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April 26, 2017

ilan Casino open to public

New era for La Center, Ridgefield and all of North Clark County begins

CALE JOHNSON
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After years of anticipation and legal wrangling, the Cowlitz Tribe's ilan Casino Resort just east of La Center off Interstate 5 Exit 16 is finally open to North Clark County and the world.

Doors opened on Monday at 10 a.m. after a special ribbon cutting ceremony.

"I'm so proud of everyone who has worked tirelessly (on the project)," said ilan General Manager Kara Fox-LaRose.

Fox-LaRose, ilan founder and Cowlitz Tribe member David Barnett, tribal chairman Bill Iyall and tribal spiritual leader Tanna Engdahl all spoke briefly before the grand opening, but the crowd of several hundred people kept chanting "open, open!" When it did, the rush through the doors was wild scene of pushing and running.

Of its 368,000 total square feet inside, the main attraction — gaming — fills 100,000 square-feet with 2,500 slot machines and 75 gaming tables. Besides that, there are a multitude of dining options, ranging from upscale restaurants to casual food court options, and a couple entertainment venues with bars. Shopping is also available in the resort in the form of clothing, jewelry and souvenirs. To see further details on all the featured



Photo by Cale Johnson

ilan Casino's "big three" of leaders Bill Iyall (left), Kara Fox-LaRose (center) and David Barnett (right) cut the ribbon just before doors opened to the public on Monday morning.

attractions, visit ilanresort.com.

Most everything inside, from the carpets to the lighting fixtures, pays tribute to the Cowlitz Tribe in its design and decoration.

"It's awesome," said grand opening visitor Scott Conner, from Longview. "It's beautiful, top of the line art and decor. I think it's going to be a hit."

Another first-day visitor, Cathy, of Battle Ground, described ilan as "nicer than most any casino I've been in."

A few interior designs that stand out are the 360-degree lifted bar right in the middle of the building, and the big windows on the sides with great views of the

surrounding landscape.

During the opening hour on Monday, eager attendees flocked mostly to the seemingly endless supply of slot machines and the bars for drinks.

This weekend, the tribe's 152-acre reservation is expected to be a swarming sea of visitors. Even after opening weekend though, Bill Iyall, chairman of the Cowlitz tribe, says the casino is expecting to attract over 4.5 million visitors a year. Other projections estimate more than an average of 12,000 people a day. If these numbers hold, it will obviously change North Clark County forever. Luckily, at least, the parking lot

holds 3,000 vehicles.

Construction on the \$510 million project began in January of last year, and although it is open now, it's far from finished. Still, there are several construction vehicles and supplies scattered around the property and even a fair amount of caution tape and cones because ilan has made clear there are still additional phases of development still to come. A coming addition is a 17,000-square-foot wing that will be used to host big gatherings such as concerts and conventions. A hotel is expected to be built as well.

ilan will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Woodland employee out of job following sex trafficking sting

Building official one of 14 arrested in Portland operation

THE REFLECTOR

A former employee of the city of Woodland was one of 14 men busted as part of a sex trafficking sting conducted by the Portland Police Bureau that ended earlier this month.

Wesley Edward Baumgardner, of Battle Ground, was arrested for the misdemeanor crime of commercial sexual solicitation, an alert from the Bureau stated. Baumgardner was employed with the city as a building official in the community development department.

Woodland Mayor Will Finn confirmed that the man listed in the Bureau alert was the same individual previously employed by the city. When Finn spoke to *The Reflector* April 17, he said that as of April 14 Baumgardner was no longer employed by the city.

From March 23 to April 5, the Portland Police Bureau's Sex Trafficking Unit conducted undercover missions to address online sex trafficking, the alert stated. Investigators used known sex trafficking websites to post ads, with 14 men contacting undercover police officers to arrange payment.

"For investigative reasons, the Sex Trafficking Unit is not sharing the specific website, application, or ad text publicly," the alert stated. Portland area hotels also assisted investigators with the operation.

Thirteen of the 14 men who responded to the ad and came to the hotel were arrested for the misdemeanor crime of commercial sexual solicitation, the alert stated. One man was additionally

See **TRAFFICKING** on Page A6

The small but mighty CloverBots of Battle Ground

Photo courtesy CloverBots

The CloverBots of Battle Ground pose with the robot they built in just six weeks. Made up of mostly CAM Academy and homeschool students, this scrappy group of robot builders competed on the national stage last weekend.



A small team of Battle Ground robot builders continues to defy odds on the international stage

JONATHAN HAUKAAS
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More than 400 teams from across the world met in Houston last week for FIRST Robotics Competition championship.

Among them were the CloverBots of Battle Ground.

The CloverBots finished as a division semi-finalist, but the real accomplishment was making it there, given the unique nature of their team makeup compared with the hundreds of other teams who joined them and the thousands of others that didn't make it.

While most teams feature somewhere between 60 to 70 players, the CloverBots have

See **CLOVERBOTS** on Page A6

Ridgefield man pleads guilty to ivory trafficking

Department of Justice: Davis bought and sold from undercover agent between 2012 and 2015

THE REFLECTOR

A Ridgefield resident has pleaded guilty to trafficking in ivory, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Tim Davis, 55, of Ridgefield, admitted to participating in at least 74 transactions involving whale, elephant and walrus ivory in a nine-year period from 2006 to 2015, the release states.

According to the plea agree-

ment, Davis used sites such as Etsy, Ebay and Craigslist to buy and sell ivory products, the release stated. Davis's main contacts were outside of the U.S., particularly in Asia.

In order to conceal the trade, Davis labeled the ivory products as "oxbone" the release stated. Between 2012 and 2015, Davis participated in a series of transactions with an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent.

The release listed a few examples of those transactions, mentioning one sale of sperm whale teeth to the agent as well as Davis's purchase of four walrus tusks from the agent.

"Under the terms of the plea

agreement, prosecutors will recommend a probationary sentence with as much as six months of home detention," the release stated. Davis will also forfeit ivory products obtained unlawfully.

"By buying and selling ivory products, this defendant was providing a marketplace for those who are hunting animals such as elephants and whales to extinction," U.S. Attorney Annette L. Hayes was quoted in the release. "I commend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for working diligently to stamp out this kind of trafficking. The laws we have enforced in this case are essential to preserving

the kind of healthy planet we all want to leave to future generations."

Deputy Assistant Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement Edward Grace commended the Department of Justice and other agencies involved.

"The illegal wildlife trade is a \$20 billion industry that is rapidly driving elephants and many other animals to extinction," Grace said. "The Service will continue to use every tool at its disposal to fight the trafficking scourge and the shameful individuals who are depriving our planet of these magnificent creatures for their own profit."

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County, Cowlitz approve casino law services

Sheriff's office will handle policing, jail; county to provide courts

RICK BANNAN
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Just exactly how the ilani Casino will be policed has been sketched out and approved as the Clark County Board of County Councilors voted last week to approve a law enforcement agreement with the Cowlitz Tribe.

The agreement as approved by council unanimously on April 18 would have the Clark County Sheriff's Office providing law enforcement and jail resources for the Cowlitz reservation. The county would also provide legal resources such as its courts, prosecution and defense.

The agreement would allow the sheriff's office to enforce all state criminal laws on the reservation, Clark County Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jane Vetto said. County officers would have the authority to arrest non-Indian perpetrators of crimes as well as the authority to detain Indian perpetrators until federal law enforcement officers can arrive.

The Tribe's governing board

had approved a resolution adopting Washington state laws on April 14, according to supplemental documents on the county's agreement.

The Tribe will also allow the county prosecutor to prosecute on both misdemeanors and felonies, Vetto said. In terms of compensation the Tribe would be paying \$250,000 in two installments for the sheriff's office services, and would pay varying amounts for assorted court and jail services when needed.

The contract as approved is for a one-year term with the possibility of an extension at the end of the timeframe if approved by both the county and tribe's governing boards.

Vetto said as part of the agreement the Tribe has allowed other law enforcement agencies that have mutual aid agreements with the sheriff's office to enter the reservation should they be called for support. Those officers would have the same protections that the county's deputies would when responding to a call.

Cowlitz Tribe Chair Bill Iyall said the Tribe had been working with La Center on the question of law enforcement, but the county agreement took precedence to get on the books first.

"They (La Center Police) cer-

IF YOU WANT TO SEE A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT:

A copy of the agreement along with the pay schedule for legal services can be found at clark.wa.gov/sites/all/files/the-grid/041817Executed_Cowlitz_LawEnforcementAgreement.pdf.

tainly have jurisdiction now under this agreement once this is signed; it's just a matter of compensation and capability," Iyall said. "We want the finest capability and response for our reservation; that is certainly a priority."

Clark County Board Chair Marc Boldt said he had spoken to officials in both La Center and Ridgefield about the matter, explaining to them based on the language the cities did not believe they had that authority. He said information from the Association of Washington Cities indicated the Tribe would need to make specific agreements with other agencies for them to have that authority.

Vetto said a provision was added to the agreement with the county to meet that end.

Cowlitz Tribe Vice Chair and Tribe Attorney Phil Harju said he had spoken with officials from both cities, explaining that they were waiting on the county's approval before submitting

their own proposal.

Harju said in his opinion the county agreement was all that was needed for the Tribe to do, "but in the abundance of caution, we agreed to put that (provision) in this agreement that we would negotiate with them directly."

Clark County Councilor Jeanne Stewart expressed disappointment that Sheriff Chuck Atkins indicated he would not be adding staff in light of this agreement.

"If we don't add officers to a location or to accommodate a new business development that will attract thousands of people every day, then to cover the casino is to not cover other parts of Clark County," Stewart said.

Vetto said that a provision in the agreement as well as the Tribe's negotiation with other law enforcement would hopefully address that need by the end of the contract year.

Local labor activist and former Clark County Commissioner Ed Barnes spoke in support of



File photo

The ilani Casino sign above Interstate 5 pictured earlier this month. The Cowlitz Tribe and Clark County came to an agreement last week to have the Clark County Sheriff's Office handle policing at the casino that opened on Monday.

the Tribe, making mention that in 15 years of working with the tribe "they have never went back on their word one time in any of the agreements that we have signed."

"They are going to be good partners," Barnes said.

Kalama plant permit deemed incomplete

Ecology Department requests more info for project to move forward

THE REFLECTOR

The proposed \$1.8 billion methanol refinery project in Kalama has hit a substantial

snag as the Washington state Department of Ecology has determined that its conditional use shoreline permit filing was incomplete, according to a letter from the DoE to Cowlitz County sent last week.

In the April 18 letter, the DoE found the permit request as filed "was incomplete and therefore cannot be evaluated by our department as a 'complete submittal.'"

The letter listed three areas where the department took issue: incomplete site plans, an outdated shoreline narrative and greenhouse gas emissions high-

er than the self-imposed limit.

Specifically, DoE found the site plans to not be detailed enough and possibly outdated given the date on the plan as submitted. The date of the plan, the letter states, was one month prior to a Cowlitz County Hearings Examiner's decision on the permit, the latter of which took into account changes in the site made during the hearing process.

The permit had been approved by Cowlitz County's hearings examiner in late February, though ultimately that decision went to the state where

now it does not meet their criteria.

The shoreline narrative was similarly outdated, as the last apparent revision was made in February 2016. Regarding the greenhouse gas emissions, the DoE stated that in their review they found the plant would produce about 230,000 more tons of carbon dioxide per year than the 975,000 limit self-imposed by Northwest Innovation Works, the permit applicant and company behind the plant proposal.

The DoE requested in the letter that the additional information be completed. Until they deem the permit filing complete the current application is deemed void, barring the project from starting before the criteria had been met.

The additional information for the permit request must be submitted to the DoE on or before May 19 or it will be sent back, the letter read.

The Seattle Times reported last week that Northwest Innovation Works said in a written statement that the company was confident "in the accuracy of our submission but appreciate the need for clarification in the review process."

According to The Times, Columbia Riverkeeper attorney Miles Johnson said he appreciated the DoE giving the project "the scrutiny it deserves." Riverkeeper has been one of several groups in opposition to the proposal.

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'Citizens town hall' rallies constituents unhappy with Herrera Beutler

Event features concerns, fears, disappointments of Third District residents

RICK BANNAN
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An empty chair, Lady Liberty, Woody Guthrie and an awful lot of political fervor dominated Clark College's Foster Hall auditorium April 20 as a capacity-sized crowd came together to voice concerns over their congressional representative.

A "Citizens Town Hall" was hosted for constituents of U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler where citizens were given the chance to address their issues with the congresswoman. Although Herrera Beutler was not in attendance, an empty chair with an American flag was placed on stage as a symbolic stand-in for the lawmaker.

With "Lady Liberty" portrayed by Joy Robertson-Maciel processing down the auditorium steps, the event began with a sing-along rendition of Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" before getting to the public comments.

Though portrayed as a town hall in a way to illuminate the lawmaker's lack of in-person events, it played more like a rally for those gathered, and given the number of bouts of applause and frequent waving of "agree" cards at favorable statements, the momentum built up more similar to the latter.

Comments, and often rhetorical questions given the mute addressee of the empty chair, ostensibly fit into six different categories identified by event organizers: health care, the environment, immigration, foreign affairs, ethics and education.

Event moderator Vicki Koss commented that she had hoped for a strong turnout, which given that the auditorium hit capacity it was about as successful as possible without Herrera Beutler not actually being there.

Although there was heavy comment regarding the usual suspects of health care and immigration, discussions on foreign affairs, ethics and education also took aim at the cur-



Photo by Rick Bannan

Citizens wave "agree" cards to show support of statements made by other members of the public during a "Citizens Town Hall" event on the Clark College Campus last week.

rent administration of President Donald Trump.

Some of Herrera Beutler's prospective opponents in the 2018 also spoke. Past Democratic challenger David McDevitt and new contender Peter Harrison were both present and spoke several times on different topics.

Harrison expressed concern over the shift in federal funding, cutting funds for foreign aid and the State Department while putting billions more to "rebuild" the military. He took issue with the need to rebuild, providing an example through the number of aircraft carriers that all militaries in the world have.

To the 40 total aircraft carriers in the world, the U.S. has close to half of those at 19, Harrison said.

"I don't want Donald Trump to have a military he uses in place of the State department," Harrison remarked. "I want a State department that keeps us out of wars and foreign conflicts."

In terms of ethics, the fact that Herrera Beutler was not present in front of her constituents made several commenters question her own integrity.

"We are your boss, and you need to be here tonight because we are concerned," Cameron, a Battle Ground resident who did



Photo by Rick Bannan

An empty chair gets an address from one of many members of the public during a "Citizens Town Hall" event on the Clark College campus last week. The event was hosted in protest of U.S. Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler's lack of formal, in-person town hall meetings.

not give his last name said. He specifically had concerns that the U.S. House of Representatives was not doing its job investigating the Trump administration's ties to Russia.

The environment was another topic discussed, with several of Herrera Beutler's constituents speaking about what they felt to be an ecological threat close to home — the proposed methanol refinery to be located in Kalama.

Sally Keely, a Kalama resident, listed off several adverse factors that the refinery would bring, including more than a million tons of carbon dioxide produced annually, leading to a 1 percent increase in greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

"The risks to the environment are simply not worth it for fewer than two jobs per acre," Keely said.

The event was sponsored by

Southwest Washington Coalition Action Network, a group that formed as a result of the January Women's March and that advocates for human and environmental rights, according to information given at the event. The organization partnered with two other groups, Physicians for Social Responsibility and We Stand Indivisible, a chapter of the national Indivisible movement.

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Vitals Obituaries



Motorcyclist killed in I-5 crash near Ridgefield

THE REFLECTOR

A Friday morning collision on Interstate 5 led to one death, according to the Washington State Patrol.

At around 11:15 a.m. on April 21, a motorcycle operated by Larry Delker, 67, of Canby, Ore., was slowing down for traffic in the right lane of Northbound Interstate 5 near milepost 14. A 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee operated by Richard Heitzenrader, 69, of

Ridgefield, was behind the motorcycle and failed to slow, striking the cycle in the rear.

Delker died as a result of the collision. The motorcycle was declared a total loss, according to the Washington State Patrol. Heitzenrader was not injured.

Inattention was listed as the cause of the collision, with charges pending. Drugs or alcohol were not believed to have been involved, according to the Washington State Patrol.

Wildfire season underway

While much of Washington is experiencing a wet and cool spring, Washington's wildfire season still officially began April 15.

"All this snow and rain may delay our fire season, but our forests always face the threat of wildfire," Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz said in a statement. "We're going to do everything we can to be ready for fire season, and I encourage all our neighbors to do the same."

Property owners can reduce fire risk for their homes and land by keeping dead vegetation away from buildings. More information is available at firewise.org.

In 2016, more than 16,400 acres of DNR-protected land was burned in 807 wildfires, 90 percent of which were caused by human activity.

Wildfire season officially ends October 15.

For information go to dnr.wa.gov.

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Judy was a housewife and a stay-at-home MOM. She made the BEST gravy and canned some AWESOME pickles and dilled green beans.

She helped with our homework, volunteered in our classrooms and fed all our friends. Growing up we never went without even when our parents never had enough.

Mom enjoyed family, Bunco, darts, friends, pull-tabs, bingo, country music, dancing and reading.

