

February 2017

SEDRO-WOOLLEY

CityScene



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STEM and Staff



BY MAYOR
KEITH WAGONER

I WAS THRILLED to attend the 5th annual Washington STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Summit; hosted in Redmond WA by Microsoft Corporation. Among the great things I learned was the notion that Skagit STEM is the center for STEM in northwest Washington, with Sedro-Woolley schools at the forefront. Also, conspicuously notable was the number of representatives from our Skagit team. It was a great day filled with STEM success stories from other parts of the state and capped by remarks by Governor Inslee, who reminded participants of his continuing commitment to STEM.

So why is STEM so important to Sedro-Woolley? STEM is a roadmap to success that plays to Sedro-Woolley's traditional strengths. We can have growth and success in other areas (retail, services, etc.) but what is in our historical DNA is innovation, engineering, and manufacturing. And like any good coach will tell you, "train, as you intend to play." STEM will engage students early on with interactive, hands-on opportunities and demonstrate the local applicability of those skills. By getting education in our community "right" at the earliest stages, we avoid incalculable future costs to society. We have all the right partners for success; in education, in industry, and in government.

I want to kick-off this year by thanking our city staff and work force for a magnificent job in 2016. Finishing my first year as Mayor, I am humbled by their accomplishments. So many things happen behind the scenes, every day, throughout the city, to keep it operating safely and efficiently. Most go unnoticed and even fewer are properly acknowledged. That's human nature and our employees understand that. However, I encourage each of us to take the time to notice and to thank someone, anyone, for the things they are getting right day-after-day.

I am always happy to field the complaints; occasionally, I have a few of my own. Many we can solve; some we cannot. But you may rest assured your city employees are dedicated to serving you.

- Keith Wagoner, Mayor

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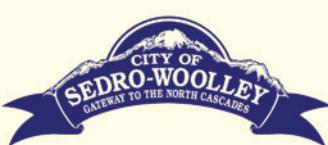
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SEDRO-WOOLLEY— Century of Innovation, Hard Work & Excellence



BY ERON BERG
City Supervisor/
Attorney

A CENTURY AGO, Sedro-Woolley was a bustling community centered around the timber industry with a vibrant and growing downtown commercial core and an innovative industrial sector. Skagit Steel and Iron Works was a growing business at that time, supporting and servicing mills, logging camps and other industries. As that company grew and invented solutions to the problems of the day, it reimagined the logging industry and employed hundreds of people. At its peak, the Skagit Corporation employed over 800 people in three shifts at its facility on Metcalf Street which could make just about anything in the world.

This spirit of innovation was present when Sedro-Woolley was founded and continues today with world-leading companies like Janicki Industries, Rothenbuhler Engineering, Snelson Companies, Broadcast Tools and Janicki Bioenergy. Sedro-Woolley remains home to hundreds of highly skilled manufacturing jobs that produce plans and parts that the modern world needs. When the city listened to local businesses and partnered with the Sedro-Woolley School District to create the Sedro-Woolley STEM Network, we aimed to fill a gap between the demand for science, technology, engineering and math trained employees and the growing need for those skilled workers today and in the future.

The Sedro-Woolley STEM Network has grown into the Skagit STEM Network and expanded its partnership and reach to support our whole valley as we work together; government, schools, business and industry, to prepare the next generation for the best jobs of the future. To help in this effort, Washington STEM awarded the network a \$200,000 implementation grant which follows the initial \$30,000 planning grant. With such great strength in our schools and in our community, there is no doubt that Sedro-Woolley will continue to lead innovation for the next century too. For more information on this partnership, please visit our website: www.SkagitSTEM.com



The City of Sedro-Woolley prides itself on providing excellent customer service which includes reaching out to our residents and businesses with current information on projects and newsworthy events within the City. That's why the mayor and city council have decided to embark on a city magazine that will communicate in a format that we hope our readers find interesting and beneficial. In order to be successful we'd like to hear your comments regarding style, content and information covered in the Sedro-Woolley City Scene. Please forward your comments to Eron Berg, City Supervisor eberg@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us or at (360) 855-1661.

Thank you for helping make the Sedro-Woolley City Scene an effective way for the city and its partners to communicate with you!

JUST THE FACTS

Property Taxes

By Joseph Dokes III*

I was posting a letter the other day at our wonderful U.S. Post Office. As I admired the beautiful artwork on the wall, my eye came across a display of new commemorative postage stamps. Amongst the available choices was one commemorating, "Repealing the Stamp Act of 1766." That got me thinking about taxes in Sedro-Woolley. You may find it ironic to learn about taxes from a former British subject; after all there was a bit of a "dustup" over that, beginning in 1775 and ending in the establishment of this great country I now proudly call home. None the less, and putting my roots aside, I hope to provide some new and encouraging facts on property tax in Sedro-Woolley.

Few of us like paying our property tax but in fact, we are fortunate. Did you know that the city portion of your property tax burden will actually decrease in 2017? Surely that is uncommon and welcomed news! This is a result of "retiring the bond" on the Public Safety Building which houses our gallant police and fire departments. In plain American English, "the debt is paid off". This means a twenty-eight cent decrease per one-thousand dollars in assessed valuation. For a \$200,000 piece of property, approximately \$56 will now go into the property owners' purse. Good news indeed.

But, there is more pleasant news. City residents have for some time, and will continue to, pay less tax than our County-residing neighbors. How so? Our County Cousins' property tax rates include additional fees for such things as: fire district, library district, and a county road fund. These add up to a roughly \$175 difference in property tax at the \$200,000 valuation. Certainly, all are important needs and valuable services; just not ones that will affect your property tax rates living in Sedro-Woolley.

So as we start off 2017, remember the glass is always half-full in Sedro-Woolley. For now, this is Joe Dokes, signing off with a belated Happy Christmas and New Year. Reminding you to be kind to your neighbors and always go out and get the facts.

*Joseph Dokes III is the pen name of a Sedro-Woolley resident and world traveler.



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409 Alexander Street
(360) 856-5167
Park Department Business Office and
Reservations: 325 Metcalf St.
(360) 855-1661

Wastewater Division

Debbie Allen, Wastewater Division
Supervisor
401 Alexander
(360) 856-1100

Solid Waste

Leo Jacobs, Solid Waste & Fleet
Division Supervisor
315 Sterling
(360) 855-1884
Commercial accounts, new service,
changes in service and billing questions:
(360) 855-0929

SEDRO-WOOLLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Hillsview
830 Township Street
(360) 855-0404

What's Going On At City Hall?

Listed below are locations of posted meetings, and notices of public hearings, and passed ordinances.

- **City Hall** bulletin board
325 Metcalf Street
- **Sedro-Woolley Public Library**
802 Ball Street
- **City website:**
www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us
- All notices of public hearings and passed ordinances are posted in the **Skagit Valley Herald** and the **Courier Times**

City Council agendas, meeting minutes and videos of regularly scheduled meetings are posted on the City Website

Planning Commission agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the City Website

If you have any questions regarding meeting times, places, agendas or ADA access, please call City Hall at (360) 855-1661 for assistance.

MEETINGS

City Council, Planning Commission, Library Board and Housing Authority Board meetings are generally held at the times and days noted below:

- **City Council regular meetings:**
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month
7:00 PM, City Council Chambers
325 Metcalf Street
- **City Council work sessions:**
1st Wednesday of each month
7:00 PM, Public Safety Training Room
220 Munro Street
- **Planning Commission meetings:**
3rd Tuesday of each month
6:30 PM, City Council Chambers
325 Metcalf Street
- **Library Board meetings:**
Last Wednesday of each month
5:00 PM, City Council Chambers
325 Metcalf Street
- **Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority Board meetings** are generally held on the third Thursday of even months except October at 10:45 AM, Hillsview
830 Township Street

Meeting times and places occasionally change, so it is advisable to contact City Hall 24 hours prior to a scheduled meeting to confirm the location, date and time.

