

County works toward having a primary care physician

By Philip L. Watness
The Pioneer

A general practice physician will soon be posted at the Skamania Community Health Department, Director Kirby Richards told the county commission on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The effort is a partnership with Skyline Clinic to provide a doctor on Wednesdays at the Rock Creek Hegewald Center in Stevenson. The project is funded by Washington State through the Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH).

The nonprofit agency serves Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties.

She said she had recently met with representatives from the White Salmon clinic as the effort depends on secure personal health records of patients.

“The complications always are IT (information technology) because of privacy and HIPAA (a 1996 federal law which protects patients),” Richards said. “The goal is to open in August.”

She said she had long

hoped to secure a primary care practitioner in Stevenson. One Community Health of Hood River had entertained building a facility near the county health department but that hasn’t materialized. Richards said she had also spoken with other health care providers about filling the health care gap in Skamania County.

While Medicare insurance recipients report they have a doctor, they’re all out of county. She said people with substance abuse issues are the most at risk of not having ac-

cess to a physician.

“These are folks that could be at more risk than the rest of the population, and they don’t regularly go to the doctor,” she said. “I think this will be nice for them because they won’t have to go across the river to get care.”

She said the clinic has indicated it would contemplate adding more office hours for a physician once the trial effort proves effective. Richards said she doesn’t know how successful the initiative will be.

“We’ll find out,” she said. “We hope if we build it, people will come.”

The community health department would schedule appointments for the physician though they can also call Skyline Clinic.

The county commission has also been discussing the eventual transition to a new health department director because Richards is nearing retirement. The board has talked about staffing needs and office configurations to accommodate her departure.

Influenza kills more people each year than coronavirus

By Philip L. Watness
The Pioneer

Health professionals have their eye on a virus that kills thousands of Americans each year.

And it’s not coronavirus, although local and state health authorities are also actively engaged in defeating the spread of the new strain from China.

“The flu is really more dangerous than the coronavirus,” said Kirby Richards, director of the Skamania County Health Department. “More people die from flu than the coronavirus.”

Richards and Dr. Steven Krager, the deputy health officer for Skamania and Clark counties, briefed the Skamania County Commission on both viruses on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

“We’re still in active flu season,” Krager said. “We have peaked and it’s on its way down in terms of infectiousness. Statewide, we’re seeing about 18 percent of those tested being positive for flu, but that’s down from 40 percent. Influenza activity had flattened. The last few weeks, it has stayed the same. Hopefully, we’ll be out of flu sea-



Dr. Steven Krager, right, deputy health officer for Skamania and Clark counties, talks with Skamania County Commissioners Tom Lannen, left, and Bob Hamlin on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Photo by Philip L. Watness

son in the next few weeks.”

He said 62 people, including five children, have died in Washington State over the flu season.

Somewhere between 10,000 and 25,000 Americans have died from the flu over the 2019-2020 season. Krager said the wide range in estimated deaths is because clinics and hospitals aren’t required to report the data, unless flu has been identified as the cause of death. Another 180,000 people have been hospitalized, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta.

The COVID-19 virus – the official name of this poten-

tially deadly strain – is puny compared to any of the three flu strains knocking people off their feet across the United States. And reports of “influenza-like illnesses” or ILI increased during the last week of January. One concerning development is that hospitalization rates among “children and young adults are higher at this time than in recent seasons,” the CDC reports.

The outbreak has infected tens of thousands of people in China, the federal agency reports. CNN reported on Monday, Feb. 17, that the virus has killed 1,770 people and infected another 70,000 in mainland China.

“The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, both globally and to the United States,” states a post on the CDC website (www.cdc.gov). “The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread in China is concerning.”

The coronavirus is similar to the viruses which prompted two recent epidemic scares – severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

“Both of those are coronaviruses and what made them different is that they’re new

strains,” he said. “They both came from animals ... but in the current Novel Coronavirus outbreak, we don’t know exactly what animal it came from.”

News reports that snakes are responsible for the COVID-19 outbreak have not been confirmed by health organizations like CDC and the World Health Organization, Krager said.

“In some cases, that virus only goes one direction – it will only go from animals to humans, but not humans to humans,” he said. “They (CDC) learned fairly quickly ... that this can pass from humans as well.”

He said he has read of one case in Chicago where the wife transmitted the virus to her husband.

Krager said residents are far more susceptible to contracting influenza than falling ill from the coronavirus. The chances of being infected with COVID-19 are extremely remote, unless a person has recently traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

“We think the risk to the general public is very low,” he said. “Right now, people

Initiative 976 automobile tab rollback haunts legislators

By Philip L. Watness
The Pioneer

The spectre of Initiative 976 – the car tab rollback effort passed in November – haunts Washington State legislators from both political parties.

They’re grappling with the massive reduction of funds that will result if the initiative is upheld by the state Supreme Court. And no one is assuming the court will rule against the citizen measure championed by Tim Eymann of Yakima.

A briefing paper issued by the Washington State Office of Financial Management explains the impacts: “Initiative 976 changes vehicle taxes and fees by lowering motor vehicle and light duty truck weight fees to \$30; eliminating the 0.3 percent sales tax on vehicle purchases; lowering electric vehicle and snowmobile fees; modifying and reducing Sound Transit motor vehicle excise tax provisions; and removing authority for transportation benefit districts to impose a vehicle fee.”

“It is very difficult (to address transportation funding) just because of I-976 because we’re losing all that revenue,” said Sen. Steve Hobbs, chair of the Transportation Committee. “I have to go with the

assumption that the revenue is lost unless the supreme court rules against it, so that’s the way we’re budgeting.”

The challenge increases as some legislators push for low carbon emissions standards and higher clean air rules.

“That threatens future gas tax revenues which are already declining as it is,” he said. “My approach is a middle-ground carbon tax policy that takes carbon prices and reinvests it in infrastructure and addresses some of our biggest environmental problems – that being the coal-burning issue.”

He said the legislature has provided money for “multi-modal” forms of transportation – buses and trains, to the layman. The goal is to shift people from using personal cars to using public transportation systems. Another effort focuses on creating an electricity grid that can accommodate EVs, electric vehicles.

“If you don’t use a car, there’s less carbon (pollution) and with electrification, we’re trying to incentivize use of electric vehicles. That’s a real challenge because people don’t like carbon charges. And you have an environmental community that’s split on whether it’s a ‘cap-and-invest’



Washington State Sen. Curtis King, left, listens as Sen. Steve Hobbs makes a point about the legislature’s effort to backfill transportation funding in light of the car tab fee rollback under Initiative 976 approved by voters in November. Photo by Philip L. Watness

or a carbon charge.”

He said he hoped the decisions of the legislature won’t have too severe an impact on transit systems

“I just want to get through the session and have a budget that doesn’t have too much harm to those who rely on transportation dollars like para-transit.”

Some members of the Senate Democratic Caucus worry that voters will retaliate in November if they support increasing taxes for transportation projects.

He said the legislature can ill afford to kick the can down the road, though, given the huge backlog in maintenance of state highways and bridges.

“Preservation is a huge problem in the state,” he said. “We’re a billion short on preservation, \$500 million short on maintenance. Just maintaining what we have is a little bit of a struggle.”

While the legislature has had to delay decisions on some things impacted by I-976, Hobbs said he hoped the legislature would fund a few major projects so they could be accomplished this year.

He said the advent of EVs pose new problems for the legislature due to the state’s reliance on gas taxes to fund transportation projects.

“I have concern about that, I am concerned about that now

because our gas tax revenues are declining, and that’s due to fuel efficiency as well as increasing use of EVs,” he said. “We have made an attempt – at least in the Senate – to apply a fee to electric vehicles because we want them to pay the same amount as gas vehicles because the roads have to be maintained the same way.”

He said proponents of the new hybrid and EV vehicles have expressed opposition to per-mile charges for the energy efficient machines.

“What I would like to do – using the data that we already have from the pilot project by the Transportation Commission on road usage charge

News Briefs

SHS boys defeat Montesano

The Stevenson High School boys’ basketball team defeated Montesano, 74-71 in overtime, in the first round of the 1A District Tournament on Friday, Feb. 14, in Montesano.

The home team failed to sink any baskets in the final two minutes of overtime as Jesse Miller led the Bulldogs with 21 points.

Ethan Haight scored eight straight points in the third quarter to erase a 48-39 Montesano lead. Stevenson led 51-48 on a 12-0 run to end the quarter.

Brady Hall tied the score in the final seconds of regulation but missed a free throw to take the lead.

In overtime, Haight and Jon Blackledge hit two free throws each and Miller added a free throw for the final score.

Haight and Ben Wright each scored 17 points as Stevenson hit 26 of 56 shots, including 10 of 24 from the 3-point line. The team hit 11 of its 15 free-throws.

No. 4 Stevenson plays No. 2 La Center on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Skamania School levy approved

Three of every five Skamania voters voted in favor of the Skamania School replacement levy during the Feb. 11 special election.

The levy supports critical programs such as school counseling services, music programs, food service programs, transportation services, some teacher positions, physical education and maintenance and operations needs.

“We are extremely grateful for this community’s support for our local schools, our staff and the kids we serve,” said Superintendent Dr. Ralph Pruitt. “Our community investment will directly impact student learning and success for years to come.”

Replacement levy dollars will continue to pay for approximately 12 percent of the Skamania School District budget through 2023.

Voters reject SCSD replacement levy

Voters in the Stevenson-Carson School District narrowly defeated its replacement levy, 1,001-952 (51.25 to 48.75 percent) in the special election Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The White Salmon School District’s proposition was approved 61.81-38.19 percent.

Two measures in the Washougal School District gained voter approval.

The Pioneer congratulates the Stevenson High School boys’ basketball team and the wrestling team for their athletic accomplishments.

Inside:

- SHS boys’ basketball team defeats Montesano, p. 4
- News from Washington State Legislature, p. 5
- Proper watering ensures healthy indoor plants, p. 9
- News in brief: Concerts, history talks, p. 9

This day in history

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs an order allowing the military to relocate Japanese Americans to internment camps.

In 1945, about 30,000 Marines land on the island of Iwo Jima to commence the Battle of Iwo Jima:

In 2002, NASA’s Mars Odyssey space probe begins to map the surface of Mars.



Seattle Times Columnist Bier Dudley, left, Gov. Jay Inslee and Editorial Cartoonist David Horsley discuss a cartoon Inslee drew of the two men after they'd suggested he submit a cartoon to the newspaper. Photo by Philip L. Watness



Seattle Times Deputy Managing Editor Lynn Jacobson, left, Editorial Cartoonist David Horsley, and First Lady Trudi Inslee enjoy some levity during a dinner Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Governor's Mansion in Olympia. Photo by Philip L. Watness



Leona Vaughn, left, Sandy Stokes and Cameron Sheppard of the WNPA News Service in Olympia enjoy a social hour at the Temple of Justice in Olympia on Thursday, Feb. 13. Photos by Philip L. Watness



Skamania County Pioneer Editor Philip Watness, left, shares a joke with Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee at the Governor's Mansion in Olympia on Thursday, Feb. 13. Photo by Leona Vaughn, WNPA News Service

Homelessness crisis prompts Republican legislators to take note

By Philip L. Watness
The Pioneer

Homelessness has grabbed the attention of Republican Party legislators as well as Democratic Party Gov. Jay Inslee during current session in Olympia.

Rep. J.T. Wilcox, GOP leader of the House of Representatives, and Rep. Joel Kretz, deputy GOP leader, said political leaders in the urban areas of Seattle and Tacoma have long failed to address homelessness, choosing instead to focus on furthering the economic development of the Puget Sound region.

"We represent the less-populated part of the state, but we try hard to have a statewide perspective where we can," Wilcox said. "We really don't like that most of our economic activity and most lucrative employment is so confined to that one area (Puget Sound)."

