



# SEQUIM GAZETTE

www.sequimgazette.com

Sequim's Hometown Newspaper

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## District reinstates SHS principal to position

### Board seeks end to superintendent investigation

BY MICHAEL DASHIELL  
Sequim Gazette

Sequim High School Principal Shawn Langston will be back on the job when students come back to classes — most of them virtual — on Monday following winter break. He has agreed to work with a mediator to “build trust” at the high school, Acting Superintendent Jane Pryne told district parents in an email Dec. 18 that did not say what he allegedly did to erode trust.

District officials have declined to specify what complaints were filed against Langston and Superintendent Rob Clark that prompted the administrators to be placed on paid leave, Clark on Oct. 22 and Langston on Oct. 23. Officials have said only that complaints filed against the two men were separate and that law enforcement was not involved.

The district declined in November to fill a public records request from the Sequim Gazette saying the administrators had a right to privacy “due to the highly offensive nature of the allegations.”

Earlier this month, district officials said they anticipated the investigations into complaints

concerning the two administrators would be concluded by mid-January and records will be available for disclosure by the end of January.



LANGSTON

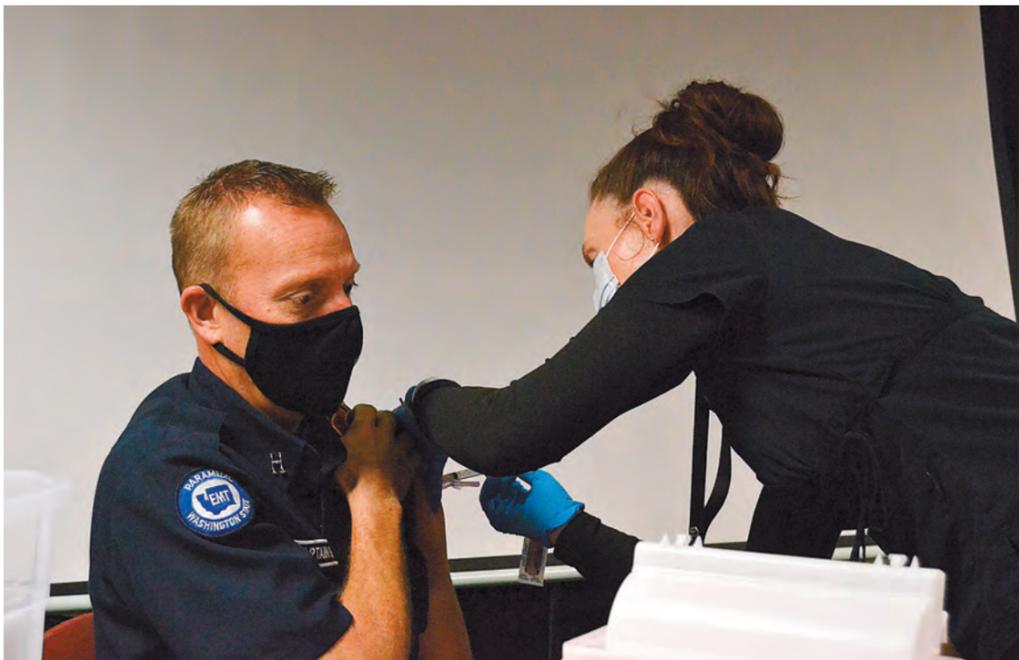
School Board members have approved Pryne's recommendation to reinstate Langston to the position — without stating the cause of the investigation — and apparently have decided to follow attorney recommendations about Clark — without stating in open session what those recommendations were.

Pryne's Dec. 18 email to parents/guardians of Sequim High School students said Langston had met with the district's human resources director, Victoria Balint, to review the complaint investigation findings.

“It was clear from our conversation that Principal Langston appreciated the candor of those who provided testimony, and has made a commitment to do the hard work of partnering with a mediator to help bring reconciliation and healing to Sequim High School,” Pryne wrote.

“Principal Langston will work with a District-appointed mentor to better equip him personally to lead the staff of Sequim High School and build trust where it is lacking, re-build trust that is broken, and create unity where there is division.

See PRINCIPAL, A-6



Nurse Kelly Bower with the Jamestown Family Health Clinic gives a Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to Capt. Derrell Sharp with Clallam County Fire District 3 on Dec. 29 at the fire station's headquarters. Clinic leaders say they've begun circulating the vaccine to first responders and plan to offer community vaccinations in the coming weeks. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

## Sequim first responders receive Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

### Community vaccines tentatively begin in coming weeks for residents 75-plus

BY MATTHEW NASH  
Sequim Gazette

Some Sequim-area first responders received their first of two vaccinations for COVID-19 this week.

