BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties Against: TASTE OF THE VALLEY, LLC	DOCKET TE-260590 DECLARATION OF KATHRYN MCPHERSON

I, Kathryn McPherson, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington, declares as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and competent to testify to the facts contained herein.

2. I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a compliance investigator in the Transportation Safety Division. As a compliance investigator, my responsibilities include conducting investigations into the operations of regulated and unregulated transportation companies. As part of those duties, I investigate charter party and excursion service carriers that may be operating without the required Commission-issued certificate.

3. On September 30, 2024, Todd Steel, on behalf of Taste of the Valley, LLC (Taste of the Valley or Company) applied for charter party and excursion carrier authority to the Commission.[1]

4. On October 21, 2024, the Commission granted Taste of the Valley's request for authority and issued certificate CH071498.[2]

5. On December 18, 2025, in Docket TE-250968, the Commission canceled Taste of the Valley's certificate.[3]

[1] Attachment A – Copy of Application.

[2] Attachment B – Copy of Certificate of Authority.

[3] Attachment C – Cancelation of Certificate CH071498.

6. On July 7, 2026, Staff reviewed Taste of the Valley's current licensing status with the Commission and discovered an inactive status.[4]

7. On July 7, 2026, Staff reviewed the Company's Department of Revenue (DOR) records.[5] DOR records show a unified business identifier number of 604-749-086.[6] DOR records also show Taste of the Valley's address as 1902 W Prospect Street, Chelan, Washington 98816, with a mailing address listed as P.O. Box 2132, Tacoma, Washington 98401.[7] DOR records show that the Company does not have a limousine endorsement from the Department of Licensing for exemption of requirement for a charter party and excursion carrier permit based on RCW 81.70.030.[8]

8. On July 7, 2026, Staff reviewed the Company's website at www.valleytaste.com and discovered that Taste of the Valley offers group tours for up to 12 passengers.[9]

9. On July 7, 2026, Staff reviewed Taste of the Valley's Facebook page and discovered advertisements for transportation for passenger transportation to musical events.[10]

10. On July 7, 2026, Staff reviewed Instagram advertisements and discovered Taste of the Valley advertised for 12 passenger wine tours for July 4, 2026.[11]

11. On July 7, 2026, using a fictitious name, Staff communicated with Taste of the Valley via the Company's email at chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com, requesting services to transport a group of 12 passengers on a wine tour.[12] The Company emailed a quote for $900, which included a four-hour wine tour on August 22, 2026. Taste of the Valley stated in the quote that they stop at two or three wineries, and stops are not limited to wineries.[13]

12. Based on paragraphs 3 through 11 above, Staff determined that Taste of the Valley operated as a charter party or excursion service carrier in the state of Washington without

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[4] Attachment D – Screenshot of UTC Companies Directory.

[5] Attachment E –DOR records for Taste of the Valley with no limousine endorsement

[6] Attachment E.

[7] Attachment E.

[8] Attachment E.

[9] Attachment F – Website with Group Offers.

[10] Attachment G – Facebook Advertisements.

[11] Attachment H – Instagram Advertisements.

[12] Attachment I – Offer of Service.

[13] Attachment I.

first obtaining the required certificate from the Commission. The Company advertised and offered to provide services for four violations of RCW 81.70.260.

DATED this 20th day of August 2026, at Lacey, Washington.

/s/ *Kathryn McPherson*
KATHYRN MCPHERSON

Attachment A

Attachment A

UTC
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
Phone: 360-664-1222
Email: transportation@utc.wa.gov

Section 1 - APPLICATION

Legal Name: TASTE OF THE VALLEY LLC

Trade Name, if applicable:

Physical Address: 2323 NORTH 31ST STE 200 TACOMA WA 98403

Mailing Address: PO BOX 2132 TACOMA WA 98401

Telephone Number: 253-759-2287 Email: TODD@NORPOINT.COM

Contact Name: TODD STEEL Website: ValleyTaste.com

USDOT#: 4301229 If you do not have a USDOT number, go online at **https://cms8.fmcsa.dot.gov** to apply or call 360-596-3812 for assistance.

