

# Lake Chelan Mirror

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## From the publisher

The strength in vulnerability, embracing our shared challenges | **A2**



Connecting communities across North Central Washington  
NCW News | **B1 - B2**

# Chelan approves annual property tax increase

By **MIKE MALTAIS**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN – The city council held its 2025 Property Tax Levy public hearing during its regular bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12, and approved an ordinance assessing a one percent increase in property taxes. Based on the previous year's levy amount of \$1,856,520, the one-percent increase is \$18,655.20.

One Chelan resident's question regarding a freeze on property taxes for senior citizens on fixed incomes was referred to the county since all property taxes are paid through the county.

### Records Management

The city approved the continuation

of a September 2023 Council Professional Services Agreement with MG Consulting Services, LLC for city records management.

Consultant Megan Gregor, who has a decade of city clerk experience, reported to the council with before-and-after photos of the results of the multi-step process that freed up storage space through the organization, digitization, transfer, and disposition of paper and electronic records.

"We processed more than 400 boxes," said Gregor. "Twenty-two boxes have been sent to archives... and about 100 boxes slated for further retention."

Gregor said she applied for a records grant, and Chelan was one of eight cities out of 122 applicants to receive

it. In addition, Chelan was among only three recipients to be awarded more than \$40,000.

MG Consulting Services, LLC will continue to assist each department with:

- Print Records - Retention / Organization.
- Current Electronic Records - Retention / Organization.
- Future Electronic Records - Laser-fiche Organization and Structure.
- Provide Records Management Training and Guidance.

### RCO Grant

The city voted to finalize and execute the \$700,000 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Agreement Acceptance

for Lakeside Park.

Following a successful Parks Department application with assistance from the Berger Partnership, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for the Lakeside Renovation was unofficially awarded in 2020. The grant award was delayed pending new regulations that allowed for more state and federal reviews. The RCO (RCO) helped expedite that process and complete the award.

### Prosecution Services

The city approved a 2025 agreement with Chelan County for Prosecution Services. Chelan has contracted with the county since 2004.

The agreement is based upon the total number of 138 gross misdemean-

or and misdemeanor crimes occurring within the city limits and prosecuted during the 12-month period Sept. 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024.

In 2021, Chelan switched from paying a flat annual rate to paying on a per case rate of \$275. In 2023, the county requested an increase from \$275 to \$300 per case. At \$300 per, those 138 cases total \$41,400. The council approved that change in last year's contract.

Using the \$300/case multiplier this year, the county is asking for \$41,400. The contract amount this year is roughly equivalent to what the city paid a decade ago.

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# Chelan High School honored for school culture with state award

By **QUINN PROPST**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN – Chelan High School has been recognized for its positive school culture with the Culture Kickoff Award from the Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) and the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

The AWSL/AWSP Culture Kickoff Award honors schools that establish and maintain a positive school culture. It recognizes efforts to start the year with engaging activities, clear themes, and events that build a sense of community among students and staff. The award highlights intentional planning for a strong start to the school year and ongoing efforts to sustain a supportive environment.

Students, principals, or assistant principals can submit nominations.

"I think the great thing about this award is that it's a culmination of the work of a lot of people," Chelan High School Principal Jamie Pancho said.

"I know our student leadership has been working hard since the pandemic to increase school spirit and increase



COURTESY OF CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL  
**FFA officer Tristan Sanderson speaks at the Chelan Way Assembly. The school recognizes students who exemplify the Chelan Way of being MORE (Motivated, Open-Minded, Respectful, and Engaged) at monthly assemblies.**

belonging and increase significance amongst our students and create a fun and spirit filled environment, you know, in terms of school spirit," Pancho said.

"So I know they've been working hard on that, and so this is a great recognition for our students and our student leadership and our advisors

who lead them, and just the community as a whole," he said.

The award means a lot because creating that positive environment and sense of belonging is a constant evolution of work and a marathon for school leaders, including school leaders who are students, he said.

For Pancho winning the award makes him think about the staff he works with and how much they care about the students.

"They love our students and that makes it easy to have a positive and caring culture, you know, to get that across, our staff do a great job of leading from the front," he said.

While there are many people who work to create a positive school environment, a few came to mind for Pancho, like Liz Martinez, who helps out with ASB, is the school secretary, and has a heart for school culture, and Amber Finch, the ASB advisor, who works with student leadership and has worked to transform things to get a good model going. He also mentioned Jessica Nygreen and Derek Todd, who run the Hope Squad.

First impressions are crucial in creating a welcoming school culture, Pancho said.

From the front office staff to student office assistants, everyone plays a role in fostering a warm and accepting environment for visitors, parents, and community members. This positive atmosphere helps people feel comfortable as soon as they arrive.

The focus on belonging and significance is especially important for students, given the growing challenges around mental health. Ensuring students feel accepted and valued each day is essential to building a supportive school community, he said.

