



Mayor Carl Florea discusses Leavenworth Oktoberfest

By: ERIN MULLINS
Reporter

This week, the City announced an Oktoberfest held by the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce. The festival was originally going to be held by SE productions.

The split between Projekt Bayern's Oktoberfest the City's became clear in 2021 when Projekt Bayern announced their plan to move Oktoberfest to the Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee and the City of Leavenworth announcing their own Oktoberfest run by SE productions in Leavenworth.

Bayern Board Member Steve Lord declined to be interviewed but said Bayern was working on putting together a statement regarding the event and would be ready to release the statement soon. City Communication Analyst Christie Voos and Mayor Carl Florea insist the city is not bitter towards Bayern.

"That is up to them whether there is animosity. You know, they had the opportunity to continue to run the Oktoberfest that's located here that would have been sealed

back according to the [changes] we discussed, but they chose not to," Florea said.

Florea insists Bayern only needed to make changes to the way the festival was to be considered and to hold the festival in Leavenworth. But on Facebook, Bayern expresses that they worked hard to create a festival which met the city's request and were unable to.

"We own everything you see on site [at the festival]! Projekt Bayern and its committee has worked hard



Mayor Carl Florea

FILE PHOTO.

and met anything the city has asked through the festival and ad hoc committee! The organizations that we work with know that we have made this a better event," a Facebook post from March 18, 2021 states.

The post alleges that Florea unprofessionally referred to Oktoberfest as "drunkfest". Voos was not available for immediate comment regarding this allegation. Bayern also said that their organization has provided a lot of funds to improve the community, which were all paid for through Oktoberfest.

On their website, Bayern lists many community projects they have helped with. This includes \$115,000 for a Gazebo remodel, \$10,000 for wrestling mats for Cascade High School, \$65,000 for decorative Bavarian treatment on doors and windows at Cascade Medical Center and \$164,000 for new restrooms at Lions Club Park.

Florea acknowledges that Bayern has helped with city projects but thinks the revenue from the Oktoberfest held in Leavenworth

can still be used to do that. Florea said that he thinks the chamber will give back to the community via Oktoberfest in Leavenworth. He said SE productions decided independently to not continue with running the Oktoberfest event and he does not know the exact reason behind the decision.

"You would have to talk to [SE Productions] about what all went into their decision not to continue with it," he said. "They were very helpful in getting the ball rolling, and now the chamber is picking it up," he said.

Voos stated that Bayern has done quite a bit to contribute to the physical aspects of the city parks, like taking care of flowers. Florea said that Bayern started as a great service to promote the Bavarian theme and has a long, rich tradition, but that he isn't sure if that tradition is as strong today.

"You know [Bayern] has decided that they want to hold a festival similar to what they were doing here down in Wenatchee. And I just

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Local libraries offer plenty of events this summer

By: ERIN MULLINS
Reporter

The Leavenworth and Peshastin libraries have many fun events planned this summer, including the summer reading program, the ice cream social, crafts and STEM programming.

This year's summer reading program theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," and is for all ages from young children to adults. Those who read over the summer will be entered into a raffle with prizes and kids who read at least ten hours over the summer will get a few prizes, said Amy Massey, Leavenworth librarian.

"Come into the library to sign up. You get a fun activity pack that will encourage reading and exploring the library, neighborhood, and community," Massey said. "The summer program is also available online through the Beanstalk website and app. The online program mirrors the print activity packs."

Besides the summer reading program, fun events at the Leavenworth and Peshastin libraries include Tuesday Crafternoons, STEM science shows, community yoga and Tahitian dancing.

Tuesday Crafternoons run from 3:30 until 5 at Lions Club Park and feature a different craft each week. Massey said she is most looking forward to paper paint marbling in August. STEM science shows will be at 2 p.m. on July 19 at the Lions Club Park and July 21 in the Peshastin Library yard.

In Peshastin, Tahitian dancing takes place on Saturdays at 11 a.m. on July 16, July 30, Aug. 6, and Aug. 20. A T-shirt upcycling craft will take place Wed., Aug 17 at 5 p.m. and Ask a Beekeeper will take place Sat., Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. Community yoga is on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

There will be a stuffed animal campout in Peshastin, where kids can bring their stuffed animals to have a fun campout at the library and then pick them up the next day, on Friday, July 15 from 3-5 p.m. Peshastin librarian Clare Morrison said that stuffed animals will be well taken care of during the event.

"Stuffie campers will cook over a campfire and enjoy some s'mores in the library," Morrison said. "We'll make sure all stuffies get to bed before their bedtime and have a cozy place to sleep. Stuffies can come back to the libraries to visit their stuffie counselors anytime, George the Library Dog in Peshastin and The Leavenworth Library Bear."

One of the biggest events of the season will be the long-running ice cream social on July 30 at 7 p.m. at the Peshastin Library. The social was started in 1962 to raise funds for a new library building and earned \$113, with a new library being constructed in 1968, Morrison said.

This year's social will feature live music from local band Saddle Rockers, a book sale, face painting, desserts, rides on the auxiliary fire truck and

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Leavenworth City Council meets

By: ERIN MULLINS
Reporter

The July 12 Leavenworth City Council meeting started with Mayor Carl Florea calling the meeting to order. Florea then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Sharon Waters commented asking where the handwashing station was at the recycling center, since it was being paid for. Multiple city staff and councilmembers confirmed that the handwashing station was a porta potty with an included handwashing station outside of the center.

