



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY.  
Emergency repairs being done to Eight Mile Dam in 2018



## Eightmile Dam rebuild and restoration seeks input

SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Environmental review is set to begin on plans to repair and restore Eightmile Lake Dam in the Icicle Creek watershed. As a result of flood damage and erosion caused by impacts of the Jack Creek Fire in 2017, a state of emergency was declared, and the 90 year old dam was designated a high hazard and a threat to downstream residents and property.

The Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts (IPID) made emergency repairs to the dam in the summer of 2018. Over the last couple years, IPID has worked with Ecology's Dam Safety Office to develop options to restore and rebuild the dam to meet current safety standards.

Ecology is now accepting comments on what should be included in the scope of a full environmental impact statement (EIS) being prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The EIS will examine the potential environmental consequences of each

proposed alternative to rebuild the dam.

Icicle Creek is a source of water for a variety of demands that sometimes go unmet. Stream flows support domestic water supply, agricultural irrigation, hatchery fish raised at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, natural aquatic habitat for wild fish, and recreation. Taken together, water needs in the subbasin are often greater than the available supply.

The Icicle Creek Work Group is embarking on a plan to be drought resilient and climate responsive to meet these various water needs now and in the future.

The plan seeks to achieve 88 cubic feet per second of additional water to flows during average years and 58 cfs during drought years.

Water availability is extremely tight along Icicle Creek, where stream flows often fail to meet minimum adopted levels, especially in years of drought. This can lead to legal disputes, the interruption of irrigation water to users, and significant problems for fish habitat

and passage, as well as threaten tribal fishing rights, and sustainable operation of the Leavenworth Natural Fish Hatchery.

In December 2012, Ecology's Office of Columbia River and the Chelan County Natural Resource Department convened a workgroup, bringing local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, irrigation and agricultural interests, municipal/domestic water managers, and environmental organizations together to find solutions to these problems. In 2018, they formally adopted a long-term restoration plan, called the Icicle Strategy, that identifies projects to improve stream flows and water availability, and resolves habitat and fisheries issues. Elements of the Icicle Strategy include:

- Alpine Lakes Reservoirs Optimization, Modernization, and Automation of outlet works and gate infrastructure at seven subbasin lakes.
- Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiencies explores options to improve irrigation delivery and on farm efficiencies.
- Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company Irrigation Efficiencies and Pump Exchange proposes to move the district's point of diversion downstream of the confluence with the Wenatchee River.
- Domestic Conservation Efficiencies focuses on conservation projects in the City of Leavenworth and Chelan County.
- Eightmile Lake Storage Restoration rebuilds the structurally-compromised Eightmile Lake dam to restore usable storage to the historical and permitted high water storage elevation
- Tribal and Non-Tribal Fisheries ensures that projects and actions taken do not have negative effects on tribal fishery activity in the Icicle Creek Subbasin.
- Habitat Protection and Enhancement identifies and implements stream restoration and protection projects such as riparian plantings, engineered log jams, and conservation easements to improve stream habitat and ecosystem health.
- Instream Flow Rule Amendment modifies the instream flow rule's interim domestic reservation of 0.1 cfs to a final level of 0.5 cfs.
- Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Conservation and Water Quality Improvements focuses on

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY.  
Native fishing platforms on Icicle Creek just below the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery Dam

