

**City editor**  
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## Plug in

THURSDAY

### Government

- ◆ **Wenatchee City Council:**  
5:15 p.m., City Hall,  
664-3300
- ◆ **Chelan City Council:**  
6 p.m., City Hall, 682-4037
- ◆ **Rock Island City Council:**  
7 p.m., City Hall, 884-1261
- ◆ **17th Annual Janice Franz Talent Show:** 7 p.m.,  
continues Friday, Wenatchee  
High School auditorium,  
699-9544.

FRIDAY

### Community

- ◆ **Vishten:** 7 p.m., Snowy Owl  
Theater, 7409 Icicle Road,  
Leavenworth, 548-6347

### LOTTERY

OLYMPIA — Wednesday's Lottery drawing results:

Daily Game

**0-5-9**

Lotto

\$1 million  
(no winner)

**15-21-26-32-45-47**

Powerball

\$50 million  
(no winner)

**11-12-17-38-42**

Power Ball: **2**

Power Play: **x2**

Hit 5

**8-17-28-33-37**

Match 4

**7-13-19-24**

Daily Keno numbers

**2-3-4-9-12**

**13-15-19-24-35**

**40-48-54-59-61**

**72-73-74-75-77**

Lottery numbers online:  
[walottery.com](http://walottery.com)

### WENATCHEE

#### Flones contract extended

The Wenatchee School Board unanimously approved a new three-year contract for Superintendent Brian Flones on Tuesday.

The new contract gives Flones the position through June 2017. His benefits and annual salary of \$166,100 will remain the same. Salary changes are usually made in a separate action at another time.

“The board is really pleased to extend a contract to Brian. He’s forward-thinking and responsive to our concerns, the public’s concerns and always has the best interests of the district in mind,” said Laura Jaecks, board president.

Flones has been superintendent for the district since 2000. He was previously district deputy superintendent and originally hired as Wenatchee High School athletic director in 1987.

— Rick Steigmeyer, World staff

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#### ◆ CORRECTIONS

#### Shawn Lee McKee obituary

A sister, Jenna Quinn, was omitted as a survivor in an obituary on Page A4 Wednesday for Shawn Lee McKee. A corrected obituary appears on Page A4 today.

If you believe information printed in The World is incorrect, call 665-1161.

# LOW-WATER SALMON TANKS DRAW EXPERTS TO LOOK, LEARN

*PUD's reuse system helps Eastbank and Chiwawa use 70 percent less water*

BY CHRISTINE PRATT  
World staff writer

BAKER FLATS — Healthier fish, 70 percent less fresh water use, easier care and maintenance, cleaner water.

At a time when fisheries biologists are tasked with improving efficiency and reducing the cost of raising and releasing young salmon, an experiment undertaken by the Chelan County PUD in 2008 is turning heads around the region.

About 75 experts from state, federal and tribal agencies around Washington, Idaho and Canada were in town Tuesday and Wednesday to view and learn about water-reuse technology the PUD is using at its Eastbank and Chiwawa hatcheries to raise summer chinook each year — using at least 70 percent less water (with a potential of nearly 90 percent less) than a traditional raceway.

“The PUD had someone who took a risk and what happened here has become the tipping point for a change in technology,” Brian Vinci, director of engineering services for the Freshwater Institute, said Wednesday.



World photos/Mike Bonnicksen

About 70 scientists from around the region tour Eastbank Hatchery on Wednesday afternoon.

The non-profit institute develops and validates technologies that bring about sustainable water use. Vinci was one of the class instructors and was an early consultant on water reuse at PUD hatcheries.

At Eastbank, the technology employs two 30-foot round, approximately 6-foot deep tanks with bottoms that slope to their deepest point at a center drain. Water flowing into the tanks creates a gentle current that the young chinook must constantly swim against. Statistics are showing

that it produces fish that are more physically fit than fish raised in traditional raceways, where water is relatively static. Fish raised in the round tanks are quicker to migrate to the ocean to mature — similar to wild fish — and return to the lower Wenatchee River basin to spawn in greater numbers.

In fact, adult returns from babies released in 2009 were more than double the returns of fish raised in the traditional concrete raceways, PUD statistics show, and about 30 percent greater the following year.

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**BRIAN VINCI**

Director of engineering services for the Freshwater Institute

Ocean conditions while the young fish were maturing could be the reason for the difference between years, Vinci said.

The system makes cleaning fish waste from the tanks only slightly more time consuming than flushing a toilet. The water stays cleaner, meaning it can be reused when mixed with only about 30 percent fresh water.

The water efficiency is important at Eastbank, which draws its water from the same aquifer that supplies drinking water to the greater Wenatchee area.

“What I’m also impressed with is you need fewer people to maintain them,” said Kip Killebrew, a fisheries biologist who works for the Stillaguamish Tribe in Arlington.

The tribe is planning to condense its hatchery operation, because water is in shorter supply, Killebrew said.

He’ll take the information learned in Wenatchee back to Arlington to compare how the benefits of water-

reuse stack up to the risk and expense of drilling new wells.

“I think this is the way we have to go,” he said. “Just look at California, which is having its worst drought in 30 years.”

Vinci says the Portland-based Bonneville Power Administration is also taking a very close look.

Bonneville funds millions of dollars of fish and environmental conservation projects in the Northwest states to mitigate for fish killed at federal dams on the Columbia River system.

The PUD uses the same technology on a smaller scale at its Chiwawa hatchery for Wenatchee River steelhead, and on a larger scale, but without the reuse feature, at its hatchery in Chelan Falls.

“No matter what you think of hatcheries, making them more efficient is a good thing,” Vinci said. “All these people are here because of this.”

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Water spray clouds the air as people on the tour watch how water sprays onto a drum filter, cleaning it.

## How water reuse works

