



Historic "Snowmageddon" 2022



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LAKE WENATCHEE FIRE AND RESCUE FIRE CHIEF DAVID WALKER

Snow accumulated on a home residing in the Lake Wenatchee area.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LAKE WENATCHEE FIRE AND RESCUE FIRE CHIEF DAVID WALKER

Plain area home with the metal roof collapsing.

BY: MEGAN SOKOL, STAFF WRITER

A record-setting 36 inches of snow graced Leavenworth residents on Jan. 5. That evening, Chelan County residents received an alert of an incoming snowstorm set to hit around 6 p.m.

Married couple from Olympia, Brittany Clark-Hargraves and Cory Hargraves, went viral on TikTok after posting footage of their time trapped during the snowstorm.

"We knew that there was a storm coming, which is kind of usual for our area, getting over the passes and especially in Leavenworth, but we did not anticipate that amount of snow," Brittany Clark-Hargraves said.

When the Hargraves first arrived and settled at the Post Office Saloon on Jan. 5, they started hearing worried murmurs coming from town locals.

"So my husband and I were like 'uh oh.' When the locals get nervous, that's a time for you to start to get nervous."

On Jan. 6, Thursday morning, the couple was greeted with thick quilts of snow and the entirety of downtown Leavenworth shut down.

"Then we got notice that all the passes leading out of town were gonna be closed until at least Sunday, and so we were just a little worried about what are we gonna do for food? Like, what are we gonna do here? How long are we actually gonna be stuck?"

They were staying at the Alpendorf, eating ramen and staying warm in their suite. Through word of mouth, they discovered that Dan's Market was the only business open during the storm.

"We were walking around and we saw a couple, they had groceries on a sled, so they were pulling their groceries on a sled through town."

Meanwhile higher up in the mountains, Plain residents were contending with power outages and earth-shatteringly high snow levels.

"As far as one storm total, this is the most I've ever seen in the 20 years I've lived up here," Plain resident and YMCA Camp Director Tim McElravy proclaimed.

Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue Fire Chief David Walker recalls the long hours his team put in during the height of the storm.

"We kinda had a double whammy during the storm for us because the power went down for whatever, it was about somewhere between 13 and 15 hours," Walker said. "The provider's tower went down and they weren't even aware that they had lost power and lost coverage up here in the area. A lot of our dispatching and stuff comes through those cell providers and some of our mapping comes across through those."

Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue had to switch to radio to communicate during the power outage, along with using snowmobiles to reach areas that were still inaccessible or blocked from vehicles.

"Everything was slowed down during the storm. Our responses were delayed. They just took a long time to get from point A to point B," Walker said. "We had someone who was staying at the Tall Timber Ranch up there, and they had been sick for five days. We ended up using our snowmobiles to go six miles up the road to bring them back out."

By Jan. 7, Chelan County Commissioners had declared an official state of emergency. Leavenworth Mayor Carl Florea called the governor for emergency assistance.

"Looking at the writing on the wall, I knew we have limited manpower and that's the biggest thing we were looking for is we just don't have enough people to put enough boots on the ground to be able to address that huge of an impact," Florea explained.

"We reached out right away to the governor's office and said, what's the process? How do we get this request in? What's our chances of doing it?"

The following Monday on Jan. 10, the National Guard was commissioned to start welfare checks and food deliveries to Leavenworth residents. State public affairs officer Joseph Siemandel explained that when the guard received Mayor Florea's request, they were already contending with the multiple floods that had hit Lewis County.

"They wanted some snow plows and dump trucks. We don't have snow plows or dump trucks in the

National Guard, so we couldn't fulfill that request."

From Jan. 10-14, the National Guard would execute welfare checks and food deliveries in collaboration with Upper Valley MEND.

On just Jan. 10 alone, the guard conducted over 250 welfare checks, towards a total goal of 2000+ checks through the City of Leavenworth and those lying on the rural outskirts.

Alongside the guard, City of Leavenworth Public Works Director Tom Wachholder was working long hours, assisting with the snow plows and handling the logistical details of the guard's visit to the city.

City of Leavenworth Communication Director Christie Voos worked with Chelan County Emergency Management to better facilitate Chelan County's access to the National Guard.

"I'm so impressed with our community. Just in terms of neighbor helping neighbor and banding together. It's a wonderful thing to see, even though this is not the best of circumstance," Voos states. "We wouldn't be able to do what we did and do welfare checks in the timeframe that really needed to be done without their help, so we are so thankful for them."

Many neighboring residents asked whether the Guard would lend assistance to Wenatchee, Cashmere, or Plain/Lake Wenatchee areas. Due to only getting a request

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Cascade School Board Meeting includes Food Services & ASB Updates



Marlene Farrell
Correspondent

At the school board meeting held on January 10, the board recognized the unusually high snowfall that caused schools to be closed three days in a row and have a late start in order to ensure the roads and parking lots were safe for buses, students and staff. Superintendent Tracey Beckendorf-Edou thanked staff Dan Osborne, Ken Baumann, Andrew Disher, Jason O'Brien, Teresa Disher and Kenny Renner-Singer as well as Apex Construction, led by Randy McKee, and Chipman Construction, led by Lance Chipman, saying "These people did an amazing job helping our school district get ready to get kids back in school."

The first agenda item was a presentation by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) by Jeanette Morales and Erica Romero about becoming a partnering Hispanic Serving School District (HSSD). Cascade School District would qualify because over 25% of the student population is Latinx. HACU is a national organization whose mission is to champion Hispanic success in higher education. This is accomplished through a combination of networking, resources and advocacy for policy change at the local and federal level. There are 3471 HSSDs in the U.S., and if CSD joins HACU, it would be the first school district in the state to do so. The school board thanked Morales and Romero for their presentation and will consider membership further.