Councilmember Jason Lundgren then moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Anne Hessburg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. When public comment opened, community member Gary Day discussed his concerns with speeding on Pine Street

Day said when there was a speed monitor on Pine Street it reduced speeding issues by 70%. He said the speeding is caused by the lack of stop signs on the street and that the speed monitor should be put back. He said that during school the

speed limit is 20 mph, but the speed is normally 25 mph, which drivers exceed. Day is worried about the speeding because of the kids who play in the neighborhood and ride their bikes on the street.

"I decided to come to the meeting because Tom [Wacholder] is always in a meeting," Day said, referencing the work of the city's public works director.

Councilmember Carolyn Wilson addressed Wacholder's concerns and said that there was a community group meeting to discuss the speeding issue on Pine St., Florea said that the issue with one monitor is that a speed monitor is needed on every corner in Leavenworth.

Resolution 11-2022 Financial Policy was presented with suggested amendments reviewed by Chantell Steiner, Finance Director, and City Clerk. Councilmember Sharon Waters suggested a grammatical change, but the wording did not change. The policy was moved by Lundgren and approved as amended unanimously.

Resolution 12-2022, discussing how grants and loans would be distributed by the city, was presented with suggested amendments by Lilith Vespiar, Development Services Manager for the city. The resolution was created to bring clarity to

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Bob Bugert meeting discusses outdoor recreation, fire safety and short-term rentals



By: ERIN MULLINS
Reporter

On July 7 at Chelan County Fire District 3 community room County Commissioner Bob Bugert and invited speakers hosted a meeting discussing county government updates, natural resources, fire safety, construction, and short-term rentals. The invited speakers were County Engineer Eric Pierson, County Fire Marshal Steve Rinaldi and County Director of Natural

Resources Mike Kaputa.

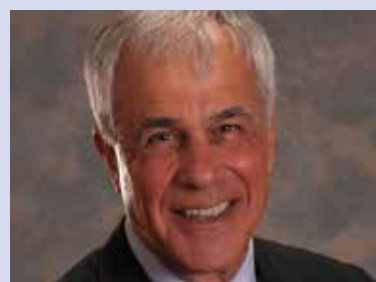
Pierson was the first speaker and gave an update on the Cascade Orchard Bridge, also known as Icicle Bridge, and said that an inch and a half of concrete will be grinded off the bridge deck and wider ADA compliant sidewalks will be created. He said the project is funded through a grant from the local bridge program and Department of Transportation credit.

Expanding the sidewalk reduces the drivable width of the bridge

from 24ft to 22 ft 8 inches, Pierson said. While most bikers will still be expected to use the road, children can use the sidewalk. The current reduced bridge speed limit of 25 MPH will be maintained.

Resurfacing the bridge and reinforcing the steel will be enough to reinforce the bridge for decades, Pierson said. He said that every bridge in the county is regularly inspected, and the Icicle Bridge was

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Chelan County Fire District 3 community room County Commissioner Bob Bugert

FILE PHOTO.



Uma Fok smiles as she shows off her completed book bag craft.

PHOTO BY AMY MASSEY

Inside The ECHO this week

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Inserts: Safeway
Dan's Market



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Chelan PUD invests in equipment upgrades, hazard tree removal

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL HANSEN

Senior Communications Strategist

Lake Wenatchee - Chelan PUD has been working hard to reduce fire risk and ensure safe, reliable electricity, especially around Lake Wenatchee and Plain. As your publicly owned utility, we're sharing an important update on those efforts.

Over the years, we've built a comprehensive wildfire mitigation plan and it continues to evolve. Here are some highlights:

- More frequent inspections and pruning of trees and shrubs threatening power lines
- Increasing the sensitivity of our fault detection system during fire season
- Undergrounding overhead power lines where feasible

- Fire safety outage management
 - Vegetation Management
- Chelan PUD hires contract tree crews to prune trees or cut down trees that are dead, diseased, and threatening utility lines. This work benefits the community in two ways:

Improves service reliability by preventing trees from growing or falling into powerlines. Heavy snow, ice or wind can break tree limbs and/or uproot trees, which can result in unplanned power outages.

It reduces the risk of fire starts from trees in contact with utility equipment. In certain conditions, a spark could ignite dry and dead brush under the utility lines and threaten public safety.

In 2020, Chelan PUD adopted an increased vegetation

management standard that calls for more-frequent inspections and shortened pruning cycles, especially in areas prone to fire. For 2022, we plan to inspect about 800 miles of transmission and distribution lines, and prune or remove about 10,000 trees.

The crews accomplish this work in a variety of ways, including electric and hydraulic saws designed to cut without throwing sparks. In other situations, slashbuster mowers are utilized to mow woody materials under the utility lines. Any work near high-voltage utility lines requires special training and licensing.

Some shrubs and trees we encounter grow naturally, but sometimes they're planted. To learn more about powerline-

friendly landscaping options, check out our Right Tree, Right Place planting guide at <http://www.chelanpud.org/plantguide>

If you have concerns about a tree on your property that's near a utility line, contact Vegetation Management at (509) 661-4508.

Operational changes

If you notice your power flicker or if you experience a brief outage this summer, it's probably because we've increased the sensitivity of our fault detection system during fire season. This system will tell us if there's a potential issue we need to investigate, such as a branch or animal contact. We will restore power after service personnel inspects the problem and gives the all-clear.

This operational change is intended to reduce the risk of fire starts. Last summer, some customers noticed more frequent power outages as a result of these changes. This summer, our goal is fewer outages, and a smaller footprint when outages occur.

To accomplish that goal, Chelan PUD is investing in several equipment upgrades, including:

More fault indicators: These amber-colored lights help our crews find problems along overhead lines during their patrols.

Animal guards: Protects

animals from contacting live electrical lines and equipment.