Staff with Jamestown Family Health Clinic provided the Moderna vaccine at the Clallam County Fire District 3 headquarters for fire district staff and volunteers, Olympic Ambulance employees and Sequim Police Department staff.

Blaine Zechenelly, a volunteer EMT and disaster planner, and volunteer EMT Sandy Boudrou were the first to receive the vaccine.

Zechenelly said he's not in the high risk category for the virus and relatively healthy but with a grandbaby being born soon said he wants to be safe and also able to help the Sequim community if needed.

See VACCINE, A-6

## Local child care providers struggle to offer openings, staffing

### Issues were prevalent prior to pandemic, stakeholders say

BY MATTHEW NASH  
Sequim Gazette

Federal support is coming for child care facilities and families through the \$900-billion federal COVID-19 relief package.

However, Sequim and Clallam County providers continue to say space is limited and potential employee pools are sparse.

Multiple outlets report about \$10 billion of the package is set for child care support grants for cleaning supplies, staff payroll and more.

In Clallam County, finding a spot for a child was difficult prior to the pandemic and remains difficult nine months after the region's COVID-19 outbreak.

“It's always been a problem,” said Mary Budke, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula. “The pandemic just brought it to the surface.”

According to recent data from Child Care Aware of Washington, the state's official Child Care COVID-19 Communications, Response and Referral Center, Clallam



Bethany McKim, infant room teacher at Sequim's Little Explorers Early Learning Center, cares for 7-month-old Oisín in December. Owners of the center said they've had difficulty hiring during the pandemic, which has led them to limit their hours. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

County has 26 openings for child day care service from licensed providers.

Sequim City Manager Charlie Bush said there were

only eight slots available in June for children ages 5-12 in Clallam County.

At the beginning of the year there were 41 licensed

childcare providers in the county, but closures fluctuated between nine to 12 facilities throughout 2020. Ten remained closed as of mid-December, said Marcia Jacobs, communications and marketing manager for Child Care Aware of Washington.

“Some providers are caring for fewer children due to physical distancing measures and also due to some parents working from home and keeping their children home,” Jacobs said.

“Other providers have added staff to care for more children since some programs have closed. Some of the new children that some providers have added staff for are school-agers.”

### School-aged

Business partners Erin Bell and Helana Coddington, co-owners of Sequim's Little Explorers Early Learning Center, 191 W. Sequim Bay Road, continue to watch their three school-aged children at the 5-and-under facility as their public schools continue to work remotely.

“It's been so challenging for us to try and run our business as well as work with our children on their education,” Bell said.

Bell's daughter works from a computer in the office while Coddington's sons work from computers in the break room.

See CARE, A-13

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## SHS freshman keeps Christmas project going amid COVID

### River Jensen compiles toiletries for those in-need

BY MATTHEW NASH  
Sequim Gazette

A pandemic didn't keep 14-year-old River Jensen and her family from helping those in-need for a fifth straight year through River's Christmas Project.

The Sequim High freshman provided more than 575 care packs of toiletries and day-to-day items to local agencies.

Unlike in years past, River wasn't able to hand out the bags because of health concerns and restrictions.

“It's OK,” she said in a Christmas Eve phone inter-

view. “It still got to the people.” In previous years, she's handed out more than a 1,000 bags each year to agencies such as Serenity House of Clallam County and the Port Angeles Salvation Army. This December, bags were divided between those agencies and the Port Angeles Food Bank and Port Angeles Police Department.

In previous efforts, River collected local donations of soaps, toothbrushes and more at local businesses, but her mother Anna Larsen didn't want to risk any spreading of COVID-19.

“We had a concern about handing them out to the most vulnerable people,” Anna said.

Instead, River helped recruit her aunt Rose Glitschka's employer Zipwhip, a text mes-

saging software business in Seattle, to sponsor her effort through an Amazon Wish List, so that staff could donate supplies and ship directly to River's home.

“Without the extra hands, we didn't have to worry about COVID-type things,” Anna said.

Some local supporters also purchased from the list, she said.

River said kits for men and women contain a variety of shampoos, conditioners, soaps, body washes and other toiletries. Larger packs hold hats, gloves, socks, razors, deodorant, shave cream, nail files, chap stick and more. All bags feature a handwritten note from River.