Next, the board heard updates from Colin Levi, food services director. Levi explained that CSD follows the provision "Offer versus Serve," (OFS) of the National School Lunch program and School Breakfast program. OFS is at all schools except Peshastin Dryden

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Colin Levi

SUBMITTED PHOTO.

Hawkins proposes Highway 2 traffic flow and safety bill Senate Bill 5603 to identify potential improvements from Wenatchee through Monroe

BY: BRIAN ZYLSTRA AND MEGAN SOKOL

In an effort to improve traffic flow and safety along U.S. Highway 2 between Wenatchee and Monroe, 12th District Sen. Brad Hawkins has introduced a measure to identify improvements for preservation, maintenance, and new projects for the curvy and congested highway.

Hawkins, a member of the Senates Transportation Committee, has proposed the bill with his colleague, Sen. Keith Wagoner of the 39th District. The two senators serve neighboring legislative districts now but are expected to share communities along Highway 2 in

the coming year following the completion of the states redistricting process.

Communities along the corridor have expressed growing concerns about safety and traffic flow, Hawkins said. Everyone knows Highway 2 is dangerous and congested, so lets hear from the communities, assemble the information we have, and identify needed improvements.

Hawkins proposal, Senate Bill 5603, calls for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to conduct public outreach with communities along the highway,



FILE PHOTO.
Senator Brad Hawkins

including public meetings involving Wenatchee, Cashmere, Leavenworth, Skykomish, Index, Gold Bar, Sultan, and Monroe. The bill also calls for WSDOT to report to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2022, with a summary of existing analysis along the corridor and recommended investments.

"I've met with the City of Sultan and the Sultan mayor, and they have told me about issues where the traffic block backs up for nearly 20 miles on weekends," Sen. Hawkins explained.

"There are some people, community members in Sultan, that it takes them an hour and a half to get to the grocery store."

The timing of WSDOT's report to the Legislatures transportation committees is critical, Hawkins says, because he believes the Legislature will consider the next large-scale transportation package one year from now during the 2023 session.

For Hawkins, projects like Wenatchee's Confluence Parkway the proposed second bridge across the Wenatchee River will continue to be a high priority while also supporting the needs of other communities, like those along Highway 2 and other

areas in his district. Hawkins said he is thankful that the Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council completed a US 2 Upper Wenatchee Valley corridor study in April 2020 for a portion of the highway, identifying potential improvements near Leavenworth.

"Some of those communities like Leavenworth have thousands of tourists, whenever you have the highway traffic, all these tourists that are crossed in the street and run along the sidewalks, it presents a real danger."

Hawkins has prefiled the bill for consideration in the 2022 legislative session, which starts Jan. 10.

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Dan's Market



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Beckendorf family have a special trip to Gabon

BY: MEGAN SOKOL
Staff writer

While Chelan County residents try and keep warm and safe throughout a turbulent January, imagine for a moment a beautiful bride adorned in white, blue, and gold fabric, with her hair wrapped within a shiny gold head wrap. She stands with her new husband, Ralph Mengara, with a smile as warm as the day. Behind the camera is her adopted mother and “little mom,” Dr. Tracey Beckendorf-Edou.

During the winter break, Dr. Beckendorf-Edou and her family visited her adopted daughter in Gabon, Central Africa. Dr. Beckendorf-Edou has known the bride, Murielle Okomo-Obiang, since she was 12 years-old. They met when she worked for the Peace Corps and was sent to live in Gabon from 1993-2003.

“There was a young lady who was orphaned and I took care of her from age of 12 on, so she calls me little mom. She’s kind of like an adopted daughter and she was getting married,”

explained Dr. Beckendorf-Edou.

The wedding had three ceremonies, a traditional ceremony, a civil ceremony at the mayor’s office, then a religious ceremony at the church. The photo published alongside this story was taken during the traditional ceremony portion of the wedding.

During the traditional ceremony, you can see people dancing, drumming, playing music, saying congratulations to the bride and groom. There is a portion where both sides of the aisle will exchange gifts on the bride or groom’s behalf. Gifts could include various types of cloth and scarves, rice, or livestock.

“Our family gave them some money to help with the purchase of the things from the bride’s family to the groom’s family, so I contributed to things like bananas and chickens and pig and goat.”

Dr. Beckendorf-Edou bought Okomo-Obiang’s wedding dress and was the ring-bearer during the religious ceremony.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wedding picture of Bride Murielle and Groom Ralph.



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When Should you Take Your Medicine

Football fans and advertisers look forward to the Super Bowl, held every year in early February. Because of the NFL’s expanded, 17-game, 18-week schedule, it is scheduled for the second Sunday in February, February 13th, at SoFi stadium in Los Angeles.

Several weekends of playoff games lie ahead, as the top teams from the National Football Conference and the American Football Conference battle to determine the NFC and AFC champions that will face off in Los Angeles. The television coverage will feature new commercials featuring cars, trucks, insurance, and beer, as well as advertisements for prescription and non-prescription medicines.

Why do some drug advertisements on television mention the risks of the medicine they are promoting, while others don’t?

One set of rules governs direct to consumer (DTC) advertising of prescription medicines. There are different rules for how non-prescription or OTC (over-the-counter) medicines can be promoted. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) controls the advertising rules for prescription medicines. The Federal Trade Commission is responsible for the advertising of non-prescription or over the counter (OTC) drugs.

