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SEQUIM GAZETTE

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Home Town Holidays inspires season's meetings



Above, Zealand Higgs, 4, and Angus Higgs, 1, of Sequim chat with Santa Claus — who looks suspiciously like Joe Borden — at the Home Town Holidays event at Centennial Place on Nov. 30. The free event hosted by the Sequim-Dungeness Chamber of Commerce featured Santa arriving by horse-drawn carriage, music provided by the Sequim City Band and Sequim High School jazz band, plus "Small Business Saturday" offerings from local merchants, a tree-lighting ceremony and a lighted tractor parade organized by Sequim Museum & Arts. Right, Wayne Priest stands in front of his tractor prior to Saturday's Lighted Tractor Parade through downtown Sequim. Sequim Gazette photos by Michael Dashiell



Sequim 2020 budget adds utility increase, Fir Street funds

Sidewalk repairs, road connections in next year's plan

BY MATTHEW NASH
Sequim Gazette

Next year, Sequim city residents can expect the completion of the West Fir Street Rehabilitation project, a slight water utility increase and plenty of planning for future projects.

City councilors unanimously approved Sequim's \$37.7 million 2020 budget on Nov. 25 with a 6-0 vote, with councilor Jennifer States excused.

The budget includes a 4-percent increase in water rate and no increase in sewer rates for an average increase of \$1.21 per home each month.

City councilors also approved the allowed 1-percent property tax levy increase on households, bringing in about \$13,000-\$14,000 more each year for the city.

Sue Hagener, Sequim's director of administrative services, said on Nov. 25 Sequim's combined water/sewer rates per 1,000 cubic feet of usage from 2015-2019 rose \$5.29, compared to significantly larger increases in Port Angeles (\$21.89) and Port Townsend (\$18.48).

See BUDGET, A-9



The City of Sequim's 2020 budget (\$37.7 million) includes a slight increase in water rates but no increase in sewer rates. Notable street projects set for completion include the West Fir Street rehabilitation, installing and repairing sidewalks, and many more projects. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

Long-time community volunteer-philanthropist, Bryce Fish dies at 78

BY MICHAEL DASHIELL
Sequim Gazette

Quietly, purposefully and most often without any fanfare or recognition, Bryce Fish found ways to help pull a community together.

A behind-the-scenes volunteer who for decades backed his efforts with his pocketbook and was described by friends as a visionary, a fixture and a mentor, Fish died in his Sequim home on Nov. 26.

He was 78. A key figure in a number of civic circles, Fish served as a board

member for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula for more than 20 years, as the Sequim Sunrise Rotary's club secretary a little more than 25 years, helped found the Science Cafe and was a fixture in a myriad other groups including Oxford House, Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County and Sequim Wheelers, along with countless projects at Dungeness Community Church.

"He just had a brain that would not quit," said Kim Rosales, a

See FISH, A-14

Sequim man with Down syndrome arrested

Family members hope situation leads to more police education

BY CONOR DOWLEY
Sequim Gazette

The recent arrest of a peninsula resident has the Sequim man's mother, his attorney, law enforcement officials and others considering how the incident could have been better handled.

On Nov. 7, Nicholas Barrett, who has Down syndrome, was ar-



Nick Barrett is crowned Sequim High School Homecoming King in October 2015. Sequim Gazette file photo by Michael Dashiell

rested in Port Angeles on charges of Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Malicious Mischief and Obstruction of a Law Enforcement Officer.

"I'm so disappointed (this case) had to get this far," said Suzanne Hayden, Barrett's attorney from the Clallam County public defenders' office after Barrett's arraignment hearing on Nov. 22.

"A little more education for everyone involved and we never would have had to get here."

What happened

On Nov. 7, Barrett, who lives in Sequim, was attending a class at Peninsula College but forgot his cell phone he uses to communicate with his mother Terry when he's away from home.

After the class, Barrett missed his bus home.

See Barrett, A-11

Arts & Entertainment B-1 • Business A-10 • Opinion A-12 • Obituaries A-14 • Schools B-7 • Sports A-7 • Classifieds C-1 • Crossword Section C

weather outlook:

	THURSDAY, DEC. 5 ▲47 ▼42
	FRIDAY, DEC. 6 ▲51 ▼41
	SATURDAY, DEC. 7 ▲50 ▼39



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Barrett

From page A-1

“Nick had only had four trainings on how to use buses at that point,” Hayden said. “He didn’t realize that when he missed his bus, another one would come later. He thought he was stuck.”

According to his mother, Barrett became upset, leading to him walking south of the college into one of the bordering neighborhoods along Fifth Street. Frustrated, he damaged some of the properties near Ennis Street and at some point picked up a short length of rebar, according to the official police narrative.

