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## Downtown project gets go-ahead

By KEVIN HANSON  
Senior Writer

A city-owned piece of Enumclaw real estate could be transformed into retail storefronts, downtown residential opportunities and open-air pavilions used for community gatherings.

While nothing is guaranteed and the crucial step of hammering out financial details has yet to be tackled, that's an option presented by a downtown business owner

and favored by the Enumclaw City Council.

The city has spent more than a year looking at the under-utilized block that fronts Cole Street and sits between Initial and Stevenson avenues. The parcel is now home to small buildings housing the Chamber of Commerce and Arts Alive!, along with one piece of public art, a public restroom and a plethora of parking stalls. City officials have sought developers willing to transform the property, thus

adding to the downtown mix and expanding the notion of "downtown" another block down Cole.

Dreams took a step toward reality in late March when council members reached consensus on a proposed pitched by Marilyn Nelson. She owns C.C.'s on Cole, which sits directly across Initial Avenue from the square block under consideration. Her concept calls for a three-story building on the southern portion of the lot with two pavilions on the north side.

She had gone before the council in early March with her plan and appeared again the evening of March 25 with architect Richard Flake at her side.

"As a local business owner on Cole Street, I'm particularly interested in what goes on down there," Nelson told the council. "I can see that a pavilion would add so much energy to downtown. I love the idea of having a plaza and I love

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## Enumclaw students 'get woke, stay woke'

The Stay Woke conference aims to help students of color from all over Washington find their voice

By RAY MILLER-STILL  
Editor

For high school students looking to fight against inequality and inequity and discover their own ability to be an agent of change, Saint Martin's University's annual Stay Woke summit looks to be a great place to start.

Eleven Enumclaw High School students attended last month's conference, and were treated with meeting civil rights legend Dolores Huerta, who was this year's keynote speaker.

An avid feminist, Huerta talked about the importance of standing up not just for social equality between men and women, but also for the rights of immigrants and workers. Among her many accomplishments, Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Union in 1965, and for her successes in establishing workers rights in California, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from former President Barack Obama in 2012.

Four EHS students — Yajaira Alcalá, Cecilia García, Naomi Portillo, and Esthur Jiménez — said Huerta was inspiring, especially given their shared Mexican roots. But they were just as ecstatic to be in a space where they felt they could be themselves.

"It was a really diverse event, and it was really cool to see not all white [people], to see different kinds of cultures get together and learn," Alcalá said in a later interview.

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## Buckley royalty parades around Pierce County



The city of Orting was packed as the 86th annual Daffodil Parade marched its final stretch Saturday. This year, the parade featured Daffodil Queen Katie Gilbert, who hails from White River High School. She was selected from a field of more than 20 princess representing schools throughout Pierce County. High school marching bands added to the festivities, including those from Sumner and White River. The parade started in Tacoma and made stops in Puyallup and Sumner before winding up in Orting. Photos by Kevin Hanson



## Concert to benefit Mount Peak tower effort

By KEVIN HANSON  
Senior Writer

Three bands, all with direct ties to the Enumclaw community, will play a fundraising concert in support of a proposed Mount

Peak lookout tower.

The concert is slated for Saturday, April 20, at Enumclaw's Chalet Theatre. The doors open at 7 p.m. and music gets rolling at 8. Admission is \$20 and all proceeds will benefit the tower effort.

Performing will be Chicken Wire, featuring Enumclaw teacher Seth Polson and Enumclaw High graduate Mike Chang; The Forgotten 45s, which includes EHS grads Michael Rossi and Nolan McSheridan;

and CGC, featuring EHS teacher Victor Wallace, former EHS teachers Doug Wolff and Brian Patrick, and local dentist Scott Decker.

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# 'Woke': A space for expression

From Page 1

The Stay Woke event — now planning its third year — focuses on students of color, providing spaces to talk openly about cultural identity and organizing workshops geared to give attendees the language, knowledge, and tools necessary to discuss and analyze the impact of systematic racism, challenge race and sex-based stereotypes and prejudice, and more.

"I don't think I ever felt so comfortable to just come out and say personal things that we go through every day," Jimenez said. "It felt good to let it go. I was

learning not just from our experiences, being Latina and Mexican, but from other races and cultures... we're not alone. Everyone has something that they're going through."

Part of the summit included "solidarity spaces," where the conference broke out into groups separated by race. Organizers said that while it may seem counterproductive for a diversity event to segregate attendees, they explained it was important for students to be able to express how they feel about their cultural identity, and the difficulties and

challenges that come with it, to people with similar backgrounds.

