

# Cashmere Valley Record

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## Cashmere Rotary “Fun-raiser” event will provide scholarships for CHS seniors

By **ANDREW SIMPSON**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CASHMERE — Almost no other clubs in the Cashmere valley do as much public good as the Cashmere Rotary. That's true in nearly any town, of course, but Cashmere has been so self-reliant over the last century that it can only be attributed to ordinary folks volunteering their time and putting together community efforts.

On Wednesday, May 28, Rotary Cashmere will be holding a “Fun-raiser” at Yonder Cider in Side Street at 111 Railroad Avenue, and

it's jam-packed with games and raffle prizes that are fun for all ages. Some of the games include Connect Four, cornhole, hook & ring, Jenga and all kinds of things to keep you entertained for hours, all while raising money for scholarships for Cashmere High School seniors.

For the last decade, Cashmere Rotary has donated more than \$207,000 in scholarships, at an average of almost \$3,000 per kid. Every single penny raised during the event at Yonder will go toward these scholarships and benefit kids right here in Cashmere.

The event is of course family

friendly, and you're encouraged to invite your friends as well. Everyone is welcome, and there will be a food truck onsite if you get hungry. And for the grown-ups, there's always Yonder itself, which has 14 taps inside of ciders, beer and even slushies.

Sure, Wednesday's a work night. But why not make a little time from 6–8 p.m. on May 28 and come down to Yonder to help Rotary raise money to send some lucky kids to school? As Rotary always says, Service Above Self.

Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or  
andrew@ward.media



LOGAN FINLEY/WARD MEDIA

A giant banner outside Cashmere High School shows this year's graduating class of seniors.

## New Chamber Director brings heart, passion for community to Cashmere



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

The Cashmere Chamber of Commerce sits right at the end of Cottage Avenue, and they provide a lot more than just visitor information.

By **ANDREW SIMPSON**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CASHMERE — In an office right on the main drag in Cashmere, Cottage Avenue, nestled between the most unpretentiously-named restaurant of all time — That Pizza Place — and a beauty shop with macramé in the window that looks like it was made by the hairdresser inside, sits Jeff Jones at his desk. He is equally authentic.

Jones is not wearing a tie, which is a relief, because that really sets a tone. Instead, he's wearing a Cougs jacket and a warm smile. We're meeting with him because he's the brand-new director of the Cashmere Chamber of Commerce, which looks like it's going to have a big role in the shape of things to come in the sleepy-for-now town of fewer than 3,500 people.

The Chamber just underwent a big shake-up after a near-collapse at the end of 2024, when the Chamber was down to just one remaining board

member. After restructuring from the ground up in January, the newly-formed Chamber hired Jones as its director, and by April the Chamber had filled out and begun to form a vision.

With a town in transition and a Chamber rebuilding from the ground up, the road ahead is equal parts uncertain and full of possibility. We sat down with Jeff Jones to talk about what comes next—how the Chamber hopes to bridge old and new, business and community, and what role it might play in shaping the future of Cashmere. Here's our conversation.

**Do you have a long-term vision, as far as how the Chamber is involved in bridging gaps between business and community in promoting Cashmere?**

“I think it's a little bit early — the board is brand new, and I've been here basically a month, so we're just now developing that vision, kind of

recalibrating. We've been focused on Founders' Day for now, so we have had some conversations about the future of the Chamber, but for now we're happy to just reestablish connections that had been lost before.”

**How do you plan on being a voice for new businesses like Cashmere Records and the rest of the Side Street development, when those are primarily aimed at a younger demographic, and Cashmere is a small town full of “lifers” — that is, older folks who may see growth like this as antithetical to the spirit of the town?**

“It's a collaboration, really, because it's up to any entity or small town to determine what their vision is, in



Jeff Jones

terms of ‘Do they want a lot of growth, moderate growth, or maybe even no growth?’. I was down in Southern California near San Luis/Los Osos, and they had a building moratorium, and you see people who want growth don't appreciate that. But it's up to the town, which is of course comprised of 100% of its citizens, but more specifically, the people who care enough about the town to get involved. Not just voice their opinions, but get involved in shaping the future.

“I think Leavenworth is a great example. A lot of people look at Leavenworth with envy, but if you talk to some of the residents, they complain: The traffic, the noise, the short-term rental issues where

there's a nice, quiet neighborhood and all of a sudden there are parties.

“Things are going to change, and younger people may be less resistant to growth, but I guess it just depends on what vision becomes predominant. If you don't have a vision, what can you say about what happens? If you didn't lend a hand in shaping the future of your community. That's really the crux of the discussion is community involvement. In times past, people tended to be more involved in the community than maybe today. But perhaps that's changing, because when you talk about those folks at Side Street and those other businesses, they tend to be, I think, more focused on community than a generation or two before.”

The reason for that line of questioning is just because growth seems so inevitable. The last city council meeting, they were talking

See **JEFF JONES** Page **B4**

## Cashmere FFA earns record four state titles, heads to national convention

Cashmere Valley Record  
Ward Media

CASHMERE — The Cashmere High School FFA chapter is headed to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this fall after earning a record four state championships at the Washington FFA State Convention held this spring.

The Environmental and Natural Resources team secured its national berth by winning the state contest on April 14. Abigail Kim was named State Champion in the event, earning an unprecedented individual score of 556 out of 600 points.

The Food Science team also claimed a state title, edging out Lake Washington by 19 points. Logan Potter earned the top individual score among



COURTESY OF CASHMERE FFA

**Cashmere FFA's Meats Judging team captured the state championship with eight students finishing in the top ten. Front row, from left: Kate Croci, Vanessa Oropeza, Aleida Nolasco, and Paige Dart. Back row, from left: Haile James, Aubrey Potter, Kalen Vidal-Madsen, Jesse Hall, Aztlan Oropeza, and Sophie Hill. Not pictured: Jacob Holladay.**

See **FFA** Page **B4**

## Wenatchee Valley Museum launches series of history focused caravan tours

NCW News  
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center is inviting residents and visitors from across Washington to take part in a new slate of guided tours highlighting the history, geology and cultural heritage of North Central Washington.

