

August 2017

SEDRO-WOOLLEY

# CityScene



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## Summer Fun and Summer Projects



BY MAYOR  
KEITH WAGONER

**LOTS OF "THANK-YOUS" ARE IN ORDER** for another fantastic Loggerodeo and Independence Day Parade. This annual event takes a huge amount of efforts behind the scene by our Loggerodeo committee and City employees. I want to give well-deserved thanks to everyone who helped make it a memorable event. Your Fire, Police, Parks and Recreation, Engineering, Streets, and Solid Waste Departments NEVER get the 4th of July off. They come early, stay late and make it work so the rest of us can enjoy the festivities with our families. I also want to thank everyone who came and

participated; you are the reason why they do it. Help make next year's event even better by inviting your friends and relatives to visit and see what Sedro-Woolley fun is all about.

**SUMMER CONCERTS AT RIVERFRONT AMPHITHEATER** are alive and well thanks to our collaboration with Sedro-Woolley Rotary. Rotarian Kriss Rothenbuhler-Johnson has coordinated a great line-up of talent for this summer's series. The fun kicks-off on Sunday, July 23 at 6:00PM and continues for the next three consecutive Sundays. Bring a chair or blanket, bring your sunglasses, and bring your families; enjoy the evening at the best outdoor stage and venue around.

**NOW FOR THE WORK...** your Street, Parks, and Engineering Departments have been coordinating improvements, maintenance and repairs to our streets, sidewalks and public spaces. Will we get to everything this year? No. But we will make good progress. Thousands of feet of cracked streets have been sealed using funds from our Transportation Benefit District (that \$20 additional car tab fee that we all grumble about). New sidewalks along State Route 20 improve the safety and appearance of our primary traffic corridor. Already completed is the long over-due repave of east Alexander Street and chip-seal in many other areas of the City. Winnie Houser Park will finally get water to support irrigation and future restroom facilities, as well as new permanent fencing to improve the look and feel. At Riverfront Park the dilapidated caretaker's residence will be replaced and there will be safety improvements at the tot lot playground. This is just a taste of the many projects your crews are working on this summer. Smile when you see them please. – *Keith Wagoner, Mayor*



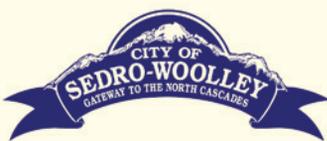
**COVER PHOTO:**

Sedro-Woolley All-Stars & Coach Eric Whalen  
Photo by: Andy Porter/andyporterimages.com

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# Behind the City Scene



BY ERON BERG  
City Supervisor  
Attorney

**THIS IS THE SIXTH ISSUE OF CITY SCENE MAGAZINE** and a perfect time to share the story behind the magazine. Our publisher, Philips Publishing Group imagined this concept of a city-owned magazine, supported by local advertising, following a conversation with a city councilmember about his city’s inability to share its story. Like Sedro-Woolley, that city lacked a dedicated newspaper and wanted to share the news of the day. The first of what has become nearly a dozen magazines was born and Sedro-Woolley is a beneficiary of that great idea.

Sedro-Woolley’s *City Scene* is possible because of our dedicated advertisers. Please take the time to notice the many ads in our magazine and thank those businesses and non-profits for their support. This magazine would not be economically feasible for the city without the help of our advertisers.

Our first issue had a print run of 3,500 and with each issue we have expanded the print run as well as the geographic delivery. With this issue we are up to over 7,300 copies printed and 7,157 copies delivered by mail to households and businesses in the 98284 postal code. *City Scene* has been well received by members of the community; each issue has earned compliments for its local stories and information as well as the beautiful photos.

The city is proud of this effort and on behalf of the city’s team, I sincerely hope you enjoy reading more about your area in the magazine. If you have ideas for future articles or questions you would like addressed, please let me know.



**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 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](mailto:eberg@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us) or at (360) 855-1661.**

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



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Financial Advisor

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## JUST THE FACTS:

# (Four-Way Stops & Roundabouts)

BY JOSEPH DOKES III\*

Sedro-Woolley has a wonderful traffic device not found in the United Kingdom; the four-way stop. As a newcomer, I paid particular attention to this unfamiliar way of controlling intersections. Simply put, you pass through the intersection in the order you arrive, “first come, first to go.” This requires attention to at most, three other cars. I noticed that even locals sometimes get it confused so perhaps a refresher is in order.

First, *all* vehicles must come to a *complete* stop. By avoiding “creeping” stops, it is easier to determine who stopped first and therefore who should go next. If there is a tie, drivers to the *right* have the *right-of-way*. It seems that one may go out of order when it does not delay another driver or cause confusion. For example, when a car with the right-of-way is going straight through the intersection, a vehicle on the opposite side may cross the intersection or take a free-right turn at the same time, because doing so does not inconvenience the next driver. This may be a local convention as it is not addressed in the Washington State Drivers Guide.

The most common mistake is “giving the right-of-way.” Washington law determines who must *yield* the right-of-way but never states to give the right-of-way. Trying to *give* the right-of-way defeats the purpose of having rules of the road and merely causes confusion.

Roundabouts or Traffic Circles are more familiar to me although American rules differ. Cars should merge into the circle smoothly, giving way to those already in the circle. Never stop when in the circle or attempt to “let” another driver in. Signaling your exit intentions is helpful to other drivers. Sedro-Woolley roundabouts are designed to allow large trucks and vehicles with trailers to drive directly across if necessary. This practice is discouraged for normal use.

My experience has been that locals well understand procedures for both the four-way stop and the roundabout but sometimes visitors get confused. As good hosts we should exercise patience if someone gets it wrong. Rudely honking ones horn or the famous middle finger will not improve their driving but will leave a lasting impression about our city. Remember we want to be kind to our neighbors (and visitors) and always go out and get the facts.

