

# Cashmere Valley Record

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## Shanna to get help, thanks to you

by Rick Steigmeyer  
Thanks to overwhelming community response, 8-year-old Shanna Cope will go to Stanford University Medical Center Jan. 28 to begin treatment for Turner's Syndrome, a chromosome birth defect.  
"It's been unreal," said Shanna's mother, JaNell Cope. "I've never seen any town like this as far as helping people. It gives me a lot of faith in people."  
Cope, who will accompany her child to California for the initial treatment by one of the country's leading endocrinologists, Dr. Ron Rosenfeld, has gained much faith

and much hope in recent weeks. Rosenfeld believes much can be done to help Shanna, who suffers from swollen limbs and other growth irregularities from Turner's Syndrome, and has offered to provide the first six months treatment at Stanford without cost.  
Since the news was first reported in the Cashmere Valley Record last week, community businessmen have put out jars for contributions and local clubs have gathered other donations for Shanna's travel fund.  
Cope, a part-time waitress at The Cashmere restaurant, said the

fund has not been gathered yet so she does not know how much has been donated, but she is sure they will be able to make the trip. Other trips to the San Francisco bay area may be necessary.  
Donations can also be made to an account in her name at the Cashmere Valley Bank, according to Cashmere School District nurse Judy Milner.  
At least one pass has been donated by an airline company and reservations have already been made for a night's lodging at the Ronald McDonald House, Jan. 27, she said.  
Bill Osborn, a deacon at St.

Francis Xavier Church, who helped coordinate the fundraising, said he did not know how much money had been raised yet but the Cashmere Ministerial Association would be donating about \$200.  
Cope said she had been on the giving end of charity while working for Vista several years ago. Her belief that what you put out comes back to you has been confirmed this last week in Cashmere, she said.  
"I'm very grateful for everything," she said.  
Osborn said Linda Fullerton, the young woman who came to Cashmere after living in an or-

chard with her two toddlers, has also received help from the community in setting up her new apartment.  
"We've got her a place to stay and a job, now she has a chance to make it on her own," said Osborn.  
Cliff Howell, the 31-year-old Peshastin warehouse worker who was paralyzed from the neck down after he fell and hit his head on a doorknob Thanksgiving night, began his first rehabilitation session in Seattle Monday.  
Cindy Howell said she had just returned from Seattle where her

husband would remain to undergo extensive rehabilitative therapy. She said she is very thankful for money which has come in from the community. There are trust funds established in local banks, she said, but she hasn't had time to even think about costs yet.  
"It's been very hard," she said. Howell's hospital and rehabilitation center expenses will be enormous, said a hospital spokesperson.  
A fundraiser over the weekend in Leavenworth organized by Howell's mother-in-law was reported to have raised over \$1,200.

## Cuts may affect local game agents

by Rick Steigmeyer  
Local wildlife agent Larry Klump is one of 90 game department employees whose jobs would be affected by a proposed \$6.7 million budget cut.  
Offices in Wenatchee and Ephrata are chartered for closure and wildlife agent positions in Leavenworth and East Wenatchee will be discontinued according to game department director W. Waldman's 1987-88 biennial budget recommendation.  
The problem is due to the unexpected failure of initiative 90, the privately sponsored measure on the ballot last fall which would have increased sales taxes one eighth of a percent to fund game department activities, according to Larry Lennox, game department information and education officer in Olympia.  
"Most of us were real optimistic," said Lennox. "It just seemed like such a logical and right thing that we thought it was going to go. We figured we were going to get an 11th hour rescue and it just didn't materialize."  
Lennox said the department's budget for the next two years is estimated to be \$6.7 million short of what it will take to keep department services at their current levels. The department is expected to have \$53 million for the next two years, \$3 million less than the last biennium.  
The game department derives its funds from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and from a tax on the sale of sporting goods. A small amount of money comes from federal grants, but no money is derived from the state's general fund.  
Larry Klump, local wildlife agent and Peshastin resident, said the game department is the only

Wildlife agents are hard on poachers. Page 4  
state agency that does not get any state money.  
"We're a self-supporting agency, but there comes a time when you can't just keep taxing hunters and trappers to foot the bill," said Klump. "It cost me \$70 just to buy deer tags for my wife and myself. We buy each other fishing licenses for Christmas presents."  
Klump is one of 90 game department employees who will be affected by the cuts. With 16 years seniority, Klump would be transferred to another location rather than laid off, but not knowing what will happen or where he would be sent is very unsettling, he said.  
"You can't overstate what this does to employee morale," said Lennox. "Our wildlife agents are already spread out real thin. Even at current levels we don't do the job we should."  
Lennox said as agents get fewer and are forced to cover a larger territory, they lose their opportunity to patrol and essentially work only on complaints and on a task by task situation.  
Many fish, wildlife and instructional programs will also be cut, which means fewer recreational opportunities.  
"We're going to the legislature asking for financial relief, but getting it is certainly not inevitable," said Lennox. "Most other state agencies get money from the general fund, but we don't."  
"It isn't the brightest picture, but whatever the final situation we find ourselves in, we're going to do the best job we can do."