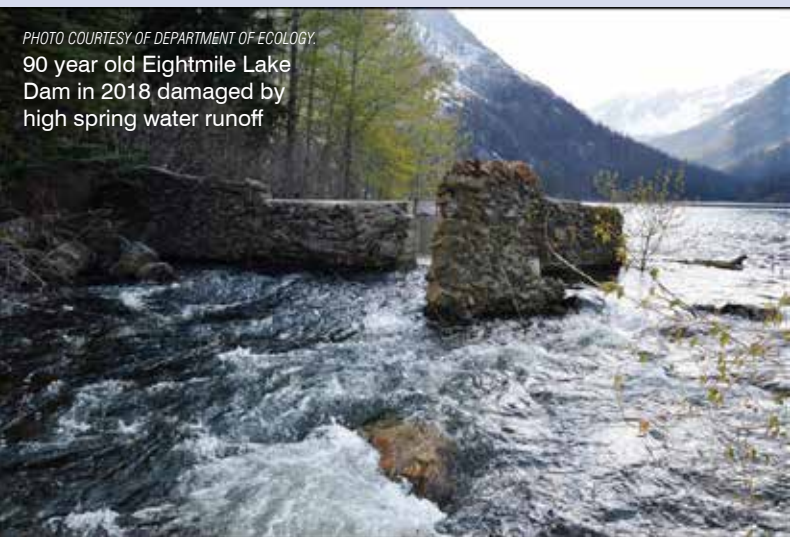


PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY.  
90 year old Eightmile Lake Dam in 2018 damaged by high spring water runoff



PHOTO BY TERRY LOSS.  
Patricia (Pat) Stoudt, 1999 Royal Lady of the Autumn Leaves died on December 7, 2020. A family gathering will be next summer, more information will come later.

## Virtual Music – James Mitsuyasu Makes It Happen



Marlene Farrell

get different views of my hands, show stuff under a document camera, or demonstrate music theory concepts on a piano."

If that already sounds sophisticated, just wait, there's more. "Although we can't all play with our mics on, students can still play along with me during our class. They just stay muted, and I switch around on the instruments so that everybody gets to hear me play their instrument and try to match their sounds to mine."

James Mitsuyasu, the band director for Cascade High School and Icicle River Middle School, knows how to play a dozen instruments, and thus he is able to help students at all levels. This year, however, with remote education, it's Mitsuyasu's expertise in technology that is allowing him to teach and interact with his students in new and meaningful ways.

"I've managed to build a system in the band room that lets me play music from a variety of sources over Zoom," said Mitsuyasu. "I have a couple of microphones, a keyboard, and a few cameras around my desk, all connected to my computer. This lets me switch around during a Zoom meeting to

Mitsuyasu has to be a master multi-tasker, while also watching his students. "I check for things like finger placement or embouchure shape and provide other general reminders about technique."

Beyond Zoom class time, Mitsuyasu continues to mentor his students in musicianship. Students submit recordings of songs and other assignments and, he records feedback. "This is where I get the chance to work on each student's specific skills and help them improve."

CONTINUED TO PAGE A4



James Mitsuyasu

PHOTO BY KEVIN FARRELL

**Wishing you the best during the holidays.**

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Inside The ECHO this week

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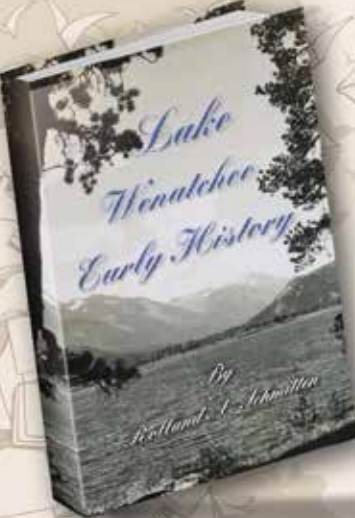
as the recipient of the  
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Sheila brings her creativity and excellent culinary skills to the dietary department where she has been employed as a chef for nearly 3 years. She was recognized for her always upbeat and positive attitude, desire to please and always accommodating. Sheila not only takes a special interest in the meal preparation, but also demonstrates a strong desire to assure the dietary needs of both resident and staff are met.



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# City Administrator six month reflection: sink or swim- a balancing act

By ANA CORTEZ-STEINER

City Administrator

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, Leavenworth like Seattle, Tukwila, Yakima, Pasco and other Washington cities, has improved its balancing skills: for example, balancing new demands on services with lower revenues, balancing public health with economic activity and more along those lines. After six months in Leavenworth, I too have gotten better at managing life in a pandemic and managing routine municipal services. Through this learning curve, I have also learned about what is not happening like Oktoberfest, street performances... Christmas Lights Ceremony. Months ago, the City and the Chamber engaged in conversations on how to prepare for the uncertainty of the winter months. As we were unsure where in the COVID-19 spectrum we would be by year's end, it was difficult to make decisions about an uncertain future. My internal question was, "How to strike a balance?" – How do we balance the importance of public health and business vitality? How do we balance quality of life for the city's full-time residents and

families with the visitors who are the backbone of the local economy?