She cherished spending time with her FAMILY. If you went to her house, she al-

ways fed you, even if you weren't hungry.

Judy is survived by her 3 children: Kurt Sund, Patti Gavica (Gary), and Karl Sund; brother, Lee Cooper; (Claudia); sister, Mary Ellen Rodriguez; daughter-in-law-, Teri Sund; brother-in-law, Jim Sund (Sandy); 7 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; nephews, Eric Rodriguez, David Sund and niece, Sara Zeigunbein; and more.

Her parents, Bertram Cooper and Ruby Pearson; her husband, Gordon; and her sister, Jackie Kircus, preceded Judy in death.

She went to be with Jesus and left us way too soon!

A Celebration of Life will be held in Yacolt, May 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Historic Yacolt Community Church, 203 South Ranck Avenue.

Memorial Service For Donald Ray Cross

May 6th 2017
 1:00 P.M.
 782 Park St
 Woodland, WA

at Woodland Community Center



JAMES ELLIS "JIM" VANDLING

January 13, 1953 - April 6th, 2017

James Ellis "Jim" Vandling passed away at his home in Battle Ground on April 6th, 2017. He was 64.

Jim was born January 13, 1953 in Syracuse, NY to Patricia and John Vandling. He married Jamie Patrice Gaul in 1973 and had 2 daughters. The couple later divorced. In 2003, he married Julie (Reagan) McCallister in Vancouver, WA.

Jim served in the US Army from 1971 until 1977 as a member of the 19th Special Forces Group Airborne Division and the Army National Guard.

Following his military service, he attended the University of Montana and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in 1981. Jim worked in the forestry industry for over 44 years including nearly 20 years as the Clark County (Washington) Forester. He held certification with the Society of American Foresters, Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council. He was also SW Washington Coordinator for Washington Tree Farm System at the time of his death. His hobbies included boating, fishing, crabbing, cooking and spending time at a beach house that he and Julie own on the Washington Coast. He enjoyed teaching all aspects of forestry and mentoring others interested in the profession.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, John Vandling.

He is survived by his wife, Julie Vandling; his mother and step-father Patricia and Matt Juenger; his brother Mark Vandling; his daughters Amy Pickett and Kristen Vandling; and step children William, Jeffrey and Julie Whittaker. He had 9 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A private family service will be held at a later time to spread his ashes over the Pacific Ocean per his wish.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in his name to SAF:

Society of American Foresters
 10100 Laureate Way; Bethesda, Maryland 20814
 ATTN: Marsha Brome-Wimberly
 Or online at www.eforester.org

CLARK ROBERT EASTER

August 31, 1961 - March 9, 2017

Clark had an uncompromising, rock and roll spirit, exemplified in his love for 'play it loud' songs like "Back in Black" by AC/DC and

"I Can't Drive 55" by Sammy Hagar. He was not a musician himself but had an intimate appreciation and often used a song to make his point. Music sustained him to the end. He died in his sleep at his Port Angeles, Wa, home on March 9. He was 55. Clark was born in Bellevue, WA to Dick and Mary Anne Easter and spent most of his youth in Amboy WA. He attended Battle Ground High School and graduated from Clark College with an Associate of Arts in business. His role was instrumental in helping the family create and maintain the Tie Pond Meadows Tree Farm. In 1985 he married Lori Forayter and, together, they had four children, Blaed, Morgan, Grace, and Adam. Clark founded CR Construction and was a resourceful and skillful builder. His designs reflected an artistic talent and a thoughtful attention to detail he brought to all aspects of his life. Clark is survived by his children, one grandchild, mother and father, sisters, Char Easter, Cheryl (Neal Ruckman) Easter, Tamara "River" (Jay Zellmer) Easter, Linda (Ken) Edwards and numerous nieces and nephews. His close friendship with Annie Murphy was a blessing to the end. A memorial mass will be held at the St. Joseph Catholic Church 200 West Jones, Yacolt, WA on May 5 at 1pm. A celebration of life for the family and friends will take place on Saturday, May 6 at 3pm in Amboy on the tree farm where he grew up.

Battle Ground city council: the spikes are staying

Although reports of destroyed tires continue, council votes to keep teeth up at community center

JONATHAN HAUKAAS
Jonathan@thereflector.com

At the Battle Ground Community Center, parallel with NE Fairgrounds Avenue, a strip of retractable road spikes block drivers from entering the community center's northern parking lot through the exit.

At least, that's what the spikes are intended to do.

The spikes were installed about a year ago with the goal of mitigating traffic in the lot, as drivers had been known to enter through the exit, nearly causing collisions. This was especially problematic during Little League baseball season as parents often use the parking lot while attending a game at the adjacent field.

While the added mitigation has likely improved traffic flow to some degree, the spikes have also reportedly destroyed numerous sets of tires.

The issue was brought to the Battle Ground City Council at the March 6 meeting when Harry Niles, a weekly volunteer at the community center, asked the city to remove the spikes after witnessing their aftermath.

"Tire spikes have one purpose," he said. "And that's to ruin people's tires."

Niles said he'd spoken to six different people who destroyed a set of tires on the spikes.



Photo by Jonathan Haukaas

After strong opposition from the mayor and deputy mayor and multiple reports of destroyed tires, the Battle Ground City Council decided to leave the teeth up at the Battle Ground Community Center.

"I feel those spikes are a cruel punishment. It's mean-spirited and punishing for anyone who makes a mistake and goes in that exit," he told the council.

Niles also pointed to how the signs warning drivers not to enter are ineffective when they are headed north while there is a car parked on the south side of spiked exit on NE Fairgrounds Avenue. This sentiment was echoed by other drivers *The Reflector* spoke with.

Councilmember Chris Regan voiced concern as well at the March 6 meeting, relaying his own experience of seeing a car with four flat tires from the spikes and talking to an area resident who said destroyed

tires were a frequent occurrence.

Parks and Recreation Director Debbi Hanson, who works in the community center, also said at last week's meeting that three or four people had approached her about destroying their tires. Hanson's few encounters likely only reflected a small portion of the people who hit the spikes, Councilmember Shane Bowman noted, with the bulk of them likely having their car towed away in silent embarrassment.

In attempt to find a cure while still controlling traffic flow, City staff presented nine different options via some creative photo-shopping and a powerpoint at last week's meeting. They ranged from

removing the spikes completely and putting in an \$8,000 traffic sensor gate, to \$75 traffic barrels on either side of the exit.

Mayor Philip Johnson, who was adamant during both meetings that the spikes needed to be removed or retracted, moved to retract the spikes and lock them in place from that point on. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Steven Phelps.

Before the council voted, though, City Attorney Scott Anders said if the spikes were locked down, given the city has the ability to prevent drivers entering the exit but was not using it, the city would be liable for any collisions that might

occur. Even if the spikes were completely taken out, City Manager Jeff Swanson explained, the city could be liable because the area is a known issue.

To the mayor's noticeable annoyance, the council then voted against locking them down.

The mayor instructed the city staff to report back every time they "shred some citizens' tires" from that point on.

The council would eventually settle on adding flags to the tops of more noticeable signs on either side of the exit and painting the curb/gutter along the exit area with bright paint and writing "do not enter" at the exit area.

Drop your prescription drugs off in Battle Ground

Battle Ground is one of four locations in the area holding a drug take back drive on Saturday

THE REFLECTOR

A whopping 1,654 pounds of prescription pills were dropped off by 921 area residents at last fall's Drug Take Back Event.

This weekend they will hold collections at these locations:

- PeaceHealth Memorial Health Center, 33rd and Main Street (in the south back lot), Vancouver
- Kaiser Permanente Cascade Park, 12607 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver
- Battle Ground Police Department, 507 SW 1st St., Battle Ground
- Skamania County Sheriff's Office, 200 Vancouver Ave., Stevenson

If you miss this weekend's drive, the following North County stops will take unwanted medication, sharps and other hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste: where to take it in North County

Paint
Good news Battle Ground painters; you don't need to drive into Vancouver or Amboy to dispose

of your old paint anymore; Ace Hardware in Battle Ground is now accepting excess paint.

Ace Hardware
1605 W Main St., Battle Ground
North County Hardware
40600 NE 221st. Ave., Amboy

Prescription medications
Medications are not required to be in their original container. Remove or mark out all personal information on the containers.

Battle Ground Police
507 SW 1st St., Battle Ground
Open: Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ridgefield Police
116 North Main, Ridgefield
Open: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

La Center Police
105 W 5th St., La Center
Open: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pesticides, poisons and automotive fluids, over-the-counter medications, sharps and inhalers (paint is accepted here as well)

Central Transfer and Recycling Center
11034 NE 117th Ave., Vancouver
Household hazardous waste accepted at no charge for county residents.
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Limit of 25 gallons or 200 pounds.

If you do not have access to an approved sharps container, officials ask you put the parts

in a firm plastic container with a lid, like a milk jug, and write, "WARNING SHARPS — DO NOT RECYCLE," on it.

— Drop off locations and

Information provided by Clark County Public Health Services and PREVENT! the substance abuse prevention coalition of Clark County.

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CloverBots

Continued from page A1

between 15 and 20. Furthermore, other teams are generally based out of, and funded by, a school district. The CloverBots, however, are a 4-H club, made up of mostly CAM Academy and home-school students from around the Battle Ground area, with the exception of a few outliers from around Clark County.

FIRST Robotics Competition is an international robotics competition for high school age students. Together with mentors and coaches, youths build a 120-game-playing robot in six weeks, which then competes against other teams and their robots.

Recent years have seen FIRST Robotics competitions grow more popular around the world. Just this year, the championships were expanded to two locations, Houston and St. Louis, with the top finishers of both meeting in the finals.

Battle Ground's small group of roboticists were able to qualify for Worlds by accumulating a sizable amount of qualification points at those various competitions.

The decisive chunk of points that catapulted them to Houston came in March at their district championship, where they finished 12th out of over 150 teams in the Pacific Northwest.

Lauren Choquer, a junior at CAM Academy and Running Start student at Clark College, describes the competitions as a game of strategy, as opposed to the battling bots one might see on TV.

Each team forms an alliance with two other teams before a competition, based on the region they're from.

Then, the teams' pilots guide their robots through a series of tasks to win points.

During one task, the robot serves as a delivery vehicle between team members stationed outside a small arena and a designated teammate at a station, called an airship, at the center of the area. A team member loads a gear onto the bot and then the pilot navigates it to the station where a waiting

team member retrieves it and secures it to a rotor on the station.

Each rotor requires a particular number of gears to get it spinning, and once it does, points are awarded to that team.

The CloverBots had the highest "rotor engagement points," or, most gears placed, of the more than 400 teams competing last weekend.

With a team only one-third the size of most others, every member of the CloverBots wear multiple hats. Choquer, for example, is student lead on electronics and team president.

This is Choquer's first year, and she admits she didn't know the difference between a screw and a bolt before joining the team. But the intense six-week building process taught her to learn quickly by asking questions often.

"It's even more rewarding for us to see our robot do well and go to worlds because we're so small and have such little funding," she said.

Once her role on the Colverbots comes to an end, she plans on going into biomedical engineering.

The veteran of the team is Mackinnon Buck.

A senior at CAM Academy, Buck is in his fourth year on the team and is the lead programmer. He drives the robot at competitions.

Buck's main interest is in programming. He started programming when he was 12, and working with robotics was a natural evolution for him.

He talked about how "incredible" it is to see all the moving parts — literally and figuratively — come together over such a short period of time, and how seeing positive results from their small team's hard work is what has kept him interested over the last four years.

Buck hopes to use those four years of experience to help launch a career in software development.

Brenda Johnson is the 4-H leader and head coach for all the First Robotics competition teams, which ranges from high school-aged CloverBots to the Legolandians, ages 5 to 8, who learn basic



Photo courtesy Chris Thulin

Cloverbot Everett Buck (right, in black) signals for another gear atop the "airship" at last weekend's event in Houston.

engineering concepts with Legos.

Johnson worked with electronics during her time in the Navy before a teaching career and was inspired to start a 4-H robotics club when her daughter became interested in Lego robotics.

Now in their eighth year, the CloverBots continue to defy odds with their success under her watch.

"Everyone is a little shocked we do so well," Johnson laughed.

This is the second time the CloverBots have competed at the world level in seven years.

She talked about how the CloverBots have always been out-matched in resources by powerhouse high schools around the area. The robots of Camas and Skyview, for example, are vibrantly customized and built out of well-equipped school workshops. The CloverBots build their machine in a small backroom of a church.

What they lack in resources, though, has been made up with resourcefulness.

David Buck, engineering manager at HP, mentor for the CloverBots and father to the aforementioned Mackinnon Buck and his brother Everett Buck, the Cloverbot's pilot, sees the team being small, in many ways, as beneficial to the students. He explained how some youths find themselves on the periphery, as a member of a bigger teams, but every CloverBot plays an important role in the team's success.

"It gives an opportunity for every kid to really contribute in a meaningful way," he said.

Photo courtesy Chris Thulin

Cloverbot driver Mackinnon Buck guides the team robot through a game of strategy.

LET'S BUILD A ROBOT: A LOOK AT WHAT THE CLOVERBOTS' MACHINE IS MADE OF

Frame

VEX VersaChassis; 29"W x 33"L x 24"H.

Drive

Four 4" mecanum directly driven by four CIM motors mounted with a 12:72 gear ratio.

Fuel Pickup

Polyurethane cords looped around two 2" diameter ABS tubes; driven by a BAG motor connected to a 10:1 gearbox.

Gear Mechanism

Hinged ramp for gear collection; two flaps controlled by a window motor and two magnetic limit switches.

Fuel Bin / Fuel Shooter

16" cylindrical bin with spiked agitator column powered by an RS775 motor with a 100:1 gearbox; 4" shooter wheel driven by an RS775 Pro motor with a 3:1 encoded gearbox for speed control.

Robot Lift

Shaft directly mounted to robot wrapped in Dual-Lock; driven by an RS775 Pro motor with a 100:1 gearbox.

Bumpers

Standard bumpers, designed to fit robot.

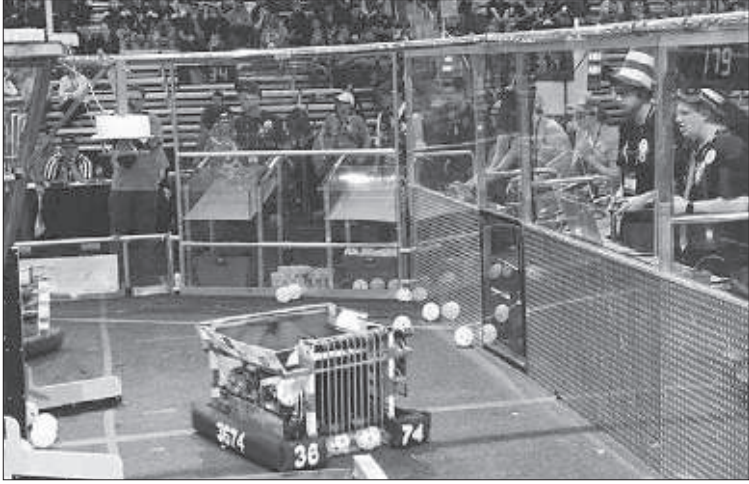
Electronics

RoboRIO, wireless modem, Talon SRX and Spike motor controllers, two cameras with LED rings for vision guidance.

Software

C++, GRIP vision processing software.

— information provided by CloverBots mentors



Trafficking

Continued from page A1

charged with possession and delivery of a controlled substance, while one man was charged only with delivery and possession of a controlled substance.

- The following is a list of the men arrested:
- 45-year-old Michael Dale Sizemore of Forest Grove, OR.
 - 48-year-old Sergio Franco-Ruiz of Vancouver, WA.
 - 57-year-old Robert Rollins of Portland, OR.
 - 38-year-old Joseph Salstrom of West Linn, OR.
 - 36-year-old David Gleave of West Linn, OR.
 - 47-year-old Viktor Bozhko of



Wesley Edward Baumgardner

- Clackamas, OR.
- 31-year-old Konstantin Viktorovich Konkin of Gresham, OR.
- 56-year-old Ronald Herbert Brooker of Portland, OR.
- 22-year-old Tyler Jon Moon of Vancouver, WA.
- 44-year-old Jason Kim Chin of Portland, OR.
- 32-year-old Wesley Edward Baumgardner of Battle Ground, WA.
- 33-year-old Diego Elias Yac Sanchez of Vancouver, WA.
- 58-year-old Richard Lynn Schneider, of Vancouver, WA, was also charged with delivery of hydrocodone.
- 46-year-old Scott Powers of Milwaukie, OR, was only charged with delivery and possession of methamphetamine.

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"Third Angels Message"

Revelation 14:13 tells us of a principle that is always on going in our world as the old generations die and the new generations take their place on this earth, for it says, "and their works do follow them". Most of us as we go through this life have the privilege to tap into and gain a portion of the knowledge that was acquired from those that have lived before us, in some cases before they are laid to rest or perhaps at a later date in what has been printed or recorded that made up their life. These trials that have made up their experiences, their successes, the things that worked for them, the things that didn't, are expressed to us in the telling of his-story. This is what makes history so interesting.