The museum's “Adventure & History” series kicks off this year with three in-depth caravan tours, each featuring multiple stops and guided presentations by local historians and cultural experts.

See **MUSEUM** Page **B4**



COURTESY OF WENATCHEE VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

**Cultural guide Randy Lewis shares stories about Indigenous history and the natural world during a stop on the Stehakin tour hosted by the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center.**

## Inside The Record this Week

5 Things to do This Week.....A2  
Business Directory.....B4  
Cashmere Scoreboard.....A4  
Cashmere Middle School.....A3

Church Guide.....A4  
Community Calendar.....A3  
Classifieds.....B3  
Money Crunch.....A3

NCW News.....B1-B2  
Point of View.....A2  
Sheriff Report.....A2  
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WARD MEDIA

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Website:  
www.cashmerevalleyrecord.com

E-mail:  
news@ward.media

Office hours  
Hours: 8 am - 5 pm except weekends, 509-731-4392

Contact information

CEO & Publisher

Terry Ward  
509-731-3284  
terry@ward.media

COO & Co-Owner

Amy M. Yaley  
509-731-3321  
amy@ward.media

Reporter

Quinn Propst  
quinn@ward.media

Reporter

Taylor Caldwell  
taylor@ward.media

Multi-media Account Executive

Logan Finley  
509-433-7078  
logan@ward.media

Administrative Support

Andrea Sanchez-Blanco  
509-731-4392  
andrea@ward.media

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Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at quinn@ward.media. We'll showcase the five most captivating events of the week, giving your event the recognition it deserves. Even if your event isn't among the top five, it will still be added to our events calendar and featured online. Don't miss this chance to make your event shine!

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Neu Flessenow Cellars

Neu Flessenow Cellars in Leavenworth will celebrate their 1st anniversary on May 24 from 1 p.m to 8 p.m.  
“Join us for live music from 2 to 4 p.m., raffles, and more fun activities.”  
  
For more information, visit their website or contact the cellar directly.

River Trivia Night

Wildwater River Guides will host River Trivia Night on May 22 at 6 p.m. at Yonder Cider East in Cashmere.  
“Test your knowledge of the Wenatchee River and whitewater guide life during this fun, interactive evening,

All funds raised will benefit the Wenatchee River Institute.”  
  
For more information, visit wildwater-river.com or contact the Wenatchee River Institute.

Leavenworth Alphorn Festival

Alphorn players from around the world will join the Leavenworth Alphorns for a special outdoor concert at the Front Street Gazebo on May 24.The concert will take place from 5 p.m to 6 p.m. and is free to attend.  
“Experience the rich, resonant sounds of the traditional alphorn echoing through the mountains. This beloved concert brings global talent to the heart of Leavenworth for one unforgettable hour.”

For more information, call (509) 548-3494 or email info@leavenworthalphorns.org.

Sangster Motors 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruise-In

Sangster Motors will host its 12th Annual Cruise-In on May 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
“Enjoy a great day of cars, community, and giving back. Donations are accepted, and all proceeds go to the New Vets Center to support our local heroes who have served us. Bring your family, bring your ride, and help make this the biggest cruise yet!”  
  
For more information, visit sangstermotors.com or follow

5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Sangster Motors on social media.

Beginner Tango & Social Hour

Watercore Cider will host beginner Argentine tango lessons followed by a social hour on May 22 from 7 p.m to 9 p.m.

“Enjoy great drinks and learn the basics of Argentine tango in a relaxed, social setting,”  
  
Cost is \$10 at the door or \$15 per couple. For more information, contact Watercore Cider directly or visit their social media pages.

STOCK PHOTO

POINT OF VIEW

They adopted a new budget without your input, and you’re paying for it

By Sen. Keith Goehner

Washingtonians have good reason to be distrustful of the policies coming out of the state Capitol. While the legislation itself matters, how it's crafted is also important – and, increasingly, there is less transparency, bipartisanship, or accountability.

My goal as a state lawmaker is to work together and avoid partisanship, so I am greatly concerned that the new state operating budget was developed with little Republican input. Using the Senate as an example, our budget team was in the room for rounds one and two, then Democrats excluded our ideas the rest of the way.

During the final three weeks of this legislative session, Democrats from the Senate and House didn't just shut Republicans out. They shut the public out as well, drafting the final version of the new operating budget behind closed doors.

Committee hearings were held at the last minute on the Democrats' new tax bills. To say there was no bipartisan collaboration or transparency is not a political grievance, it's the reality of how this budget was drafted and passed.

Budgets are about priorities. They fund our schools, roads, public safety, and essential services. They shape the future of our state. Yet when it came to the largest of the three budgets lawmakers had

to adopt this year, the majority party decided that only its priorities matter — and that the voices of millions of Washingtonians represented by Republicans don't deserve to be heard.

Worse yet, the Democrats didn't just craft the operating budget in secret — they based it on the largest tax increase in state history.

We're talking about billions in new taxes on families, homeowners, energy users, and small businesses. Even those aimed at employers will be passed down to consumers sooner or later – and at a time when families are already struggling with high housing costs, basic living expenses and increasing utility bills.

The majority party claims these tax increases are necessary to fund state services. The truth is, Senate Republicans offered a better way. Our Save Washington budget was a responsible and sustainable alternative that would have met the needs of our communities without raising taxes or cutting any core services. Our plan would have boosted public safety, special education, and mental-health funding — all while protecting your paycheck, respecting your family budget, and keeping the size of government in check.