A witness called 9-1-1 and, who according to narratives provided by the two responding officers also informed dispatch that Barrett had gotten into his truck and told the witness he “doesn’t like cops.”

“Telling that to dispatch instead of saying, ‘This person has a disability’ changed the entire tone of the response,” said Daniel Harris, a City of Port Angeles employee and member of the Clallam County Mosaic board of directors — a nonprofit that works with vulnerable and special-needs adults.

The two officers — Ted Brown and Corporal Ted Rife — arrived on the scene at 10:45 a.m., according to their respective narrative reports obtained by the *Sequim Gazette*. As officers approached, Barrett left the truck and fled on foot, despite the officers’ warnings to stop.

Officer Brown then drew his taser device, and as Barrett attempted to flee through a fence — kicking out a board of it in the process, according to the reports — Brown told Barrett that if he did not stop, he would be tased.

From here, the two officers’ reports differ somewhat: Brown reported that Barrett fell, and as he got up he discharged his taser. Corporal Rife’s narrative said that Barrett was continuing to flee when the taser was used.

“That inconsistency is troubling,” Hayden said after Barrett’s arraignment. “As was the use of the taser at all. It’s supposed to be used when an officer is in harm’s way. A person with Down syndrome who is fleeing does not represent such a threat.”

There is no documentation of the police department employing any procedures or resources to better communicate with and handle someone with a developmental disability. There is no mention of his disability in the police records obtained by the *Sequim Gazette*.

“Even if officers on the scene perceive a disability, that is not a diagnosis,” Port Angeles deputy police chief Jason Viada said of the situation. “The best that those officers can get from their perceptions on the scene is a ‘maybe,’” he said.

As for the use of the taser on Barrett, Viada said that



Nick Barrett and other Sequim High School students take part in the school’s first Unified Basketball game in January of 2016. Unified is an offshoot of Special Olympics, a program where athletes and partners work together to create a team experience for all. Sequim Gazette file photo by Michael Dashiell

“force can be lawful and within policy, but it can still make people feel terrible.”

That said, Viada said a situation such as this can be a teaching moment for the police department.

“We do hope that we can take this as an opportunity to learn and do better,” he said.

Better in the future

Such a teaching moment is exactly what Barrett’s mother, who works at Sequim Middle School as a special education paraeducator, is hoping this can be for everyone involved.

“We’re part of a whole community,” Terry Barrett said. “When we know better, we do better.”

To that end, Harris is working with Clallam Mosaic and Kim Yacklin, the deputy director of Clallam County Health and Human Services, to put together an education plan to work with the Port Angeles Police Department and other local law enforcement and fire departments. The goal is to better recognize and handle situations involving people like Barrett with developmental disabilities.

“It’s still in the very early stages,” Yacklin said, “but this is very much something we want to see happen.”

Barrett’s mother said she wants to see Peninsula College become included in that process of improvement as well.

“They have no inclusion program for people with these disabilities,” she said. “That’s made things really tough for Nick and for others.”

Peninsula College did not respond to requests for comment.

Legal resolutions

As far as Barrett’s legal case, his lawyer and his mother said they are hopeful for a positive resolution.

“We were very fortunate to have a deputy prosecutor who has a special education

background,” Hayden said, referring to Matthew Roberson, a Clallam County deputy prosecuting attorney.

“He understands a little bit more of this situation than others would,” she said.

During the arraignment, Hayden requested for Barrett to be assessed for his capability to face the charges. Roberson agreed, and requested a review hearing in January, which Superior Court Judge Brian Coughenour agreed to.

Hayden is hoping, however, to have the case resolved sooner than that.

“The prosecutor has to get his ducks in a row in order to dismiss this case,” she said. “He has to show that it’s not getting dismissed just because we’re saying Nick has Down syndrome.”

To that end, Roberson and Hayden will be pulling records from Sequim High School and elsewhere to help further document Barrett’s disability in order to avoid the long formal evaluation process.

“Hopefully with that we’ll have this dismissed and done by Christmas,” Hayden said.

Barrett’s mother said she was pleased by the news.

“It’s been so hard,” she said, “but I’m so grateful to the community for their support, and happy for good news.”

That support came in the form of a number of supporters in the court gallery, from family friends to Mosaic staff and participants — including Sequim High principal Shawn Langston and Shelley Langston, the Sequim School District’s executive director of learning support services.

Barrett was a student at SHS, participating on the wrestling team and being named SHS Homecoming king in 2015.

“There’s a lot of momentum here for good steps going forward,” Barrett’s mother said. “We just have to help people take them.”

FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER

The weekly police blotter includes incidents that occurred in the City of Sequim and in unincorporated Clallam County in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley area.

