



# FEDERAL WAY MIRROR



## Candy Cane Lane bazaar

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\$1.00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019

## Who is the elf on 320th Street?

73-year-old Federal Way resident dresses as elf to pick up trash, get some exercise and spread holiday cheer.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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In the spirit of Christmas cheer and city cleanliness, a trash-collecting elf has taken to the streets of Federal Way.

Drive down Southwest 320th Street almost any given morning and you'll find an elf, dressed in a festive red and green outfit, picking up litter and waving to passing traffic.

The elf is 73-year-old Tom Sites, a Federal Way resident.

"If I stand in one place and wave, then I'm a politician," Sites joked. "So I have to keep moving."

Sites walks daily to relieve the pain of several bulging discs in his back. He used to walk around nearby lakes, but didn't feel he was serving a purpose.

So, he decided to walk a new three-mile route, traveling from Twin Lakes Elementary School to Decatur High School and back along Southwest 320th Street, and clean up the city streets on the way.

"What happens is, you become part of the fabric after awhile," he said. "People don't notice it. They don't understand somebody is picking up all of their trash."

It would be hard to miss sight of Sites on the street now. For



OLIVIA SULLIVAN/STAFF PHOTO

Tom Sites dresses as an elf to spread holiday cheer while serving the community on Dec. 18 in Federal Way.

Halloween, he dressed up as a pumpkin and for Thanksgiving, he wore a turkey costume. This holiday season, many community members have been on the lookout for his red and green elf ensemble — complete with elf

ears and tights.

Sites carries a garbage bag and a trash picker tool, waving to nearly every vehicle that passes by. Some drivers wave back; some honk their car horns excitedly.

The simple greeting puts a smile on peoples' faces and spreads holiday cheer, Sites said.

"I'm really here to serve a purpose," he said. "It's about how you make people feel. That's what counts."

## Rep. Reeves resigns from House seat

30th District Democrat Rep. Kristine Reeves announced on Monday she is stepping down immediately.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN AND  
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Federal Way Rep. Kristine Reeves is resigning from her House seat, she announced on Monday.

In a video on her Facebook page, Reeves talked about her accomplishments during the past three years in the Legislature. These include playing an important role in supporting the biggest raise in K-12 teacher salaries in the nation, 12 weeks of paid family leave to care for loved ones or newborns to pushing for the state's first environmental justice directive and creating a path for affordable childcare for working families in Washington, a subsequent press release posted by Reeves noted.

"...Even though we've accomplished so much in this Washington, critical priorities to our kids, to working families and to communities are under attack in Washington, D.C. and that has to change," she said in the video.

She asked her constituents to join her in "the next phase of this fight." However, she did not say in

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## 85-year-old woman suspected of killing roommate

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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An 85-year-old woman is in custody after she allegedly killed one of her roommates and shot the other Thursday morning in Federal Way, police say.

The fatal domestic violence dispute occurred around 12:45 a.m. near the 2000 block of Southwest 306th Lane on Dec. 19. Federal Way patrol officers responded to a caller reporting that she had been shot.

"This is a domestic violence

situation between roommates and the motive is still unclear," Cmdr. Kurt Schwan of Federal Way police wrote in a statement Thursday morning.

On scene, officers found two female victims in their 30s inside the residence.

"One victim was deceased from what appears to be blunt force trauma and the second victim had sustained a gunshot wound," Schwan noted.

The second victim was

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