Inside the FDA, the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP) is responsible for regulating prescription medicines’ marketing. OPDP’s mission is to protect public health by assuring that

information used to promote prescription drugs is truthful, balanced, and accurately communicated to doctors, pharmacists and consumers. In contrast, the advertising of OTC medicines regulated by the Federal Trade Commission and is much less strict.

The side effects of medicines are not always mentioned during their advertisements because the FDA created 3 different drug marketing categories that manufacturers of prescription medication can use. Only one of those advertising categories requires the manufacturer to list the risks associated with taking their medicine.

The categories of DTC advertising include help-seeking ads, product claim ads, and reminder ads. Help-seeking drug ads mention a particular condition, such as depression, arthritis, or overactive bladder, then direct the consumer to ask their doctor for more information about it. No medicines are mentioned in this type of advertisement. If you look closely, you’ll usually see the drug name or logo of the drug manufacturer sponsoring it somewhere on the screen or the page.

Product claim ads state the type of condition the medicine has been approved to treat, its brand and generic name, and give some benefits and risks associated with taking it.

Product claim ads will often use cartoons, celebrity spokespeople, or actors to play satisfied patients. At the end of the advertisement is

a list of risks of taking that medicine, including death. The balance between benefits and risks is essential in this marketing category, the advertisement MUST mention potentially severe risks if they also present the benefits of taking that medicine to their audience.

The third type of prescription medicine advertisement for DTC marketing is a reminder ad. Reminder ads are concise, mentioning only the medicine’s brand name, leaving out what it treats or any of its benefits. Reminder ads connect us with previous advertising by echoing the visual marketing elements seen in the product claim ads for the product, like showing two people watching a sunset sitting in bathtubs placed side-by-side.

DTC advertising is controversial. Those who support marketing medicines directly to consumers state that it’s helpful because it encourages people to talk to their physician about a health concern they may have. DTC advertising can also help remove the stigma of a particular disease or condition, such as depression or erectile dysfunction.

Opponents of DTC advertising are concerned that it promotes increased use or overuse of drugs for conditions that have non-drug treatments or less expensive treatments available. They also fear that not enough attention is paid to new medicines’ risks, like serious side effects. Marketers want their product presented



in the best possible light, and false or misleading claims can slip in.

In contrast, the FTC advertising rules do not require that a manufacturer mention any side effects when marketing a non-prescription medication to the public. There is continuing concern about this lack of balance, especially when a prescription medicine gets approval to move from prescription-only access to OTC, such as omeprazole (Prilosec®) or naproxen (Aleve®). Just because a drug no longer requires a prescription doesn’t mean the risks of having side effects from it magically disappear.

The only type of marketing that insists a manufacturer mention the risks of taking a particular medicine is a product promotion advertisement of a prescription-only medicine. Manufacturers are not required to include their medication’s side effects in any reminder ads, help-seeking ads, or OTC medicine advertisements

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy, is a 43-year veteran of pharmacology and author of Why Dogs Can’t Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely. Get clear answers to your medication questions at her website and blog TheMedicationInsider.com. ©2022 Louise Achey



PHOTO BY CAROL FORHAN

East Leavenworth Road on January 7, 3 feet and still snowing.



PHOTO BY CAROL FORHAN

Snow dumping ground at the E. Leavenworth Boat Launch.

Public Health Prioritizes Testing Over Vaccine Efforts

East Wenatchee, WA - The Chelan Douglas Health District (CDHD) is deciding to prioritize local testing efforts in hopes of getting all infectious individuals isolated at home to help reduce local case rates.

Due to limited staff, weather conditions and minimal registrations, the incident management team has cancelled the January 15 vaccine clinic at 228 Chumstick highway in Leavenworth

and starting January 17, the Monday through Thursday vaccine clinic at 110 2nd street in East Wenatchee will stop operations until further notice.

If you received a first dose at the CDHD 2nd street clinic and are due for a second dose next week or in the weeks to follow, please plan to attend one of the upcoming vaccine clinics scheduled at 1224 Methow street in Wenatchee. Dates, times and pre-registration details are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pfizer-drive-thru-covid-19-vaccine-clinic-at-lincoln-elementary-registration-205358411537>. CDHD staff is working to personally communicate this change to any first dose individuals who are due for their second dose in the coming weeks. CDHD continues to stress the importance of a COVID-19 vaccine and

getting the booster as soon as possible. If you are in need of a first, second or booster vaccine, please contact a local pharmacy or your local medical provider.

For more information or to stay up-to-date on the COVID-19 response, visit www.cdhd.wa.gov and follow CDHD on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Cascade School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

and allows older students to decline some food offerings in order to reduce waste. Following Chelan Douglas Health District recommendations, the schools do not have self-service items, such as a salad bar, like in the past. Students can, however, choose condiments and a milk option.

The Food Services department received high marks from the administrative review done by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The middle school was randomly chosen for the audit. Levi’s focus on scratch cooking was lauded.

The scratch cooking is enjoyed by students and staff and also has been helping the district adapt to unexpected interruptions in some product delivery due to pandemic-related supply line issues. For the most part, Levi’s team has been able to swap unavailable products (often ordered a year in advance) with replacements. As for utilizing local fruits and vegetables, Levi reported that they are working with Seattle-based Charlie’s Produce, which offers seasonal options. CSD no longer partners with the

even-more local farmers of the county because the GAP certification and paperwork requirements are too onerous for small operations. When asked about utilizing locally gleaned produce, Levi said the district can do so, but the fall gleaning window is relatively small.