Democrats had two chances to join us in adopting this no-new-taxes budget. Instead, they rammed their own plan through, The budget

they sent to the governor wasn't negotiated by anyone other than themselves. The majority party refused to listen, consider Republican amendments, or allow any real public input. They unveiled their final budget deal at the last minute, leaving no time for meaningful review or changes. The majority party didn't just ignore Republicans, they ignored you.

We expect open government and deserve to know how our money is being spent. We deserve a transparent, accountable budgeting process that includes all voices and reflects all communities, not just those in the majority party. That is why I'm speaking out.

I will continue fighting for transparency and fiscal responsibility. Better outcomes come from open dialogue, not closed doors.

While we wait for the governor to either sign or veto the largest tax increase in Washington State history, remember, this is your government. You deserve a seat at the table, not just a larger tax bill in your mailbox.

Sen. Keith Goehner represents the 12th Legislative District, which includes Chelan County and parts of King and Snohomish counties. Goehner is the Republican leader on the Senate Housing Committee, the assistant Republican leader on the Senate Transportation Committee, and serves on the Senate Local Government Committee.



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

Sen. Keith Goehner/R-Dryden

CONGRATULATIONS

C

Cashmere Middle School

Students of the Month!

Dylan Mantilla-Lopez

5<sup>th</sup> grade

Eastyn Whitesitt

6<sup>th</sup> grade

Mason Bjorklund

7<sup>th</sup> grade

Ryan Thayer

8<sup>th</sup> grade

Sebastian Oropeza

Specialists

Jayce McMahon

Tech Stars

Tate Green

Estrella Espanola

AUT-TO MOCHA

ESPRESSO

YOUR LOCAL COFFEE STAND SINCE 1997

Celebrating your hard work and Success!

Chelan County Sheriff’s Report

This report is compiled from records provided by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office and RiverCom. The publisher cannot certify the complete accuracy of the information provided.

May 9

- 08:17:33 Civil, 9100 Olalla Canyon Rd, Cashmere
- 09:07:40 Malicious Misch, 4592 E Nahahum Canyon Rd, Cashmere
- 09:22:53 Assist Agency, Us Hwy 2 & Easy St, Monitor
- 11:32:57 Hazard, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp3, Cashmere
- 12:43:42 Hazard, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp3, Cashmere
- 13:18:44 Accident No Inj, 329 Tigner Rd, Cashmere
- 20:48:23 Warrant, Mission Ave & Blue Star Wa, Cashmere
- 21:57:40 Runaway, 241 Independence Way, Cashmere

May 10

- 00:51:09 Noise, 410 Norman Ave, Cashmere
- 10:47:58 Assist Public, 8399 Williams Canyon Rd, Cashmere
- 14:46:48 Off Road Vehicle, Nahahum Canyon Rd & Swakan, Cashmere
- 15:36:11 Assist Public, 98 S Douglas St, Cashmere
- 16:14:55 Hazard, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp3, Cashmere

- 18:46:11 Welfare Check, 3263 Allyn Ln, Monitor

May 11

- 12:37:18 Hazard, Olalla Canyon Rd Mp3, Cashmere
- 14:18:54 Domestic Disturbance700oblk Stine Hill Rd, Cashmere
- 14:32:08 Juvenile Problem, 201 Mission Creek Rd, Cashmere
- 14:49:13 Court Order Vio, 102 Titchenal Way, Cashmere
- 21:45:44 Welfare Check, 817 Pioneer Ave, Cashmere
- 23:56:46 Assist Agency, 5600 Airport Rd, Cashmere

May 12

- 02:55:31 Assist Agency, 101 Woodring St, Cashmere
- 05:02:05 Hazard, Skyline Dr & Valley View D, Cashmere
- 15:55:09 Assault, 329 Tigner Rd, Cashmere
- 18:12:07 Traffic Offense, Sunset Hwy & Goodwin Rd, Cashmere
- 19:12:59 Traffic Offense, Mission Creek Rd Mp3, Cashmere

May 13

- 12:05:31 911, 5300blk Sunset Hwy, Cashmere
- 15:07:38 Domestic Disturbance, 208 Cottage Ave# 2
- 15:46:57 Hazard, 300blk Angier Ave, Cashmere
- 17:16:36 Domestic Disturbance, 201 Mission Creek Rd, Cashmere

May 14

- 09:10:59 Runaway, 104 Paton St, Cashmere 10:50:45 Parking/ Abandon, 426 Cottage Ave, Cashmere
- 15:05:37 Accident No Inj, 4530 Eels Rd, Cashmere
- 17:42:43 Runaway, 4870 Mission Creek Rd, Cashmere

May 15

- 04:27:08 Domestic Distur, 308 Orchid St, Cashmere
- 05:58:42 Assist Public, 4330 Eels Rd, Cashmere
- 08:23:25 Vehicle Theft, 4170 Yaksum Canyon Rd, Cashmere 15:31:23 911, 6555 Johnson Rd, Dryden
- 16:55:35 Juvenile Problem, 201 Mission Creek Rd, Cashmere



# Money crunch: Nearly 50 WA State Library employees facing layoffs

By JERRY CORNFIELD  
*Washington State Standard*

OLYMPIA - Secretary of State Steve Hobbs is preparing to lay off nearly 50 Washington State Library employees due to a decline in state and federal funding. In the past two weeks, 47 workers at the main library in Tumwater and at the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library in Seattle learned they are at-risk of losing their jobs, some in June and others in September, because of the lack of resources, Hobbs announced last week.

“It is heartbreaking and distressing to witness the near elimination of our state’s Central Library, which has existed since territorial times to enrich our culture and serve as a research hub for our state’s residents,” Hobbs said in a statement.

Staff in 27 state-funded positions received a layoff

date of June 30 while those in 20 federally funded positions have a Sept. 30 date.

