



# A mighty team helps local vets and seniors

Plateau Outreach Ministries works with the county to repair vulnerable homes

**BY DANIELLE CHASTAINE**  
dchastaine@maplevalleyreporter.com

You may not notice it when driving down Cole Street in downtown Enumclaw, but the quaint, aged office for Plateau Outreach

Ministries contains a lot of fresh starts and opportunities. A trio of women, and a number of volunteers, spend time each week in the office offering the vulnerable populations around the Plateau emergency and

financial assistance, extended services and a walk-in food bank. Director Elisha Smith-Marshall, Veterans and Seniors Outreach Case Manager Lisa Napolitano and Director Elaine Olson spend each day trying to keep their

communities afloat. "We have our Samaritan services, which is the umbrella of our services," Smith-Marshall said. "We have one-time assistance for people who need help with something like rent or their utility bill. We have services for

See **VETS**, Page 9

# Changes to Black Diamond city code address attorney contracts

The city said it is clarifying the mayor has the power to hire and fire attorneys; some residents say this gives the mayor too much power.

**BY RAY MILLER-STILL**  
Editor

The Black Diamond City Council's decision to expand to seven seats wasn't the only controversial item they tackled earlier this month.

During the Aug. 1 meeting, the council unanimously approved an ordinance defining how a city attorney is selected, retained, and dismissed — a lesson learned, perhaps, from when a previous council majority and Mayor Carol Benson openly fought over whether the city's legislative or executive branches had the sole power of hiring and firing attorneys. This led to a parade of at least six lawyers to be hired by the city between 2016 and 2018, and one point where three were working for the city at the same time.

The adopted ordinance clarifies the mayor has the power to hire the city's attorney — with council confirmation — and fire the attorney at will. However, some Black Diamond residents who spoke at the meeting said this gives the executive head of the city too much power.

"I'm startled by the power that is given to the mayor in this proposed ordinance. If I read between the lines correctly, the mayor would have exclusive power over the attorney, and instruct the city attorney to conduct business according to her agenda without council approval," said resident Mike Fettig. "I believe the citizens of Black Diamond elected a council to serve the public interest — the public is being cut off when their council members aren't allowed to disagree with the mayor, and the mayor can determine what issues the city attorney can work on."

See **ATTORNEY**, Page 5

# Leaping lizards



PHOTOS BY RAY MILLER-STILL

Gasps of astonishment, and a few screams of terror, escaped the mouths of Plateau youths when the Monroe-based Reptile Zoo came to town Thursday, Aug. 8. After learning a few fun facts about various reptiles, like how king cobras can grow up to 18 feet long and stand six feet high, and that female iguanas choose their mates at least partly based on how large the male's jowls are, they were able to personally meet a few of the more exciting, but safe, specimens.

# Trash talk: Enumclaw renews solid waste pact with King County

**BY KEVIN HANSON**  
Senior Writer

Trash goes into the city-issued bin, it gets wheeled weekly to the curb and it disappears. That's the end of the story for most Enumclaw residents, who pay their bill and don't give much thought to where the garbage goes.

But there's a multi-layered approach to getting spoiled leftovers from the back of the fridge to their eventual, underground destination. It involves a formal agreement between King County and nearly all the cities and towns in the county, including Enumclaw.

That agreement, which had been in place since 2001, was renewed during a late-July session of the Enumclaw City Council. Officially designated the "Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan," it was passed unanimously.

Essentially, the agreement puts King County in charge of planning for solid waste disposal. Participating agencies include every city in the county except Seattle and Milton.

The interlocal agreement involves more than the simple hauling and burying of trash. Spelled out are long-term details surrounding recycling and waste prevention in general, the transferring of solid waste from one point to another and, finally, the eventually means of disposal.

Here are some of the highlights of the agreement, taken from a memo provided by City Administrator Chris Searcy to

members of the council.

## Recycling and Waste Prevention

Waste prevention and recycling are long-standing priorities. Recent recyclable market disruption due to China's National Sword policy, placing stringent contamination limits on imported recyclable material, has led to policy changes that reflect the need to align comingled materials collected

See **TRASH**, Page 5

**August 22, 23 & 24**  
at the Enumclaw Expo Center  
7:00 PM • Gates open @ 5:00 PM  
General Admission: \$15  
Under 5: Free  
Under 12, Seniors & Veterans: \$10  
Thursday Family 4 Pack: \$45  
Beer Garden

**PRO RODEO**  
www.EnumclawProRodeo.com