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



## CITY DIRECTORY

### CITY HALL

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#### Mayor

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### FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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### LIBRARY

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Park Department Business Office and  
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#### Solid Waste

Leo Jacobs, Solid Waste & Fleet  
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### 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, 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](http://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:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00PM, City Council Chambers  
325 Metcalf Street
- **City Council work sessions:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00PM, Public Safety Training Room  
220 Munro Street
- **Planning Commission meetings:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
6:30PM, City Council Chambers  
325 Metcalf Street
- **Library Board meetings:**  
Last Wednesday of each month  
5:00PM, 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 10:45AM, 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.

**CONTACT YOUR  
COUNCIL MEMBER**



**WARD ONE**

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(360) 853-2053 (eve)  
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**Rick Lemley**  
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**AT-LARGE**

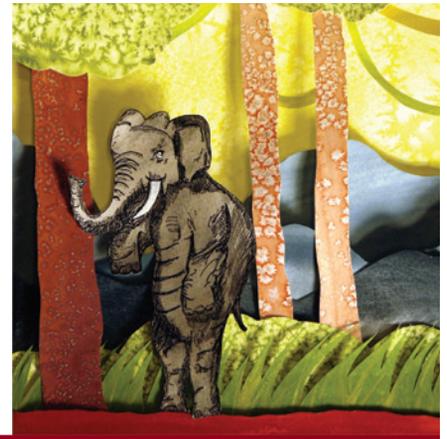
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# Tough Tusko Tussles a Town

BY BRETT C SANDSTRÖM

This past May marked one of those quirky historical events that make Sedro-Woolley such an interesting place to live. Ninety-five years ago, May 15th, 1922, Tusko, a sad and deservedly angry elephant, escaped the circus and ran amuck through the streets of town. Many folks know that side of the story, but there's more...

I wrote the following little children's poem for the 90th anniversary to help illustrate his plight.



Just six years young  
When stolen from old Siam,  
An Elephant  
As frightened as a lost lamb.

Shackled and chained  
And set out to sea.  
Sailed to New York  
And never to be freed.

Big and bigger  
As most beasts will grow.  
Gained fame fighting bulls  
In Juarez, Mexico.

Battered and bruised  
And sold to a circus.  
Tusko's might was used  
To wow and to thrill us.

But one day in May  
Our friend had enough,  
Un-cuffed for a bath  
He showed his tough stuff.

Tusko tossed his trainer  
For some life locally,  
Thrust into fame  
In old Sedro-Woolley.

Under clear starry sky,  
In the cool evening air,  
With his heart finally free,  
He made way to elsewhere.

In the shade of the night  
He marched away quick  
And smashed a chicken coop  
With one fearsome kick.

He ripped out fences  
And downed power-poles.  
He wrecked old barns  
On his late-night stroll.

He peeked through windows  
At families in fear,  
But with shots, shouts, and taunts,  
His hunters were near.

Mid-night he realized  
What this night could be:  
A chance for freedom!  
A time for revelry!

With thirty more miles  
In the dark with his pranks.  
They caught him next morning;  
Crying, his heart sank.

For year upon year,  
From one town to another,  
He hoped and he dreamed  
To just cuddle with mother.

Eleven more years  
With his thoughts to atone,  
Save for one night  
Tusko called his own.

Now turn to your Pop,  
Or even your Mother,  
Tell your Aunt, your Uncle,  
Your Sister, your Brother,

Elephants don't belong  
At the circus or zoo!  
They need the wilds of the world  
To roam their way through!

# Summer in the City or Nearby



BY POLA KELLEY  
Executive  
Director  
Sedro-Woolley  
Chamber of  
Commerce

**WHEN YOU LIVE IN SEDRO-WOOLLEY** the outdoors is all around you. We are so blessed to be in the heart of the Skagit Valley. What can't we do within an hour's distance? At home, Riverfront Park is the perfect venue for a family or class reunion; or to take in an outdoor concert.

You can also hear concerts at Eagle Haven Winery. The lineup this summer for both venues is great!

The 2017 Back to School Party hosted by Inspire Church is being held on Saturday, August 26th from 11AM to 1PM at Inspire Church (805 Township St.). Elementary age students in the

Sedro-Woolley School District are invited to come and get a free backpack loaded with the necessary school supplies for the 2017-2018 school year. There will also be coupons for free haircuts again this year. Remember, this is a party! There will be inflatable toys, carnival games and lots of treats. Lunch will also be served. Anyone from the community (individuals or businesses) who would like to partner with Inspire Church to make sure our kids get their needed supplies can contact the church office for details.

One thing we all love about our location is the proximity to the North Cascades and the San Juan islands. North Cascades National Park begins right here at the visitor's center on Highway 20. It's a vast wilderness of conifer-clad mountains, glaciers and lakes. The Cascade Loop Scenic Highway passes viewpoints and

leads to trails such as the steep Thunder Creek Trail. Did you know the park is home to 75 mammal and 200 bird species? The San Juan islands provide another perfect get away. Catch a ferry boat and enjoy the spectacular beauty of the islands!

The Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce also invites you to join us at the Skagit County Fair August 9-12. We will be operating the beer garden near the main stage!



Visit the Town of Concrete for **Cascade Days** held on August 19-20 for more family fun.

Multi Chamber  
**AFTER HOURS**

August 10 from  
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At the  
Sedro-Woolley Chamber  
Beer Garden next to the main stage

Must be preregistered with your chamber  
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# Driving Under the Influence of Electronics

BY CHIEF LIN TUCKER

**MAY WAS THE MONTH TO FOCUS** on distracted driving, getting the word out that this behavior is unsafe and we must do what we can to reduce or eliminate the threat that distracted driving presents. Here is the reality, direct from the Washington State DOL website;

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING

- 6,000 people — equal to every citizen of the Pierce County City of Steilacoom — were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2008; 500,000 were injured.
- A driver talking on a cell phone is as impaired as a driver with a .08 blood-alcohol level.
- A driver who is texting is as impaired as a driver with a .16 blood-alcohol level. That's double the legal limit!
- Drivers talking on cell phones are half a second slower to hit the brakes in emergencies and miss more than half the visual cues seen by attentive drivers.