Understanding Racial Inequality



BY GERMAINE J.
KORNEGAY
Ward Two

thanks to Concrete Mayor Jason Miller for suggesting that I participate in this event.

Social justice and inclusion are near and dear to me. As a panelist, we discussed a short video, *Under Our Skin*, and its vignettes that addressed different issues regarding race. Institutional racism and political correctness were covered fully along with other related topics. The 3-hour discussion between video clips was deep, respectful and educational. People were frank in their comments and questions. We shared both laughter and tears.

The Race and Social Justice Initiative was started more than 10 years ago. Its purpose is to address institutional racism by meeting goals. For example, the goals set for Seattle to meet by the end of 2017 are:

- Ensure racial equity in city programs and services to make tangible differences in people's lives.
- Work with community-based organizations to support the movement to end structural racism.
- Help lead regional and national networks for racial equity through partnerships with other governments and institutions, the private sector and philanthropy.

The reason that I chose to write about this topic is because I haven't stopped thinking about the positive impact that the panel discussion seemed to have on everyone who attended. Everyone in the room seemed to have learned something about each other and embraced one another's differences. I was extremely impressed with the information shared at the presentation and I look forward to inviting the Team to a future City Council meeting. I would like to share my experience with the Council as well as with our public. I hope you will consider attending!



Sedro-Woolley High School Gym

1235 3rd St, Sedro-Woolley WA

April 1, 2017

9am to 4pm

April 2, 2017

10am to 3pm

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER



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360-853-2053 (eve)
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councilatlarge@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us



YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LANDSCAPE. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

November 2016

FOUNDATION NAMED "2016 OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION"

On November 9, the Skagit Community Foundation was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) for outstanding philanthropic work in the State of Washington. Through their ever-growing partnerships with the public and private sectors, over \$298,000 was awarded to 30 non-profit organizations in Skagit County.

Non-profit organizations in Sedro-Woolley have benefited from these generous grants. The past few years, over \$119,000 have gone towards organizations such as the North Cascades Institute, Family Promise of Skagit Valley, and Helping Hands Food Bank among others. Promoting philanthropy and positive change throughout our community is their vision and that vision continues to grow through organizations like these.

To learn more about Skagit Community Foundation, visit www.skagitcf.org.

"WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE BOTH MARY AND THE FOUNDATION PLAYING A CRUCIAL ROLE IN OUR VALLEY."

Renata Maybruck
Campaign Director
Skagit Valley Family YMCA



Support Behind the Scenes



BY BILL CHAMBERS
Information
Technology
Director

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) DEPARTMENT

directs and manages the development, deployment and ongoing operations of all information technology automation services provided to city departments.

These services include systems planning; project management; systems analysis, development and deployment; data center and telecom/network management; technology asset management; information security and compliance; and data backup and recovery services.

Although the department is currently composed of only one person, the IT Director, many technology needs are met through the use of commercial service providers or cooperative agreements with nearby cities and counties. This allows the city to efficiently deliver services with limited staff.

The IT Director identifies and prioritizes the delivery of the city's technology services and information, to maximize operating efficiencies and provide highly effective information technology services. The IT Director

is responsible for management and/or coordination of all information technology operations and develops city IT policies and procedures. Services provided include, but are not limited to:

- Procurement, configuration and deployment of technology hardware and software
- Administration of the city-wide Local Area Network (LAN) and IP telephone system
- Administration of the city mobile telephone and data contracted services
- Website development and maintenance
- Client support for critical proprietary applications in Public Safety, Municipal Court, Wastewater Treatment and Finance
- Client and server support for Integrated Library System (ILS) software
- Deployment and maintenance of networked security surveillance systems
- Database development, deployment and administration
- Maintaining security, integrity and availability of data on the city network
- Coordination and client support for county-hosted email



- Support for retrieval and response to Public Disclosure Requests
- Facilitation of end-user application training and coaching

2017 brings some exciting technology changes to the city. Our new city website and content-management system will incorporate more integration with social media providers such as Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Citizens will be able to make requests for more services directly through fillable forms and a new interface that scales better for mobile phones and tablets.

Additional projects for 2017 include new patron computers at the Sedro-Woolley Public Library, upgrading all city workstations to Windows 10 with Microsoft Office 2016, deploying a new archiving system for city social media accounts and upgrading the City Council Chambers video presentation and recording system. These projects will help ensure that city staff and elected officials have the necessary tools to provide the best possible service to our citizens.

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To Protect and Serve

By Detective Paul Eaton

During the Month of October Law Enforcement from all around the country take part in the "Tip-A-Cop" fundraiser at their local Red Robin Restaurants benefiting Special Olympics. For the last several years members of the Sedro-Woolley Police Department have taken part in this fundraiser at the local Red Robin restaurant in Burlington. Rain or shine officers work the road nearby the restaurant soliciting donations for the Special Olympics. Officers also work inside the restaurant as celebrity waiters. All of the tips officers receive are donated to the Special Olympics.

Since 2015 SWPD Officer Rhonda Lasley has taken part in organizing our local "Tip-A-Cop" fundraiser. During Officer Lasley's first year, officers from Sedro-Woolley PD, Mount Vernon PD, Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Swinomish Tribal Police and Upper Skagit Tribal Police raised almost \$9,000 for the Special Olympics. Nationally over \$700,000 was raised.

SWPD prides itself in protecting and SERVING our community. We appreciate the support from our citizens and the opportunity to serve.





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ROOFING**

Since 1990

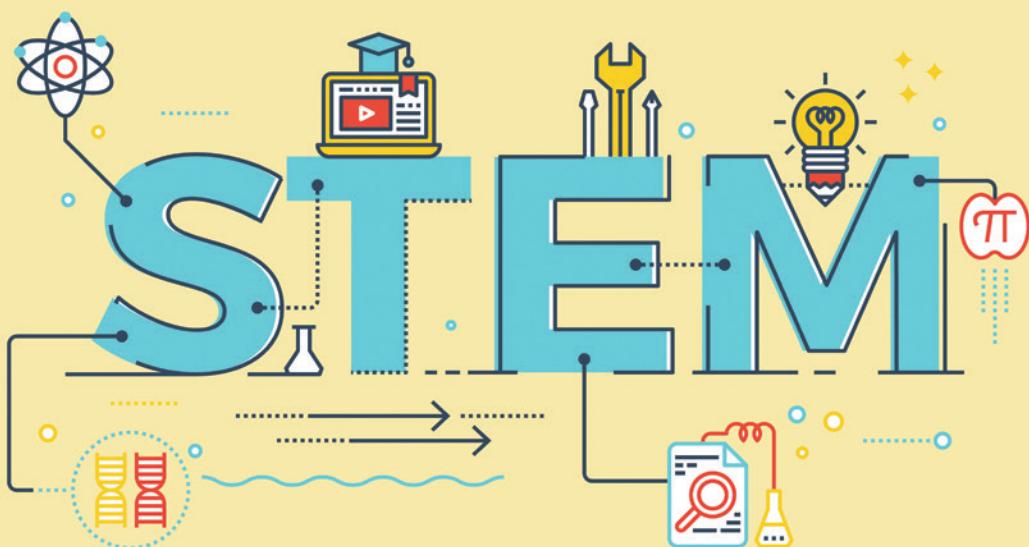




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Jim Hjelt, Owner

LIC#SKAGIRL949QP



STEM is Deeper Learning



BY PHILIP BROCKMAN,
SUPERINTENDENT SEDRO-
WOOLLEY SCHOOLS

Science, technology, engineering, and math or STEM, is an initiative for our teachers and students to dive

into deeper levels of knowledge, especially in regard to strategic and extended thinking. We want our students to be able to solve problems, explain phenomena, and analyze and apply concepts. At a recent school board meeting held at Evergreen Elementary, the members of the board and I had the opportunity to program Lego® robots with the student assistance from the Evergreen Lego® Robotics Team members. This was a humbling experience for the adults but an amazing experience for our students to apply and teach what they have learned.

