



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 21, 2024  
Contact: Corrina Desmarais, Older Adult Services Librarian  
360-683-1161 x2; [CDesmarais@nols.org](mailto:CDesmarais@nols.org)  
Re: Free online Humanities Washington talk, "Big Apples, Big Business"  
Attached: *AmandaVanLanen.jpg*

### **Humanities Washington speaker Amanda Van Lanen to discuss "Big Apples, Big Business" in a free online talk, Oct. 29**

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) presents Humanities Washington speaker, author and historian Amanda Van Lanen for her talk, "[Big Apples, Big Business: How Washington Became the Apple State](#)." The free virtual presentation is set for Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Register in advance at [NOLS.org/hw](https://NOLS.org/hw) to receive the Zoom link.

Have you ever wondered why so many apples in the grocery store look the same and why so many come from Washington? In this talk, explore how Washington became the top apple-producing state in the country, and how, in the process, it transformed apples into an industrialized commodity. Many regions in the West attempted to grow apples, but in Washington, big apples became big business thanks to the work of scientists, investors, irrigators, railroad corporations, marketers and apple growers.

Amanda Van Lanen considers how the history of Washington apples reflects larger changes happening in the American food system—changes that continue to affect our environment and the way we eat today.

### **About the Presenter**

Amanda L. Van Lanen (she/her) is a Professor of History at Lewis-Clark State College and the author of “The Washington Apple: Orchards and the Development of Industrial Agriculture.” She earned a Ph.D. in history at Washington State University, and blogs about food history at [historyreheated.com](http://historyreheated.com). Van Lanen lives in Asotin.

### **About Humanities Washington**

Humanities Washington is a nonprofit organization dedicated to opening minds and bridging divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives. For more about Humanities Washington, visit [humanities.org](http://humanities.org).

For more information about this and other library programs, visit [NOLS.org](http://NOLS.org), call 360-417-8500, or email [discover@nols.org](mailto:discover@nols.org).



*Humanities Washington speaker Amanda Van Lanen.*

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