He said the state needs about a quarter of a million more residential units to house all the people living in the state.

"One of the most consistent things we've said over the last 10 years is we need to free up the economy to create both the housing and the industry that we need across the whole region."

He said state legislators in the Democratic Party have favored government programs over private industry efforts.

"In contrast to previous years, homelessness is something that, in a sad a perverse way, really unifies us because it's happening in the biggest cities and the smallest towns," he said.

Wilcox said the GOP House Caucus members have concerns that more people will soon be unable to afford to rent or own a house. He said the Democrats' push for low carbon fuel would mean higher prices across the state.

"We so often embrace the symbolic solutions that are often the most expensive to the people who we represent," he said.

Rep. Kretz said his constituents who responded to a



Washington State Rep. Joel Kretz, left, deputy minority leader in the House of Representatives, and J.T. Wilcox, GOP leader, discuss statewide issues on Thursday, Feb. 13, in Olympia. Photo by Philip L. Watness

recent survey said their chief concern was increasing in taxation. Another issue the potential that fuel costs will increase if the Democrats pass a low carbon fuel standard.

He said residents of his district in northeast Washington have fewer opportunities for well-paying jobs due to the reduction in both the mining and forestry industries.

Another critical issue for his area is access to health care as it is in most rural areas of Washington State.

Wilcox said he has worked against the tide of a rising Democratic Party majority in the Senate and House over the past few years. He said the state is effectively a one party state because the Democrats control the Legislature and the Governor's Office.

He said the result is that he gets the sense that the politicians don't want economic development outside the Puget Sound area to negatively impact the economy of that region. He said he often hears the panacea that rural areas can benefit from "ecotourism."

"We say, great, we'd love to have that, but it's very sea-

sonal," he said. "It's often minimum wage. And what we really want is a thriving rural economy that would promote food-processing, that would reinvigorate farming, and would manufacturing and light manufacturing out there."

He said state legislators have been remiss by failing to provide funding for infrastructure projects necessary for large-scale industrial efforts. He had tried to find a place for a processing plant in his district but came upon restrictive environmental regulations.

"I traveled the state for a year, trying to find a mill processing plant," he said. "I needed to be on I-90 and I needed it to be in eastern Washington. I drove from town to town and they all said, 'We have enough water. We have waste handling' but they'd call the Department of Ecology who would tell them they were already out of compliance with waste handling or there's a problem in Moses Lake. I finally got smart and asked the Department of Ecology 'Where can I put this thing?' And they had two sites

in eastern Washington that could handle the waste discharge from a mill processing plant."

He said the ability to replace aging utility infrastructure has become more expensive as more environmental regulations are created.

"If I could wave a magic wand, it would be to recreate the public works fund and direct it just to, say, cities under 50,000 people, and build water and waste water infrastructure on speculation because if you have those things, you can go out and recruit lots of processors," Wilcox said.

Kretz agreed with Wilcox that small towns need help upgrading or installing infrastructure critical to accommodate the many manufacturing and processing sectors.

"The problem I see so far is the hoops you have to jump through are more than these small towns can deal with," he said. "They don't have staff. They might have a volunteer mayor. There's no staffing to process the array of hoops to jump through and what we see is then that 'rural economic development' money ending up in places like North Bend

or Moses Lake."

He said representatives of Moses Lake said the largest barrier to economic development was the availability of affordable housing.

Kretz said a bill passed by the House on Wednesday, Feb. 12, authorized construction of new bike lanes in eastern Washington. Legislators had apparently touted the measure as an economic development driver.

"What bothered me was that was the solution for a new rural economy – bicycle clientele," he said. Kretz shared a story about the negative impact of bicyclists on a café in his hometown. He said the cyclists would use the bathroom, drink water, and not sit down for a meal.

He said his pro-business stance has shifted some in recent years because he has grown weary of the focus on the Puget Sound.

"I voted for the Boeing tax aid a few years ago for jobs in Puget Sound, but it's not anything automatic for me," he said. "When we're making business proposals in this state, we need to be looking at something other than the industries in Puget Sound. Everywhere else looks very different than the aerospace industry and we need to appreciate them."

Of Interest to Senior Citizens

Skamania County Senior Services

Senior Luncheons are at Rock Creek Center on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please join us to watch a movie, play cards and eat a homemade meal.

Suggested meal site donations for seniors over 60 is \$3 and those guests under 60 is \$5.

Upcoming Events:
Wednesdays: BINGO 11:15-11:45 a.m.
Mondays & Wednesdays: Ceramics 10 a.m.

Menu:
Wednesday, Feb. 19, **Cheeseburger Pie**
Friday, Feb. 21, **Country Fried Steak Birthday Lunch**
Monday, Feb. 24, **Hawaiian Chicken**

North Bonneville Senior Center

Salad and beverages are served at 11:45 a.m., main entrée at noon. The suggested meal donation is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members.

Please note: If you are not a regular at the meal site you must make your reservation by 9 a.m. so the cooks will know how many meals to prepare. If you have special needs, please mention them when you make your reservations. 509-427-5234.

Menu:
Thursday, Feb. 20, **Pork Chops with Apples and Stuffing**
Tuesday, Feb. 25, **Chicken Fried Steak**

Influenza...continued from p.1

should be more concerned about the flu than the coronavirus. That could potentially change.”

He said public health authorities recommend the same techniques for avoiding the flu or common cold as they do for avoiding the coronavirus: Frequently wash hands, stay home if sick, cover one’s mouth when coughing or sneezing, and avoid touching the eyes and mouth.

“Honestly, I wouldn’t travel to China right now,” he said.

The first case in Washington State was reported Jan. 21 by the CDC and the Washington State Department of Health. A man from Snohomish County contracted the Novel Coronavirus during his recent travels to Wuhan City. The state health agency has no indication the virus is spreading in the state although it had 486 people under public health supervision as of Feb. 11.

(A footnote at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus> explains the situation: “The number of people under public health supervision includes those at risk of having been exposed to novel coronavirus who are monitoring their health under the supervision of public health officials.

This number includes close contacts of laboratory confirmed cases, as well as people who have returned from China in the past 14 days and are included in federal quarantine guidance.”)

Krager said the Washington State Department of Health has identified 62 people whom the Snohomish man had direct contact with, but that none of them tested positive for new coronavirus. Krager said health workers will take a throat and nose swab from potential carriers and look for mutations in their DNA that indicate presence of the virus.

“It’s important to note that there’s still a lot of unknowns about this virus,” Krager said.

He said carriers of the coronavirus can be contagious for up to 14 days before exhibiting any symptoms.

“We don’t know for sure whether it can be transmitted without having symptoms,” he said. “We also don’t know exactly how severe it is.”

One reason for this is because the symptoms of coronavirus are very similar to those of the flu or common cold. Someone may think they’re only sick with flu when they’re actually afflicted with the new virus.

“We don’t exactly know how many people who contract the virus die from it,” he said. “It does seem to be hitting sick people and the elderly more.”

There is no known treatment for COVID-19, he said.

Krager said clinical masks (called M95 masks) won’t work properly if they’re not

Flu continues to infect people across America

By CDC For The Pioneer

Outpatient influenza-like illnesses (ILI) and laboratory data remain elevated and increased again this week. Nationally, and in some regions, the proportion of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses compared to influenza B viruses is increasing.

Overall, hospitalization rates remain similar to this time during recent seasons, but rates among children and young adults are higher at this time than in recent seasons.

Pneumonia and influenza mortality has been low, but 78 influenza-associated deaths in children have been reported so far this

season. CDC estimates that so far this season there have been at least 22 million flu illnesses, 210,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 deaths from flu.

Flu vaccine effectiveness estimates will be available later this month, but vaccination is always the best way to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications.

Antiviral medications are an important adjunct to flu vaccine in the control of influenza. Almost all (greater than 99 percent) of the influenza viruses tested this season are susceptible to the four FDA-approved influenza antiviral medications recommended for use in the U.S. this season.

Initiative 976...continued from p.1

– would be to set a date” for implementing per-mile fees for hybrids and EVs.

He said the commission could set the timeline and the fees, and the legislature would have the opportunity to redress its decisions, if need be.

“If we don’t do that, we’ll just have to deal with declining gas tax revenues,” he said. “The time is now.”

One reporter pointed out that some EV users have concerns that state and federal agencies could access their travel data through a fee-per-mile program.

“Yes, that is going to be an issue and we’re going to have to make sure that you can’t get that data unless you get a subpoena,” he said.

Hobbs said he hoped what would eventually be implemented would give commuters options for how they want

to track their travel miles. One method would track the mileage using GPS while another would depend on the odometer miles.

“It’s no surprise that younger people don’t really care,” he said. “Older people do care. But we want to give those options to people.”

Sen. Curtis King, R-Yakima, said the impact of Initiative 976 will reverberate across the state for several years. As ranking GOP member on the Transportation Committee, King has is intimately versed in transportation issues.

“I-976 was about a \$450 million loss to transportation this biennium,” Sen. King said. The revenue forecast indicates the state will receive around \$700 million less during the 2021-22 biennium.

He said he discussed with

Sen. Hobbs how to get crucial projects funded for construction this summer.

“My proposal was to make multi-modal whole,” he said. “That’s where the biggest hit occurs. It was \$300-some million.”

He also said people are mistaken when they believe multi-modal transportation dollars can only be used for bicycle/pedestrian paths or transit.

“That money can be used anywhere but there are those who think of it in the most narrowest sense,” he said. “My feeling was if we didn’t make multi-modal whole, nobody was going to listen to anything I was going to say.”

The Senate struck on a scheme to shift money from other funds to multi-modal transportation expenses. He said that reduced the deficit to

about \$38 million, so the Senate reappropriated money in the transportation budget that is typically not spent during the biennium.

In the previous biennium (2018-2019), the Department of Transportation had \$133 million left over, more than enough to cover the \$38 million deficit.

Another scheme is to reallocate \$300 million to cover the shortfall in the highway budget.

“We haven’t bonded, we haven’t raised a tax – we’ve used the money that we had,” King said. “The only risk you take is that at the end of the next biennium, if you don’t do anything there, you’re going to have to have \$38 million in appropriations for multi-modal and \$300 million for highways, or you’re in the hole.”

He said he has encouraged Gov. Jay Inslee to release

home sick with symptoms of flu but participated by phone in the quarterly meeting of the Skamania County Board of Health. The annual affliction has been migrating around the county since last September.

Community Health Director Kirby Richards said the department has flu vaccine available for anyone who

wants to get a flu shot. Call (509) 427-3850 to make an appointment. People can call the Washington State Department of Health call center with questions. They can learn what is happening in the state, how the virus is spread, and what to do if they have symptoms: 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

He said studies are now being conducted to estimate the impact of low carbon fuel standards on the economy, state budget and people’s pocketbooks. One question he has is whether gas taxes can be reduced as a result.

“I’m looking at a different way of looking at transportation,” he said.

Sen. King said transportation funding will be greatly challenged in the coming years due to the use of EVs and self-driving vehicles.

“Will autonomous vehicles make a difference so that light rail gets fully implemented, it will be obsolete?” he said. “I don’t know but we’ve got to look at that.”

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Meetings & Events

Wednesday

Stevenson Toastmasters Breakfast Club, 6:40 a.m., Hegewald Rock Creek Center, Stevenson. (509) 427-4590

Thursday

Stevenson City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall
Underwood Community Council, 6 p.m., Underwood Community Center, Underwood. (Changed to third Wednesday at 6 p.m. starting February)

North Bonneville Business and Community Association, 6 p.m., Hamilton Park Apartments, 427-8182.

