

# Councilman, pastor express concern about noose

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

A Facebook post about a noose that a resident found and removed from the Cap Sante overlook led one city councilman who heard from constituents to speak out at Monday's meeting.

Councilman Anthony Young said the incident — as well as a swastika sign he saw offered for sale by a vendor during Shipwreck Fest two days later — presents “an opportunity to stand for truth, honesty and love for one another, particularly as our world seems ever divisive.”

Young said he was notified of the noose by a resident and that he, in turn, notified the mayor, the council and Police Chief John Small.

Mayor Laurie Gere told the Anacortes American she asked the parks department to remove it, but it was already gone.

Gere called it “a very threatening symbol” that “doesn't reflect the Anacortes I know.”

The post on “You Know You're from Anacortes When ...” included debate as to whether the noose was racially motivated or something else, such as a suicide attempt. But the post was deleted after comments “devolved into politics, insults, profanity, and innuendo,” the site administrator told the Anacortes American.

Capt. Dave Floyd said there was no investigation because the person who found the noose removed it from the tree, “so there was nothing for us to see.”

He added, “There's no crime to investigate. There were no remarks associated with it. There were no other signs or symbols to show it was placed there to promote hate ... It could have been placed there by somebody who had con-

templated suicide and then changed their mind.”

Young, an African American, told the council Monday there is no uncertainty in the meaning of a noose hung in a public place. In his childhood, he saw cross burnings and recalls his family dodging the Ku Klux Klan by driving through a corn field to get home.

He said it was “a struggle” to discuss the noose incident because he feared “bringing up this issue would somehow sully my beloved city.” But he said the incident — as well as a swastika sign offered for sale by a vendor during Shipwreck Fest two days later — presents “an opportunity to stand for truth, honesty and love for one another, particularly as our world seems ever divisive.”

According to the Anti-Defamation League, the hangman's noose “has come to be one of the most powerful visual

symbols directed against African-Americans, comparable in the emotions that it evokes to that of the swastika for Jews.” The noose's origins “are connected to the history of lynching in America.”

The KKK had a presence in Anacortes during some of those years, as well, according to newspaper archives.

“Quite common is the use of actual nooses to intimidate or harass African-Americans (or sometimes other minorities) — for example, by leaving one at someone's home or at their workplace,” according to the Anti-Defamation League.

The Rev. Terry Kylo of Anacortes, co-founder of an interfaith organization that advocates for civil rights, asked to speak during the meeting.

He said the noose is a reminder of “a reign of terror” in the U.S. in which several thousand black people were mur-

dered by hanging. He called for residents and the council to “denounce what is free speech with better speech.”

“Our greatest safety as ‘we the people’ stands in our willingness to stand up for and with each other when we're threatened,” he said. “That's our greatest safety, and it's the duty of leaders and the citizens to stand up when members of our community are being threatened.”

Speaking of the millions of people slain in genocide around the world, he said, “Every single time, it begins with fear-raising speech, ‘other’-ing speech, dehumanizing speech, but it always begins with something else. It always begins with the silence of those who know better.”

“I hope tonight the City Council will do what should be an easy thing, and that is to make sure that every citizen in this city, on the

island, knows that the City Council and all the citizens will stand up for everyone who is here — all of our fellow citizens — because when we the people fail to stand for each other, we cease to be ‘we the people’.”

Councilman Bruce McDougall thanked Kylo for his remarks. “That was extremely well said. I can't agree more,” he said.

Gere didn't speak about the issue at the council meeting but did not question the noose's meaning during an interview earlier in the day with the Anacortes American. She did ask “why someone would do such a horrific thing.”

Floyd said this is the first such incident in his 19 years with the Anacortes police force.

“There was some anti-religious stuff, but that was primarily done by kids. Thankfully, we're not that kind of town,” he said.

# Comment on proposed ferry fare increases

Washington State Ferries is asking ferry customers and interested members of the public to weigh in on a proposed fare increase.

If the proposal passes, vehicle fares would go up 2.5% on Oct. 1 and then another 2.5% again on May 1, 2020.

The increased fares would bring in about \$407 million by June 30, 2021, as required in the recently passed two-year state transportation budget.

