



NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

\$100

A New Dog Park in Yelm? Probably Not A2

Thursday, October 24, 2019 • www.yelmonline.com

Memories of Thurston County Boxer Eloy Perez A6

Police Allow Treatment Rather Than Jail for Man Who Caused Walmart Bomb Scare

BY NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS STAFF

A man who caused a large law enforcement response and a lockdown at the Yelm Walmart Monday after threatening to blow up the building with explosives is being treated by mental health professionals rather than spending time in jail.

Yelm Police Chief Todd Stancill said the decision was made after learning that the

man's threats were not credible and that he in fact had made similar statements in the past based on his apparent psychosis.

The man, who has not been named, has previously called the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, on one occasion reporting he needed explosives removed from his property, but he in fact did not have any explosives.

"He was frustrated they had

not removed the explosives," Stancill said, noting that they didn't exist. "We decided to address his mental issues rather than incarcerating him."

The man is being treated through Behavioral Health Resources as a way of finding "the male individual the proper help while keeping our community safe," according to the Yelm Police Department.

While no one was ever in danger, there was a sizable law

enforcement response to the Yelm business.

"It was reported that a male was inside the store and had made comments to an employee that he had explosives in his vehicle and was going to blow the building up," the police department wrote in a summary of the incident. "Law enforcement responded and immediately detained the male and a female that was with him. The store went into a lockdown out

of obvious safety concerns. Investigation determined that the suspect had no explosives in his vehicle, no explosives at his residence and no obvious access to explosives."

Stancill said he was pleased to know Walmart has a lockdown procedure for such situations. He also noted that the police department would have evacuated the area had there been any evidence his statements were credible.

Rainier Woman Gets New Family Fit for Queen



Brooke Klumpp's Dreams Come True as She's Adopted and Named Homecoming Queen

BY MARIAN FLANDRICK For Nisqually Valley News

Brooke Klumpp, a special education senior at Rainier High School, has long held two wishes close to her heart — she wanted to be a princess, and she wanted a forever home with the Klumpp family.

Both of her wishes have now come true.

Brooke, who will be 21 in November, has been in extended foster care with Kurt and Carmen Klumpp of Rainier for five years, and she loves being with them.

When Brooke is asked what makes her unique, she always says, "I am unique because I have a family that is making me a permanent part of their life."

Brooke will be officially adopted by the family during a court proceeding on Friday, Oct. 25. That means legally she will



Belinda Hayner For Nisqually Valley News

Brooke Klumpp shows excitement at the pep rally where it was announced she was a Homecoming Princess.



Newly crowned Homecoming King and Queen Brooke Klumpp and Brody Klein.



Brooke Klumpp, the Homecoming Queen, with her new adoptive parents, Carmen and Kurt Klumpp.

SEE QUEEN, PAGE A9

Subscriber mailing label below this line

Preliminary Audit Finds Clearwood Embezzlement Larger Than First Thought

Forensic Auditor Says Former Bookkeeper Stole \$300,000 to \$400,000; Vote Planned on Repayment

BY ERIC ROSANE erosane@yelmonline.com

A preliminary look at the Clearwood Community Association's forensic audit shows that a former bookkeeper likely embezzled "above \$300,000

but less than \$400,000," General Manager Mitch Waterman said Tuesday.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the Clearwood Community Association Board of Directors will vote on whether to ask residents via a vote for a one-time repayment for those funds while the association awaits prosecution against the bookkeeper who embezzled funds for nearly four years.

Waterman said while the report is not quite finished, it likely shows that the amount of funds stolen was greater than they anticipated.

"He's given us an almost-final report," Waterman said of



Courtesy Photo

Clearwood Community Association official Aaron Lang addresses the details of an upcoming meeting in a video posted to the organization's Youtube. Last year, the homeowner's association found out that a bookkeeper had been embezzling funds since 2014. In November, Clearwood filed a civil complaint.

SEE AUDIT, PAGE A9

Follow Us on Facebook WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NISQUALLYVALLEYNEWS

Volume 97, Issue No. 43





At home, Kurt Klumpp shows Brooke Klumpp her new name on the legal adoption paperwork.