The board and Beckendorf-Edou thanked Levi for his meticulous efforts and passion for food and scratch cooking.

The superintendent read the governor’s proclamation recognizing January as School Board Appreciation Month. Each board member received a certificate of appreciation for their “vital service to our community.” Kindergarten classes also created thank you posters for the school board to enjoy.

Several high school students, including Olivia Cappellini, Carly Ostrom and Britni Harris, gave a presentation about the Association Student Body (ASB) activities. After relatively low ASB activity during remote and hybrid education, the ASB is reenergized with three monthly meetings. ASB is credited with a very successful Homecoming dance in the fall, adapting it to health safety requirements by holding it outside and receiving a large

student body turnout.

The ASB is planning a Family Gala fundraising event in the spring (when omicron is no longer a threat) for families of K-5th grade students. There will be activity booths, a dance floor and a photo booth. All funds raised will go toward the Senior ASB fund.

Board chair Trey Ising asked these students how the year has been going. Cappellini said, “There have been some hurdles as we adjust to going back to ‘normal.’ But adapting and getting things accomplished has felt great.”

CHS vice principal Rudy Joya praised the ASB officers, saying, “They’re go-getters. They’re always ready to meet and are helping make positive change at the school.”

Kenny Renner-Singer, principal of Alpine Lakes Elementary and Beaver Valley School, explained the process of naming the new soccer pitch at Beaver Valley, which will be completed by fall 2022, assuming some grant funding comes through. A survey went out to staff and parents for suggestions, with the understanding that it can be named for a locally or federally prominent person who has been deceased for over five years or it can be named for

a geographical feature. A committee will present the top 3-5 names to the school board, which will vote on the name at the next meeting.

There were a few personnel items on the agenda, and then board discussed the annual superintendent evaluation process. Each board member will collect data and interview staff affiliated with various district departments. They will then compile the responses and discuss the results with Beckendorf-Edou in the early spring. The superintendent is on a three-year contract. However, each year the board determines whether they will offer a contract extension for the next year.

Finally, the board congratulated Beckendorf-Edou in her new role as president of the North Central Washington Superintendent Group. Beckendorf-Edou also thanked nurses and administrators for working diligently to keep schools safe during the omicron surge. And she shared a thank you card from the Fowl Run 5k organizers for some district assistance. The 5k, which happened on Thanksgiving, raised \$3400 which was divided for the CHS tennis team and Upper Valley MEND.

OBITUARY

Marilyn "Dee" Gehring

September 29, 1937-
January 11, 2022

Leavenworth, Washington
After a 5 year long struggle with dementia, Marilyn Dee Gehring (King), 84, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her family, on January 11, 2022. Dee was born to Esther and J.D. King. She graduated from Leavenworth High school in 1955. She has been a resident of Leavenworth her whole life.

Dee is survived by her husband Gerald Gehring, of 45 years, a great aunt, Lajuana McClure, a great uncle, Leroy King, 4 siblings, Arlene King, Dick King, Joan Roseberry, Leanna Serles, daughters Kim Booth (Mark), Suzanne Hamilton, and Shelley Vandel (Jon) and sons Scott Weston and Rob Taylor (Melinda) and Greg Gehring (Julia). Dee also has 15 grandchildren and 8 grandchildren. Dee was preceded in death by her mother Esther King, father J.D. King and niece Tiffanie Hagan.

In her high school years at LHS, Dee was a baton twirler, a majorette, a trombone player, and an honor student. She was tiny in stature, and many say the trombone was bigger than she was. While raising 5 children, Dee earned her accounting degree and opened an accounting and income tax business called "Business as Usual". She was dedicated to helping people

get the best tax returns and in the process formed many close relationships. She retired in 2010.

Dee was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was a compassionate and generous woman who always looked for ways to help others. In the 1970's Dee started a Senior Citizen dinner social where she and her children prepared dinner for Senior Citizens once a week. She also volunteered for the Trinity Table Soup Kitchen at the Nazarene church in Leavenworth. She was an incredible cook. Dee was known to recruit her family to prepare holiday meals and Christmas stockings to be taken to the homeless shelters in Wenatchee at Christmas. She loved planning and facilitating the Leavenworth class reunions with her former classmates and kept them going for the classes who graduated close to hers, until recently. Dee was also known to quietly help individuals in the community and in her family when they were in need. The stories are just coming out.

Dee has been married to Gerry Gehring for 45 years. They built a beautiful home and life together, supporting each other, raising kids and grandkids, camping, fishing, traveling, and working on projects together. They were a wonderful team.



Many will remember Dee as a person who did not give up. She loved life and did not want to leave it. She fought through many life-threatening illnesses, always keeping her faith in Christ, and asking her family to do the same.

We will remember her for the way she served others, her contagious laugh, her beautiful flower garden, and her compassionate heart.

A celebration of Dee's Life will be held in the spring due to covid and weather conditions. Place and time TBD.

Condolences can be sent to 57 Prusik Peak Lane, Leavenworth, WA 98826. You are invited to Dee's online tribute at www.heritagememorialchapel.com where you can share a memory with the family. Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel East Wenatchee and Cashmere.

Canada Criminalizing Christianity



A WALK WITH PASTOR

John Smith

On January 7th, a new and unprecedented piece of legislation affected our neighbors to the north. Canada's Bill C-4, which passed unanimously in Parliament, effectively makes a Christian worldview regarding human sexuality illegal and shows all the more how antagonistic Canada is to Christ and His Church.