See PROJECT, A-12



For the fifth year, River Jensen collected toiletries and other necessities for those in-need through local agencies. While she wasn't able to personally deliver the items to each person due to COVID-19, she said it was OK. “It still got to the people.”

Photo courtesy of Anna Larsen

weather outlook:

THURSDAY, DEC. 31  
▲47 ▼40

FRIDAY, JAN. 1  
▲48 ▼40

SATURDAY, JAN. 2  
▲49 ▼40

0 06805 93172 3

# Libraries host virtual craft sessions, books clubs and more

The new year looks to be a busy one for library patrons and staff on the Olympic Peninsula.

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) hosts a number of virtual programs and services starting in January, from afternoon craft time for adults to subscription services and book clubs for teens.

For more information about these and other library programs and services, visit [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org), email to [discover@nols.org](mailto:discover@nols.org) or follow North Olympic Library System on Facebook and Instagram.

## Winter Reading Challenge

From Jan. 1-31, NOLS will participate in Beanstack's Fourth Annual Winter Reading Challenge. Sponsored by Simon & Schuster, "Books Like Us" is a "celebration of diversity, harnessing the transformative power of seeing oneself reflected in a book," according to representatives of Beanstack, a software platform.

This winter, NOLS invites readers of all ages to explore books from authors spanning an array of diverse backgrounds. Use #WinterRead2021 to join the conversation. NOLS challenges patrons to read at least 10 books during the month and keep track of their reading at [www.nols.beanstack.org](http://www.nols.beanstack.org) or on the Beanstack app.

Thousands of libraries and schools across the nation will encourage their communities to read a target number of minutes and books. Top-performing libraries and schools earn rewards from Simon & Schuster, including book collections and virtual author visits.

## Virtual crafts sessions

NOLS invites adults to enjoy an afternoon craft escape and some virtual connection on Thursdays in January from



Left: The North Olympic Library System hosts virtual craft sessions each Thursday afternoon in January. Right: Peninsula libraries now offer bags with books and special treats for teens. Photos courtesy of North Olympic Library System



3:30 to 5 p.m. Participants are encouraged to grab a crochet, knitting or other craft project, a favorite afternoon treat and the informal gathering to craft and chat together. All skill levels and crafts are welcome!

Register at [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org) or call the Sequim Library at 360-683-1161 to receive a Zoom link.

This program is supported by local Friends of the Library Groups.

## Teen subscription service

Teens can now subscribe to a monthly book service just for them through a new NOLS program. Readers in grades 7-12 can sign up to receive a monthly book bag to be picked up curbside. Each bag contains two custom-selected library books along with treats and surprises.

To get a monthly Teen Lit Bag, sign up at [www.nols.org/teen-lit-bag](http://www.nols.org/teen-lit-bag). Participants can cancel at any time. Bags will be ready to be picked up at one's selected library on the first Saturday of each month. After using the library books, users are asked to fill out a



response card and return it along with the books; the rest of the contents are to keep.

Curbside library service is available 10am-6pm on Monday and Wednesday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

For more information, call 360-417-8500.

## Books clubs for teens, tweens

NOLS invites tweens and teens to participate in online book groups from February through April. To join, pick up a Words Matter (grades 5-9) or Teens Read (grades 9-12) Book Club set at any NOLS branch beginning Tuesday, Jan. 5, and register at [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org) to receive the Zoom login for after-school book discussions with library staff.

Find links to short video

book summaries on the registration page. Participants

can keep the books but supplies are limited. Copies of all titles are also available in many formats for regular check out.

The Words Matter Book Club will discuss "Harbor Me" by Jacqueline Woodson, "The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora" by Pablo Cartaya and "I Am Still Alive" by Kate

Alice Marshall.

The Teens Read Club will discuss "All American Boys" by Jason Reynolds, "With the Fire on High" by Elizabeth Acevedo and "Children of Blood and Bone" by Tomi Adeyemi.

For more information, call 360-417-8500 or email to [teens@nols.org](mailto:teens@nols.org).

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## WEATHER

Date	High	Low
Dec. 22	45	27
Dec. 23	41	26
Dec. 24	40	28
Dec. 25	47	32
Dec. 26	48	35
Dec. 27	48	34
Dec. 28	45	36

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
Dec. 30	8:02 a.m.	4:28 p.m.
Dec. 31	8:02 a.m.	4:29 p.m.
Jan. 1	8:02 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 2	8:02 a.m.	4:31 p.m.
Jan. 3	8:02 a.m.	4:32 p.m.
Jan. 4	8:02 a.m.	4:33 p.m.
Jan. 5	8:02 a.m.	4:34 p.m.