## Local mills buzzing, export tax could help

by Rick Steigmeyer  
Canadian timbermen say it will kill them, but WI Forest Products administrators say it is too soon to speculate whether Canada's new 15 percent export tax on lumber will help Washington's timber economy.  
The Canadian export tax will replace a 15 percent tariff on Canadian lumber shipped to the United States. The U.S. tariff, which was slated to go into effect last week, was meant to offset the low price of Canadian lumber and rescue the falling U.S. timber industry. The Canadian government decided at the last minute to keep the money in their own country with a tax of their own in lieu of the one imposed by the U.S. government.  
WI Industrial Relations Manager Hugh Bannister said lumber from WI mills in Cashmere and Peshastin was selling very well before the expected holiday slowdown, but he would not make any predictions for the future. Another element in the economic picture is the recent return of to work of several thousand Canadian loggers and mill workers after a long and bitter strike.  
"It would just be speculation.

We'll just have to see. Right now there is a good demand for lumber, but it will take a while, at least until the end of the first quarter, before we know the effects of the tax," said Bannister.  
Bannister said Canadian timbermen are crying that the tax will force the shutdown of inefficient mills just as cheap Canadian lumber caused mill closures in Washington and Oregon. Washington lumber executives have fought for an even higher tax, however.  
"We thought it would take more than 15 percent," he said. No tax increases are expected at this time.  
Meanwhile, WI mills in Cashmere and Peshastin continue to produce lumber through the winter. The Peshastin mill, which employs 110 workers, remained open all last year. This is the longest the Cashmere mill has remained in operation in recent history. The Cashmere mill employs 65 workers.  
"It's been a surprise to us because we've been able to get logs because of the lack of snow. The way it looks, we have enough logs to run through February. If they continue to buy logs, they'll keep going," said Bannister.

## POWs in Peshastin

The fall when German prisoners harvested the apples



Albert Weirich earned his place in Peshastin through his art. As a German prisoner of war, Weirich sketched and painted the story of his five year internment. He later moved back to the small town to

purchase his own orchard and paint the decorative facades in Leavenworth.



Albert Weirich painted this self-portrait while a POW in Peshastin in 1944.

by Pat Bordan  
It is autumn of 1944 - harvest season in the Valley and time to pick the fruit - but pickers are scarce. Most of the young men who might have worked the orchards have long since been drafted.  
But the government decides to fill the labor void with POWs. Almost overnight, a deserted field on Saunders Road in Peshastin sprouts fences, towers and army tents - followed shortly by 200 German prisoners of war and their guards.  
The farmers are asked to pay the government for the labor. The prisoners are given quotas and paid a bit for making their quota. The crop is harvested and the camp vanishes as quickly as it came.  
Tents, fences, towers, prisoners and all are moved and the wind again blows through an empty field as if there had never been POWs in Peshastin.  
But one game back.  
Albert Weirich, one of the captured paratroopers who lived briefly in the Peshastin prison camp, returned to make a place for himself and his family in the community where he'd once been an imprisoned enemy.  
Weirich, a young German artist with a master's degree in art, was with General Rommel's troops in Africa. His unit was captured in 1942 by the English

and traded to the Americans for food.  
From the time he was taken prisoner until his release in 1947, Weirich sketched and painted a continuous pictorial story of his years as a POW. Using any medium at hand, he drew and painted on everything from writing paper to toilet paper.  
In 1953, under the sponsorship of George Cowan, Weirich and his German-born wife Hilda returned to Peshastin to settle on Blewett Highway and proceeded to become an integral part of the community.  
Weirich died in 1984, but Hilda still has his wartime diary and the pictures that tell the story more vividly than any words.  
Pencil sketches and paintings of camels, nomads, and black workers show the progression of Weirich's captured unit from Egypt through the Sudan to South Africa. From South Africa, they were convoyed to New York.  
Their convoy was bombed en route by the Germans. From New York they went to Camp Hood in Texas by train, then to Fort Lewis in western Washington and then to Peshastin to pick apples.  
Weirich painted or sketched everything that met his eye. There were pictures of each  
-Please turn to page 3

## Church donates \$945 to southern farmers

St. James' Episcopal Church in Cashmere has donated over \$900 to aid drought stricken southern farmers.