All of our Sedro-Woolley schools have embraced these concepts and are initiating STEM activities that revolve around the deeper learning experience. Our elementary schools are focusing more on science in the classroom, participating in the North Cascades Institute Mountain School, which is an environmental education program, and by adding programs such as the Lego® Bots. In addition, our schools are hosting science fairs, working with agencies such as the Seattle Children's Research Institute, and partnering with Junior Achievement. Another example is the Rube Goldberg inventors' fair that was held at Samish Elementary showcasing their sixth grade student's engineering feats. At our

secondary level, both Cascade Middle School and Sedro-Woolley High School have added courses that include more in-depth science and technology instruction. The high school is also partnering with the University of Washington in a program that revolves around ambitious science teaching. While Cascade is working with organizations such as Project Lead the Way that focus on cohesive, hands-on learning experiences in technology and engineering.

I would like to thank the Skagit STEM Network planning partners for their engagement in the development of the STEM Network. The City of Sedro-Woolley, Port of Skagit, EDASC, Skagit Valley College, and Janicki Industries have been wonderful to work with and great supporters of the initiative. In addition, the Boy Scouts of America Mount Baker Council, Girl Scouts of Western Washington, The Children's Museum of Skagit County, Community Action, NW Workforce, Junior Achievement of Washington, NW Innovation Resource Center, and the Skagit County Child and Family Consortium have become active partners. The district also extends its thanks to PACCAR, PeaceHealth/United General Hospital, Skagit Community Foundation and to Skagit Publishing for their friendly support.

The Skagit STEM Network is an incredible opportunity for our students and having the opportunity to partner with our local government, business and industry, and community-based organizations demonstrates the commitment to education in our community!



Teacher Dave Young checks over Jacob Ridgell's CAD drawing. Some of the students like Jacob are recreating the Clock Tower in downtown Sedro-Woolley.



Savannah Acton and Helena Brase using the Laser Etcher to create plaques -
Dave Young's Engineering/CAD class.

Community Investing in their Future Workforce



BY SHAUN DOFFING
CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING COORDINATOR

In Washington State more than 45,000 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-related careers will go unfilled in 2017. Skagit County enjoys one of the more robust and diverse STEM economies in the state. It is vital that we work deliberately to prepare our students to be successful contributors to our local and state economy.

The culture in education is that school leads to more school. Elementary school prepares students for middle school, middle school gets students ready for high school, and high school paves the way to college. It is not until college that students start seriously thinking about a career. In Skagit County we have enthusiastic and innovative educators who recognize that this culture needs to change if all our students are to find well-paying future careers. At the same time, businesses throughout Skagit County are seeking ways to invest in their future workforce.

One of the pillars of the Skagit STEM Network is Career Connected Learning. As an educator of twelve years in our county, I am excited to lead this effort. My name is Shaun Doffing and my goal is to make connections between Skagit businesses and Skagit schools.

There are countless ways businesses and schools can work together to help students become aware of and explore career pathways. Employees from businesses can visit classrooms to help with curriculum and projects. Community leaders can speak with students

about various jobs available, the skills needed, and the type of education required to be qualified for a job in their industry. Businesses can assist in after-school STEM programs to help students work on creative problem solving. Students can also learn from effective career exploration tours of local businesses.

Once students start to identify a potential career pathway, they can engage deeper through job shadows and internships. We have only scratched the surface of all the ways Skagit businesses and the broader community can impact the skills students learn in and out of the classroom.

My hope is to be a part of a community that shifts the culture of education from school leading to more school, to a culture where students understand all of the career options and opportunities available to them after graduation. I want to see students thinking about possible careers early in their education so they make a connection between learning and how it relates to their future. My goal is that by the time students graduate from high school they know what kind of post-secondary education is necessary to attain the career they want to pursue. Technical and trade schools, apprenticeships, and two or four year colleges can train students for careers they will be proud of and qualified for.

Skagit County schools, businesses, community organizations, and community members are all working together to help students build a solid foundation in STEM education. This cooperative effort will help our students become creative problem solvers who will be successful in their chosen career pathway.

If you are interested in joining the effort, please contact me at: sdoffing@swsd.k12.wa.us.





EVERGREEN STEM ELEMENTARY

Stimulating and Motivating the 21st Century Learner

BY BRIAN ISAKSON
EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Evergreen Elementary teachers have spent the last three years participating in intensive training with professors from Western Washington University around improving instruction in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, otherwise known as STEM. STEM education works to increase student ownership of learning by encouraging instruction that is driven by collaborative problem solving, discovery, and building understanding of phenomena.

With a STEM focus, students will be asked to demonstrate their work in authentic ways through projects, plans, and presentations, much like they will be required to do in their careers and in further learning. You will see students working independently and collaboratively and learning by asking questions that lead them to discovering solutions to authentic and complex problems. Community partners, industry leaders, higher education staff, and families will play an increased role as partners in our students' education.

We are excited to offer our students a unique opportunity to experience a STEM-focused education which will prepare them to explore greater depths of all subject areas by utilizing the skills learned and required for the global job market. Our students will be expected to use technology and mathematics as tools for problem solving in their future



careers. STEM instruction will support our students' development as learners and problem solvers, giving them a great foundation for future career opportunities.

Evergreen STEM students will continue to receive a comprehensive education including reading, writing, social studies, PE, art and music. Successful students are literate students with primary students learning to read, while intermediate students are reading to learn. Without strong skills in reading and writing, we could not realize our goal of a stimulating and motivating 21st Century education for each student.

A STEM focus guides our learning by giving a context for the multiple facets of thinking our students engage in every day. By working collaboratively on authentic problems, students gain deeper understanding of the learning in all content areas. Students will be able to use the skills learned in reading along with the content studied in health to further understand the problem they are working on in science.

This fall has been exciting at Evergreen as every student, kindergarten to sixth grade, has been engaged in units of study based on a science standard with a phenomena or question for students to connect with as the focal point. These units are designed for authentic student learning and opportunity for new, student-generated questions to be explored. The new questions to be explored are more important than final answers. Student understanding



Above left: 1st grade phenomena – why do we not see the sun at night? Above right: 5th graders at Mountain School. Sidebar: Arely Villarreal advancing to Robotics Finals.

and confidence in the problem solving process is key for our instruction. Community partners enhance the learning from outside industry and student field trips deepen the learning experience.

Other highlights this year include the robotics team advancing to the finals competition. These 4th, 5th and 6th graders take on design challenges which require students to plan, design, and build tools to aid in the solving of problems. This includes programming our robots to use the tools in solving these tasks. A fall STEM night also allowed students and their families to experience together the types of learning taking place during the school day.



WHY IS STEM LEARNING IMPORTANT FOR OUR STUDENTS?

- Washington State leads the nation in STEM related careers.
- Projection: By 2018, 51% of jobs in the market have connections to STEM skills and literacy, specifically computer science.
- In Washington State in 2016 there were 21,329 open jobs in computer science, with only 2,000 yearly computer science graduates.
- Many STEM related jobs require STEM skills and experience, but not always a 4-year degree.



A School of Distinction - Clear Lake Elementary School



CLEAR LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is celebrating a School of Distinction award they received in September 2016 for sustained improvement in English language arts and math over a five-year period. Clear Lake Elementary School is one of 94 schools so honored by the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) and their partner organizations that have recognized schools all over the state for continuous and substantive improvement.