## ABOUT WASHINGTON'S HANDS-FREE LAW

Talking or texting while holding a wireless device carries a \$124 fine. If police see you holding your phone, they can pull you over and ticket you. Drivers must use hands-free devices, and new drivers with instruction permits or intermediate licenses are prohibited from using wireless devices except in an emergency. To read more on cell phone laws, see:

- RCW 46.61.667: Using a wireless communications device while driving
- RCW 46.61.668: Sending, reading, or writing a text message while driving
- RCW 46.20.055: Instruction permit
- RCW 46.20.075: Intermediate license

Just recently, Governor Inslee signed the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act; this law goes into effect

late July 2017. Drivers will be able to use a smartphone mounted in a cradle and only the minimal use of a finger to activate the device will be allowed. To emphasize the need to change our ways, any ticket you receive will go on your driving record and ... drumroll please, be reported to your insurance company.

Also, if you are being tricky and holding your phone in your lap as you read a text or dial your phone, just know this, it looks ridiculous to be driving and staring at your lap, this is one of those things that attract police to your car. Imagine trying to defend yourself in Court when you are stopped by the police or involved in an accident and you have to explain why it was more important to discuss what's for dinner than to focus on driving. Or even worse, try defending your actions to yourself if you cause an accident.

This extremely broad based measure is intended to change behavior. Fines will increase and other distractions will be

considered as well. I think we have all seen the lady applying mascara on her way to work or the guy stuffing a monster burger in his face. These distractions can add \$30 onto a ticket for another offense.

For additional information please check out *DistractedDriverAccidents.com*. The website contains an interesting informational page, *25 Shocking Distracted Driving Statistics*.

I am invested in the success of this program and I will personally commit to the following:

1. I have mounted a hands free cell phone gadget in my patrol rig and I have one for my personal vehicle and I will use them (I kinda have to, I can't read my phone without my glasses anyway).
2. I am directing my Sergeants to find a practical way to ensure that all of the Police Officers are operating their vehicles and phones in as safe a manner as possible. We are exempt from the hands-free rules, to a certain extent. However, just because we can doesn't mean we should.

Finally, on a personal note, my little sister died in a car accident on an icy road many years ago and my mom got woken up by Missouri Highway Patrol letting her know her little girl was gone. I have made these notifications myself and it is heart-wrenching. No one should have to go through this kind of pain because a loved one was texting while driving or a victim of another driver's texting. Please, be smart and stay safe!



## Driver's Ed and License Testing

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- Lic. test held on Fridays by appt.

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# GRILL SAFETY

BY CHIEF DEAN KLINGER

## Charcoal Grill Safety

- The leading cause of structure fires from use of charcoal grills is due to leaving or placing an object that could burn too close to the grill.
- Charcoal grills can continue to remain hot for many hours after flames are extinguished. Avoid placing any burnable objects near the grill or moving the grill while the coals are hot. Keep combustible items that may be blown by the wind away from the grill.
- Check for rust damage in metal grills, which may make it possible for charcoal to fall through onto surfaces below and cause a fire.
- Purchase a proper starter fluid. Store out of reach from children and away from heat sources.
- Do not add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited. Never use any other flammable or combustible liquid to get the fire started.
- If the fire is too low, rekindle with dry kindling and more charcoal if needed. Avoid adding liquid fuel because it can cause a flash fire. Do not leave the grill unattended.

## Gas Grill Safety

- A leak or break is the leading factor contributing to gas grill-related fires, according to the NFPA reports.
- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using for the first time each year.
- Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose, which will quickly reveal escaping gas by releasing bubbles.
- If you smell or otherwise suspect a gas leak, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get a professional to service the grill before using it again. Call the fire department if it does not stop.
- If you smell gas while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Never turn on the gas when the lid is closed. The gas may build up inside, and when ignited, the lid could blow off and cause injuries or burns.
- After cooking, make sure you completely close the valve on your gas grill.
- Always store gas grills—and propane tanks—outside and away from your house.

## Remember post-grilling safety

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays. If you grill with charcoal and need to dispose of the coals, soak them in water to extinguish them before placing them in a metal container. Otherwise, cover the grill tightly and close the vents, this should extinguish the coals and whatever is left will be ready for next time.

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# Meet Your City Employees



**OFFICER AUSTIN MCCOMBS**—SWPD

I have had the pleasure of working for the City of Sedro-Woolley since March of 2015. Before coming to Sedro-Woolley, I grew up in Whatcom County and later moved to Iowa to attend Northwestern College where I studied Music and Spanish and received a Bachelor's Degree. Shortly after graduating from college I developed an interest in law enforcement and pursued career opportunities with a number of different law enforcement agencies throughout Washington State. I can still recall the day I received a phone call from Chief Tucker asking me to come in for an interview, and then everything fell into place from there.

Most people have a pretty good conception of how a police department operates, from patrol work to investigations and traffic enforcement, however sometimes there's a misconception about why we do the things we do. When out on patrol, and given the opportunity, I like to explain to people why we do the things we do and the tactics used to keep us safe.

One of the things I like best about working in Sedro-Woolley is its close-knit, small town community atmosphere. I like living in an area where I know and trust my neighbors, and where police officers are able to foster positive relationships within the community. This culture of community is evident in the Police Department as well; the officers I work with consider each other family members as well as co-workers. It would be difficult to find a better group of people to spend my working hours with!

In my spare time I volunteer with the Lynden School District as a Pit Orchestra Conductor for their High School musicals; I love being involved in live theater, shooting, archery, and motorcycle riding.