We had thousands of visitors this past Saturday, and social media has been active since then. There have been posts, comments, and threads about staying home, economic vitality, community responsibility, responsibility to employees, turning off lights, turning on lights and similar social media chatting.

So, there are clearly a lot of people offering a wide range of perspectives to many tough but necessary questions. How do we balance the need for business vitality – our City's General Fund is heavily dependent on sales and business taxes, as these dollars support city services – with new norms of social distancing and mask wearing? How do we balance the need to pay employees with the desire to make sure folks stay at home? How do we keep our city alive while respecting medical experts who plead with us to stay home? How do we carefully swim and not sink?

There are actions that contribute to a more resilient, balanced city: strong partnership between the City and the Chamber of Commerce, for instance, so that important decisions are co-owned and we sink or swim together. There are actions that are unhelpful and contribute to conflict and confusion, including impersonating Chamber of Commerce staff and informing the public that a secret lighting ceremony would take place or disguising an anti-social distancing protest as a live concert. Both of these things happened last weekend, and both led to the same outcome: confusion.

Since June, the Chamber of Commerce, the City Council, staff and general members of the community have diligently met every week to strategize and to find solutions that

make us resilient while stay within the Governor's framework. Some solutions and approaches have been brilliant; some have not. Strategies that have worked thus far include: closing Front Street to vehicles, designated temporary parking for take-out, tables in public spaces, summer and winter patios, sanitizer stations, opening Festhalle bathrooms, hiring downtown ambassadors and troubleshooting as a group.

Most recently, the City located the Farmers' Market at the west end of Front in order to bring traffic to this part of town that is easily skipped by visitors; this challenge is not unique to the west end... one bite at a time. There is a narrative that the Farmers' Market is competition to established businesses; for the record, of the sixteen booths, eleven are merchants from the summer Farmers' Market and Art in the Park, and five are new and include brick and mortar merchants from Greater Leavenworth. While brick and mortar merchants on the west end of Front welcome increased vitality, we are happy to see crowds disperse to this empty part of Front.

These actions bring balance. These actions move the city forward. As the new City Administrator, I have so much to learn about life in a small town and the dynamics of a destination town. I am energized by the innovation and creativity from the Chamber of Commerce, I am dismayed at the attitude of a minority that seeks conflict instead of harmony, I am anxious about future restrictions the Governor may impose and I am humbled by the commitment of downtown and city employees who show resilience beyond the call of duty. Even in a pandemic, surrounded by great swimmers, one is sure to stay afloat.



Ana Cortez



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*This announcement sponsored by The Leavenworth Echo*





# Neighbors

## Not feeling the spirit...



**A WALK WITH PASTOR JOHN SMITH**

I don't know about you but it doesn't feel like Christmas this year. I know many of us are trying to get into the Christmas spirit but it just seems a bit forced, contrived, and absent of the usual feeling that we are accustomed to during this season. But can you blame us? After all, 2020 has been a year that none of us had anticipated. Everyone has been affected by the pandemic, either we have contracted the virus ourselves or have been enduring the mandates and policies all aimed at keeping us "safe". For close to nine months we have been in the slough and now that we are in the "The most wonderful time of the year" there is just simply no energy to celebrate. However, regardless of how we feel or the circumstances, we find ourselves in currently, the Incarnation—God the Son taking upon himself, humanity—is a permanent reality. In other words, the miracle of love demonstrated in the person and work of Jesus Christ will never change, no matter how we feel or the situations that surround us. I believe all of us are weary of ever-changing things paraded as "facts". Every day, these "facts" are shoveled in our direction that proves or disproves a variety of things, like voter fraud, the number of COVID cases, or the effectiveness or lack-there-of, of wearing masks. Yet there is one fact that cannot be argued or disproven and that is Jesus

came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).

Roughly 2000 years ago, in accordance with the will of the Father, Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by way of the Holy Spirit. Days later the child would be born and he would grow up to evidence without a shadow of a doubt that he indeed was the Son to be given (Isa. 9:6). The miracle of Incarnation happened in space and time and therefore is a historical fact. Anyone who says that Jesus didn't exist or is a product of a borrowed mythos of various pagan cultures is either grossly ignorant or deceitful. Christ stands as altogether unique in that his earthly life was predicted centuries before his arrival and that he fulfilled every prophecy concerning his birth, his works, and miracles, death, burial, and resurrection which makes Jesus, according to Boettner, "the only expected person in all of history."