Each passenger fare would go up by 2%. Comments are due by Monday, July 29.

Comment via email



FILE PHOTO

Comment on a proposed ferry fare increase until July 29.

to transc@wstc.wa.gov (include “Ferry Fares” in the subject line) or in writing to Washing-

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## Senators hear school district concerns on funding, safety

BY BRIANA ALZOLA  
balzola@goanacortes.com

The need for money and steps toward school safety topped the list of requests school administrators had for state senators last week in Anacortes.

Three senators visited the Northwest Education Services District July 25 to talk about what happened in the last legislative session and ask education leaders what they hope to see in the next one.

Officials from Anacortes, La Conner, Conway and San Juan Island school districts joined the discussion led by Sen. Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island, who chairs the state Senate's Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee. She was joined by Sens. Claire Wilson, D-Auburn, and Liz Lovelett, D-Anacortes.

"I am here for 1.1 million kids and all of you,"

**'I am here for 1.1 million kids and all of you.'**

*Sen. Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island*

Wellman said.

Anacortes Superintendent Mark Wenzel talked about the need for more social workers and mental health help in the schools. The district has some services thanks to a partnership with Island Hospital, with the county and through grant funding. But little help comes from the state, and more services are needed.

He talked about two suicides in the district in the recent years and two school threats the district faced this year. The district has more students than can be served by the few mental health

*See Schools, page A5*

## Councilman, pastor starting coalition to address biases

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

Anacortes City Councilman Anthony Young and the Rev. Terry Kylo say they are forming an intercultural, interfaith coalition to address bias and build understanding in the community.

The effort comes after a hangman's noose was found earlier this month in a tree at Cap Sante. A noose is widely recognized as a racist symbol of

### Contacts

To get involved, contact:

- Anthony Young, 360-873-8407, Anthony@anjohome.com
- Terry Kylo, terry@neighborsinfaith.org

violence.

Days later, at Shipwreck Fest, Young said

*See Coalition, page A5*

## OVERLAY UNDERWAY



RICHARD WALKER / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Bobby Drye shovels the street subsurface and Ken Wiltse grinds asphalt Tuesday as street repair and resurfacing begins on Commercial and Fidalgo avenues. Lakeside Industries is doing asphalt work in four areas of the city as part of the city's annual pavement management program.

## Asphalt repair, replacement work in six areas of city will take about 30 days

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

Asphalt work underway on several city streets is expected to take a month or so to complete.

Lakeside Industries is under contract by the city for \$796,858 to repair pavement, place new asphalt, adjust manholes and utilities to proper grade and stripe pavement.

The project includes work on:

- Commercial Avenue, from the Highway 20 roundabout to Fidalgo Avenue.
- M Avenue, from 32nd Street to 35th Street.
- B Avenue, from 32nd Street to 29th Street.
- 29th, 30th, 31st and 32nd Streets, west of D Avenue.

*See Asphalt, page A5*



COLETTE WEEKS / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Workers lay new asphalt on Commercial Avenue near Highway 20.

BRIANA ALZOLA/  
ANACORTES  
AMERICAN



Sallie Hughes of Anacortes drops her ballot Tuesday into the dropbox at Anacortes library. Tuesday, Aug. 6 is election day.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. or placed in a ballot dropbox by 8 p.m. that day.

## Get your ballots in: Primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 6

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. or deposited into a ballot dropbox by 8 p.m. that day.

Election results will be posted on goanacortes.com and on the Skagit County Elections Office

website.

On the ballot are offices with three or more candidates. The two top finishers will advance to the Nov. 5 general election.

On the primary election ballot: state senator from the 40th District, Anacortes City Council Position 2, and Anacortes School Board Position 4.

Ballot drop boxes

are located at Anacortes Public Library, 1220 10th St. (behind the library near the drive-up book-drop); and Skyline Beach Club, 6041 Sands Way.

*See Election, page A6*

# Schools

Continued from page A1

providers and the one school resource officer in schools now.

“There is more work to do,” he said.

He urged the state senators to figure out a way to help fund more providers for schools.

Wellman talked about some of the successes in the Legislature this year, including school safety bills aimed at keeping kids safe.

