



December 19th, 2025 (Christmas Issue)



Issue #20

### When the Communists Stole Christmas . . .

It was simple logic: the bourgeois - the middle class - loved celebrating Christmas: the birth of Jesus, the exchanging of gifts, spreading good cheer.

The Bolsheviks would have none of that. Not only did it challenge their atheistic dogma, but also, Christmas was based upon the values of private property. You can't give gifts if you don't own anything to give. The whole premise of communism was the abolition of private property. They believed that conflict came from ownership. So, in 1917 they banned Christmas in Soviet Russia.

[This is a fact well known to history. Just ask "Uncle" Google.]

The Communists of today still want to abolish private property in a "What's yours belongs to me and everybody else" mantra. They are offended with gift giving because it is based upon the principles of ownership, abundance, and the voluntary sharing of wealth. They think inequality is unfair and want to correct it with forced redistribution, and with them in charge . . . *to take the fun out of Christmas.*

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### What is a CAFR Report?

All institutions, large companies, and government entities have what are called "Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports" which provide details of an entity's financial

condition. They are not automatically divulged to the general public. Private companies have the right to keep such reports private. It is proprietary information and costs money to get.

But governments are required to make these reports available to the public upon request. Most people do not know that such reports exist and government officials will not tell you about them, either. The summaries of accounts published in the Legal Notices of your local paper are just that: summaries. A true reflection of the financial condition of a government entity can only be found in the CAFR.

I have been obtaining these reports the last few years. They are always two years behind, just long enough for government officials to avoid scrutiny before the next election.

That is why I knew closing Stimson Lumber would be devastating to the local economy. Its imprint was analyzed in the 2023 CAFR report.

I just now got the 2024 CAFR. I will let you know what I find out.

The County Commissioners are all "Golly, gee wiz! We didn't know we were running out of money."

Maybe they didn't. I don't know. But there is a culture of secrecy in county government that has gone on now for many years. After every public meeting, they have an executive session. In that secret meeting, they discuss personnel issues, litigation, and other matters deemed exempt from public disclosure.

One wonders: Don't these matters seriously impact disbursements? Salaries, settlements, concessions, etc?

If the county is being sued, or is about to sue, shouldn't we be told the potential financial impact of such lawsuits?

For example, few county residents are aware that the county and the CDA Tribe have locked horns over water rights. The Tribe wants to control access to the lake in order to levy fees and taxes. We are never told what the status of that litigation might be, now after ten years. What kind of concessions have been made? We don't know. They don't tell us.

### **What's Good for the Goose is Good for the Gander**

The same goes for the Tribe. They want it both ways: they want sovereignty, yet they also want to be treated like a private company that is immune from public scrutiny.

Case in point: I had to run for political office in 2012 to force disclosure from the Tribe. Beginning in 2010, Bill Weems and I had been trying to bring credit union services to Plummer, but the federal agency in charge did not want to give permission for expansion unless the Tribe formally backed out.

They procrastinated. So I ran for office against Paullette Jordan to make the matter a campaign issue. Within weeks, the Tribe disclosed to Bill (who subsequently became the mayor of the town) that the Tribe would withdraw its expansion option. The reason? The Tribe was unlikely to pass a federal audit and they did not want to risk it.

Having forced the issue, the path was then clear for Latah Credit Union to open a branch in Plummer.

Moral of the story: without public disclosure, record keeping gets sloppy. If the Tribe struggled with it, who's to say the county isn't getting sloppy too from their "Executive Sessions." Just sayin'.

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**Next Issue: Area News, the 2024 County CAFR, and more harvest reports.**

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*If you missed the previous newsletters, you can find them at [savebenewahcounty.com](http://savebenewahcounty.com).* James Stivers, Editor/Publisher [jwstivers1@gmail.com](mailto:jwstivers1@gmail.com). Let us know if your postal carrier failed to deliver your copy.

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***If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more does your Father who is in heaven. Jesus***

🎄 *Merry Christmas !!!* 🎄

### ***The McCroskey Agrarian***

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