In a time when narratives frequently change with the wind, it is a comfort to know that the veracity of the Incarnation is sure. Right about now, we all need to be reminded of that unshakeable truth—that Christ is real and came into this world. When there is so much uncertainty about where our nation is headed or about our own personal lives, what better place to find certainty than in a real person named Christ.

However we are feeling at this moment and in this season, Christ did come to save his people from their sins. He came in the flesh when he wasn't wanted by his own and at his arrival, the only multitude that celebrated were angels. However, regardless of any one's response to Christ, he was born and ultimately gave his life. To put it this way, he was born, lived, and died for people like you and me who are so very fickle in our feelings.

As you gather with your families this Christmas and perhaps there is a coldness in your heart that matches the outside, remember that it doesn't change the reality of the miracle of the Incarnation. In fact, be reminded that is precisely the condition of hearts that made such work necessary to save.

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

## School board meeting includes news about two received grants



**Marlene Farrell**

The attendance for the school board meeting on December 14 included nine high school seniors. The seniors introduced themselves and shared how long they'd been with the district and their hopes for post-graduation, which included university, vocational training and the army. Attending public meetings is part of the requirement for the class, Citizen Washington in a Contemporary World, which all seniors take.

The list of action items

on the agenda was light, but included the approval of the hire of Cynthia Reyes as Migrant Recruiter. This is a part-time position that P.D. principal Emily Ross described as, "incredibly important." Ross explained further, "Each district receives funding for migrant students, which is above and beyond the money we receive to educate general students, as migrant families need more support to help educational continuity."

Reyes, in this role as migrant recruiter, will work up to about ten hours a week. "A recruiter needs to be compassionate, smart and kind, and the best recruiter will help families feel comfortable, at ease, and help give them a voice in the school district. I believe Cynthia will be able to do this," said Ross.

During policy review, the school board did a first reading of policy 6625, Private Vehicle

Transportation. Superintendent Tracey Beckendorf-Edou explained this update clarifies when it's appropriate to use a private vehicle to transport students, rather than transport by school bus, for a school function. One current example would be if one student, for medical reasons, couldn't wear a mask, then that student could be transported separately by a parent.

Beckendorf-Edou announced that the Cascade High School Career Technology Education (CTE) building was finally complete. "It has an improved metal shop and wood shop. Also, there's now the ability for the teacher to move seamlessly between the classroom and the shop," Beckendorf-Edou said. A ribbon-cutting is being planned for when COVID safety protocols allow.

The school district, partne-

ring with Cascade Medical, won a Community Health Initiative grant for \$6700 for suicide prevention education at the high school and middle school. This collaboration will enable key staff to be trained to lead workshops for staff, students and parents to recognize and respond to those who are contemplating suicide, and help establish clearly defined avenues of support for students in need. This grant came from the North Central Accountable Community of Health.

The district also won a grant from the School Superintendents Association for \$2500. These funds will cover the rest of the needed hotspots for students who have various issues with internet connectivity. The students will now be able to get on the internet with ease for educational purposes.

### Eightmile Dam

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

projects to reduce surface water use and improve access to groundwater.

- Fish Passage improves passage by assessing and removing barriers, so fish have better access to healthy habitats.
- Fish Screening upgrades fish screens on diversions to meet current standards.
- Water Marketing creates an Iceicle Water Market and seeds it with an initial 1,000 acre-feet

of water for agriculture use in the Icicle Creek Subbasin and Wenatchee River Basins during shortages.

Public comment period: The scoping comment period begins on Dec. 18, 2020, and runs through Feb. 1, 2021. Ecology is expanding the required 21 day scoping comment period to 45 days to promote interagency cooperation and public participation.