So many steps forward were taken, but the committee could not figure out how to fund social workers and psychologists for the schools.

“I am beyond disappointed,” Wellman said.

She knows that this

remains a huge need and is committed to finding a way to making it work, she said. The committee is also looking at the issue of school bullying and finding out how it can help.

Wenzel also brought up the issue of the levy cap.

A court ruling forced the state to fund basic education, but districts have restrictions on what they can collect from local taxpayers. The district negotiated to increase teacher and staff salaries by about 13 percent this year, and the state funding paid for that. But the limit on local levies has meant the district had to cut programs and some staff members as it tries to balance the budget.

A last-minute bill passed last year meant



BRIANA ALZOLA / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Educators and legislators discuss priorities July 25 at the Northwest Education Services District offices in Anacortes.

an increase in local levy money only for Seattle. Wenzel asked the state senators to try again.

**‘Right now, the focus is on dropout retrieval instead of keeping kids in school.’**

*Sen. Claire Wilson, D-Auburn*

important than other kids,” he said.

Wilson said schools in her district, too, are losing money because of this change in school funding policy.

“I hear you,” she said.

Leaders also talked about career and technical pathways and how vital they are to helping

kids who may not want or be able to pursue a four-year degree. The pathways are becoming more in demand and students aren’t getting the education they need, said Northwest ESD Superintendent Larry Francois. Jobs are being left open.

In the early 1990s, career and technical education was moved from the K-12 program into higher education. Wilson said she wants to see it moved back, because students should be learning technical skills at a younger age and be exposed to potential career paths.

“Right now, the focus is on dropout retrieval instead of keeping kids in school,” she said.

# Coalition

Continued from page A1

he saw a sign with a swastika for sale by a vendor.

“We’re not saying Anacortes has got a problem,” Young said Monday. “We’re saying we’re taking preventative measures now to stop an infestation and allow good people a chance to have their voices heard and to help them figure out and think of ways we can help our town be the ‘we’ that we always talk about.”

The goal is to replace bias and fear with awareness and understanding

of the cultures, faiths and experiences that make up the fabric of the community.

Kyllo said they hope to get beyond good intentions that default back to the status quo.

“If we can get a real diverse set of people working on this issue, there can be a joy that gets created out of this whole thing — a thing of health and momentum that will help us get to a deeper place in the community, a deeper solution instead of just making a statement and calling it good,” he said.

The effort is in its infancy, but Kyllo and Young foresee community conversations, cultural

presentations and an educational component for schools. They also want to create a forum in which people can feel safe asking questions about cultures and faiths that they might otherwise hesitate to ask for fear of offending someone.

By building understanding, the community can resist influences that seek to dehumanize, instill fear and divide.

“We don’t want to let fear begin to take root in this community because what happens is not only are victims recipients of that violence, but the very spirit of the community is going to be harmed, the sense of safety for everyone,” Young said.

# Asphalt

Continued from page A1

During construction, there will be no street parking along these roadways, and there will be intermittent short-term road closures with traffic detours to allow for the work, the Public Works Department reported.

Flaggers will manage traffic access to 38th Street off Commercial Avenue, 35th Street off M Avenue and the B Avenue, 29th Street, 30th Street, 31st Street and 32nd Street neighborhoods from D Avenue. Public Works said residents of these areas should let flaggers know they need access and wait to be directed when it is safe to proceed.

The project is part of the Public Works Department’s regular pavement management program. Earlier this month, Public Works applied slurry seal on roads in six areas of the city. Slurry seal is a mixture of water, asphalt emulsion and aggregate

gate that is used to fill cracks, seal the road surface and give the roadway an improved texture and uniform appearance. Slurry seal can extend the life of an asphalt roadway.

Other work planned:

- March Point: Trinity Contractors has a contract for \$149,815 to repair pavement, including filling potholes and

repairing cracks, in preparation for the county’s application of a seal coat. The work is expected to take 20 working days, according to the city.

- Ramps and sidewalks: Trinity Contractors has a contract for \$168,710 to upgrade curb ramps and eliminate sidewalk trip hazards on Second Street, 12th Street, L Avenue and Q Avenue.