Revelation 14:9 brings to us this warning in the third angels message "If any man worship the beast and his image"... In reference to the word "beast" our Father in heaven is trying to get us to look at history which is going to affect our future. Revelation 17 is describing this beast and giving some particulars, to give us some clues as to who this beast is. Without exception, we can say that the word "beast" suggest power. Anytime we would use this word in our communication with others we would be wanting to let others know that we were trying to convey something that was at least powerful and or maybe ugly, but in this case powerful. Revelation 17 is describing this beast power. In verse 1, "Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgement of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters". What keeps this beast afloat or gives it its power? Who is helping to keep this beast alive? Verse 15 very quickly tells us so as no need to speculate, "The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues".

This takes in a large group of people that breathes life into this beast in the form of donations and offerings. In return, what has been the affect upon the people, multitudes, nations, and tongues. Verse 2, "and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine (truth and error combined) of her fornication". Fornication is a word used to describe unfaithfulness. Again, in verse 2 "the kings of the earth have committed fornication", in other words the heads of state over the various multitudes and nations have been unfaithful in their sovereign office. Bringing us to where we are today, going down this fateful road toward one world governing, all in the name of peace (1 Thessalonians 5:3). Revelation 17:12, 13, describes this new world order, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast". "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast". Another telling characteristic of this beast is mentioned in Revelation 12:6, John, a disciple of Jesus writes, "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus".

These words take us back in history at a time when to compromise one's faith was not an option and as a result brought terrible persecution. This system of power which is a place of worship and spoken of as a beast is further explained as setting on seven mountains or hills, (verse 9). Today we are afraid to talk about this beast power and call it for what it is, but not so the ones that have gone before us, "their works do follow them". Political correctness has taught us not to offend(Mathew 24:10), even when it involves, sharing "this gospel" (Mathew 24:14) and this policy has spilled over into the church. Jesus is offering us a new life as a true representative of His biblical example, His works that followed Him. Sin must be call by its right name in the church, if not then the religion that comes from God is lowered to spiritualism, the religion that comes from man. To be continued.

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La Center councilors give re-election updates

Williams 'probably' in, Birdwell-Currey likely done

CALE JOHNSON
cale@thereflector.com

In La Center, where a new era for the community is beginning in large part to the now open ilani Casino and ongoing growth, leadership positions are hot seats.

Being on the city council in the coming days and years will be no easy task with population growth expected and city finances in serious question.

Last month *The Reflector*

reported that councilor Al Luiz will not run for another term this fall and recently *The Reflector* received word on the running status of the other two members of the council (Randy Williams and Heather Birdwell-Currey) whose terms are also ending.

Randy Williams Position 3

Williams was elected to the La Center city council in 2010 and likely will try to stay on board for another four years.

"At this time, I will probably re-run," he told *The Reflector* last week.



Randy Williams

Up until this point he was undecided, but now is leaning toward going for another election.

"With the new economic challenges that La Center could face, I think my past council experience and fresh ideas will be helpful," he said.

If an opponent files, Williams said he hopes his "past civic experience would be one major pivotal factor" for support, along with his past business experience.

Heather Birdwell-Currey Position 1

Councilor Heather Birdwell-Currey has decided not to seek another term because she does not plan to continue living in La Center. She has been on the council for one term.

"I choose to not re-run due to the fact my husband and I plan on relocating at the beginning of next year. We most likely will no longer be residents of La Center," she said.

Of her time as a councilor, Birdwell-Currey said, "I have enjoyed the council very

much. It has been a great opportunity and I have learned a lot and met many great people along the way."

Birdwell-Currey said she will miss the community involvement, but "there are always other ways to get involved that I have learned about through council. ... I also will miss being a part of the budget committee. I won't miss the stress of having to make the bigger decisions that affect so many."

She advises that whoever is elected to Position 1, they will find success if they research the issues, listen to the community and stick to what you believe in.

Three local schools receive top state achievement awards

Schools among 280 across the state honored for 2016 academic school year

THE REFLECTOR

CAM Academy and Pleasant Valley Primary of the Battle Ground school district and South Ridge Elementary School of the Ridgefield school district are among 280 schools to receive the Washington Achievement Award for the 2016 academic school year.

South Ridge Elementary earned the distinction for its

"Overall Excellence, High Progress and English Language Arts Growth," as stated in Ridgefield's release.

"It is a great honor for the South Ridge team to be recognized for our collective efforts in providing a premier education for our students," South Ridge Elementary School Principal Todd Graves said. "The staff and students of South Ridge work extremely hard, and we appreciate the recognition."

Ridgefield School District Superintendent Nathan McCann reaffirmed Graves' enthusiasm.

"Receiving this recognition is tangible proof of the team

effort put forth by the South Ridge staff and students, creating an environment where each child can pursue unlimited possibilities," he said.

CAM Academy received the distinction for its overall excellence and Pleasant Valley Primary School for math growth.

"The Achievement Awards recognize all the great work happening in Washington schools and the ways educators are making a difference in student outcomes," said Kevin Laverty, State Board of Education Acting Chair is quoted in Battle Ground's statement. "It presents an opportunity to honor schools

that are achieving at high levels, as well as schools that are making great growth."

Those receiving the awards were determined by looking at data from the Washington State Achievement Index for the past three years, which measures proficiency in math, English/language arts and science alongside college and career readiness and student growth.

Honored schools are top performers in one or more of these seven categories:

- Overall Excellence
- High Progress
- English Language Arts Growth
- Math Growth

- Extended Graduation Rate (awarded to high schools and comprehensive schools only)
- English Language Acquisition
- Achievement Gap

This year marks the eighth time the state has recognized achievement, and a formal ceremony is slated to be hosted at Olympic Middle School in the Auburn School District on May 3.

For a complete list of Washington Achievement Award winners, go to: k12.wa.us/EducationAwards/WashingtonAchievement/pubdocs/2016WAAWinner.xlsx.

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Sports



Photo by Cale Johnson

Woodland pitcher Bryce Mulder has brought the heat from mound around Clark County all year.

On the playoff cusp

Beavers baseball and other local teams are on verge of making playoffs, need strong finishes

CALE JOHNSON
cale@thereflector.com

Spring sports playoffs are on the horizon, but there's still a lot to be determined. Within just about a week or two some teams will get to keep playing, and others will be getting a head start on the summer offseasons. At the moment, there's a handful of teams sitting right on the playoff bubble as we come down the home stretch. Woodland baseball is one of them.

As of Monday morning, the Beavers are slightly below .500 in league play, and are actually tied for last place. Normally you'd think this means they're all but done, but the baseball season in Southwest Washington and in the GSHL 2A league

in particular has been a bit wacky, and the Beavs still have a shot.

Because of all the rainouts this spring, Woodland is set to play six games between Monday, April 24, and this coming Monday, May 1, about half of the total league schedule. They still have a shot this late in the season because league standings are incredibly scrunched, even right now. Teams at the bottom could easily still finish at the top and vice versa. Ridgefield and Hockinson are also right in the thick of this.

"I've never seen it (the league) like this," said Beavers coach Mitch Kochis. "There's nobody out there running away with it and we're playing the last games so tight together."

Kochis said every game is meaningful and this final stretch run is going to be exciting to see unfold.

"Honestly, I don't know if I'd have it any other way," he said.

Under the circumstances of hav-

ing a high volume of "big games" in such a short amount of time, Kochis thinks his team has an advantage over others.

"We've got great pitching depth, which you'll obviously need," he said. "We've only really been pitching three guys all year — Bryce Mulder, Nolan Autrey and Dustin Pitner — because the games have been so spaced out due to the rain. We can go six guys deep though."

Many other teams can't say that for themselves.

If Woodland is to make it to the playoffs it would be a great comeback from the team's season last year in which they took last place in league. Many of the players from then are the same guys on the squad now.

"They're excited, this is what we've been building up for (the final leg of the season). They're ready for this," said Kochis.



Photo by Cale Johnson

Woodland plays against North Clark County opponent Ridgefield earlier this spring.



Photo by Cale Johnson

Woodland plays against North Clark County opponent Ridgefield earlier this spring.



Other local team's on the playoff cusp to keep an eye on as the season winds down

Ridgefield baseball: 2-3 league, 5-4 overall, 5th in league
Woodland softball: 1-2 league, 3-6 overall, 4th in league
Hockinson soccer: 5-4 league, 5-8 overall, 4th in league

*Like above, all info as of Monday morning, April 24

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Photo by Cale Johnson

A proposal to remove Washington's high school football summer coaching days limit (20) is before the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association Representative Assembly next week.

Significant WIAA rule changes will be voted on next week

The Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association's Representative Assembly will choose fate of interesting proposals

CALE JOHNSON

cale@thereflector.com

Next week the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association's 2017 Representative Assembly is set to vote on a series of rule changes for all prep sports across the state.

In total there are 22 new amendments (some of which are also for middle school sports) and while most would be relatively minor new rules, there are a few that will be on the voting sheets that are significant.

The Representative Assembly comprises of 53 total members — 18 middle level members and 35 high school members. The amendments they vote on come from three sources: a collaborative proposal sponsored by a minimum of five member schools, the WIAA Executive Board which includes work from standing WIAA committees, and the Washington State School Directors Association Interscholastic Activities Committee.

For an amendment to pass a 60 percent "yes" vote is needed. The voting will be conducted from April 28 to May 5.

To see all 22 of the proposals go to WIAA.com > about > Representative Assembly > proposed amendments. Below is a look at three *The Reflector* believes would have the biggest impacts on school team athletics locally and statewide if approved next week.

Pitchers and catchers could practice early

Just like in Major League Baseball, there are two proposals on the ballot that would allow baseball and softball pitchers and catchers to report early before the rest of the team (both proposals have the same wording for each sport).

The proposals state players who play those positions would be allowed two weeks of advanced practice time.

The biggest supportive reasoning behind these amendments is that pitchers would get additional time to properly get their arms in shape before the first contest. Another reason put forward by proponents of the amendment is many high school teams lack depth at the pitching position, and it would allow coaches to develop more of them.

Possible negatives include that certain student-athletes would have to commit bonus time to the spring sport, and then there's the possibility that some coaches would abuse the extra time and end up wearing out the pitchers before the season starts.

The good news for this pos-



Photo by Cale Johnson

The Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association Representative Assembly will vote on a rule changes next week that would allow high school baseball/softball pitchers and catchers to start practicing with coaches two weeks earlier than the rest of the team. There are two separate proposals (although both are worded the same) for each sport.

sible new rule is that at the high school level there's at least some proof of concept. Oregon for example, adopted the idea two years ago.

Sixth graders could play middle school sports (except football)

In tons of middle schools sixth graders share a building with seventh and eighth graders but aren't allowed to play sports alongside them. If this proposal passes they would be granted that opportunity, expect for in football.

Submitters of the idea state that interscholastic activities are an integral part of the total education process and sixth graders

are old enough to compete with kids two grades above them. The submitters also claim it is better to have the students involved in school programs when possible, rather than community programs.

One negative is that by adding sixth graders into tryouts, opportunities for less skilled seventh and eighth graders to play would become limited. A second negative is that giving sports eligibility to sixth graders could create budgetary issues for middle schools.

No summer football coaching limit

In Washington high school football there is a 20 day sum-

mer coaching limit, and amendment sponsors to this — one of which includes La Center — say that it should be deleted.

In the proposal the submitters write that football is the only program that has a practice limit attached to it during the summer.

"Jurisdiction over programs held during the summer would be the same, regardless of the sport," the proposed amendment states, if it were to pass.

Reasoning behind the existing limit stems from football being a complex and physical sport. On the negative side, unlimited practicing could result in more injuries.

Must see sports events for North Clark County this week

THE REFLECTOR



Soccer: Prairie vs Mountain View
Monday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Prairie
If The Falcons can take care of business in their two games before this Monday night matchup, then the game will likely be for a share of the 3A GSHL title.



Track: Prairie vs Kelso
(boys and girls)
Tuesday, April 25 at 4 p.m. at Kelso
For those who get *The Reflector* on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays and are willing to travel a little, this track meet is one of the biggest of the year. Both the girls and boys teams of Prairie and Kelso are arguably the two best in their league and will be going head to head to fully decide who's better.



Softball: Ridgefield vs Columbia River
Wednesday, April 26 at 4 p.m. at Ridgefield
These Ridgefield girls are subtly dominating the 2A GSHL and are still undefeated in league. Columbia River is also undefeated, which makes this game a key late-season matchup.



Soccer: Hockinson vs Columbia River
Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m. at Columbia River
Columbia River is undefeated on the season and considered a state contender. Last time they played the Hawks lost 1-0. The Hawks also can't afford many other losses this season in their quest for the playoffs. Can you smell an upset?

Lifestyles Youth Fitness

BGPS reports shift in purpose of P.E. classes



Photo courtesy BGPS
The Battle Ground school district stated today's P.E. classes are more than running laps and playing sports. It's evolved over the years toward a more fitness and wellness focus.

THE REFLECTOR

At Battle Ground Public Schools, P.E. classes are changing gears educationally. For starters, it's no longer referred to as P.E., but instead as health and fitness class, a moniker that's more fitting given the broader nature of what the classes cover, according to the district.

"There's been a clear shift in the way physical education is taught," said Kim Carter, a

health and fitness teacher at Tukes Valley Middle School in a recent blog post on the district website. "The biggest change has been the transition from the skills-based, sports-focused physical education of the past to emphasizing that fitness and wellness are lifetime pursuits that contribute to overall health."

At the forefront are nutrition, social interaction and behavioral skills, non-sports activities that require movement, and life-long hobbies that contribute to a

healthy, active lifestyle.

According to the district, a key component of today's health and fitness classes is the use of FitnessGram, a tool that provides each individual student with information about their appropriate fitness level. FitnessGram guides students in setting goals to reach a "fitness zone" for their age and gender. Within FitnessGram five categories are highlighted: aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body

composition.

"It's not about being the fastest or strongest, but about being the healthiest individual you can be and having the tools for lifelong health and fitness," said Corina Shipp, the district's FitnessGram coordinator and a health and wellness instructor at Prairie High School, as reported by the district.

Students begin participating in the FitnessGram program in fifth grade and use it through their senior year of high school.

Their scores follow them as they advance through time. At the beginning of each semester students are tested to establish a baseline, and then at the end of the semester they can track progress.

"When students begin to learn how to assess their own physical fitness and demonstrate knowledge of how to improve their health, they are able to make independent decisions that will impact their future," Carter said in the district's blog post.

Clark County Parks Advisory Board seeking youth members

THE REFLECTOR

Clark County's Parks Advisory Board is looking to add new voices to the seven-person board and is recruiting two youth members to serve in a non-voting capacity on it.

Members advise the Board of County Councilors and county staff on parks planning, acquisition, development and related issues.

"Our parks are used by county residents of all ages," said Bill Bjerke, parks manager. "For that reason, the parks board believes it should have broad representation and would benefit from the ideas, perspectives and energy two youth members would bring to the group."

The two new youth members need to be between the ages 14 and 19 and be county residents. The advisory board says appli-

cants should be:

- Interested in public service and, more specifically, in parks, recreation and open space.
- Prepared to serve on the parks board for at least one year.
- Available to attend monthly board meetings and arrange their own transportation.

Application materials include a brief let-

ter of interest and a resume, submitted to Jennifer Clark, County Manager's Office, P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000 or via email to her at jennifer.clark@clark.wa.gov. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, May 12.

More information on the county's Park Advisory Board can be seen by visiting clark.wa.gov/public-works/parks-advisory-board.

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Psychotherapist to open office in Woodland
Stack Crochet hopes to help fill a void of mental health resources

When the Reflector first reported on the opening of a new psychotherapy practice in Woodland, it was a significant milestone for the community. Now, the practice is set to open its doors in a new location, providing even more access to mental health services for the local population.

Stack Crochet, a licensed professional counselor, is excited to announce the opening of her new office in Woodland. This new location will provide a safe and supportive environment for clients seeking mental health services.

Stack Crochet has been practicing for over 10 years and has a wealth of experience in working with a variety of clients. She specializes in helping individuals with anxiety, depression, and trauma. Her goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for her clients to explore their feelings and work through their challenges.

Stack Crochet is a member of the American Psychological Association and the Oregon State Board of Professional Counselors. She is also a member of the local community and is committed to providing quality care to her clients.

Stack Crochet is currently accepting new clients. For more information, please contact her at (360) 687-5151.

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 Cash only. All sales final.
 Valid ID required.

SISTERS SALE
 April 29
 Saturday only
 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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 Battle Ground, 98604
 Spring has sprung and the time has come for the sisters annual sale. That time of year is here again and we have lots of stuff, so tell your friends and family too and that might not be enough! Lots of nice ladies and childrens clothes, linens, rugs, furniture, unique decor, lots of misc. and more!
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 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Auction at 2 p.m.
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 8a.m.-4p.m.
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 Brush Prairie, 98606
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 Fri. & Sat.
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 8414 NE 299th St.
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Selection Guidelines - Any applicant receiving an offer of employment from the City of Woodland will be required to successfully complete a pre-employment drug screening.

A detailed application package may be obtained at www.ci.woodland.wa.us or at the City Hall Annex, 230 Davidson Avenue or submit your request to: City of Woodland, Attn: Clerk-Treasurer, P.O. Box 9, Woodland, WA 98674 or call (360) 225-8281. **Submit complete applications by first closing date of Monday, May 8, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.;** Open until filled. *Postmarked applications will NOT be accepted.