Take the preamble of the Bill as an example.

"Whereas conversion therapy causes harm to society because, among other things, it is based on and propagates myths and stereotypes about sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, including the myth that heterosexuality, cisgender gender identity, and gender expression that conforms to the sex assigned to a person at birth are to be preferred over other sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions."

The definition of "conversion therapy" is broadly explained within the Bill as any practice or service designed to change or repress a person's sexual orientation or gender. So,

if a pastor counsels a young individual and calls them to a Biblical view of sexuality and urges them to repent of their sins and call upon Christ, according to Bill C-4, he is breaking the law and could spend up to 5 years in jail.

God has defined gender and sexuality clearly in texts like Genesis 1-2, Leviticus 18, 20, and several other places within the Scriptures. Furthermore, any deviation, redefinition, or twisting from what God has ordained and considers "good" calls for immediate repentance back to the Biblical standard. So again, Bill C-4 says what God has called "good" evil, and the prophet Isaiah's words ring true of Canada, "Woe to those that call evil good and good evil..." (Isa. 5:20).

Now some may say, "But this is in Canada, and it has nothing to do with us?"

Wrong. All of us should pay attention to any threat to religious liberty and any law that persecutes Christians. Besides, America is not that far from Canada, and Canada provides a decent insight into where we are headed as a nation. If Canada is jailing Christians for holding to a Biblical worldview, do not think it is outside the realm of possibility for us in the States. Remember that we have the Equality Act on the horizon, similar to Bill C-4.

As Christians, especially pastors in America, we must stand with our northern brothers and sisters. The

Scripture says that we are members of the body of Christ and "when one part suffers, every part suffers with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26-27). Moreover, this assault on Christians in Canada should spur us here to be bold in the face of the oncoming adversity. Now is not the time to be silent, cover to tyrants, or make excuses. Instead, we should have our Bibles open, believe with our whole heart that Christ is Lord, and follow the examples of the Apostles where "We obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29). And, of course, all of this is bathed in prayer and with love for God and neighbor.

Come January 7th, Canada will continue its rapid suicide spiral to destruction as a nation. Although we are in the same nosedive (although at a slower pace), God can still turn things around for both Canada and the United States. As stated earlier, what is needed is a courageous approach to Christianity and a faithful one. A Christianity with Christians who believe the Bible is true and are willing to speak that truth in love no matter the cost.

Is following Jesus worth a 5-year jail sentence, or maybe worse? That is something that I cannot answer for you.

I know my answer to that question, but do you know yours?

Pastor John Smith of Evergreen Baptist Church in Cashmere can be reached at pastorjohnsmithebc@gmail.com.

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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.

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Deacon Carol, 670-1723

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Pastor Mike Moore
www.midvalleybaptist.org

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Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

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Worship 11 a.m. • Fred Smith • 509-860-3997

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
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Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.
Pastors, Darryl and Mindy Wall
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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TIM MCELRAVY

The Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp's basketball court buried in snow on Jan. 7, 2022.

Snow Storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

from the City of Leavenworth, assistance was limited within the city limits. However, both Voos and Chelan County Emergency Management offered to help facilitate any National Guard requests from areas still needing help.

"The best thing anyone can do is if there's a need in a community is to first reach out to your local authorities and say, 'Hey, we need help,' said Voos. Most of the time, the local authorities can help get you the assistance you need."

By Jan. 13, Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue were finishing up clean-up on Plain's residential roads, after clearing the majority of the highways.

"Right now they've cleared White River Road to Tall Timber and those communities up there, but now there's fresh avalanches that have come down, so that road is closed to the public."

Chief Walker states that although Plain residents have conquered the worst of the storm, they may still

experience some flooding in the near future.

"With the rain over the last couple of days, we've got a couple [areas] like Nason Creek running very high and we've had a little minor flooding on some of those roads too that have been added to the challenge."

Weather conditions in downtown Cashmere significantly improved a week following the snow storm. On Jan. 13, Both Cashmere Mayor Jim Fletcher and Operations Director Steve Croci congratulated contractors who plowed and shoveled the snowpiles off the city streets.

"The guys have been putting in a lot of hours, we've hired some additional loaders and trucks to help move the stockpiles of snow out of the streets," Fletcher states. "We're making it through, I think every street is somewhat passable."

The City of Cashmere hired additional contractors to assist with the already understaffed Public Works Department, realizing that they did not have the proper equipment that could move over 2 feet of snow. Croci hired A&W paving, who

brought in a loader and dump truck for the clean-up process.

The public works team was focusing on plowing streets, making safe routes to school, keeping bus stops open, digging out fire hydrants and mailboxes, cleaning up corners and turn lanes, and removing snow piles from alleys to prevent future flooding.

Mayor Fletcher states that people moving their cars off the street and yielding to plow trucks helped hasten the snow removal process.

"We appreciate the patience that people are showing, the understanding that this an unusual amount of snow for us," Fletcher explained. "We appreciate the citizens and the businesses patience as we work through this, we're trying to do the priority: get the intersections and the streets opened up so we have safe travel, get the parking areas opened up so people can get to their homes and to their businesses."

Steve Croci also states that they may need further assistance with drainage in the future, hoping to avoid further flooding issues down the line.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TIM MCELRAVY
Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp Lodge building buried in snow on Jan. 7, 2022.

City Council greeted with visit from Former City Administrator Ana Cortez

By: MEGAN SOKOL

Staff writer

The day before the city council meeting, on Jan. 11th, The National Guard had arrived in Leavenworth, assisting with welfare checks and food deliveries. Nonetheless, business was usual, except for the surprise visit from former city administrator Ana Cortez, who attended the meeting as a Leavenworth resident.