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MONIQUE MERRILL / ANACORTES AMERICAN

The Anacortes Port District may acquire this 4.1-acre heavy-manufacturing site on March's Point. Officials say the site would boost the port's availability of space for light manufacturing, laydown and, possibly, exporting.

## Port may buy industrial site on March's Point for \$3.3 million

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

The Anacortes Port Commission expects to vote Thursday on purchasing a 4.1-acre heavy-manufacturing site on Bartholomew Road on March's Point to boost the port district's availability of leasable space.

The site is owned by T. Bailey, Inc., a manufacturer of fuel and water tanks that is moving to property it owns at Whitmarsh Junction. The site is comprised of seven parcels with three warehouse buildings and a modular office building located south of the Shell Puget Sound Refinery. It abuts the BNSF rail corridor, though no spur serves the property.

The site has an assessed value of \$2.3 million, according to a port district report. Port Finance Director Jill Brownfield and Port Executive Director Dan Worra said the purchase price is about \$3.3 million.

Two analyses — environmental and critical areas — revealed no red flags, though a stormwater retention swale “is potentially undersized dependent on tenant(s),” according to a port district report. The property is in the county's jurisdiction but inside the city's urban growth area.

The Port of Anacortes owns Cap Sante Marina, Anacortes Airport, the Maritime Terminal, the O Avenue laydown area and Seafarers' Memorial Park. The port also owns the ferry terminal site leased by Washington State Ferries. The port leases business space to 10 waterfront businesses and 50 upland businesses. Worra said diversi-

fication is limited at the Marine Terminal, particularly Pier 2, from which the refineries ship petroleum coke and prilled sulfur. Prilled sulfur is used in the production of asphalt, detergents, dyes, fertilizers and insecticides. Coke is used in the production of graphite electrodes, metal and brick.

More space is needed. “We talk about things we can do with fertilizer, organic corn, exporting wood chips, other things we can do,” Worra said. “But without having a laydown area” — an area cleared for the temporary storage of equipment and supplies — “the answer is a flat-out ‘no.’”

Port commissioners spoke in favor of the purchase during a Sept. 19 meeting.

“I'm pretty comfortable with the location,” Port Commissioner John Pope said. “You're on high land, it's not marshy or problematic. March's Point has been a traditional industrial area.”

### Paid for in 20 years

Worra said the site

could pay for itself in 20 years. Fifty percent occupancy at the going rate of 60 cents per square foot would generate \$150,000 annually, for a 20-year return on investment, he said.

Worra also said county officials felt the proposed uses fit in with the area.

“Being zoned heavy manufacturing, it seems like it's a slam dunk for a lot of the things we're thinking about doing,” Worra said. “It's just off State Route 20 heading over to I-5. It's right on the BNSF rail line. It's not connected to (rail), but seeing how it's next to it, perhaps in the future.”

Worra hopes a BNSF-owned bridge over the tracks at Bartholomew Road and Highway 20 could be fortified to accommodate refinery trucks en route to Pier 2 with petroleum coke and prilled sulfur. Making the 10-ton bridge a 40-ton would give those trucks an alternative to March's Point Road, which is often blocked by trains.

## Council postpones vote on inclusion resolution

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

Anacortes City Councilman Matt Miller won postponement Monday of a vote on a resolution supporting equity and inclusion in the city, saying references to hatred and hate speech should be removed because — lacking a legal definition, he said — the resolution would conflict with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

Miller, serving as mayor pro tem in Mayor Laurie Gere's absence, was concerned about passages that stated the city would “speak out against and discourage hate speech as contrary to our values,” and would condemn or oppose all acts of “hatred.”

Regarding references to hate speech, Miller said “no one has been able to define ‘hate speech’ for me.” Regarding references to hate, he said, “There's a reason you leave that word ‘hate’ out. A lot of people have a different idea of what that means.”

“Freedom of speech is not freedom from speech you dislike,” Miller said. “And hate speech, as much as I hate it — (the First Amendment) is a foundational principle in our society. It is too much of a foundational principle that I can get behind trying to define something that you think

is well defined, but I do not believe it is well defined.”

The resolution, introduced by council members Bruce McDougall, Carolyn Moulton and Anthony Young, declared it city policy to stand “against hatred, intolerance, unlawful discrimination, bullying and related acts” and to support “the city's goal of being an accessible, open and welcoming city to all.”