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Lifestyles Health & Beauty

'Pioneer'-ing dentist reflects on two decades in Ridgefield

Originally from New York, doctor's dream of working in a small town setting now 20 years in

RICK BANNAN
rick@thereflector.com

In 1997, Ridgefield was not quite the bustling center of growth it is today. According to census data, the city had a population of about 2,000 at that time, less than half of what the current city has.

That year, a small dental operation set up at a point now in city limits that historically had been referred to as "Pioneer" along 10th Avenue. The practice is still there, now 20 years in the same location, though the scenery has changed with the rapid development of what used to be a sleepy corner of Clark County.

The practice's owner and namesake, Dr. Joseph Sepe, isn't a native of Clark County or the Pacific Northwest. He grew up in New York before going to dental school in Seattle, bringing him to the region where he'd spend his career.

The change from the hustle of Long Island to what was a fairly rural area was part of Sepe's plan. Practicing in a less chaotic setting was one of his initial goals.

"I still remember, back in high school thinking about how nice it would be to live in a rural community," Sepe said. "I had never seen a cow until I was 16 years old."



Photo by Rick Bannan

From left, Nan Ryan, Linda Beck, Joseph Sepe and Letha LaPole stand in front of their dentist office. All four have been a part of the practice for nearly the whole time the office has been open, which is celebrating 20 years in Ridgefield this May.

After spending several years as an associate dentist in Vancouver, Sepe decided to start his own practice when he found that there was a vacancy at the current location. At that point neither Ridgefield or La Center had its own practice, he said, with Battle Ground having three practices at that time.

Next month marks the 20th anniversary for the office.

"When we opened there was no Dollar Tree, or Tri-Mountain Plaza. Duluth had a blinking yellow light east to west and a blinking red north to south," Sepe wrote in an email to *The Reflector*. Now both developments are here and that intersection has a substantial traffic light/intersection fresh off the improvement project on state Route 502.

From the start Sepe said the community had been welcoming to his practice and eventually his family began doing "things you do in a small town" — getting involved with local clubs and youth sports. The practice is colloqui-

ally known as "Pioneer Dental" though it is not its official name, but due to its location (and possibly due to it being the first in the area) the nickname stuck.

Initially Sepe was hesitant about the name as it tended to conjure up images of the Old West — not a time or setting particularly known for good dental care. However with the moniker getting used more through word-of-mouth and social media it made sense to accept the nickname.

From the practice's side, Sepe said the advancement of technology was the biggest change in the dental industry. Commonplace procedures like dental implants were in their infancy when he began, he gave as an example.

Changes in technology, especially expensive processes like digital imaging, have also led to challenges specific to a small practice like Sepe's, he said. However, thanks to partnerships with local specialists in "a team approach to practicing dentistry" the office is able to keep pace.

As to the changes in the community, Sepe said he has seen a demographic shift.

"The town's gotten younger, a lot more families," Sepe said, citing the types of developments being put in the city in recent years.

The practice does have some families who have been patients more or less from the start.

"We've had a couple of families we have seen for four generations, so it's been fun to watch the

kids grow up," said Nan Ryan, one of Sepe's long-serving staff.

Sepe said three of his staff have been there since the office opened.

"Patients like that. They like to see the same face," Sepe said.

Another staff member who has been in for the long haul, Letha LaPole, said early in the practice Sepe was getting a lot of suggestions to move the practice to East County, where "everybody" was flocking to at that time.

Sepe didn't, and he doesn't have any regrets about staying where he is.

"To be honest with you, I guess there could be more lucrative (areas), but how much more lucrative do you want to be?" Sepe said. "This is our home ... there's more rewards than just financial."

As to what has kept the business going, quality of care and customer service were big aspects he believed has led to success.

"I can't say it enough, people here are nice," Sepe said about his staff, adding it wasn't so much that people kept coming back to see him necessarily, but they came for his staff with whom families spanning multiple generations have established relationships.

Focusing on those areas over the years, Sepe has learned how to get the best people for his practice.

"You can't teach nice; you hire nice people," Sepe said, "especially in a dental office, because people don't want to come to the dentist, right?"

AT A GLANCE

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Battle Ground's Neal recognized for work with medically underserved

See full list of Public Health Community Awards winners and honorable mentions in this article

THE REFLECTOR

Last week the Clark County Board of Health announced winners and honorable mentions for the 2017 Public Health Community Awards.

Among the honorable mentions is Sue Neal, executive director of Battle Ground HealthCare.

Neal was nominated for "using leadership, advocacy, and compassion to ensure healthcare for the medically underserved in Battle Ground," the county stated in their announcement.

Battle Ground HealthCare has continually expanded since opening its doors in 2009; it now offers

rehab services, medical, dental and mental health options for chronic conditions among people ages 18 to 65.

Listed below are the winners and other honorable mentions.

Winners

Marilyn Johnson (individual award)

"Marilyn Johnson's long, distinguished nursing career has included supervising cancer care at Southwest Washington Medical Center's oncology department," the announcement stated. "After retiring, she became certified as a parish nurse and ran a program at her church, combining medical and spiritual care. Today, she serves as community coordinator for Faith Community Nursing/Health Ministries NW. In addition to addressing the needs of various community populations, she has taught a program on living well with chronic disease."

Rose Village Community Health Workers (organization award)

"The Rose Village Community Health Workers are trusted members of Vancouver's Rose Village neighborhood who understand the strengths, challenges, cultures and life experiences of this community," the announcement stated. "The team focuses on community building activities, promoting healthy eating and active living, and advocating for health equity at the individual, community and policy levels. Team members connect community members to resources, provide social and health promotion opportunities in local schools and community centers and advocate for community needs with health system and government leaders."

Honorable mentions

Bike Clark County

For "promoting bicycle access, education, safety and the enjoyment of cycling to children and adults in Clark County."

Daybreak Youth Services

For "serving youth with addiction and mental health issues and helping them return to school, families and work."

ESD112 Early Childhood Education Assistance Program

For "promoting healthy children in Southwest Washington through



File photo

Sue Neal (left), executive director of Battle Ground Health Care (BGHC) and Sue Doyle, Rehabilitation Services and Chronic Pain Program Coordinator for BGHC, stand in front of BGHC's new rehab room in January. Together, they have been at the helm of free health services in the community for the past seven years. Last week Neal was recognized by the county for her efforts.

developmental screening and regular well-child checkups."

Sue Hoeffner

For "strengthening partnerships between faith organizations and schools to address community health issues."

Memorial Urgent Care Nurses

For "partnering with Public Health to prevent sexually transmitted diseases by ensuring services for all, including the community's most marginalized."

Charles Mitchell

For "advancing social justice for

low-income clients by ensuring their access to affordable, quality healthcare."

Sue Neal

For "using leadership, advocacy, and compassion to ensure healthcare for the medically underserved in Battle Ground."

St Luke's/San Lucas Episcopal Church

For "addressing problems of poverty and homelessness through volunteer outreach and compassion for all people."

Three added to 'Healthy Neighborhood' restaurants

Mill Creek Pub is North County's only representative on the list

THE REFLECTOR

Earlier this month three new restaurants were added to Clark County's list of "Healthy Neighborhood Restaurants." Linda's Home

Plate, Nuestra Mesa and The Garage.

A spot on the list represents a restaurant's efforts to provide healthier options for adults and children and a choice for smaller portions on their menus.

"These restaurants joined a growing number of eateries that support healthy food access in Clark County," said Program Coordinator Melissa Martin in a state-

ment. "As a result of the Healthy Neighborhood Restaurant Program, hundreds of restaurant patrons are selecting healthier choices every day."

The program was launched in 2012 by Clark County Public Health in an effort to assist local restaurants to meet their patrons' health needs. The program is made possible through grants from Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The criteria and menu guidelines were created through an advisory committee made up of Public Health staff and restaurant owners.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LIST?

Learn about the criteria for joining the club by contacting **Melissa Martin at 360-397-8000 ext. 7291 or melissa.martin@clark.wa.gov** or follow along through Facebook at **facebook.com/cchealthyrestaurants**

CLARK COUNTY'S 'HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANTS'

- 4 Caminos, 3503 E. Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver
- Dragonfly Café, 1300 Franklin St. and 1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver
- Farrar's Bistro, 12514 N.W. 36th Ave., Vancouver
- La Bottega, 1905 Main St., Vancouver
- Linda's Homeplate, 12200 N.E. 60th Way, Ste. A101, Vancouver
- Mighty Bowl Window and Food Cart, 108 W 8th St., Vancouver (food truck location varies)
- Mill Creek Pub, 1710 S.W. 9th Ave., Ste. 101, Battle Ground
- Morelia's Mexican Grill, 5930 E. Fourth Plain Blvd., #104, Vancouver
- Nuestra Mesa, 228 N.E. 4th Ave., Camas
- Provecho, 1801 Main St., Vancouver
- The Garage, 1101 W. Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver

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Ublituximab and TGR-1202 are investigational drugs and are not yet approved. No claims on the safety or efficacy of ublituximab or TGR-1202 are supported by the FDA.



Courtesy photo

Mill Creek Pub's two options for a pot roast is one example of smaller portions — one of the criteria for restaurants on the Healthy Neighborhood Restaurants list. Owner Russell Brent said the perception of a meal being cut in half to control portion is a misconception. In most cases, the plate's content is just smaller.

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Recipes for success

Healthy cooking tips to take to heart

BONNIE STONE, RD, CDE
The Vancouver Clinic

Although heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States, there are steps Americans can take to lower their risks. Eating a heart-healthy diet is one of the most effective ways to prevent heart disease, and a heart-healthy diet starts with heart-healthy cooking.

In honor of National Heart Month, which occurs every year in February, we gathered 4 tips to help Americans cook, eat, and enjoy healthy meals all year round.

No. 1 Learn to Cook

The first step to heart healthy cooking is to put away the take-out menu and pick up a cutting board and frying pan.

A whole generation of Americans has been raised on

pre-packaged meals and ordering takeout for dinner. Somewhere between older baby boomers and millennials, people got the idea that cooking meant microwaving, and they never learned the value of preparing meals for themselves. Convenience foods and takeout meals are usually high in saturated fats, sugars and sodium (salt) — all of which contribute to heart disease — and lack fiber and fresh fruits and vegetables. Try signing up for a cooking class or check out a cook book from the local library to help get started preparing your own meals.

No. 2 Learn to Shop

Even those who cook regularly may find themselves drawn to filling their shopping carts with the wrong foods. Focus on shopping for foods that are as close to their natural form as possible. That means buying whole, uncooked potatoes instead of potato chips, and fresh fruit instead of juices that contain added sugar.

No. 3 Buy Whole Foods

Foods closest to their natural form are often called whole foods. These nutrient-dense foods are vastly superior to processed foods, which tend to pack a lot of calories without enough of the fiber, vitamins and minerals that our bodies need.

In general, whole foods include fresh fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Some great heart-healthy whole foods to buy include:

- Salmon — a lean protein and excellent source of Omega-3 fatty acids
- Beans and legumes — another lean protein (found in the middle aisles of the grocery store)
- Skinless chicken or turkey — a lean protein
- Nuts — a lean protein and excellent source of healthy fats
- Whole wheat bread and brown rice — whole grains



that pack more fiber

- Dark chocolate (60% cacao or higher) — a natural source of antioxidants and flavinols, which can lower blood pressure

Remember: more is not always better. It only takes one to two ounces of dark chocolate per day to receive its antioxidant benefits and eating more means consuming additional fat and sugar.

No. 4 Minimize Unhealthy Foods

Processed foods and foods high in saturated fat, sugar and sodium should make up a very small amount of a heart-healthy diet and some should be avoided all together. These foods include:

- Prepackaged meals
- Processed meat like bacon, sausage, and lunch meat
- Red meat — if eating beef, choose healthier options like grass-fed beef
- Cheese
- Butter and lard
- Refined grains like white bread and regular white pasta
- Sugary drinks like soda — avoid sugary drinks all together

Bonnie Stone is a Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietitian at the Vancouver Clinic's 87th Avenue location in Vancouver. TVC also offers nutrition and diabetes counseling at its Battle Ground location at 2005 W Main St.

How to protect your skin from fine lines & wrinkles

DR. KATE MCCARN
The Vancouver Clinic

If looking younger, fresher and less stressed is important to you, then taking care of the skin on your face, especially around the eye area, should be a part of your daily self-care routine.

Often times, people tend to associate daily facial or cosmetic care with restorative health and beauty products that help stay the hand of time. "Fast-acting," "anti-aging," "rejuvenation," "plumping," "smoothing," and "hydrating," are just a few terms used for products that attempt to combat the fine lines and wrinkles that come mainly from genetics and age, which are impossible to prevent.

Though these products have their place in routine facial care, for the most part they provide only temporary enhancement and treat the symptoms, not the cause, of skin damage. The fact is, most cosmetic damage is caused by sun over-exposure, which is highly preventable.

Preventing sun damage before it happens is, therefore, one of the best ways to keep fine lines, wrinkles and brown age spots from forming.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

A few simple, preventative steps can help keep your skin healthy for years to come.

First, wear sunglasses to protect your eyes. I perform a lot of surgeries and treatments on this area. Eyelids easily accumulate sun damage and it hastens the deterioration of this very thin skin.

Next, protect your head and neck, including your ears and nose, by wearing a wide-brimmed hat—particularly when you're working or walking outdoors for prolonged periods. It's easy to ignore the ears, but I often find skin cancer here because people don't properly protect them. The ears are a sensitive area, making related cancer difficult to treat.

Of course, wearing sunscreen every day to protect sun-exposed areas of your skin is critical. Apply a SPF 30 or higher (UVA/UVB) sunscreen as part of your daily routine. This is essential, even here in the Pacific Northwest where skin cancer rates are high despite clouds and rain for most the year. Dark-skinned, light-skinned and even those with thicker skin should still use sunscreen.

If you have sensitive skin, look for

sunscreens created for the face or for babies, or use those with titanium or zinc oxide. These sit on top of the skin to physically deflect damaging UV rays away from the skin. Chemical sunscreens work too, absorbing the sun's rays. If you use a spray-on sunscreen be wary of inhaling it.

Taking these preventive steps will have benefits far beyond basic cosmetic health. They will help protect against skin cancers, like melanoma, which is rising among men, women and younger adults.

Cosmetic Considerations

Undoing damage from the sun by trying to eradicate fine lines, wrinkles,

and brown spots is more difficult, and can be more expensive than sunscreen. But, since many people ask me how to smooth signs of the past, here are several cosmetic considerations:

Try a daily antioxidant serum to help tighten the skin.

Introduce retinol-containing creams into your home treatment. These creams cause cells to slough off more easily, reducing fine lines. Start with over-the-counter treatments a few times a week and slowly increase to daily use. Once your skin tolerates this milder version, talk with your doctor about a cream with higher percentage of retinol.

Visit your doctor for in-office

treatments ranging from chemical peels, dermabrasion, various laser treatments, or Botox and fillers for fine lines.

Perhaps one of these options will work for you as you consider healthy ways to feel fresh and revitalized this summer. Meanwhile, stay the course with your preventative skincare for long-term support and sustainability.

Dr. Kate McCarn is an Otolaryngologist at The Vancouver Clinic's Columbia Tech Center and Salmon Creek locations. She specializes in the ear, nose and throat with an interest in functional and cosmetic surgery for removal of cancers of the face, head and neck.

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Reflections

Editorials • Letters to the Editor

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Email: Letters@TheReflector.com

Mail: The Reflector, Attention: Letters to the Editor, 208 SE 1st Street, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Writer offers four-step plan for I-5 bridge puzzle

Here is an idea for a new Interstate 5 Columbia River Bridge:

1. Build the first of two new bridges on the east side of the existing bridges, making it wide enough to have three lanes in each direction for as long as it takes to build the other bridge. The east side is better because the highway turns to the east on both sides.

2. Tear out one or both of the existing bridges.

3. Build the second bridge where the old ones are.

4. Put five lanes in each direction on the new bridges.

I am not in favor of light rail, but if we can't build a new bridge without it, put it on the newer one of the existing bridges. By building the new bridge high enough for the river traffic, it is too steep for light rail.

When the bridge would need to be lifted, buses could be used in place of light rail. I think express buses would be a better idea than light rail anyway. The opening part of the railroad bridge about a mile downstream should also be made to line up with the high part of the highway bridge.

Bob Mattila
Brush Prairie

NE 142nd Ave. mess: What a difference a year makes

In 2016, a sewer line was laid 18 to 20 feet down deep on NE 142nd Ave. It was inconvenient but the contractor notified each driveway the direction to travel on any given day.

The contractor closed the hole in the evening and opened the road for passage both north and south. In general, the road was left clean and passable each evening and on weekends.

It really is an inconsiderate mess that has been left for those of us living on NE 142nd Ave. Currently, it is open night and weekends but the road surface is very rough with potholes and a corrugated section, but not passable at the posted 25 mph.

The question is, who allowed this? Was it engineers of Clark County or the Battle Ground engineer? Another question is, why was this mess allowed as it sure is different from the 2016 process? One final question, when will this project be completed?"