Is your business registered with the **Department of Revenue**? ☐ No ☒ Yes

Business License/UBI#: 604749086

Business Structure

☐ Individual ☐ Partnership ☐ Corporation ☒ Other (LP, LLP, LLC) State of Incorporation: WA

List the name, title and percentage of all partner's share or stock distribution for major stockholders:

Name	Title	Stock Distribution/% of Shares
TODD STEEL	Manager	50%
MADDISON ZIMMERMAN	Member	50%

Business Operations

1. Describe the type of tours/excursions you plan on providing:

PICK UP CLIENTS AT ONE LOCATION, TAKE THEM TO TOURIST DESTINATIONS AND RETURN CLIENTS TO ORIGINAL LOCATION.

2. Have you or your company ever been cited for business-related violations of state laws or commission rules by the UTC or any other federal or state agency? ☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, please explain:

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APPLICATION FOR
CHARTER AND EXCURSION CARRIER SERVICES CERTIFICATE

FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY				
Date Filed:	Company:			Docket #:
Receipt ID:	Payment ID:	App Fee:	Reg Fee:	Total Paid:
111 0268	111 0268 232 01	111 0268 232 02		111 0268 232 03

Passenger Charter and Excursion Carrier Services WAC 480-30	Fee Required
☒ **New Authority** – Complete this application. ☐ **Transfer** an existing certificate to a new owner or business structure. Complete this application in addition to **Attachment A – Joint Application for Transfer of Charter/Excursion Authority**. ☐ **Reinstate** a previously cancelled certificate; **WAC-480-30-121**.	**$200**
Additional Fees **Regulatory Fee -** In accordance with **RCW 81.70.350** "Regulatory Fees", the commission requires Charter and Excursion companies to file reports of the number of vehicles operated by the company and pay the sum of $25 for each vehicle operated. There is a minimum fee of $25. **Total number of vehicles to be operated** \ **x $25 per vehicle** **Total due** ($200, plus, $25 per vehicle)	= ~~$0~~ 25 = $ 200
☐ **Name Change -** WAC **480-30-146** Application to change a company's corporate name, change a trade name, add a new trade name or change the surname of an individual owner or partner. **New Company Name:**	**$35**

FILING YOUR APPLICATION

Select **one** of the following:

- Scan/PDF your application to **efileapp.utc.wa.gov** and pay online at **payments.utc.wa.gov** or,
- Mail your application **with** your check or money order to the following address:
  UTC, PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

ACH on-line (no service fee) or credit card on-line at **payments.utc.wa.gov** (2.5% or minimum of $3.95 is charged by Official Payments for credit card processing).

DO NOT EMAIL YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

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3. Will you be employing CDL drivers? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes" you must submit proof of enrollment in a drug and alcohol testing program.

Section 2 - EQUIPMENT LIST

Describe the equipment that will be used (attach additional sheets if necessary). All vehicles must pass a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspection before a permit is granted. All fields are required. Per **WAC 480-30-036 (2), "Party Bus"** means any motor vehicle whose interior enables passengers to stand and circulate throughout the vehicle because seating is placed around the perimeter of the bus or is nonexistent and in which food, beverages, or entertainment may be provided. A motor vehicle configured in the traditional manner of forward-facing seating with a center aisle is not a party bus.

Year	Make	License Number	Vehicle ID (VIN)	Seating Capacity	Party Bus
2019	Ford Transit	CORKY	1FBAX2CG1KKB02567	13	NO

*attach additional pages if necessary

Section 3 - SAFETY

Identify the person and position responsible for understanding and complying with the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR)** and Washington state laws and rules. Please refer to the WAC rules, fact sheets and the publication "**Your Guide to Achieving a Satisfactory Safety Rating**" for assistance with requirements.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Standards, Requirements and Penalties (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 383). If you operate commercial motor vehicles, your drivers must have a valid CDL.
Driver Qualification Requirements (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 391). Each of your drivers must meet minimum qualification requirements. You must maintain driver qualification files for each driver.
Drivers Hours of Service (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 395). Each of your drivers must maintain hours of service logs. You must maintain true and accurate hours of service records for each driver.
Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 382 and Part 40). If you operate commercial motor vehicles, your drivers must be in a Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing program. **Please attach evidence of your enrollment in a drug and alcohol testing program if your company has commercial vehicles and employs CDL drivers.**
Inspection, Repair and Maintenance (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 396). You must systematically inspect, repair and maintain all motor vehicles.
Safety Regulations, General (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 390). You must follow safety regulations.
Driving Commercial Motor Vehicles (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 392). You must follow regulations for driving commercial motor vehicles.
Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 393). You must maintain parts and accessories in safe condition.