"One of the things that we're pretty

# Training fire marks Apple Cup's transition to new chapter



RUTHEDNA KEYS/WARD MEDIA  
**Chelan Fire & Rescue (CFR) conducted a controlled live fire training exercise at the former Apple Cup Cafe on Nov. 9. The site, located at 804 E Woodin Ave., was severely damaged by fire earlier this year on March 24. Fire fighters from Chelan Fire & Rescue, Manson Fire District, Douglas County Fire District and Entiat Fire District participated in the training. The training exercise, made possible through the donation of the building, provided firefighters from four local districts with a realistic environment to hone their skills**



**before the structure's scheduled demolition. This specialized training was a rare opportunity for firefighters to train under realistic conditions, emphasizing the importance of emergency response preparedness.**

RUTHEDNA KEYS/WARD MEDIA  
**Ryan Peterson, owner of the Apple Cup Cafe, and his son, Jack, pose with a framed press plate from the coverage in the Lake Chelan Mirror of the Apple Cup Cafe's first free Thanksgiving dinner held in 1996. It was found by a fireman before the live fire training started on Saturday, Nov. 9.**

SEE STORY ON PAGE B4

# Chelan warming station to open during dangerous cold snaps

By **QUINN PROPST**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CHELAN – Chelan Valley Hope is looking for volunteers to help staff a new cold-weather warming station this winter, which will provide safe shelter for those exposed to extreme temperatures.

The warming station, located at Chelan Valley Hope at 417 S. Bradley Street, will be open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. during cold spells when temperatures drop below 20 degrees.

"It really isn't a shelter, it is a cold weather warming station that will provide safety during especially cold weather," said Tamra Hively, executive director of Chelan Valley Hope.

"It will only be open during cold

snaps that are dangerous for those living outdoors," she said. "We will activate our community response team to get the word out when we are open. We will not be open every day, it will be based on the weather."

The warming station will serve Chelan Valley residents who lack other shelter options. Though the station has a capacity for up to twelve individuals, Hively expects fewer people will need the space but wants to be prepared.

If hotel rooms are available, they may be a temporary solution, but that is not always an option so the warming station is needed.

"The reason it (the warming station) is important is because it will save lives," Hively said. "I personally

saw people in sleeping bags last year when it was 10 degrees out. I don't want that to happen again."

"I can't tolerate not doing something when there is a life or death situation," she said. "Chelan Valley Hope is known for stepping up when times are tough, and we are here for our community."

The organization is still finalizing the policies and procedures, but it will need as many volunteers as possible, as it will be a call-in situation, and not everyone will be available.

A staff member will be present at each shift and one or two volunteers will be needed as well. Volunteers do not necessarily have to do the entire 12-hour shift.

"Each volunteer will have hands-on

training and will need to have a background check, de-escalation training, and first aid/cpr," she said.

"They can work with someone who has the training as long as they are signed up for the next training. There is no cost."

The first de-escalation training is scheduled for November 21 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Lake Chelan Lutheran Church.

More training sessions will be available in the future; however, the dates and times have not been decided at press time.

For more information or to volunteer, Chelan Valley Hope can be reached at 509-888-2114.

The warming station is a collaborative effort made possible by commu-

nity leaders and local organizations, including Erin McCardle, Mayor City of Chelan; Paul Palumbo, Pastor Lake Chelan Lutheran Church; Ana Gonzalez, Behavioral Health Unit Chelan County Sheriff's Office; Ray Eickmeyer, Emergency Services Director Lake Chelan Community Health; Tiffany Gering, Chelan County Commissioner; Amber Hallberg, Community Services Manager Chelan County; Brie Estes, Case Manager/Outreach Specialist Chelan Valley Hope; Venus Hinojos, Office Manager/Outreach Specialist Chelan Valley Hope; Tamra Hively, Executive Director Chelan Valley Hope.

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## Inside Lake Chelan Mirror this Week

A5 things to do this week.....	<b>A2</b>	Church Guide.....	<b>A3</b>	Kid Scoop.....	<b>B4</b>
Business & Service Directory.....	<b>A3</b>	Classifieds .....	<b>B3</b>	Obituary Announcements.....	<b>A3</b>
Community Bulletin Board.....	<b>A3</b>	Death Announcements.....	<b>A3</b>	Sheriff Report.....	<b>A2&amp;B4</b>

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# ¡La Chispa! bilingual workshop inspires Latino middle schoolers across the region



CHS Mentors Bryan Reyes, Daniel Guerrero, Angel Avila, Jeffry Palacios.



CHS Mentors Sofia Oropeza-Sanchez, Adi Castañeda-Rodriguez, Leslie Mata, Karla Cacho.



¡La Chispa! facilitator Irvin Enriquez speaks to middle school students about college opportunities for undocumented students.

PHOTOS BY TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Cascade High School hosted middle school Latino students from all over the region to participate in a leadership workshop called ¡La Chispa! (the spark).

“It’s all about, first of all, getting to know one another, but also getting to know themselves, and seeing that everyone has leadership potential,” said Cascade High School Counselor Meche Grace.

The bilingual workshop, through shared experiences and activities, helps students build self-confidence, strengthen their cultural identity, and increase their academic success.

“What we’re trying to do is make sure that we’re giving them that push so they can see that they do have culture, they do have roots, and they matter,” said ¡La Chispa! facilitator Irvin Enriquez.

¡La Chispa! Facilitators aim to “spark” interest in education by inspiring students to chal-

lenge themselves, revealing their strengths, and educating them on the necessary requirements for graduation as well as resources available for secondary education.

“Some students come in with a ‘whatever’ attitude, ‘I’m too cool for school,’ and seeing them come up to me at the end of the workshop and telling me, ‘What you said inspired me, what you said connected with me. What you said is me’... That, for me, is the most satisfying,” said Enriquez.

The workshop is also conducted in Spanish and English, promoting the value of being able to speak, read, and write two languages.

“When you are bilingual and biliterate, and then you go and apply for a job in the future, you have twice the chances of getting that job just because you are bilingual. So for these kids, knowing that being bilingual is important and the value of it, and for them to realize that they’re unique, it’s huge,” said Jesus Sandoval, Multilingual Learner Teacher and

Migrant Graduation Support Specialist at Icicle River Middle School (IRMS).