John Morrow
Battle Ground

Writer misses fir trees cut down for Whispering Pines

It saddens me greatly to have witnessed all but one lone towering fir tree cut down to make way for the

housing development ironically named "Whispering Pines" on the corner of NE 142nd Ave. and 249th St.

Does anyone else miss those great trees?

Elizabeth Brewster-Waters
Battle Ground

Herrera Beutler dodges Clark County town hall meeting

Here's the problem with the "telephone town hall" format touted by U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Camas.

Think of it as an open book test versus a regular test. In her telephone town hall (open book) she can cherry-pick her questions. On the most recent event, she took a question from someone who doesn't even live in the district. This from a representative who won't accept emails from people out of her district.

Second, as she's answering (unseen), she can be surrounded by staff people who are furiously typing in their computers to get talking points. In the end, she's not facing the unexpected questions and statements from locals.

This is why we arranged an actual face-to-face town hall last Thursday at Foster Auditorium, Clark College, from 6-8 p.m. We've invited her repeatedly but she's declined to come. (Editor's note: Rep. Herrera Beutler did not show up, but those putting on the town hall left an empty chair for her just in case.)

This behavior suggests she either has something to hide

Our View

Youth Behavioral Health Protection Act a helpful step

This past summer the federal government confirmed what we here in Battle Ground know all too well — that Washington state teenagers were depressed at a high rate compared to the rest of the nation.

According to a report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the U.S., 1 in 9 kids ages 12 to 17 were depressed at least once in the course of a year. Washington state ranked seventh out of the 50 states, with a rate of 12 percent.

An average of two youths take their lives every week in the state, with 17 attempting suicide, and 20 percent of our 10th graders considering suicide in the past year, according to the Youth Suicide Prevention Program in Seattle.

And it is acute in Battle Ground.

"The number of students contemplating and attempting suicide in Battle Ground is staggering," said Republican Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler last summer, adding she's "willing to do whatever is needed" to offer her support, specifically advocating for federal funding for an additional school resource officer in Battle Ground.

As a society we are trying to cope with the issue. A bill moving its way through the state Legislature has one avenue of protection — one we fully support.

Sen. Sharon Brown, R, Kennewick, earlier this month had her "Youth Behavioral Health Protection Act" passed by the House with a 94-3 vote. On April 17 it passed the Senate 48-0 and now is awaiting signature by Gov. Jay Inslee for it to become law.

The bill, when it becomes law, will combine mental and behavioral health services with pediatric primary-care services.

"You need prevention, but to get prevention you need access to care," said

Brown in a news release. "This bill is a result of community conversations around the disproportionate number of child suicides. I worked with Dr. Thatcher Felt from the American Academy of Pediatrics to identify ways to streamline access. One way to accomplish this is to have a mental-health professional embedded in a primary-care practice."

The Youth Behavioral Health Protection Act will "streamline care and better identify the mental-health needs of children, who often go untreated for serious and even life-threatening behavioral conditions," according to Brown.

"Nearly one in five kids is affected by behavioral-health disorders; yet, 80 percent of patients do not receive the behavioral health care they deserve," Brown said. "This new law will help kids get the care they need by having integrated behavioral-health consultants provide necessary care at times of crisis."

Today when a patient goes to the doctor through Medicaid, they cannot see two doctors in one visit and have both doctors be reimbursed. So if a doctor sees a teen at risk come in, the doctor could not send that person to a mental health care professional and still get paid.

When an individual is in the doctor's office and they need to see a psychiatrist, mental health counselor, social worker, chemical dependency professional or a marriage and family therapist; delaying services can result in a life changing difference. Getting an at-risk individual immediate care, help and support is a better approach to mental health issues than hoping they make efforts to call and schedule another doctor on a later date.

This is but one small step as we work toward lowering suicide rates. More is needed. But we do applaud this step and concern from Sen. Brown, and the rest of the Legislature which has signaled strong support.

or is afraid to stand up for her beliefs. Either way, we should be concerned.

Elizabeth Lee
Battle Ground

Ayers' 75 years of marriage story appreciated

I can't tell you how surprised and delighted I was to open my paper and see Rich-

ard and Odessa Ayers staring back at me ("For better, for worse, for 75 Years: Brush Prairie couple shares their stories of joy and sadness on the way to 75 years of marriage" by reporter Jonathan Haukaas, April 19 edition).

I used to be their fitness instructor at the local YMCA years ago. They were always a delight to have in class and that loving bond they share is apparent to all those

around them. I was blessed to be one of those people for a short time. Richard and Odessa, I am so happy to see you both are doing so well.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading your article and learning even more about your amazing life together. P.S. You both are looking amazing, you must be keeping up with those exercises.

Megan Stone
Vancouver

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Lifestyles Family

Ridgefield worker recognized with 2017 Florence B. Wager Award

Barhitte honored with Tributary Award for caretaker work at Abrams Park

Each year, the Clark County Parks Foundation honors leaders, volunteers, and parks and recreation professionals who have had a significant impact on the development and enhancement of the parks, trails, and recreation programs of Clark County.

The award's namesake, Florence B. Wager, was a tireless advocate for parks, trails, and greenways in our community, and exemplified the high level of service these awards recognize. Wager passed away in 2012.

The Florence B. Wager Awards will be formally presented at the Parks Foundation's Annual Luncheon and Membership Meeting 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 9 at Warehouse 23 in Vancouver.

Tickets are available online at parksfoundation.us or by calling the Foundation office at 360-487-8370.

James Barhitte, Tributary Award

James Barhitte, caretaker of Abrams Park, has been named

the recipient of the Tributary Award in recognition of his work in the city of Ridgefield.

This award recognizes a parks and recreation professional who has gone above and beyond their daily duties in developing or enhancing innovative programs that connect the public to parks and recreation in new ways, creating new efficiencies to ease cost burdens, or securing/developing new grant sources or revenue concepts.

Since 2010, Barhitte has been the face of Abrams Park, and is always ready to greet visitors with a smile, according to a news release. He spends his weekends helping parents during sporting events, ensuring the restrooms are stocked and clean, and is available to help during special events.

"His hard work and informed input have been invaluable to the Parks Board as we manage the city's changes to its population and park structure," said Marie Bouvier, chair of the Ridgefield Parks Board and recipient of the 2016 V-Formation Flyer Award. "We could not ask for a better representative of the city and its parks."

Glenn Lamb, Leading Eagle Award

Glenn Lamb, executive di-

rector of the Columbia Land Trust, has been named as the recipient of the Leading Eagle Award. This award recognizes a community leader who has made contributions that have significantly influenced the life, health, and direction of our parks, trails, and recreation programs.

As a planner for Clark County, Lamb was instrumental in getting the Conservation Futures Program off the ground. In the 1990s, he and other volunteers formed the Columbia Land Trust. "It is hard to imagine this region, with its great potential of conservation and stewardship, without thinking of and thanking Glenn Lamb. Thanks to vision and leadership, there are thousands of acres of critical habitat that will be preserved, improved and protected from future development," said Julie G. Hannon, director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Vancouver.

Joyce Lindsay, V-Formation Flyer Award

Joyce Lindsay, Washougal City Council and Washougal Parks Board member, is the recipient of the V-Formation Flyer Award in honor of her years of service and leader-



Photo courtesy Clark County Parks Foundation

James Barhitte, caretaker of Abrams Park in Ridgefield, receives his Florence B. Wager award.

ship on behalf of parks, trails and recreation in Washougal.

This award recognizes a spirited volunteer, whose dedication goes above and beyond the norm, unhesitatingly giving of their time and resources to organize, develop, or enhance the parks, trails, and recreation programs in our community. Lindsay has worked tirelessly through the years fundraising and securing grants through public and private means, acquiring lands for community

parks and trails, as well as volunteering to help build recreation programs.

"From fundraising, acquisition of the properties, through the planning phases of making our parks wonderful spaces for all to enjoy, Joyce has been our biggest, most devoted leader," said Jennifer McDaniel, former Washougal City Council member.

— Source: Clark County Parks Foundation

Clark County Newcomers raise \$3,000 to combat homelessness

Earlier this month the Clark County Newcomers held a fundraiser at PeaceHealth Southwest.

Second Step, which provides affordable housing for the homeless, was this year's beneficiary.

A total of \$3,000 was raised from the 150 people in attendance. Entertainment for the night was a murder mystery dinner.

There was also a performance from newcomer members and master of ceremonies Bill Klausman.



Photo courtesy Rita Ahl

Trish Bayer is president of Clark County Newcomers Club

Hockinson student serves as page for Sen. Lynda Wilson

Hockinson High School freshman Halley Care served as a page for Sen. Lynda Wilson for a week in March.

When she's not paging, Care spends her time back home in Hockinson playing in the school band, participating in mock trials, swimming, camping and hiking.

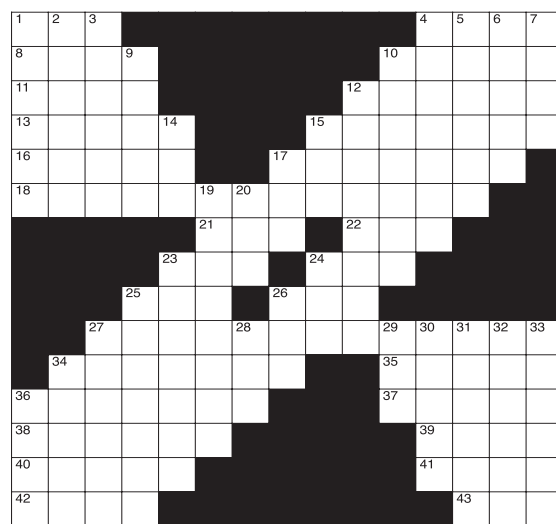
"It was a pleasure having Halley come to Olympia for the week to get a hands-on learning experience at the Legislature," Wilson stated in her newsletter.



Courtesy photo

Halley Care from Hockinson High School with Sen. Lynda Wilson.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- 34. "Independence Day" actor
- 35. East Asian territory
- 36. Moved slowly
- 37. God of Assyria
- 38. Highland
- 39. Photographers' requests
- 40. Makes tractors
- 41. Witnesses
- 42. Not beginnings
- 43. Prosecutors
- 15. Greek letter
- 17. Law degree
- 19. Respected
- 20. Resin-like substance
- 23. A basis for
- 24. Popular horror movie franchise
- 25. Basements
- 26. Boxing promoter King

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prejudice
- 2. Known for its sultans
- 3. Boston hoopster
- 4. An evangelistic meeting
- 5. Inconsistent
- 6. Challenged
- 7. Hideaways
- 9. Members of Mennonite sect
- 10. Cogently
- 12. Univ. of Maryland mascot
- 14. The Caspian is one
- 16. Took possession of (Brit.)
- 17. Absolved
- 18. "His Airness"
- 21. Unhappy
- 22. The entirety
- 23. Meds without prescription
- 24. James Bond is one
- 25. Signal
- 26. Midwife
- 27. "The Who" guitarist

Praise & Worship

Local churches & religious events

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 Brush Prairie, WA
OALC Lewisville
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 Battle Ground, WA
OALC Heisson
 27300 NE 182nd Ave.
 Battle Ground, WA
OALC Woodland
 1610 Dike Access Rd.
 Woodland, WA
OALC Yacolt
 35303 NE Amboy Road
 Yacolt, WA
Sunday Services at 11am
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www.oldapostoliclutheranchurch.org

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Bible-Based Teaching
God Focused Worship
 Worship 9:30 AM
 Sunday School 11:00 AM
687-7124
www.bgbaptist.com
 1110 NW 6th Ave.

Cowboy Church
OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
 Coffee & Fellowship: 9-9:30 am
 Music & Worship: 9:30 am
Sundays at Manor Grange
 179th St., & 72nd Ave
 Battle Ground
360.553.8762
www.cowboychurchswwa.org

Simple Faith
Calvary Chapel
 Studying Chapter by Chapter, Verse by Verse, Word by Word through the entire Bible, Worship & Fellowship
Sunday Mornings 10am
 New Traditions Bldg., South Side,
 11815 NE 113th St., Vancouver
 Right off SR 503 in Brush Prairie.
 Come love and be loved—in our Lord Jesus Christ!
www.simplefaith.org p- 360.687.7465

Battle Ground United Methodist
 10300 NE 199th St.
 Pastor Susan Boegli
 Sunday Worship 10:00 am
 Nursery Provided
 Open Hearts, Minds and Doors
www.battlegroundumc.com

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
 Pastor Bill Webster
 Join us - Sunday Worship at 10am
 "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." - Matt 11:28
 116 NE 3rd Ave., Battle Ground Senior Center
gracebiblebattleground.org

Can't take Communion?
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 Pope Francis, October 2013
 Jesus said: "... Neither do I condemn you..." - John 8:11
www.celticatholicchurchusa.org

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Episcopal 10am Worship
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 Battle Ground
 Office Hours:
 Tues-Fri 9 am to noon
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holyspiritbg.org

Lifestyles Calendar

Published as a public service and is free of charge
Submissions: 208 S.E. 1st St., Battle Ground, WA 98604
(360) 687-5151 • news@thereflector.com

Community Events

BATTLE GROUND ACE HARDWARE SPRING FLING: 6-8 p.m., April 27, at the Battle Ground ACE. Customer Appreciation Event. Free gift bag for the first 100 customers. Prizes and drawings, refreshments and more.

SONSHINE STORY TIME: 1-2 p.m., April 27 and May 4, at Firm Foundation Christian School, Building A, Room #104, 1919 SW 25th Ave., Battle Ground. Free of charge. Information: 360-687-8382.

FOURTH ANNUAL GREEN MOUNTAIN PICKUP AND POTLUCK: 9 a.m., Saturday, April 29, at Green Mountain Baptist Church. Meet at the church and be assigned a spot to clean up and then meet back at the church at 1 p.m. for a potluck. Information: 360-607-3568.

VENERSBURG SCHOOLHOUSE ANNUAL SPRING POTLUCK AND AUCTION: 6-9 p.m., April 29, at Venersburg Schoolhouse 24309 NE 209th St., Battle Ground. Evening of food, family fun and connecting with your neighbors.

ANNUAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF THE BATTLE GROUND LIBRARY: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, at Battle Ground Community Library, 1207 SE Eighth Way, Battle Ground. All members are encouraged to attend. Focus on enhancing library programs beyond library budgets. Book lovers of all kinds welcome. Information: 360-798-4093.

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE: Saturday, May 13, around Clark County. Food bags will be dropped off at homes May 5-6. Leave the bag out front on May 13. Put on by National Association of Letter Carriers. Information: 360-904-6972.

RIDGEFIELD GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at Ridgefield School District Maintenance Building, 304 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield. Open to the public. Hanging baskets and planters, bedding plants and vegetable starts, and more. Pre-orders available now through Thursday, April 27, and can be picked up on Friday, May 5, 3-7 p.m. Proceeds go to

many community projects. Information: 360-887-2579.

LA CENTER ELEMENTARY KINDY CUB NIGHTS: 5:30-6:30 p.m., May 11, in the cafeteria. Students and parents will have dinner and work on activities to prepare students for school. Parents and students are encouraged to come to all three events. RSVP at La Center Elementary office, 360-263-2134.

CATHLAPOTLE PLANKHOUSE MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION: 12 p.m., May 14, at Cathlapotle Plankhouse, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, 28908 NW Main Ave., Ridgefield. Three walks at the top of each hour starting at 1 p.m.: Tending the Wild Walk, Family Nature Walk Soothing Herbal Salve demonstration. From 12 - 4 p.m. there will be Plankhouse Tours and Children's Activities. \$3 per vehicle.

RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL "GOLDEN GRADS" REUNION: 12 to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at R.H.S. Commons. Potluck. Organizers ask that anyone planning to attend RSVP. 1966 and prior. Raffle and silent auction fundraiser for Ridgefield High School scholarships. RSVP to purchase tickets by May 2. A buffet dinner will also be held from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Monday May 22 at Green Meadows Athletic Club. To learn more, RSVP OR buy tickets, contact Jerilynn, 360-513-6025, or Darlene, 360-887-8496.

Health and Fitness

5K FUN RUN: 9 a.m., April 30, at Lewisville Park. \$25 individual registration fee or \$50 for a group of four. Awards for the first male and female finishers and the top five kids. A post race festival barbecue. This is a fundraiser for Daybreak School's Booster Club outdoor school program. Registration: Active.com. Information: amerycangurl78@hotmail.com.

KIDS DAY: May 2 at Family Chiropractic at Salmon Creek, Inc., 11815 NE Highway 99 Suite A. Call to set up an appointment for a non-invasive scan with NASA approved technology if your child has an ear infections, leg pain, allergies, or reflux.

Dr. Youngblood will be scanning children (0-14) to evaluate their level of health. Cost is only a donation of clothes or toys for ARC of SW Washington. All are welcome. Call for an appointment. Information: 360-696-4405, www.salmoncreekchiro.com.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!: 5:30-7:30 p.m., May 9, at Chief Umtuch Middle School. Sponsored by Prevent Together: Battle Ground Prevention Alliance. Local youth prevention leaders will share new tools and ideas to help you tackle important topics that affect our youth, including marijuana, suicide and toxic stress. Family event. Visit preventtogetherbg.org to learn more and register. information: 360-624-6816.