Principal Dina Fox explains that there are many reasons for the success of their students. Most importantly, every staff member is dedicated with helping every student achieve their learning goals. She cites their progress monitoring system as one of the many reasons why students are successful at Clear Lake. Principal Fox stated,

"When you check in and find out what each student is learning, no one is falling through the cracks. We are frequently and consistently assessing students in literacy and math. We are keeping our fingers on the pulse of their progress and doing triage when needed. No student is an invisible learner. All are successful."

Recognition for Clear Lake Elementary staff, families and students was held on January 9, 2017 at the Sedro-Woolley School Board Meeting. The community was invited to attend the celebration and awarding of the School of Distinction banner to the school.



Port of Skagit

Good Jobs for Our Community



Dr. Kevin E. Ware District 1, Steven Omdal District 2, Bill Shuler District 3



Guided by the mission *Good Jobs for Our Community*, the Port of Skagit owns and operates three key facilities:
Skagit Regional Airport, Bayview Business Park and La Conner Marina.

Combined, these three facilities are home to more than 86 businesses that employ nearly 1,288 people.

Inspiring Success, Delivering Excellence

DREAM BIG



Skagit STEM Network

www.SkagitSTEM.com



The Skagit STEM Network can be a game changer for our students, our economy and our region.

WHAT IS STEM EDUCATION? It's an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics** in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise enabling the development of STEM literacy and with it the ability to compete in the new economy.



"STEM skills are critical for our students' futures. By encouraging students to become more engaged in STEM education, the Skagit STEM Network is making an important investment in the next generation of workers and in the long-term health of our economy," said U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-02).

STEM education opens doors for every Skagit student to succeed. And it allows our students to DREAM BIG.



SKAGIT STEM STARTS IN SEDRO-WOOLLEY

The Skagit STEM Network formed late in 2015 through the efforts of the Sedro-Woolley School District and City of Sedro-Woolley. The goal was to create a process to ally K-12 education, higher education, community, and business partners to support STEM learning and opportunity in Skagit County.

Washington STEM provided an initial grant that was the catalyst to develop a unique partnership between the Sedro-Woolley School District, City of Sedro-Woolley, Port of Skagit, EDASC, Skagit Valley College and Janicki Industries. During 2016, other partners joined the planning process including: Boy Scouts of America, Mount Baker Council; Children's Museum of Skagit County; Community Action of Skagit County; Girl Scouts of Western Washington; Junior Achievement of Washington; KSVR Radio; Northwest Innovation Resource Center; Northwest Workforce Council; PACCAR; PeaceHealth/United General Hospital; Skagit Community Foundation; Skagit County Child and Family Consortium; Skagit County; and Skagit Publishing.

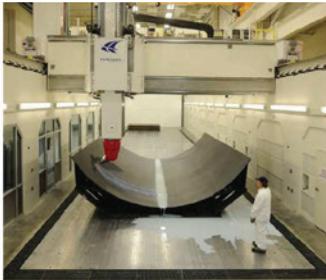
Sedro-Woolley was the first city north of Snohomish County to be selected for a STEM planning grant and is one of 10 STEM Networks in Washington.

In late 2016, Washington STEM awarded the Skagit STEM Network a \$200,000 grant over the next two years from Washington STEM to support efforts to advance student access to science, technology, and math education and career opportunities throughout Skagit County.

"Washington STEM is excited to work with the wonderful partners of the Skagit STEM Network," said Washington STEM's Network Director, Lee Lambert. "We have been enthusiastic supporters of their planning process and their vision for STEM education in the community."

THE VISION: Every student succeeds. A thriving Skagit County, with a terrific quality of life. An amazing place to live, work and play.





WHAT IS THE SKAGIT STEM NETWORK?

Our Network will facilitate the creation of a long-term focus on addressing the needs of the Skagit community when it comes to preparing future generations for economic success, and will create greater connections between our students and local industry.

The Skagit STEM Network will provide the resources and a collaborative environment for educators, administrators, businesses and community based organizations that better enable them to help Skagit students.

SKAGIT'S STEM ECONOMY

You can see STEM skills at work in Skagit businesses, health care industry, family farms, wineries, environmental service companies and in the IT jobs across the public and private sectors. STEM skills are integral to the success of world-class companies and organizations such as Janicki Industries, Paccar, the Bread Lab, Skagit Valley Malting, Tesoro and Shell refineries, Hexcel, Snelson, and Janicki Bioenergy.

The STEM planning process coincides with the redevelopment of the Northern State campus as a Center for Innovation and Technology in the Pacific Northwest. The Center's first tenant is expected to be Janicki Bioenergy. **It is anticipated that more than 1,000 STEM jobs could be located at the Center within the next five years.**



THE NEED FOR STEM FOR ALL SKAGIT STUDENTS

STEM isn't just for scientists and engineers. The creativity and critical thinking skills that come with a foundation in STEM education are in high demand, for all kinds of jobs, across our state.

It's simple: in the 21st century, STEM education opens doors for every student to succeed.

Today, the Washington state economy is rooted in STEM. In the last 10 years, growth in STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM jobs. Washington ranks #1 in the nation in the concentration of STEM jobs. By 2018, we'll see a 24% increase in STEM jobs — seven points above the national average.

BUT... There are currently 25,000 unfilled jobs in Washington due to a lack of qualified candidates (2013). Eighty percent of those jobs are in high-demand health care and STEM fields, such as computer science and engineering. Today, while Washington ranks fourth in the country in technology-based corporations, we fall to 46th when it comes to participation in science and engineering graduate programs. Only 48% of Washington's fourth-graders and 42% of eighth-graders scored proficient or above in math on the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress.

We invite you to join with us and participate in creating an even brighter future for Skagit students. To get involved or for further information, visit www.SkagitSTEM.com.



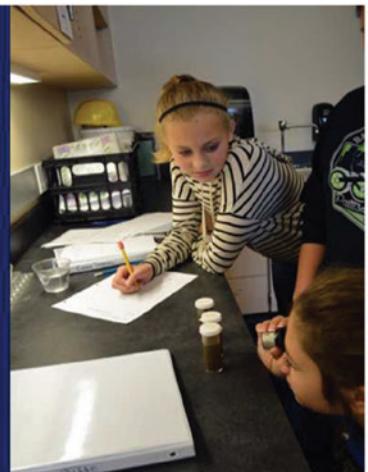
We are passionate about helping every student succeed in the 21st Century.

We aim to lead the STEM charge in Washington State, and serve as a model for innovative thinking and action.

Join us and pass along the power of STEM.

For further information:
Shaun Doffing
Sedro-Woolley School District
(360) 941-6929
sdoffing@swsd.k12.wa.us

info@Sedro-WoolleySTEM.com





GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING

Girl Scouts Explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

By Ann Skupniewitz-Maroney



Catapults, rockets and robots are just some of the workshop offerings lead by Girl Scouts of Western Washington. Girl Scouts are always pushing the boundaries, testing limits and looking at the world around them with inquisitive eyes – they're natural scientists!

In Skagit County, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) offerings are provided for Kindergarten through 12th grade girls by a dedicated group of volunteers and are supported by volunteer mentors from a variety of regional businesses. Erica Fifer, a troop leader and an engineer at the United States Department of Agriculture, is the creative spark behind our regional programming.

In 2016, 50 girls on 20 teams participated in a Tiny Truss competition, where, over the course of four meetings they learned about bridge engineering, then planned and built a bridge out of coffee stir sticks and white glue. Bridges were tested at STEM Festival at Burlington-Edison High School. The strongest bridge carried 62.6

pounds before it broke.