Submitting a comment: You can submit a comment electronically, during a meeting, or by mail. Comments

are weighted equally whether they are provided during a meeting, mailed, or submitted electronically. Those wishing to register a comment on line or attend one of the scheduled meetings need to do so through the Ecology website at <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News/2020/Dec-18-Eightmile-Dam-scoping>.  
Mail a comment to:  
Department of Ecology,  
Central Regional Office

Attn: Melissa Downes  
1250 West Alder Street,  
Union Gap, WA 98903

Public meetings:  
Due to the coronavirus epidemic, Gov. Jay Inslee directed state agencies to conduct public meetings remotely. We are asking participants to register in advance so that we can ensure that we have reserved enough slots with our online vendor for everyone.

### 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.

Please call 509-548-5286 for more information  
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**Due to the COVID-19 virus, all churches in the Upper Valley have suspended Saturday and Sunday services, Sunday School and meetings.**

*Please call or email your church listed below if you need more information.*

*May you take time to pray, rest, meditate and reflect during this time. Stay well, stay strong and stay informed.*

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Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.  
Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.  
Pastor Bob Bauer  
Find us on Facebook at Cashmere Baptist Church

**CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
303 Maple Street • 782-2431  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke  
[www.cashmerepres.org](http://www.cashmerepres.org)

**CASHMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
213 S. Division • 782-3811  
Worship & Sunday School at 11:00 a.m.  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Pastor Lilia Felicitas - Malana

**CHRIST CENTER**  
Cashmere Assembly of God: 509-782-2825  
Worship Service Sundays 10:00 a.m., in-person, Conservatory  
Apple Annie's and on-line, [christcentercashmere.com](http://christcentercashmere.com)  
Underground High School Sundays 6:00 p.m.,  
In-person, Conservatory  
Middle School Youth Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m.,  
In-person, Conservatory  
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Children's Pastor, Andy Robinson  
Congregational Care Pastor, Joyce Williams  
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High School Director, Kelsie Folden  
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Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer or Holy Eucharist. Times and place will vary due to COVID restrictions.  
Service on YouTube or Email link: [CashmereEpiscopalLutheranMinistries.com](http://CashmereEpiscopalLutheranMinistries.com)  
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**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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**EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
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Church: 548-7667  
Meetings: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

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Worship 9:30 a.m. w/coffee following  
[www.faihtleavenworth.org](http://www.faihtleavenworth.org)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, SBC**  
429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745  
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM  
Website: [www.leavenworthbaptist.com](http://www.leavenworthbaptist.com)  
Email: [info@leavenworthbaptist.com](mailto:info@leavenworthbaptist.com)

**LEAVENWORTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
111 Ski Hill Drive • 548-5292  
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Lead Pastor: Mark Miller  
Youth Pastor, Kent Wright  
[www.LCN.org](http://www.LCN.org)

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Saturday Services  
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.  
Fred Smith • 860-3997

**SPIRIT LIFE CENTER**  
210 Benton Street • 548-7138  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Prayer 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor Russell Esparza

### DRYDEN

**DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. • 782-2935 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Steve Bergland

**MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 782-2618  
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Pastor Mike Moore  
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1	7	2	5	9	3	6	4	8
9	4	5	1	8	6	2	3	7
6	3	8	7	4	2	1	9	5
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7	1	4	9	3	8	5	6	2
5	9	6	8	2	4	7	1	3
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C	R	I	B	R	O	E	S	A
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T	A	T	S	E	G	O	S	F
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C	A	L	A	S	H	M	A	L
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J	O	K	I	S	C	R	A	B
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**Legals**  
**Public Notices**

**CITY OF CASHMERE SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1296**  
On the 14th day of December, 2020 the City Council of the City of Cashmere, Washington passed Ordinance No. 1296. A summary of the content provides as follows:  
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF CASHMERE, WASHINGTON, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. Effective date of this ordinance is five days after publication. A copy of the full text of this ordinance is available at Cashmere City Hall or will be mailed to you upon your request to Kay Jones, City Clerk-Treasurer, City of Cashmere, 101 Woodring Street, Cashmere, WA 98815. Published in The Cashmere Valley Record/ Leavenworth Echo on December 23, 2020. #1276

**Public Notices**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR CHELAN COUNTY**  
In the Matter of the Estate of JENELLE KNISHKA, Deceased. NO. 20-4-00305-04  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The Administrator named below has been appointed as Administrator of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Administrator or the Administrator's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of:  
(1) Thirty days after the Administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.  
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: December 16, 2020  
ADMINISTRATOR: Steven R. Schwind  
ATTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATOR: David Visser  
ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: OVERCAST LAW OFFICES 23 South Wenatchee Avenue Suite 320 Wenatchee, WA 98801

**COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS AND CAUSE NUMBER:**  
Chelan County Superior Court, No. 20-4-00305-04  
**OVERCAST LAW OFFICES**  
By: David Visser, WSBA No. 41546  
Attorney for Administrator  
Published in The Leavenworth Echo/ Cashmere Valley Record on December 16, 23, and 30, 2020. #1263

**Public Notices**

**SUMMARY OF CITY OF CASHMERE RESOLUTION 09-2020**  
On the 14th day of December, 2020 the City Council of the City of Cashmere, Washington passed Resolution 09-2020. A summary of the content consisting of the title provides as follows:  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASHMERE, WASHINGTON, REPEALING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION 06-2019, AMENDING WASTEWATER RATES OF THE CITY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021. A copy of the full text of this resolution detailing the rates is available at Cashmere City Hall or will be mailed to you upon your request to City Clerk, City of Cashmere, 101 Woodring Street, Cashmere, WA 98815. Published in The Cashmere Valley Record/ Leavenworth Echo on December 23, 2020. #1275



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# Opinions

## Where's the evidence?



**IN MY OPINION**  
Bill Forhan  
Publisher

"It's not who votes that counts, it's who counts the votes," Joseph Stalin

Google that quote and you will find a rash of disclaimers telling you Stalin never said that. I searched a number of other browsers and found several editorials that reported Stalin said it in 1924 when he took over for Lenin. So, who do you trust? That question is more relevant today than it has ever been in our history.

A local official called me this week to ask me my opinion on the recent decision by the Royal Robes to not weigh in on the election. I told him I was deeply worried that there was widespread fraud involved in this election. He kept hounding me to produce the evidence. That's not my job.

The point is not everything you read, see on TV, find on a search engine or on some

social media site is factually correct. That is why it is important that you look at stories critically. That is why you need to question whether the facts you are being fed are correct or just the biased opinion of the reporter.

As a journalist, my job and the job of all of the other "journalists" in this country is to raise questions and attempt to get answers from our elected representatives. When the answers we receive don't pass the smell test then we need to keep pushing until our elected representatives come up with serious answers to serious questions.

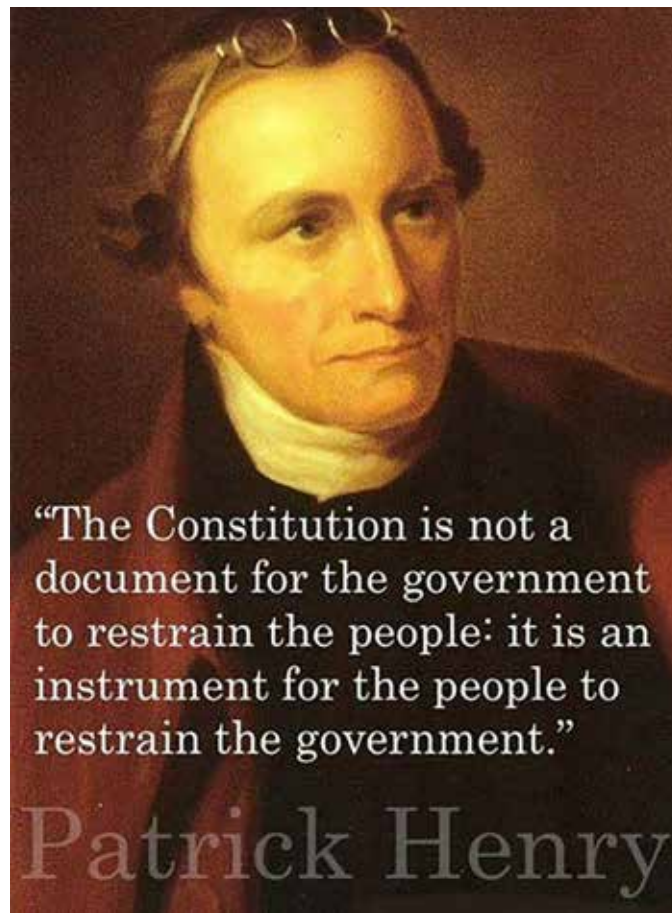
It has been said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The exact authorship of that phrase is often debated, but human experience tends to confirm it. Our system of government is the best ever devised by humans, but the last election does raise serious questions. Questions that deserve answers.

