

WOW! workshop focuses on ‘Your Natural Healing Capabilities’

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

Dr. Carolyn DeSalvo presents “Your Natural Healing Capabilities,” a free WOW! Working on Wellness Forum set for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 14, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 S. Blake Ave.

Seating is limited, so attendees

are encouraged to arrive early.

By learning about one’s unique equilibrium and body’s natural healing capabilities, you can discover a new normal of feeling good with more vitality, event organizers say.



DeSALVO

DeSalvo is a physician with more than 25 years experience. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine and has completed a residency in OB/GYN at the University of Texas. She recently completed a fellowship in Integrative Medicine led by Dr. Andrew Weil at the University of Arizona.

WOW! Working on Wellness is

a health education program of Dungeness Valley Health Wellness Clinic — Sequim’s free clinic, which provides basic urgent care and chronic health care services to uninsured community members. Work is supported by more than 70 volunteers, including physicians, other professional health care providers and laypersons as

well as private and public donations from the Sequim community and beyond.

The Basic Urgent Care Clinic is open to patients on Monday and Thursday evenings beginning at 5 p.m.

Individuals interested in supporting the clinic may call 360-582-0218.

Board

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administrative duties across the school district.

Greywolf Elementary School has two new assistant principals, with Mark Willis coming over from the same post at Sequim High School while splitting his time running the Olympic Peninsula Academy, and Jennifer Lopez sharing the Greywolf position. Lopez most recently served as the school’s family engagement coordinator and is a former Greywolf classroom teacher.

With Willis leaving the Sequim High School, Kristi Queen is now the only assistant principal at the high school.

Other business

• Clark was officially sworn into his post as interim superintendent of the school district at the start of the meeting, in a short ceremony performed by Judge Brian Coughenour.

• Sequim Middle School counselor Cathy Shea is taking a one year leave of absence, Clark noted. The reason for her leave was not specified. Shea was named in



Rob Clark is officially sworn in as the interim superintendent of the Sequim School District by Judge Brian Coughenour at the Aug. 5 school board meeting. Sequim Gazette photo by Conor Dowley

the 2018 federal discrimination lawsuit against the district, along with Riccobene and SMS assistant principal Rhonda Kromm, who remains in her position.

• There was a short hearing for the final budget proposal

for the 2019-20 school year, which will see the district operate at a loss of \$140,946 for the school year. That number is based on what district director of business operations Darlene Apeland called a “conservative” en-

rollment projection through the course of the school year, and also includes \$68,590 in debt service payments. Both Clark and school board members present said they were satisfied with the budget presented, though Clark did note

that he will be taking a more personal role in monitoring what he called “a couple areas of concern” within the budget where he felt that the projected expenses were higher than he would expect.

• The board also reviewed

and approved a bid from Sodexo to continue providing food service for the school district on an initial one-year contract with a further four one-year options, though Clark and Kuh both expressed an interest in exploring self-operation options for the district in the future.

• While reviewing proposed updates to a district policy regarding maintaining professional boundaries between staff and students, the board had an in-depth discussion as to the impacts and concerns of the policy as currently updated. District staff have expressed a concern that the current state of the updated policy would prevent them from hiring students for jobs such as babysitting that have been standard practice in the past, and both Clark and the board agreed that the language of the policy is too restrictive in some areas and unclear in others as to what is allowed. Clark said that he will review and adjust the policy update to make it more clear and allow for “reasonable contact” for various situations, including reasonable employment and group activities like clubs and athletics.

Bekkevar

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for sunnier weather before cutting the hay, she said.

About a year ago, her brother-in-law Jim Bekkevar saw the rooster in some brush while he was looking to buy a tractor. He inquired about it and ended up with a tractor and a giant rooster, Trish Bekkevar said.

“It feels appropriate to have it here on the farm,” she said. “There used to be 3,000 chickens here during World War II.”

The Bekkevar Family Farm dates to 1910 and today features 117 acres where they sell hay, beef, eggs and pork.

Bekkevar said the yard art “in a way, promotes keeping our agriculture going.”

In her years of making the displays, Bekkevar said some of her most memorable ones included one featuring a bride and groom honoring her son’s wedding. An-

other was a monster truck that used four large circular hay bails with a cab made of rectangular bails.