Name:	Position: Manager

UTC
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Section 4- OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Identify the person and position responsible for understanding and complying with the requirements of each category shown below.

Annual Reports and Regulatory Fees. You must file an annual financial report with the commission and pay regulatory fees by May 1 of each year.

Name: Todd Steel	Position: Manager

State of Washington General Laws, Rules and Regulations. You must comply with the regulations of local, state, and federal agencies such as, *but not limited to*: **Department of Labor and Industries, Department of Licensing, Secretary of State, Department of Revenue, Internal Revenue Service** and **Employment Security.**

Name: TODD STEEL	Position: Manager

Section 5 - DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

INITIAL TS

I understand that filing this application **does not** in itself constitute authority to operate as a passenger charter and excursion carrier.

As the applicant for a passenger charter and excursion certificate, I understand the responsibilities of a charter and excursion carrier, and I am in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations governing business in the state of Washington.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this application is true and correct.

I certify that I am the applicant, or I am authorized to execute and file this document on behalf of the applicant.

Name: [signature]	Date: 9-25-24

Section 6 – ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

☐ **For Transfer an existing certificate to a new owner or business structure**: include *"attachment A – JOINT APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CHARTER/EXCURSION AUTHORITY".*

Attachment B

Attachment B

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E., Lacey, Washington 98503

PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

(360) 664-1222

This certificate authorizes the following operations under the provisions of RCW Title 81:

Taste of the Valley, LLC
PO BOX 2132
Tacoma, WA 98401

Certificate No.
CH071498

Charter and Excursion Carrier Services in the state of Washington.

TE-240728

October 21, 2024

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

By _____

Attachment C

Attachment C

STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503
P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • TTY 1-800-833-6384 or 711

December 18, 2025

Taste of the Valley, LLC
PO BOX 2132
Tacoma, WA 98401

TE250968 - Cancellation of Certificate CH071498 Due To Insufficient Proof of Insurance

Dear Taste of the Valley, LLC:

On November 17, 2025, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) notified you that your transportation certificate would be canceled unless you submitted acceptable proof of insurance by December 17, 2025. Our records show that you failed to submit acceptable proof of insurance by that deadline. As a consequence, **the Commission has CANCELED your certificate. You must immediately CEASE all operations associated with this certificate. If you advertise or operate without a valid certificate, the commission may take enforcement action against you.**

You have the right to a hearing. If you believe the Commission should not have canceled your certificate, you may ask the Commission to schedule a hearing before an administrative law judge. At the hearing the only issue the Commission will address is whether you had proof of insurance on file to avoid cancellation. Email your request to Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary, at records@utc.wa.gov. You may also mail your request to WUTC, PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. The Commission must receive your request within 14 days after the date of this letter.

You may apply to reinstate your certificate. Download the reinstatement application at www.utc.wa.gov. To locate application instructions, type "File Your Transportation Application Electronically" in the site search bar, and select this link. Then, click on the appropriate industry application.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Licensing Services at (360) 664-1222. You may also email us at transportation@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Remfrey, Patrick (UTC)
Digitally signed by Remfrey, Patrick (UTC)
Date: 2025.12.18 06:56:20 -08'00'

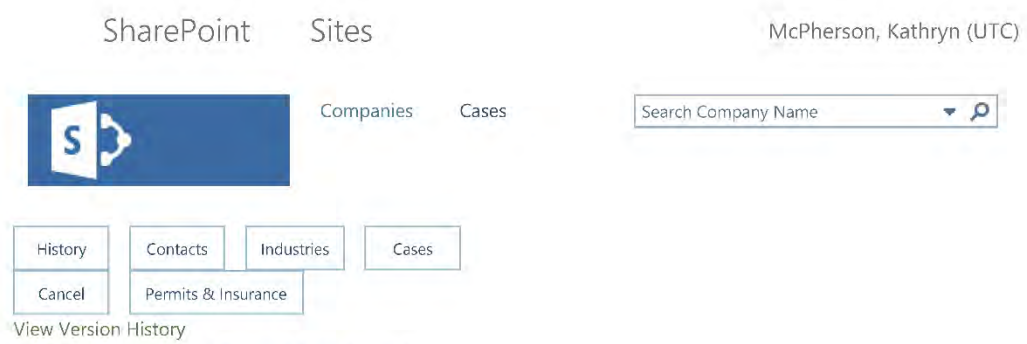
Patrick Remfrey
Licensing Services Manager

Respect. Professionalism. Integrity. Accountability.