Stevenson Eagles Aerie No. 1744, 7 p.m. Eagles Aerie, First St., Stevenson, 427-1744

Home Valley Water District, 7 p.m., Home Valley Fire Hall

Port of Cascade Locks, 6 p.m., Cascade Locks City Hall

Friday

Gorge Skies presentation, 7 p.m., Skamania Lodge, Skamania Lodge Drive

Sunday

Community Mindfulness Group, 6-7:30 p.m., every Sunday, United Methodist Church, 325 NW Jefferson St., Stevenson. No religious

affiliation. Call 427-5001. Sponsored by Heart Journey Center, www.heartjourneycenter.org. Contact: info@heartjourneycenter.org, 509-427-5972

Monday

Cascade Locks City Council, 7 p.m., Cascade Locks City Hall

Skamania School Board, January and February, fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m., March through December, third Monday at 6:30 p.m., 122 Butler Loop Road, 509-427-8239

Skamania EMS & Rescue offers First Aid/CPR at 253 SW First St., Stevenson. Courses the third Saturday and fourth Thursday of each month. Pre-registration required. For information, visit www.skamaniaems.com or emailing info@skamaniaems.com

North Bonneville Fire District No. 8, 7 p.m., fire station, 21 E. Cascade Dr., (509) 427-8182

North Bonneville Fire District Auxiliary, 6 p.m., fire station. 21 E. Cascade Dr. (360) 601-0449

Skamania County Fire District No. 2, 7 p.m., every Mon-

day, Stevenson fire hall
Skamania County Fire District No. 5, 6:30 p.m., every Monday at the fire hall. (427-8278)

Skamania County Fire District No. 1, 6:30 p.m., every Monday at Station 1, Carson

Tuesday

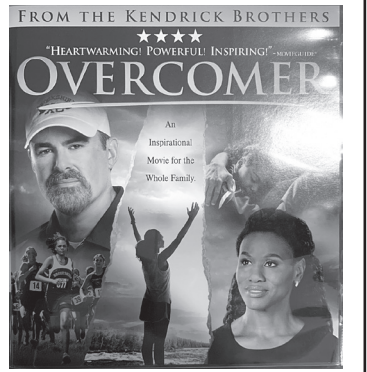
North Bonneville City Council, 6:30 p.m., North Bonneville City Hall

Skamania County Commissioners’ chambers, courthouse. 427-3700, www.skamaniacounty.org

Skamania County Fire District No. 4 board, 7 p.m., every Tuesday, Station One

River Christian Church Presents Overcomer

From the Creator’s of the #1 box-office hit WAR ROOM. Life changes overnight for coach John Harrison after he loses his basketball team and is challenged by the school’s principal, to coach a new sport he doesn’t know or like. As John questions his own worth, he dares to help the least likely runner to take on the biggest race of the year. Filled with a powerful mix of faith, humor and heart, this inspirational story will have you cheering and on the edge of your seat. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a movie that will challenge you to consider where you find your own identity.



Where: River Christian Church Sanctuary, 252 Roosevelt St. Stevenson.
When: Saturday, February 22, 2020
Time: 6:45pm (Come enjoy some treats before the movie starts at 7pm).
Cost: FREE

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

People can't afford SCSD levy

Dear editor,
Adjective: Cultural: “relating to the ideas, customs, and social behavior of a society: (a way of life) of or referring to the way of life of a particular people, esp. as shown in their ordinary behavior and habits, their attitudes toward each other, and their moral and religious beliefs; the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.”

I find myself trying to define “cultural” after a recent post made on Facebook by SCSD Vote Yes for Kids page.

It's a bit more ‘cultural’ than that - Carson, Stabler, and Wind Mountain voted it down 3 to 2; Stevenson voted it up 3 to 2; North Bonneville voted it down by a slight margin.”

I find it a very disturbing when the word “culture” is used to make one group appear superior to another in

our county. In the statement above, the administrator of the page was making reference to a “No” vote from several of the communities in Skamania County.

I have asked for clarification from the page administrator. I was told it was just an observation and a personal opinion of an administrator and SCEEE board member.

To imply that there is a lack of support for the children's education in those communities does deeply offend me. I have lived here for 30-plus years, this is my home, these people are my family. They are kind, intelligent, thoughtful and very generous.

The love of the children of this community is without question. I have seen countless times many have stepped up to meet a need of a child. I know many in these communities who spend countless hours in volunteer services to help our children whether it be at the schools or on the ball fields, they are there.

I also know that many of

them work outside this community to make a living wage, limiting the amount of time they have to give. So when they vote “No” on a levy in this community where there have been countless taxes and expenses imposed recently, that are making demands on their incomes, I get it. It is tough to justify voting “Yes,” knowing that it might mean the family will have to cut out something like gas, food or housing.

Maybe it is about economics and having to live within your means. Maybe it is about tightening your belt and figuring out how to do things successfully without a bottomless pocketbook. Many of those communities referred to as “culturally” inferior (my words), have had to make due with less and still are making it work.

Maybe it is time for the school districts to find some creative ways to put the kids first (for real) and see this community as a family. Maybe they need to stretch those

dollars just like they expect the community to do.

Never underestimate the love this community has for our children. Never underestimate that the people of this community love this place we call home.

Jean Foster Carson

Love unites; Trump divides

Dear editor,
Donald Trump and his ilk are principle actors in a horror show of the worst inclinations of the human heart. They are fomenting a rising tide of blind hatred, greed, violence and fear that is corroding the pillars of democracy and (gleefully) rocking the very foundations of freedom, civil discourse and the rule of law, which are essential if we are to ‘keep this republic’, in the words of Benjamin Franklin. They have seized the levers of power to subvert, for selfish monetary and political gain, the common good.

This power grab, as it

bleeds into all the branches of government, can feel frighteningly overwhelming and unstoppable. These authoritarian tactics are trying to crush our capacity to come together as a nation and a people to build a better future for everyone. They have the kind of intimidating power to destroy our will - the will of we, the people - to keep hoping and fighting for an equitable and compassionate way forward to heal the social and spiritual ills of our nation and world.

We cannot let this wave of unbridled corruption overtake what is still good, fair and honorable in us. We cannot play into the hands of those who would divide us so that we become focused on infighting, and thereby impotent to protect and defend from these attacks our most treasured values and the policies and institutions that uphold them. We must not succumb and retreat into despair and numbing paralysis.

We must take heart, trust in the nobility of the human spir-

it, and stand up to the forces of evil that are rotting our nation from the inside. We must reach out to each other, listening for what unites us in our common hopes and dreams. In so doing, we must dig deep within ourselves to find that place of courage, wisdom and compassion first, and then act. But not out of vengeance, reactivity, rage or hatred.

We must meet this moment from a higher level of consciousness than that from which the threat arises. Otherwise we, too, are part of the problem. From our ‘better angels’ then, let us speak truth, let us mobilize for justice, let us name corruption, hatred and prejudice for what they are - and, come November, use our power at the polls to vote out those who would undermine our values of democracy, decency and the continual striving for ‘a more perfect union’, upon which rest this republic and the flourishing of all her inhabitants!

Anna Fiasca Home Valley

Sheriff's incident log, Feb. 6-12

At 9:09 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 6, a motorist alerted 911 of an object in the middle of State Route 14 at milepost 60 near Tunnel No. 2. She struck the piece of wood or metal but the car was not damaged.

At 9:54 a.m., a resident of the Prindle call area found a bag of college book and a photo album near Cape Horn Road. She said she had read about car prowls in The Skamania County Pioneer and thought the goods may be among those stolen. She delivered the items to the Sheriff's Office.

At 12:51 p.m., a motorist complained that the flaggers on Wind River Road in the Carson call area were sitting in their vehicles conducting traffic control and the caller felt unsafe.

At 1:36 p.m., tree down, tree down. Send Public Works or DOT crews to Old State Road in Stabler.

At 2:48 p.m., a person wanted on a state warrant was located and arrested in the City of Stevenson.

At 6:57 p.m., rocks were rolling at mp 55. 5 on SR 14 in the westbound lane. AT 7:16 p.m., they'd been chased

from the road.

At 9:45 p.m., a Carson call area resident reported his vehicle had been hit while parked at Stevenson High School. The school planned to turn over video to the Sheriff's Office which led to a deputy talking to the person who hit the vehicle. That person agreed to share insurance information but said he didn't see any damage and thought she had made light contact with a tire.

At 10:34 p.m., several callers reported shooting in the City of North Bonneville behind the industrial buildings on Evergreen Boulevard. At 10:54 p.m., a deputy talked to two males and two females who said they would not continue the shooting.

At 11:28 p.m., large rocks reported in westbound lane near Dog Mountain on SR 14. One rock appeared to be two-foot by three-foot in size. At 11:38 p.m., a deputy notified 911 that WSDOT was on scene clearing the rocks.

At 4:28 a.m., Friday, Feb. 7, someone reported logging trucks traveling at 15 to 20 miles over the speed limit in the Wind River Ranger Dis-

trict. The caller said that a logging truck had its brights on while tail-gating the man from the Bridge of the Gods all the way to the logging site. He said he was almost ran off the road when the log truck tried to pass him on a solid line. At 6:53 a.m., a deputy notified the Sheriff's Office that she had not seen any trucks violating traffic laws on Bear Creek Road and Wind River Road.

At 7:27 a.m., a tree was blocking a road in the Mill A/Willard area.

At 11:01 a.m., a caller in the North Bonneville call area expressed concern that campers near the in lieu site were burning things at night, allegedly stealing things from the in lieu residents and using the bathrooms.

At 11:26 a.m., a tree got the better of its argument with a vehicle in the Washougal River Road call area.

At 3:42 p.m., wait for it - person caught driving while license suspended in the Stevenson call area.

At 4:38 p.m., repeat last entry but change to Carson call area.

At 5:01 p.m., a deputy arrested a woman for possession of a controlled substance in the City of Stevenson.

At 2:57 a.m., let's repeat that, at 2:57 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, a resident of the City of North Bonneville reported hearing the sound of a rifle.

At 8:57 a.m., the Sheriff's Office netted another driver

trying to sneak under the law, driving while license suspended in the Skamania call area.

At 11:15 a.m., a motorist reported someone tried to get in his car when he declined to give the man a ride. The caller was shook up after encountering the man dressed in a hoodie and sweatpants, whose skin was festooned with tattoos near the entrance to the Carson Hot Springs.

At 4:20 p.m., DWLS, it means someone cannot operate a motor vehicle when their license is suspended, but one more person didn't get the memo as a deputy cited him during a traffic stop in the Stevenson call area.

At 4:33 p.m., tree down in Skamania call area, blocking both lanes. Send chainsaws.

At 9:35 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 9, deputies arrested two people on state warrants in the City of Stevenson call area. One man tried to hide in the bedroom closet while the other was in the bathroom.

At 2:21 p.m., a resident in the Washougal River Road call area reported his neighbor's house had been broken into the previous night and the thief took tools after cutting the security camera feed and locks.

At 3:21 p.m., a deputy arrested yet another driver for driving while license suspended in the Carson call area.

At 4:07 p.m., this has got to be a weekly record for the Sheriff's Office. Good job. A

deputy cited an Oregon driver in the City of Stevenson whose license was suspended.

At 8:12 p.m., a motorist traveling through the Mount Pleasant call area reported two vehicles had passed her going more than 100 mph. The vehicles were a red sedan and a red minivan.

At 8:53 a.m., Monday, Feb. 10, DWLS in the City of Stevenson. Driver cited.

At 9:47 a.m., yup, another DWLS in the City of Stevenson.

At 1:16 p.m., a deputy arrested a person wanted on a local warrant in the Carson call area.

At 3:51 p.m., a resident of Stabler reported a cabin across the road had been broken into and someone took bedding and fireplace tools. At 5:03 p.m., another caller reported a second cabin had been broken into.

At 5:59 p.m., a water line break was reported in the Stevenson call area.

At 8:11 p.m., someone reported a very bright light in the area of Beacon Rock. It was Venus.