Setting changes by remote control: This change will allow Chelan PUD to increase the sensitivity of the system only when weather conditions warrant it, such as red-flag warning days.

Undergrounding lines

Chelan PUD is planning one of its largest overhead-to-underground conversion projects in recent memory along River Road next year.

When we evaluate potential undergrounding projects, we assess several factors: Constructability, access, easements, cost, fire risk, density, and more. It's a complicated and expensive undertaking, about \$1 million a mile.

Staff met with River Road residents in June to discuss converting about 1.7 miles of overhead utility lines underground, from the train tracks to the end of the pavement. Overall, customers were largely supportive.

As for next steps, staff will continue to develop the project design and secure the necessary easements and permitting. The project is slated to bid by the end of 2022, with construction scheduled for mid-2023. To learn more, visit chelanpud.org/riverroad.

Fire safety outage management

A fire safety outage is a proactive power outage designed to prevent catastrophic wildfire ignitions from utility equipment. We hope we never have to use it, but if we do, it's an occasion when the threat to public safety is greater than the impacts of

losing power.

We're constantly watching the weather forecasts using data from the National Weather Service, state Department of Natural Resources and other weather-monitoring services. We're tracking several factors, including predicted wind gusts, humidity, fuel moisture and potential fire behavior.

Last year, we heard questions about how often we expect to see the kinds of conditions that may prompt a fire safety outage. According to a 7-year analysis of local weather data, there was only one date when conditions met that threshold - July 14, 2014 - the night that the Carlton Complex fire made its big run toward Pateros. That said, historical weather patterns are changing, which means it's hard to predict how often these conditions may occur in the future.

If we must use a fire safety outage, we will notify our customer-owners as soon as possible, typically 48 hours in advance.

Here's what you can do to prepare:

- Update your contact information: chelanpud.org/updateyourinfo
- Sign up for AlertSense notifications: public.alertsense.com
- Visit our Outage and Safety Center to learn what to do before and during a power outage.

Do you rely on electricity to operate medical equipment? Let us know by joining the Electrical Medical Needs Registry: chelanpud.org/medform. Also, sign up for Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue's Vulnerable Persons Registry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO.

Chelan PUD hires contract tree crews to prune trees or cut down trees that are dead, diseased, and threatening utility lines. This work reduces wildfire risk, and it improves reliability during winter months, when heavy snow or ice can damage trees.

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Meet Shon Smith



Shon Smith (51) was raised in Cashmere with conservative values, and has become an integral part of the Wenatchee River Valley with businesses in Wenatchee and Leavenworth. Shon, his wife Janeen, and their four children worship at Mid-Valley Baptist Church, and are actively involved with the Cashmere schools.

Shon has a great concern for the ongoing health of the Valley, its resources, its people, and our private property rights. He also has a passion for the success of small businesses because of their great impact on Chelan County.

He graduated from Cashmere High School in 1989, and in 1993 from Northwest Nazarene University with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on finance. After college, Shon worked at Idaho Timber in Boise for two years. In 1995, missing the Valley, Shon returned with Janeen and worked for two years at Dovex Fruit Company in Wenatchee. Both work experiences gave Shon a feel for the timber and fruit industries and the impacts they have on our region. Shon then put his personal business plan into action by opening the Wok-About-Grill in Wenatchee (1997) and another in Leavenworth (2014).

Generations of Shon's family have farmed Eastern Washington, hunted and fished the lands and waters of Chelan County, and have treated the land and the environment with respect. So great is their appreciation for our rivers and lakes that Shon hopes these natural resources will be preserved as gifts to be esteemed by all. Some changes are inevitable, but solutions to issues need to ensure that we make an effort to maintain our identity for the future, especially for our families!

www.smith4commissioner.com

This ad paid for the Committee to Elect Shon Smith, 7335 Brender Canyon Rd, Cashmere, WA 98815

Oktoberfest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

think, you know, more power to them. That might be a great place to hold something of that size, down in a bigger city," he said.

"So, I don't wish them ill-will, but I just don't think that continuing it up here, to have that same type of event was the best thing for Leavenworth," Florea concluded.

Voos said that the contract with Bayern was a five-year contract to rent out the parking lots, P1 and P2, located downtown. She said that the contract would auto-renew every five years unless either party said at least one year before the renewal date that they wanted to renegotiate the contract. The City gave Bayern notice in 2021 that they were not going to renew the contract.

"We wanted to revisit that agreement and we didn't want to take parking for Oktoberfest," she said. "Because we need parking. And because Front Street is closed. So, we said, 'hey, here are our stipulations for what we are looking for in the future.'"

Voos said that the city has never had a contract to put on the Oktoberfest event and that the contract was simply an agreement to rent out the parking lots. Voos said the city gave 541 days notice that they wanted to renegotiate the parking lot contract and put out a request for proposal for a modified Oktoberfest.

The City invited Bayern and everyone else to apply for the proposal for an Oktoberfest with a smaller footprint, Voos

said, but that the city went in a different direction than Bayern did.

On their website, Bayern also states that they have provided over \$1.7 million in payroll for hourly workers at Oktoberfest.

"This event belongs to Projekt Bayern, it is not a city thing," stated Bayern's 2021 Facebook post. "The major thing Florea did not mention is that we pay rent for the lots and Festhalle... 2019 was \$20,000 plus \$50,000 after the event = \$70,931 to the City of Leavenworth. We have been donating the \$50,000 since the warehouse came down and then when the contract was up, we decided to keep helping them."

Florea confirmed that Projekt Bayern paid to rent to Leavenworth Festhalle for "basically the whole month of October" since they needed space to take down and set up the weekend event.