Fund coordinator Marti Brisley mailed a check for \$945 to the Federation of Southern Cooperatives which distributed over \$1 million from the FarmAid concert last year to cressless farmers.

The church made over \$300 for the fund by selling 40 boxes of fruit donated for the cause by Independent Warehouse in Dryden and Peshastin Hi-Up Growers.

A parish in Pullman sent money from their blessing fund when they heard of the effort, said the Rev. Bob Haerter, pastor at St. James.

Other funds were raised from a dessert party at the church Nov. 15, and at the ecumenical Thanksgiving service held at the Cashmere High School Nov. 23.

The group hopes to donate more money from the sale of contributed fruit and donations at a later date, said the Rev. Haerter.

Contact: Marti Brisley for more details, 782-4384.

## More information needed

by Mike Cassidy

Should a parkoff space be created for Greyhound buses on Division Street to allow for an indoor station in downtown Cashmere?

The city council decided Monday more information is needed to make a decision.

Should the city lease public land near the landfill for private parking?

That, too, needs more study. Should future city council meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. rather than 8 p.m.?

Yes, the council firmly decided after a few minutes discussing the pros and cons.

So, starting with the next council meeting on Monday, Jan. 26, council sessions will be at 7:30 p.m., the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

And, should Dean Hills be officially approved as Cashmere fire chief?

Without question, the council vote yes.

Cashmere residents Lil and Art Cote asked the city to consider creating a bus parking zone on Division Street. The Cotes want to rent a space in Colony Corner for a bus station.

Cote told Monday's meeting that the office would be opened prior to the arrival of the daily buses and in the afternoon to collect packages.

However, the council decided to collect information from surrounding businesses on the effect of giving up three parking spaces and will look at alternative bus parking zones.

Apartment owner Barbara Frederickson asked the council for permission to use the library parking lot for private parking

during the winter no-street-parking months.

Councilman Keith Henning seemingly found agreement on the council when he noted the city couldn't allow private parking on the city-owned library lot, but not give downtown restaurateur Jon Sjolander a permit to park cars on public land during snow or ordinance hours. Sjolander's request at a recent council meeting had been turned away.

Councilman Gordon Irlie suggested leasing a city owned lot adjacent to the landfill for parking.

That met with questions about city liability and how leasing would affect future park development plans. The council decided more information was needed.

## Beltless is legal

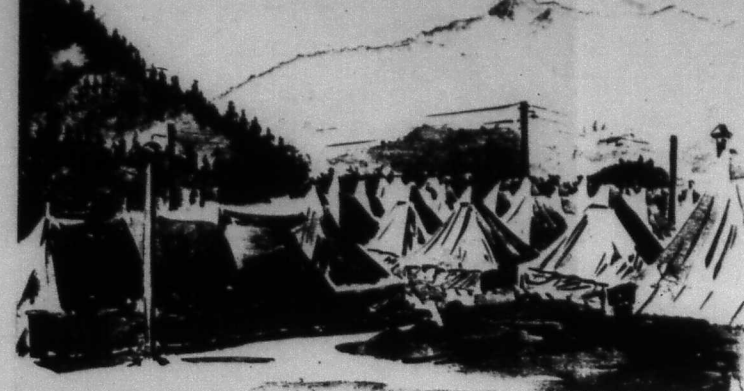
Cashmere is a no-belt town.

As city attorney Steve Crossland told the city council Monday night, "As soon as you cross the bridge (into Cashmere), you can rip off your seatbelt without fear of the deputy doing anything."

Because of a quirk in the recently passed state mandatory seatbelt law, towns like Cashmere and Seattle must also adopt a separate ordinance requiring the wearing of seat belts.

However, Crossland told the council, the state legislature should clear up the quirk during its present session.

So, the council decided to wait upon the state, rather than going to the expense of passing and publishing its own ordinance.



Albert Weirich painted this picture of the Saunders Road POW camp where over 200 German prisoners were held while they picked apples during the 1944 harvest.

## German POW came back to Valley

Continued from page 1

camp and its guards, Mexican workers lounging in the sun, fields, streams, mountain scenery and many apple trees.

"He was intrigued by apple trees," Hilda explained.

At the Peshastin camp, orchardist George Cowan, recognizing the paratrooper's talent, provided paint and paper. Cowan's daughter Mary baked bread for the prisoners.

When Weirich returned to Germany after his release and married his German sweetheart, Cowan continued to look after him, sending care packages to the Weirich family to be sure they had enough to eat and wear.