Seventeen Cascade High School students received three weeks of training to serve as mentors to the middle school students from IRMS, Pinnacles Prep, Chelan Middle School, and Cashmere Middle School during the workshop. They shared their own experiences and knowledge, while leading small groups in activities.

“For me, I feel like I got to interact with kids. I got to understand the different levels, because there were different grades... And I also just got to learn more about my culture too, like how they were explaining all the benefits that we can get in school. I think that was really cool,” said 11th grader and mentor Michelle Perez.

As a mentor, Perez had the opportunity to witness her brother’s experience participating in the workshop as a middle schooler.

“I think this serves my brother, and [it’s] also exposing him to more of our culture,

because I feel like living in a city that’s more white predominant, you know, I think it’s kind of sometimes hard, and he forgets. So, I feel like it’s letting him remember where he came from...It’s a way for him to express it,” said Perez.

The ¡La Chispa! Bilingual

Workshops are delivered by the student leadership program of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). The Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) began its bilingual outreach in

2004 with a high school leadership camp called La Cima, (the summit). ¡La Chispa! is facilitated by La Cima staff.

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## Chelan Makes History: Goats win fifth straight Volleyball State Title, set 1A record

By **MIKE MALTAIS**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

YAKIMA – For the fifth consecutive year the cool and confident Goats varsity volleyball girls are Queens of the Court after an undefeated performance in the SunDome ended with the 1A state trophy returning to Chelan.

Following a shaky first set that had No. 1 Chelan trailing No.2 Cascade Christian, 20-23, the Goats regrouped to pull out a 27-25 win. Chelan then cruised 25-15 and 25-17 in the second and third sets to win handily. The Cougars had three match point opportunities in that first set but could not convert for a win.

Cascade Christian’s march to the finals was only marred by a set loss to La Center in the semis after shutting out Seton Catholic and Kings, 3-0

Chelan dispatched the 16th seed Kalama Chinooks, 3-0, in the opening round to advance against Stevenson.

Stevenson barely swept Lynden Christian, with two of their three sets going to extra points. The Bulldogs fell to Chelan, 25-14, 25-12, and 25-21, paving the way for the Goats’ semifinal match against Cedar Park Christian.

The Eagles were coming off



COURTESY OF CHELAN ATHLETICS/FACEBOOK

a 3-0 win over Cashmere and gave the Goats a tough second set. They briefly took the lead before Chelan regrouped to win 25-11, 25-19, and 25-17.

The talent heavy Chelan squad included junior Bryn Hughbanks, State Player of the Year and All-State players senior Lydia Petersen and sophomore Brooklyn Foyle.

Reigning 1-A Coach of the

Year Abby Lewellen has now batted a perfect four-for-four in state titles in her new post as head coach.

Chelan passes the Colfax Bulldogs as the only 1A team to win five straight titles and ties the 4A Mead Panthers at five straight.

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

## Lady Trojans rule the court as back-to-back volleyball champs



The photo says it all for the two-time state volleyball champion Lady Trojans of Manson.

By **MIKE MALTAIS**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

YAKIMA – The Manson Lady Trojans defending state champion volleyball team showed why it was the team to beat in the playoffs at the Yakima SunDome, Nov. 13-14. From the opening round against the Warden Cougars, Manson gave up only one of 13 sets through the final match against Adna as it dominated all comers along the road to its second consecutive state title.

The schedule and scores included:

Nov. 13 opening round vs No. 15 Warden Cougars, 25-7, 25-19, 25-16.

Nov. 13 quarterfinals vs No.8 Riverview Panthers, 25-12, 25-14, 25-14.

Nov. 14 semifinals vs No. 3 Freeman Scotties, 25-19, 20-25, 25-23, 25-23.

Nov. 14 final vs No. 1 Adna Pirates, 25-20, 26-24, 25-17.

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

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANSON ATHLETICS/FACEBOOK



A picture is worth a thousand digs and a thousand kills in the volleyball careers of Genesis Torres, left, and Stella Petersen, whose outstanding play in the state playoffs helped lift the Lady Trojans to their second consecutive state title.

## Manson School District seeks committee members for 2025 levy measures

Lake Chelan Mirror  
Ward Media

MANSON – The Manson School District is seeking local residents to serve on committees that will shape voter information for two upcoming ballot measures in the February 2025 election.

The committees will be responsible for drafting statements both supporting and opposing the measures for inclusion in the Chelan County Local Voters’ Pamphlet. The first proposal is a replacement educational programs and op-

eration levy, while the second concerns a replacement capital levy focused on improving school safety, security, technology and facilities.

Residents interested in participating must submit their applications by November 22. Applications should include personal contact information and specify which committee position the applicant seeks to fill.

The School Board will review and appoint committee members during its November 25 meeting.

Selected committee members’ contact information may appear

in the voters’ pamphlet.

Applications should be sent via mail to Morgan Thornton, Business Manager for the Manson School District, PO Box A, Manson, WA 98831 or by email to mthornton@manson.org.

Both measures will appear on the February 11, 2025 ballot. Detailed information about ballot measure submission requirements and voters’ pamphlet deadlines is available through the Chelan County Elections office website at www.co.chelan.wa.us/elections/pages/jurisdiction-resources.

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# NCW NEWS

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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

## Amazon opens new delivery station in NCW

NCW News / Ward Media

EAST WENATCHEE – Amazon has opened a new delivery station in the Wenatchee area, expanding the e-commerce company’s logistics network in North Central Washington.