Education

LA CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., now until April 28 at the elementary office. Children must turn five on or before Aug. 31 to enter kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Bring your child's immunization record and a copy of their legal birth certificate. Call La Center Elementary School for more information at 360-263-2134.

THE MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF CLARK COUNTY PRESENTS "EDIBLE CONTAINER GARDENING:" 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, at the CASEE Center, Building B, Room 202/205 located at 11104 NE 149th St, Brush Prairie. Writer Maggie Stuckey to speak. Free to the public and members. No registration required.

Public Meetings

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS MEETING: 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 26 at the Port Offices, 111 W. Division Street, Ridgefield.

168 AMBOY AMERICAN LEGION: 10 a.m., every first Saturday of the month, and bingo every third Friday of the month. A special Memorial Day event will be held at 1 p.m., May 29. All events are held at Amboy Territorial Park. Information: 503-962-0913.

Southwest Washington's largest cycling event set for next weekend

Ride Around Clark County features treks from 18 to 100 mile loops

Ride Around Clark County is a friendly, informal organized ride featuring 18, 34, 53, 66 and 100-mile loops through Clark County.

Rest stops every 15 miles will be well stocked with a sumptuous spread of road snacks including fruit, bagels, pastries, cookies, juice, coffee, hot soup, burritos, and the famous trail putty.

Different routes are meant to encourage beginners and families while challenging the experienced cyclist.

Proceeds support bike and health related charities. Last year the club donated \$13,500.

When and where

Same-day registration opens at 6:30 a.m., Saturday, May 6 at Hanna Hall, Clark College, 1820 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver.

The event begins at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.; all riders must be on the road by 9 a.m., except for 18-mile riders, they may continue to register until 10 a.m. The 18-mile route travels west to Frenchman's Bar Park on the Columbia River and back and is mostly flat with minor hills.

Routes

Ride Around Clark County offers five distance options, lots of me-

chanical as well as nutritional support, and even a roving escape hatch, along with rescue vehicles driven by volunteers who can plug your leak and pump your tire — or just scoop up you and your bike, and drop you back at home base, Clark College, if you've simply had enough.

• The 34-mile route is hillier as it takes you all the way around Lacamas Lake and back.

• The 53-mile route combines the 18 and 34-mile rides and is less than half of the climbing.

• The 66-mile route also rounds Lacamas Lake but then breaks north through Hockinson, around Battle Ground, over to Ridgefield and then down the western edge of the county.

• The 100-mile route keeps going northeast beyond Battle Ground to visit Yacolt and Amboy and eventually touch the top of the county at Etna. Then it meanders back down through La Center and rejoins the 66-miler.

Cost

\$85 for the longer routes and \$70 for the 18-miler.

Vancouver Bicycle Club members, Portland Wheelmen and mail-in registrants get a discount. Children younger than 12 ride free with paid adult; youth 13-17 are \$10 with paid adult.

Information

vbc-usa.com/racc; 360-213-5267
— Source: Donna Richards of Ride Around Clark County

Get your event listed on our Calendar Page! FREE OF CHARGE!

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MOVIE SUMMARIES

UNFORGETTABLE (R)
Tessa Conover (Katherine Heigl) is barely coping with the end of her marriage when her ex-husband, David, becomes happily engaged to Julia (Rosario Dawson). Trying to settle into her new role as a wife and a stepmother, Julia believes she has finally met the man of her dreams, the man who can help her put her own troubled past behind her. Tessa's jealousy takes a pathological turn, and she will stop at nothing to turn Julia's dream into the ultimate nightmare.

GIFTED (PG13)
Frank Adler (Chris Evans) is a single man raising a child prodigy - his spirited young niece Mary (Mckenna Grace) - in a coastal town in Florida. Frank's plans for a normal school life for Mary are foiled when the 7-year-old's mathematical abilities come to the attention of Frank's formidable mother, Evelyn (Lindsay Duncan), whose plans for her granddaughter threaten to separate Frank and Mary.

THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS (PG13)
Now that Dom (Vin Diesel) and Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) are on their honeymoon, Brian and Mia have retired from the game, and the rest of the crew has been exonerated, the globe-trotting team has found a semblance of a normal life. But when a mysterious woman seduces Dom back into a world of crime that he can't seem to escape, the crew will face trials that will test them as never before.

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE (PG)
Best friends Smurfette (Demi Lovato), Brainy (Danny Pudi), Clumsy (Jack McBrayer) and Hefty (Joe Manganiello) use a special map that guides them through the Forbidden Forest, an enchanted wonderland that's filled with magical creatures. Their adventure leads them on a course to discover the biggest secret in Smurf history as they race

against time and the evil wizard Gargamel (Raimi Wilson) to find a mysterious village.

THE BOSS BABY (PG)
A new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator -- a wildly imaginative 7-year-old named Tim. The most unusual Boss Baby (Alec Baldwin) arrives at Tim's home in a taxi, wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase. The instant sibling rivalry must soon be put aside when Tim discovers that Boss Baby is actually a spy on a secret mission, and only he can help thwart a dastardly plot that involves an epic battle between puppies and babies.

THE PROMISE (PG13)
Brilliant medical student Michael (Oscar Isaac) meets beautiful dance instructor Ana (Charlotte Le Bon) in late 1914. Their shared Armenian heritage sparks an attraction that explodes into a romantic rivalry between Michael and Ana's boyfriend (Christian Bale), an American photojournalist who's dedicated to exposing the truth. As the Ottoman Empire crumbles into war-torn chaos, their conflicting passions must be deferred as they join forces to get themselves and their people to safety.

PHOENIX FORGOTTEN (PG13)
On March 13, 1997, several mysterious lights appeared over Phoenix. Three teens went into the desert shortly after the incident, hoping to document the strange events occurring in their town. They disappeared that night and were never seen again. Now, on the 20th anniversary of their disappearance, unseen footage has finally been discovered, chronicling the final hours of their fateful expedition.

TITLE INSURANCE CLAIMS

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Attorney at Law
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Lifestyles Happenings

'The Front Porch' storytelling event set for this week



Photo courtesy Connect Battle Ground

Musicians perform at a past The Front Porch event.



Photo courtesy Connect Battle Ground

A young storyteller addresses the crowd at a past The Front Porch event.

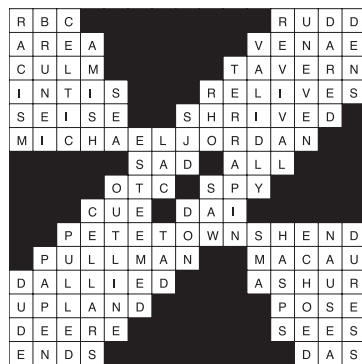
It's story time this Thursday in Battle Ground.

From 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 27, Connect Battle Ground invites members of the community for an evening of storytelling, live local music and snacks at Connect Battle Ground's new location at the Lewisville School campus, 406 NW 5th Ave., Battle Ground. Doors open and music starts at 6:30 p.m.

This spring's event theme is "Neighbors — the good, bad & ugly." Storytellers have not been announced. Admission is \$5 with all proceeds benefiting Camp Hope. Food will be provided by Battle Ground Bakery; coffee will be provided by Burgerville.

Connect Battle Ground calls stories the "fabric of our community." Connect Battle

Ground sponsors and organizes Front Porch. The event is made possible by partnering with Battle Ground Burgerville, Battle Ground Foursquare Church, Full Circle Driving School, Columbia Kids Preschool/Sprouting Seeds Learning Community, Gaither & Sons, Elite Auto Body, Artisan Academy and the Old Town Battle Ground Association.



'Thrift Shop' singer to be featured at Rocksolid event

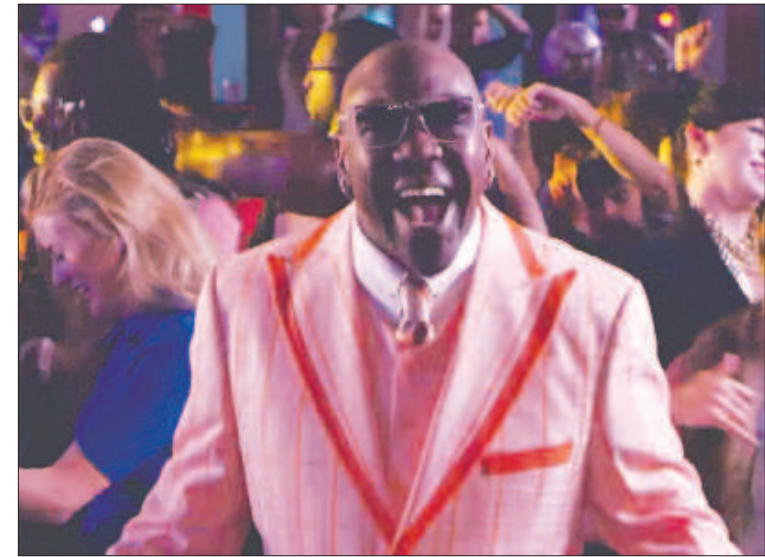


Photo courtesy wanzmusic.com

Singer Michael "Wanz" Wansley is best known for singing in "Thrift Shop" with Macklemore and Ryan Lewis.

THE REFLECTOR

Rocksolid invites all teens grades 5 through 12 to the Battle Ground Community Center from 7-10 p.m., this Friday, April 28 for "Teen Takeover."

Wanz, who is best known for his role in the six-time platinum single "Thrift Shop" alongside Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, will MC and sing at the event.

Along with Wanz, the NW Rock Academy band will perform and a High Fidelity DJ will be spinning as well. Detroit Pizza, soda from Corwin Beverage, smoothies from Dutch Bros. and popcorn from iQ Credit Union are on the menu. Entry fee is \$5.

There is also a "VIP Photo Booth" for keepsake photos and door prizes.

Teens will have chance to

learn about substance abuse. Prevent Together will set up a booth with information and impairment goggles for teens to see the effects of impairment.

Rocksold asks that teens bring a school ID for age verification.

"The Rocksolid team is very excited to be partnering with many sponsors to create this incredible evening for youth in our community. We hope teens will enjoy the event and find out more about Rocksolid and what we offer every day after school," said Marcy Sprecher, Rocksolid executive director, in a press release.

Rocksolid is an afterschool program for students grades 5 through 12 of the Battle Ground and Hockinson School Districts.

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Lifestyles Youth Focus

Woodland HS teachers drop grades

Shift goes from grading projects to 'providing constructive and collaborative feedback'

Two Woodland High School English Language Arts teachers have transformed the way students learn in their classrooms by eliminating letter grades and helping students take accountability for their own education by using collaborative individual meetings focused on skill development instead of points and letter grades.

At the beginning of the school year, Aaron Blackwelder and Jason Cowley, English teachers at Woodland High School, set out to increase student learning by making students accountable for how they learn.

"We've shifted from grading projects with points to providing constructive and collaborative feedback with students," Blackwelder said in a news release. "In the past, we would collect student work and score it in isolation, an approach which tends to reward students who know how to work the system and punish those who don't, whereas, now, students sit down with their teacher and explain how their work meets the criteria required to demonstrate their proficiency."

This dramatic shift in grading resulted from Blackwelder and Cowley taking a serious look at the existing system, according to the news release.

"Grades and points rarely provide students with enough information to improve or grow their skills," Cowley said. "Does receiving a 'B' on an essay mean you can write without excellent analysis but use correct spelling, or does it

mean the opposite?"

The teachers developed the new approach to focus on students developing the skills and proficiencies throughout the course of the class instead of on a project-by-project basis. "Learning shouldn't be about getting it right or not the first time and then moving on," said Cowley. "It should be about getting it right eventually, even if that takes additional time to do so."

The two teachers meet with each of their students one-on-one regularly throughout the semester, working directly with each student, and having the student explain how each section of a project satisfies the requirements for the assignment.

"Rather than receiving a failing grade and moving on, students must revise their work until it meets the criteria set forth for the assignment," said Blackwelder. "Since students are involved in the assessment process, we ask reflective questions about their work and work ethic which challenges them to establish future goals in their learning."

At the end of each semester, students present a portfolio of work to their teacher in collaborative conferences where they must answer three questions:

1. What evidence do you have that you have met proficiency in the class?
2. What evidence do you have of growth throughout the semester?
3. What evidence do you have that you can be creative to meet proficiency?

Students present their answers and evaluate their own work, recommending their own grade for the class based on their portfolio. Instead of receiving a failing grade, students who do not meet the criteria receive an "incomplete"



Photo courtesy Woodland Public Schools

Woodland High School student AJ Vossen works with his teacher Aaron Blackwelder to revise his assignment to meet the criteria for the project. Blackwelder and his colleague Jason Cowley work with each of their students one-on-one throughout the semester to ensure the students' work reflects the skills they need to develop.

with the opportunity to continue to submit work after the semester ends to demonstrate proficiency.

"The purpose of school is learning, not grades," Cowley said. "Ultimately, when you de-emphasize grades, students can focus more on learning rather than on how many points an assignment is worth; to put it another way — education should be about the journey, not about the destination."

Blackwelder agrees with the emphasis on learning.

"When you have grades and points, school becomes about achievement, but if you take out grades and points, school becomes being about learning," Blackwelder said.

Blackwelder and Cowley decided to introduce the new system after becoming dissatisfied with the limitations of traditional grading which didn't seem to provide real motivation for students to learn.

"In past years, I had students give up as early as October because they felt that no matter what they did, they couldn't earn enough points to pass, while, at the same time, I was having arguments with Honor Roll students who felt the 94 percent they received on an assignment wasn't as high as they felt they deserved," said Blackwelder. "The true focus of school being about learning new skills and honing abilities was lost in my grading practices, resulting in students focusing on earning all of the available points instead of actually learning."

In addition to collaborative grading with students, the teachers allow the students to select topics and themes for their projects that

interest them as long as those topics can meet the criteria for the assignment.

"Students are encouraged to take risks and make mistakes as there is no penalty — losing points — for not getting something right the first time," Cowley said. "By focusing on developing skills rather than content, students can demonstrate mastery of a skill with projects about topics that interest them."

Blackwelder and Cowley received inspiration and support for this innovative approach to student learning by working together while also reading books and participating in learning communities on social networks like a teacher forum called "Teachers Throwing Out Grades" on Facebook.

"These teacher forums helped us create a vision focusing on learning and connected us with innovative educators from around the world who offer support," said Blackwelder. "In addition, Jason Cowley is incredible — he and I have regular conversations about how to make our classes better, and I don't think I would have made the shift if it weren't for collaborating with him."

Eliminating traditional grading has yielded huge results in the classroom, according to the release.

"Learning is now both personal and intentional with my students meeting the Common Core Standards," said Blackwelder. "My students know I am going to challenge and support them helping them know they have the ability to meet proficiency with my encouragement along the way."

The teachers also offer each

student suggestions for growth regardless of their current level of understanding.

"It is my goal to create a culture of growth, and I believe I am seeing it in my classroom," Blackwelder said.

Even in its first year, students of all levels of proficiency offer positive reactions to this new approach to grading and student learning.

"Kids in other classes often cheat to get the good grade, but in this class, we get control over how we learn which makes us want to learn more — the teachers set a direction and let us explore it," said freshman Aidan Thrall. "This is basically starting an entirely new education system."

Collaborating with their teachers on topics they choose helps students produce better results by working on the topics they love.

"By giving us assignments, telling us their expectations, and letting us write about stuff we like, it has helped me to enjoy school," said freshman Aaron Martinez. "Mr. Blackwelder has made me excited about class and about school because he persuades and motivates me to excel — he's really great about motivating students to succeed."

London Lubecky, a classmate, agreed with Martinez.

"This approach has made me more self-aware of my learning," she explained. "By choosing what we want to do, the skills we're learning become open instead of overwhelming."

To help other teachers, Blackwelder started blogging in order to share his ideas about education.

"I know I don't have all the answers, but I share what is working for me," he said. "My blogging has helped me hone what is going on in my class with many teachers from around the world responding — the support I've received has been resoundingly positive."

To read Blackwelder's blog, visit his website at mrbblackwelder.wordpress.com.

— Source: Woodland Public Schools

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GARDEN IN THE SHADE

Shade gardening is a great way to spice up those blank and dark spots in your yard or around your house

CALE JOHNSON

cale@thereflector.com

Think about all the open areas in your yard or around your home that would be nice spots to insert a garden. Now think about some clustered areas with trees, bushes and whatever else taking up space and sight of the blue sky. You couldn't garden there. Or could you?

Shade gardening is a fun challenge for gardeners, and of course, there's nothing wrong with turning a dull dark area into something vibrant. In the Pacific Northwest local gardeners have about as many shade gardening opportunities as anyone with all our trees.

Shade gardens are tough tasks, but they don't have to be frustrating if you know what you're doing. Below is a combination of cautions and neat ideas for those willing to give it a try from *The Reflector* and Bird's English Garden and Nursery in Ridgefield.

CAUTIONS

Sunlight assessment

Before you start planting, it's important to know what you're about to start working with. Determine the degree of shade in the area you want to make into a shade garden. How much sunlight/shade do specific little spots receive? The levels of shade will determine which species will thrive there. Once that's determined research plants that can survive with the amount of sunlight they'll get and pick the ones you want.

According to Connie Gisi of Bird's English Garden and Nursery, most of the best types of plants for shade gardens need to go without a ton of sunlight.