It was written by the council members with the assistance of the Rev. Terry Kylo, who has worked to promote tolerance and understanding among people of different cultural and faiths. The resolution effort was spurred in part by the finding of a hangman's noose — long a symbol of intimidation against African Americans — in a tree at Cap Sante lookout in July. That same week, a vendor at Shipwreck Day offered a swastika sign for sale.

In introducing the resolution, Moulton said there has been an increase in the United States “in hate speech, intolerant action (and) intimidation toward people of various religious groups, gender orientations (and) races that go against our values as Americans and what our country and what our city stand for.”

The resolution's introduction stated that the mayor and council “declare it to be the policy of the City to recognize and respect the rights, liberties, safety, dignity and well-being of everyone in our community, equally. This includes all who live in, work in, and visit our wonderful city.” It recognizes certain principles as “fundamental and true to the values, unity and hospitality found throughout the Anacortes community.”

Young, who is African American, defended the resolution as written.

“Hate speech is not the absence of freedom of speech,” he told Miller. “Freedom of speech is one thing. Hate speech when it incites violence is another.”

Council members Eric Johnson, Brad Adams, and McDougall initially spoke in favor of the resolution as written, but then backed Councilman Ryan Walters' suggestion that the wording be revisited in order to achieve a compromise and unanimous vote of support. Adams, Miller and Walters will bring the resolution back for consideration in two weeks.

After the vote, Kylo told the Anacortes American he disagreed with Miller.

“The definition of hate speech is not unknown,” he said.

## Christine Cleland-McGrath for Anacortes City Council, Ward 2

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## Spookiness and fun on the Haunted Trail

Your Fidalgo, B1



### Did you vote? Ballots due by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5

Story, A3

# Anacortes American

WE SPEAK FIDALGO — SERVING ANACORTES SINCE 1890

goanacortes.com

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 2019

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## Inclusion resolution approved 6-1

### Miller says he 'hates' hate speech, but votes 'no'; cites Constitution

BY RICHARD WALKER  
rwalker@goanacortes.com

As a person of Jewish heritage whose first language was Hebrew, Laura Spehar said she's more

familiar with the feeling of fear than the feeling of being included.

That's why, she said, the city's inclusion resolution is so important.

"No one will ever

understand the power of hate speech better than people of ethnicity, gender difference or sexual orientation differences," Spehar told the mayor and City Council on Monday. "We know all too well what can happen when speech ignites violence."

The resolution "means

the absolute world to people like me: a resident that may speak a different first language — mine was Hebrew — may celebrate different holidays and not always feel included in a town they love so very much."

The Anacortes City Council voted 6-1 Monday to approve a resolu-

tion declaring a citywide policy of inclusion. The resolution "rejects and condemns" acts of racism, harassment, intimidation, and other forms of bullying, as well as "acts of hate speech."

City Councilman Matt Miller voted "no,"

See **Inclusion**, page A7

### Read more

A multicultural group of residents plans ongoing community education and outreach to build cultural understanding in Anacortes.

— Story, page A7

## Housing sales tax may go on Feb. ballot

### Could raise up to \$13M in 20 years for several projects

BY RICHARD WALKER  
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A sales tax for affordable housing could help raise enough money to build the Anacortes Family Center's 20-unit affordable apartments and child care, restoration of the Anacortes Housing Authority's Olson Building for 15 to 20 affordable apartments and first-floor commercial spaces, and construction of five housing-authority townhouses on 19th Street.

The City Council is considering asking voters in February to approve a sales tax of 1/10th of 1% to fund affordable housing construction. In addition, the state is returning a share of sales tax revenue to cities and counties for investment in affordable housing.

Combined, the state's sales tax share and the voter-approved tax would generate about \$653,934 a year for affordable housing. That's estimated on retail sales in Anacortes of about \$570.6 million, from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, city Finance Director Steve Hogle said.

Over 20 years, that adds up to \$13 million for affordable housing, but the city must take a few steps to get there, Hogle told the City Council on Monday.