The facility, designated WWG5, is located at 3485 NE Trident Way in East Wenatchee and will serve customers throughout the Wenatchee Valley and surrounding areas.

The delivery station is expected to create hundreds of local jobs offering competitive wages and comprehensive benefits packages, including health, vision, and dental insurance.

“We are thrilled to open this new delivery station in Wenatchee, which will enhance the speed and reliability of our services for customers across the region while creating valuable job opportunities,” said Easton Craft, Manager of Economic Development Policy at Amazon.

“Our team is committed to being an engaged partner in the Wenatchee Valley, working with local organizations to ensure that the benefits of this facility extend well beyond delivery efficiency and into long-term economic growth for the community.”

Local legislators have welcomed the development’s impact on regional employment and economic growth. State Senator Brad Hawkins (District



COURTESY OF AMAZON

An Amazon Prime delivery van outside a home reflects the company’s expansion into the Wenatchee Valley with its new delivery station, which aims to enhance service across North Central Washington.

12) helped facilitate Amazon’s expansion into the area.

“I’m very excited that Amazon selected the Wenatchee Valley for its next delivery station,” Hawkins said. “This facility will put a lot of people to work, improve deliveries to local businesses and families, and help grow and diversify our regional economy. As our State Senator, I was excited to connect with the Amazon team early on about this opportunity, and I thank the Regional Port, Douglas County Commissioners, and others for helping to make this happen. This is an awesome step forward for our region.”

Senator Shelly Short of the 7th Legislative District spoke about the facility’s workforce

development plans. “Amazon’s delivery station in Wenatchee is more than an economic boost; it’s an investment in our local talent,” Short said.

“I commend Amazon for offering job opportunities that come with educational benefits, which provide a sustainable way for employees to grow and thrive. This facility will support not only Wenatchee but also nearby communities by fostering career advancement and strengthening our regional workforce.”

The opening adds to Amazon’s investment in Washington state’s economic infrastructure, with the company stating the facility will enhance delivery speeds while creating economic opportunities for the Wenatchee Valley region.

## WA Supreme Court weighs controversial step to solve public defense crisis

By JERRY CORNFIELD  
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA – Supporters and opponents of a proposal to slash public defender caseloads in Washington made their closing arguments to the state Supreme Court on Wednesday, November 14.

For two hours, justices listened to speakers weigh in on a request to amend the Supreme Court’s standards for indigent defense by trimming the number of cases public defense attorneys handle each year by up to two-thirds.

This was the second and final public hearing on changes first put forth by the Washington State Bar Association. Justices will consider the testimony and trove of public comments submitted in recent weeks before deciding what, if any action to take. They next meet Dec. 4.

“I don’t know if we’ll be taking action or not in that time frame,” Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez said at the close of the hearing. “But you’ll hear more from us as we decide on the process from here.”

There’s a shortage of public defenders in Washington. Supporters contend that large caseloads and low pay are driving people out of public defense and deterring new lawyers from entering the profession. The proposed standards address one part of the equation.

“When we issued standards last time, it helped us retain people. These standards will help us recruit,” said Jason Schwarz, director of the Snohomish County Office of Public Defense and chair of the Washington State Bar Association’s Council on Public Defense.

In counties where the lack of public defenders is most pronounced, those accused of crimes, but unable to afford a lawyer, wait long periods before receiving counsel they are constitutionally guaranteed.

In October, the ACLU filed a class-action lawsuit against Yakima County and other parties on behalf of individuals who had waited weeks before getting an attorney assigned to their case.

“People’s rights should not be violated. There is anxiety. The people are being traumatized by sitting in jail for long times,” said Dominique Davis, founder and chief executive officer of Community Passageways, a Seattle nonprofit



JERRY CORNFIELD / WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD  
Ryan Mello, chair of the Pierce County Council, addresses the Washington State Supreme Court on a proposal to revise the caseload standards for public defenders on Nov. 13, 2024.

focused on felony diversion and prevention.

Prosecutors have been concerned that reducing defenders’ workloads will lead to the filing of fewer cases to ensure no one’s rights to counsel are violated. That will result in less justice for crime victims and could spark an increase in vigilantism by those who feel the system isn’t working for them, they said.

Okanogan County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Teddy Chow implored the justices to discard the proposal which he called an “unnecessary, short-sighted, unreasonable and corrosive rule.”

And if the public defender ranks grow, cities and counties will need to amp up hiring of staff and prosecutors to keep pace and that will be exorbitantly expensive.

To cover the tab, local government leaders said Wednesday that they will be forced to divert dollars from other important programs.

Ryan Mello, chair of the Pierce County Council, addresses the Washington State Supreme Court on a proposal to revise the caseload standards for public defenders on Nov. 13, 2024. (Jerry Cornfield / Washington State Standard)

Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council chair and the county executive-elect, warned imposing the standard will cause “real harm” to the criminal justice services and other critical services.

Under standards adopted

by the state Supreme Court in 2012, a full-time public defense attorney or assigned counsel should have no more than 150 felony cases a year.

Last year, the American Bar Association, the National Center for State Courts and the RAND Justice Policy Program released the National Public Defense Workload Study that concluded public defenders should handle far fewer.

Washington’s high court asked the Washington State Bar Association to weigh in on whether the cap needs adjusting. The association responded in March with the recommendation now under public review for new maximums of 47 felony or 120 misdemeanor cases in a year, depending on the severity. The reduction would be phased in over three years.