"The biggest mistake I see people make is putting things in light that need shade," she said. "They'll dry out really fast."

The idea that some plants need to mostly avoid light is a bit of an odd thought for beginning gardeners, but it's the case with shade gardens.

Moisture shortage

Besides light, inadequate moisture can be a problem with developing shade gardens. The reason the area is shady in the first place is because there's something hanging over it — which means it's going to be hard for rain to get there too. When moisture is at a shortage plants start competing for it, so it's essential that if you want a shade garden it needs to be watered even when rain is falling a seemingly good amount.

"Shade Gardens tend to be much more drought intolerant," Gisi said.

SUGGESTIONS

Man-made features

A lot of popular places for shade gardens are those in-between the fence and house areas, or around a wood shed that sits next to overgrowth, for example. In many cases there's no reason why a small walking path couldn't be installed there and often times it's just sort of muddy in these areas because there was never really enough room to have an actual yard in the space. Not only will a path be nice for that, but it will also provide a secondary color splash to whatever you plant around it.

In addition to the idea of a path (made of stones, bark or gravel), Gisi said benches, bird houses/feeders, and yard art are good items to place and then plant around.

Groundcovers

Here we go with the actual gardening. Groundcovers come in many forms and basically are a way to cover ugly blank areas without grass. Many believe groundcovers are more stylish.

Gisi said some good options for groundcovers are lamium and vincas. Vincas are capable of blooming purple, white or burgundy, so going with them gives you a variety of options, she said.

Shrubs

To cover more space off of the ground aucuba shrubs are a good pick.

"They get pretty large," Gisi said, adding that aucuba come with little yellow spots on their leaves which make them nice providers of subtle brightness.

Another sizable shrub to con-



Photo by Cale Johnson

Rhododendrons are a very nice choice for any shade garden in the Pacific Northwest.

sider is Japanese aralia. What you're likely to see most around the Northwest though are rhododendrons. Native to the area, these plants bloom in many different colors such as pink, white, purple and red.

Trees

For trees, Gisi said a couple different species that do well in the shade are full moon maples and paperbarks. Adding a tree to a shade garden is also a great way to increase the size of the garden.

Many gardeners have never heard of shade gardening but Gisi said it can be a real benefit to most homes.

"They're the coolest part of your yard during the summer," she said. "You're probably going to spend a lot of time there in the shade on hot days, so you might as well make it look and feel nice."

"You'll get enjoyment out of it (a shade garden) as soon as it's in," said Gisi. "For some reason they're just so soothing."

At the Home and Garden Idea Fair coming up this weekend, Bird's English Garden and Nursery is set to have a plant sale booth set up in spaces #18 and #28.

Gisi and Bird's English Garden and Nursery specialize in shade gardening and their store is located at 1296 S. Dolan Road, Ridgefield.



Photo by Cale Johnson

A set of purple vincas are on display at Bird's English Garden and Nursery in Ridgefield.



Photo by Cale Johnson

Aucuba shrubs, like the ones pictured here from Bird's English Garden and Nursery, are great for giving a boost of subtle color to a shady area.

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HOME IN A BOX: some assembly required

Building packets from Felida area craftsman require only a 'tiny' bit of work

JONATHAN HAUKAAS
jonathan@thereflector.com

Patrick Sughrue is busy these days.

The Reflector caught him mid-phone call, spinning a 3D model of a tiny home around on his desktop from his home office near Felida last week, with a client out of New Hampshire on the line. The client was watching in real time as he went back over the design of the tiny house they were designing with Sughrue as coach.

While discussing tiny homes with The Reflector, following the cross-country review with his New Hampshire client, Sughrue would receive multiple other calls and when the interview was wrapping up, a call was coming in to go over more designs.

Sughrue's busyness is on pace with a national trend over the last few years which has seen tiny house popularity catch fire. Along with New Hampshire, Sughrue currently has clients out of Alabama and California and a few locals.

Although Sughrue's business has boomed in the last three or four years as the tiny house trend took off, living small isn't exactly a new concept to him. One could



Photo by Jonathan Haukaas

Patrick Sughrue is no stranger to tiny dwellings. His first experience came in 1972 when he built a tiny house on the flatbed of a Dodge truck. Now, he helps design and orchestrate the building of tiny houses for owner-builders.

say Sughrue was making tiny homes before "it was cool."

His first was in 1972, built in the bed of a 1949 Dodge flatbed truck. He built it with the goal of joining thousands of others in the 1970's Back-To-The-Land movement, which saw masses migrating into rural areas as a result of

what Sughrue describes as being "done with the system."

But "the system" proved persistent.

"The system didn't go away and we all got sucked back in," Sughrue said with a chuckle.

Sughrue's tiny dwellings throughout his life also included a 177-square-foot accessory dwelling unit and a 384-square-foot cabin.

From the ashes of the 2008 recession Sughrue founded Artisan Tiny House in 2014 as a successor to his pre-recession business, Structures NW. Like his tiny homes of today, Structures NW focused on high performance structures.

Yet Sughrue doesn't build the tiny homes.

He helps the buyer design it and provides a packet with all the material they need and instructions — imagine buying a wooden Lego set you live in when



Photo by Jonathan Haukaas

The 200 square foot "Metro" tiny house can be toured this weekend at the 26th annual Home and Garden Idea Fair.

Continued on Page D3

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TOUR A TINY HOUSE THIS WEEKEND

Artisan Tiny House is one of the featured businesses at this weekend's 26th annual Home and Garden Idea Fair, **April 28-30 at the Clark County Event Center.** A 200-square-foot tiny house will be on scene as part of the landscape showcase. Business owner Patrick Sughrue is one of the featured guest experts of the event and will speak on "Tiny Living" at 3:30 p.m., Sunday at the Guest Presentations Stage.

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Photo by Jonathan Haukaas

Structural insulated panels are used for the shell of Patrick Sughrue's tiny homes. They are made up of two oriented strand boards with expanded-polystyrene foam in the middle.

Continued from Page D2

you're done. "We don't build them; we help owner-builders build them better," he said, adding with a laugh that's something he can't quite get through people's heads.

Before receiving the material, owner-builders first design their tiny dwelling through a template and a 3D model in real time with Sughrue.

The packet of material consists of a trailer, structural insulated panels, fasteners and various accessories needed to assemble the building.

Sughrue said the process of assembling all the pieces takes, on average, only a day-and-a-half.

Structural insulated panels, used for the shell of the tiny homes, are a primary element of Artisan's model. Sughrue has used them for over the last 25 years on a variety of buildings including cottages and cabins. They consist of two oriented strand boards with expanded-polystyrene foam in the middle held together with an adhesive. Sughrue has found structural insulated panels to be the most energy efficient building system in green construction, describing them in

Artisan's catalog as "extremely strong, energy-efficient and cost-effective, and require no additional frame or skeleton for support."

Sughrue's opinion on why tiny houses have quickly become so popular is straightforward.

He points to the world population hitting seven billion a half decade ago and how we're running out of space for all the people.

"Too many people, not enough space," he said, adding tiny houses might not be the best way to manage a rising population, but it is one way to help.

Another element of their recent popularity, he believes, is that



Photo by Jonathan Haukaas

Patrick Sughrue works on a tiny house design last week at his home office near Felida.

many people simply can't afford the rising costs of housing.

"The tiny man getting squeezed," as he describes it, has led to the this new vein of alternative, affordable housing.

Artisan's ultimate goal, as stated on their website and reaffirmed by Sughrue is to "produce the safest, most energy-efficient, and affordable Tiny House shell package on the market."

For all the design options, other dwelling options, photo gallery, dimensions offered and more, visit artisantinyhouse.com or call 360-567-6311.



Photo courtesy Artisan Tiny House

After the design process is finished, owner-builders receive a packet consisting of a trailer, structural insulated panels, fasteners and various accessories needed for assembly. Patrick Sughrue said it takes about a day-and-a-half to put it together.

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Northwest farm crop reports show slow start to season

Down markets: variety of factors conspire to depress most commodity prices

**JORDAN NAILON
FOR THE REFLECTOR**
jnailon@chronline.com

As we transition from the dead of winter to the rejuvenation of spring, Northwest Farm Credit Services has released its latest farm crop price report. Just like the fickle nature of spring itself, with its smatterings of sun frequently washed away by torrents of wind and rain, the outlook in farm country is decidedly hit and miss and often dependent upon factors outside the control of trusty try hard farmers.

Beef producers were forced to increase feed rations in late winter as a cold front hit and refused to make a hasty exit. Once Jack Frost did hit the road, the void was simply filled with buckets of rain, which provided little in the way of respite. However, spring grass conditions are in better shape than recent years, so greener pastures may be in store for the market. The first quarter of 2017 saw cattle prices rebound after a wonky end to 2016. Domestic and export demands have helped to pull the industry out of those lean beef times.

Last winter, Northwest dairy farmers had 7,000 more cows to care for than the previous year, but overall milk production remained unchanged as unsavory winter weather depressed the average production per animal while simultaneously driving up feed costs. Nationally, there were 66,000 cows added to the milking lines compared to the same time

last year, which led to a spike in milk production. Cheese inventory in the U.S. and skim milk powder stocks in Europe remain high which is putting a squeeze on market growth. Profit margins are currently coming in right at, or below, even money, but the 12-month outlook predicts modest profitability for milk managers who limit expenses and milk-price risk.

The same prickly weather that swamped milk and meat markets has created a bit of a boon for hay mongers. While they were huddling together and burning calories to stay warm, those expanding bovine herds were plenty hungry. As a result, feeder hay inventories are lower than normal heading into the home stretch before hay bucking season. However, at the moment, prices are about 9 percent below where they were at the same time last year, and the only real growth in the industry is happening with alfalfa exports to new locations. The 12-month outlook forecasts profitability for producers who keep a close eye on expenses and begin the cutting year with no lingering inventory.

Winter wheat prospects are looking up this year thanks to dense blankets of winter snow and prolific spring rains that recharged soils. However, fieldwork on those crops and planting for summer varieties has been hampered by rains, but the outlook for a bumper harvest remains likely. The global stock of wheat for 2016-17 is estimated at a record 250 million metric tons, which is an increase of 4 percent over last year. Those stockpiles are hurting prices though, and most standard producers are expected to barely break even. Farmers utilizing pulse crops or harvesting above average yields may be able to put a little money in the bank.



File photo

Apple production was expected to increase this year.

Spud farmers are wiping mud from their eyes as they sit more than two weeks behind schedule for spring planting. That delay may cause early season scarcity on the market. Contracted potato producers are looking at possible profits but independent spudders will be lucky to break even. The 12-month outlook predicts more of the same.

The sugar beet scene is not as sweet as it should be as a late start to spring planting and rising temperatures in Idaho that have threatened the quality of remaining stocks. Heavy rain has pushed back planting by as much as two weeks already but sugar beets remain a popular crop for rotational planting. The 12-month outlook shows a chance of "modest" profitability for this year's crop.

In the world of onions, the top fell in on the market, literally. Heavy snowstorms in the region

caused the collapse of as many as 50 onion storage and processing facilities in Treasure Valley, Oregon. That loss of supply caused a temporary spike in prices, but reinforcements from Mexico soon pushed prices back down below the break even point. Spring planting is at least three weeks behind schedule for many producers and may lead to lower yields later this year if summer conditions don't put the crop back to the black. The 12-month outlook remains bleak, but high quality residual stocks could fetch a slightly higher price.

Apple growers are feeling plucky as prospects for profitability remain high across the industry. As of March 1, the estimated stock in Washington was calculated at 134 million boxes, which was the second largest crop on record. Apple sales are keeping pace with previous years but traditional varieties may hit a snag as

demand continues to shrink. The outlook is best for producers with a diverse and quality mix of apple varieties.

Cherry profits may be the low hanging fruit of 2017 as a frigid winter has been hard on common pests and viruses while improving the likely harvest date from years past. So far this year the number of temperature appropriate growing days have matched historic averages and the harvest is expected to start rolling in around mid-June. Profitability is expected to continue over the next year, particularly for early-season varieties.

The pear market has avoided going mushy despite severe winter weather that dropped temperatures below zero and threatened to damage orchards. Prices are running parallel with supplies for most varieties. Bartlett and Bosc prices are down due to a large supply while d'Anjou prices have been buoyed by a small crop. Market prices are likely to remain stable over the next year.

Vineyard manicurists and vintners from Washington, Oregon and Idaho are riding high on the flow of a high-quality 2016 vintage. In addition to its quality, the grape harvest of 2016 came in at an unprecedented 270,000 tons. Crop damage was extremely limited over the winter and the market continues to be driven to new heights by consumers seeking high value and direct to consumer market wines. Stellar profits are likely to continue over the next year.

The forest industry has been hampered by a slow to recover housing market. Last year single-family starts made up just 67 percent of the new housing market which was down from a 10-year average of 71 percent, but higher than the 64 percent recorded in 2015. That slow but steady housing market recovery is expected to continue and returns from mills are also headed in a positive direction thanks to increasing lumber prices and a dependable demand for fiber.

Prospects at nurseries and greenhouses are on the rise along with the arrival of spring and slow growth in the single-family housing market. Overall sales are expected to increase in 2017 but early season sales may be depressed a bit by persistent poor weather. Improved sales and a more balanced inventory created higher prices and improved margins last year and the 12-month forecast expects the market to remain profitable.

Fisheries are being strung along by high demand. A bounty of pollock has caused that market to go soft bellied but a harvest limit on crabs and a poor pink salmon run have pushed those prices higher. The fishing fleet has also been adding new vessels and improving old equipment in order to create more efficient operations. Profitability is expected to remain strong over the next year, especially for Pacific cod and sablefish.

Northwest Farm Credit Services is a financial cooperative valued at \$11 billion and tasked with providing financing and related services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, commercial fishermen, timber producers, rural homeowners and crop insurance customers in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Montana.



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No shortage of passion and new ideas at Beacon Farm

Volunteers needed: Family farm in Brush Prairie donates all food to local food bank

CALE JOHNSON
cale@thereflector.com

Donna and Ed Aho are the proud owners of 12.5 acres of land in Brush Prairie known as Beacon Farm, and their mission is to feed the hungry.

Since 2013 they've been growing all kinds of vegetables and donating them to the North County Community Food Bank (NCCFB). The farm's production has been growing since the idea began, but it's reaching a point of "peak performance" given their resources. For the most part it's Donna and Ed, sometimes their kids and sometimes their grandkids that do all the work. The farm work is open to volunteers — and there have been a decent amount through time — but for Beacon Farm to get to the next level, more are needed.

In the first year of their charitable project Beacon Farm was able to donate 700 pounds to the NCCFB. In 2014 the number rose to 1,200 pounds and then 4,400 in 2015. Because of rain issues in October last year they were only able to donate 3,500 pounds in 2016, but this year the goal is back up to 6,000.

"I definitely think we can get to 6,000," Donna said. "Maybe 7,000."

As time has gone on the Ahos have been able to grow more because they've expanded their garden. Originally they had one 70-by-250 foot strip of dirt to grow on, but that has since doubled. There are also several smaller gardens to the side, making for what Donna estimates to be 38,150 square feet of cultivated



Photos courtesy of Beacon Farm

Young volunteers at Beacon Farm help move veggies that were just planted inside milk jugs out to the grass.

AMOUNT OF VEGETABLES PLANTED AS OF MID-APRIL

All harvested veggies will be donated to the North County Community Food Bank to help feed struggling families in the community. Beacon Farm in Brush Prairie has planted the following amount of vegetables:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2,000 seeds of onions | 382 seeds of cucumber |
| 740 seeds of head lettuce | 80 seeds of green tomatillo |
| 136 seeds of kale | 64 seeds of purple tomatillo |
| 210 seeds of tomatoes | 26 seeds of pumpkins |
| 392 seeds of peppers (five different kinds) | 173 seeds of Brussels sprouts |
| 212 seeds of spinach | 36 seeds of eggplant |
| 67 seeds of watermelon | 72 seeds of dill |
| 54 seeds of cantaloupe | 84 seeds of cabbage |
| "Lots" of celery (seeds are too small to count) | |



Continued on Page D6




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Continued from Page D5

land on the Beacon Farm property. All of that isn't even half of the total possible space that could be used for farming more vegetables, and that's where her volunteer pitch comes in.

"We could extend the garden and do two to three times more," she said. "But we need the help."

Donna said most volunteers they've gotten are Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and their families.

"We're getting a lot done with not many hands. We are doing probably 80 percent of the stuff still," she said.

Donna said volunteering is mostly done on Saturdays starting at about 10 a.m., but she is always open for other times. Volunteer time spent at Beacon Farm can also be used toward community service hours for qualifications and resumes. Most of all though, it's the feeling of knowing you're helping somebody that is the biggest pay off, Donna said.

"Seven hundred families (in the community) need food every week," Donna said. "We're giving a lot to the food bank, but it's still not very much when you really think about it. I want to do more."

Volunteers that come out can expect to do weeding, harvesting and planting. The planting process at the farm has taken an interesting twist.

Not long ago Donna said she stumbled onto an online gardeners group and learned of a unique planting method. Instead of planting seeds directly into the earth, she and the team have started planting them inside milk jugs. The concept is called winter sowing. She said the benefit is plants can grow during the winter or harsh season conditions without as much vulnerability.