**BRENT FRISBEE**—PW  
Garbologist Extraordinaire

I began my career with the city's Parks Division in April of 2006, maintaining the golf course during the summer for three consecutive years before

being hired full time in the Solid Waste Division. My regular duties include the commercial dumpster routes and filling in on the residential garbage and recycling routes as well as roll-offs when needed. Away from work I enjoy spending my time working out at the Sedro-Woolley Riverside Health Club, where during my first year and a half of full-time employment I lost over 200 lbs! My hobbies include hiking, fishing, playing, watching and coaching a variety of sports. I enjoy volunteering with the Watchdog program at Evergreen Elementary School where my nephew is a student. I also serve in the children's ministry and lead worship at my church.

God has truly blessed me with a great city to be born and raised in and now work for.



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# Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Matters!



BY DAVID LEE, City Engineer

**THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY RECEIVED FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT** a 10-foot wide concrete shared use path (sidewalk) along the north side of SR 20 between Hodgkin Road and the end of the new sidewalk at the SR 9 South intersection. In addition to the sidewalk construction, the project also includes upsizing the existing storm drain main line from approximately 500-feet west of Trail Road east to SR 9 South. All of the work is within the SR 20 right-of-way.

This project will complete a section of the Cascade Trail between Sedro-Woolley and Burlington, and will provide pedestrian and non-motorized access from Hodgkin Road to West Ferry Street, the SKAT Transit hub and the downtown area. This improvement will greatly enhance the pedestrian access to the businesses located along the north side of SR 20 between Ferry Street and Hodgkin Road and the new path will connect to the existing shared use path running 1.3 miles on the north side of SR20 from SR9 South to SR 9 North/Township Street. When complete, the path will span 1.9 miles across the core of the city. Future projects will extend it west to the city limits at Collins Road, and east to the city limits at Fruitdale Road.

The project is presently under construction and expected to be completed by the end of September 2017. SRV Construction, Inc. of Oak Harbor is the General Contractor on the project.

The contract cost for the project is \$1,035,800. Funding comes from a mix of federal, county and city funds. Sources of funding include the city's Transportation Impact Fee (\$260,800), Skagit County Economic Development funds (\$220,000), and state and federal funding sources (\$555,000).

Sedro-Woolley Public Works is known for getting projects done, which is why the city has been so successful in obtaining funding from state and federal transportation funding agencies. In Sedro-Woolley we make it happen!



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# Right-of-Way Maintenance



BY NATHAN SALSEINA, Public Works Operations Division Manager

With the arrival of spring and summer the city Public Works Operations crew focuses a significant amount of time and attention to vegetation maintenance in city parks and public rights-of-way. Public rights-of-way include public streets, alleyways, and sidewalks. In most cities, including Sedro-Woolley, it is generally the responsibility of the property owner adjoining the right-of-way to maintain trees and all other vegetation. The right-of-way must be kept clear of tree branches, tall grass, rubbish and debris to allow easy and safe access for residents, neighbors, emergency vehicles, school busses, and city maintenance crews. City crews will prune trees, shrubs and branches that pose a hazard to the public or interfere with maintenance operations such as street sweeping, cleaning storm drains, and sewer lines. Due to the small size of the city crew, we are not able to keep the entire city pruned at all times, therefore we rely on the public to do their part and keep trees and shrubbery within the boundaries of their private property. Please remember that our streets, sidewalks and alleys exist for all of the public to use. Trees and vegetation that block the view of traffic signs, and sight distance at intersections can pose a hazard to the public.

For more information please contact the city Public Works Department at (360) 855-0771.

Thank you again for helping maintain our city.

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO HELP KEEP THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF- WAY CLEAR AND SAFE:



**SIDEWALKS:**

Trim all vegetation back from the edge of your sidewalk and at least 8 feet above the sidewalk.



**STREETS & ALLEYWAYS:**

All trees and shrubs must be trimmed back from the curb line or pavement edge of the street and at least 14 feet above the curb line and street surface.



**GRASS/VEGETATION:**

All grass in alleys should be maintained to a maximum of 12" inches.

SEDRO-WOOLLEY'S SENIOR CENTER

# A Hub of Activity

BY ELLEN SCHWEIGERT

**WHEN YOU SAY "SENIOR CENTER,"** the first thing that comes to mind for most people is that's where the old people go. Although that may be true using age as the only marker, nothing could be further from the truth. What you will find at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center is a diverse group of older adults enjoying activities and opportunities designed to improve their quality of life. Even though most do not realize it is doing just that.

According to the National Council on Aging, "research shows that older adults who participate in senior center programs experience measurable improvements in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental and economic well-being. Research also shows that older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage and delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvements in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being."

Social isolation is noted as a risk factor to the health and welfare of older adults. Visiting the senior center to participate in activities or



*"We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

eat a healthy lunch in the company of others is a first step to improving a senior's health. The Senior Center is a hub for connecting with old friends and making new ones; it's also where older residents and their families can connect to resources and services.

At the Senior Center we make every effort to create a welcoming environment for our older adults (and their families) and encourage sharing experiences and knowledge through volunteering and participation. The question we are frequently asked is, "How do I get dad or mom to come to the senior center?" One of the easiest ways to share the center with the older adult in your life is by coming with them! We have special holiday meals throughout the year and monthly musical programs at lunch; great opportunities to share the experience!

We are thankful for the ongoing support of Skagit County Public Health and the City of Sedro-Woolley, and their commitment to their residents. For more information about the senior center call (360) 855-1531 or visit us at 715 Pacific St. next to the library in Memorial Park. Newsletter and menu available on line at [www.skagitcounty.net/seniorcenters](http://www.skagitcounty.net/seniorcenters)



*"Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art."*

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

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# Surgical Services Booming at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center

BY BEVERLY MAYHEW,  
Director of Strategic  
Communications, PeaceHealth

**SURGICAL SERVICES AT PEACEHEALTH UNITED GENERAL** are steadily growing—and that’s good news for the community. It means more options for patients and shorter wait times for some procedures, because local physicians are referring their patients to PeaceHealth United General.

Surgeons like Patricia Franklin, MD, lead direct referral programs, helping to ensure minimal wait times for those needing screening colonoscopies and/or colon cancer interventions. PeaceHealth United General’s Dr. Franklin and Bruce Skinner, MD, are experts in both traditional and minimally invasive surgical procedures so they can perform the surgery most appropriate for the patient.