QUEEN:

Continued From Page A1

be part of the Klumpp family forever.

"I want my last name to be Klumpp," said Brooke. "And not H anymore."

She doesn't even like saying her old last name, though, at the same time, she is very thankful that her birth mother is allowing her to be adopted by the Klumpps.

Her princess wish came true as well.

Carmen Klumpp, Brooke's adopted mom, said that during all the time they've known Brooke, she has loved the idea of being a princess.

"She loves all the Disney princesses," Carmen said.

Brooke is very proud of her bedroom because her walls are covered with pictures of princesses, such as Anna and Elsa of "Frozen" fame. Princess statues are prominently placed on her table and shelves. Even her bed coverings are princess-themed.

"Now I'm a real princess. Here's my crown," she says, holding up proof in the form of her recent Rainier High School Homecoming queen crown.

"Remember," said Carmen. "You're now a queen, too."

For a week at Rainier High School, Brooke was a Senior Homecoming Court Princess. On Friday, Oct. 4, at the school pep rally, Brooke found out that the students had nominated her as one of the Homecoming court princesses.

"She was so surprised," said Carmen.

Brooke radiated happiness. Normally, Brooke wears a helmet to protect her from falling, but she

carefully and regally displayed her princess crown without her helmet.

Brooke's caretaker is also her newly minted adoptive sister, Courtney Klumpp, who is 26 and lives just down the road. Courtney explained some of the chaos before the crowning.

"We were going shopping for a homecoming dress and Brooke was really tired and wanted to take a nap," she said, adding that Brooke takes a lot of medicine, including anti-seizure medication that can make her tired.

"I asked her what color dress she wanted to wear," continued Courtney. "Like, pink, purple, silver, blue, what?"

"Sparkles," said Brooke.

"That's right," said Courtney. "She just wanted sparkles."

Courtney and Carmen quickly searched stores and found a dress glowing with sparkles.

Brooke's cousin, Takota Tibbet, who goes to Rochester High School, offered to take Brooke to her Homecoming dance. His Homecoming had been the week before.

Then, one week later on Friday, Oct. 11, at the Homecoming football game between the Rainier Mountaineers and the Onalaska Loggers, when the game paused for half time, Brooke's moment came.

Sporting her sparkly dress and her princess crown, Brooke arrived on the football field in a red 1947 Ford Coupe owned by Steve Ellingson with the other homecoming princes and princesses.

Brooke was declared the 2019 Homecoming queen. She received her crown from the 2018 Homecoming Queen Shady Noble. Brooke's escort was football play-

er and Homecoming King Brody Klein.

The Homecoming dance on Saturday was when Brooke got to really revel in being queen. Kurt and Carmen were at the dance, watching over their new daughter. Balancing her queen's crown, her new adoptive father, Kurt, danced with her as well as her date. Brooke asked Brody if he would dance with her, and he of course accepted.

"He danced the last three dances with me," said Brooke. "Two fast dances and one slow dance."

"The kids were so wonderful with Brooke," said Carmen. "A bunch of them gathered around Brooke and they all danced with her in a circle."

Kurt and Carmen observed that students didn't just vote for Brooke because of her disabilities, but because of her fun personality and the way she smiles and brightens up the school.

"This says so much about the kids at Rainier High," said Kurt. "We were told that the vote was overwhelming. I think that show how the students put others before themselves."

"So many people have helped Brooke," said Carmen. "One person donated time to do her makeup. Another person did her hair. She has so many people who care for her at school, teachers, para-educators and office staff. Principal John Beckman was so excited



Teacher Shari Edminister, left, Brooke, center, and Brooke's mom Carmen Klumpp.

Marian Flandrick/For Nisqually Valley News

er and Homecoming King Brody Klein.

The Homecoming dance on Saturday was when Brooke got to really revel in being queen. Kurt and Carmen were at the dance, watching over their new daughter. Balancing her queen's crown, her new adoptive father, Kurt, danced with her as well as her date. Brooke asked Brody if he would dance with her, and he of course accepted.

"He danced the last three dances with me," said Brooke. "Two fast dances and one slow dance."

"The kids were so wonderful with Brooke," said Carmen. "A bunch of them gathered around Brooke and they all danced with her in a circle."