Hobbs warned of potentially far-reaching repercussions.

Operating hours of the main state library in Tumwater will be trimmed and it may be closed entirely to the public, curbing access to its trove of historical and governmental collections.

In addition, the Ask A Librarian program that receives thousands of calls each year could go unanswered, and email inquiries will not receive timely responses. Additionally, subscriptions to newspaper and genealogy databases will be discontinued, and the acquisition of new materials will be drastically limited, said deputy secretary of state Randy Bolerjack.

Similarly, the Talking Book and Braille Library may be closed to the public with phone support reduced and circulation and registration services slowed. Production

of braille and audio materials could also be reduced or suspended at the state’s only accessible library service for people who are blind or have other disabilities.

### Fiscal challenges are playing out on two fronts.

At the state level, the library system continues to suffer from a sluggish housing market that’s generated less revenues from fees paid on real estate transactions. A portion of this fee revenue goes to support the library.

The secretary of state’s office requested \$6.7 million

for the next budget to make up for lower-than-expected receipts and maintain current service levels. While House and Senate budgets contained a smaller sum — \$2.7 million in the House and \$1.2 million in the Senate — there was no money in the final budget passed by the Legislature, Bolerjack said. Those dollars were counted on to fund 15 jobs in the library in Tumwater and 12 positions at the Talking Book and Braille Library.

### A thin silver lining looms.

A bill awaiting action by Gov. Bob Ferguson would impose a new \$50 surcharge on all filings

handled by Superior Court clerks, of which \$20 would go to the secretary of state’s office for the library, archives and state legacy projects. This would generate up to \$6 million in a full biennium, according to a fiscal analysis.

So while there will be job cuts, hopefully, if the legislation is signed, some of those laid off can be hired back, Bolerjack said.

Meanwhile, the federal government informed the state April 2 that it had terminated a grant that paid for 20 positions. Then last week, the federal government rescinded the termination and will be providing \$3.9 million,

Bolerjack said. Those employees still face layoffs because there is no indication whether the grant funding will be continued after Sept. 30, he added.

*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 501c(3) public charity.*



## Community Calendar

### Wednesday

- Cashmere Rotary Club.** meets at Cashmere Presbyterian Church hall, noon. President Mark Shorb. 509-885-0676.
- Mission Creek Community Club.** meets every month, 7 p.m. (1st and 3rd Wed.).
- Cashmere Food Bank.** open 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 3-4 p.m. Cashmere Food Distribution Center, 316 River St., for more information, call Pam. 509-245-6464
- Ukulele Circle.** Join the Ukulele Circle, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get the sheet music.

### Thursday

- Caregiver Support Group.** 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
- Cashmere Sportsman Assoc., (Cashmere Gun Club),** open to the public for trapshooting 7-10 p.m. Private rentals by appointment. Call Brian James, 509-782-3099.
- Cashmere American Legion Post #64,** 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Highway. Commander Ken Komro, 509-782-4973. **(1st Thurs. of every month, August - June).**
- Cashmere American Legion Auxiliary #64,** 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Highway. President Linda Ingraham, 509-679-0243. **(1st Thurs. of every month, August - June).**

### Sunday

**CHURCH:** See the church page for local service times & events.

### Monday

- Cashmere Wacoka Kiwanis Club.** 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, lower level. 6:30 p.m. Call Pam Leighton, 509-669-3159. **(4th Mon.)**
- Tillicum Riders.** 7 p.m. Chelan County Fairgrounds. Call Cindy, 509-662-5984. **(1st Mon.)**
- Cashmere City Council.** 6 p.m., City Hall **(2nd & 4th Mon. of each month (unless a holiday, then Tues.).**
- Planning Committee Meeting.** 5 p.m. at City Hall **(1st Mon. of each month unless a holiday, then Tues.).**
- Cashmere Fire Department.** Business management, 7 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. **(3rd Mon.)**
- Cashmere Fire Department.** meeting, 8 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. **(3rd Mon.)**
- Cashmere School Board Work Session.** Board work sessions are typically held towards the beginning of the month at 6:30 a.m. with no action taken. For updated info. Visit [www.cashmere.wednet.edu](http://www.cashmere.wednet.edu)
- Cashmere School Regular Board Meetings.** are typically held towards the end of the month at 7 p.m. with action taken. The schedule for meetings is subject to change to accommodate conflicts in schedule or special circumstances. Visit [www.cashmere.wednet.edu](http://www.cashmere.wednet.edu) for the most up to date info.
- Chelan Douglas Republican Women.** Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 **(1st Mon.)**

### Tuesday

- Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts.** Current meeting time 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or [levi.ipid@nwi.net](mailto:levi.ipid@nwi.net) **(2nd Tues.)**
- Peshastin Water District.** meets at 4:30 p.m. Contact: Steve Keene for meeting location. 509-548-5266. **(2nd Tues.)**
- The Chelan County Cemetery District #2,** (Peshastin) meets at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. **(2nd Tues.)**

### NCW Libraries

- Cashmere Public Library: 509-782-3314**  
**You can order your books online at [ncwlibraries.org](http://ncwlibraries.org) or call 1-800-426-READ (7323).**
- Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9-6, Wed. 1-6 and Sat., 10-2.**  
**Closed Sun.** 300 Woodring Street. Call 782-3314, or online at [Cashedun@ncwlibraries.org](mailto:Cashedun@ncwlibraries.org)
- Cashmere Museum and Pioneer Village**  
Call for more information 509-782-3230
- Chelan County Historical Society Board meets.** 7 p.m., Cashmere Museum, 600 Cotlets Way. Call Nicky 509-782-3230. **(3rd Thurs.)**
- Note: Some meetings or events may be rescheduled due to holidays or other closures. Please call and check with that organization listed.**



Inside the Washington State Library in Tumwater, Wash.

COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

## Imagine Wenatchee event conjures a bright vision for the City's future



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

An artist's rendering depicts the plan for an expansion to the Museum and Cultural Center called “Coyote’s Corner,” where children will ascend through a giant apple tree to a fire lookout station.

By ANDREW SIMPSON  
*Ward Media Staff Reporter*

WENATCHEE — Inside the Mercantile at 14 North Wenatchee Avenue, there’s a lot more than you might expect other than what you can see through the window. As a cooperative working space, it looks like a place to bring your laptop and finally get that report done or finish the chapter you’re writing.

What’s really inside is a collaborative working environment with more than a dozen tiny offices, where you can meet with people from all sorts of businesses in Wenatchee. And at Thursday’s “Imagine Wenatchee” event, that’s exactly what happened, only with essentially every planning institution involved in the cultural and commercial renaissance that’s happening right now in the Valley.

At the two-hour open house-style gathering, there was only a brief introduction from Rick Wray, the owner of the Mercantile, and Todd Kiesz, who organized the event. Kiesz was bursting with excitement, telling the crowd “We stand at a remarkable time in our Valley. This probably never happened before, and may never happen again, where we’re getting this incredible fabric of things that are going on.”

One by one and from south to north in town, Kiesz introduced each of the presenters: Weidner

Apartment Homes, with their new Majestic development along Mission Street; the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, who are developing a community center and an expansion to the existing museum; and the YMCA, who are going to redevelop the old building on Orondo between the one-ways into something they believe will be remarkable.

Further north, the downtown Convention Center remodel and rebuild was listed, which is anticipated as something that will bring people together as a community center of its own; the PUD campus from before their move to the far north end of town, as well as the new YMCA location just below it on Fifth. Then Kiesz

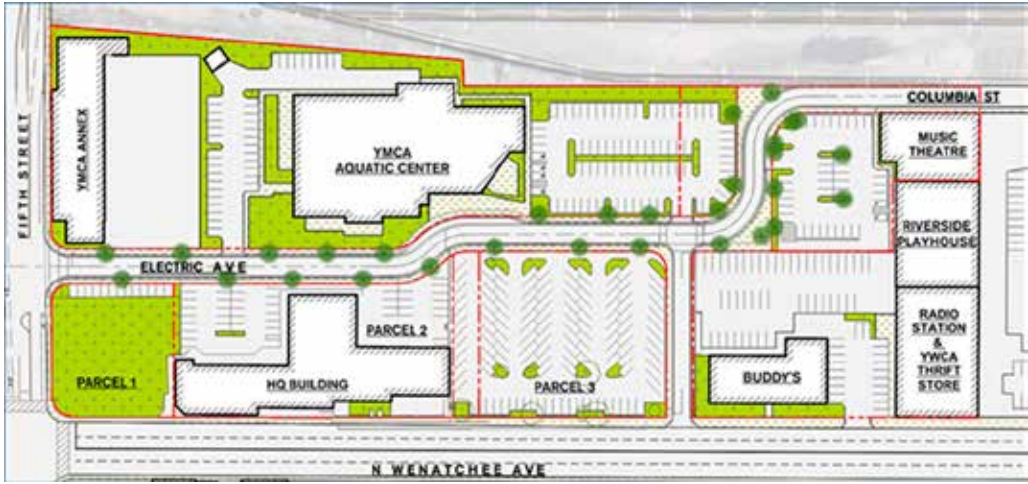
started moving back south in a loop along the soon-to-be-built Electric Avenue, a new road between the old PUD campus and the new YMCA beginning at Fifth and connecting to Columbia Street’s north end just after Whitman Way, with its panoply of underground utilities like fiber and water treatment hidden under a picturesque, pedestrian-friendly street reminiscent of Riverside Drive, the anchor street of the Riverside District just north of the new road, between Fifth and Ninth along Riverfront Park.

Just the new road alone will connect the three large apartment complexes that comprise the Riverside District: Riverside 9, which contains two restaurants, a

massage studio, a hair salon, a yoga studio and a brewpub; 600 Riverside, the complex between the two roundabouts that also houses a restaurant and an engineering firm across from ample free public parking; and just a few blocks away — after another brewpub, a pool hall, a church, the only restaurant located directly on the Loop Trail, and a host of other small businesses in the Riverfront Center — the largest of the three, the Riverfront Village complex, which ends just where Riverside Drive becomes Worthen Street.

That’s an entire community of up to 2,400 residents counting the actual houses in the area as well connected to

See **IMAGINE** Page **A4**



CHELAN COUNTY PUD

This schematic for Electric Avenue doesn’t show more than just the plan for construction. But the beauty of the street will be apparent when it’s complete.

Russell J. Speidel

David J. Bentsen

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# Cashmere blanks Chelan 10-0 for district title, advances to state tournament



Cashmere made quick work of the Chelan Goats in five innings during the District Championship game, and will now play 11th-seeded Lynden Christian in the first round of state on May 24 at Camas High School. Cashmere is seeded sixth. The winner plays later that same day against the winner of Colville (14th) versus La Center (3rd).

● The last out is made and the celebration may begin. Pitcher Tom McDevitt and catcher Jacoby Tait meet near home plate after blanking the Chelan Goats 10-0 in five outstanding innings of one-hit ball. Cashmere plays Lynden Christian in Camas on May 24 in the first round of state.

● Rylan Hatmaker rounds second and heads for third during the Bulldogs' defeat of the Chelan Goats 10-0 in the District Championship game, held at Yakima County Stadium last May 17.