Judge Kristin Ferrera of Chelan County, president of the Superior Court Judges Association, said the crisis is real but the timeline for caseload changes is too short and will create hardships in some counties. The association recommends carrying out the first phase of reduction but delaying the later phases to assess if the situation changes.

Justices can accept, reject or modify any or all of the proposals. There is no deadline to act. Any decision will be handled similar to a court case where they confer behind closed doors then issue a decision and explanation.

Washington State Standard (www.washingtonstatestandard.com) is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)3 public charity.

## East Wenatchee deploys nation's first hydrogen-powered patrol vehicle

NCW News / Ward Media

EAST WENATCHEE – The East Wenatchee Police Department has become what officials believe is the first law enforcement agency in the nation to deploy a hydrogen-powered police vehicle, following an interlocal agreement with Douglas County Public Utility District.

The partnership, which includes collaboration with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Toyota, introduces a 2019 Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel cell vehicle into the department’s fleet under a four-year lease agreement.

The initiative emerged after Douglas County PUD received four used Toyota Mirai vehicles through a Toyota grant program designed to demonstrate renewable hydrogen’s potential as a clean fuel alternative.

“We’re excited to explore the viability of hydrogen fuel cells in our community and encourage other agencies with fleet vehicles to consider adding hydrogen-powered cars to their operations,” said Gary Ivory, General Manager of Douglas PUD. “The East Wenatchee

Police Department’s use of the Mirai will provide valuable real-world data to help us understand the practical benefits and challenges of hydrogen technology as we continue to expand its use.”

See PATROL VEHICLE Page B2



COURTESY OF CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE

Officials gather with East Wenatchee’s new hydrogen-powered Toyota Mirai police vehicle, believed to be the first hydrogen fuel cell police car in the nation.

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# With \$10B deficit looming, WA governor calls on state agencies to make cuts

By **JERRY CORNFIELD**  
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA – Washington Gov. Jay Inslee is warning of a budget deficit in excess of \$10 billion and calling on state agencies to pare spending now to deal with it.

A Nov. 8 memo from Inslee's budget director cited rising costs, increasing demand for public services and lower-than-expected tax collections for a projected operating budget shortfall between \$10 billion and \$12 billion over the next four years.

Cuts are needed to balance the spending plan Inslee will release next month for the 2025-27 biennium.

"The Governor's operating budget will prioritize continuing essential programs and addressing caseload increases, while not expanding existing programs and services," Pat Sullivan, director of the Office of Financial Management, wrote in the memo.

Transportation budget projections also have trended down for several forecasts creating a situation where revenues are not covering current commitments, Sullivan said.

Sullivan directed cabinet agencies to submit cost-saving options, like hiring freezes and pausing or delaying programs, by Friday, Nov. 15. And he urged presidents of higher education institutions and separately elected officials to undertake a similar exercise.

At least two agencies – Department of Social and Health Services and Department of Transportation – imposed hiring freezes, with exceptions for some essential posts.

Sullivan warned of "tough fiscal choices ahead" following release of the September revenue forecast but declined then to quantify the amount of the projected deficit.

Another forecast is coming out next week. That will give Inslee a final piece of information for the budget proposal he will release in December. It will serve as a template for lawmakers and Gov.-elect Bob Ferguson when they write spending plans in the 2025 session.

It's going to be a challenge, said Sen. June Robinson, D-Everett, chair of the Senate Ways



BILL LUCIA/WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD  
Gov. Jay Inslee speaks to members of the press on Jan. 4, ahead of the 2024 Washington state legislative session.

and Means Committee and the chamber's lead budget writer.

"They are not overstating it," she said of the projected deficit amount. "Because of the magnitude, we're going to need to look at a range of options."

Asked if the "options" included spending cuts and new revenue, she said yes.

The current two-year operating budget is about \$72 billion.

The deficit spans the next two budget cycles. It represents the difference between the anticipated costs of current and promised services and programs and the projected amount of revenue that will come in to pay for them. Put another way, state agencies need \$10 billion to \$12 billion in additional funding to maintain current programs and services.

Senate Minority Leader John Braun, R-Centralia, estimated the cost of maintaining the current level of services in the 2025-27 budget will drive base spending for the biennium to roughly \$76 billion.

While the deficit "is a big number, it is not an unmanageable number," he said. "I have absolute confidence we can deal with this without new taxes and can live within our means."

Ferguson and his team are aware of the letter and the governor's staff will be briefing them in the coming weeks, according to an Inslee spokesperson.

The state Department of Social and Health Services implemented a hiring freeze with exemptions for staff in essential and direct care posi-

tions. They also put a hold on new equipment purchases, as well as contracts and travel not already approved.

The state Department of Transportation also froze hiring. There are exceptions for jobs like Washington State Ferries crews and winter maintenance.

"While we have not been directed to do this, it is one logical step we can take to slow our spending while the transportation budget is contemplated during the legislative session," said Kris Abrudan, acting senior director of external relations for the transportation department.

Education is the single largest component of the budget and Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal requested an increase of nearly \$3 billion for public schools in the next budget. A third of that is to fully fund special education.

"These types of exercises from OFM are not uncommon," Katy Payne, OSPI chief communications officer, wrote in an email. "While there are always competing priorities and limited resources, the state has both federal and state level obligations it must meet in order to ensure all Washington students receive the high-quality public education that they are constitutionally owed."

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## Patrol vehicle

Continued from page B1

The agreement ensures that hydrogen fuel costs will not exceed current fuel prices, with an automatic renewal option following the initial four-year term. The arrangement builds upon previous collaborative efforts between the two agencies, including a 2023 electric fleet vehicle infrastructure pilot project.