He said that while it is true that Bayern paid \$50,000 per year to rent the parking lots, it was a replacement of parking revenue and not a donation. He says he is not sure if there was a donation to the city for parking apart from the rent and is not aware of one.

"They've been paying for the use of those parking lots, but it didn't even give us the same amount that we would have gotten by parking revenue in the month of October because it basically took up all of those lots for the whole month," he said.

The City wanted Oktoberfest to be more family friendly this year, Voos said. The City did not want parking to spill out into residential areas during

the festival, wanted to involve local breweries and wanted the festival to be more spread out.

When the city was creating a proposal for a new Oktoberfest, she said the city heard from residents that they didn't want to come to traditional Oktoberfest and wanted a festival for people of all ages.

On the chamber's website, they state that the Oktoberfest in Leavenworth will include two beer gardens, one at Leavenworth Festhalle and one at Front Street Park. Local breweries involved include Icicle Brewing Co., Doghaus Brewing and Blewett Brewing. Co. A Kinder Platz will feature kids' activities and a root beer garden.

On Bayern's Oktoberfest website, they state the event will operate shuttles in Leavenworth and Wenatchee, will feature live entertainment, free parking and upgraded VIP areas. There will also be all-imported German beer, an expanded kids' area and an expanded vendor area.

For now, the new Oktoberfest in Leavenworth proper will be known as "Oktoberfest 2022," while the Oktoberfest run by Projekt Bayern in Wenatchee will be known as "Leavenworth Oktoberfest."

Tourists who end up at the wrong Oktoberfest should be able to take Projekt Bayern shuttles to Leavenworth or buses from Wenatchee to get to the correct event. Tourists who take another route entirely and decide to celebrate emerging from COVID with an international Oktoberfest in Germany will hopefully enjoy the schnitzel.

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OBITUARY

Ray Benjamin Fichtner

Jan 26, 1938 - July 10, 2022

Ray was born in Billings, Montana to Ben and Katherine Fichtner. He graduated from Billings High School in 1957 and after high school enlisted in the Marine Corp. Ray married Judith Colleen Hopkins on Sept 23rd, 1960. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Judy. Their children Colleen Fichtner, Dale Fichtner, and wife Verna (Benjamin, Rachel, and Katherine), Debora (Fichtner) Hoyt and husband Christopher Hoyt (Isabella); his brother Jim Fichtner and wife Pamela.

Ray worked as a lineman for 38 years and retired from the Chelan County PUD in 2000. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for 60 years. He was also a member of the Wm. H Jett Lodge #285,

the Astral Chapter #75 Order of the Eastern Star, the Royal Arch Masons – Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite Valley of Wenatchee, and the El Katif Shrine of Spokane. Ray was also a founding member of Eastmont Baptist Church in East Wenatchee and a member of First Baptist Church in Leavenworth, Washington.

Ray's passion was restoring vintage cars and attending swap meets to buy and sell cars, car parts, and catch up with old friends. In 1982 he won first place with his custom 1957 Chevy at Mini Nationals in Missoula, Montana. He enjoyed traveling around the world with his wife Judy and their friends. Ray and Judy traveled from Alaska to the Caribbean, and from Europe to Australia and New Zealand always



cherishing their time together and the love they shared. Ray was a wonderful and caring husband, father and friend and will be greatly missed by those who were touched by his life.

Please share your thoughts and memories at the online guestbook at Jones & Jones – Betts Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Instead of flowers we would ask that you make a donation to: Greater Wenatchee Mended Hearts – P.O. Box 3231 Wenatchee, WA. 98807.

OBITUARY

Howard Gordon Cook, Jr.

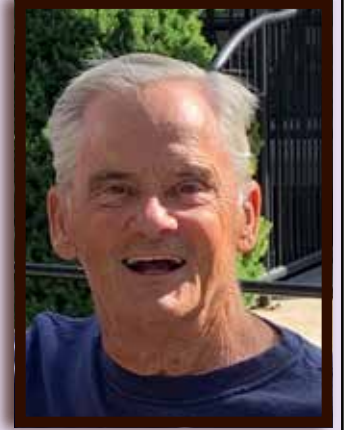
December 24, 1945 - July 7, 2022

On Thursday, July 7, 2022, Howard Gordon Cook Jr., loving husband, father, and friend, passed away at age 76. Howard was born in Seattle, WA on December 24, 1945, to Howard and Edith (Barstow) Cook. Soon after high school graduation, he served four years in the United States Air Force as a weapons mechanic, earning the Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He went on to receive his BA in education from the University of Washington and later earned his administrative credentials through Washington State University. Spending most of his career as an educator in the Cascade School District, he taught various high

school classes, coached several sports, and became the CHS assistant principal before becoming Osborn Elementary principal and eventually the superintendent.

Howard enjoyed many hobbies including music, running, baseball, reading, and golf. However, it was the people in his life that he valued the most. He cared deeply, not only for his family, but also for students, staff, and friends. If anyone needed help, he was there immediately with wisdom, a positive attitude, and a quick wit to make you laugh.

Howard was preceded in death by his father, Howard, his mother Edith, and sisters Peggy Clark and Margie Tracy. He is survived by his wife of 50 years; Peggy Cook,



two daughters; Mandi Muscutt (Terry Muscutt) and Gina Kelly (Michael Kelly), and five grandchildren; Kascia Muscutt, Lauren Muscutt, Taylor Kelly, Mason Kelly, and Makena Kelly.

As a lover of Jesus, he has gone to Heaven to be home with the Father and other loved ones that passed before him. A service will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at Cascade High School, 10190 Chumstick Highway, Leavenworth, WA at 11:00 a.m.