In 1953, Cowan visited Germany. "Hilda and I went to his house and persuaded us to come to America under his sponsorship," Hilda recalls. "We packed up two babies and 5,500

pounds of belongings - including a washing machine that never worked - and came to America."

In 1957, after they had lived in the Valley for four years, the massive furniture they'd brought from Germany was moved into the Blewett Highway house where Hilda still lives.

Albert, who worked in the orchards and eventually acquired one of his own, continued to paint on the side, his pictures marking the days of their lives.

"When we needed money, we couldn't sell the pictures," Hilda said. "Afterwards when we could have sold them all, we didn't need the money."

So they kept them.

Hilda produced the pictures done during Weirich's imprisonment. A painting of

Mount Rainier reflected his stay at Fort Lewis. A pencil sketch of an apple tree brought a story about the prisoners' revenge on the farmers they didn't like.

If the prisoners liked a farmer, they picked apples," Hilda said. If they didn't, they did the minimum or overfilled the apple box and set a box on top bruising the top layer of apples.

A sketch of a sullen looking guard drew out another of Weirich's shared memories. "Some of the guards in Texas treated them badly," Hilda said. "So they waited until the guards were asleep, stole their guns and hung them in a tree. The guards were embarrassed."

But the Peshastin camp was pleasant enough. The orchardists treated Weirich well and later accepted his family when they came from Germany.

## Ex-interpreter remembers cream of the German Army

by Pat Borden

In 1944 near the close of World War II, a sympathetic public threw its weight behind a war that contained unmistakable rights and wrongs, yet there remained different attitudes and different fears.

Yesterday's fears in retrospect may seem trifling when stacked against H-bombs that had been waste, but they were real enough then.

In 1944, the handsome German paratrooper from General Rommel's army who'd been captured in Africa and were being shifted between U.S. prison camps inspired a good deal of fear.

Hitler was evil, said the movies and the media, ergo, all German soldiers were evil. In the spring while the prisoners were being held at Camp Hood in Texas, people came from all over Texas to them because they'd been told that the paratroopers had horns.

In the fall of 1944, 200 German POWs from Ft. Hood were sent to an unnamed Washington state prison camp on Saunders Road in Peshastin to help with the harvest.

Eighty-one-year old Johnny Werner of Dryden, who acted then as unofficial interpreter for many of the prisoners, remembers being told by a colonel, "don't fraternize with them. It's treason just to talk to them."

It was a while before Werner let on that he could speak German.

And his wife Lenora Werner was frightened when the prisoners gave candy, purchased from the Army, to John Werner Jr., then three years old. "You heard so many stories about the Germans," she recalls, "I was afraid to let him eat the candy."

With stories of atrocities circulated, people of German ancestry in the U.S. did everything they could to dissociate themselves from their origins. The German language became taboo in many households. Children who might otherwise have grown up bilingual learned only English.

Why they even changed the name of one town from Krupp to Marlin," said Lenora. A munitions factory in Germany was also named Krupp.

Nonetheless, it wasn't long



Johnny Werner was interpreter to German POWs.

later learned that the prisoner was a second cousin of his from the Ukraine. But he was never allowed to visit him at Fort Lewis and couldn't track him down later.

"After the prisoners learned that I could speak German, there wasn't anything they wouldn't do for me," Werner said. Thinking it was his ranch, they picked more than their quota.

"They even hoped me haul in the apples and load the trucks."

The camp was securely fenced and heavily guarded with watch towers at each corner, but Werner thought both the guards and fence were redundant.

"Where would they go?" he asked. "They couldn't speak English. They'd stand out like a sore thumb."

"But I guess those soldiers had to have something to do." Not surprisingly, the captured German soldiers who enjoyed more freedom in their prison camps than some Japanese Americans at the time, were content with their lot as prisoners of the Americans.

"They knew they had a good thing," Werner judged. "The food was good. They got paid a bit for picking and could buy candy and razors - stuff we couldn't even get."

The prisoners didn't start worrying, he said, until they heard rumors that the war was coming to an end. Then they were terrified they'd be sent to Russia, Werner recalls. "But they expected the Americans would save them."

There's a new storage shed on the five acre plot on Saunders road where once German paratroopers, without horns, stayed during the 1944 harvest.

And a few people still remember when five acres of army tents on Saunders road were fenced and guarded - when prisoners picked the crops and the enemy had a face.

## Conservation vote

An open election for supervisor of the Chelan County Conservation District will be held at Fear Day on Jan. 28 at the Cashmere Grange Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Anyone interested in becoming a board supervisor can contact the conservation district at 662-4242.

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