## TIDE CHARTS

These tides are corrected for Dungeness Bay.

Date	5:13 a.m. 8.4	9:42 a.m. 6.7	1:42 p.m. 7.4	9:30 p.m. -1.6
Dec. 30				
Dec. 31	5:44 a.m. 8.5	10:26 a.m. 6.6	2:25 p.m. 7.2	10:11 p.m. -1.8
Jan. 1	6:21 a.m. 8.5	11:13 a.m. 6.6	2:57 p.m. 7.1	10:51 p.m. -1.6
Jan. 2	6:54 a.m. 8.5	12:06 p.m. 6.2	3:51 p.m. 6.7	11:34 p.m. -1.2
Jan. 3	7:26 a.m. 8.5	1:05 p.m. 5.6	4:59 p.m. 6.1	NA
Jan. 4	NA	12:17 a.m. -0.4	7:58 a.m. 8.5	2:08 p.m. 4.7
Jan. 5	NA	1:02 a.m. 0.6	8:30 a.m. 8.5	3:08 p.m. 3.6

## CORRECTION

An undated photograph from a community parade at Dungeness was incorrectly labeled in an article in the Dec. 23 edition of the Sequim Gazette ("Memories and more at Port Williams," page A-14).

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## MOON

Jan. 6 Third quarter  
Jan. 12 New moon  
Jan. 20 First quarter

## RAINFALL

**Rainfall for Week of Dec. 21-28, 2020**

1.8 inches of precipitation recorded. Rainfall recorded at reported at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

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Portions of Seventh Avenue, including the 900 block of South Seventh Avenue, saw flooding from heavy rains, blocked storm drains and/or flooded stormwater ponds on Dec. 21. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

## Rains flood Washington Street, Seventh Avenue property

BY MATTHEW NASH  
*Sequim Gazette*

Portions of the City of Sequim including Seventh Avenue saw flooding on Monday, Dec. 21.

Sequim Operations Manager Ty Brown said heavy rains followed by snow showers caused "city storm water infrastructure to become saturated over time to the point that certain areas would not take on any more water."

Ponds formed on Seventh and Fifth Avenues along West Washington Street after traveling downhill to the east with a stormwater pond

on the north side of the 900 block of West Washington Street flooding and sending water to those intersections, Brown said.

City crews uncovered a blocked overflow pipe to alleviate the flooding, he said.

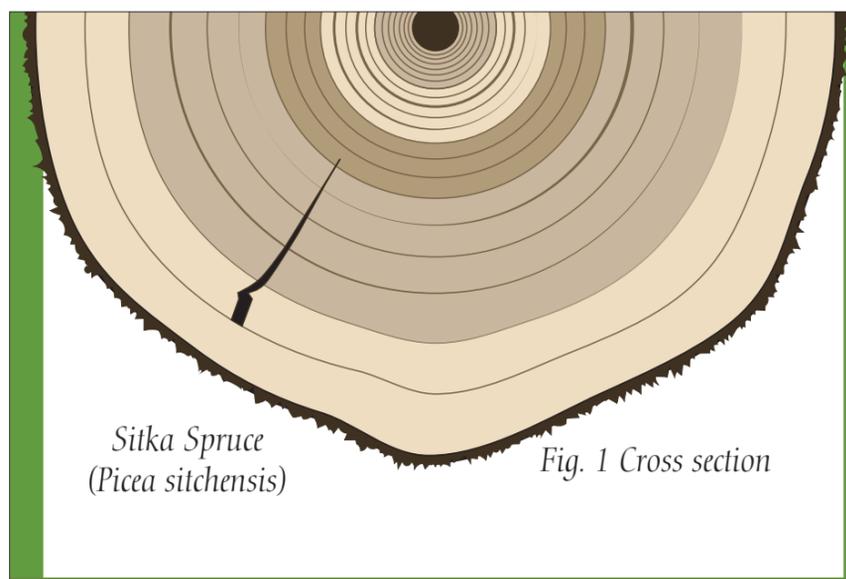
At about 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22, city crews also found a flooded property in city limits while spraying deicer on the 900 block of South Seventh Avenue, near McCurdy Road.

Brown said they checked with the homeowner to make sure he was OK before investigating the flooding. They found an irrigation

ditch on the southwest side of the property was partially blocked with sticks and leaves, causing water to detour from the ditch line towards the northeast portion of the property and flood it.