At 9:24 p.m., a guest of Skamania Lodge apparently over-imbibed and was being uncooperative and loud. His two friends looked after him when a deputy arrived.

At 8:35 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, someone called from the Washougal River Road call area to notify the Sheriff's Office of a Facebook post that

stated a black Honda vehicle had been spotted in the area. He said the Honda is the suspect vehicle in numerous burglaries in Clark and Skamania counties. The caller said the post contained erroneous information about the company that employs him.

At 11:46 a.m., the Washington State Patrol notified 911 of a vehicle collision at mp 23 SR 14.

At 12:38 p.m., fill in the blanks: On a traffic stop in the Stevenson call area, a deputy determined the driver was _____ (hint: Four letters). Oh, and he was arrested on suspicion of driving intoxicated.

At 1:12 p.m., a deputy arrested a wanted felon in the Carson call area.

At 3:44 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, a resident in the City of Stevenson reported a person wearing dark clothing was breaking into a building on the property. The subject was gone before deputies arrived.

At 4:30 a.m., some idiot thought it would be fun to blind drivers with an LED flashlight in the Stabler area. The person said he wanted better traffic enforcement on the road.

At 1:14 p.m., this has got to be an all-time record folks: A driver was cited for DWLS during a traffic stop in the City of Stevenson.

At 3:48 p.m., a deputy was investigating narcotics possession in the Carson call area. Total reported: 179

SHS boys' basketball team defeats Montesano

By SHS sports For The Pioneer

The Stevenson High School boys' basketball team defeated Montesano in overtime, 74-71, during the first round of the 1A District Tournament Friday, Feb. 14, in Montesano.

“The team played hard the entire game and everyone contributed to this win,” said Head Coach Robert Waymire. “Coach Joe Bainbridge and Tyler Nielsen did an excellent job during the week to get them prepared which showed in this game. There wasn't anything Montesano did that

we weren't prepared for.”

Montesano was the No. 1-ranked team from the Evergreen League with a 15-5 win/loss record. The team also went 8-0 in their league.

Stevenson came to the matchup with a 4-6 league record and 8-12 overall so the No. 4 Bulldogs were clearly the underdog.

“Playing the tough league schedule definitely helped us in this game,” Waymire said. “The players never gave up for even a second, even when we were down by double digits.”

Stevenson scratched back at half time to be down by only 4 points. The Bulldogs took a lead in the third but Montesano hit a 3 pointer just before time expired to tie the game up going into the final regulation period.

In the fourth quarter and overtime, both teams played their hearts out. Neither team could put much of a lead

together and each team answered the other's scoring.

Montesano took an early lead in overtime but Stevenson came back behind a couple baskets by Bennett Wright. The rest of the 10 points in overtime came from the free-throw line to seal the game.

Stevenson's Jesse Miller, Ethan Haight, and Bennett Wright each hit clutch free throws in overtime for a three-point lead with 13 seconds left.

Montesano was able to get two 3-point shots up but the Stevenson defense was right in their face, forcing the players to attempt difficult shots.

Stevenson plays La Center at King's Way Christian High School at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18.

La Center won both its games against Stevenson this season.

“If the Bulldogs can give the same effort and have the

resiliency they did vs. Montesano, they will have a chance against La Center,” Waymire said. “As far as I can tell, Stevenson hasn't beaten La Center since Jan. 18, 2011 so it's no easy feat beating La Center.”

The winner will play for the District Championship against either King's Way or Seton Catholic with both teams earning a berth to the state tournament. The losers play Thursday, Feb. 20, for the third and final spot to state.

Stevenson 74, Montesano 71
Stevenson 14 17 20 13 10 - 74
Montesano 18 17 16 13 7 - 71

Statistic
Jesse Miller, 21 points, 7 rebounds, 7 assists, 3 steals; Bennett Wright, 18 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals; Ethan Haight, 17 points, 5 rebounds; Brady Hall, 5 points, 4 rebounds, 6 assists; Blackledge, 7 pts, 4 rebounds, 2 assists; Austin LaComb, 2 points; Corrin Wahto, 4 points; Nick Jono Nissen, 0 points; Jackson Krog, 0 points.

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Governor signs into law tax bill to help fund higher education

By WNP News Service
For The Pioneer

Fewer businesses will be asked to foot the bill for higher education programs after Gov. Jay Inslee signed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6492 on Monday, Feb. 10.

The bill will restructure the business and occupation tax and surcharges put in place by legislation passed last year to fund investments in public colleges as well as to provide grants that increase access for low and medium-income students.

“We are going to make massive investments in public higher ed,” said Sen. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle. “Both for the institutions and more importantly, for the students who need access to these services.”

Legislation signed last year and put into effect this year stipulated that on top of the B&O tax rate, certain businesses would also pay a Workplace Education Investment Surcharge.

Pedersen, the new bill’s prime sponsor, said he and his colleagues realized the demand for higher education programs was much higher than revenues called for in last year’s legislation.

Senate Ways & Means Committee staff member Jeff Mitchell said the tax rate that took effect in January was estimated to have generated \$773 million in revenue over four years, while this year’s adjustment is estimated to bring in over \$1 billion during the same timespan.

Pederson said this new legislation will be “simpler to administer, more predictable and sufficient to meet the needs of the state.”

He said the new surcharge will affect less than 15,000 businesses and applies only to those defined as “advanced computing” companies, such as Microsoft or Amazon. The earlier legislation affected more than 80,000 companies.

Advanced computing companies are defined as firms that make computer software or hardware, provide Cloud computing services, manage online marketplaces, or online social networking platforms.

Pedersen said he wanted to focus the majority of the revenue collection for workplace education investment on businesses that “by their nature, rely on highly educated professionals.”

Bill bans youth solitary confinement

Washington state lawmakers plan to ban solitary confinement as a form of punishment in juvenile detention facilities.

“Nationally, there’s a growing consensus that solitary confinement is both unconstitutional and inhumane, and in Washington state, we do not prohibit the use of solitary confinement as punishment,” said the bill’s primary sponsor, Sen. Claire Wilson, D-Federal Way, during a Senate Human Services, Reentry, and Rehabilitation Committee hearing held Thursday, Jan. 16.

Senate bill 6112, and its companion bill HB 2277, would prohibit solitary confinement in Washington state juvenile institutions. Solitary confinement is defined in the

SHS wrestlers qualify for state

Six wrestlers will participate at Mat Classic Feb. 21-22 at the Tacoma Dome. Solomon Mahoney places second in the 106-weight division, and teammates Brendan Dudley (113) and Landon Pearson (152) also placed second. Logan Hoffberger (126) and Tristen Turner (182) placed fourth.

bill as the involuntary removal of someone from the rest of the population for more than 15 minutes as a form of punishment.

“It’s harmful to youth who are still developing and who are still vulnerable,” Wilson said at the Jan. 16 hearing. “Studies have shown it both to be emotionally and psychologically damaging, and ineffective at improving behavior.”

According to a 2012 report of the Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, “confined youth who spend extended periods isolated are among the most likely to attempt or actually commit suicide.”

The report cites a national study that found that 62% of suicides in juvenile institutions were committed by those who had previously been in isolation, and half of these suicides were committed while the person was in isolation.

Emily Murphy, representing youth at the Echo Glen rehabilitation facility, testified at a Senate Ways and Means Committee hearing on Feb. 10.

Murphy read a statement she said came from a teen named Denis: “I myself was in solitary confinement for 16 days. That’s 384 hours of being locked in a room, by myself, with the lights off, and nothing but one blanket and the clothes on my back. I started to feel myself getting depressed and feeling hopeless.”

The bill also requires facilities to document instances of a youth being separated from the rest of the youth population and prevents teens who are charged as adults from being held in an adult jail for over 24 hours, unless there is a court order extending the length of their holding.

James McMahan, policy director for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, expressed concern over the bill’s application to adult jails, and whether reports should be required in the case of a youth being held in an adult jail at the Jan. 16 hearing.

“It is an exception, and it should be an exception, to have a juvenile in an adult jail. We want the bill to treat that as an exception as well,” McMahan said.

“The juvenile will be in solitary confinement the entire time they are in the adult facility because there are no other youth in the facility for them to interact with,” McMahan said.

Both SB 6112 and HB 2277 are moving forward and if passed into law, would take effect later this year.

Changes to childcare law mulled

Parents could have better access to childcare providers if lawmakers pass a bill that aims to make the childcare

certification process cheaper and easier.

The primary sponsor of House Bill 2556, Rep. Tom Dent, R-Moses Lake, said he intends for this legislation to address parents’ need for affordable childcare as well as to provide relief to childcare providers from regulations that he claimed are hurting the workforce.

Based on his research and experience, Dent said he believes the current regulations and certification training imposed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families are “far over the top,” and the costs to comply with them are challenging businesses to stay open.

“My fear that I have with early learning — and it is happening — our providers are quitting and many of them are going underground,” Dent pleaded to the House Human Services & Early Learning Committee during a hearing on Jan. 28.

The proposed bill would push to provide community-based training pathways for easier and more accessible certification. The bill stipulates the training certification cannot exceed \$250 per person and calls for a review of ways to give college or technical school credit to providers in childcare training.

Rep. Tana Senn, D-Mercer Island, spoke in favor of the legislation at a House Human Services & Early Learning Committee hearing on Feb. 7. Senn said the bill will provide training that is culturally and linguistically relevant to different communities across the state as it would make training available in different languages and equally accessible in both urban and rural areas.

“We need to lighten up a little bit about what we are requiring from people,” Dent argued, “and be realistic and pragmatic about what we want and where we want our early learning program to go.”

Styrofoam ban considered

Lawmakers plan to eliminate the use of styrofoam food-service products in Washington state by enacting a bill to stop its sale and distribution.

Senate bill 6213, sponsored by Senator Mona Das, D-Kent, and its companion House Bill 2429 aim to ban the sale and distribution of polystyrene products, also known as styrofoam, in the food service industry.

This bill would apply to food containers, plates, cups, packing peanuts, styrofoam ice coolers, and other food-service products. Containers for raw foods, such as eggs and meat, would be exempt.

“Our widespread use of single-use plastics and styrofoam ... is unsustainable,” Das said at an earlier Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee hearing. “It is time for Washington to take action.”



Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee, seated, signs the first bill of the 2020 legislative session into law. On the right stands the bill’s primary sponsor, Sen. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, wearing a red tie. Photo by Cameron Sheppard, WNP News Service

Styrofoam takes several years to decompose and is harmful to the environment, particularly to wildlife.

“Birds, turtles, and other marine mammals ingest styrofoam, mistaking it as food,” said Kylee Reynolds, a student at Glenwood Elementary School. “This adds poison into the animals’ blood.”

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences cites a National Toxicology Program report that lists styrene, which is present in styrofoam products, as a likely carcinogen.

Concerns were expressed over the ban by individuals who feared the loss of jobs that would result from passing the bill.

“SB 6213 would effectively eliminate the 28 full-time, skilled workers we have employed in Tumwater and some of the employees at our Lacey distribution center,” said Kathy Warren, human resources manager at Dart Container.

The legislation continues to move forward within the Senate and will be put into effect later this year if it’s passed.

“My generation has the right to grow up on a planet that is not being poisoned,” said Madison Decrescenzo, a student from Glenwood Elementary.

ICE center expansion nixed

The state House of Representatives voted 85-12 on a bill that would ban the expansion of an Immigration Customs Enforcement detention center in Tacoma.

House Bill 2640 asserts that the privately owned building, used to detain individuals and hold them in custody under the process of law, is not an

“essential” public facility and therefore not included under the Growth Management Act.

The bill’s prime sponsor, Rep. Jake Fey, D-Tacoma, said this bill is about local government authority as it relates to land use.