"They're (the milk jugs) stronger than using greenhouses," Donna said. "They're getting conditioned by being outside too, so you don't have to take them out and get them used to the outside like if they were in a greenhouse."

Donna said any sort of jug can be used for this. She uses milk jugs because Andersen Dairy in Battle Ground had an excess amount of empty jugs in their dump trailer when she was searching and allowed her to take



Photo courtesy Beacon Farm

With more volunteers, Donna Aho, of Beacon Farm, believes vegetable harvesting and donation numbers to the North County Community Food Bank could double because the farm has enough land to keep expanding.

2,000 of them for free.

Donna cuts the jugs in half (but not the handle) and fills the bottom with four or five inches of soil. After planting the seed she duct tapes the jug back together and pokes holes in the bottom and the side for draining. At that point all that's left to do, she says, is stick them out in the field and let mother nature work her magic.

"I instantly knew it would be great when I saw the idea," said Donna. "We just stick them out in the grass and forget about them. Everything about it just works better and they're healthier. You can control the soil better and there aren't any slugs or birds messing with them either."

Donna said about 700 of the 2,000 milk jugs are being used, which again circles back to the need for more help. The Aho's are doing everything they can to produce as much as they can for those in need. They keep nothing for themselves.



Photo courtesy Beacon Farm

Last year, Beacon Farm was able to donate 3,500 pounds of veggies to the North County Community Food Bank

"99.9 percent of the vegetables we harvest are donated," said Donna. The 0.1 percent are a few veggies she and other workers eat

while gardening.

Beacon Farm is located at 21902 NE 189th Street, Brush Prairie. To get into contact with Donna or Ed

Aho call 360-600-4037. You can also learn more at the farm's Facebook page: facebook.com/BeaconFarmHockinson.

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WATER FIXTURES

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Waterfalls, streams and ponds can add sparkle to your landscape

CALE JOHNSON
cale@thereflector.com

Nothing adds harmony to a garden or yard like water. If done right, water adds a peaceful ambience to the landscape, not to mention it looks great.

If you can get a water fixture to blend in naturally with the surroundings of your home's landscape it has a chance to be quite a nice looker, but there are several fixture options, and several yard types out there, and not all of them blend seamlessly. Here's a look at the best ways to water-scape a home property. Keep in mind that many of them can be combined together.

Waterfall

The sound of flowing water is infectiously soothing. Common designs include an array of rocks with multiple layers that the water moves down. In a lot of cases a waterfall will have multiple small waterfalls within it. Usually the runoff will dump into a ground level pond at the bottom, but that doesn't have to be the only end point. Streams and drains work too.

According to Scott Esteb, president of Boulder Falls Landscaping in Clark County, waterfall features are generally the most expensive day-to-day water fixture installations because they're typically larger scale than ponds, bubblers or streams.

In Esteb's expertise, typically a nice waterfall will have two to five layers of falls and then will end with a bigger fall that's about two to six feet high. This height range is perfect because anything shorter won't allow for much of a true waterfall and anything higher will cause more noise and splash than probably intended.

For that last fall, Esteb said picking the right rock for the water to flow off of is very important. Often times he says he sees people stick a "totally flat" rock there so that the water will flow smoothly off it, but that's not necessarily what you should do.

"You don't want a straight, even fall, it won't look natural and that's the key," Esteb said.

Instead he said you want a rock that's "on the flat side" but has some curves and texture so the runoff looks less staged.

Pond

Putting in a waterfall with a pond can get expensive, but if you're dead-set on having a significant body of water around, consider a pond.

With a pond the biggest thing to be cautious of, especially in the Pacific Northwest, is flooding from excessive rain. Esteb said any new pond needs to have an overflow drain installed into it.

"It will basically just act like a gutter, so the water never rises higher than you've intended," he said.

If you have a combined pond/waterfall, he also jokes that if the water rises too high there won't be a waterfall to observe.

Inside of ponds people also enjoy adding fish. For those who want to do so Esteb said to make sure the water is at least two or three feet deep. He adds that if you want them to last several

years it's advised you give them places to hide at the bottom.

Stream

With streams there are two approaches, one with man-made flowing water, and the other with natural water. Man-made streams are more expensive, but will be more decorative because it's easier to control. Esteb said the other option of no water is great for practical reasons, the biggest being drainage around the house.

"Dry creek beds can help divert the water away from gutters," he said.

With all the rainfall Southwest Washington receives, it's not like a "dry creek" is really going to be dry all that often.

Bubblers

A final water fixture category, according to Esteb, is bubblers. Bubblers are lifted fountains, usually via tall rocks that spout water up and let it flow down to the ground. With these, Esteb said medium-sized stones are the best thing to place underneath because they will fill up the small bed of runoff water that gets filtered back to the top without much notice.

Unlike waterfalls and ponds, Esteb said you can get away with not having a drain installed around a bubbler, but to just be mindful of the location it's in case you do.

Advice for all water fixtures

With all fixtures, Esteb said adding vegetation will add a nice framing to the look. One cau-



Photo courtesy Boulder Falls Landscaping

A great way to design a waterfall is to give it multiple fall layers and make it run downhill in combination with a stream.

tion he said though is any plants with leaves are bound to result in more cleanup.

According to Esteb a general rule of thumb with all water fixtures is the further away from the house you go, the bigger your fixture should be. Near the house (especially patio areas) he said bubblers blend in well, and around the house streams will look nice. Once you move out into the heart of the yard is when he suggests going with ponds and waterfalls.

With man-made decoration, Esteb said anything goes, but a popular unnatural decor to be cautious of is lights. With them he advises low voltage.



Photo courtesy Boulder Falls Landscaping

A dry creek bed is a relatively affordable way to add a water fixture of sorts to your property.

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Lifestyles Home & Garden Idea Fair

GET INSPIRED

at the Home and Garden Idea Fair

Annual event serves as a way to begin on warmer weather projects

RICK BANNAN
rick@thereflector.com

It's been spring for a little over a month now, even if it doesn't quite feel like it yet.

Luckily for those tired of hibernation and itching to get to work on spring and summer home and garden projects, Clark Public Utilities has a solution.

The Home & Garden Idea Fair makes a return to the Clark County Event Center this weekend with close to 150 exhibitors slated for the multi-faceted event celebrating all things domestic.

The event has been called the "annual kickoff to spring home improvement projects" over the 26 years it has been a county tradition, Clark Public Utilities Communication Services Manager Heather Allmain said. The overall goal is to connect the public to different businesses focused on home improvement.

"Back in the beginning, it was really about putting our customers, who are business owners, in front of the local community to help them promote their products and services that help with home improvement projects, but also for the utility to be able to have that one-on-one, face-to-face contact with our customers to talk about the programs and services that benefit them," Allmain



Photo courtesy Clark Public Utilities / Randy Kepple

Buyers and sellers of an assortment of plants talk sales during the annual plant sale as part of the Clark Public Utilities Home & Garden Idea Fair.

explained.

Several different features make up the fair as a whole, with the exhibitor booths being only one aspect of the event. A plant sale, guest speakers, a kid-friendly activities zone and showcases of landscaping and home technology all factor into the event.

"What's nice is there's a little bit of everything for everybody," All-

main explained, "so, you're going to buy your plants, but you also want to see if there's any new garden tools available and check out the landscapes, because maybe they are doing some new things in their displays that I would want to do in my yard."

"The nice thing is that it really does kind of connect well from feature to feature in the show which makes it an all-day experience for a lot of people; they will come out for two, three or four hours and see everything," Allmain said. Having everything in one place means that attendees can be productive while enjoying a weekend at the fair.

IF YOU GO:

Clark Public Utilities Home and Garden Idea Fair

April 28-30

Clark County Fairgrounds — 17402 NE Delfel Rd, Ridgefield, WA 98642

Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free admission, though parking is \$6

More information: clarkpublicutilities.com/event/home-garden-idea-fair

"You can go through your 'honey-do' list and pretty much check off each one of those tasks just based on the exhibitors and the displays and features that we have included," Allmain said.

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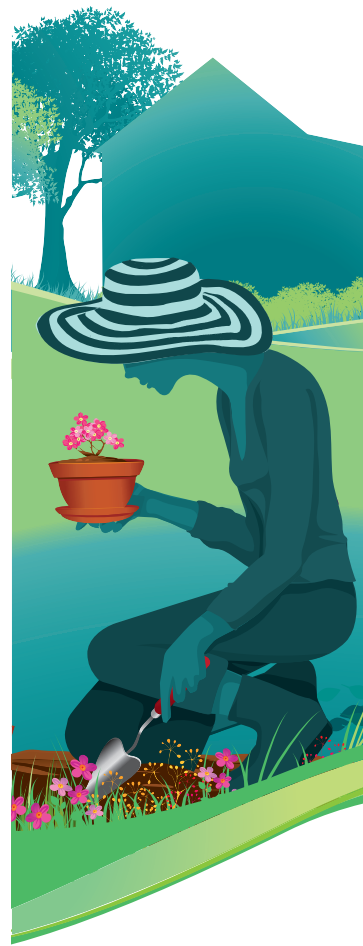
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LANDSCAPE SHOWCASE EXHIBITORS

Landscape showcase

One of the major aspects of the fair is its landscape showcase where local landscapers show off their trade in theme displays. This year there are eight different showcases featuring everything from "hardscaping," or the non-plant parts of a landscape, to even showing off a tiny house where the "landscape" can be anything the small dwelling on wheels is parked on.

Although the showcase isn't a new thing, Allmain said the designs are always changing, so those familiar with past events shouldn't pass it up if they think they have seen it all. The displays typically show off hot trends within the landscape design industry.

Outdoor Escape

Designer: Greenhaven Landscape Inc.

"Relax, rejuvenate and unwind in this captivating landscape. Entertaining and eating areas blend with charming and beautiful plants for the best of beauty and practicality in an outdoor haven."

Tiny is the New Big Thing

Designers: RW Landscaping, Artisan Tiny House

"Stop by and take a look at METRO; a modern curved-roof Tiny House. Perfect for a caretaker at the winery, a backyard office or a home for a returning graduate. Take a look and then tell us how you would use this beautiful Tiny House on Wheels."

Backyard Beach Haven

Designer: JM Landscaping and Irrigation

"Come in and enjoy a small tidal pool in a beach-like surrounding. Come up on the deck made with restoration juniper decking, enjoy the driftwood bubbler and relax by the cozy fire pit."

Simplicity Through Hardscaping

Designer: Pars Landscape, Inc.

"This garden is designed for privacy with exceptional rock work and paver patio. And because it is designed for low maintenance, you'll have more time to sit and enjoy your backyard retreat."

West of Eden

Designer: Sunrise Landscape Design Stone NW Inc.

"This garden features a blend of natural stone and northwest plant materials. Walk through this Gorge garden of basalt columns, waterfalls and trees typical of our western landscape."

Northwest Hardscape

Designer: Boulder Falls Landscaping

"Experience the beautiful blend of hardscaping and plants in this comfortable and open outdoor living space. Both inviting and cozy, the garden includes a patio, fireplace and living area."

The Gathering Place

Designer: The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals

"As a local contractor organization dedicated to supporting quality landscapers and providing the public with educated and skilled professionals, we demonstrate how to transform your backyard into an inviting and beautiful living space."

Patio Power

Designer: Swarm Portland Abundant Earth Designs

"Get Inspired! Go home with ideas you can bring to life today. These patio displays will spark your imagination and get you thinking about ways to decorate your own backyard."

Plant sale

Another prominent aspect of the fair is the plant sale hosted on the grounds. Sponsored by the Specialty Nursery Association of Clark County (SNACC), the sale will feature a variety of vegetables, annuals, perennials, trees and baskets for those looking to get started with their new-look garden.

"That is a big draw for sure, because people can get all their bedding plants, trees, landscape shrubs, those kinds of things, and it's great to do all in one place," Allmain said.



PLANT SALE EXHIBITORS

Adele's Garden Artistry

Perennials, Herbs, Vegetable Starts

Alicia's Nursery

Perennials, Annuals, Shrubs, Trees, Ground Cover, Vines

Barton Farms

Fuchsias, Geraniums, Impatiens, Hanging Baskets

Bird's English Nursery

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Cascade Greenhouse

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Century Farm

Edible Garden Baskets

Country Nursery

Perennials, Hanging Baskets

EME Nursery

Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Variety

Franklin Nursery

Rhododendron, Peonies, Shrubs

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Rare & Unusual Conifers, Ornamentals, Trees Shrubs, Perennials

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SPEAKERS SCHEDULE

Speakers

Periodically through the event, different speakers will be addressing attendees on several different points of interest related to home and garden living.

One of the timeslots features a panel put together by the Building Industry Association of Clark County relating to avoiding scams from contractors. Allmain explained that with the rebounding economy homeowners are now having a chance to look at those types of projects, some of whom might not know the ins and outs of contracting the work out.

To meet that end, the panel has individuals from a variety of agencies coming together to discuss ways to avoid getting fleeced by unethical workers. Individuals representing the Elder Justice Center, Columbia Credit Union, Designers Northwest, the Better Business Bureau and Labor and Industries will be on hand to talk from their own particular sides of the process.

Allmain also mentioned some of the other speakers, including one on Friday looking at radon, ventilation and mold, which given the winter might be an issue for those still soaked.

“Certainly with this cold and wet winter that we had, that’s going to be an issue for people,” Allmain said about mold specifically. “A lot of people just don’t think about those things until it’s just too late.”

Another speaker with the Clark County Master Gardeners program is also talking about more confined gardening, whether it be plants in a container of some sort or using the marginal areas between sidewalks and streets — commonly known as “hellstrips” — in order to garden anywhere possible.

“I think people, especially in some of the housing developments that we are building these days, they don’t have huge yards, so using that grass that we do have available to us, as well as containers, is going to be a popular topic,” Allmain said.

“And of course the chickens are always a big draw,” Allmain

Friday, April 28
11 a.m. — Radon, Moisture, Mold & Ventilation 101 Presented by Castle University
 Ft. Jim Muir, Clark County Building Safety

12:30 p.m. — Accessibility: Creating Your Forever Home
 Ft. Aaron Marvin, A.C.T. Builders Remodelers

2 p.m. — Home Garden Bouquets: A Hands-On Demonstration
 Ft. Laura Heldreth, Clark County Master Gardeners

3:30 p.m. — Three Bs of the Backyard: Birds, Bats and Mason Bees
 Ft. Brandon Burger, Backyard Bird Shop

Saturday, April 29
11 a.m. — Best Tasting Tomatoes & Peppers: Selecting and Growing
 Ft. Carl Barney, Uncle Wayne’s Tomatoes Inc.

12:30 p.m. — Remodeling? Tips to Avoid Being Scammed
 Ft. Abbie Bartlett, Elder Justice Center
 Casey Filburn, Columbia Credit Union

Mike Kinnaman, Designers Northwest
 Stephen Mayer, Better Business Bureau
 Julie Perales, Labor and Industries

2 p.m. — Honey Bees in Your Backyard
 Ft. Howard Scott, Clark County Beekeepers Assoc.

3:30 p.m. — Chicken Keeping 101
 Ft. Tonya Meyer & Chris Vincent, Urban Farm Store

Sunday, April 30
11 a.m. — Help CRESA Help You... Before, During and After a Disaster
 Ft. Eric Frank, CRESA

12:30 p.m. — How to Hire a Contractor
 Ft. Dave Myllymaki, Renew Creations

2 p.m. — Growing Vegetables in Your Hellstrip & Containers
 Ft. Laura Heldreth, Clark County Master Gardeners

3:30 p.m. — Tiny Living
 Ft. Patrick Sughrue, Artisan Tiny Homes

added, mentioning the Friday afternoon speakers talking “Chicken Keeping 101” for those thinking about the delicious possibility of farm-fresh eggs on their property. This year, the chickens will be around throughout the fair, as the presenters, Tonya Meyer and Chris Vincent of the Urban Farm Store, will have a booth.

“They are packed, always, with the chickens because people are interested in learning about them,” Allmain remarked.

Some other features of the fair

Allmain made mention of the innovation home, a setup featuring the latest and greatest in home technology promoting both new trends as well as the energy efficiency message so much a part of what Clark Public Utilities pushes for.

The kids zone also makes another appearance, this year benefiting from a partnership with The Vancouver Clinic to provide more activities for youth likely not to be interested in home and garden projects.

New for this year will be some “Mad Science” experiments along with a “sensory pool” hands-on exhibit and rock painting, a popular activity given the prevalence of different rock-based hide-and-seek phenomena that have hit Clark County in the past several months.



The bustle of the outdoor “midway” fills the walking paths of the Clark County Event Center last year during the Clark Public Utilities Home & Garden Idea Fair. The fair returns this weekend.



A plant sale, similar to the one seen here, is one of the major draws of the annual Clark Public Utilities Home & Garden Idea Fair. The sale and the fair is back at the Clark County Event Center this weekend.



Outside exhibitors sell their wares during a past Clark Public Utilities Home & Garden Idea Fair. The fair returns this weekend.

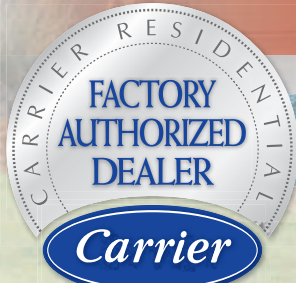
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