First, the council must pass an ordinance to collect the state's share of sales tax — .0073%, or about \$41,655 per year. The council approved in August a resolution of intent to do so.

Second, by Dec. 13 the city must get a resolution to the county Elections Department placing the 1/10 of 1% sales tax on the February special election ballot.

Third, if voters approve the measure, two things would happen. The state

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## TRAIN MAY STEAM SOUTH



FILE PHOTO

Per Kefgen took the Tommy Thompson Train on a test run in 2015 with Kyle Irving (also in the train) and Brooks Middleton (not pictured). Bret Iwan, a train enthusiast from Lincoln, California, hopes to acquire the train and move it to his city as a working attraction.

### The late Tommy Thompson's railway may become an attraction in Lincoln, California

BY MONIQUE MERRILL  
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A historic Anacortes attraction may be moving south.

The city is considering selling the Tommy Thompson narrow-gauge steam engine train to an interested buyer in California, Anacortes Museum Director Bret Lunsford confirmed in an email.

Bret Iwan, owner of Iwan Loco-

motive Works, contacted the city in July asking about a potential sale of the train, rolling stock or leftover rails, Lunsford said. The company "strives to offer creative solutions for Railroading, both big and small," according to its website.

Now, Iwan and the Thompson family have been in conversation about the steam engine's future, Lunsford said.

Iwan grew up spending summers

in Anacortes and continues to visit each year, he said in an email to the Anacortes American.

"Every one of my childhood summers spent in Anacortes include fond memories of Tommy Thompson's Anacortes Railway," he said. "Tommy Thompson's craftsmanship, kindness and enthusiasm have remained an inspirational

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## Insurance change could affect 1,000 area residents

BY BRIANA ALZOLA  
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A recent decision by Kaiser Permanente could mean traveling farther distances to visit the doctor for more than 1,000 people in the area.

Earlier this month, Kaiser sent a letter to Island Hospital, letting them know that the primary care doctors at the

hospital would no longer be covered by Kaiser's Medicare Advantage plan as of Jan. 1, 2020.

Kaiser told the hospital it wanted to create a narrower network with only the largest practices in Skagit and Whatcom counties, hospital interim CEO Elise Cutter said in an email.

Representatives from Kaiser Permanente did

**'This is disappointing to our primary-care providers ... It results in patients having fewer, if any, local choices.'**

Dr. Robert Prins, chief medical officer, Island Hospital

not respond to a request for comment by deadline

Tuesday. If patients enrolled in

that plan want to keep their current primary care doctors at Island Hospital, they need to switch to a new plan before Medicare's open enrollment ends Dec. 7, Cutter said.

"Our mission is to serve our community and deliver quality care close to home," she said. "This decision by Kaiser is restricting us doing that."

A little more than 1,000 patients in Island Hospital's system will be affected, she said.

The closest physicians covered by the Kaiser Medicare Advantage

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# Multicultural group plans more discussions, events

BY RICHARD WALKER  
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A multicultural group of 10 residents met Thursday to plan an ongoing community education and outreach effort to build cultural understanding in Anacortes.

The meeting was hosted by Anacortes City Councilman Anthony Young at his home and was organized by Young and the Rev. Terry Kylo, director of Neighbors in Faith.

Participants were of African, Asian, European and Native American descent. They talked about some of the challenges they've seen in Anacortes: the finding this summer of a hangman's noose in a tree at Cap Sante Park, the display of a Nazi symbol at a vendor's booth during Shipwreck Day, racially motivated bullying at school, and leadership in education and local government that doesn't reflect the community's diverse population.



RICHARD WALKER / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Participants in a multicultural coalition meeting Thursday, Oct. 24, chat after the meeting, which took place in the home of City Councilman Anthony Young. From left, Sheryl Kylo, Keiko McCracken, Laurence Rockwell, Annette Pankey, and Shirley Yap.

meet monthly, ultimately inviting participants of different thinking and understanding and then branching out into public "listening sessions"

and hosting community events.

"The first step is to get to know each other better and learn each others' stories, then do some

public listening sessions so all residents can hear each other," Kylo said. "Together we can build a brighter, more inclusive future for Anacortes."

Young, who is African American, said he looks forward to "hearing culturally diverse voices and stories, and belief in hope for a future truly inclusive of us all."