“We ensure that each patient is the ‘center’ of all our decisions, care and treatment,” says Dr. Franklin. “Not only is that the right thing to do, it makes us better at what we do and helps to ensure the best and most appropriate care for each person.”

That personalized care is the cornerstone of what PeaceHealth United General provides for the community. In addition, community members benefit by being able to receive their primary, preventative and interventional care all close to home, which benefits patients as well as their family members. At PeaceHealth United General, a patient’s primary care physician and specialists work together to fully address patient needs quickly. Delivering integrated, collaborative care—close to home—helps to limit the impact an illness or diagnosis might have on a family, and gets people back with their loved ones sooner.

Because most of us feel more comfortable at home, it helps healing and recovery if we can go home as soon as possible after surgery. And it’s easier



*“We ensure that each patient is the ‘center’ of all our decisions, care and treatment. Not only is that the right thing to do, it makes us better at what we do and helps to ensure the best and most appropriate care for each person.”*

PATRICIA FRANKLIN, MD



For more information on local options, visit [www.peacehealth.org/united-general-medical-center](http://www.peacehealth.org/united-general-medical-center).



In addition to orthopedic surgery, PeaceHealth United General provides the following surgical specialties:

- GASTROENTEROLOGY
- COLORECTAL SURGERY
- GALLBLADDER REMOVAL
- GENERAL SURGERY
- HAND SURGERY
- PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY
- PODIATRIC SURGERY
- UROLOGIC SURGERY
- OPHTHALMOLOGY SURGERY

for loved ones to provide support and assistance. Laparoscopic and minimally invasive techniques allow for most surgical procedures to be done on an outpatient basis, although some may require an overnight stay. In those cases, we make accommodations to stay in the inpatient unit and transition the patient home with all that is necessary to continue recovery at home.

Jeffery Krusniak, MD, and Kaarstan Lang, MD, have elevated the orthopedic surgery program by providing patients with customized care plans. As a team, they have committed us to delivering care at the highest standard and making patients feel safe throughout their surgical process. Their care extends beyond the surgical table, treating the patients and their families through strong relationships that our patients have come to count on.



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# DAVE YOUNG RECEIVED TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

BY BRIDGETTE JANICKI, Marketing Department Intern at Janicki Industries

Dave Young, Engineering Design teacher at Sedro-Woolley High School was recently presented the 2017 William Dahlgren Teacher of Excellence Award from the SAMPE Foundation in Seattle, Wash. This is an award presented once a year by the Society for the Advancement of Materials, Processes, and Engineering (SAMPE). Dave was bestowed this prestigious award for his outstanding dedication to students as demonstrated by his recent implementation of the AMPED program, and past 30 years of teaching. The AMPED program combines mathematics and manufacturing into a single curriculum to educate students on math usage in everyday jobs.

Young and Assistant Principal, Wes Allen discovered the AMPED Program about a year and a half ago, and sought to implement it at SWHS. Young taught the very first session of AMPED during the 2016-2017 school year. He team-taught with algebra teacher Doug Pass to present Algebra, Manufacturing, Process, Entrepreneurial and Design (AMPED) to 40 selected freshmen students. The classroom is a computer lab equipped with a numerically controlled laser etcher and silkscreen machine.

Students use a mixture of algebra and AutoCAD to design their products, and then get hands-on manufacturing experience by using their equipment. They also used algebra to manage the business aspects of producing products, such as spreadsheets and accounting. The students made over \$7,000 dollars in revenue from tee-shirts and placards for sporting teams. Young said, "This class answers the old age question, 'when am I ever going to use this?'" AMPED teaches students about real business procedures with added manufacturing experience, which is applicable to everyday life. The curriculum also features making a composite longboard skateboard that includes glass fiber and balsa wood core cured with

polyester resin. Students who attended the AMPED earn both the Algebra and CTE (Career Technical Education) credits.

The integration of this new program by Dave Young is a significant step toward supporting the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education. Young was first nominated for this award after industry executives started hearing about his work from the SWHS alums they were hiring. Past students rave about his design class and how prepared they were to enter the workforce due to the education they received from him. Young was nominated by Wes Allen and then selected as the final winner by The SAMPE Foundation.



Left to right:  
John Janicki – President Janicki Industries  
Kristin Carter – Marketing at Airtech, granddaughter of William Dahlgren  
Michelle Carter – Marketing at Airtech, granddaughter of William Dahlgren  
Dave Young – Teacher at SWHS and winner of the William Dahlgren award



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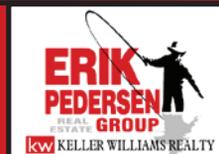


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## HELPING US HELP OUR COMMUNITY

BY REBECCA SCHLAHT Executive Director  
Helping Hands food bank

HELPING HANDS FOOD BANK (HHFB) would like to thank the Blackburn family, the Boeing Employees and Blade Chevrolet for the purchase of a new truck. HHFB currently rescues over 1.2 million pounds of food from the landfill and hopes to expand this program with the new truck. “Taking care of over 15,000 clients is a huge job and the trucks are our work horses. We are excited that these donors believe in our mission and wanted to help”, Rebecca Schlaht Executive Director.



Meet Julie Applegate

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CITY SCENE MAGAZINE

*What a pleasure it's been to spend time in the city of Sedro-Woolley and having the opportunity to meet such enthusiastic business owners.*

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# Skagit STEM Network

Helping our Skagit Valley students DREAM BIG!

## ABOUT THE WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship was created by the Washington State Legislature in 2011 to help local students from low- and middle-income families earn high-demand degrees and launch their careers in Washington.