"Our department drives more miles than the PUD, so this is an ideal chance to learn from our experience. We're eager to see how hydrogen-powered vehicles perform in a law enforcement setting and

help refine the integration of hydrogen fuel cells into our operations," Chief Johnson said.

The department has already experienced success with alternative fuel vehicles. "We've already seen significant success with the Ford Lightning EV truck," Chief Johnson said. "It costs about \$3 per shift to charge, compared to \$50-\$70 per shift for traditional fuel. These types of opportunities help us explore new options that are both cost-effective and environmentally sustainable."

"We value our relationship with Douglas County PUD and together we're making important strides that will help improve efficiency and reduce our environmental impact,

paving the way for a brighter future for our community," said Mayor Crawford.

The initiative coincides with ongoing construction of a renewable hydrogen production facility near Baker Flats, scheduled to begin commercial production in the first quarter of 2025. The facility is expected to produce hydrogen from renewable resources, contributing to maintenance cost reduction at the Wells Hydroelectric Project.

The City of East Wenatchee, incorporated in 1935, stands as Douglas County's largest municipality and is historically significant as the landing site of Miss Veedol, the first nonstop trans-Pacific flight.

# With WA courts' online systems down, thousands of firearm sales on hold

By **JERRY CORNFIELD**  
Washington State Standard

OLYMPIA – Washington state courts' computer systems have been down for nearly two weeks, disrupting the operation of local courts and preventing the completion of thousands of firearm sales.

The Administrative Office of the Courts announced Nov. 4 that the state's Judicial Information Systems, Washington courts website and associated networks, and databases were taken offline after detecting "unauthorized activity." Service is not expected to be fully restored until next week at the earliest.

"Good progress is being made, but it is extremely time consuming to bring our systems back up in a secure environment due to the complexity and interconnectivity of the networks," Wendy Ferrell, associate director for the state Administrative Office of the Courts, said Tuesday.

On Facebook, court officials said Tuesday that so far "there is no evidence that any court or personal data has been accessed, altered or removed during the unauthorized activity that was detected." They noted that reconnecting trial and appellate courts "safely to the services they need is our number one priority."

Last Friday, the state Supreme Court issued an

emergency order empowering local courts to adjust timelines for filing of cases, trials and sentencing. It also permits them to delay arraignments and first appearances of those facing charges but out of custody if the courts are unable to connect to the network and databases.

Meanwhile, since Nov. 1, completion of gun purchases has been held up because the Washington State Patrol cannot access the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check system to conduct mandatory background checks. Typically, the patrol's Firearms Background Division does between 400 and 1,000 checks a day.

Chris Loftis, State Patrol's director of communications, said the cybersecurity issues have significant ramifications for buyers and dealers.

"We know they have a right to get their background check. We know they have a right to get their firearms," he said. "But the bridge is out. That's the reality. It's frustrating for the customers, for the dealers and for us."

A gun rights group threatened Tuesday to sue if the problem isn't remedied soon.

"This is simply unacceptable, and we will not tolerate it," said Alan Gottlieb, founder and executive vice president of the Second Amendment Foundation in Bellevue.

"As the saying goes, 'A right

delayed is a right denied,' and the state has denied untold numbers of citizens their right to obtain firearms for almost two weeks," he said in a press release. "When the system is restored, we expect the WSP to work day and night to expedite background checks already on hold."

The state patrol isn't the only agency affected.

On Tuesday, the state Department of Children, Youth and Families issued a statement that the system outage "has been impacting our ability to complete background checks and likely will impact the hiring process for DCYF employees, providers, and foster parent applications."

In its statement, the department said the system had been down since Nov. 1 and was expected to be restored by Tuesday. The court network and databases are needed for carrying out background checks. However, the agency can still access the National Crime Information Center for Child Welfare placements and child protective service investigations.

And the Washington State Gambling Commission is dealing with a similar challenge.

"The agency mission is to protect the public by ensuring gambling is legal and honest. Part of this is our review of applicants for licenses to ensure they qualify for licensure and there is no disqualifying information that may affect the approval of that license," Troy Kirby, commission public information officer, wrote in an email. "That review is accomplished with access to information on the [Washington] court site."

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IMAGE CREATED BY AI FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES  
Since November 1, local courts and agencies have faced significant delays as cybersecurity issues continue to impact operations across the state.

# Boeing strike drives WA job losses in October

NCW News / Ward Media

OLYMPIA – Washington state's economy shed 35,900 jobs in October, primarily due to a major strike by Boeing machinists, while the unemployment rate slightly decreased to 4.7%, state officials reported Wednesday.

The substantial job losses were largely attributed to the aerospace sector, which saw a reduction of 31,000 jobs during the month. The drop marked an unusual shift from recent trends of minimal employment changes.

"October shows an unusually high drop in jobs, unlike the relatively small changes over the past several months," said Anneliese Vance-Sherman, chief labor economist for the

Employment Security Department. "This is largely a reflection of the now-resolved strike by Boeing machinists."

Despite the significant job losses, several sectors showed growth. Government employment increased by 2,400 positions, while education and health services added 1,800 jobs, with notable gains in ambulatory health care services.

The leisure and hospitality sector experienced the second-largest decline, losing 5,400 jobs. Other services (-1,500), transportation and warehousing (-1,200), and construction (-800) also reported losses.