CASHMERE SCHEDULE			
Boys Varsity Track			
Fri, May 23 2:00 PM	Cashmere	WIAA Districts	Home
Girls Varsity Track			
Fri, May 23 2:00 PM	Cashmere	WIAA Districts	Home

CASHMERE SCOREBOARD					
Boys Varsity Soccer					
Sat, May 17	Cashmere	2	Medical Lake	1	Win
Boys Varsity Baseball					
Sat, May 17	Cashmere	10	Chelan	1	Win

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Lily Wilson Senior Cashmere Girls Fastpitch Softball

Lily delivered not just one, but two walk-off hits to lead the Cashmere Bulldogs to a dramatic district tournament run and a berth in the 1A state tournament. On Wednesday at Kiwanis Park in Yakima, Wilson was the hero in both of Cashmere's come-from-behind victories. In their opening game, the Bulldogs erased a stunning 12-run deficit before Wilson capped the rally with a walk-off RBI single to complete a thrilling 21-20 win. Later in the day, she struck again—this time with a walk-off RBI double in a 7-6 victory over

Colville to punch the Bulldogs' ticket to state. "Lily has been a great example of consistency throughout the season," said Head Coach Steve Mongeon. "She's near the top of our team in extra-base hits, RBIs, and fielding percentage. She's a leader, she's versatile, and she's always willing to do what's best for the team." Wilson's timely hitting and team-first attitude have made her an essential piece of the Bulldogs' postseason push—and a clear choice for Athlete of the Week.



### Rylan Nelson Senior Cashmere Boys Soccer



In a pressure-packed, win-or-go-home playoff game, senior goalkeeper Rylan Nelson stood tall when it mattered most. Nelson turned in a commanding performance on Saturday, helping the Cashmere Bulldogs secure a hard-fought victory over Medical Lake in the state crossover match. The win sends Cashmere to the 1A state tournament—and Nelson's clutch saves were a huge part of it. "Rylan has been a big

part of our success this season," said Head Coach Manny Flores. "He made several key saves in the final 15 minutes to preserve the win. He's really grown this season and continues to show great leadership on the field." With six shutouts on the year and a steady presence in goal, Nelson has been a cornerstone of the Bulldogs' defense and a driving force behind their postseason success.

### Imagine

*Continued from page A3*

downtown by more than just the Loop Trail — you'll be able to walk (or jog, bike or drive) on a street that has all the charm, architecture and landscaping that runs through Riverside. And at the south end of Electric Avenue? The new Columbia Center.

The "Craft District," as the city is calling it now, will be a repurposing of more than 130,000 square feet of formerly agricultural warehouse space along Columbia Street purchased by the Port of Chelan County in 2019, imagined now as a vibrant downtown district. That area, when plans are more concrete, will merit its own story but as a mention

in this article, we'll note that the stretch of property between Orondo Avenue and Yakima Street along Columbia street west of the train tracks is possibly the most exciting aspect of this entire new vision of Wenatchee.

There is, of course, all of the nearly-completed projects that the PUD is wrapping up as part of the Fifth Street

Redevelopment, including the new pavilion and splash pad at Riverfront Park, the new stage at Pybus to expand the live music and shows that already happen at the Public Market, and the new access points on both sides of the W.T. Clark Pipeline Bridge that tie all of this together.

But these things add up to a reinvigorated Wenatchee that

fosters sustainable growth, environmental-friendly reuse of historic buildings, job opportunities in both the building phase of all of this and the new businesses that will occupy the space, increased tourism and a thriving culture that preserves Wenatchee's history while taking the city into the years to come full speed ahead.

As Kiesz said when he wrapped up his presentation, "This is our time, and this is the way to understand how important time is for all of us." More time spent with friends and family in the heart of our city only makes it feel more like home.

*Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or andrew@ward.media*

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PHOTOS BY JACQUELYN JIMENEZ ROMERO/WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD



Bob Ferguson signed a trio of bills on Monday related to protecting immigrants in Washington state.

# Trio of immigrant rights laws signed by WA governor

By JACQUELYN JIMENEZ ROMERO  
*Washington State Standard*

OLYMPIA — Gov. Bob Ferguson signed three bills to protect immigrant rights last week.

These included measures to strengthen state power to inspect private detention facilities, prevent coercion in the workplace, and prohibit bail bond agents from enforcing immigration laws.

Lawmakers put forward the legislation at a time when President Donald Trump is trying to crack down on people crossing into the country illegally and as his administration presses to deport immigrants already in the U.S. without legal authorization.

## Here’s a look at what the new state laws would do.

### Detention centers

State lawmakers have been pushing for greater transparency at the for-profit immigrant detention center in Tacoma. Previous efforts on this front have landed the state in court battles with the for-profit company that operates the facility, The GEO Group.

House Bill 1232 is the latest attempt to pave the way for the state’s Department of Health to inspect the Northwest ICE Processing Center and enforce compliance with state and federal laws there.

It establishes additional standards for such facilities in areas like sanitation, ventilation and medical care, along with new safeguards against abuse.

The bill also expands the definition of private detention facilities to include those run by nonprofit organizations after The GEO Group, which runs the Tacoma facility, claimed to be singled out under existing law. The nonprofit Martin Hall

Juvenile Detention Facility, near Spokane, will now join the list of these facilities.

Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self, D-Mukilteo, sponsor of the bill, said she hopes this legislation demonstrates the state is not targeting a single facility.

The law is effective immediately.

### Workplace coercion

There is often limited recourse for immigrant workers facing threats or being exploited by their employer. Senate Bill 5104, sponsored by Sen. Bob Hasegawa, D-Seattle, intends to give immigrant workers better tools when facing coercion in the workplace.

The bill would require the state’s Department of Labor and Industries to investigate complaints of coercion and would allow the agency to impose civil penalties when violations occur.

Coercion differs from retaliation because it happens before an employee raises an issue. Retaliation happens after the employee does so.