We are here to serve families in Leavenworth, Peshastin, Plain and the entire Upper Valley.

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Obituary & Memorial Policies

NCW Media, Inc.: Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, Lake Chelan Mirror, Quad City Herald

An Obituary is a way for family member(s) to commemorate a loved one's life and to notify the community of the passing of the loved one. Obituaries are also used for historical and ancestral data.

Memorials are another way to let the community know about the life and memories of the person who has passed. A Memorial is different from an Obituary. An Obituary is usually current, while a Memorial can be written later.

Obituaries and Memorials need to be typed and emailed as a Word Document. They can be placed in one or more papers - all publish weekly on Wednesday.

Obituaries are priced by the number of words and include one color photo and go online at no extra charge. Memorials are priced per column inch. Please call for cost. *Payment is due at the time of placement. *Exception: Chapels, funeral homes who have an account, can be billed. There is no charge for a Death Notice - information is limited.

Deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday - some exceptions may apply.

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CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
303 Maple Street • 509-782-2431
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke
www.cashmerepres.org

CASHMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
213 S. Division • 509-782-3811
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Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
• 509-860-0736 401 Elberta Ave.,
Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist.
9:30 a.m. for the summer, rotating
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Pastor Rob Gohl

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PESHASTIN

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Roe v. Wade Overturned, and I rejoice



A WALK WITH PASTOR

John Smith

I never thought I would see the day that Roe v. Wade would be overturned. However, according to the majority opinion from SCOTUS, the reversal of one of the darkest and most disastrous decisions within our history is a real possibility.

The leaked opinion articulated what many of us have been saying for years: SCOTUS doesn't make laws and the right to abortion is non-existent within the

Constitution. In fact, abortion is the antithesis of what the Constitution was designed to protect—the inalienable rights of every American citizen.

The reversal of Roe v. Wade would mean a rejection of the paradigm that has existed for decades which has justified the killing of countless unborn lives and could be a sign of a national repentance concerning the wholesale slaughter of innocent children. As of yet, nothing official has happened, but I cannot help but rejoice and give glory to God for the potential.

As Christians everywhere rejoice; many in this country are acting as if the world is ending. Politicians, leaders, those of the media, and many others are organizing, giving passionate speeches, and evoking imagery of poor

hapless women suffering akin to that of *The Handmaid's Tale*. One politician stated on the floor of Congress that the leak of this opinion was a “dark and disturbing morning in America.” Others have said that they will “fight like hell” to keep abortion legal in this country.

But, with all the emotion, pounding on the podiums, and demonstrating, what exactly are they fighting like hell for?

The rhetoric of women's healthcare, personal freedom, and privacy doesn't hold up when the fruit of that is the murder of the unborn. In other words, abortion is not healthcare because babies are killed, nor do we have the right to murder innocent people in the privacy of our own homes. Furthermore, no one has ever benefited from abortion on

demand and without apology. African American women (the largest demographic of those getting abortions) are still impoverished. Abusers and rapists remain unpunished and continue their victimization without recourse. A whole nation suffers under the covenant of death made in 1973.

So, tell me again, why is abortion worth fighting for?

I am aware that this decision from the SCOTUS doesn't effectively end abortion in this country. Instead, it puts the decision-making process back to the states. It is up to the individual states to determine their position on abortion, and I pray that their decision matches what is revealed by God's Law. God's Law states that murder is a sin and that depriving justice for the innocent is worthy of

condemnation (Exodus 20:13, Isa. 10:2). With that being said, I am intrigued to see what Oklahoma, Mississippi, Texas, and other states where there are strict restrictions on abortion will do. Will they go all the way and ban it? I would hope so because, frankly, they don't have the excuse of SCOTUS and Roe v. Wade anymore.

In the coming days, I anticipate that there will be more heated discussions and more bombast from the pro-choice, pro-murder crowd, which I do not necessarily see as a bad thing. Their rancor exposes more of the fruit of this movement and should stun us all that there are people in this country that are actually upset those babies get to live. Read that statement again. People are upset that babies

get to live.

This opinion from SCOTUS is a step in the right direction, and we should rejoice. However, now is not the time to get complacent. There is still much work to be done to see abortion abolished in this country, and to close this dark chapter in our nation's history requires the effort of the Church to pray, preach, and labor against this evil.

Like slavery, abortion will be abolished, and we are off to a good start to see it happen soon.

Editor's note: This is Pastor Smith's opinion letter and does not reflect the views or opinions of NCW Media. Pastor John Smith of Evergreen Baptist Church in Cashmere can be reached at pastorjohnsmith@bc@gmail.com.

Brixey enjoys new adventures

Andrea Brixey, who spent 18 years as an English teacher at Cascade High School and Icicle River Middle School, took on a different role this year as an academic counselor. Originally, Brixey planned to leave the school district after the 2021 school year because of burnout due to the COVID pandemic, but that all changed when then principal Elia Ala'ilima-Daley asked her to be the academic counselor.

When Ala'ilima-Daley asks you to do something, it is hard to say no, Brixey said.

“It's more connected to his kindness. He's such a kind, earnest, human being. And when someone like that asks you for help, you really want to say yes,” she said.

Brixey said that she had always been interested in academic counseling and that she has had a lot of training in how high school schedules work, academic requirements for post-secondary plans and has taken many psychology courses, although she does not have official counseling certification.

Since she was not hired as a full-time certificated employee but instead was filling in

as a long term sub, Brixey did not need to have official counseling certification. She worked directly under Katie Schmitzen, social worker for the school, and referred anything to her that wasn't about classes or a bad day.