NOTICE: This action is delegated to the Secretary, or the Secretary's delegate, for decision. In addition to serving you this letter, the Commission will post on its website for at least 14 days a list of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. Email your request to Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary, at records@utc.wa.gov. You may also mail your request to 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503, PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. You must file a request for Commission review no later than 14 days after the date of this letter.

Attachment D

Attachment D



Title*	Taste of the Valley, LLC
DBA Names	
Company Legacy ID	
Unified Business Identifier	604749086
Regulatory Status	Inactive
Contact Name	Todd Steel
Contact Title	Manager
Contact Phone	253-759-2287
Contact E-Mail Address	chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com; Todd@norpoint.com
Contact Fax	
Address Change Date	
Physical Address Street	2323 North 31st St, Ste 200
Physical Address City	Tacoma
Physical Address State	WA
Physical Address Zip	98403
Mailing Address Street	PO BOX 2132
Mailing Address City	Tacoma
Mailing Address State	WA
Mailing Address Zip	98401
Website	https://valleytaste.com/
Comments	
Company ID	23,775

Version: 12.0

Attachment E

Attachment E

Washington State Department of Revenue

Business Lookup

License Information:

New search Back to results

Entity name:	TASTE OF THE VALLEY, LLC
Business name:	TASTE OF THE VALLEY
Entity type:	Limited Liability Company
UBI #:	604-749-086
Business ID:	001
Location ID:	0001
Location:	Active
Location address:	1902 W PROSPECT ST # 305 CHELAN WA 98816-9218
Mailing address:	PO BOX 2132 TACOMA WA 98401-2132
Excise tax and reseller permit status:	Click here
Secretary of State information:	Click here

Endorsements

Endorsements held at this location	License #	Count	Details	Status	Expiration date	First issuance dat
Chelan Home Occupation Business	CUP2022-03			Active	May-31-2027	Jan-18-2022

Owners and officers on file with the Department of Revenue

Owners and officers	Title
STEEL, J TODD	

Registered Trade Names

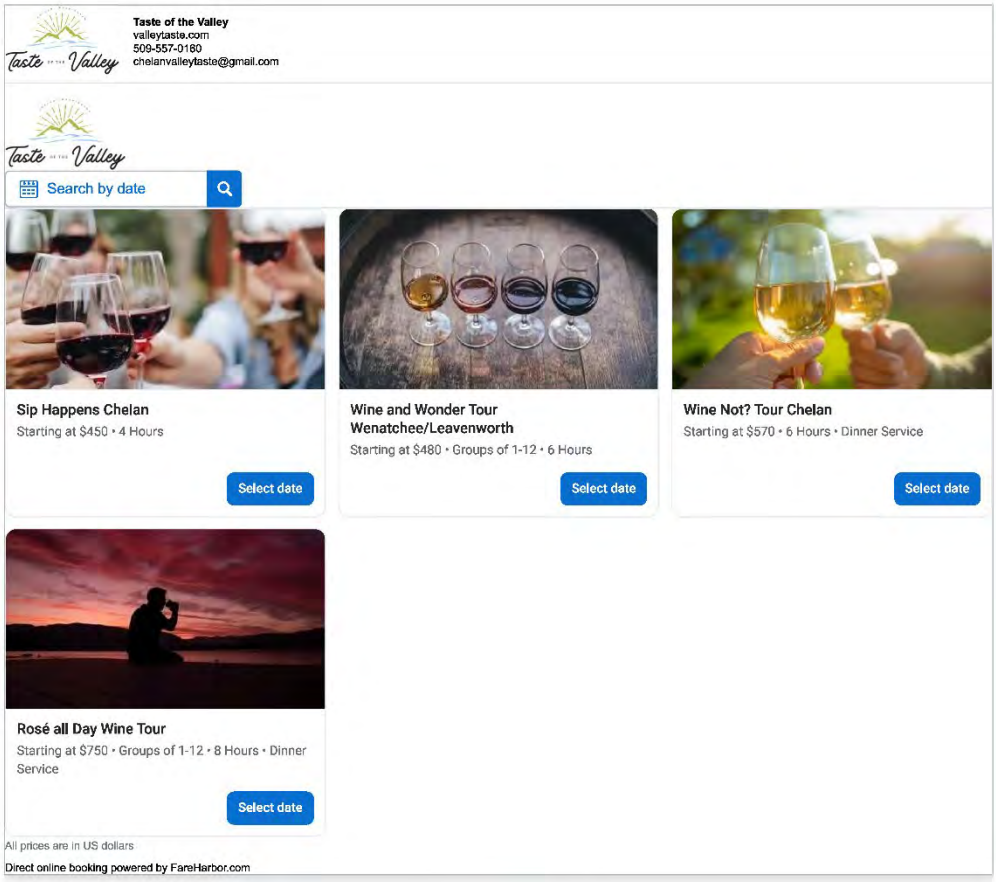
Registered trade names	Status	First issued
TASTE OF THE VALLEY	Active	May-19-2021