The meeting started with the mayoral proclamation, which ordered to extend the emergency declaration to close Front St. through April 15, 2022.

Newly elected council member Marco Aurilio was introduced, along with the re-election of Mayor Pro Tempore Anne Hessburg.

Public Works Director Tom Wachholder opened up the public hearing for the 2022 - 2027 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to amend the additional Ski Hill Drive Sidewalk Project to the plan. The city received a \$333,965 from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), and will provide an additional \$58,935 to the project. No one had spoken up during the hearing, so the item was passed.

Council moved to adopt Ordinance 1644, which reflects the decision council made on Dec. 14, 2021 regarding the included changes to the Osborn property and minor changes to the zoning map that the council did approve in the 2021 Comprehensive Plan. Subsequently, both the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission received a \$50 stipend for each meeting they attended.

The biggest item during the meeting was the discussion of both the 2022-24 Teamsters Contract and the delayed 2022 Salary Schedule for council staff. The new union contract reduced the timeline and number of steps for employees to reach the top of the pay scale, which was originally 14 years, would now take 9 years.

Former City Administrator Ana Cortez had entered the meeting, in the capacity of a Leavenworth resident, and asked the council if they should

have included councilmembers more on union negotiations.

"It is kind of hard to scrutinize a negotiation process when you come at the bottom of the knife," Cortez said. "What some jurisdictions do is they actually engage the city council at the beginning. In those conversations, they obtain policy frameworks that can help guide the negotiation process, so by the time people are actually at the table negotiating, they are guided by the desires of the legislative body instead of waiting at the bottom of the 9th when basically most of the boxes had been checked."

In response to Cortez's question, Anne Hessburg later asked Mayor Florea as to why council was not involved (with) part of the initial union negotiation process.

"It wasn't offered as an opportunity for the council to be involved from the start with negotiations and we're voting on something that we were not a part of."

Mayor Florea stated that this was (their) first time through this process and did not realize that more council involvement could factor into union negotiations. Former City Administrator Joel Walinski explained that although he was not apart of union negotiation process when it first began, the entire council did not necessarily need to be present for union negotiations. The Labor agreement was passed.

It was before Mayor Florea had announced that he, and legal counsel Tom Graafstra, would discuss personnel matters related to the Salary Schedule within an executive session did Cortez accuse the council of violating the Open Public Meetings Act.

Ana Cortez claimed that they did not have the grounds for an executive session and expressed concern towards whether the public could attend meetings if the agenda was inaccurate.

"Can you please indicate what are the grounds for having this conversation done behind closed doors without the public being part of how our tax dollars are being used," Cortez said.

Florea explained that the purpose of the item was to separate out union and non-union employees, hence the separate agenda items, and to agree on a performance survey once the council had settled with the union. The survey would compare size of staff versus individual workload and compare it to neighboring communities.

Florea also claimed that his legal attorney Tom Graafstra had informed her (Cortez) earlier that the council was within their legal right to have an executive session.

"Under the public meetings act, it is a legitimate reason to discuss out of the eye of the public, so she (Cortez) was just mistaken. She was accusing us of something that just wasn't the facts," Florea explained. "It was surprising that she would get engaged as somebody who had been previously employed and has perhaps some issues that she still carries with her. I don't think that's a professional approach to take, but it is what it is and it didn't stop us from doing our work."

Cortez encouraged the council to be vigilant on taxpayer money and to work on increasing transparency between them and the public. She claimed that it is not enough to let a third party HR firm work on evaluation, rather that the community should also be involved.

Afterwards, councilmembers reviewed what they individually did in their role during 2021. The mayor also thanked the National Guard and both Tom Wachholder for assisting with snow clean-up and the logistics of housing the National Guard, along with Christie Voos for stepping in as Emergency Coordinator and keeping people notified of snow developments on social media.

Items that were also passed included the Professional Services Agreement with Gather Leavenworth for Festhalle Management Services, the Fuel Tax Agreement for the Ski Hill Drive Sidewalk Project, and the Well No. 1 Rehab Supplemental Agreement with Aspect Consulting,

Chelan, Douglas counties pledge nearly \$1 million to health district

By: JILL FITZSIMMONS

Chelan and Douglas counties this week allocated \$939,000 in federal relief funds to the Chelan-Douglas Health District.

Chelan County commissioners approved \$560,000 in funding and Douglas County commissioners approved \$379,000.

The money is being paid for from the individual counties' allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA was passed last year by the federal government to help municipalities across the country cover costs incurred by the COVID pandemic, or bolster operations and some infrastructure.

The health district will use the money for a variety of projects, from modernizing its building and critical computer systems to upgrading its environmental health program. "With this money, the health district is going to be able to update systems and infrastructure that are long overdue to be modernized,"

said Luke Davies, health administrator for the Chelan-Douglas Health District. "I am excited that this will allow health district staff to better serve the public and help us to become more efficient at meeting the needs of our community."

The money gives the health district, which has been heavily engaged in the COVID pandemic these past two years, some measure of peace, said Kevin Overbay, chairman of the Chelan County Board of Commissioners. The health district will be able to use its general fund to pay for these efforts and upgrades while being assured it will be reimbursed with ARPA dollars in the near future, Overbay said.

"These dollars, when utilized by the health district, will be far reaching," he said. "The money will not only benefit public health overall in our community but also help stand up the health district for years to come."

