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## Public comment sought on dams

BY KEVIN HANSON  
Senior Writer

Public input is being requested as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shines its spotlight on a pair of local dams.

Officials are in the process of revising master plans for both the Howard A. Hanson and Mud Mountain dams. It is noted that existing master plans, developed about 20 years ago, do not reflect current conditions at the dams.

According to a Corps press release, master plans "guide comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the dam's life." Anticipated revisions, the release noted, "will classify the government lands around the dam based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends."

The public will have two opportunities to learn about, and comment on, dam plans.

• On April 22, a Corps

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## Downtown plans fail to materialize

The city is reaching out to a second developer.

BY KEVIN HANSON  
Senior Writer

In the end, the numbers just didn't work. So, the city of

Enumclaw is moving forward, exploring a second option for a prime, downtown piece of real estate.

At issue is the square block that fronts Cole Street and is bounded by Initial and Steven-son avenues. It's presently home to small buildings housing

Arts Alive! and the Chamber of Commerce, but is considered underutilized.

The city thought it found an answer in downtown business owner Marilyn Nelson, who pitched an idea for a building with ground-floor retail shops and two floors of residential

living. Next to the multi-use building would have been a pair of open-air pavilions suitable for a range of community use.

But, it was announced during the April 8 meeting of the City Council, everything has been

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## Playing out a harsh reality



Imagination Theater Co. actresses Annalisa Amaral, Sabrina Page, Kendall Williams, and Kaylyn Ayala play out a scene where a young student gets alcohol poisoning and needs immediate medical attention during last week's Reality House event at the Enumclaw Fire Department. The CDC estimates six people a day die from alcohol poisoning, or 2,200 a year. Those who missed the last event can check out another this Thursday, April 18, at the Buckley Fire Department from 5 to 8 p.m. Space is limited, so register online at [www.rfwellnessfoundation.org](http://www.rfwellnessfoundation.org) or calling 360-802-3206. To learn more about alcohol poisoning, go to [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/alcohol-poisoning-deaths/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/alcohol-poisoning-deaths/index.html). Photo by Ray Miller-Still

## All things Sasquatch at the Field House for the third international conference

BY RAY MILLER-STILL  
Editor

Washington state is famous for countless reasons. It's the birthplace of Starbucks and Bill Gates, one of the biggest producers of the U.S.'s lumber and apple industries, and — arguably one of the most interesting facts — boasts the most Sasquatch sightings in the country, many believers claim.

In fact, Pierce County specifically is known to believers of the cryptid as one of the best areas to encounter one, so it should

come as no surprise that the third International Conference for Primal People is being held nearby at both in Enumclaw and Greenwater.

The conference, slotted for April 26 - 28, is organized by Thom Cantrall, a "mainstay" of the Sasquatch community who has penned several books on the elusive being since his own encounter.

"There's things out there people don't understand," said Cantrall, who recently made Enumclaw his home. "I've spent 60 years in this pursuit and have learned a lot."

His interest in Sasquatch started when he read a 1958 news article about a man who discovered a whole series of 16-inch footprints in northern California.

"It was not far where I lived at the time, when I was growing up, and it lit my fire," Cantrall said, adding he was 15 at the time.

He continued to follow rumors and stories about Sasquatch for a number of years afterward, including when the famous Patterson-Gimlin film was released in 1967, which Cantrall said was filmed in the same general area as

where the footprints were found a decade earlier. He was in the navy at the time, "so there wasn't much chance to do more than read when you're under the north Atlantic," he said.

The Navy transferred Cantrall to Washington's Olympic Peninsula in 1968, where he stayed after he left the armed forces to get a

logging engineering degree from the UW. It was his degree, which allowed him to spend a lot of his work day in the woods, that led to his first sighting.

"There's this little whistle they do... for years, I thought it was just a bird I hadn't classified. And I finally figured out that's how they signal to one another,"

he said. "I'd hear it, I'd look up, and there'd be set of eyeballs peeking around a tree."

Cantrall said he has had several encounters over the decades. Many times, he'd just get clues that Sasquatches have been around, or just catch

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# Sasquatch: Hands-on classes will cover a range of topics

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glimpses — but on rare occasions, he'd stumble on something really amazing. Once, he observed a pair of Sasquatch fishing.

"It was amazing to watch. This was in a small stream up on the Peninsula — they'd run the fish up against a beaver dam and pick them out and squeeze them. I couldn't figure out for a long time why they would squeeze them. Some they'd split open, others they'd throw back," he said. "Finally, I figured it out — they'd squeeze them, and if eggs didn't come out, if sperm didn't come out, they'd throw them back. They were spawned out.

"They are a very intelligent species," he continued. "They're not some dumb apes like many people think they are."

Much of Cantrall's Squatching days are behind him, although he continues to help organize and host conventions from time to time. But the difference between his events and others is that everyone who presents at his conventions has had their own encounters.

"We do things a little differently, in that we don't have the television celebrities and, for the most part, the professors," he said. "The people that are on the dais are people that have had face-to-face encounters, so they're speaking from personal knowledge. We do have a couple of professor-types, but they also have muddy boots,



Thom Cantrell, one of the organizers of the upcoming International Conference for Primal People, holds up a mold of a Sasquatch footprint. He said the mold was taken in the Blue Mountains in Oregon by Paul Freeman, a well-known Sasquatch hunter whose 1994 footage of a Sasquatch in that area made big waves in the believer and skeptic communities alike. Photo by Ray Miller-Still

and that's important"

The third International Conference kicks off with a meet and greet at 5 p.m. on April 26 at the Enumclaw Expo Center's Field House.

The following day is also at the Field House, with various people giving presentations about their

own experiences with Sasquatch from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., including Scott Taylor of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rob Alley, author of "Raincoast Sasquatch," after 8 p.m.

The convention moves to the Greenwater Community Center

(at 59707 WA-410) on Sunday, April 28 for hands-on classes from 9 a.m. to noon.

The classes cover topics "like how to secure an investigation site, how to do forensic investigations, everything from how to use a camera to fingerprinting," Cantrall said, adding that some of

**"The people that are on the dais are people that have had face-to-face encounters, so they're speaking from personal knowledge. We do have a couple of professor-types, but they also have muddy boots, and that's important."**

Thom Cantrall

the classes will include basic forest survival tips for anyone, Sasquatch fan or no. "We'll have classes on how to walk in the woods and observe what to look for — the structures they make, the communications they use."

Tickets for the convention are \$40 for just Friday and Saturday, or \$50 for the whole weekend, and can be bought at <http://www.ghostsofrubridge.com/sas-conf-19/>. You can also view a full schedule of events on the website.

## Fang Acupuncture Clinic



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