The Business Lookup information is updated nightly. Search date and time: 7/7/2026 1:18:21 PM

Contact us

Attachment F

Attachment F



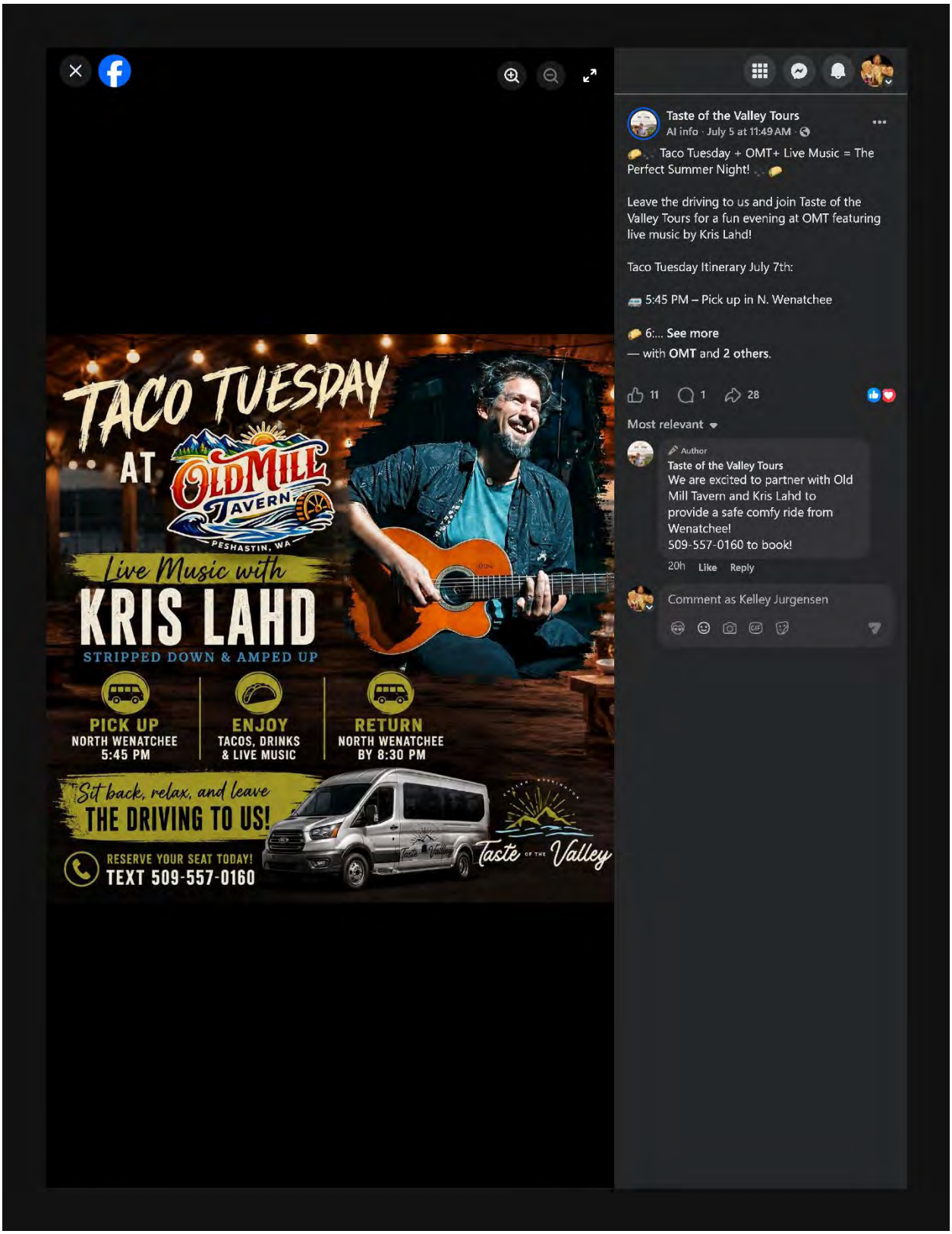
Todd and Tami have been coming to Lake Chelan for decades. Tami had been vacationing here for over 40 years and she introduced Todd to the beauty of the valley when they met over 25 years ago! Back then, there weren't any wineries, but when the first winery opened in 2000 it peaked their interest, as they loved both wine and the valley. Todd and Tami are so excited to continue their connection to the Lake Chelan Valley and they look forward to helping you enjoy it to the best of your abilities!