Girls were supported by mentoring engineers from T-Bailey, Washington Department of Transportation, USDA, Wilson Engineering, Northwest Educational Service District, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and regional Girl Scout alumni. The engineers supported the girls by answering questions, discussing their design and signing off on their plans before they could obtain their building materials. The STEM Festival included booths and activities from twelve regional groups providing everything from 3-D printing demonstrations to a little hands-on Lego Robotics.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington offers a number of cool traveling science workshops for grades K-8th . Workshop subjects include archeology, renewable energy, forensics, slime, catapults and rockets. These workshops can be arranged locally for school groups and organizations. For more information, contact Kaileen Wolf, STEM Manager at kwolf@girlscoutsww.org.

The winners of the competition were: Olivia Lindell in our Junior (4th & 5th grade) category and the team of Abbey Maroney, Eleanor Fair and Kristina Norris in our Cadette – Ambassador (6th – 12th) category.

The summer found girls and volunteers learning about stream health and native plants during a Stream Watchers event. Through classroom activities and games, to a field day at Pomona Grange, girls learned what makes a healthy stream environment, native plants and invertebrate identification. Community volunteers from Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Friday Creek Stewards, Skagit Conservation District and the Swinomish Tribal Community supported the girls in their work.

This October, we teamed with The Foundry Makerspace in Bellingham in a workshop on the mechanics of hydraulics (although the girls may have not known that through all the fun). After a discussion on how and why hydraulics work, the girls broke into teams and built a simple machine with a swinging arm that could knock an object

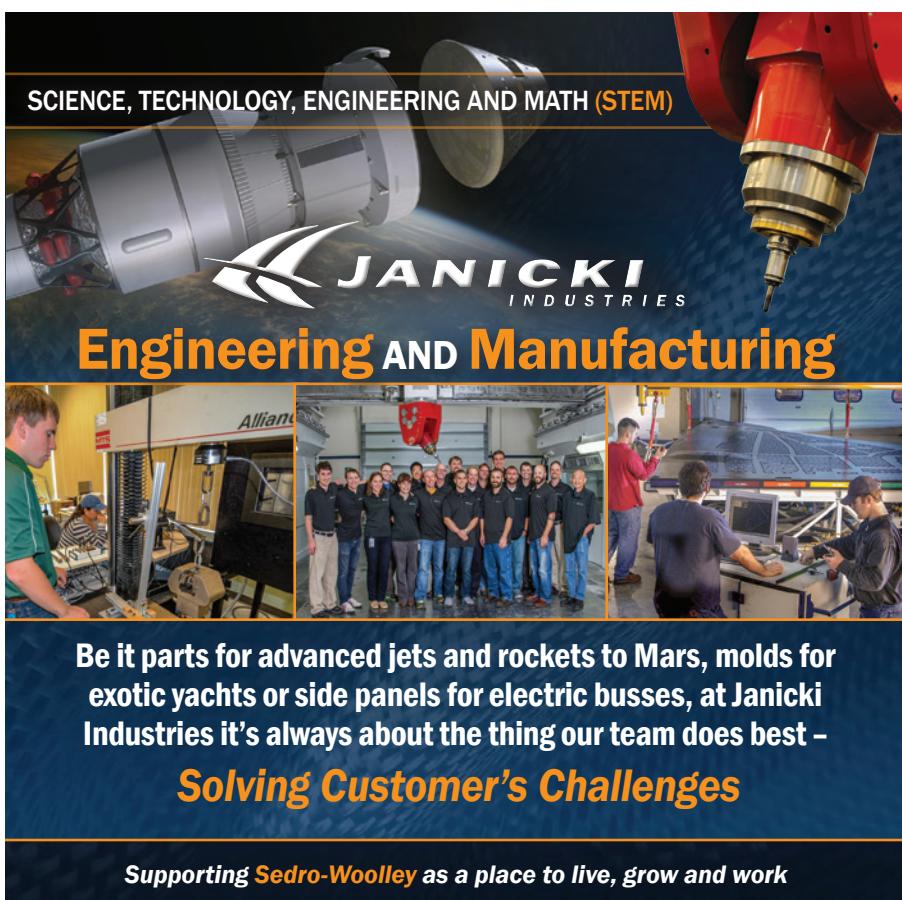
off a table. Machines were built using balsa wood pieces that the girls modified using a variety of tools.

This winter finds us dreaming of building catapults and smashing pumpkins at the 2017 Burlington Harvest Festival. On January 7th, girls Kindergarten through 5th grade can participate in the Exploring Engineering with LEGO workshop at Clear Lake Elementary. A couple of weekends later, girls and their families will participate in our annual Girl Powered Derby.

This summer, we'll be providing another

Stream Watchers workshop and piloting an archaeology weekend. We are also contemplating sponsoring a non-competitive summer league of LEGO Robotics, if we can find volunteers to support the girls.

Participation in our workshops are open to all girls (whether they are members of Girl Scouts or not), and we are always looking for adults to volunteer as mentors and content experts. For more information, please contact Ann Maroney at skupmaroney@comcast.net



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)

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“...have you ever heard of an after-school club that specializes in creating athletes that run, throw and catch? How about a 4H club that specializes in raising underwater well heads rather than raising chickens?”

MARTY HOUGHTON
Janicki Industries

STEM Programs Inspire

BY MARTY HOUGHTON, STRESS ANALYSIS LEAD - JANICKI INDUSTRIES

Football, basketball and baseball – three sports with near universal appeals which have brought hard work, diligence and character to the lives of young people for generations. But have you ever heard of an after-school club that specializes in creating athletes that run, throw and catch? How about a 4H club that specializes in raising underwater well heads rather than raising chickens?

In the last decade numerous initiatives to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education have been created to inspire the students of Skagit Valley:

- FIRST Robotics
- MATE Underwater Robotics
- National 4-H Science Initiative

Two of the robotic teams I've been personally involved with are SWHS RoboCubs (FIRST Robotics) and SeaTech-4H (MATE). Both of the programs provide a basic framework for students to work within, similar to the development protocols used by professional engineers and technicians.

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

Both robotic programs expose students to sound engineering and design principals, providing students with an opportunity to conceptualize different designs, down-select the appropriate candidates based on a number of metrics, and “build out” the designs using

a CAD environment that involves no cutting of materials. The students are faced with solving problems such as:

- How do I build a manipulator to grab a ball?
- Will the manipulator move up and down without clashing with the frame?
- Can I get a wrench in there to remove that bolt?

FABRICATION

After design and engineering, comes fabrication. Students learn skills necessary to bring big ideas to fruition. This includes cutting, drilling and welding to name a few; but may also include data transfer to an automated process such as water jetting or 3d printing. Again, problem solving is a key component of each step in the process:

- Should the manipulator be made of wood, metal or advanced composites?
- Do we have the skills necessary to do this work?
- Can we save time/effort if we build it a different way?

PROJECT MANAGEMENT/BUDGETING

Every decision requires an investment of time and money, neither of which are in large supply. A typical robotics season can cost \$20,000 and many hundreds of man-hours to achieve. Students learn how to manage a

project and budget their collective resources to achieve a goal.

- Can we afford to make this out of advanced composites?
- Do we have the time to invest in this technology?
- Can we find a sponsor who is able to provide a donation of time/materials/expertise?

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Both RoboCubs and SeaTech-4H are encouraged to function as a company. This requires official rolls such as CEO, CFO, Occupational Health and Safety, etc. This encourages the entrepreneurial spirit and provides a framework for the future when students enter the work place.

- Has the design been approved for safe operation?
- Have we received authorization from the CFO to release funds?
- Is the CEO ready to execute the plan – does the team know?

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Both teams aspire to give back to the communities that have supported them. SeaTech-4H gives back to the community by providing a booth at the Skagit County Fair, where kids of all ages can learn about underwater ROVs and drive one for themselves; and Robocubs have sponsored three middle school robotics teams to help advance STEM related interests at a younger age.

GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM

"Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of FIRST. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community."¹

Students learn from each other and, perhaps more importantly, for each other. Collectively, we're all on the same team.

ULTIMATELY, IMPACTING LIVES IN SKAGIT VALLEY

Tony Hicksharvey, a graduate of the SeaTech-4H Club, now works at Janicki Industries where he performs data acquisition and analysis activities. "Exposure to STEM training through classes and educational groups such as Sea-Tech 4-H have broadened my horizons and increased my interest in STEM related career fields. It has helped me realize the great need for those who can use science to improve the world, and innovate technologies that would otherwise be conventional. Thanks to STEM training through groups like Sea-

Tech, I have realized my passion for marine engineering."

As you consider the number of applicable, real-world skills that can be learned through a STEM based program, please acknowledge that it would not be possible without the generous support of public and private sponsorships such as Janicki Industries and the generous donation of time by community volunteers such as yourself. Let's all be involved in preparing our youth for future success?

¹ <http://www.firstinspires.org/about/vision-and-mission> Dr. Woodie Flowers



**"Let's all be involved to prepare
our youth for future success!"**

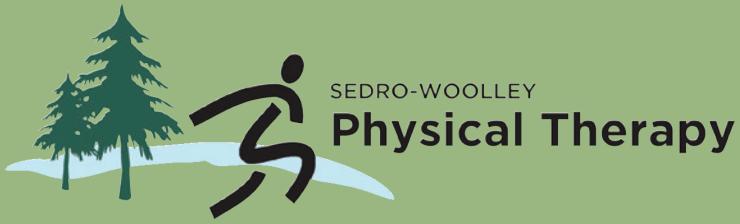
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STEM Excellence at PACCAR Technical Center

SINCE ITS OPENING IN 1982, the PACCAR Technical Center (PTC) in Mount Vernon has provided product development and validation for PACCAR's vehicles under the Kenworth and Peterbilt brands, and for DAF Trucks since 1996. The Technical Center's capabilities have continued to grow since its inception to help PACCAR bring new innovations to market faster and to ensure industry-leading quality. These capabilities would not be possible without the PTC staff's extensive training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

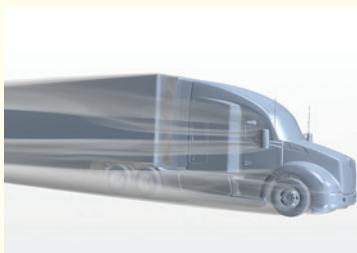
Of PTC's 340 full time staff, 205 have technical degrees in STEM fields such as computer science, engineering, chemistry, materials science, and ergonomics. Of these, 42 have Masters Degrees and 10 have Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees.



The remaining staff is composed of technicians and support functions, having associates degrees in diesel mechanics, electrical, electronics, and instrumentation. PACCAR Technical Center continues to recruit the highest

quality STEM professionals in the industry as PACCAR continues to grow.

The Technical Center leads or participates in activities across the range of truck and powertrain lifecycles. Examples of these activities are:



- Engineers specialized in aerodynamics use computer models and vehicle tests to develop aerodynamic and fuel efficient PACCAR trucks.

- Computational fluid dynamics is used at PTC to evaluate engine designs with improved intake, exhaust and cylinder flow characteristics to develop more fuel efficient engines without compromising power or reliability; and with cleaner emissions.

- Structural engineers and technicians at PTC test the vehicle structures to ensure a real-world vehicle life of one million miles.

- Experts in combustion and mechanical development use their STEM training to develop fuel efficient and long lasting powertrains for PACCAR vehicles.



- Chemists, chemical engineers and materials scientists test the materials, fuel, lubricants and catalysts in current and future PACCAR vehicles.

PTC's commitment to STEM is also reflected in its involvement with the community. A number of potentially high impact projects in the fields of chemistry and combustion are being jointly developed between PTC, Washington State University, and Mississippi State University. Several PTC employees teach part time at technical colleges and universities in the region. Every summer, student internships at PTC allow high achieving students to come to PTC and hone their STEM skills alongside our experts.

Starting in 2016, PTC's Diversity Council has served as a new link between the Technical Center and the STEM community in our region. Members of the Council participated in the STEM Fair at Evergreen Elementary in Sedro-Woolley, the STEM Mix It Up event at WWU, and the Computer Code and Your Career Expert Panel at UW-Bothell.

The STEM community at PTC is honored to call the Skagit Valley home and hopes to serve as a source of inspiration for future generations of talented STEM individuals.

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- The wind tunnel at PTC allows a full size truck to be tested under controlled conditions simulating a wide range of vehicle speeds, air temperatures and altitudes.
- PTC vehicle and powertrain calibration and validation teams work year-round in extreme environmental conditions, from extreme heat in the Nevada desert, high altitude in Colorado or even Peru, to extreme cold in Manitoba. Their STEM training always plays a fundamental role in developing robust, class-leading PACCAR vehicles capable of taking on any application.



To learn more about STEM careers or internships at PACCAR go to [www.paccar.com/careers](#)

For inquiries on STEM outreach activities, contact Jorge Lozada, PTC Diversity Council Chair (360) 757-5478



Partnerships Enhance Local Agriculture Economy

BY ANDREW ENTRIKIN, PORT OF SKAGIT COMMUNITY OUTREACH ADMINISTRATOR



Skagit County has many advantages that present opportunities in preserving our natural heritage

and developing a diverse and sustainable economy. Local soils are among the top 2% in the world and our climate is similar to Scotland, England, and Germany where farmers have been growing grain for bread since 700 BC. The ability to grow these grains for bread and beer is one of the explanations for the success of Western civilization in Northern Europe.

HOW CAN WE GET LOCAL PRODUCT TO HAVE VALUE-ADDED CHANGES HERE?

In October of 2013, Washington State Department of Commerce designated Skagit Valley as an Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ), focused on value-added agriculture. The purpose of the IPZ is to facilitate partnerships to enhance the local agricultural industry, promoting innovative approaches that combine research and technology resulting in new jobs and a robust economy centered on the valley's rich agricultural resources and heritage. Today, businesses such as Washington State University's Bread Lab, Skagit Valley Malting, Gielow Pickles, Northwest Mills and Specialty Grains, Chuckanut Brewery, Flyers Restaurant and Brewhouse, King Arthur Flour, and many more contribute to the value-added agriculture sector at the Port of Skagit.

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH ADD VALUE TO LOCAL AGRIBUSINESS

Wheat, barley, and similar grass crops are currently part of the necessary rotation of crops needed to replenish the Skagit Valley soils. These grains are traditionally harvested and sold as feed for livestock or as commodity grain products. With the reduction in the dairy industry in the valley, less than perfect weather for grain crops, and high costs of farmland, the profits have been marginal. Sometimes the entire crop has

been plowed under because the cost of harvesting exceeds the market value of the grain.

Dr. Stephen Jones, an expert in grain research and the Director of the Washington State University Bread Lab and his team of researchers have developed several strains of barley and wheat that grow well here in Skagit Valley and are resistant to many of the diseases known to be here. Barley of this type also has some inherent positive impacts on the soil restoration. As many of you know, crop rotation is vital for the sustainability of farming in Skagit County.

Dr. Jones suggested the idea of malting select varieties of locally grown grains as a new business opportunity in Skagit Valley. This became of significant interest to the Port of Skagit because historically, hops were also grown in Skagit Valley prior to the prohibition era. As a result, it became apparent to the Port that a malting/brewing program similar to the winery incubator program in Walla Walla should be considered. Skagit Valley Malting is the first example of this concept in the Port of Skagit incubator program. The support of the Port of Skagit and the Skagit County Board of Commissioners in providing an appropriate facility for food and beverage production in the Bayview Business Park is a good investment in the value added agribusiness cluster.