The answers to questions about the last election do not pass the smell test. There is plenty of reason to question the accuracy of the vote. It may not all meet the immediate evidentiary standards for a

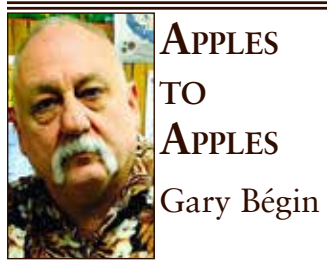
court of law but what is clear is the outright dismissal of the issue by the Supreme Court is a just another example of the

impotence of that final check on our Constitutional contract with our government.

Without our Constitution,



## Is Edward Snowden a false equivalency to Jane Fonda?



**APPLES TO APPLES**  
Gary Bégin

Can we truly compare Edward Snowden's act of releasing classified American documents to "Hanoi Jane" Fonda? In response to a possible pardon for "whistleblower" Edward Snowden by President Donald Trump, Wyoming Republican Rep. Liz Cheney said, "Edward Snowden is a traitor. He is responsible for the largest and most damaging release of classified info in U.S. history. He handed over U.S. secrets to Russian and Chinese intelligence putting our troops and our nation at risk. Pardoning him would be unconscionable."

So here's the question, is Dick Cheney's daughter being an extremist? I think not. She is right on. BTW - I call her Dick Cheney's daughter (the former VP under George Bush the II) not from a lack of respect, but because she obviously rode that daddy's name recognition into victory, but since Wyoming is a conservative state, she might have won anyway even if she called herself Jessabelle de Casper.

Back to the question of false equivalency. Jane Fonda upset millions of Americans, especially veterans, when she sat in an anti-aircraft battery (gun) during the Vietnam War ... an obviously traitorous thing to do, considering American men and women were still "in country" fighting the enemy.

What Fonda did was reprehensible and, I believe, an act of betrayal. The photograph of her sitting and smiling while handling an instrument of death used against fellow Americans went worldwide. To this day, Vietnam Vets call her Hanoi Jane and even go so far as to place her likeness

in urinals, however gross that may sound. That is how great the level of disgust is with her among these fellow citizens who placed their lives on the line when ordered to do so. For Fonda, it seemed all fun and games akin to a schoolgirl getting a ride in a military plane or having a surprise birthday party. Thanks to Cyndi Lauper we know, girls just wanna have fun ... (when appropriate).

Fonda's was an act of an obvious physical action captured for posterity in a photo, while Snowden's act was unseen and unphotographed. In reality, Snowden's actions were far worse than posing for a "bad judgement" photo opportunity as in Fonda's case.

Of course, the psychological optics of an American movie star yucking it up with the same bunch of folks who shot down heroes like future senator John McCain was a major political "psyche warfare" victory for Ho of the North. We all realize, as sentient adults, that words or actions once uttered or done, can have serious consequences.

I personally felt embarrassed by her and sadness for her father, Henry Fonda, a respectable and patriotic American actor, but sometimes kids rebel just because they haven't the brains to know what good judgement is.

Back to Snowden. He broke his oath, the one Fonda never took, to stand by Uncle Sam when he was in the CIA and again when he became an NSA (National Security Agency) contractor. He broke both and then ran like a coward. Did he do it for money? Who gives a rat's petute what his motives were? He did what he did.

Our fellow citizens were placed in harm's way due to a selfish act masquerading as "whistleblowing."

The legally protected act of whistleblowing is not the same thing as exposing national secrets, let's get that straight right off the bat. That's why I put what Snowden did in

quotes. Perhaps your liberal friends (or mine) may think it was a brave and honorable thing that Snowden handed secrets to our Cold War (which never ended) enemies, but think again.

He wasn't reporting on a failed government program that may have cost taxpayers money. He wasn't pointing out a few corrupt government officials. Snowden, as in Fonda's case, was an adult and as such needs to be held responsible for breaching national secrets. Fonda's irresponsible act seems a bit on the frivolous, naive and outright ignorant side where Hollywood stars showed little or no empathy to countrymen in a conflict during a controversial war.