Leslie Eastwood of Anacortes, a citizen of the Samish Indian Nation, said, "I believe the conversations are important. Just creating space to listen well matters."

Anacortes is within the historical territory of the Samish people, and the Samish Indian Nation is headquartered here. In 1855, leaders of the Samish and other Coast Salish nations signed the Treaty of Point Elliott, making a large swath of Western Washington available for newcomers.

People of Croatian birth began immigrating here in the 1870s, drawn by opportunities in the fishing and lumber industries. Canneries that began operating here in the 1890s boasted a multicultural workforce: people of Coast Salish, Chinese, Croatian, Greek

and Japanese heritage.

Today, more than 90% of Anacortes' population is white European, according to the U.S. Census American Community Survey. But 8.1% of the population is comprised of people of color — African American, Asian, Mexican, Native American or other indigenous group. And 6.9% of the population is foreign born; 4.7% speak a language other than English at home, according to the Census.

"Diverse cultures here, have long been here, and are engaged in and working hard for the betterment of our town," Young said.

"My hope is to bring the many 'out from the shadows' to help culturally educate our world of commonality. I am confident that our effort will bear the fruit of greater compassion, sympathy and empathy as we teach and learn more about each other through communicating and the engagement of systems and structures within our community."

## Inclusion

Continued from page A1

saying that including "hate speech" in the resolution is "a slippery slope too far" because speech is protected by the First Amendment and "everyone holds their own definition of what hate speech is."

The resolution does not make hate speech a crime or impose penalties. It is a policy statement: "The City Council and Mayor declare it to be the policy of the

City that our City is accessible and open to everyone; to vigorously oppose all acts of racism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and hate speech toward anyone; and to provide equal access to our local government to all persons in our City."

Resident Doug Thurber spoke against the resolution, calling it a first move to limit speech. "Historically, the next step is to outlaw selected words and assign penalties," he said. "Part of liberty is free speech, and it should not be abridged as per the First Amendment, 1791

... I reject even the most well-meaning proclamations that conflict with constitutional guarantees."

Eight residents, including state Sen. Liz Lovelett, D-Anacortes, spoke in favor of the resolution. She said hate speech and freedom of speech are very different.

"You see it in the way those phrases ultimately can lead to violence," she said.

The resolution is "a statement of affirmation about the differences that exist in our community and the people that do deserve that

extra level of protection because historically they have been marginalized and victimized in many, many ways," she said.

"And so when we come together and say that, as a community, what we stand for is the ability for people to feel safe and protected and that our elected officials believe in that safety and protection as well, then that's a positive message that should be resonating throughout our town."

The original resolution was written by council members Bruce

McDougall, Carolyn Moulton and Anthony Young, with the assistance of the Rev. Terry Kylo, director of Neighbors in Faith, which works to build relationships and understanding between Christians and Muslims. A vote on that resolution, introduced Oct. 14, was postponed because of Miller's concerns. Councilmen Ryan Walters, Eric Johnson and Miller worked together on a revision, but Miller said he was only "97%" satisfied.

The resolution was

spurred in part by the finding this summer of a hangman's noose in a tree at Cap Sante Park and the display of a Nazi swastika at a vendor's booth during Shipwreck Day.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, the hangman's noose is "a symbol connected to lynching (and) is one of the most powerful visual symbols directed primarily at African-Americans," while the Nazi swastika is "a symbol of hate, anti-Semitism and infamy."



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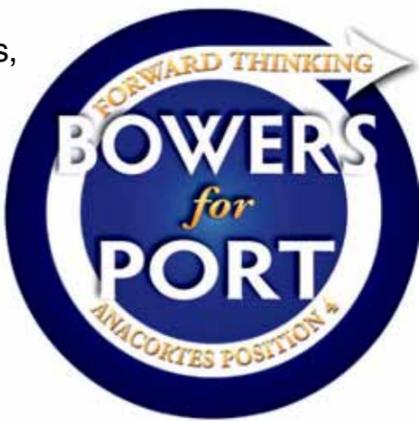
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## On November 5th, vote Bowers for Port!

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I appreciate your vote,  
Bonnie Bowers



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