In the Hispanic group, Alcala said they discussed aspects they love about their culture, and parts they want to change.

"One thing we mentioned in my group was 'machismo,'" she said. "That's something we said we didn't like, that we would like to change, make it equal for women and men."

The other three students agreed — they each had stories about how important a role stringent gender stereotypes have in Mexican



Eleven EHS students, along with Sui-Lan Hookano, the district's cultural program manager, and Sarah Brassard, the district's Native American specialist (not pictured), were able to personally meet civil rights leader Dolores Huerta (front right) in Olympia during the second annual Stay Woke conference. Photo by Ray Miller-Still

culture, and how they not only wanted those roles loosened for both women and men.

On the other hand, Alcala's group said they love their Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations, and wished there was more space, both inside her school and outside in the community, to express it.

Part of the issue is that Hispanics are a minority in Enumclaw — only about 15 percent of students in the school district are Hispanic, compared to the 77 percent who are white.

"I feel like I'm more quiet when I'm around a lot of white people," Alcala said, adding that she's afraid other people will judge her if she expresses her culture.

"People don't understand. If you're doing something different, you're wearing something different, they'll ask you, 'Hey, what's that?'" added Portillo, who moved from Mexico to Enumclaw just four years ago. "[I'm] just trying to avoid that."

It's typical for teenagers to want to fit in with a larger crowd and not draw unnecessary attention to themselves, especially when it comes to racial and cultural differences. Another speaker at the Stay Woke event, 18-year-old Bria Smith from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, talked at length about how difficult it can be to personally address cultural ignorance or confront bigotry.

"My skin literally was the loudest voice of my body. I would never, ever, stick up for myself," Smith said, recounting how she was one of the only black students in her school. "I would never, ever do that because I was afraid that what I would say would not be validated, because I was entering a space where people did not look like me. I was not represented, and I felt so alone... Since the age of six, I knew what racism and oppression was before I could even articulate the words."

Over time, Smith

overcame that fear to become the outspoken March for Our Lives Movement activist she is today, and told her audience of peers that they, too, have the power to create positive change in their communities.

This is something Alcala, Garcia, Portillo, and Jimenez are working on in different parts of their lives. In some cases, they debate with themselves about whether to respond to an individual who they feel is being disrespectful.

"We have a student, he was sitting next to me and he was mentioning stuff about my culture, Trump and the wall and everything, and saying stuff like Hispanics are rapists," Alcala said, recalling an incident in her math class. "I was getting really mad, but... you're not worth me yelling at you."

But she changed her mind when the other student then said he was going to Mexico for vacation.

"I was like, dude, you just said a whole bunch of stuff about Mexicans," she said. "I went off on him. Sometimes you need to get it out there, make them know that you do not like what they're saying."

Speaking up for your culture to another individual can be difficult, but it can be a wholly different beast when you're confronting a group of people.

Garcia described a time when, around the last presidential election, a group of students stood up in the commons, chanting "Build the wall" and waving both an American flag and the Confederate battle flag while she and other Hispanic students "were just sitting there, quietly doing our work."

The students said they wished teachers and administrators could do more about these overt culture clashes, but they also want to address some of the more subtle conflicts as well.

History class was mentioned more than a few

times in this regard.

"They only focus on what whites did. They don't focus on other cultures, what helped our country also grow," Alcala said. "America is a country of immigrants, you know? Everyone made America, but they just focus on [white] Americans."

The students agreed that there should be more inclusive history taught, but also said they would appreciate a class that would help them learn about other cultures.

After Huerta spoke, the students broke off to attend various workshops — Alcala and Garcia attended one called "Mother Nature's Purpose: Cedar Bracelet Making," which focused on how important cedar can be in some Native America cultures.

"Cedar is really sacred to them. She told us to pour our feelings into the cedar and make a bracelet out of it," Alcala said. "It's a really meaningful thing to them."

Portillo and Jimenez went to the "Building Bridges, Not Walls," workshop, which taught them the history of immigration and family separation in the U.S. Participants also discussed how schools could be made to be more inclusive in light of that history.

"It felt like, something that I thought, somebody else was thinking it," Jimenez said. "We were really understanding each other."

Having more tools to get to that place of understanding seems to be the ultimate takeaway for these four students, especially when it comes to cultural differences.