Davies approached both

counties in the fall, asking the boards consider allocating ARPA funding to the health district. He also has approached the cities of East Wenatchee and Wenatchee to ask for funding via ARPA.

"We are very aware of the value the varied CDHD programs and services bring to folks throughout our county," said Douglas County Commissioner Marc Straub. "We come alongside Chelan County — and hopefully other local jurisdictions in the future — to provide much-needed financial support for the health district."

Since the Great Recession, funding for CDHD has been significantly reduced, Straub added.

"It is our expectation that, through the strategic use of these ARPA funds, the health district will be able to make much-needed improvements that will lead to greater efficiencies in the delivery of services that impact the lives and livelihoods of our citizens," he said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEVE SCOTT

Clearing and dumping snow by Cascade Medical on Commercial St.

The Contract
Unveiling the healing power of forgiveness
A novel by local writer William E. Forhan.

Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez was quoted as saying, "All human beings have three lives, public, private and secret."

In our modern world of the Internet search engines and DNA testing, keeping our private and secret lives separate is increasingly difficult. Sometimes they can come crashing in on our public lives when we least expect it.

Father Robert McCarthy is a middle-aged priest who is suddenly and unexpectedly confronted with his secret past. How he deals with the revelation of that past with his family, his congregation and the impacts of

that secret life is inspirational. How McCarthy discloses the news of his college indiscretion requires him to take everyone involved on a journey of confession. That journey forces him to deal with issues of homosexuality, judgmentalism, divorce and pride.

His pastoring skills and the depth of support from his wife help him bring forgiveness and restoration to many broken relationships.

The bonds of three families are ultimately restored through celebrations of life experiences including fishing, holiday gatherings, the discovery of unknown family connections and a wedding.

Bill's Book is available online through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Apple iBook. The paperback is \$16.99 and the ebook is \$8.99. You can also pick up a copy of the book or order the book directly from Carol Forhan at The Leavenworth Echo (509-548-5286), or the Lake Chelan Mirror (509-682-2213), or by emailing your contact information to Carol@leavenworthecho.com. Sales tax applies and if you request mail delivery add \$3.00 for postage. There is no extra charge if your order is picked up at the Echo office, 215-14th Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 or Lake Chelan Mirror office 131 S. Apple Blossom Dr. Suite #109, Chelan, WA. 98816

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Deadline Noon on Friday for the next week's papers

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Wanted

Attention all Douglas County Agricultural Producers!

The Douglas County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is seeking new members for its eight-member work group. This county-based public committee provides guidance and input for the direction and priorities of voluntary stewardship activities in Douglas County. We are looking for community members, especially those who are actively farming, to represent local agricultural interests. The VSP reduces the regulatory burden on the Douglas County agricultural community by protecting critical areas through voluntary conservation activities. The goal of VSP is to create a balanced approach to protect critical areas while maintaining agricultural viability in our county. Serving on the work group entails a willingness to collaborate with other stakeholders to provide guidance for a range of VSP implementation activities to ensure the success of this program.

For more information and a link to the Committee Application form, please visit the Foster Creek Conservation District's website: <https://www.fostercreekcd.org/programs/voluntary-stewardship-program/>.

If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Schexnayder, Douglas Co. VSP Coordinator, at rschexnayder@fostercreekcd.org or (509) 888-6375. Applications are to be submitted to the Douglas County Clerk of the Board, Tiana Rowland via email at trowland@co.douglas.wa.us or by mail at PO Box 747 Waterville, WA 98858-0747 by 5p.m. on January 28, 2022.

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>Our District
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Deadline is Friday by Noon for the following Wednesday issues of all newspapers

Okanogan County Tourism Council
The Okanogan Co. Tourism Council is seeking a part-time public relations coordinator. Must be detail oriented and a self-starter with strong organizational and communication skills, and a team player who is comfortable in a support role. Must enjoy working on a variety of projects in a fast-paced positive environment and work closely with the Board of Directors to implement projects. Must be highly resourceful and have the ability to plan and implement strategies to achieve goals. Position requires the ability to work from home. Please call for a full job description 509 826-5107 or email to info@okanogancountry.com ask for Carolyn.

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Recreation

The Washington Outdoors Report



PHOTO COURTESY OPERATION CATCHING FREEDOM

Operation Bass participants Kaylee Baker volunteer boater and Navy veteran Brandi Wyffels



PHOTO COURTESY OPERATION CATCHING FREEDOM

Army Veteran Josh Scott had a great time at last year's Operation Salmon event

Operation Catching Freedom

By JOHN KRUSE

A new organization dedicated to getting veterans, active-duty service members and first responders outdoors to go fishing is growing fast in Central Washington. The organization, which will soon be a non-profit, is Operation Catching Freedom. I got a chance this week to talk to the founder, Tony Warren, to find out more.

Tony told me he's a combat veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps and has always found that spending time outdoors, "is a great way to clear my head." In 2018 he came up with the idea of taking veterans out for a day of bass fishing and approached the Central Washington Bass Club and MarDon Resort on Potholes Reservoir. That first event took place in the spring of 2019, was a success, and Operation Catching Freedom was born.

Last year another Operation Bass event was held at Potholes Reservoir the second Saturday of May and 20 veterans were paired with 20 bass boat owners for a day on the water, followed by a BBQ at MarDon

Resort and a goodie bag full of fishing tackle for each angler to take home.

2021 also saw Operation Salmon take place on the Columbia River near Chelan Falls. Twenty-six veterans hopped on boats for a morning of salmon fishing and enjoyed a nice meal at Chelan Falls PUD Park to wrap up the event.

