

# SHELTON-MASON COUNTY Journal

Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019

The Voice of Mason County Since 1886 - Vol. 132, No. 48

\$1.50

## City gears up for holidays

*Parade, tree lighting scheduled for next week*

By Gordon Weeks  
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The annual Christmas parade, a tree lighting in Post Office Park and trips through a Christmas tree maze are among the highlights of holiday events staged Dec. 6 and 7 in downtown Shelton.

During the Holiday Magic First Friday on Dec. 6, downtown businesses will be open until 8 p.m. A snow globe will be hidden at one of the businesses, and everyone who spots it will receive a raffle ticket to enter a drawing to win a variety of gift baskets. The raffle tickets need to be dropped off at Cooper Studios, 409 W. Railroad Ave., before 8:15 p.m. to be entered into the drawing.

The 2018 film “Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch” will be screened at 4 p.m. Dec. 6. at Shelton Cinemas. Admission is free with the donation of non-perishable food.

West Railroad Avenue in the downtown corridor will be closed to vehicle traffic starting at 3 p.m. for the First

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## A ‘Santa Paws’ sighting

Hank, a 6-year-old pitbull mix with three legs, sits on Santa Claus’ lap with handler Jeannette Quimby on Saturday at Scott McLendon’s Hardware in Belfair. For \$20, residents could get their pet’s photo with Santa, also known as Jeff Berger. Proceeds went to the Humane Society of Mason County. For more photos of the event, see page A-23. *Journal photo by Shawna Whelan*



Moments after a jury found 62-year-old Bruce Frank Fanning guilty of second-degree murder in the April 2017 shooting death of 31-year-old Nathaniel J. Rosa, the victim’s mother, Linda Ann Rosa, right, embraces Charity Dorcy on Nov. 21 in Mason County Superior Court in Shelton. *Journal photos by Michael Heinbach*

## Fanning found guilty of murder

*Jury convicts 62-year-old Belfair man on lesser second-degree charge*

By Michael Heinbach  
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“Well, I guess I’ll see you in about 20 years.”

That’s what Bruce Frank Fanning told courthouse security the morning of Nov. 21 as Mason County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Bill Philpott led the 62-year-old Belfair man to Mason County Jail in Shelton. Moments earlier, a 12-member jury found Fanning guilty of second-degree murder in the April 2017 shooting death of Nathaniel J. Rosa, a lesser charged offense than the first-degree premeditated murder charge argued for by Mason County Prosecutor Michael Dorcy.

Dorcy and Richard Woodrow, Fanning’s defense attorney, wrapped up closing arguments late in the day Nov. 19 before the eight-male, four-female jury began deliberating the following morning. About 24 hours later, the jury reached its verdict.

Multiple sources within the Mason County Prosecutor’s, Sheriff’s and Superior Court Clerk’s offices confirmed to the *Shelton-Mason County Journal* that the jury initially voted 11-1 to convict Fanning of the premeditated murder charge before agreeing unanimously on a second-degree murder conviction. That relieved Fanning of



Mason County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Bill Philpott escorts Bruce Frank Fanning to Mason County Jail.

the burden of premeditation.

“The truth is, there’s frustration to the extent that it is a premeditated murder. I truly believe that, and the jurors that I did have a chance to speak with, they saw that and felt that same way pretty quickly,” Dorcy said. “That’s a form of vindication for the way I’ve always seen the case.”

Dorcy told the *Journal* that with a five-year enhancement for using a firearm, Fanning’s sentence will range

between 183 months (15 years, three months) and 280 months (23 years four months). His sentencing hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Dec. 17 in Mason County Superior Court.

“We were hoping for a not-guilty decision, but I understand the jury’s verdict,” Woodrow said. “That was our fear to tell the truth, because when Mr. Fanning gave his statement to

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