However, now that the academic counselor position has been filled, Brixey has exciting plans. Her husband, Chris Brixey, got a job in Costa Rica and she is going along with him and will be working separately as a horse guide, which has been her dream job since her early twenties. Her original career plans were to work with horses in Alaska in the Summer and Costa Rica in the winter, but instead she started her career as a truck driver and waitress before moving on to teaching.

When asked if she can see herself horse guiding long term, Brixey burst out happily laughing.

“I think that it is safe to say yes. I can see myself doing that long term. That is the best question maybe anyone has ever asked me,” she said. “Because I have pretty much been sitting on a horse since I was three years old at least once a day. But yes, I can



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN DICKINSON
Brixey stunts riding in Malaga

totally see myself doing this for the long term.”

Brixey said she has always liked working with kids and is going to miss the unexpected joy of new ideas and new ways of thinking that they have that she could never have imagined. One of the things about being an adult is you get stuck in a rut of thought and behavior patterns, she said, and you don't even realize that you are stuck until someone younger is looking at all the same things totally differently.

She said that she isn't qualified to say whether or not COVID caused an increase in mental health problems because it was her first year in counseling, but said kids are some of the most sane people to be around because of their inherent intelligence, optimism and lack of baggage.

“I'm more concerned about everyone's mental health, not just young people,” Brixey said. “I mean, right, I think we live in a pressure cooker of a world with a constant

barrage from screens that makes it very difficult to relax and be in the moment and appreciate the air in your lungs. I think that human beings are under the constant pressure of worry that we get from the internet.”

Supporting kids' mental health in the school system can be a catch-22, she said. Since we live in a society that rewards constant productivity 24/7, it is hard to prepare students for adult life, which can be “inherently crazy

making”, in a way that isn't stressful when the kids have to always be in competition, she said.

Brixey said that she explored different post-secondary plans with students depending on their temperament that went beyond just college. She talked to kids about Wenatchee Valley Tech Center, trade programs, college and other options. She said that the number one thing she learned from her year as a counselor was to listen.

“To listen. To listen more than I talk, which I think as you can imagine, you know, that was pretty low-hanging fruit for me,” Brixey said with a laugh.

But now, Brixey will no longer spend her days listening to students wax and wane about their dream colleges or bemoan the frustration of finding scholarships, but instead listen to the ocean waves and forest sighs while horse guiding in the wilderness of Costa Rica.

While she is gone, she will rent out her house and her mom will take care of her “small” animals while her friend Karen Dickinson will take care of her “tall” animals. Brixey isn't sure if she will spend the rest of her life horse guiding in Costa Rica, but for now she will replace the 24 hour glow of screens with the 24 hour rise and fall of the tropical sun.

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City Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

how grants are submitted and reviewed. The motion was moved by Wilson and seconded by councilmember Anne Hessburg and passed unanimously.

Ordinance 1658, the quarterly budget amendment, was presented by Steiner. The budget had been amended to include a changing in wording regarding the cemetery and

transportation. There was a brief discussion regarding union negotiations, after which the motion was moved and passed without issue.

After that, the meeting moved on to council member and committee reports as well as mayor and administration reports. Wilson reported that she attended the Festhalle Oversight Committee meeting, and those bylaws were changed and that meetings were changed from monthly

to quarterly. The group discussed the committee being moved to becoming an official city affiliated group.

Waters reported that she had an amazing experience as an ambassador for the Autumn Leaf Festival. Councilmember Clint Strand reported that a detailed presentation was given at the Economic Development Meeting regarding the possibility of an ice rink in Leavenworth. He said that the proposal seemed

feasible.

Hessburg reported that the city is working on testing parking sensors and videos that will monitor when cars enter and leave parking spots. She is working on designing parking lots and the subcommittee is expected to present their annual plan soon. The meeting ended by a motion to end moved by Lundgren and seconded by council member Marco Aurilio.

Bob Bugert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

listed as deficient but only due to the bridge deck. He said that every other part of the bridge was functional. The repairs should last for thirty years.

The bridge will be closed for a full month in August. Pierson said that it is not possible to keep the bridge open just for pedestrians because of all the construction equipment and construction processes. He said the project is being done in late summer because of the hot weather needed for working with concrete and to not interfere with bus schedules.

Kaputa was the second speaker and discussed the study done on tubing in the river. He said that on a peak day in the summer 2,000 tubers were counted in the Wenatchee River. The community has had concerns about overcrowding, tubers trespassing, and water safety.

Kaputa said one solution funded by the chamber is having ambassadors to sit and talk to tubers at popular river sites about how to tube and fun things to do as well as having ambassadors to sit at local trails and talk to hikers about the area. This is the second year of the ambassador program, but since water has been so high Kaputa hasn't

seen any of the ambassadors out yet.

Some community members have suggested creating a permitting system for tubing or charging a fee, he said. An attending community member asked what could be done to address the safety issues of cars parked down both sides of the road to go tubing, which causes pedestrians and cyclists to be forced into the road.

Kaputa acknowledged the parking issues but said that parking isn't currently prohibited to one side of the road and cars can park as long as they are off the roadway. He said that alternative solutions to the parking issue still need to be discussed.

The Sheriff's office doesn't have authority to tow cars who are parked on the side of the road by the river. A shuttle service could be a possible solution to the parking issue near the bridge, but Bugert said that parking issues are county wide and have only been solved with “band aids” but the county is working on finding a more holistic solution.

Kaputa also discussed the Icicle Creek Integrated Water Resource Management Survey. A workgroup, Icicle Workgroup, was created for water management at Icicle Creek in 2012 because of a preceding 25 years of litigation between the fish hatchery,

conservation groups, the tribes, the city, and others surrounding water usage.