The state's labor force contracted by 6,924 workers to 3,995,931 in October. The number of unemployed individuals decreased from 190,150 to 187,951.

Year-over-year data showed mixed results, with Washington gaining a net 9,100 jobs since October 2023. While public sector employment grew by 4.1% (24,300 jobs), private sector employment declined by 0.51% (15,200 jobs).

The national unemployment rate remained steady at 4.1% in October, compared to Washington's 4.7%. Both figures represent increases from October 2023, when unemployment rates stood at 3.8% for both the state and nation.

Employment Security paid unemployment benefits to 57,057 people in October, an increase of 3,143 from September, with manufacturing and construction sectors contributing significantly to the rise in claims.

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**CHS**

Continued from page A1

proud of here with some of our student data that we've kept is, about 86% of our students here feel like they have an adult in the building that they've connected with and have a strong relationship with, and we're always searching for 100% in that area," he said. "But I thought 86% of our students being able to say that, you know that they have a strong connection to at least one adult is really important, especially in today's day and age, when there seems to just be more questions about, do I fit in? And if so, where do I fit?"

It is important to Pancho that his students have a welcoming environment in which they can anchor themselves daily. The staff and student leaders have worked to create events that help make that possible.

The school year kicked off with a vibrant "Goat Day," where students gathered to pick up schedules, take photos, and prepare for the year ahead. This was followed by the 2nd Annual Meet the Goats Night, a community event that introduced student-athletes to families and invited younger students to engage in fun yard games.



COURTESY OF CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL  
Members of the club Todos United pose together at the 2024-25 Chelan High School Club Fair.

During the first three days of school, Chelan High School hosted individual grade-level assemblies, allowing administrators and counselors to address students in smaller groups. This was complemented by a school-wide welcome-back assembly that introduced new staff and included interactive games, fostering a sense of belonging and excitement among students.

The school is also dedicated to recognizing students who exemplify the Chelan Way of being MORE (Motivated, Open-Minded, Respectful, and Engaged). Monthly awards celebrate these students, with certificates and social media

recognition that highlight their achievements. The "You're the Goat" recognition tickets further promote a culture of appreciation among peers and staff.

The school has partnered with student leaders to promote social-emotional learning through intentional connection initiatives. Recently, the ASB hosted a "Share Day," encouraging students to share uplifting comments and connect with peers outside their usual social circles. Seniors engaged with underclassmen to foster inclusivity. Earlier in the year, during Homecoming Week, the school organized a "No One Eats Alone" day, where student leaders invited those sitting alone to join them or sat with them to ensure everyone felt included.

In May, the "Evening of Excellence" will honor students identified by staff as top achievers and those demonstrating perseverance.

"The school community is proud of its achievements and looks forward to building on this strong foundation," the school said in a press release.

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

**Training fire marks Apple Cup's transition to new chapter**

By RUTHEDNA KEYS  
Ward Media

CHELAN – Chelan Fire & Rescue and three neighboring fire districts conducted a controlled live fire training exercise on Saturday, November 9, at the former Apple Cup Cafe in Chelan. The building, located at 804 E. Woodin Ave., was damaged in a March fire and is scheduled for demolition. Fire crews from Manson, Douglas County, and Entiat fire districts joined Chelan firefighters for the rare opportunity to train in realistic conditions. Owner Ryan Peterson plans to rebuild

the iconic restaurant, with construction expected to begin in March and a targeted opening in spring 2026. Several historic pieces were preserved before the training exercise, including part of the building's apple mural and the restaurant's signature sign. During the event, Peterson displayed plans for the new building design as local residents gathered along Woodin Avenue to watch the training. A firefighter also recovered a framed press plate from 1996 documenting the cafe's first free Thanksgiving dinner, which Peterson and his son Jack posed with during the exercise.



RUTHEDNA KEYS/WARD MEDIA  
Manson Fire District's Tower 51 sprays water on the back of the Apple Cup Cafe on Saturday, Nov. 9 at the live fire training exercise.

**Sheriff Report**

Continued from page A2

20:13:11 Traffic Offense, W Manson Rd & W Nixon Ave, Ch  
23:57:57 Welfare Check, 100 Lake Chelan Shores Dr, Ch

**November 10**

9:02:58 Graffiti, 2470 Totem Pole Rd, Manson  
9:58:54 Alarm, 221 Summer Breeze Rd; Mill  
16:43:37 Weapons Violati, 208 E Packard St, Chelan,  
18:47:41 Trespass, 209 E Franklin St, Chelan,  
20:16:12 Assault, Dan Gordon Bridge, Chelan,  
21:25:52 Noise, 309 E Gibson Ave# 10, Che  
21:27:49 Liquor Violatio, 2681 Washington St, Manson  
22:15:43 Domestic Distur, 92 Banks Ave, Manson, Wa

**November 11**

0:37:35 911, 721 E Woodin Ave; Midtowne  
8:10:13 Trespass, 203 E Raymond St, Chelan,  
8:40:28 Burglary, 23285 Us Hwy 97a; Chelan T  
16:06:56 Trespass, 146 Columbia View Rd, Chel  
16:58:10 Traffic Offense, Rocky

Point, Manson, Wa  
20:02:19 Accident Unk, Roses Ave & Green Ave, Man  
22:16:37 Assist Agency, 4389 Manson Blvd, Manson,  
**November 12**