Crews removed blockage to send water to the ditch, which was in unincorporated Clallam County limits, Brown said.

City staff previously targeted the southwest corner of the West Washington Street/North Seventh Avenue intersection for stormwater improvements to add more capacity.



Sitka Spruce  
(*Picea sitchensis*)

Fig. 1 Cross section

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Fig. 2 Bough



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# LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAYS WITH SPIRIT AND SONG

KSQM 91.5 FM hosts a Christmas Silly-Sing-Along on Dec. 20, with special prizes for the best Christmas-lighted vehicles. Photo courtesy of Alan Halfhill (KSQM's "Uncle Al")



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### Food package program continues

The Covid-19 Food Care Package distribution program will continue in Sequim through the end of March. The program is conducted twice a month, and care packages will be available on the following Wednesdays 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:

- Jan. 13 and 27
- Feb. 10 and 24
- March 10 and 24

Drivers are asked to queue up at Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 S. Blake Ave. where they will be directed to volunteers who will load their car with boxes of food.

For more information, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Tyler Wiles at 360-912-1641 or [twiles@sequimwa.gov](mailto:twiles@sequimwa.gov).

### County downgrades shellfish harvesting

The Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services' Environmental Health Division announced last week a downgrade to recreational shellfish harvest of all shellfish in the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Low Point/Lyre River east to Discovery Bay because of the presence of biotoxins.

Sequim Bay and Discovery Bay are both closed to butter and varnish clams only.

The Strait of Juan de Fuca from Low Point/Lyre River west to Dungeness Spit is closed to all species of shellfish.

For more information about this closure, call the Shellfish Safety Hotline at 800-562-5632, or visit the Department of Health's Shellfish Safety Website at [www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety](http://www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety).

partment of Health's Shellfish Safety Website at [www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety](http://www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety).

### Conservation district landscaping webinar

The Clallam Conservation District is offering a webinar about how to plan and implement a native plant-based landscape from 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6.

District executive director Joe Holthrop will cover basic site analysis, an overview of common native trees and shrubs, plant selection, bare-root plant care, planting and maintenance. Time is allotted for questions and answers to help participants choose plants from the district's annual plant sale that are the best fit for their land.

Register at [www.clallamcd.org](http://www.clallamcd.org). Those unable to attend the live event can request a recording by email.

The Conservation District is taking orders through Jan. 28 for bare-root native trees, shrubs and pollinator seed; see [www.clallamcd.org/native-plants](http://www.clallamcd.org/native-plants).

For more information, email to [info@clallamcd.org](mailto:info@clallamcd.org) or call 360-775-3747, x5.

### Leave message for disabled vets assistance

The Disabled American Veterans office at 583 West Washington St. is currently closed. However, veterans who are needing help with claims or other information can call 360-477-4918. They are asked to leave a message for "DAV."

## SENIOR DAY

### Wednesdays | 55+



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- Week #4: Cookie Jar



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# BUSINESS

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SEQUIM GAZETTE

## A surge in community resiliency

As 2020 draws to a close, the Sequim Farmers & Artisans Market (SFAM) is taking a look back at the important role its vendors and guests played in uniting the community in a year filled with challenges and surprises.

SFAM functions as a gateway to small, local businesses — this year becoming Sequim's foremost local shopping experience. The market represented more than 40

diverse vendors, with weekly offerings including farm fresh produce, prepared food-to-go and artisan's crafts.

"It really filled a need during this pandemic year," said Sallie Constant of River Run Farm. "It was something fun that people could do safely outdoors, while also getting their shopping done for the week."

"The market had its best year we could ever imagine," shared Patti of Blue Mountain Baking Co. "Phenomenal is an understatement."

Owners of newcomer Ulivo Pizzeria said they were pleasantly surprised by the market's strength in 2020.

"We didn't know what to expect for our first year, but it was so positive," Andrea Mingiano said.

"There were so many people who told us that they'd lived in Sequim for twenty years and had never come to the market before this year. I was like, 'How is that possible?! So many new people!'"

The fact is, word had gotten around. Locals and visitors alike gathered to safely support their favorite vendors. The market offered an opportunity for togetherness, something that for many has felt in short supply this year.

"The market seems to be making a change," Mingiano said. "It's really shifting to meet the needs of locals. We want people to shop here, not only for the occasional gift, but for their needs and pleasures. For example, we really loved being able to buy fresh veggies!"