Corky

Our Tour Bus

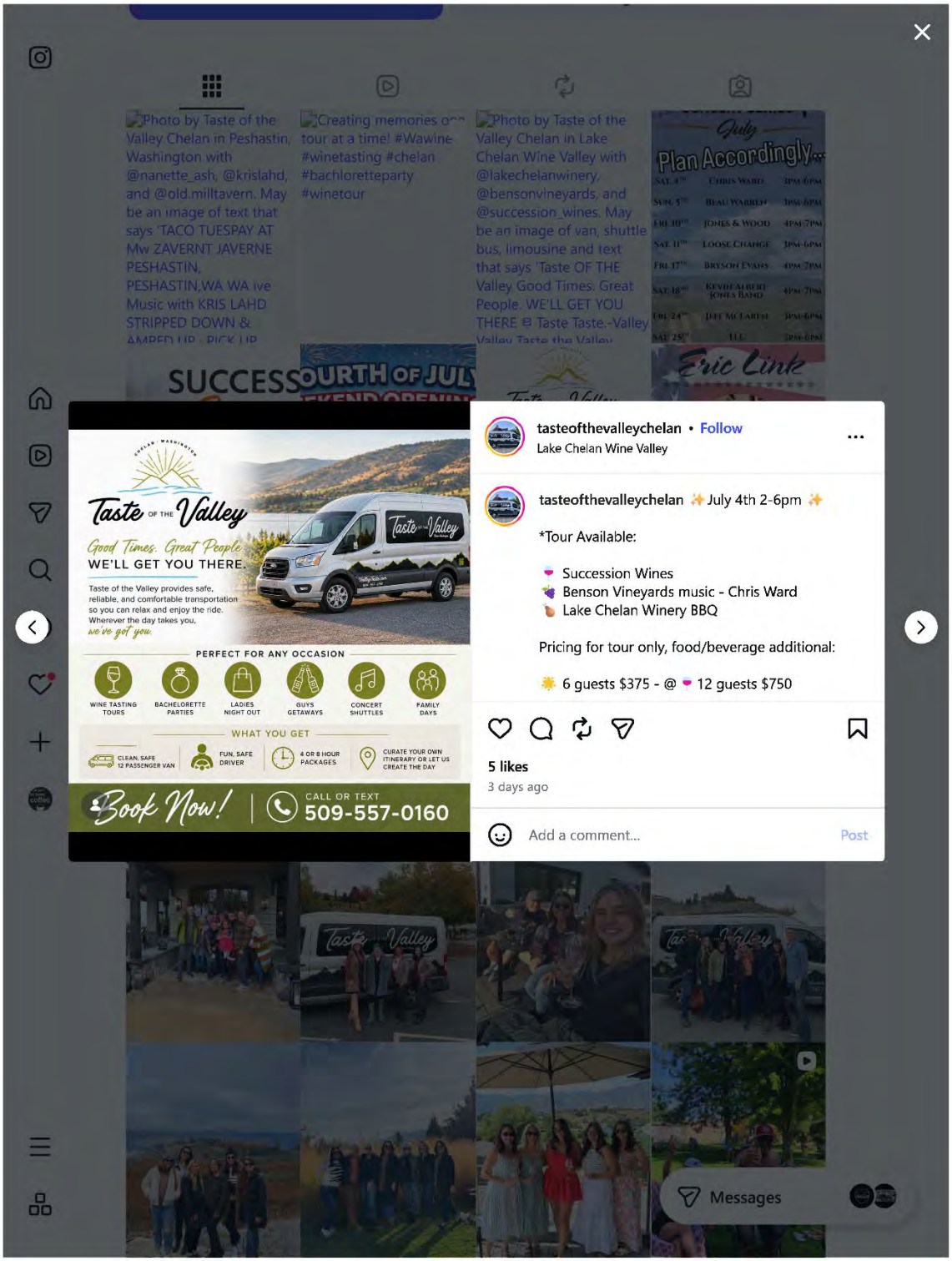
Attachment G

Attachment G



Attachment H

Attachment H



Attachment I

Attachment I

Gmail Kelley Jurgensen <kkplay1221@gmail.com>

Looking for girls day
5 messages

Kelley Jurgensen <kkplay1221@gmail.com> Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 4:30 PM
To: chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com

Can you pick up at our church? we need a tour for 12 of us from our group. Looking for a Saturday 3 or 4th weekend in August.

Questions: is this just for the transportation to each place or do we have additional costs when we go?

How much does it cost from our church 315 North Cedar STreet chelan WA

We are flexible but what a group day. same car etc...

Nanette and Shane Dillard <chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com> Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 4:39 PM
To: Kelley Jurgensen <kkplay1221@gmail.com>

Hi Kelley!

Yes we are happy to pick you up at the Church. The fee is for 4 hours, wine tasting fees are separate. In that time you could do 2-3 wineries, or other stops! Cider Press in Manson, Blueberry Hills etc. It's completely up to you, we can give lots of suggestions!!

If you want to book it let me know I will save the date for you while you figure out details!

Have a great evening!
Nanette
[Quoted text hidden]

Nanette and Shane Dillard <chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com> Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 4:40 PM
To: Kelley Jurgensen <kkplay1221@gmail.com>

I forgot to say we can have 12 guests in our van!!
[Quoted text hidden]

Kelley Jurgensen <kkplay1221@gmail.com> Tue, Jul 7, 2026 at 9:10 AM
To: Nanette and Shane Dillard <chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com>

Okay so i am thinking about August 22 - its a saturday. 12 of us - one van. total cost for the tour and what does that include?