For more information, go to [www.waopportunitiescholarship.org](http://www.waopportunitiescholarship.org)

## ABOUT WASHINGTON STEM

Washington STEM is a statewide nonprofit advancing excellence, equity, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

For more information, go to [www.washingtonstem.org](http://www.washingtonstem.org)

## ABOUT SKAGIT STEM NETWORK

The Skagit STEM Network serves as a clearing house for STEM supportive activities to plug into and more effectively leverage efforts across Skagit County. The Network focuses on preparing future generations for economic success and creating a greater connection between Skagit Valley Students and local industry.

For more information, go to [www.skagitstem.com](http://www.skagitstem.com)

## A record 10 Sedro-Woolley high school students receive \$22,500 each towards their in-state bachelor's degrees, thanks to Washington scholarship program.

**SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASH.** – A record 10 Sedro-Woolley High School seniors will each receive \$22,500 towards their in-state bachelor's degree from the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship Program (WSOS).

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Sedro-Woolley students," said Michelle Judson, Skagit STEM Network Director. "The scholarships will enable our students to earn high-demand degrees, providing them with the technical and critical skills needed to thrive in today's jobs and excel in the unknown jobs of tomorrow."

"Many of the students will be first-generation college graduates," said Shaun Doffing, Career Connected Learning Coordinator for the Skagit STEM Network. "The scholarships are a game changer for these students and their families."

WSOS is a workforce development program unique to Washington that helps put high-demand college degrees within reach of students across the state. This year, WSOS announced that 42 students from Skagit County will receive \$945,000 in STEM-Focused Scholarship Funding.

This is a record number of scholarships for Skagit students from WSOS, which was created in 2011. Overall, WSOS announced a total of 1,850 students across the state will receive a maximum of \$22,500 towards their in-state bachelor's degree.

Judson said students from Anacortes, Burlington-Edison, La Conner, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit Adventist high schools were selected to join the program. Judson said the Skagit STEM Network received a grant last Fall to actively promote WSOS to school counselors to encourage students to apply.

"Awesome results followed," said Judson, who noted that about 25% of all WSOS scholarships in Skagit County went to Sedro-Woolley High School students.

"These students represent the future of our state," said Naria Santa Lucia, executive director for WSOS. "We are delighted to welcome them to the program and help support their success over the coming years."

This year, WSOS received more than 4,000 applications—with more diversity than last year's submitted applications. Washington STEM, which is the administrator and community partner to



*"The scholarships will enable our students to earn high-demand degrees, providing them with the technical and critical skills needed to thrive in today's jobs and excel in the unknown jobs of tomorrow."*

MICHELLE JUDSON  
Skagit STEM Network Director

*“Many of the students will be first-generation college graduates.*

*The scholarships are a game changer for these students and their families.”*

SHAUN DOFFING  
Career Connected Learning Coordinator  
for the Skagit STEM Network

WSOS, supported the statewide effort to reach all eligible students.

Newly selected scholars come from every legislative district in the state. 57 percent are female, 64 percent identify as students of color, and 69 percent are the first in their family to attend college. All are pursuing bachelor’s degrees in approved majors in the STEM (science,

technology, engineering, math) and health care fields—areas where Washington companies remain critically short on talent.

WSOS was created in 2011 to address both rising tuition costs and a lack of local STEM talent prepared for industry demands. Per the legislation that governs the program, the State matches private dollars raised by WSOS, including

founding partners Microsoft and Boeing. To date, the program has raised nearly \$98 million from the private sector.

More than 8,600 students have received support from WSOS and more than 2,400 have graduated since the program began. Eighty-three percent of graduates are employed or seeking an advanced degree in their field. More than 90 percent took jobs here in Washington.

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# The Dream of a New YMCA is Becoming a Reality

BY JENNIFER PITNER  
Development and Campaign Coordinator

Only 12 minutes from downtown Sedro-Woolley the future home for the new Skagit Valley Family YMCA will be located at 1901 Hoag Rd. Thank you to the partnership with the City of Sedro-Woolley, the Y will be able to serve the entire Skagit County community. From babies to older adults, the Y will have programs for every age, ability and income level.

The \$50,000 agreement with the City of Sedro-Woolley allows the city residents free monthly family swims in the new facility! The building will feature approximately 62,000 sq. ft. and have the capacity to serve 10,000 members. The facility will include:

#### AQUATIC CENTER

- 6-lane lap pool
- recreation pool
- hot tub
- steam room

#### NCAA SIZED GYMNASIUM

- 2 youth-sized basketball courts
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With \$11.7 million raised towards the \$13 million goal we are so close to building greatness! Every donation or pledge made between now and August 15 will be matched dollar for dollar. Be a part of the legacy of a new YMCA that will serve our community for the next 100 years.



#### YMCA PROGRAMS

- LIVESTRONG at the YMCA
- YMCA Oasis Teen Shelter
- Girls on the Run
- Swim Lessons
- Bitty & Youth Sports
- Adult Soccer
- Family Nights
- Healthy Kids Day
- Group Fitness & Lose to Win
- YMCA Camp Anderson
- Childcare
  - Early Learning
  - Preschool
  - Before & After School

#### A SPECIAL THANKS

*The Jack & Shirley McIntyre Foundation generously contributed additional funds to the campaign matching pool. All community donations and pledges will be matched by the Jack & Shirley McIntyre Foundation, up to \$500,000.*





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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*

# North Cascades Institute



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIAN MARTIN

## Learning adventures and lodging in our local national park

BY ANGELA BURLILE

**NAMED A “TOP THREE SPOTS IN THE NORTH CASCADES”** by *The Seattle Times* and “Top Ten Great Getaways” by *ParentMap Magazine*, the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center (ELC) lies only 90 minutes away from Sedro-Woolley and is a hub of discovery for all ages in one of the wildest, most biologically diverse landscapes in North America. Operated by North Cascades Institute in partnership with the National Park Service and Seattle City Light, this award-winning campus is nestled on the shores of Diablo Lake in the heart of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

One of only a handful of overnight options inside the park, the ELC is the perfect place to launch any adventure. The campus features ADA-accessible facilities and pathways, including a multimedia classroom, research library, natural history displays and overnight lodging. There are outdoor learning shelters and trails leading into the surrounding wildlands and a dock

for those looking to pursue a paddling adventure on Diablo Lake. The lakeside dining hall delivers the highest quality meals for all Institute program guests, featuring mostly organic and local food year-round.