Nov. 24

5:29 a.m. — Prowler, 2000 block of South Third Avenue

12:42 p.m. — Theft, 600 block of North Fifth Avenue

3:13 p.m. — Burglary, 300 block of North Fifth Avenue

Nov. 25

8:35 a.m. — Theft, 1200 block of West Washington Street

9:08 a.m. — Vehicle accident, South Third Avenue/West Bell Street

9:49 a.m. — Theft, 500 block of East Fir Street

12:50 p.m. — Theft, 900 block of West Washington Street

3:38 p.m. — Vehicle accident, 900 block of East Washington Street

3:47 p.m. — Child abuse, Diamond Point Road

Nov. 26

12:09 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 200 block of South Solmar Drive

8:26 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 2500 block of Taylor Cut-Off Road

11:28 a.m. — Vehicle accident, East Washington Street/North Govan Avenue

Nov. 27

2:33 a.m. — Warrant arrest, 200 block of North Fifth Avenue

10:12 a.m. — Liquor violation/MIP, 300 block of West Hendrickson Road

11:06 a.m. — Assault, 1300 block of Taylor Cut-Off Road

Nov. 28

1:40 a.m. — Warrant arrest, near 100 block of Hooker Road

7:44 p.m. — DUI/DWI, 270000 block of US Highway 101

Nov. 29

10:00 a.m. — Warrant arrest, River Road/Grant Road

11:13 a.m. — Theft, 100 block of West Spruce Street

11:32 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 600 block of West Washington Street

12:22 p.m. — Theft, 1200 block of West Washington Street

1:14 p.m. — Theft, 1200 block of West Washington Street

10:58 p.m. — DUI/DWI, North Priest Road/West Hendrickson Road

Nov. 30

3:20 a.m. — Vehicle accident, Voice of America Road/Lotzgesell Road

3:21 a.m. — DUI/DWI, Kitchen-Dick Road/Lotzgesell Road

11:34 a.m. — Vehicle accident, Rover Road/Avellana Road

1:22 p.m. — Vehicle accident, 1100 block of Atterberry Road

5:23 p.m. — Vehicle accident, 600 block of West Washington Street

Dec. 1

4:47 a.m. — Vehicle accident, US Highway 101/Rover Road

9:00 a.m. — Warrant arrest, 500 block of South Fifth Avenue

3:08 p.m. — Auto theft, 100 block of Joslin Road

10:06 p.m. — Domestic violence, Peninsula Street

Dec. 2

9:02 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 100 block of River Road

12:52 p.m. — Burglary, 100 block of Carlsborg Road

3:43 p.m. — Theft, 1000 block of Thompson Road

4:01 p.m. — Vehicle accident, West Spruce Street/North Fifth Avenue

4:06 p.m. — Liquor violation/MIP, 400 block of West Fir Street

5:00 p.m. — Theft, 800 block of East Washington Street

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Dr. Scott Brooksby - Sequim Advanced Dental

IMMEDIATE DENTURES OR SHOULD I WAIT?

Dr. Brooksby,

I am afraid that I am going to lose all of my teeth and my dentist says that I have to wait for three months before I get new teeth. Help!

Horried

Dear Horried,

The only reason I can see for this type of scenario is if you have told your dentist that you want to keep the cost as low as possible, and you do not want to hassle with your teeth anymore. If this is not the case, you may want to consider a second opinion.

Usually if the teeth need to be removed, we make new teeth that go in at the time the others are lost. This way you never go without teeth. The supporting gums shrink as the bone remodels and the teeth get looser. We refit them and tighten them up to make them more comfortable. After about six months, we make new, better fitting teeth and substantially improve your smile.

The likely reason the dentist wanted you to go without teeth for three months is to avoid the cost of the first set of teeth and the refittings. The disadvantage of this approach is that you are left socially crippled for months and then you do not adapt as easily to the new teeth. The first set of dentures are training dentures. They can also be used later as spares in case something breaks and you need something to wear.

ALTERNATIVES TO DENTURES

There are also times when some of the remaining teeth can be saved. Often there are a multitude of options that are never presented or explored. If you look at our website at drbrooksby.com, you can find more information on the other options that are available. These may include partial dentures, overdentures, bridges and dental implants.

There is a saying “penny wise and pound foolish.” For the slightly higher cost why not have something that will last a long time, require minimal upkeep and be easy to repair?

Dr. L. Scott Brooksby was selected as one of the Best Dentists in America for 2009 - 2014 by the Consumer Research Council of America and now he lives and practices in Sequim.

If you would like to meet Dr. Brooksby or if you have any kind of dental concern and would like a fresh look at what choices are available to you, call to schedule a free consultation and let's see what we can do to help you. When you call, you'll be talking to Dr. Brooksby.

Dr. Brooksby does all adult dentistry, including checkups, cleanings, fillings, extractions, crowns, bridges, dentures and implants. Call now to meet us and get an exam!