During the complaint process, when a worker files a complaint, the department will notify the employer, but language in the bill was added to make a worker’s personal information confidential to anyone other than the department and the employee.

“Every Washington worker can and should feel safe to report workplace injustices without fear of coercion or retaliation of any kind,” Ferguson said at the bill signing.

The bill would take effect on July 1.

### Bail bond agents

Following an incident in January during a public meeting in Sunnyside, a person claiming to be a “bounty hunter” said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would soon use bail bond agents to arrest people in the U.S. without

legal authorization and pay them \$1,000 for every arrest. ICE had detained two people in Sunnyside around this time.

Senate Bill 5714 would expand the list of unprofessional conduct for bail bond agents to include enforcement of a civil immigration warrant. The Department of Licensing could take disciplinary action against agents found to be in violation.

Bail bond agents already largely lacked the authority to get involved in immigration issues. But Sen. Yasmin Trudeau, D-Tacoma, said she introduced the bill because “people can operate right on the boundaries.” The law, she said, will provide clarification about those boundaries and the penalties for crossing them.

It would also prevent agents from sharing a defendant’s immigration status with anyone outside their business.

The bill would take effect on July 27.

### Other legislation

In addition to the laws the governor signed Monday, May 12, the Legislature approved a bill to allow immigrants to use paid sick time for immigration proceedings, which Ferguson signed in April, and a bill to have an expedited pardon process for those facing deportation, which is awaiting the governor’s signature.

Lawmakers also maintained funding in the budget they approved for a state program that provides health care coverage that mirrors Medicaid to a limited number of immigrants without legal status. Ferguson has still not signed off on the budget legislation.

*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 501c(3) public charity.*

# Washington will offer special education to students longer under new law

By JERRY CORNFIELD  
*Washington State Standard*

OLYMPIA — A new law triggered by a lawsuit will ensure public school students in Washington are offered special education instruction until they are 22 years old.

Gov. Bob Ferguson signed legislation this week to extend the length of a student’s eligibility to the end of the school year in which they turn 22 or graduate high school, whichever comes sooner. The current age limit is 21.

“As the son of a longtime special education teacher, I understand how important it is,” Ferguson said before putting his signature on Senate Bill 5253.

The bill responds to a federal court ruling in 2024 that found Washington in violation of a federal law concerning how long states must provide “free appropriate public education” to students.

Washington law now assures students with disabilities are eligible for special education services between the ages of 3 and 21.

A federal law known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, governs how states and public schools deliver special

education and related services to children and youth with disabilities.

It does not require offering “free appropriate public education” to those aged 18 to 21. But, if a state offers free education programming for any adults, it needs to offer those services for students until they turn 22.

In November 2024, a federal court issued an order against the state in the case of N.D. v. Reykdal, a class action lawsuit alleging that Washington’s law violates the IDEA. Washington allowed students up to 21 years old to enroll in its adult education programs and waived the tuition fee for those who could not pay. Making the programs free triggered a requirement to comply with the federal law.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal requested this year’s bill to align state requirements with the federal statute. It passed unanimously in the Senate and 93-1 in the House. It will take effect July 27, in time for the next school year.

“Ensuring students have access to a free and appropriate public education through their 22nd birthday is a vital step toward equity and opportunity,” Reykdal said in

an email this week.

When the law takes effect, it will continue providing education-related services to students with disabilities until the end of the school year in which they turn 22. These include free admission to the State School for the Blind and the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth, and attendance in education programs at residential schools.

OSPI estimated 300 to 1,200 students could benefit and said costs could range from \$6.8 million to \$27 million per school year to serve them.

Sen. Adrian Cortes, D-Battle Ground, the bill’s sponsor and a special education teacher at Camas High School in southwest Washington, said he has two students who could eventually benefit if they choose to enroll in a transition program for young adults.

“It is not a big population but it is a population that will now be served,” he said.

*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 501c(3) public charity.*



JERRY CORNFIELD/WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD

A new law in Washington will assure students are offered special education services until they are 22. State Sen. Adrian Cortes, D-Battle Ground, a special education teacher, was the sponsor. He spoke of the need for increased funding and support for public schools at a February rally of educators, parents and students at the Washington state Capitol.

## WA budget

*Continued from page B1*

“Immigrants came forward this session with the full knowledge that doing so could mean deportation — or worse,” Catalina Velasquez, executive director of the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, said in a statement.

“These victories are the result of decades of movement-building, sacrifice, and visionary struggle to ensure all immigrants have the resources needed to thrive,” she added.

Federal law prohibits noncitizens from accessing public benefits such as Medicaid, but states can use state dollars to create programs for this community.

About 1.8 million residents in Washington were covered by Medicaid or the related Children’s Health Insurance Program in December, according to U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services figures. Washington’s Medicaid program is called Apple Health.

The Apple Health Expansion program for immigrants designed to mirror Medicaid and is funded solely by the state, whereas the traditional Medicaid program is funded with both federal and state dollars.

The expansion launched on July 1, 2024 with enough funding to cover up to 13,000 people. Within the first 48 hours, all slots were filled, and

an additional 17,000 people signed up for the waiting list.

Washington state Republicans have criticized the program and argue the state needs to be more careful with its spending, especially given a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall lawmakers just worked to solve. They’ve also said that the state shouldn’t be maintaining services for noncitizens while cutting services for others.

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COURTESY OF WENATCHEE VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER  
Tour participants pose at the Welcome to Stehekin sign during a Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center tour led by Native storyteller Randy Lewis, second from right.

Museum

Continued from page A1

Participants drive their own vehicles between sites, a format museum officials say is designed to promote flexibility and broader participation from both Eastern and Western Washington.

“Whether it is taking a boat to Stehekin, learning about the Wellington Train Disaster, or basking in the beauty of Lake Wenatchee, the WVMCC has plenty to offer!” the museum said in a release.