Malting adds significant value to the grain. A farmer growing feed barley can typically expect to receive \$75.00 to \$150.00 per ton. The market value for clean plump barley that is able to be malted is \$300 to \$500 per ton. When barley is malted properly it sells for approximately \$2,100 per ton. Talk about economic impact! The resulting net increase in revenues produced from Skagit Valley grain rotation crops is significant. In addition to having a positive financial impact on the local farming community, new business opportunities for malting, brewing, restaurants, and brew pubs have emerged here in Skagit Valley.

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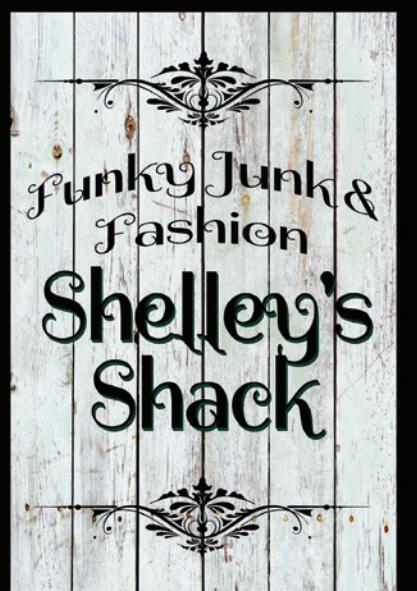


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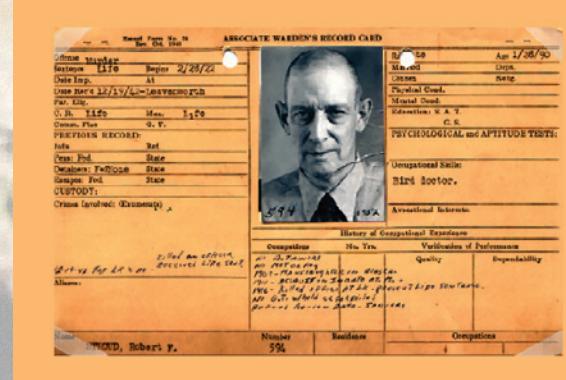
BY PETE HALDEEN

Local history is remembered in oft-told stories, rather than a list of dates and documents. Our town has stories about the Great Bank Robbery which local characters reenact each year, stories about the German Duke of Duke's Hill who is buried in our cemetery, and stories about a town called "Bug". Documents and knowledge of exact dates are mostly forgotten, but the celebrations, gravestones, and family stories survive for generations, and take on a life of their own. We believe the stories, and if the small details have been lost, then we make up new details to keep the stories alive. These fables are important, because they make us unique, and they define our "tribe", much as the stories and sacred secret locations of Upper Skagit Indian Tribe define its people. We are not that different from any other tribe.

My grandmother told us stories of her turn-of-century childhood in Sedro-Woolley - how she played with the Skagit Indian children at their fishing camp near the river below her home on Alexander Street, how gypsies camped in the fields below her house with their wagons, and how she beat up one of the Cook boys who was being a bully. She told us about only having an outhouse and thunder mugs, and having to wash the kerosene lantern chimneys every week - a job she hated, and about Cousin Bobby.

My grandmother's aunt, the story goes, had a difficult son. Her son Bobby was in trouble with the police. So she came to Sedro-Woolley, and brought him to work here, and to live with my grandmother's family. Aunt Ida got off the train by the station near the triangle formed by the intersecting railroad tracks on Eastern, and she walked to my grandmother's house on Alexander Street in Sedro-Woolley. She was dressed in a fancy red dress, and had a long red boa which streamed behind her. Every kid and dog in town followed the woman with the red boa to Alexander Street. I am still in awe that, 100 years later, we still know what she wore on the day she brought Cousin Bobby to Sedro-Woolley, to get a fresh start.

Cousin Bobby was not a nice man. He was a mean teenager. While he lived with the Haldeens he worked on



If you have a family story that is part of the history of Sedro-Woolley, and if you would like it to be considered for publication, please email your story to Jana Hanson at jhanson@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

a dairy farm near town, was no doubt bored, and got in trouble with the local police. He eventually left Sedro-Woolley for Alaska. While in Alaska he wrote to my grandmother's family, and asked them to mail a pistol to him. The relatives had a meeting, discussed it, and decided not to send Bobby a pistol. Nevertheless, Cousin Bobby killed a man in Alaska, went to prison, then killed a guard in prison, and ended up in Alcatraz prison - "The Rock".

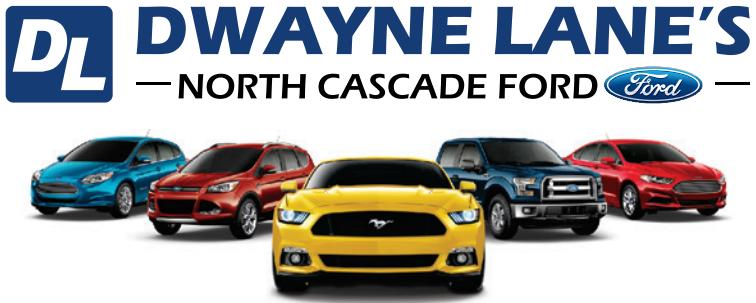
Years later, I was told that the darkest family secret was that Cousin Bobby was really Robert Stroud, the Birdman of Alcatraz. My mother's cousin said we were related to Burt Lancaster, but we knew what she meant. Burt Lancaster starred as Robert Stroud in the Birdman of Alcatraz. In the movie, Stroud was a good man. In real life, Cousin Bobbie did very bad things. Some of my relatives are embarrassed by this story. No one else in my family is as famous as Cousin Bobby, if the story is true. But it is one of those family legends that are difficult to verify. I have tried, and some facts confirm the story, and some contradict it.

I located the biographer of the Birdman of Alcatraz, who is the daughter of an Alcatraz warden. We exchanged email. She said that there are some similarities between the facts and the family legend. Stroud left his family - he was beaten by his father (or stepfather) - when he was

Nevertheless,
Cousin Bobby killed a man
in Alaska, went to prison,
then killed a guard in prison,
and ended up in
Alcatraz prison -
"The Rock".

a teenager. He really did live in Skagit County in about 1908, and worked on a dairy farm outside of Sedro-Woolley. In his autobiography (titled "Bobby", which was never published) Stroud wrote of hitch-hiking to Anacortes on a cold day that winter, not getting a ride, and walking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 15, 2017, 1:00pm - 2:00pm - FREE

Sedro-Woolley's Easter Egg Hunt, the day before the Easter Bunny's arrival, has become a must-do event for the city's children who scramble for some 4,000 eggs scattered across Riverfront Park. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is always held the Saturday before Easter at Riverfront Park in Sedro-Woolley at 1:00pm SHARP! This is a fun event presented by the Wildcat Steelhead Club for children ages crawling to 12 to come down and hunt for candy filled Easter eggs and candy! The park is divided into separate sections for age groups and the kids have a ball! For many kids this is the only "egg hunt" they get to have!

<http://wildcatsteelheadclub.org/>

Location: Riverfront Park - 1001 River Road, Sedro-Woolley

KIDS' FISHING DERBY

Children 14 years and under, First Saturday in May (May 6th) at Northern State Pond. Gates open at 7am and fishing starts at 8am. Bring your own gear and bait – There will be Prizes.

Sponsored by: Wildcat Steelhead Club, Inc. in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and General Administration Department of North Cascades Gateway Center. To sign up please visit www.wildcatsteelheadclub.org for release forms.



