

# LEWISTON TRIBUNE

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ONE DOLLAR

## Community urges WWCC to stay involved

### In-person training is a must, residents tell the community college

By RACHEL SUN  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

Residents and business leaders told Walla Walla Community College leaders that they need to maintain in-person

job training during the first of three public meetings held Monday.

The sessions, which were held throughout the morning and afternoon, invited the public to share their perspectives on the area's workforce needs, ways WWCC might improve its service in Clarkston, and possible ways



Hickox

to meet those needs. Currently, WWCC is considering a number of options for service in Clarkston. These include shifting to online or hybrid learning models; increasing employer-sponsored training programs; an industry consortium for employers in industries like healthcare to offer

long-term financial contributions; and facilitating a partnership with Lewis-Clark State College for WWCC students to attend in-person classes.

Much of the college's financial troubles have been pinned on a state enrollment model that pays based on the number of full-time equivalent enrollments (FTEs). One FTE

is equal to 45 credits per year. That number dropped over time for Clarkston, from a high of 628 in the 2010-11 school year to around 134 this year.

A total of 16 other "peer colleges" took a loss when those funding changes went into effect, according to a chart shown to attendees,

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### AMID THE SHADOWS



August Frank/Lewiston Tribune

A person walks down the Lewiston Levee Parkway Trail amidst shadowed hills Monday in Lewiston.

## Village Centre theaters head to new chain

### Golden Ticket Cinemas takes over theaters in Moscow and Lewiston

By EMILY PEARCE  
MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Village Centre Cinemas is being taken over by new management next month, according to a Friday news release.

Movie theaters in Moscow and Lewiston will be handed over to the national theater chain Golden Ticket Cinemas on July 1.

The local business stated the transfer is the best path forward for keeping the theaters open and operating.

Village Centre Cinemas has operated in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley and on the Palouse for more than two decades. It originally offered three locations, but shuttered the doors of its Pullman theater in 2024.

Golden Ticket Cinemas, based in Durham, N.C., manages 26 locations in 17 states.

"Their national theatre expertise and passion for creating memorable experiences will help strengthen and build upon the tradition of entertainment that our guests have enjoyed for years," Nicole Morscheck, Village Centre Cinemas owner representative, stated in the news release.

Both companies are working to ensure the transfer is as seamless as possible, so patrons can continue enjoying films with little-to-no interruption.

Moviegoers can expect the same level of services, including Tuesday discounts and the Summer Kids Movie Series. The news release indicated all advanced ticket sales will be honored.

Additionally, Golden Ticket Cinemas will be introducing new amenities like an annual popcorn bucket, Gold Star loyalty programs and new menu items.

"We are excited to welcome the guests and team members of the Moscow and Lewiston locations into the Golden Ticket Cinemas family," Joe Horton, director of press relations for Golden Ticket Cinemas, stated in the news release.

"These theaters have long served their communities, and we look forward to continuing that tradition while enhancing the overall moviegoing

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## Thomason to end stint with Lewiston port

### Commissioner of 13 years plans to step down at the end of July

By ELAINE WILLIAMS  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

The Port of Lewiston is losing Mike Thomason, its most experienced commissioner, who focused on creating local jobs.

During Thomason's tenure, which started in 2013 and will end July 31, the port backed a number of businesses by providing incubator space or developed land.

Among them were Seekins Precision, Northwest Fourslide, ClearView Eye Clinic, Clearwater Canyon Cellars and Cascadia of Lewiston, which provides rehabilitation after hospital stays and skilled nursing care.

Seekins Precision, a maker of rifles, rifle parts and rifle accessories, was a tenant of the port's incubator before moving to its own site near the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport.

Northwest Fourslide, a metal parts manufacturer, relocated its



Port of Lewiston

Mike Thomason is leaving the Port of Lewiston.

operations to Lewiston from the Portland, Ore., area in 2024.

The Port of Lewiston has also expanded its facilities for cruise boat pas-

sengers, a rapidly growing segment of the tourism industry in the area during Thomason's time on the commission.

Thomason has supported the port's partnership with American Cruise Lines, but has concerns about some of the expenses for property development adjacent to a boat moorage area for cruise boats.

This month, Thomason cast a nay vote on the port's \$13.6 million 2027 fiscal year budget for operating expenses, land acquisition and infrastructure projects. The budget passed with the votes of the other two commissioners, Joe Anderson and Denise Metz.

It's the only time, Thomason said in an email, that he remembers voting against the port's annual budget. But, he said, the decision wasn't connected to the timing of his departure from the commission.

His issue, he said, involved a plan to convert a vacant metal maintenance building near the port's new overnight cruise boat moorage area

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## LCSC student goes missing after kayaking near Orofino

### Samuel Mobley presumed to have drowned; family asking for help finding his remains

LEWISTON TRIBUNE

A Lewis-Clark State College student went missing last week while kayaking near Orofino and is presumed to have drowned, according to his family and confirmed by the Clearwater County sheriff.

Samuel Mobley, 29, went

missing Wednesday while kayaking on the Clearwater River. County officials searched for a few days but weren't able to find Mobley and subsequently called off the search. The family is asking the



Mobley

Mobley and Donna Lutz.

It appears that Mobley entered the river at Pink

public and those who spend time on the river or have specialized equipment to search for Mobley's remains. They also hold a sliver of hope that he will be found alive, according to Mobley's aunts, Janet

House Recreation Site just west of Orofino. His vehicle was found there. Mobley's kayak and belongings, in a water-tight bag, were found about 1½ miles downriver.

Mobley was born in California and grew up mostly in Spokane. He was studying nursing at LCSC and was working as a certified nursing assistant at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center.

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