"It's important to learn about other cultures and learn about what's important to them," Jimenez continued. "Once we see that's important to them, we want to respect it, and we want to respect that person and what their background is. We just start to see how we all really have a lot in common."

## Deryl Kenneth Sleigh



Deryl Kenneth Sleigh was born on August 31, 1925 in South Prairie, Washington to Joseph Henry and Ann Holyan Sleigh. He died on April 5, 2019 at the family cabin in Cumberland, Washington. He lived, by his account, an idyllic childhood surrounded by family and friends in South Prairie and neighboring communities of Wilkeson, Upper and Lower Burnett, Carbonado, and Buckley. He was an endless storyteller, captivating his children with stories of small town life and childhood friends. He loved country music, especially cowboy, railroad, and hobo songs, many of which he sang with his children as they rode in the 1949 Dodge Green Hornet, washed and dried the dishes, and raked the yard.

Deryl joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17, serving as a radio navigator on a night squadron TBM Avenger airplane. Upon discharge, he graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Education. Later, he spent summers in Seattle, earning his Master's Degree from the University of Washington. He was an educator for 35 years (grades 3-8). He started teaching in Carson, Washington; then spent six years in Black Diamond. The remainder of his career was in Enumclaw (including two years as vice principal at the old junior high school and 16 years as principal at Westwood Elementary). He was honored to be nominated as national Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Westwood PTA upon his retirement. He was a member of the Eagles, Elks, American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Above all, Deryl loved his family and his church. Upon marriage to Dorothy, he converted to Catholicism, attending Mass at both Sacred Heart and St. Barbara's. He joins his parents, sister Betty Jo Cathey, and son-in-law Bill Wilson in heaven. He leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Dorothy (Lokovsek); his children Staci Sleigh-Layman (Dan), Kelli Wilson, Mike Sleigh (Tessa), Whitney Sleigh Jorgenson (Clint), and Marti Berrett (Scott); his grandchildren Claire Layman (Brock Alderman), Andy Layman (Kaycee), Ellie Layman (Daniel Sears), Corissa Berrett (Ryan), Justis Berrett, Macie Berrett, Kai Berrett, Sara Wilson, and Martin Wilson; and his great-granddaughter Kennedy Layman.

Deryl also leaves behind a large crowd of other children (now middle aged or older) who he loved and who loved him in return. The best part of his day was spending time on the playground at Westwood School reveling in the games and laughter of childhood. When asked how old he was, he would always answer, "I'm 92!" He was always young at heart.

He thoroughly enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren compete in sports, rarely missing a game or match. His only ask on retirement was for a lifetime pass to attend Enumclaw sports events. The last time he used it was a couple of weeks ago watching the Enumclaw-White River Hornet rivalry at Osborne Field.

Deryl and Dorothy loved to dance! The Deryl & Dorothy Sleigh Dance for Life Fund has been established to support dancing in fifth grade classrooms. Please send donations to:

Deryl & Dorothy Sleigh Dance for Life Fund  
Enumclaw Schools Foundation  
C/O Enumclaw School District  
2929 McDougall Avenue  
Enumclaw, Washington 98022

Ram Dass, American academic and spiritual leader, wrote, "We're all just walking each other home." It takes a village to walk life's miles. There are many who have held hands with Deryl/Dad/Grandpop/Mr. Sleigh and Grandma along the way. Thank you to everyone for your support and prayers.

Staff and nurses from Hospice have been stellar in their care. Dr. Luther Frerichs kept Deryl in good health during his last years. Chiropractor Dr. Gary Smith has been both friend and practitioner. Jan and Russ Crawford have been loving neighbors. Sister-in-law Mary Kell has graciously served as chauffeur for sporting events and family gatherings.

Staff at Enumclaw and Black Diamond Senior Centers and the Buckley Eagles have provided memorable times. Of special delight for Deryl were the musicians who provided music for dancing at various venues. We are especially appreciative of those musicians who fulfilled his request to dance to Hank Williams' Your Cheatin' Heart.

Private burial will take place at Enumclaw Evergreen Memorial Park on Saturday. Messages and memories for Mr. Sleigh may be left on the tribute wall at [weeksfuneralhomes.com](http://weeksfuneralhomes.com).

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Buckley Eagles, 29021 State Route 410 E, Buckley, Washington 98321, 1-5pm on Sunday, April 14, 2019. Come prepared to share stories, to laugh, to dance, and to celebrate a life well-lived.