The work group is dedicated, and no one has missed a meeting in ten years, Kaputa said. Big focuses of the workgroup are making sure that the low-streamflow creek provides enough water to every group that needs water, providing a non-litigious path to address conflicts, modifying existing water storage, creating new water storage, working on fish passage and improving water equipment like irrigation pipes.

After Kaputa spoke, Rinaldi addressed fire safety and the Wildland Urban Interface Code. The way that fire hazard is designated has been amended in the county code, he said. Areas of fire hazard are being expanded and areas where campfires and burning is allowed will be further restricted. The new fire hazard levels are designed to be more aligned with federal ratings.

The creation of the new fire hazard levels was overseen by an advisory board consisting of various forest service employees, representatives from the Yakima reservation, and other agencies, Rinaldi said. A community member asked over Zoom if residential homeowners had reduced fire insurance costs compared with commercial properties.

Rinaldi said that the costs depend on individual companies. He said the fire department works with the Washington Rating Bureau to rate properties based on things like location of fire hydrants and where the property is located. That information is passed on the insurance companies and used to determine costs. He said that some companies are deciding to limit their liability when it comes to fires.

The Wildlife Urban Interface Code has been updated to try and help cover structures in areas that have been rated as high-risk areas and are not covered well by insurance companies, Rinaldi said. Public comments towards the amendments included those in favor and those concerned about how the code would be implemented in areas like Wenatchee and Leavenworth.

The code was designed to create cohesive county wide practices regarding wildfires, Rinaldi said. The code addresses how to make houses more fire safe by doing things like eliminating plastic gutters which melt easily, eliminating combustible liquids or things like lawn furniture during active fires, and creating houses which are not built on top of materials that are highly combustible.

A unique problem that the western states face

in fighting fires is having adequate resources, Rinaldi said. Sometimes, county fire resources will be dispatched to other districts that have a higher need for firefighters and are not available to fight fires in the county. Since there are not enough resources to sit in front of every house, it is important to make property defensible from fires, he said.

Chelan County has a very high fire risk, Rinaldi said. With more people moving here and building houses in the area, these houses are being built farther out and in areas of higher fire hazard. If the insurance companies feel that the code helps properties to be more fire safe, they are more likely to provide insurance at a lower rate and provide insurance for high-risk areas, he said.

After the regular meeting, concerns about short term rentals were addressed. Bugert said that more short-term rentals currently exist than were planned to exist relative to total housing in the county. This is especially prominent in the 98826 zip code he said, with 485 short term rentals currently when adhering to the cap would mean there were 264 short term rentals.

Bed and Breakfasts, where the property owner lives on the property, even when guests are there, are not regulated in

the same way as a short-term rental. Bed and Breakfasts do not have restrictions on how many are allowed. Bugert said that three code enforcement officers have finally been hired to address code enforcement issues for short term rentals.

The officers are former law enforcement officers who decided to switch careers and apply for the code enforcement positions, Bugert said. He said they will likely work odd hours, like evenings and weekends, when code enforcement is needed.

Community member Barbara Rossing said that neighbors have no recourse for short term rentals and that they are straining the resources of neighborhoods. Rossing said that people are illegally converting garages to bedrooms and getting it approved, having 16 people allowed at rentals when the limit was supposed to be 12 and having loud parties.

Bugert replied that he has heard these concerns from community members but has also heard short term rental owners who are worried they won't be able to run their businesses in certain ways. He said that the county is trying to come up with solutions and changes to the code that better fit everyone. While the county isn't perfect, Bugert said, it is working on becoming better.

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The Washington Outdoors Report



PHOTO BY JOHN KRUISE.

Terri McLain with her 121-pound halibut



PHOTO BY JOHN KRUISE.

Sportsman's Cove Lodge on Prince of Wales Island

North to Alaska (Again)

By JOHN KRUISE

Last week I got the opportunity to go fishing in Alaska again with my daughter, Faith. Our destination was Sportsman's Cove Lodge on Prince of Wales Island, offering the opportunity to catch halibut, cod and salmon in a wilderness setting with luxury accommodations and gourmet dining. It's a place we've been to three times now and we have loved every expedition.

On past trips we were blessed with mild winds and sunny days but this time we were treated to real Alaskan weather (cool and wet). Normally we take a scenic 15-minute floatplane ride from Ketchikan to the lodge but the weather ruled that out with a low cloud ceiling and stiff winds so the boats that take us out fishing made a two-hour voyage from the lodge to town where the 30 departing guests were let off and our group of 30 embarked.

Arriving at the lodge that night we had a delicious dinner before turning in for the night. The next day, we met our Captain, Brian Williamson, deckhand (Solomon) and two couples from Texas who had come here together. They

were Todd and Terri McLain along with Marcy and Mark McHenry, the two men being former fraternity brothers at the University of Arkansas in the early 1980's.

Heading out of the secluded cove where the lodge was located, we were again greeted with rain and steady winds. Nobody had much luck fishing the halibut grounds the six-boat charter fleet usually goes to and our Captain decided to try for some more protected waters. The move was a good one. Faith soon hooked up with a big 70-pound halibut that we released at the boat. Not long after that, Terri McLain hooked into a monster halibut that weighed more and was measured longer than she did. Despite that Terri was able to get the 65-inch, 121-pound halibut to the boat where the captain shot it with a .410-gauge shotgun before Todd McLain and the deckhand hauled the massive flatfish into the boat.