“I saw some pictures of it in some used truck magazines; it was pretty popular,” Bekkevar said.

“Although when it rained it became a low rider.”

The rooster wagon took a few hours to setup, she said, and in years past she’s made animal cutouts and other items for displays, which all depend on how much spare time she has.

Typically the displays stay out for awhile, and Bekkevar said she’s considering decorations for the rooster in the future such as a lavender theme and upcoming holidays.

For many years, her boys helped her create the display, but as they’ve grown up, Bekkevar, her husband Dave and friend Patty Dinius make the displays.

The rooster is popular on farm tours, she said, and her grandchildren love photos from atop it.



Trish Bekkevar’s brother-in-law Jim discovered this giant rooster in some brush, and after inquiring about it, he purchased a tractor and the rooster, which he gave to Trish. She’s used it for displays two summers in a row now. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

Forum

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tribal officials said.

The tribe, Olympic Medical Center and Jefferson Healthcare applied for and received \$7.2 million for phase one from the state’s capital budget application, and tribal officials plan to seek the remainder of the facility’s funding in the 2020 legislative session.

Simcosky said the tribe will use about \$3 million of its own funds for phase one as well.

He said patients would be self-referred and not as residents described in the July 29 forum as “hardcore addicts in downtown Seattle.”

Simcosky said the biggest misnomer he’s heard is that the facility will grow up to 600 beds.

“We’re only going to see 250 patients but that’s going to take a couple of years,” he said.

“We’ll do intakes and select the right people for self-referral. If any problems arise, we can fix them.

“We’ll work out a mitigation plan with the city, (and) put tracking badges on

people. We can do all kinds of things.”

Simcosky said they’ll likely only see about 20 patients when they begin services with some receiving free treatment and others on Medicaid and private insurances.

Patients will only come from Clallam and Jefferson County, he said.

Meeting set

On Aug. 8, Simcosky said tribal staff and leaders will give an approximate 20-minute presentation with leaders from other stakeholders like OMC speaking.

“We’re asking people to hear us out,” Simcosky said. “If they disagree with what we’re doing, I get it. At least disagree with the facts and not some perceived thing.”

He said the meeting is an opportunity to hear from leaders like Clallam County Sheriff Bill Benedict and if they think crime will increase with the facility in place.

As previously reported, management for the tribe’s facility features an agreement with Olympic Medical Center to operate the psychiatric facility, as well as potential agreements to collaborate with Jefferson

Healthcare, Forks Community Hospital and Peninsula Behavioral Health.

Simcosky said tribal leaders have spoken to local health care organizations about a possible facility for one-and-a-half-years and they seemed supportive to help stop the opioid epidemic.

In the last few weeks, he’s led talks about the proposed facility with the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce, Sequim Sunrise Rotary and Sequim Association of Realtors, and welcomes opportunities to speak to other groups.

For Thursday’s meeting, he said each person can ask a question and/or comment tentatively for two minutes so long as they are respectful.

Clarification

From the city’s forum, several questions were asked about the logistics of the facility.

As for why the tribe isn’t building in Blyn, Simcosky said there’s not as much property there as people think and it isn’t zoned for healthcare.

“It took about a year of design to get the hotel there without all sorts of problems, he said.



About two-dozen people stand at the intersection of West Washington Street and Priest Road on Aug. 3, expressing concern over a proposed Medication Assisted Facility. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell

As for why Sequim, Simcosky said there are multiple reasons — access to water, sewer and Internet along with medical resources and staffing from the tribe’s clinic on Fifth Avenue.

He said another key piece was that the city had already zoned the area for healthcare services.

“We didn’t know we were going to buy this property but it was zoned for health care and the owner dropped their price \$600,000,” he

said. “We thought it was an opportunity.”

Despite most in attendance at last week’s forum opposed to the tribe’s facility, Simcosky said he feels there are just as many people in favor of the project as at the forum.

“We can build it, but we want people to feel comfortable and safe,” he said. “We’ll prove it once we open it. We’d like more people to feel comfortable now though.”

Tribal officials said construction tentatively begins

on the project following the city’s application and permitting process in spring 2020.

Simcosky said when the tribe purchased the land they didn’t imagine it’d be in a location people wouldn’t OK with placing the facility.

For more information on the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, visit jamestowntribe.org or call the clinic at 360-683-5900.

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