The best way to experience the ELC is by enrolling in one of the Institute’s dozens

of programs offered every year, including Base Camp, Family Getaways, Skagit Tours and their adult seminars and field courses.

Base Camp is a great option for those looking to explore “the American Alps” on their own schedule. This program includes overnight lodging accommodations, three delicious meals and a guided learning activity facilitated by the Institute’s naturalist team.

Looking to get the whole family outside? Family Getaways offers multi-generational gatherings that allow you to connect with your family and nature too! These popular gatherings offer a wide variety of engaging, hands-on activities for all ages like canoeing, hiking, outdoor games and nature crafts by day and nocturnal explorations and campfires at night.

If you can’t spend the night, Skagit Tours are the perfect day-trip adventure, and an easy way to impress out-of-town visitors. For more than 80 years, Skagit Tours have provided recreational and educational experiences for people of all ages exploring the North Cascades and Upper Skagit Hydroelectric Project. Opportunities this summer include Diablo Lake and Lunch Boat Tours with a delicious meal at the Environmental Learning Center and spectacular cruise aboard the Alice Ross IV; Powerhouse Insiders Tour, with guided walking tours inside the normally-closed Gorge Powerhouse on the Skagit River; and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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# Geff Hinds

(AKA GEOFF HINDS)

• 1954 - 2016 •



BY PETE HALDEEN

*Geff Hinds died a year ago.*

*He was in my high school class.*

*Geff was my parents' worst nightmare.*

*I wanted to be like Geff.*

Geff raised himself. His family was somewhat dysfunctional—his parents were divorced—he wrote about the details and they are not mine to repeat. He lived with his mother in a small house on Fidalgo Street. He loved movies, had used drugs, and we had the same Arlo Guthrie record, which we played repeatedly in his cramped bedroom while we hid from our parents. Life for Geff was often lonely and desperate. He could fall off the face of the earth, and disappear into a dark place, the nature of which I could not imagine. I had a clean, bright home, parents who took me to church, and had been type cast into “from a good family”. Geff was a “known trouble maker”. He was my friend. I envied him. But it was a thin line between being free and being lost.

Geff made movies in high school. He scrounged an 8 millimeter movie camera, enlisted his friends as actors, and started a “production company”, Greasy Films. His masterwork was *The Clacker Gang*, a vague story of a returning Vietnam vet who, with four other high school kids, pulls off a bank robbery and dies in a hail of bullets after a chase scene. Geff talked the local bank into letting him shoot a scene in their lobby, and filmed friends barreling down Lake Cavanaugh Road on kids' bicycles from a moving car, set to the tune of *Born to Be Wild*. The film premiered to the student body at an all-school assembly in the shabby high school auditorium. Geff made the film without any support. He conceived it, paid for it, wrote, directed and filmed it. It was his film. The school could have seen something in Geff that everyone missed. But Geff received no scholarship when he graduated.

Geff dabbled in drugs, and came close to self-destructing. He had run-ins with the police. He was once arrested for loitering on the sidewalk outside the American Legion hall, refusing to give his name to the officer. He took his revenge by writing a long ballad for the student newspaper about the police arresting him so he would not bother the people drinking and gambling on illegal slot machines in the Legion hall, across the street from the police station. At the time, the Seattle police were suspected of taking payoffs for illegal gambling operations. The implication in the ballad was intentional. To this day, I do not know how it made it into print.

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"Dam Good Chicken Dinner and Ladder Creek Falls by Night" in Newhalem.

The North Cascades Institute also offers exciting classes at the Environmental Learning Center and beyond in places like Lake Chelan, the San Juan Islands, Seattle and the lower Skagit Valley. Ranging from just one day to multi-day experiences, topics encompass birding to watercolors to yoga to wildlife tracking to photography!

Another highlight of the year at the ELC is the Harvest Dinner, an overnight gathering on Diablo Lake every October that features a special meal prepared from the bounty of the Skagit Valley harvest paired with a thought-provoking presentation. This year's presenter is Seattle-based climbing ranger Bree Loewen sharing her new memoir "Found: A Life in Mountain Rescue."



PHOTO CREDIT: LARA SWIMMER

➔ Please visit [www.ncascades.org/get\\_outside](http://www.ncascades.org/get_outside) or call (360) 854-2599 for more information or to register for any of these programs, and give yourself the gift of nature with a Learning Adventure from North Cascades Institute.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Angela Burlile is a graduate M. Ed. student in the Institute's residency program offered in partnership with Huxley College of the Environment at WWU.

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Five uniformed Sedro-Woolley officers showed up at the next school board meeting. They demanded that the journalism teacher be fired and Geff be expelled. School board member Hugh Ridgway repeatedly asked—was the poem true, were there illegal slot machines in the American Legion hall, and did the police know? Ridgway was the Legion attorney. No one would answer. Geff was not expelled and the teacher was not fired. But the school principal refused to allow Geff to give the high school commencement address when he was elected by his fellow classmates. He was presented with an "Oscar" for his films by his fellow students.

Geff was scornful of the adults in his life. He later wrote in an apologetic essay that he had not adequately appreciated the experience of George Bricka, the high school principal, who jumped into Normandy before D-Day, or the pain of the art teacher who suffered from depression. He admitted that he had not valued the common bonds of sacrifice and pain and pride shared by people, perhaps because he thought no one valued his own pain or pride. Geff was later frank about his own shortcomings, and in his honesty, he did not justify them.