Directions: Hwy 20 East from Sedro-Woolley to Fruitdale Rd. Left on Fruitdale approximately one mile on right hand side, there will be signs on Fruitdale and at the gate leading to the pond.

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► WOODFEST AT SEDRO-WOOLLEY HIGH SCHOOL

DATE: April 1-2, 2017

TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM PDT

LOCATION: Sedro-Woolley High School Gym

DATE/TIME INFORMATION:

April 1st from 9 am to 4 pm; April 2nd from 10 am to 3 pm; Student Awards at 2:30 pm, Sunday April 2nd

CONTACT INFORMATION: 360-855-1841

director@sedro-woolley.com

FEES/ADMISSION: Admission is free

Woodfest is an annual celebration of woodworking and student achievements. Marking the kick off of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival and being a sanctioned event of the Tulip Festival, Woodfest is a wonderful beginning to many activities throughout Skagit County. There will be vendors with an emphasis on wood products, a silent auction both days, and a hand crafted wooden raffle item.

Students from area schools will be exhibiting their wood art and it will be juried by local craftsmen and the public will have an opportunity to vote on their favorites. The prizes will be awarded Sunday afternoon by the Tulip Ambassadors from the Skagit Tulip Festival at 2:30 pm.



► For high school sporting event schedules

Please visit NWCAthletics.com the official website for Northwest Conference High School Athletic Programs. Click on the Sedro-Woolley link for all sporting event schedules

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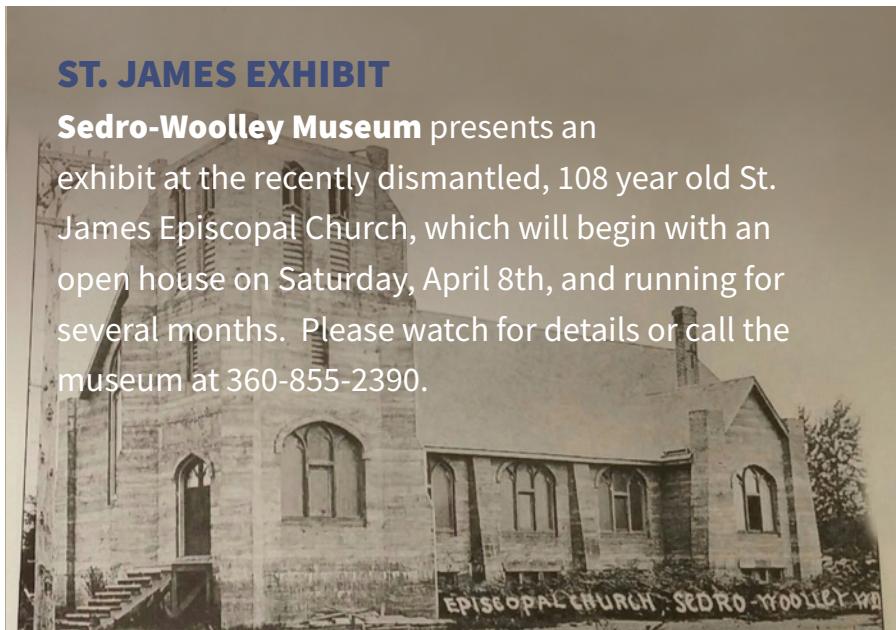


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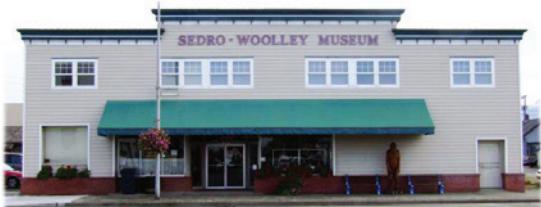
Building Healthier Communities

ST. JAMES EXHIBIT

Sedro-Woolley Museum presents an exhibit at the recently dismantled, 108 year old St. James Episcopal Church, which will begin with an open house on Saturday, April 8th, and running for several months. Please watch for details or call the museum at 360-855-2390.



THE SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP



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Wednesday
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Sunday
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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MODEL RAILROADS

"Love that Train" is the theme of the annual Model Railroad Open House at the Sedro-Woolley Museum, 725 Murdock Street, in conjunction with Valentine's Day, Feb. 12th, from noon to 3 P.M.

For railroad enthusiasts of all ages, trains will run non-stop on the Museum's extensive model railroad layout, which includes both passenger and logging railroads.

"Rails and romance" refreshments will be served, and reproductions of vintage valentines will be given to all those attending.

The event will feature raffle prize drawings for children and adults and railroad enthusiasts, as well as a basket of gifts for a romantic Valentine celebration. All proceeds benefit museum operations. For information on the event or raffle tickets, phone the museum at 360-855-2390.

Quality of Life

The City Council has heard from the community and is taking action to improve the quality of life for our residents.

In 2014, the Sedro-Woolley Police Department added a code enforcement officer and in 2015, the City Council prioritized code enforcement to address quality of life issues such as loose dogs, cars parking on sidewalks, broken down cars in front yards, and garbage cans left out all week. These seemingly small violations of the city's code add up to a big difference in how our city looks and feels. We all need to work together to improve the quality of life for Sedro-Woolley residents.

To report a violation, call Code Enforcement at 855-3211.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

the long distance. He went to Alaska, for work or to again escape the police, and killed a man.

Stroud went to prison because he killed a "john" in Alaska who failed to pay his girlfriend, and while in prison he killed a guard. His ever-persistent mother prevailed upon President Wilson to commute his death sentence to life imprisonment. Stroud was originally from Illinois, as were my grandmother's relatives, including Cousin Bobby's mother. Stroud was an incorrigible inmate, and was relocated to Alcatraz, as was Cousin Bobby. His mother moved to San Francisco to be near him, just as Aunt Ida moved to San Francisco to be near Cousin Bobby.

But there are differences too, between the family story about Bobby and the public details about Stroud - their mothers' names do not appear to be the same, and no one records that his mother was a madam, which is the family story, though his biographer was intrigued by the idea. So in the end, it could be true, or it could be a family myth formed after

the Birdman of Alcatraz was made into a movie. Personally, I believe that Cousin Bobby was Robert Stroud. It is too much of a coincidence that he lived in Skagit County, as his biographer confirmed. But I also think he may have been a step-son of my grandmother's aunt, or "Ida" may have been a relative by marriage - my grandmother's family history has some gaps. But Bobby was no Burt Lancaster. By all accounts, he was a mean, selfish man who cared only for himself, and did not care whom he hurt. Today he would be diagnosed as a narcissistic psychopath. He was no doubt forced from my grandmother's home, away from her and her four young sisters. He probably hurt people before he left.

But whether or not Robert Stroud is a distant cousin, I discovered that the Birdman of Alcatraz actually did live in Sedro-Woolley for that one winter, just before he went to Alaska and entered the federal prison system for the rest of his life. But there will never be a tour bus by the old family house, nor a brass plaque on the door to identify the location. I will never tell where he lived.


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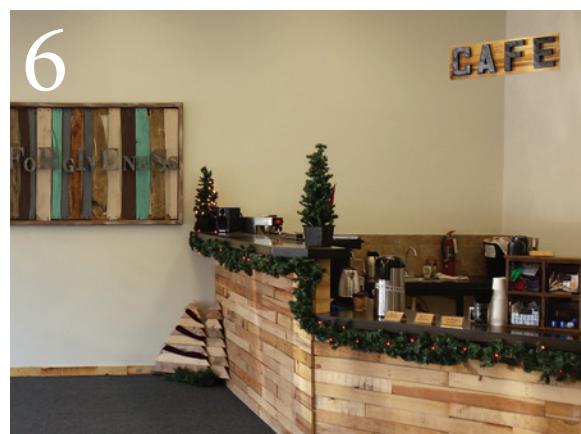
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