallery

Continued from page 1

of art with them, the gallery also offers mugs and ready-to-go mini prints for as low as \$50.

"We have something for everyone here. That's important to us. It's the sweetest thing. We have young people who have

been saving up for a year to buy a \$200 print, and it's their first piece of real art. Sometimes, those sales are the most precious, right? We just feel so honored," said James.

The gallery also features the artwork of James' wife, iMa James, which blends photographs and graphics in digital collages inspired

by nature, with a magical realism style.

"Basically, both of our focus is bringing attention to the reality of the natural world... We cannot exist on this planet without a functioning ecosystem, and everything that it provides," said James.

The couple has used their art to promote en-

WESTERN RANCH BUILDINGS LLC
STEEL & POST FRAME BUILDING CONTRACTORS

WESTERB964CF

Your building can be customized just the way you want!

Sold and erected by an independent, locally owned builder

509-884-0555 • www.westernbuildings.com • 1107 Walla Walla Avenue • Wenatchee, WA 98801

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • AGRICULTURAL

Regional variations

The existing home sales market in April 2024 exhibited varying regional trends, with the Northeast experiencing a more significant decline compared to the Midwest and South, while the West saw a modest increase year-over-year despite a monthly dip. These regional differences underscore the diverse factors influencing housing demand across the country. Median home prices continued to rise in all regions, although the pace of growth varied, reflecting the unique supply and demand dynamics within each market.

Northeast

Existing home sales in the Northeast declined 4% from March to an annual rate of 480,000 in April, marking a 4% decrease from April 2023. The median price in the Northeast reached \$458,500, representing a substantial 8.5% increase from the previous year.

Midwest

In the Midwest, existing home sales edged down 1% from the previous month to an annual rate of 1 million in April, a 1% decline from one year ago. The median price in the Midwest stood at \$303,600, up 6% from April 2023.

South

Existing home sales in the South decreased 1.6% from March to an annual rate of 1.9 million in April, a 3.1% drop from the prior year. The median price in the South was \$366,200, representing a 3.7% increase from the previous year.

West

In the West, existing home sales fell 2.6% from the previous month to an annual rate of 760,000 in April. However, this figure marked a 1.3% increase from one year before. The median price in the West reached \$629,600, a notable 9.3% rise from April 2023.

At the end of April, the inventory of unsold homes stood at 1.21 million homes for sale, up 9% from March and 16.3% from a year ago.

At the current sales pace, that amounts to a 3.5-month supply, up from 3.2 months in March and 3.0 months in April 2023.

While improving, the

supply of homes for sale remains tight by historical standards.

"The housing market faces significant headwinds from high mortgage rates and low affordability," Yun added.

"First-time buyers accounted for 33% of sales in April, consistent with recent months but well

below their long-term average of around 40%."

Properties were on the market for an average of 26 days in April, down from 33 days in March but up from 22 days a year ago.

Some 74% of homes sold last month were on the market for less than a month.

Quick Read

In May, Peter James Photography opened its second gallery in Leavenworth featuring nature photography from across the state in a 4,000 square foot space designed for visitors to relax and visualize the artwork in their homes. The gallery offers a wide range of prints, from small ready-to-go pieces to large-scale, multi-panel photographs, as well as the digital collage artwork of James' wife, iMa James. The couple uses their art to promote environmental restoration, planting trees for each print sold through their "Trees are Awesome" campaign. The gallery, located at 633 Front Street, is open daily and has seen a strong turnout since its opening.

vironmental restoration, by making donations to both local and global organizations to plant trees. The Jameses also started a campaign called "Trees are Awesome," which helps others get involved.

"For the mini prints, we plant ten trees, the master prints, 100 trees, and the "Large as Life" prints, a thousand," said James.

The gallery opened on May 3 and saw 1,800 people in the first twelve days of opening.

"It's such a delight to share Washington, because a lot of people that come here are visiting from out of the state, or out of the country even, and certainly out of the Valley," said James.

The Leavenworth gal-

lery is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It is located at 633 Front Street, downtown Leavenworth. The gallery can be spotted by its mural of a photographer snap-

ping photos of an alpine landscape, completed by the local business Gibbs Graphics.

"This is really the ideal time for locals to come check it out right before it gets too busy in the summer," said James.



COURTESY OF PETER JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

The space is designed to be an experience for visitors to stay and connect with nature.

Labor Area Reports

Washington State adds 5,200 jobs in April; unemployment rate holds at 4.8%

Washington State employers added 5,200 jobs in April and the state's unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.8%, according to a report released by the Employment Security Department.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

The job growth was led by gains in the private sector, which added 5,900 jobs, while government employment declined by 700.

The construction industry saw the biggest gains, adding 3,100 jobs over the month. Leisure and hospitality, retail trade and other services also posted solid increases.

However, some industries cut jobs in April. Professional and business services shed 2,700 positions, while information employers cut 700 jobs.