Steve Victor, deputy city attorney for Tacoma, testified to the House Environment & Energy Committee in favor of the bill. Victor said the detention center is poorly located in a busy maritime port district and is also in a seismic zone next to hazardous material production facilities.

Fey said the facility “is of substantial consequence to the city to be able to provide public safety services” due to the limited access of its location.

Joan Mell, attorney for GEO Group, which owns the building and holds a contract with ICE to detain people in the facility, testified against the bill on the basis that it may have unintended consequences.

Mell said this kind of

land-use matter is typically directed to the judicial process structured by the Growth Management Act. She said this would be the first time a legislative body tried to assert that a facility is non-essential to the public.

Victor said the Growth Management Act has historically extended protections to facilities deemed essential to the public such as airports, solid waste facilities, mental health facilities and parks, but never a privately owned detention center.

If passed, the bill would not stop the current functions of the ICE facility, but it would stop any growth or expansion of the building capacity.

Victor said the current capacity of the building is around 1,600 people.

The bill’s companion is currently moving through the Senate.

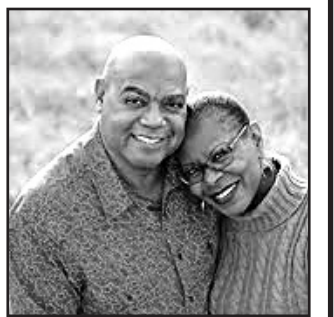
Cameron Sheppard and Leona Vaughn, interns with the WNP News Service, wrote these articles.

Dean Braxton Clinically dead 1 hour 45 minutes

Dean says “it’s not about if I died, the doctors proved that, it’s about where I went when I died.” In May 2006 Dean died. Since that time he has traveled extensively, been on TV and radio programs sharing his experience. He has also written 3 books; In Heaven, Deep Worship in Heaven and his newest What It’s Like to Die. He will be teaching, sharing his experience and on Saturday night answering questions. If you’ve ever had questions about life after death or what heaven is like, don’t miss this opportunity.

Saturday & Sunday
February 29th at 10 AM
February 29th at 6:30 PM (questions & answers)
March 1st at 10 AM

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Athletes of the month Stevenson High School wrestlers



Six of the 15 wrestlers who participated in the 1A Regional Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 15, earned berths in the annual Mat Classic in Tacoma.

Landon Pearson, Logan Hoffberger, Tristen Turner, Abiy Lacombe, Brenden Dudley, and Solomon Mahoney will compete at the state tournament Feb. 21-22 in Tacoma. Mahoney (106) placed second, Dudley (113) second, Pearson (152) second, Hoffberger (126) fourth, Turner (182) fourth place and Lacombe (132) fifth.

To qualify for the regional meet, the male wrestlers placed as follows: Solomon Mahoney (106) first, Brenden Dudley (113) second, Sam Ledesma (120) third, Logan Hoffberger (126) first, Abiy Lacombe (132) second, Hunter Reichel (132) fifth, Angel Tovar (145) second place, Jason Huber (145) third place, Landon Pearson (152) second, Gavin Gantner (152) fifth, Tristin Rhodes (170) second place, Tristen Turner (182) second place.

Kyra Vigil and Alissa Humbert placed fourth among female wrestlers, and Melonie Humbert placed second.

Photo by Heather Hoffberger

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Your Loved One Never Leaves Our Care

SHOP LOCAL

Local news in brief

Sen. King hosts call-in talk

OLYMPIA – Residents of the 14th Legislative District can learn more about issues before the Washington State Legislature by taking part in a one-hour telephone town hall meeting beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20.

Sen. Curtis King, R-Yakima, plans to discuss key issues before the legislature, as well as bills he is sponsoring.

“Telephone town hall meetings provide a convenient way for people in our district to find out what’s happening this legislative session, ask me questions and offer input,” King said. “It also lets me stay in touch with constituents even though I’m in Olympia, and it gives people a chance to hear from me about the session just by picking up the phone.”

Residents can ask questions during the meeting and can also submit them in advance by emailing curtis.king@leg.wa.gov.

While thousands of district residents will receive a phone call just before the telephone town hall meeting to encourage them to participate, residents may also take part by dialing 509-408-1571.

Church hosts events for Lent

The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Stevenson hosts a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, 273 Lutheran Church Road.

Also known as “Mardi Gras” (French for “Fat Tuesday”), this day was once set aside to use up all the fat in the house before the strict fasting that was the old hallmark of Lent. Today, Christians observe the day as a time to have fun – breakfast for dinner.

The church offers Ash

Wednesday services at both noon and 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26. Ash Wednesday is a day for Christians to receive the mark of a cross in ashes on their foreheads and remember that “we are dust” – made of the dust of the cosmos – and it is to dust they will someday return. This prepares followers of Jesus Christ for the reflective, renewing weeks of Lent, the season before Easter.

Each Wednesday throughout Lent (March 4 through April 1), the church offers a soup supper at 6 p.m., followed by a worship service at 7 p.m. The service will be the “Holden Evening Prayer,” a setting composed for the Holden Village retreat center near Lake Chelan. People are invited to join church members for soup, and then for the simple and contemplative prayer.

Shepherd of the Hills is a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It welcomes all people because God welcomes all, regardless of race, culture, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or relationship status, or anything else that divides people.

For more information, contact the church at (509) 427-5972. or go to www.shepherdofthehillsgorge.org.

Sturgeon season closes

CLACKAMAS – Two recreational white sturgeon fisheries in the Columbia River upstream of Bonneville Dam closed Friday, Feb. 14, under rules adopted by fishery managers from Oregon and Washington while a third remains open until its harvest guideline is met.

Retention sturgeon fishing closed in Bonneville Pool and adjacent tributaries effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14

and in The Dalles Pool and adjacent tributaries, effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The closures were adopted during a joint hearing of fish and wildlife departments from the two states after reviewing creel survey data that indicated the fisheries are approaching their respective harvest guidelines.

Through Feb. 9, recreational sturgeon anglers have harvested an estimated 83 percent of the Bonneville Pool guideline and 76 percent of The Dalles Pool guideline. With the improved weather, catch rates have begun to improve, prompting staff to recommend the closures to minimize the risk of exceeding harvest guidelines.

Retention sturgeon fishing remains open in John Day Pool, where, through Feb. 9, anglers have harvested an estimated 37 sturgeon toward their guideline of 105 legal-sized fish.

Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing remains open in all three pools, except in the spawning closure areas which will be in effect May 1 through Aug. 31.

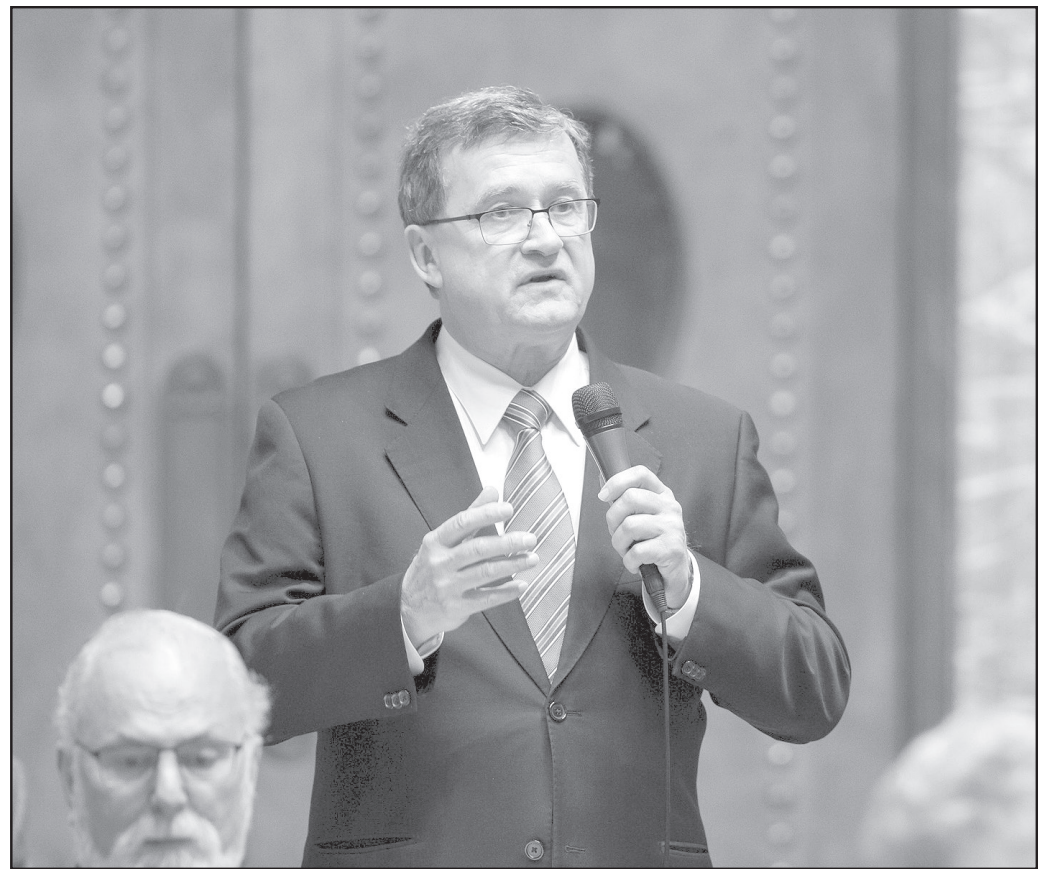
Program helps people file taxes

STEVENSON – People who have got taxes to file can visit the Stevenson Community Library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., every other Saturday through April 11, to receive free tax filing services from AARP.

Do-it-yourself software can be confusing and some paid tax preparation services cost money people might not have.

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program provides in-person tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program.

Last year, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers helped millions of residents



Washington State Sen. Curtis King addresses his Senate colleagues at the Washington State Legislature. Photo provided by Washington State Senate

nationwide and completed 50,000 tax returns in Washington, helping residents claim \$54 million in federal refunds.

The Stevenson tax preparation site is located at the Stevenson Library, 120 NW Vancouver Ave. The site is open alternating Saturdays: Feb. 29, March 14 and 28 and April 11. Call the library at 509-427-5471 to schedule an appointment.

“Tax-Aide is a tremendous free service for anyone who needs help completing their tax return and filing it electronically,” said Dorothy Lyon, Washington Tax-Aide District 1 coordinator. “Our dedicated volunteers receive rigorous training and are certified by the Internal Revenue Service.”

Volunteers can assist in preparing federal and Oregon tax forms for personal tax returns as well as e-file the returns. Taxpayers of all ages and means are welcome.

AARP Foundation Tax-

Aide is the nation’s largest volunteer-run free tax preparation service. Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to ensure they understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code.

Taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide in 2019 received \$1.6 billion in income tax refunds and more than \$200 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs). The program is offered in conjunction with the IRS, and AARP membership is not required.

Underwood man earns honors

MELBOURNE, Fla. – William Ferrick of Underwood has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean’s List at the Florida Institute of Technology.

To be included on the Dean’s List, a student must complete 12 or more graded credits in a semester with a semester grade point average of at least 3.4.

Florida Tech was founded in 1958 at the dawn of the Space Race that would soon define the Atlantic coast of Florida and captivate the nation. Now the premier private technological university in the Southeast, Florida Tech is a Tier 1 Best National University in U.S. News & World Report and one of just nine schools in Florida lauded by the Fiske Guide to Colleges. Florida Tech is ranked among the top 5 percent of 18,000 degree-granting institutions worldwide in the 2018-19 World University Rankings and has been named a Top College and Best Value University by Forbes. Florida Tech offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in aeronautics and aviation, engineering, computing and cybersecurity, business, science and mathematics, psychology, education and communication. Learn more about our relentless pursuit of greatness at www.fit.edu.