Several Central Washington fishing guides have donated their boats, time and talent to help out. This includes Austin Moser (Austin's Northwest Adventures LLC), Brad Wagner (Bobber Down Guide Service), Kurt Middleton (Middy's Guide Service), Levi Rodelo (Ross Outdoor Adventures) and Caine Brand (Heavy Hitter Guide Service). These guides have unselfishly helped out during events and/or by taking anglers on special fishing trips they win through free raffles put on by the group.

This year Warren is expanding Operation Catching Freedom to include Operation Walleye. This event will occur the last Saturday in September and Ground Zero will be the Coulee Playland Resort at Banks Lake. However, anglers are not limited to just fishing for walleye in Banks Lake. They can also target walleye at nearby Rufus Woods Reservoir

or Lake Roosevelt.

In addition to this, first responders (law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service members) are now invited to come on board for a day of fishing. It does not cost anything to participate in these events and fishing gear as well as bait is provided. All that's required from the angler is weather appropriate clothing, snacks, drinks and a valid Washington State fishing license. A BBQ meal follows each day of fishing which is donated by local restaurants or caterers.

Veterans and first responders who live in Central or Eastern Washington can sign up for each event at www.operationcatchingfreedom.org two months prior to each event. There will be a drawing to determine which anglers get to fish and the lucky winners will be notified two weeks prior to the event. While the event itself is free, transportation to and lodging at the event site is the responsibility of each

participant.

If you are interested in helping out this fledgling organization Warren has two requests. First, he needs some experienced walleye and salmon anglers with boats who are familiar with the waters that will be fished during each event. Second, Warren is looking for tackle, whether it be from companies or enthusiasts making them out of their shop. Warren plans on giving the fishing tackle to the veterans and first responders as part of a gift bag during each event.

If you don't fall into either of these volunteer categories you can also donate or help sponsor an event. You'll find a link at the Operation Catching Freedom website to do so. You can also contact Tony Warren through the Operation Catching Freedom Facebook Page and chat with him there.

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

THIS YEAR'S EVENT DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE:

Event Name	Date	Participants	Location
OPERATION BASS	May 7th	20 anglers	MarDon Resort
OPERATION SALMON	July 9th	30 anglers	Chelan Falls PUD Park
OPERATION WALLEYE	September 24th	30 anglers	Coulee Playland Resort

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Wrestling with the Future of Winter Sports

By: MEGAN SOKOL

Staff writer

Amidst all of the concerns that are encircling school districts now lies an even trickier question: will students still be able to participate in sports this season? The growing concern for students' health as Omicron spreads and COVID positivity rates rise, has left both Cascade and Cashmere athletic directors in a difficult position.

"There's been lots of cancellations rescheduling and just managing to be flexible and doing everything we can to give our winter sports athletes, the opportunities to compete while following guidelines of the department of health and the WIAA," Cashmere High School Athletic Director Jeff Carlson explained.

"Everything's day to day, games are getting canceled day to day," Cascade Athletic Director Dominique Coffin explained. "You kind of don't know what the day is going to bring."

Cashmere Wrestling resumed their program on Friday, Jan. 14., having been previously on pause due to the high-risk of the contact sport. Cashmere High School Athletics Department was put on a 10-day pause, one which they were required to adhere to by local health departments.

"We're the only school in our league on pause right now. Everyone else is competing. We were supposed to have a league double dual tomorrow in Chelan that we're not gonna be competing at, but the other schools in our league will be."

All sports programs in Washington state are required

to test their athletes three times per week in order for programs to remain safe and running.

"That's for all high-risk indoor sports, which includes boys and girls basketball wrestling, and also our sideline cheer for winter sports," Carlson states. "There's grant money involved where we get the tests and there's tests that are allocated to schools in order to adhere to the guidelines from the state. There is also a shortage of these tests even for schools right now, so it's a struggle to get them."

If a school district does not have enough at-home COVID tests to test three times a week, they will be forced to put all of their athletics on pause once their supply has been restocked. Recently, the Mead School District in Spokane were forced to shut down their athletic programs after they ran out of at-home COVID tests.

"We're fine right now with the amount of tests we have, but I know that can be a challenge if you don't have those tests."

After multiple COVID outbreaks were found via wrestling tournaments and meets, many wrestling teams throughout the state have had to change their policy in order

to avoid future spread.

"[Cascade] Coach Sandoval pretty much has put them in a lot of partner situations, just so if someone does become positive, then [...] If you are in close contact, vaccinated or not, we can keep testing you in order to keep you at school," Coffin explained. "That's the number one thing we want to be able to do is just keep our athletes as safe as we can. Being able to test everyone, which was required by the state, has been able to help us as well."

Coffin states that they will also reduce maximum occupancy for games and wrestling bouts, hoping to reduce exposure and confrontation.

"It's trying to eliminate confrontation, just kind of where we're at. There is new guidance on limiting spectators, so we'll be at 50% capacity as we finish out this winter season."

Both Carlson and Coffin report that they will continue to balance safety with the students' opportunity to participate in after-school activities.

We're just going to continue to move forward and just hope for the best and keep our kids safe," Coffin said. "We got a few more weeks, so we're on survival mode."

Sports Schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 19:	Cascade vs. Chelan; 5:45 p.m.
Jan. 21:	Cascade vs. Quincy; 5:45 p.m.
Jan. 25:	Cascade vs. Royal; 7:15 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 25:	Cascade vs. Royal; 5:45 p.m.

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