Manufacturing also lost 100 jobs over the month.

"Washington's economy continues to grow steadily, with respectable job gains across most industries in April," said Anneliese Vance-Sherman, the department's chief economist.

"The unchanged unemployment rate suggests the labor market remains tight."

Over the past 12 months, Washington has added 50,600 jobs, a 1.4% increase.

Private sector employ-

ment has risen by 31,900, or 1.1%, while government employment jumped 18,700, or 3.2%.

Education and health services posted the biggest year-over-year increase at 18,100, followed by transportation, warehousing and utilities at 13,200. But the information sector lost 8,900 jobs and retail trade shed 3,700 over the year.

The state's labor force participation rate in April was 64.6%, down slightly from 64.8% in March. The national unemployment rate for April was 3.9%.

Chelan and Douglas counties show promising labor market recovery, Wenatchee Unemployment Rate Drops To 4.7%

The resident civilian labor force in Chelan and Douglas counties showed signs of improvement in April, according to the latest data from the Washington State Employment Security Department.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

In Chelan County, the civilian labor force stood at 44,374, with 42,445 employed and 1,929 unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.3%.

Douglas County reported a civilian labor force of 21,845, with 20,809 employed and 1,036 unemployed, translating to an unemployment rate of 4.7%.

The city of Wenatchee also experienced a positive trend in its labor market. The civilian labor force in Wenatchee reached 19,094 in April, with 18,196 employed

U.S. job growth slows in April, unemployment rate remains stable at 3.9%

The U.S. economy added 175,000 jobs in April, a modest increase that fell short of the average monthly gain of 242,000 over the previous year, according to a report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Despite the slowdown in job growth, the unemployment rate remained relatively stable at 3.9 percent.

Ward Media | Wenatchee Business Journal

The report showed that the healthcare sector continued to be a significant driver of employment, adding 56,000 jobs in April, with gains in ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities.

The social assistance sector also experienced notable growth, with an increase of 31,000 jobs, primarily in individual and family services.

Transportation and warehousing added 22,000 jobs in April, contributing to the overall employment gains.

However, the report did not provide further details on job growth in other sectors.

The labor force participation rate remained unchanged at 62.7 percent, and the employment-population ratio showed little variation at 60.2 percent.

Both measures have shown minimal change over the past year.

The number of people working part-time for economic reasons, at 4.5 million, remained relatively stable in April. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part-time due to reduced hours or the inability to find full-time positions.

While the overall unemployment rate saw little change, there were some notable shifts among demographic groups.

The unemployment rate

for adult men increased to 3.6 percent, while the rate for Blacks decreased to 5.6 percent, offsetting an increase from the previous month.

Jobless rates for adult women, teenagers, Whites, Asians, and Hispanics remained relatively unchanged.

The report also revealed that the number of long-term unemployed individuals, those jobless for 27 weeks or more, remained essentially unchanged at 1.3 million, accounting for 19.6 percent of all unemployed people.



STOCK PHOTO

and 898 unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.7%.

Despite the encouraging figures, the unemployment rates in Chelan

and Douglas counties remain slightly higher than the statewide average of 4.5% for April.

However, the consistent decline in unem-

ployment rates over the past few years indicates a steady recovery of the local economy from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Locally Owned
Wenatchee Winery**

Private Wine Tastings by
Appointment Only

www.ArmourWines.com

ARMOUR
WINES

Subscribe to

WBJ
Wenatchee Business Journal

at just
\$25
annually.

Unlock the latest in:
Education • Health • Real Estate • Marketing

Stay ahead of the curve with news that truly
matters to your business.

ncwbusiness.com

Leisure

ENTERTAINMENT

SOCIALIZING

FREE TIME

Happy Fudge reopens: a labor of love honoring a legacy

For owner Jason Stewart and Manager Melissa Wike, reopening Happy Fudge, once Happy Happy Fudge, was not a money-making pursuit, but a way to preserve the legacy of one of their favorite people, former owner Beth Davelaar.

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL** | Ward Media Staff Reporter

“We definitely feel like there are times where we know she’s watching over and smiling,” said Stewart.

Prior to her passing in January 2023, Davelaar spent over a decade learning the traditional and lost art of copper kettle fudge making and perfecting recipes of her own.

She became well-known by locals and returning visitors alike for her warmth, famous caramel Cheetos, and smooth, “guilt-free” fudge.

However, Davelaar wasn’t a confectioner prior to purchasing the shop, originally named Flavor Express.

Her first year was the most challenging, as she failed batch after batch. Yet she kept at it and fell in love. She renamed the shop to reflect how she felt: Happy Happy Fudge.

Davelaar eventually brought Wike on, patiently teaching her the challenging fudge-making process while lending a non-judgmental ear as Wike shared details of her personal life with Davelaar.