Carson Elementary School fourth-grade students perform “Spider Woman and the Gift of the Loom,” a play based on a Navajo story. The effort was part of their English Language Arts studies of Native American stories. Teacher Sharon Campbell’s students also learned how to weave by making little rugs. They also are writing a book, “How Wolf got his Pointy Nose.” Photo provided by SCSD

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Church Directory

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church
725 SW Rock Creek Dr.;
Stevenson - 509-427-8478
Fr. Rajasekar Savarimuthu - Parish Priest, Deacon Bill Townsend, www.stthomas-camas.org/74
Friday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass 9 a.m.
Holy Day of Obligation Mass, 7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation follows Friday Mass and precedes Sunday Mass.
Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
273 NE Lutheran Church Rd. E. end of Stevenson just off Hwy 14. Phone 509-427-5972 email: office.shepherdofthehills@gmail.com

www.shepherdofthehillsgorge.org
Sunday Schedule:
9:30 Sunday School & Bible Study, 10:30 Worship
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Mon-Fri...Community Prayer Meeting 8-9 a.m.
Wednesday Synkaleo Youth Group meets @ 6 p.m.
Adult Bible Study & Prayer meeting @ 6 p.m.
Find us on Facebook

River Christian Church
252 Roosevelt St., Stevenson
Pastor Dr. Glenn Daman - Phone 427-8342
Sunday School...9:30 a.m.
Morning Service...10:45 a.m.
Fellowship time...9-9:30 a.m.
Sunday AWANA...6:30 p.m. at Church, in the new gym;
Friday, Men’s Discipleship...6:30 a.m.
Home Bible Studies Available www.riverchristianchurch.org
Carson Bible Church
1121 Wind River Hwy, Carson, 427-8373
Pastor Larry Thayer
Sunday Service 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Wed Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Thurs. Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Stevenson United Methodist Church
Corner of Jefferson & School Sts.
Pastor Karen Ashley, Phone 427-5354
Adult Sunday School. 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship. 10:30 a.m.
Little Church in the Valley
41 Trout Creek Road in Stabler
Pator: Joel Wilcox
Church: 427-8344; 427-4372
Sunday Service...9:30 a.m.
Worship Service...10:45 a.m.
North Bonneville Community Church
Wacomac and Pioneer Drive
Phone 427-8142, Interim Pastor Donny Cameron
Sunday School...10 a.m.;
Morning Worship...11 a.m.
• Nursery Available

Website: www.facebook.com/northbonnevillecommunitychurch
Living Faith Open Bible Church
12 NE Vancouver Ave., Stevenson
Pastor Brett Johnson
Phone: 427-5451
Sunday Service...8:30 a.m.
Sunday Service...10:30 a.m.
Nursery Available for all services. For more information visit: www.livingfaith.us
Skamania Community Church
33391 SR 14, Skamania. Located 1/2 mile east of Skamania Fire Station.
Informal Fellowship/Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
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available upon request.
Vibrant Children’s Ministries including Awana and VBS
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Pastor Bill Akers: 360-513-5737
Pastor Matt Califf: 360-772-1068
Pastor Dutch Lewis: 360-281-9238
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Maple Way & Loop Rd., Stevenson Bishop Gordon Zimmerman
Ph. 541-374-8000
Visitors Welcome
Sacrament Service ...10 a.m.
Sunday School & Primary...11:20 a.m. - Priesthood, RS, YW & Primary...12:10
YM & YW - Wednesdays - 7-8:30 p.m.

Water Under the Bridge

25 years ago

Auditor reports theft of pool funds: Washington State Auditor Brian Sonntag recently issued an audit report that alleged about \$5,737 in public funds were taken from the Skamania County Pool from Jan. 1, 1991 to July 22, 1994.

The report states that not only were the funds misappropriated, accounting records were manipulated to conceal the theft.

The state office also found that daily fees were not being properly recorded and deposited.

Lodge hosts dinner for interpretive center: Skamania Lodge in Stevenson will again host the annual St. Patrick's Day Benefit Dinner and Dance, 7 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, March 11.

The third annual event

benefits the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum which is scheduled to open May 17.

City tracks proposed train whistle ban: Developer Zachary Franks and John Meyer, Portland Division trainmaster for Burlington Northern Railroad, appeared before the Stevenson City Council Thursday to present arguments on a proposed whistle ban.

Franks, who recently purchased the partially finished cabins between Bob's Beach and Teo Park, requested the whistle ban shortly after he spent time on the property. He told the council that about 30 to 35 trains passed by daily and blew whistles when approaching the Russell Street crossing at Cascade Avenue.

Facilities now available

year-round: The new horse barn at the Skamania County Fairgrounds can be used year-round by 4-H and other groups. The Red Bluff Riders, a 4-H horse club, really needed a place to go in inclement weather.

"It's hard to compete against organizations who have year-round facilities when you don't have a place to train during the winter, said Teri Mickel, group leader.

50 years ago

Panel recommends roadless areas: Columbia River Gorge areas should be absolutely roadless and remain roadless. The findings and recommendations of the Mazama Study Group will be discussed in detail on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Panel members of the Mazamas who support preservation of natural beauty

have pledged their services and support economic outside help in assisting Skamania County to solve their problems, said County Agent Dick Adlard in Stevenson.

School bus damaged in crash: A Stevenson School District No. 3 bus was damaged in a collision Friday, Feb. 13, but should be ready for service within six weeks, said Superintendent Al Hoffman.

The school bus collided with a passenger vehicle driven by Richard Knight but no serious injuries were suffered by students on the bus or by Knight, who returned home after a doctor's examination.

Stevenson to meter non-city water use: The Stevenson Town Council voted this week to meter water customers outside the city limits,

and to meter water use at the school and the Skamania County Courthouse.

75 years ago

Schools appeal for clothing donations: An appeal for clothing for the war weary Russian civilians was launched throughout Skamania County via the public schools on Tuesday. Printed leaflets directed parents and children how to prepare and deliver all articles of clothing that are wearable, were mailed to every school in the county.

Industrial survey of Bonneville planned: An elaborate load-building program to utilize Bonneville power after the war, concentrating attention on industrial possibilities near the dam, was announced from the Portland office this week. The plan includes the addition of three

recognized authorities on various phases of development to assist Ivan Bloch, chief of the Bonneville Industrial and Resources Development Division of the Power Administration.

100 years ago

Flu recedes in Stevenson: School opened Monday with a good attendance at the high school. Very few were absent on account of the flu. An assembly was held and the basketball team told just how and why they were defeated.

The boys' basketball team hosted The Dalles on Friday, Feb. 13, but lost 27-18. It was a very exciting game and the score was tied at 10 at the end of the first half.

The lack of practice over the past two weeks due to influenza had some affect on their usual good playing.

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EMPLOYMENT

SKAMANIA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER

3,707 per month
Full job description and required county application can be found at www.skamania-county.org under human resource tab. Interested parties may send signed application to Skamania County Human Resources. Mail to PO Box 790 Stevenson WA 98648; drop off in person at 240 NW Vancouver Avenue, Stevenson; or email to humanresources@co.skamania.wa.us
Application deadline is 3:00 pm, Thursday, March 5, 2020. Skamania County is an equal opportunity employer.

SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IS SEEKING A

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SOCIAL WORKER OR
ASSOCIATE MENTAL
HEALTH THERAPIST

Salary Range \$4,613 per month with Licensure
Salary Range \$4,416 per month without Licensure

Full job descriptions and required county application can be found at www.skamania-county.org/humanresources/
Application deadline is 3:00 pm on February 20th. For more information, visit website or contact Debi Van Camp at 509-427-3705 or humanresources@co.skamania.wa.us. Skamania County is an equal opportunity employer

SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH PUBLIC HEALTH REGISTERED NURSE

Salary Range \$4,613 monthly
Full job description and county application can be found on the Skamania County website at www.skamaniacounty.org under the Human Resources tab.

Submit signed county application and professional resume to Skamania County Human Resources. Mail to PO Box 790, Stevenson, WA 98648; or deliver in person to Skamania County Courthouse, Human Resources, 240 SW Vancouver Avenue, Stevenson; or e-mail to humanresources@co.skamania.wa.us. Questions contact 509-427-3705. Applications accepted until position is filled.
Skamania County is an equal opportunity employer.

SKAMANIA COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE INVESTMENT / REAL ESTATE EXCISE OFFICER

\$3,550 per month plus benefits
Full job description, additional information and required county application can be found at www.skamaniacounty.org under the Human Resources tab.
Application accepted until filled.
Skamania County is an Equal opportunity employer.

Home Valley Water District is seeking a part-time bookkeeper. Interested persons should send their resume to Home Valley Water District PO Box 652 Stevenson, WA 98648. Applicants will be contacted regarding interviews.

Administrative Assistant (temporary, part-time)

Skamania EMS & Rescue is seeking applicants to fill a temporary, part-time Administrative Assistant position for a period not to exceed two (2) years. This position will

be utilized to address excess workload and staff absences, similar to how an on-call employee may. It will generally be scheduled to work one to one and one half days per week. More information and application materials may be found at www.skamaniaems.com
Posting Closes: When filled

The Stevenson-Carson School District has the following opening for 2019-2020:

Special Education ParaEducator @ Carson Elementary School
Primary job assignment will be 1:1 with a student plus other duties as assigned.

This position is 6 hours per day, 5 days per week, during the school year (180 days). Applicants must possess an AA degree OR be able to pass the ParaPro test prior to employment.

If interested, please visit www.scsd303.org and complete the Classified application (can be completed online and emailed or printed hardcopy).

SUBSTITUTE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ParaEducators, Recess Aides, and Office Personnel at various schools
Hours and days vary. You choose how much or how little you work!

Non benefited positions. Must possess an AA or be able to pass the ParaPro exam. For a full job description, and to apply for the position, please visit the school district website

PART TIME POSITION AVAILABLE

LAP Support ParaEducator at Wind River Middle School
2 hours per day: 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM (Wednesdays only 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM)
Non benefited position. Must possess an AA or be able to pass the ParaPro exam. For a full job description, and to apply for the position, please visit the school district website.

Part Time Facilities worker - potential for year-round. Excellent opportunity to fill in a schedule or those seeking a little extra cash. 15 hours per week. Must be available on weekends. Maximum 60 hours per month. Duties: Janitorial, Groundskeeping & Maintenance. Contact the Port of Skamania 509-427-5484

MISC. WANTED

Buying American Flyer Trains, 5 gauge by Gilbert, 1947-1965. Call Rocky at 503-319-2513

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Stevenson-Carson School Board of Directors will hold a special Executive Session at the District Office on Thursday, February 20, 2020, starting at 7:00 p.m. to review the qualifications of Superintendent applicants.

**Classified, ads
deadline,
Friday, Noon**

Carson AA Spirit of the Gorge meets Wednesdays and Sundays from 7-8 p.m. at Carson Hot Springs Resort. 372 St. Martin Springs Rd. Call 509-427-4970.

Stevenson AA meets Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 7 to 8 p.m. at Shepherd of Hills Lutheran Church, 273 Lutheran Church Rd. For information (509) 427-5548.

AA Gorge Gals - meet Tuesday at 10 a.m. Wednesday at noon at 752 Rock Creek Dr. in Stevenson. 427-7981

From the Book AA

PUBLIC NOTICES

South Central Workforce Council (SCWDC) is soliciting proposals for the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs within Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania and Yakima Counties. The purpose of this solicitation is to identify and fund a single contract that provides innovative programming and comprehensive services resulting in a highly competitive, integrated and industry driven public workforce system.

The request for proposal (RFP) can be found on our website at: <http://southcentralwdc.com>
Proposal due date is April 9, 2020.

Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
February 19, 2020

Pursuant to RCW 19.150.080, Pak Rat Self Storage will hold an auction February 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM at 391 Evergreen Drive. Contents of unit 7, Daniel and 11, Miller will be auctioned.
Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
Feb. 19 & Feb. 26, 2020

CITY OF STEVENSON NOTICE TO CONSULTANTS FOR 1ST STREET PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES & OVERLOOK

The City of Stevenson solicits interest from consulting firms with expertise in Civil and Structural Engineering Design. This agreement will be for approximately 12 months in duration with the option for the City to extend it for additional time and money if necessary. Consultants will be considered for the following project.
The City of Stevenson reserves the right to amend terms of this "Request for Qualifications" (RFQ) to circulate various addenda, or to withdraw the RFQ at any time, regardless of how much time and effort consultants have spent on their responses.

Project Description
The work to be performed by the CONSULTANT consists of preparing preliminary engineering design for improvements to 1st Street in downtown Stevenson from west of Columbia Avenue to Lutheran Church Road. The proposed improvements include crosswalk striping, vegetated curb extensions, new sidewalk, pedestrian overlook, path connecting to existing waterfront path, and streetscaping. This project has a 6% UDDB goal.

The major features of the project are as follows:
• Approximately 600 feet of new sidewalk.
• Improving intersections to narrow pedestrian crossing distances.
• Landscaping and/or urban design services.
• Structural design as needed for retaining walls, pedestrian overlook, etc.
• Environmental documentation and preparation of permit applications.
• Determination of R/W needs and R/W plan preparation.

The City of Stevenson reserves the right to retain the services of the successful firm(s) for any subsequent phases (R/W, CN) associated with this/these project(s).
Evaluation Criteria
Submittals will be evaluated by

a local review team and ranked based on the following criteria:

- 1) Qualification of Proposed Project Manager
- 2) Qualifications/Expertise of Firm
- 3) Ability to meet schedule, including submittal of 50% design by July 31st, 2020.
- 5) Familiarity with WSDOT/FHWA standards
- 6) Past Performance/References
- 7) Approach to meet the UDDB goal

Submittals should be limited to 10 total pages and include the following information: Firm name, phone and fax numbers; Name of Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager; List of Subconsultants proposed to work on project, and the Number of Employees in each firm proposed to work on the project.

Please submit a .PDF copy of your Statement of Qualifications to: Ben Shumaker, City of Stevenson Community Development Director, ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th, 2020. Submittals will not be accepted after that time and date. Any questions regarding this project should be directed to Ben Shumaker at 509-427-5970.

Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

This project includes funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). All consultants are advised that this federally funded project will be held to the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

The City of Stevenson in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), commits to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, in all of its programs and activities. This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing Ben Shumaker at ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us or by calling collect 509-427-5970.

Title VI Statement

The City of Stevenson in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises as defined at 49 CFR Part 26 will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.
Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
Feb. 12 & Feb 19, 2020

Notice: Skamania County Public Hospital District will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 4:00pm to consider the FY2020 Supplemental Budget #1, the regular business meeting will start

immediately after. The hearing will be held at Station 7-1, 253 SW First Street Stevenson, WA 98648. Further information is available by calling to 509.427.5065

Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
Feb. 12 & Feb. 19, 2020

NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON MARCH 10, 2020

Legal Notice
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in Skamania County, State of Washington, in all precincts thereof, there will be held a Presidential Primary election.

Voter Registration Deadlines: March 2, 2020 - Deadline for mail and online new voter registrations, updates, and transfers.

March 10, 2020 - Deadline for in-person new voter registrations and voter updates.

Registering to vote:
• By mail - form may be obtained by calling the Skamania County Auditor's Office at (509) 427-3730.

• In person - Skamania County Auditor's Office 240 NW Vancouver Ave Room 27 Stevenson, WA 98648 - Office hours: Monday - Thursday 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

• Online - www.votewa.gov
Assistance with voter registration and voting is available for elderly and disabled voters at the Skamania County Auditor's Office.

Ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters in participating districts by February 21, 2020. Voters may obtain a replacement ballot by calling the Skamania County Auditor's Office at (509) 427-3730. The Skamania County Courthouse, 240 NW Vancouver Ave Stevenson, WA 98648 is accessible for voters needing assistance with registration or casting a ballot.

The logic and accuracy test of the ballot tabulation system will be conducted in the Auditor's Office on February 26, 2020 at 2:00pm.

The Skamania County Canvassing Board shall meet in the Commissioners Meeting Room on these dates:

• March 13, 2020 - 10:00 AM

• March 20, 2020 - 10:00 AM
The Auditor's Office and Commissioner's Meeting Room are accessible for persons with disabilities. Please let us know if you will need any special accommodations in order to attend the meeting. Call (509) 427-3730.

Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
February 19, 2020

The Stevenson-Carson School District Board will be holding an additional meeting on February 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
Feb. 19, 2020

Home Valley Water District monthly Board meeting will be held February 20, 2020 at 7 pm in the Home Valley fire hall. The topic of discussion will be the Water Efficiency Plan and the Water System Plan. Published in the Skamania County Pioneer
Feb. 12 & Feb. 19, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

The Skamania County Pioneer

Sports Correspondent

Looking for individuals interested in covering local sports and recreation topics as independent contractors or volunteers. May have an interest in a specific sport or several. Very flexible.
Applications can be picked up at 74 SW Russell, Stevenson or email fdavaul@devaulpublishing.com

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Support Groups

Group meets Saturday, 7 p.m., North Bonneville Community Church, Wacomac and Pioneer Drive. For info call 509-427-7981.

Alanaon, will meet every Tuesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Stevenson United Methodist Church; corner of Jefferson and School Streets. Contact (509)427-4970

Skamania County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program. Women's support group meets at 2 p.m. on Mondays. Call 427-4210

Diabetes Support

Group meets the first Wednesday each month at noon at Skyline Hospital. 509-493-1101.

Bereavement Classes Free to the Public - offered by Heart of Hospice on the fourth Monday of each month from 3-4 p.m. at Stevenson United Methodist Church.

Second Sunday monthly; Free Health Lecture at Stevenson Adventist Church. Call 360-953-1372.

Providence Grief Support Group meets 11 a.m. to Noon on first and third Wednesdays of the month at

Hawks Ridge Assisted Living in Hood River. For more information call 541-387-6449

Children and teen grief groups meet Thursdays, twice a month from 6 - 7 p.m. at Riverside Church on 4th & State Streets; pizza provided. Call 541-387-6449 or visit www.providence.org/hospice for more information.

Narcotics Anonymous Rock Bottom NA Group. Meets behind the Food Bank, 683 SW Rock Creek Dr.; Stevenson, Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30; 509-427-7563

Proper watering of indoor plants is key to successful growing

By Melinda Myers
For The Pioneer

Too much of a good thing can mean death for indoor plants. Overwatering is a good example of this and a common problem for indoor gardeners. For others it's the opposite extreme, allowing plants to go too dry. Knowing when to water your indoor plants can increase gardening success and eliminate the stress of uncertainty.

The first step is to throw away your watering schedule. Start watering plants based on their individual need not the date on the calendar. Consider the type of plant, container material and size as well as other growing conditions.

Get to know your plants by checking the plant tag, online resources and books. Those native to tropical climates or wet soils such as peace lily, baby tears and papyrus prefer moist soil. Plants from drier locations like cacti, succulents, Chinese evergreens, ponytail palm and snake plants do best when the soil dries between watering.

Evaluate the indoor growing conditions. Plants locat-

ed in bright light and warm homes where the humidity is low lose moisture faster and need more frequent watering. Cooler homes, higher humidity and lower light conditions mean longer stretches between watering plants.

Adjust watering as the seasons change. Shorter, often gray days of winter mean plants dry out more slowly. When the heat and air conditioner are turned on, the humidity level drops and plants dry out more quickly. Plus, many plants rest in winter and prefer drier soil.

Check plants growing in small pots, breathable terra cotta containers and fast draining growing mixes more often and water as needed. Plants growing in larger containers and those made of plastic, glazed ceramic and similar materials dry out more slowly.

Use your finger to determine when plants need to be watered. Stick your finger an inch or so below the soil surface of small pots. You'll need to go a finger length deep for larger containers. And for succulents and cacti feel the soil through the drainage holes on

the bottom of the pot. Water thoroughly until the excess runs out the drainage holes as needed.

Extend the time between watering with self-watering pots and watering aids. These have reservoirs that slowly provide water to plants over time. Or amend the soil with a moisture-retaining product like wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com). This organic and sustainable product holds 20% of its weight in water and slowly releases it into the soil when needed. The wetting agents in most potting mixes lose effectiveness after a month or two. These pellets continue working long after this, so you'll be watering less often.

Make watering easy, so it feels like an opportunity to enjoy each individual plant instead of a chore. Use a watering can with a long narrow spout, making it easy to apply water over the entire soil surface and under the leaves and crown of the plant. This reduces the risk of disease that can occur when the top growth remains wet.

Set plants on saucers or



Set plants on saucers filled with pebbles to eliminate the need to empty the water that collects in the saucer. Photo by Melinda Myers

trays filled with pebbles. The excess water collects in the tray and the pebbles elevate the container above the water. This eliminates the need to empty the water that collects and remains in the saucer for more than thirty minutes.

With more experience watering indoor plants, it will

become second nature. That means you'll have more time and opportunity to enjoy and even expand your indoor garden.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow

Anything" DVD series and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Wild Valley Farms* for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Regional news in brief

Clark College band performs March 13

VANCOUVER – The Clark College Concert Band presents its free Winter Concert, "A Golden Light," at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, at the Fort Vancouver High School Auditorium, 5700 E 18th St, Vancouver.

The concert will feature some very well-known works, as well as some lesser-known work by prominent composers. On the "well-known" list, the band will perform Lucien Calliet's masterful transcription of Gioacchino Rossini's "Italian in Algiers Overture," as well as William Latham's beautiful "Three Chorale Preludes." Lesser known works include English composer Gordon Jacob's final composition, "Celebration Overture," written for the Harvard University Band and "Golden Light," an early work by the wonderful American composer, David Maslanka.

"I conducted 'Golden Light' approximately 20 years ago, and it is wonderful to come back and spend some time with this 'old friend,'" says Dr. Harris. "Also on this concert is Johan de Meij's 'Gandalf,' from his 'Lord of the Rings' symphony and a beautiful fantasia written on a theme by Samuel Barber. Truly something for everyone."

For more information, go to <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/music/music-concerts>.

Foundation hosts annual fundraiser

WHITE SALMON – The Skyline Foundation hosts its annual fundraising gala, "Cultivate Columbia," on Saturday, March 21, at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn, in Hood River. The event honors community volunteers Chuck and Camille Hinman

for their decades of compassionate service to our Gorge communities.

An artists' reception kicks off the evening. Guests can mingle with featured artists as well as view and purchase their work. They may also enjoy wine and beer, and have the opportunity to bid on silent auction items.

A three-course delectable dinner will be served, provided by the Best Western PLUS Hood River Inn and Ingrid's Cheesecakes & Pastries, with wine from AniChe Cellars and Domain Pouillon, and beer from Everybody's Brewing.

A live auction will follow dinner and include original art donated by the featured artists, a romantic sailing trip through the San Juan Islands, a hot air balloon excursion, a golf get-a-way, and four tickets to a Blazers game with lodging.

"We are thrilled to honor Chuck and Camille and bring our communities together to celebrate their years of dedication through the Cultivate Columbia event," said Elizabeth Vaivoda, Skyline Foundation executive director. "Through the generosity of our philanthropic partners we are able to provide an amazing and memorable experience for our guests, honor an extraordinary couple, and raise funds to help us create healthier and happier communities."

Names sought for teacher award

VANCOUVER – Nominations are being accepted for ESD 112's 2021 "Teacher of the Year" award. The award is presented to an exceptional teacher in southwest Washington every year. The winner of the regional award will

proceed to the prestigious Washington State Teacher of the Year competition in September.