The first offering, the “Stehekin: Heart of the Cascades Tour,” takes place Saturday, May 24. Led by Native storyteller Randy Lewis, the tour includes a boat ride to the remote village of Stehekin, treats from the Stehekin Pastry Company, and discussions on the region’s Indigenous and cultural heritage. Participants will meet at the Chelan Boat Dock at 1418 N. Woodin Ave.



COURTESY OF WENATCHEE VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER  
The Stehekin River carves through rugged terrain, fed by snowmelt from the surrounding North Cascades. The river is a major natural feature near the Stehekin community.



COURTESY OF WENATCHEE VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER  
Rainbow Falls, a prominent feature in the remote village of Stehekin, sends water cascading nearly 300 feet down a forested cliff.

The final tour in the current lineup is the “PNW Treasures Tour: Lake Wenatchee,” set for Saturday, Sept. 13. Led again by Randy Lewis, this tour will explore Indigenous cultural sites from Leavenworth to Lake Wenatchee and includes a lunch stop at the YMCA Camp at the lake. Cost is \$75 for members and \$95 for non-members. A Discover Pass is required for participants.

Tours are designed for adult audiences, and more information is available on the museum’s website at [wenatcheevalleymuseum.org](http://wenatcheevalleymuseum.org) or by calling (509) 888-6240.

*The Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center is a nonprofit organization supported by the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee. Its mission is “to gather, engage, and educate people to celebrate and preserve the history, arts, sciences, and rich diversity of our region.”*



COURTESY OF PAUL TOMAS  
A double rainbow stretches across Lake Wenatchee after a passing rain shower, as seen from South Beach.



COURTESY OF PAUL TOMAS  
The sun sets over Lake Wenatchee, casting a golden glow across the still waters and surrounding Cascade foothills.

Jeff Jones

Continued from page A1

about housing code updates and someone threw out the number 1,300 — as in growing by 1,300 people. In a town of around 3,300, that’s not just growth. A 40% increase is a boom.

Is Cashmere shifting in demographic?

“Even though I’ve lived here for seven years, I really can’t attest to what the sentiments are about Cashmere—whether it’s a sleepy little town that’s looked at as a place you pass by in between Wenatchee and Leavenworth. But if you get out of the flat of Cashmere and go up about 200 feet, there’s a lot more orchard than you might suspect. So it could be that the ag industry, the orchardists, will determine, in part, the future, because they have maybe the primary role to play in the availability of land.

“The possibility of growth in Cashmere is the same as every town is facing. The median price for a home in Cashmere is \$650,000. Young people are going to have a difficult time being able to

FFA

Continued from page A1

196 competitors to become the State Champion.

Cashmere’s Milk Quality team outperformed 47 other teams to win its division, finishing 194 points ahead of second-place Lynden Christian. Gloria Smith was named State Champion for her individual performance.

The Meats Judging team rounded out the record-setting performance with a dominant showing that placed eight Cashmere students in the top ten out of 116 contestants statewide.

In total, Cashmere FFA had seven teams finish among the top eight in their respective competitions and 23 students placed in the top ten individually. One of the chapter’s Novice Parliamentary Procedure teams earned a third-place finish in the state finals. Four Cashmere seniors—Brianna Castro, Sophie Hill, Aleida Nolasco and Aztlan Oropeza—also earned their State FFA Degrees this year, the highest honor the state association can bestow on a member.

To support the chapter’s trip to nationals, the Cashmere FFA will host its annual Prime Rib Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 4.

*The 97th National FFA Convention & Expo is scheduled for Oct. 22–25 in Indianapolis, Indiana.*

afford a house. I think a lot of people have even forsaken the idea of owning. There have been so many disruptions in the past 10 years, especially during COVID, where the paradigm has shifted not as a difference of degree, but of kind of growth.”

Beyond Founders’ Day, do you have plans to draw visitors the way Wenatchee and Leavenworth do? Are there events and programs that you’re looking at?

“The Cashmere Chamber is going to continue to do that, by having a hyper focus on being a benefit and support to the community. We exist to assist the business community and the community at large. It’s not always going to be the size of Founders’ Day, but it might be a fundraiser or a community event, it might be a high school band at the park in a concert we organize to help them raise money. Our general focus is traditional, but there may be new ways of doing it. In the past, if we wanted to promote the barber shop next door, it might have been getting an ad in the newspaper, and now it’s social media. We just want

to make sure we’re making people aware of Cashmere.

“Cashmere is a great community. It’s a place that people really enjoy being a part of, and living here is idyllic in many ways. The Chamber’s role has probably never been to dictate the future of the community, but our support can enhance, to a degree, whatever vision develops around Cashmere. I think we can promote everybody enthusiastically and not decide who does or doesn’t ‘share our vision.’ I don’t think the young people now want to dictate, either. I just think they want to be part of something.

“We’re doing of reacquainting ourselves with what it means to be a human being.”

From your lips to God’s ears.

“The world has changed more in the last hundred years than it did in the previous five thousand. I don’t know everything about growth in Cashmere, but I know people are starting to unplug and get back to their friends and family.”

Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or [andrew@ward.media](mailto:andrew@ward.media)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CASHMERE FFA



Members of the Cashmere FFA Food Science team pose with their awards after winning the state title at the Washington FFA Convention. Front row, from left: Logan Potter, Addison Talley, Aliza Cloakey, and Madisyn Stoffel. Back row, from left: Dayami Najjar-Parra and other Cashmere FFA members. The team narrowly defeated Lake Washington by 19 points.



Cashmere FFA's Milk Quality team celebrates their state championship at the Washington FFA Convention. From left: Jair Naranjo, Addy Burger, Gloria Smith, and Sophia Batanoi. Not pictured: Abigail Kim. The team outscored 47 others statewide to qualify for the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

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