Anglers are allowed to keep one halibut a day but halibut between 40 and 80-inches have to be released unless you are willing to pay for them through the Guided Angler Fish (GAF) program. This program allows commercial anglers to sell some of the fish they have in their catch quota to anglers on

board charter boats. The price for this halibut? \$525; a price the McLain's and McHenry's decided to go in on together.

The next two days brought better weather. It still rained off and on, but the wind was not blowing and the bite improved too. We caught halibut, true cod, rockfish (most of which were released) and a few salmon, to include a 15.6-pound king salmon caught by Faith, the biggest of the trip for our group.

Unfortunately for us, the salmon (kings, silvers, pinks and chum) were just starting to show up in our area during our time there. The day after we left, we heard from one of the deckhands that we just missed out. The salmon had just shown up in good numbers and were being caught by anglers in all of the boats. Despite the weather (and taking home a few less fish than we were used to), the whole experience remained amazing. The scenery is beautiful and wildlife is abundant. We saw two black bears, deer, eagles galore, as well as sea lions, Orca whales, humpback whales and porpoise during our trip.

There was a new chef this year and the food the cook staff served was amazing! We

dined on halibut Olympia our first night, fresh caught cod fish and chips along with clam chowder made from scratch on the second and a glazed salmon dish that followed an amazing appetizer of sushi rolls for our final dinner. The desserts were delightful and tasty too. Blueberry cobbler and the best lemon cheesecake I've ever had all helped me to put on several pounds during our four-day, three-night stay at the lodge. Couple the food with the amazing customer service, made possible with a staff of 31 employees for our group of 30 guests, and we were pampered, well fed and ready for every morning of fishing we got to enjoy.

Sportsman's Cove Lodge is fully booked for this season and is already filling up for 2023. If you are interested in finding out more and booking a trip, you won't regret it. The website to go to is www.alaskasbestlodge.com and if you have any questions feel free to shoot me an email at john@northwesternoutdoors.com, I'll be happy to help you plan a great fishing trip to Alaska!

John Kruse - www.northwesternoutdoors.com and www.americasoutdoorsradio.com

Multiple Water Rescue Operations on July 12

Chief Of Operation Chris Foreman provided details on recent water rescue incidents taking place on July 12. Foreman said that there were two inner tubers who went past the takeout point for tubing. The tubers ended up at Barn Beach rapids and jumped out of their tubes in panic. He said that a Hispanic female, who was tubing without a life jacket, went unconscious, but that her husband was able to get her shore.

CPR and medical interventions were provided, but the woman did not survive. The fatal incident was called in at 4:47 pm. An hour later, at 5:53 pm a group of teens rafting the river who went past the takeout point were reported. Foreman said that the teens had a medical crew respond to check them out and that the teens refused to be transported to receive further medical intervention.

Foreman said the teens were not familiar with the conditions and were not wearing life jackets. At Lake

Wenatchee, a water rescue was called in at 4:45 pm for a couple in their early forties. The couple was canoeing, and the boat capsized. After spending an hour and a half in the water the couple was rescued and transported to Cascade Medical, their conditions are unknown.

Later, at 9:59 pm in Lake Chelan a man's boat capsized, Foreman said. The subject did have a lifejacket on but needed to be rescued by rescue swimmers due to the darkness. The boat was towed in, and it is unknown what caused the boat to sink. The man is reported to be in stable condition.

Foreman said that the rivers running a lot higher than normal are contributing to the increase in water rescues. He said that if someone wants to visit the river, they need to plan their trip, know that conditions can change and wear a life jacket. There is a reason why they say life jackets save lives, Foreman said, and it is good to always have one on.



PHOTO BY AMY MASSEY

L-R: Matilda Fok, Silas Porter, Uma Fok, Simon Fok. Local decorate tote bags with fabric markers to be used as book bags. Matilda Fok drew a self-portrait while Simon Fok drew his initials.

Libraries

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"of course, plenty of ice cream," Morrison said. The social is run by Peshastin Friends of the Library, a non-profit which raises money for the branch.

Diane Carson, president of Peshastin Friends of the Library, said that the only time the social was cancelled was in 2020 due to the pandemic. Carson said that she has been attending the social for as long as she has lived in the area, about 40 years.

Carson is grateful for people from the community who supply the cakes, pies, and cookies as well as Whistlepunk Ice Cream, who donated the ice cream. There will be plenty to enjoy at the social this year.

"We have a carnival, that includes several games and a bouncy house this year," she said. "We have a cake [raffle] where people can get tickets and enter to win a cake. We have all of the ice cream... and we have Paul Anderman coming with his puppet."

Carson said she sends postcards out to remind people of the date and ask people to bring dessert, but that the public is welcome to contact the Peshastin library at 509-548-7821 if they want to make a dessert. Every year, between 100-150 people typically attend, she said. Attendance at the social

is mostly local, but sometimes people who grew up here or have family here attend.

"People come here who grew up here and moved away. Typically not far away, but like Wenatchee or something. They will come and reminisce with their old friends and things like that. So, it's fun just getting to see people. That's what I'm looking forward to," Carson said.

The other big event of the summer will be the end of summer library reading program celebration on August 25 from 4-5 p.m. at the Lions Club Park. It will feature L-Bow the Clown "juggling, unicycling, ballooning and good old-fashioned clowning," said Massey.

Patrons have been enjoying the summer reading program. Eily Melton, age 4.5, came into the library on July 7 and asked "Mom, have we done our minutes today?"

Her brother, Torin Melton, age 8.5, said that he enjoys the program because he likes "having the challenge of reading as much as I can."

Besides events, library patrons can check out nature backpacks, passes to Discover parks, Ohme Gardens and the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center at any NCRL library. Additionally, ukuleles can be borrowed from the Peshastin library.

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