Amy Campbell of Camas School District was selected in 2020 as both the ESD 112 region and Washington State Teacher of the Year. Campbell is a special education teacher whose work is heavily focused on building inclusive practices in the classroom and throughout the entire school system. For Campbell, the Teacher of the Year recognition and professional development opportunities have helped her grow in ways she couldn't have imagined.

"Being nominated by my district as Teacher of the Year has been the highest honor of my career," said Campbell. "It has been a great opportunity for self-reflection, personal growth, and professional development...I now feel more prepared to take on teacher leadership roles and am excited to bring my experiences back to the classroom where all my future students will benefit."

Teacher of the Year selection criteria: The teacher has the respect of their community; the teacher is knowledgeable in their field and guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence; the nominee collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success; he or she deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large; the person demonstrates leadership and innovation inside and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning; and the teacher expresses themselves in an engaging and effective way.

School districts and community members are encouraged to submit nominations using the Teacher of the Year nomination form from OSPI. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, March 1.

For more information, visit <https://www.esd112.org/news/camas-teacher-wins-state-teacher-of-the-year-award/>.

Orchestra performs winter concert

The award-winning Clark College Orchestra will present its Winter concert at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, at Skyview High School in Vancouver.

The performance is part of the 2019-20 season celebrating the 30th anniversary of Music Director/Conductor Donald Appert's tenure. The all-orchestral extravaganza will include "Overture to an Unwritten Tragedy" by Parry, "Mala Suite" by Lutoslawski,



St. Martin's University Conductor Dr. David Wacyk, right, conducts the Jemtegaard Middle School orchestra (see story, page 10). Photo by Rene Carrol

"Festspel Opus 25" by Alfvén, and "Symphony No. 2, Opus 30, Romantic" by Hanson. Admission is free. Donations to the Orchestra General Fund will be accepted at the door.

For more information, go to <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/music/music-concerts>.

Legislator hosts phone meeting

VANCOUVER – U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler hosts a telephone town hall at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22. Residents of southwest Washington's Third Congressional District can hear updates of the congresswoman's initiatives to help working families, improve health care, and ask questions or share whatever is on their mind.

People can sign up to receive a phone alert to join the town hall by contacting Rep. Herrera Beutler's Vancouver office to be placed on the call list by calling (360) 695-6292.

Residents can also call in to join the town hall at any point during the event by calling 1-877-229-8493 and using the passcode 116365.

Residents who are unable to participate can still share feedback or get questions answered by visiting jhb.house.gov to find the congresswoman's views on issues that matter to southwest Washington, send her an email, sign up for her newsletter, or connect with her on social media.

FOG leader talks gorge protection

TROUTDALE – Kevin Gorman, executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, presents "Schemes, Dreams, and Teams: A Century of Gorge Protection Efforts" at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Blackberry Hall at McMenamins Edgefield.

The talk is part of the History Pub series provided by the Troutdale Historical Society.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for

the free presentation.

Edgefield is located at 2126 SW Halsey, Troutdale.

Gorman will explore the history and technologies of the Columbia River Gorge with and take the audience through all the different ways people can protect and enjoy the gorge. The event is free but donations are welcome.

Learn about early telegraph line

Electric engineer Dave Wand and other members of the Troutdale Historical Society will present "Finding the Wire Trail" at the Regional History Forum presentation at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Original Courthouse, 410 West 2nd Place, The Dalles.

Telegraph poles from 1868 can still be found in the Columbia River Gorge. The first line was strung between Troutdale and The Dalles following an old Indian trail.

"Finding the Wire Trail: Early Instant Communica-

tion in the Gorge" covers the early days of the new communications medium. News of the outside world was slow to travel to The Dalles in the 1860s. It came via steamboat from the west or the Immigrant Road from the east.

Society members have traced the trail and found poles from the original installation.

Wand spent his career locating, building, and maintaining cell phone towers. His sister, Helen, is a lab technician who writes novels and serves on the historical society board.

She and Larry McGinnis will join in the conversation. McGinnis has experience surveying, including for transmission lines.

Admission is free but donations are welcome. There is a TV monitor on the ground floor of the 1859 courthouse to serve those unable to climb the stairs. Coffee and cookies will be served after the program.



David Wand makes notes about a telegraph pole in the Columbia River Gorge. Photo provided by Dave Wand and Troutdale Historical Society

Fundraiser at The Stevenson Eagles
February 22nd
7pm-Midnight
\$12/pp or \$20 /couple

9th Annual 2020

Mardi Gras

In the Gorge Fundraiser

Come and enjoy the fabulous music of The White Salmon Jazz Band and have some Jambalaya, in the true style of New Orleans. There will also be a silent auction for you to peruse.

150 1st St, Stevenson, WA 98648
*Net proceeds will go to the Skamania county Schools music program

Creating barbecue challenges WHS Advanced Metals students

By Rene Carroll
For The Pioneer

WASHOUGAL – Students in Don O'Brien's Advanced Metals class at Washougal High School are learning more than just a craft skill.

They are learning how to be creative, recycle and give back by constructing a large commercial-grade barbecue/ reverse flow smoker unit. The piece, which took three years to complete, is a premier item for the 2020 Grad Night Party dinner and auction to be held 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, in the WHS Commons.

"Mr. O'Brien's students did an amazing job showcasing their talent and skills in such a beautiful piece," said Dawn Harchenko, 2020 grad night volunteer. "Our Grad Night Committee is truly honored to be gifted with such an amazing piece of work. We know that some lucky bidder will be excited to own it."

A barbecue of this size and capability has a value of more than \$5,000.

The unit has two separate cooking areas. A barbecue grill and a wood fire box warmer for smoking. There is a fold down preparation table for holding items before cooking. The piece is mounted on a Panther-orange trailer platform so it can be towed to a catering job or for home use.

The barbecue is constructed from mostly recycled and scrap metals donated to the program from industry supporters of the WHS metals program for projects such as these. In fact, the main hous-



Welding mentor, Harry Fishel, instructor Don O'Brien and Washougal High School senior Nick Hauzen pose with the barbecue they've made. Photo by Rene Carroll

ing of the unit was created using tanks that were previously constructed for former WHS teacher, Ray Tuffs' boat, but were never used.

"Working with materials like metal, there is a fair amount of waste so being able

to teach students how to reuse and/or repurpose scrap into something of value is pretty amazing and adds another dimension to their learning," said Margaret Rice, Washougal School District director of Career and Technical Educa-

tion (CTE).

According to O'Brien, numerous WHS metals students had a hand in the creation of the piece. "Whenever a student had completed a project and had a little time on their hands, I'd tell them they can

work on the barbecue. There is a lot of pride in this by a lot of people. I know I am proud of the students."

Two 2020 seniors, Trevor James and Nick Hauzen, put in a lot of time this past semester on the piece.

"Projects like these take time and this one has been worked on by many students over the past three years" said Rice. "The shorter class periods make it challenging to finish a project of this magnitude in a shorter amount of time."

Local Washougal resident, Harry Fishel, volunteers as a mentor for WHS metals students and has helped guide construction of the barbecue. He has welded for nearly 50 years and worked at the paper mill for 30 years before he retired.

"I come in a couple of times a week," he said. "I like being there to help show students how to weld things so it works the way it needs to."

The WHS Grad Night dinner and auction is a tradition in Washougal with proceed going to fund the all-night graduation party of seniors.

"We will have about a dozen live auction items, the barbecue being one of them, and dozens of fun and interesting silent auction and raffle ticket items," said Harchenko.

"It's paramount for our students to understand the importance of giving back so we work with them to create projects that are meaningful and will support their community," Rice said.

Musicians enjoy guest conductor

By JMS
For The Pioneer

WASHOUGAL – Jemtegaard Middle School Wind Ensemble students benefited from a "new set of ears" when guest conductor Dr. David Wacyk, assistant professor of Music and Director of Bands at Saint Martin's University in Lacey visited on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

"I was excited to take advantage of Dr. Wacyk's offer to travel down this direction and work with school bands," said Dr. Jennifer Hodapp, JMS Music Educator. "I am so thankful for his visit and the impact he had on our students and their understanding of the music."

"It is important for all conductors to bring in a different set of ears from time to time," Wacyk explained. "Conductors hear the same thing over and over and having fresh input can help. Many times I will give some of the same instruction as the regular conductor, but coming from someone else may help a student or a section have a break through."

He said to students that band is an exercise in failure after failure, over and over again until you get a success.

"Finding the right note and how exactly to play it can be hard, especially horns," he said.

Wacyk went on to encourage the students to be aware of the roles of all the sections. "Once the music is in your mind and fingers, the next level is to be listening to other parts and sections. Figure out where you belong in the music," he instructed. "Listen more than you play."

Students gave their full attention to Wacyk as he stood atop the conductor's platform breaking down the song by measures, challenging them to listen to where they fit in the whole of the sound. The overall improvement was heard immediately. The students beamed with pride.

"It was wonderful to get Dr. Wacyk's input," said Hodapp. "My goals were for him to provide suggestions and comments to better the literature we are currently working on."



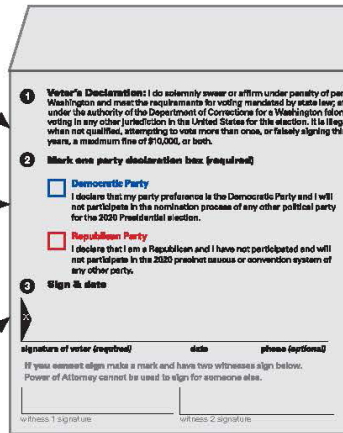
A Message from the Skamania County Auditor's Office

Ballots for the Presidential Primary will be mailed to all voters no later than February 21, 2020. This election is different from others in Washington since the major political parties require you to mark a party box and sign a declaration. The Skamania County Auditor's Office encourages everyone to review the instructions below in preparation for this election.

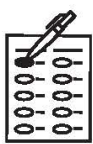
Voting in the Presidential Primary

The Presidential Primary is **March 10**.
Follow these steps for your vote to count.

- 1 Read the declarations on your return envelope.
- 2 Mark **one** political party declaration box (required).
- 3 Sign and date the declarations (required).



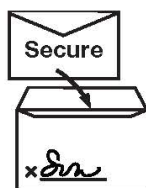
- 4 Vote for **one** candidate from the political party you marked in Step 2.



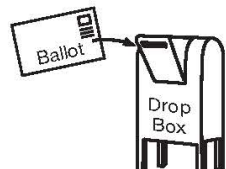
- 5 Insert your voted ballot into your security envelope or sleeve.



- 6 Insert your security envelope or sleeve into your marked and signed return envelope.



- 7 Return your ballot no later than **Tuesday, March 10, 2020**.



i Why do I need to mark a party box?

For this election only, you must mark and sign a party declaration for your vote to count. The major political parties require voters to mark a party box.

If you mark the Democratic Party box, you must vote for a Democrat.

If you mark the Republican Party box, you must vote for a Republican.

Attempts to change the party declaration wording could result in your ballot not being counted.

Your choice of party will not affect how you may vote in future elections.

Vote for one.

You may vote for one candidate **or** the "uncommitted" option, but not both.

- A vote for one candidate listed on the ballot directs party delegates to support that candidate at their national convention.
- A vote for "uncommitted" allows uncommitted party delegates who represent Washington to decide during their national convention.

Each political party decides which candidates are printed on their side of the ballot. The uncommitted option was requested by the Democratic Party. It was not requested by the Republican Party. Once the list of candidates is submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, changes cannot be made. (RCW 29A.56)



Skamania County Auditor – Elections Dept

240 NW Vancouver Ave, Room 27
PO Box 790
Stevenson, WA 98648
(509) 427-3730

Election Dept Hours: Monday – Thursday, 7:30am – 5:30 PM (closed Fridays)