[Quoted text hidden]

Nanette and Shane Dillard <chelanvalleytaste@gmail.com> Tue, Jul 7, 2026 at 9:52 AM
To: Kelley Jurgensen <kkplay1221@gmail.com>

Good Morning Kelley,

For August 22, 2026 for a 12 guest 4 hour tour would be $900. We can pick you up and return your group to the same location. The tour includes 2-3 stops depending on the length spent at each location. Since it is in town, travel time is less so 3 stops would easily be doable! Let me know if you have any other questions or are ready to book!

Taste of the Valley's Sip Happens tour offers a relaxed, wine tour designed to fit beautifully into just a few hours. Enjoy scenic drives, unhurried tastings at two or three hand-picked wineries, and the flexibility to choose a curated route or customize your own itinerary. Perfect for groups, this experience blends great wine, gorgeous views, and easy pacing leaving you plenty of time to enjoy the rest of your day in the valley.

What's included

Private tour for the booked group. If this is for a specific event, we will help you celebrate! Just let us know ahead of time!

Stops at two or three wineries - Fees are not included. Generally these are $10-20 per location. **We will make reservations at each location for you!**

Stops are not limited to wineries!

Itinerary

Create your own itinerary or Enjoy one of Taste of the Valley's curated tours. If you are interested in music or specific food choices we can design a tour around those. Tours generally start at 10:30 or 3:00, but there is some flexibility there. Additionally it is $100 for each additional hour if you would like a longer tour, if time is available. This can be added on the day of.

**** To avoid the 3% online booking fee please call and I will enter the information into our system for you!**

All our Best!
Nanette and Shane

[Quoted text hidden]