Kurt and Carmen observed that students didn't just vote for Brooke because of her disabilities, but because of her fun personality and the way she smiles and brightens up the school.

"This says so much about the kids at Rainier High," said Kurt. "We were told that the vote was overwhelming. I think that show how the students put others before themselves."

"So many people have helped Brooke," said Carmen. "One person donated time to do her makeup. Another person did her hair. She has so many people who care for her at school, teachers, para-educators and office staff. Principal John Beckman was so excited

that she won."

Brooke, like all seniors, will graduate at the end of the school year and will have to decide what is next.

"I don't want to stop going to school," Brooke said.

"I know how much you love school," said Carmen. "Maybe you can volunteer in the office next school year," Carmen said, comforting her.

Brooke responded with a smile that was fit for a queen.



Brooke's caretaker and new sister, Courtney Klumpp, fits Brooke with her crown.

AUDIT:

Continued From Page A1

the auditor.

He said the early report also shows the alleged embezzler likely tried to launder the money by transferring it back and forth between accounts, giving the illusion that funds were coming in and out of the accounts when they were ultimately being stashed away into a bank account not owned by Clearwood.

The homeowners association will host two town halls on Sunday, Nov. 3, and Wednesday, Nov. 6, to discuss the matter.

Last year, Clearwood filed a civil complaint in Thurston County Superior Court, alleging Dolanna K. Burnett, a former bookkeeper, embezzled somewhere around \$300,000. According to a previous report by

the Nisqually Valley News, the lawsuit alleged Burnett wrote multiple checks and transferred funds to herself multiple times since 2014, covering her actions in the process.

Burnett had a previous conviction back in 2014 for alleged theft, identity theft and forgery when she worked for the Tacoma Health Department.

Waterman said he gives a lot of credit to the volunteers and staff at Clearwood for coming forward with concerns nearly two years ago.

"This place was operated by volunteers that were never trained to work in a corporate manner," Waterman said. "It took a lot of guts and a lot of chutzpah to stand up and say, 'There's something wrong here.'"

The board of directors will

hold a special election on Saturday, Dec. 14, to revise the 2020 budgeting process and change the bylaws on voting, Waterman said.

Clearwood members could also vote on a one-time repayment fee at that meeting, pending a vote passed by the board at the November meeting.

Waterman said shortening the budget process from a three-year process down to a two-year process will help the homeowners association more accurately predict revenue and expense needs.

"This is a bottom-up budget," he said. "Going forward, they'll be able to accurately forecast what they spend."

While Clearwood's operational fund is feeling the pain from this incident, board President Aaron Lang said the situation is significant considering their funds but not an immediate emergency.

Waterman agreed and said,

if necessary, the homeowners association could transfer funds from its other accounts, such as its capital fund, to help cover operational costs.

"If it was dire, we would take other steps. Not dire, but a bad situation," Waterman said.

J.D. Power has honored State Farm® as "Highest in Customer Satisfaction Among Life Insurance Providers."

Honored to be your choice for life insurance.

State Farm™ Stop in for your free Latte with your quote!
 Providing Insurance and Financial Services Like us on Facebook! Call us today to see how I can help with your insurance needs.

Next to Yelm Anytime Fitness

steelclayton.com 360.400.1400 - STEELE CLAYTON - AGENT

St. Columban Catholic Church

506 1st St. S. • Yelm

Fall Festival Turkey Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Turkey Dinner, Dessert & Beverage Served until 6 p.m.

(Adults - \$9.00 • Children Under 12 & Seniors - \$8.00)

Theater Pipe Organ Music 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

• Christmas Booth •

• Arts & Crafts • Baked Goods •

• Raffle • Potluck Game •

• Silent Auction • Children's Games •

• Knights of Columbus Booth •

Admission is Free!

RAINIER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB DANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

Featuring:

DOUBLEBACK

Gates

Open

at 7 pm

Music:

8 pm to

Midnight

Tickets:

\$10



Free

Overnight

RV Parking

& Full Bar

Available!



Rainier Sportsman's Club Dance Hall

404 Alaska St. ~ Rainier

No Outside

Beverages/

Alcohol