“It took me almost a year to the day to know who she was, to fully understand her, because she had a really hard exterior. But man, she’s squishy inside, and just so kind and sweet, and she had a way of caring for people... She helped in any way she could, but she was never loud about it,” said Wike. “She was family. She was like my second mom.”

Stewart moved in down the hall in 2021 after pur-



COURTESY OF JASON STEWART
Jason Stewart, owner of Village Alps, helped Beth Davelaar with Happy Happy Fudge years ago. Now, he’s reopened it as Happy Fudge, in honor of her.

chasing Village Alps. At first, Davelaar gave Stewart a run for his money, protective of her late friend and former owner’s shop and suspicious of a newcomer. But, it didn’t take long for her to warm up, helping him learn the ropes of owning a business in a Bavarian town.

The trio became fast friends, spending their free time together in the hall of Obertal Mall. When Wike left, Stewart and Tammie Fjelstad of Simply Just For You stepped in to help Davelaar make fudge in the morning.

“Beth was so traditional, like at first I was just over here washing pans... And then she slowly started to let me kind of in on the process of it,” said Stewart.

The process involves cooking the ingredients at high heat in a copper kettle, then quickly pouring it on a marble table and paddling it as it cools. Having the wrong degree

or two in temperature, or not paddling quickly enough, can ruin an hours-long process in a matter of seconds.

“She had gotten sick, and so she started letting me do kind of the whole process. And so to me, it was a really big deal, like kind of an honor,” said Stewart.

Stewart knew something was wrong when the always punctual Davelaar didn’t show up for work one morning. He headed to her house to check on her and discovered Davelaar had died that morning from cardiac arrhythmia.

Unable to maintain the shop after her death, Davelaar’s family approached Stewart about taking it over. He took his time with it, knowing that he wanted to reopen the shop with the improvements Davelaar would have wanted. He also knew he needed to get Wike back.

“I knew that the overall heart of this place would be

right if the band was back together, and so I was very persistent,” said Stewart.

Reopening was a process of grief and a journey of self-discovery.

The duo overhauled the shop by hand with the help of friends, family, and Fjelstad. Stewart reconstructed the counter to make the fudge process more visible to customers, installed brick, and laid new flooring, learning new construction methods as he went.

Wike led the fudge and caramel Cheeto making through trial and error. She had to remember specific measurements that had never been written down and master some of the trickier tasks that were always left up to Davelaar, such as pouring the quick-setting peanut butter fudge.

Just as Davelaar did when she first took over years ago, Wike and Stewart spent 15-hour days in



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA
Caramel cheetos, a Davelaar original, are back.

what they call “The Lab,” trying and failing at inherited recipes and trying new ones of their own.

“I think about what Beth would say, like if she was here during lab time. Some of the stuff we’ve come up with or done has just been like, no, that’s not going to work. She would probably just laugh and shake her head at us,” said Wike.

Eventually, they figured out Davelaar’s caramel Cheetos and classic fudge flavors, even adding their own, such as lemon and chocolate macadamia nut. They also taught themselves how to make sea foam in-house, which Davelaar used to out-source.

“It was all just about love... She changed from Flavor Express to Happy, Happy Happy Fudge because she said fudge made her happy. And we’ve sat back here and said, this place makes us happy...”

That was a pretty emotional feeling at that point because what she described, we were able to feel it. To me that was like, job well done, we did it,” said Stewart.

Happy Fudge reopened its doors on Apr. 27. It is located inside the Obertal Mall at 220 9th Street, Suite I, and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m..

“We’ve had a lot of people come in, in this week and a half, and say there’s something special about this place, [they] can feel the love in here,” said Stewart.

Down the road, the duo plans to expand into candy canes and fudge-making workshops for kids. They also have visions to give back to animal shelters in honor of Beth, who loved animals.

Taylor Caldwell:
509-433-7276 or
taylor@ward.media

Quick Read

Happy Fudge, formerly known as Happy Happy Fudge, has reopened its doors in Leavenworth thanks to the efforts of owner Jason Stewart and manager Melissa Wike. The duo took over the shop after the passing of former owner Beth Davelaar, who had spent over a decade perfecting the art of copper kettle fudge making. Stewart and Wike worked tirelessly to preserve Davelaar’s legacy, overhauling the shop, mastering her recipes, and adding their own unique flavors. Despite the challenges they faced, the pair found happiness in the process, just as Davelaar had when she first took over the shop years ago. Happy Fudge reopened on Apr. 27, and customers have already noticed the love and dedication that has gone into reviving this beloved local business.

GROW your business with our trusted digital marketing strategies tailored for your success.

APPLE CAPITAL
Marketing

a division of

WARD MEDIA

TAKE
the next step
509-731-4932

Stay Informed with

NCW

NEWS

www.ncw.news

Whether it's breaking news, insightful editorials, or engaging local stories, we're here to keep you connected and informed.



Be the first to know with NCW News.

Sign up for our free daily updates