0:37:35 911, 721 E Woodin Ave; Midtowne  
4:49:27 Assist Agency, Us Hwy 97 Mp 241, Chelan,  
7:35:31 Fraud/Forgery, 23 Anderson Rd, Chelan, Wa  
9:49:12 Assist Public, 146 Columbia View Rd, Chel  
11:37:34 Malicious Misch, 214 Mill St, Ardenvoir, Wa  
11:38:57 Vehicle Theft, 52 Mike Keys Rd, Manson, W  
12:02:32 Suspicious, 215 W Webster Ave; Chelan  
16:08:13 Accident No Inj, Gala Ave & Sr 150, Chelan,  
17:12:27 Juvenile Proble, 215 W Webster Ave; Chelan  
**November 13**

0:37:28Traffic Offense, W Manson Rd & W Highland A  
7:02:12 Parking/Abandon, 500blk N Emerson St, Chela  
8:39:29 Assist Public, 226 W Highland Ave, Chelan  
12:02:27 Trespass, 5800 Crum Canyon Rd, Entia  
12:59:39 Theft, 144 E Johnson Ave; Chelan

17:24:32 Trespass, 3715 Stayman Flats Rd, Che  
18:40:51 Malicious Misch, 14425 Olin St# F3, Entiat  
20:31:47 Domestic Distur, 703 E Wapato Ave# 4, Chel  
**November 14**

3:49:13 Graffiti, 117 E Wapato Ave; Riverwal Ch  
7:42:11 Malicious Misch, 508 E Wapato Ave, Chelan, Ch  
9:55:32 Animal Problem, Long Dr & Birdie Dr, Chela Ch  
11:08:43 Assist Public, 207 N Emerson St; Chofc, C Ch  
12:00:24 Animal Problem, 164 Gobblers Knob Ln, Mans Ma  
12:47:52 Trespass, 422 S Navarre St; Chelan G Ch  
13:12:27 Drugs, 401 Washington St# 5; Che C  
13:53:39 Parking/Abandon, 350 Hyacinth Rd, Across Fr Ma  
15:24:40 Extra Patrol, 2106 Sage St, Entiat, Wa En  
15:56:35 Accident No Inj, 2140 W Woodin Ave; Park & Ch  
16:02:55 Graffiti, 762 Cooper Gulch Rd, Chela 2  
19:18:34 911, 5 Howser Rd; Chelan Fruit 2  
19:44:40 Malicious Misch, 108 N Apple Blossom Dr; Wa Ch  
23:15:24 Dui, Sr 150 Mp3, Manson, Wa Ma



COURTESY OF CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL  
Chelan students march in the 2024 K-12 Homecoming Parade in downtown Chelan.

## Sports Surprise!

What do you think of when you think of sports? Many people think of sports such as soccer, football, baseball and basketball.

There are hundreds, maybe thousands of sports played all over the world. We went looking for some of the most surprising!

### Apple Racing

In Tasmania, Australia, people drop apples from a bridge and watch the apples bob down the Houn River for 300 meters (328 feet). The owner of the first apple to cross the finish line wins. The Rotary Club of Houn Valley raises money by selling apples.

Which apple won? Do the math to see how each apple finished.

1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	4TH PLACE	5TH PLACE	6TH PLACE
6	8	6	9	5	9
+7	+7	+4	+9	+4	+5

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

### Kid Scoop Together

## Cheese Versus Person

Each year in May at Cooper's Hill near Gloucester, England, people try to beat a rolling wheel of cheese down a big, steep hill.

Race against a friend or family member to see who can run down the maze hill first!

PLAYER 1

FINISH

PLAYER 2

FINISH

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

## What is a Good Sport?

A person with a good attitude in difficult situations is often called a good sport. Which person is being a good sport?

"My team didn't win but that's because this is a dumb game and the referees were terrible."

YES  NO

"We lost today, but it was still fun. The other team just played a little better."

YES  NO

"We won, but it wasn't easy. The other team is really good!"

YES  NO

### Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

P	X	M	W	E	G	D	I	R	B
I	K	Q	E	M	I	T	V	P	C
E	N	Y	E	S	W	A	M	L	A
C	S	P	O	O	N	P	U	A	P
E	U	J	V	B	H	E	D	C	P
H	T	S	A	T	I	G	Q	E	L
O	O	L	W	A	S	G	I	J	E
L	L	U	E	L	I	V	W	J	S
D	T	X	R	P	U	Z	Z	L	E

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### Speed Puzzlers

Often people think of doing jigsaw puzzles as relaxing. But some puzzlers also see it as a chance to see who can put a puzzle together the fastest.

Draw lines to show where each missing puzzle piece belongs. Can you do it in under 60 seconds? Ready? Set? GO!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple, written directions.

### Puzzle Pros

Use the code to discover some amazing puzzle facts!

In 2020, Sarah Mills of the United Kingdom completed a 1,000-piece puzzle in    hour and    minutes. That's one piece each    seconds!

Students at Vietnam's University of Economics put together a massive   -piece puzzle! This puzzle measured nearly    feet by    feet (14.85 x 23.2 meters). It took    students    hours to put this big picture of a lotus flower together.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Read informational text.

### Newspaper Ball Games

Scrunch up several pages of a newspaper to make a big ball. Wrap the ball in tape to hold it all together. Play catch with your ball. Or hit it back and forth like in a volleyball game. What else can you do with your newspaper ball?

Standards Link: Make reasonable assertions through supportive citation. Analyze text.

### FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

## Outdoor Plans

Look through the newspaper for things that look fun to do outdoors. Make a list of outdoor activities you'd like to do and share them with your family. Make a plan to do one of them.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

### Write On!

## Poetry in Motion

Write a poem about your favorite sport.

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