Edward Snowden is exactly what Congresswoman Liz Cheney called him: A traitor. If he is repatriated to the U.S., his case meets the criteria for the death penalty. Patriotic Americans should not shed a tear if that comes to pass.

Snowden's acts of betrayal were without a doubt, far less conspicuous than Fonda's, but for both overt and covert reasons, his actions pose

deadlier consequences.

Young veterans from the "Sandbox" conflicts may not know anything about Hanoi Jane, but please, if you guys ever want to understand your elders better, Google her nickname and make sure you stare at what a photo of treason looks like. Soak it in a while and then think how you would have felt if actors George Clooney or Matt Damon visited the Taliban or ISIS or Saddam Hussein and posed with AK47's while your butt was in a Humvee that just rolled over an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

BTW - Have any veterans out there considered not liking the Atlanta Braves? Ted Turner owns that team and the Braves' First Lady is nonother than ... Jane Fonda.

About the author: Gary Bégin is a former Marine Corps Staff Sergeant and spent 22 years in several federal agencies. Bégin is currently the managing editor of NCW Media, owner of four community weeklies as well as the Wenatchee Business Journal. Bégin can be contacted at: Gary@ncwmedia.net



Liz Cheney

### Letters to the editor

**Are you kidding me?**

I can't believe Time magazine chose Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the Person of the Year for 2020. Because he got more than 51% of the vote? Come on, man! If that's the case, every President-elect should be chosen. This was so wrong and just shows how biased this magazine is. This award is as meaningless as when Barack Obama was given the Nobel Peace Prize before

he even started working as the President. Biden has done nothing yet! Obama had done nothing yet.

My first choice would've been first responders and health care workers who have selflessly given of themselves in fighting this horrible coronavirus. Time chose a group in 2017; called them the Silence Breakers, the #MeToo movement. Time had set precedent with

choosing a group. Why not the first responders/health care workers group? I've heard what health care workers are experiencing firsthand.

My second choice would've been President Trump for pushing for a vaccine through Operation Warp Speed. Pfizer vaccines were shipped out on Sunday (12/12) in the U.S. Two more await FDA approval. Look at the infrastructure that's been laid to get it distributed.

The syringes, vials, freezers, CO2 ice, ice chests, number of health care providers that are going to be giving shots, UPS and FedEx delivery to all the states.

The parallel track of developing the vaccine and distributing it was such a scientific feat and undertaking! Shame on Time magazine; this is so wrong. Joe and Kommie did not deserve that honor.

**Vicki Cibicki**, Cashmere

our "Democracy" is no longer accountable to the people. We are no longer citizens. We are subjects. When the regulators are making the laws and the elected representatives are no longer looking out for the citizens then we no longer have a Republic of the people, by the people and for the people.

It should not matter whether you are a Democrat or a Republican we all must provide a final check on the people who we elect to represent us. When there are serious concerns about the election, we owe it to each other to carefully examine the outcome.

Questions about this election are not completely about which side cheated? This week a story came out that Russia had hacked into thousands of government and corporate sites. They had gained access to numerous emails and information considered vital to US security. They had planted software in key programs. Are we completely sure that there wasn't foreign meddling in our election? Are we completely sure it was Russia? There are concerns now about China's meddling in our elections.

The point here is there is significant evidence that something went drastically wrong with the 2020 election. The American people deserve a thorough examination of the process and results of this election. It would appear that our institutions have failed us at this point. I for one would like the Democrats and Trump haters to step up and demand that a thorough examination be completed. One that proves the election was fair. One that proves there was no attempt to steal the election.

I did find a video on the YouTube that raises serious questions. I encourage you to watch it. You will find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXtGltm1bvQ&feature=youtu.be>

I have posted it to Bill's Blog at [leavenworthecho.com](http://leavenworthecho.com)

The video contains much compelling evidence for those who are willing to examine the concerns being raised by some of your fellow Americans.

True freedom demands active not passive citizens.

Bill Forhan can be reached at 509-548-5286 or [publisher@leavenworthecho.com](mailto:publisher@leavenworthecho.com).

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