Geff did not get that scholarship, but taught himself photography, was hired as a newspaper photographer with the Anacortes American, then with the Skagit Valley Herald, and finally with the Tacoma News Tribune. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for journalism, and received other important awards. He married a woman who loved him, and had a son; he started a web magazine for mountain biking, and landed a creative job with REI. He showed up at our high school reunion on a motorcycle, with a \$1,000 camera, greeted everyone, and made a documentary. He was writing a blog, *Orange Chair Pictures*, which told the story of his high school years. Geff had a good life. He was very happy.

Geff died of esophageal cancer last year, and he knew that it was terminal. When he was diagnosed, he came back to Sedro-Woolley and looked up old friends and old places. There is a lot about Geff's life after high school that I do not know. But of all my high school friends, Geff was ultimately the happiest. His fate was not in the stars. He raised himself. He gets all the credit.

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# Events

➤ **SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM  
25TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Sedro-Woolley Museum invites you to attend our 25th anniversary open house, August 19 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

A program honoring our volunteers will be held at 2:00PM. RSVP: (360) 855-2390

➤ **FOUNDERS' DAY**

September 9 and 10 • 12:30PM – 2:30PM.

Celebrate Sedro-Woolley's history with this museum sponsored event, The Magic Lantern, from the Dream Theatre and the 1914 Bank Robbery. Activities for the kids will be offered as well.

➤ **SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM PICNIC AND  
CAR SHOW AT RIVERFRONT PARK**

September 10, 10:30AM – 2:30PM.

**PICNIC BBQ:** 10:30AM – 2:30PM. Hot dog, chips, cookie and a drink for \$5.00. All proceeds benefit the museum.

**CAR SHOW:** 9:00AM – 4:00PM. \$10 registration fee.

*Hosted by The Modified Life Style.*



PHOTO CREDIT: KIM MORGAN

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**➤ THE SPIRITS THAT LIVE IN THE MUSEUM**

The Sedro-Woolley Museum welcomes back **Chad Lindberg**, actor and paranormal investigator who will revisit the spirits that call the museum home.

There will be two showings each night, October 13 & 14, just before Halloween. Each event is limited to 25 people.

**OCTOBER 13:**  
 5:00PM to 7:00PM and  
 7:30PM to 9:00PM

**October 14:**  
 5:00PM to 7:00PM and  
 7:30PM to 9:00PM

**COST IS \$10.00 PER PERSON**

Depending on interest and demand, there will be an encore event on Sunday October 15.

We encourage those interested to make reservations soon, as the spots fill up fast.

For more information and to reserve, call: (360) 855-2390

**5TH ANNUAL SEDRO-WOOLLEY SKATE COMPETITION**

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[jillnewman.net/media](http://jillnewman.net/media)

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**MARGARET WILDER**  
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Saturday, July 22 @ 7PM  
[www.margaretwilderband.com](http://www.margaretwilderband.com)

**AUSTIN JENCKES**  
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Saturday, August 5 @ 7PM  
[www.austinjenckes.us](http://www.austinjenckes.us)

**TOYS FOR TOTS CONCERT EVENT  
AUCTION/FUNDRAISER**  
Saturday, August 26, 2017 @ 4PM  
(DOORS OPEN)

- Margaret Wilder will be opening for Leroy Bell

Tickets will be available soon on  
[brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

**BIRDSVIEW BLUEGRASS**  
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[www.facebook.com/people/Birdsview-Bluegrass](http://www.facebook.com/people/Birdsview-Bluegrass)

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**Stephanie Fast**  
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**EVENTS**



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Tuesday, October 31

Downtown Halloween  
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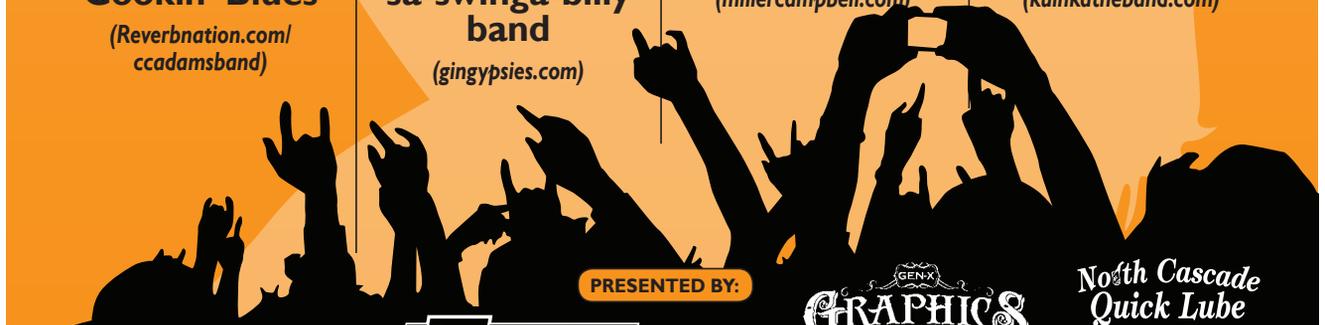
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6:00-8:00PM <b>Tasty Rock &amp; Cookin' Blues</b> <small>(Reverbnation.com/ccadamsband)</small>	6:00-8:00PM <b>rocka-blue-sa-swinga-billy band</b> <small>(gingypsies.com)</small>	6:00-8:00PM <b>Country</b> <small>(millercampbell.com)</small>	6:00-8:00PM <b>Folk Rock</b> <small>(kuinkatheband.com)</small>



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# What's New (and improved)



Our city is growing and improving in so many areas we cannot document them all. To submit a photo for What's New, email [jhanson@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us](mailto:jhanson@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us) with your name, a brief description, location and of course a photo!

1. Anytime Fitness opens on 3rd Street across from Lemley Chapel.
2. Sprouts Clothing store opens its second location on Metcalf Street.
3. Speed Hump installation on Walley Street slows traffic around SWHS.
4. Artist Dave Barcott inspects installation in City Hall.
5. Alexander Street re-pave project complete.
6. JR's RV Repair expands facilities and services on Hwy 20.
7. Wright Bookkeeping on Central Street.
8. Sedro-Woolley Recycling Center with a new look and feel.



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