



C-Tran shows love for local communities

C1



The Reflector

November 6, 2019

The Newspaper with Integrity Since 1909 • TheReflector.com • Serving North Clark and South Cowlitz Counties

Sheriff's office makes breakthrough in 1980 cold case

Genetic genealogy helps second Clark County cold case this year

THE REFLECTOR

The Clark County Sheriff's Office last week announced a breakthrough in a cold case involving skeletal remains discovered in northeast Clark County in 1980.

The department is seeking more information about the suspected person discovered and her family.

The sheriff's office is seeking information regarding Sandra Renee "Sandy" Morden and her parents, Andrew Bain "Andy" Morden and Kathryn Irene "Irene" Morden. The department has determined that remains discovered along Fly Creek near Amboy in 1980 were that of Sandy Morden, a girl who through investigations by the department they believe went missing in the 1970s.

At the time of the discovery of the remains, the department believed the case to be a homi-



An undated photo of Sandra Renee "Sandy" Morden.

cide. Over the years, attempts to gather more information on the remains, referred to as the Fly Creek Jane Doe before an identification could be made, proved unsuccessful until 2019, when thanks to genetic genealogical data and a process called DNA phenotyping led to the breakthrough, according to the sheriff's office. The department

enlisted the help of Parabon NanoLabs, a Virginia-based DNA technology company, to perform both types of research.

A combination of the phenotyping process, which used DNA to provide the potential appearance of the individual whose remains were found, and genetic genealogy, which

See **COLD CASE** on Page A7

ABOUT THE MORDEN FAMILY

The Mordens were originally from the San Francisco Bay area. Andy Morden was a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War era and worked in the maritime trades on tugboats involved in the pulp, paper and logging industry on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

Andy and Irene Morden divorced in the early 1970s, with Andy Morden assuming custody of his daughter. After the divorce, Irene Morden lived separately at various locations in Portland and in the Bay Area while Andy and Sandy Morden lived in Portland and Vancouver. Sandy Morden attended Binnsmead Middle School (now Harrison Park Middle School) on Southeast 87th Avenue in Portland in 1974 and 1975, Gaiser Middle School on Northeast 99th Street in Vancouver in 1975 and 1976 and Wilson High School on Southwest Vermont Street in Portland in 1976 and 1977. Irene Morden died in 1988 in San Francisco and Andy Morden retired to Ilwaco, Washington, where he died in 1999. The sheriff's office could not determine Sandy Morden's whereabouts between 1977 and 1980.

Information from the Clark County Sheriff's Office

Battle Ground schools nix sex ed requirement

Backlash over 'comprehensive' curriculum steers board decision

RICK BANNAN

rick@thereflector.com

The Battle Ground Public Schools Board of Directors has decided to do away with most sexual education following community concerns over the content of the curriculum, instead going with the state minimum of HIV/AIDS prevention education.

The board voted 3-2 during its Oct. 28 meeting to change part of its policy to not teach comprehensive sexual education, keeping only the HIV/AIDS prevention required through the Washington State AIDS Omnibus Act as well as a fifth-grade unit on growth and development. Board President Troy McCoy and board member Mark Watrin voted against the change.

At the meeting, more than 40 members of the public testified, with the vast majority speaking out against the curriculum. Concerns focused generally on the effects of teaching topics such as pregnancy prevention, gender identity and stereotypes over fear it would lead to negative effects on students, such as increased promiscuity.

Several of those who testified claimed that the curriculum was influenced by groups outside of the Battle Ground community. The meeting room featured dozens of individuals wearing teal shirts showing their opposition to the curriculum proposal.

Shauna Walters, a candidate for Battle Ground City Council, said she had removed her child from the school district three years ago over concerns about the curriculum proposal.

"These are conversations that

See **SEX ED** on Page A8

FANGS AND FRIGHTENING FUN

Locals attend Main Street Trick-or-Treat in costumes



PHOTO BY MARY BROTEN

Troy Steigman, owner of Barrel Mountain Brewery, passes out candy with the help of his dog Barley during Main Street Trick-or-Treat in Battle Ground Oct. 31. See more photos on page A7.

THIS WEEK'S CONTENTS

VITALS	A4
CALENDAR	A9
HAPPENINGS	A10
OPINION	A11
SPORTS	B1
LEGALS	B2
CLASSIFIEDS	B6
EVERYTHING ON WHEELS	C1
HORSE CORRAL	C3
VETERANS DAY	C5
FAMILY	C6

The Reflector

208 SE 1st St., Battle Ground WA 98604



0 88267 02353 6

50¢

LOOKING FOR DIGITAL ADVERTISING?

We offer web, social media & digital video services tailored to your needs at affordable rates!

Call (360) 687-5151 or email us today

Brittney@TheReflector.com



Sex ed

Continued from page A1

I should be having with my child based on my family's values, not the values imposed by the government," Walters said about the curriculum. "I am concerned that we are opening our children up to a world they have not even considered."

Walters said that if implemented the curriculum would pit the "overwhelming majority" of students and families against "the foreign interests of the sex industry from San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Washington, D.C. and many others."

"They do not care about respecting our local communities," Walters said, saying those interests were focused on "corrupting our children."

Washington State Rep. Vicki Kraft, R-Vancouver, also said that "there was a larger agenda at hand" with regard to the curriculum. She said what she had seen proposed was "the grooming of the next generation," mentioning she has worked in Olympia to prevent sex trafficking.

"If you are not 100 percent at peace with voting for comprehensive sex ed, don't do it," Kraft said.

Several of the speakers leaned into religion when testifying against the proposed curriculum, citing the Bible and traditional values of sexuality. In one case, an individual attempted to lead the audience in the Lord's Prayer, though McCoy had prevented those who were not testifying from joining in, per board policy.

A few of those who testified spoke in favor of implementing the curriculum.

"Does sex ed make you want to have sex? I don't know. Does talking to your kids about healthy food make them not want to go to McDonalds?" Beth Lee, a retired physician, testified.

She stressed the importance of teaching science regardless how "messy" it seemed.

"It isn't a decision, it's who they are," Lee said of youth sexuality. "For them to be told that they are going to go to hell or they're bad kids ... leads to terrible problems with



Community members wearing teal in opposition to proposed comprehensive sexual education hear others testify at the Battle Ground Public Schools Board of Directors meeting Oct. 28.

their self-esteem."

The vote to drop comprehensive sex education followed more than a year of work by staff crafting a curriculum that fit the district, having previously tabled the unit in July 2018. McCoy said that board members had received feedback far outside the district in the leadup, mentioning at least one phone call from someone in North Dakota who was opposed to comprehensive sex ed.

"Between the calls from Minnesota, Michigan and North Dakota, it was tough to get the phone calls from Battle Ground," McCoy said.

Board Vice President Monty Anderson said neighboring districts had already passed their own comprehensive sex education units, stressing that the board tried to keep the process as transparent as possible.

"I do think that we still need to address the concerns that have been brought up on bullying," Anderson said, adding he wished to see that issue addressed by the board.

Following the meeting, BGPS spokeswoman Rita Sanders ex-



Battle Ground Public Schools Board of Directors President Troy McCoy discusses a proposal to implement comprehensive sexual education in the district during the board's Oct. 28 meeting. The board ultimately voted 3-2 to remove a requirement from its policies.

plained that the past curriculum was outdated and did not fit current state standards with regard to teaching a unit that was "comprehensive." She said the changes

would take effect immediately, noting that the HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum retained by the board's direction was based on the "Essential Health" text-

book the district approved for instruction last school year.

Sanders noted that parents were able to opt out of the HIV/AIDS curriculum.



Enroll in our high-quality Medicare health plan today

Reasons to enroll in a Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan:

-  **It's a great value** with a \$0 annual deductible and \$0 copays for preventive care
-  **It's comprehensive coverage** with Medicare Part A hospital care, Part B medical services, and Part D prescription drug coverage, all in one plan
-  **Worldwide emergency coverage** Planning a trip? You can access care and get emergency coverage when you're away from home

Call or go online to enroll

-  **Call 1-855-332-6586 (TTY 711)**, seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
-  **Visit kp.org/seminarfinder** to learn more
-  **RSVP for a FREE¹ Straight-Talk Seminar**

Visit kp.org/seminarfinder for more seminars

Join us for a FREE¹ Straight-Talk Seminar near you

Kaiser Permanente Cascade Park Medical Office
12607 SE Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA
Conf. Room 7A
Nov. 12 at 10:00 am
Dec. 5 at 10:00 am
Conf. Room 7B
Nov. 21 at 10:00 am

Battle Ground Community Center
912 E Main St.
Woodin Creek Meeting Room
Battle Ground, WA
Nov. 13 at 10:00 am

Cowlitz Regional Conference Center
1900 7th Ave.
Coweeman Room
Longview, WA
Nov. 14 at 1:00 pm
Nov. 20 at 10:00 am

Kaiser Permanente Salmon Creek Medical Office
14406 NE 20th Ave.
Conf. Rooms 1A and 1B
Vancouver, WA
Nov. 15 at 10:00 am
Nov. 19 at 1:00 pm
Dec. 2 at 1:00 pm



¹Free with no obligation. Kaiser Permanente is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal. You must reside in the Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan service area in which you enroll. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, call 1-855-332-6586 (TTY 711).