The Sequim Farmers & Artisans Market and its 40 vendors enjoyed a strong 2020 season despite the a number of challenges. Photo by Silas Crews



Sallie Constant of River Run Farm displays some early spring produce at the Sequim Farmers & Artisans Market. Photo by Emma Jane Garcia

Mingiano said she isn't the only fan of the increase in local produce and farm fresh goods; it seems the whole community took notice.

"The fact that we have more farmers made a huge difference," Blue Mountain Baking Co.'s Patti said. "I don't know how many times I heard people excited to see so many farmers there. There were so many choices and it was really evident how cool it's all becoming."

"Financially it was our best season to date at the market," Constant said.

Vendors also saw increases in local regulars week after week. SFAM aims to empower bur-

geoning small business owners in actualizing their entrepreneurial goals. Starting a small business at the market allows business owners to establish their brand, hone their marketing skills, and get feedback on their product in a low risk environment.

This presents entrepreneurs with an economically prudent opportunity to get their product out to the large consumer base that matters the most: their neighbors and local community.

"At market, you're able to start small-scale with low overhead because you're not paying for a brick and mortar space," Constant said. "It gives you a chance

to test your product with the support that the market infrastructure provides you."

People turned out to support local like never before in 2020, making 2021 the prime year to join Sequim's vibrant market family. With such an exciting year under its belt, the market is eager to continue on its upward trajectory.

"I think the pandemic has showed us how vulnerable our small business economy can be when we have crisis," Constant said. "The market has so many diverse options for fresh and delicious local food, as well as unique crafts and art that you can't get anywhere else. It's valuable to the health and vibrancy of our community for it to continue flourishing."

The Sequim Farmers & Artisans Market operates from May through October and is currently in its offseason.

Do you grow, cook, or create? SFAM would love to meet you. The market is accepting vendor applications for the 2021 market season.

For more information, visit [www.sequimmarket.com](http://www.sequimmarket.com) or find the market on Facebook or Instagram.

Emma Jane Garcia is Marketing Manager for the Sequim Farmers & Artisans Market.

## Sound Publishing re-launches local business stimulus grant program

### Applications due by Jan. 4

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

Sound Publishing has launched a local stimulus program to help businesses adapt in a rapidly evolving economic environment.

Based in Everett, Sound is the publisher of the Sequim Gazette Peninsula Daily News, The Daily Herald and the Daily World in Aberdeen, and provides local news, information and advertising to more than 35 communities in Washington.

Sound will make up to \$500,000 available to locally owned and operated businesses through monthly grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000.

The program will provide matching advertising credits for use in print and digital products. The grants will be awarded immediately and will be effective in January, February and March.

"This stimulus program follows the highly successful grant program that we launched in May of this year," said Josh O'Connor, president of Sound Publishing.

"While providing nearly \$300,000 of much-needed marketing grants to local advertisers, we gained great insights into the challenges that small business owners are facing," O'Connor said.

"We've developed our stimulus program to meet those challenges and help local business not only recover, but flourish, in today's business climate."

Applications are due Monday, Jan. 4. Grants, upon approval, can be used from Jan. 1-March 31.

"The goal of the local business stimulus program is to assist our clients and small businesses effectively communicate with their customers, regardless of the external challenges they face," said Carrie Radcliff, the company's advertising director.

"We've heard from partners big and small how significant the grant program was at a time when they needed it the most," Radcliff said of the earlier program. "Now it's time to focus on the future and help them move forward."

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# Vaccine

From page A-1

"If I want to take care of the community, I want to get it," he said. "If (the virus spreads quickly) then I'll be one of the people who can help."

Capt. Derrell Sharp, the fire district's medical safety officer, said Brent Simcosky, director of health services at the clinic, reached out to him about two weeks ago about potential vaccinations availability, and on Christmas Eve asked to set up dates this week.

Sharp sent out information about the vaccinations in recent weeks; vaccinations are voluntary for staff, he noted.

Of 110 volunteer, career and non-emergency staffers, 39 signed up for a vaccine, he said.

"I think the numbers will increase," Sharp said.

"I'm getting it because I'm going into homes of the most vulnerable people and I don't want to contribute to the spread."

Second doses are scheduled 28 days apart from the first, medical officials say.

Sharp said the district tried to schedule vaccinations so the second doses are on the different shifts' last working days in case they experienced side effects from the second dose, such as headaches and/or fevers.

When asked for comment about why they opted not to take the vaccine, some fire officials chose not to comment or were unavailable.



**Nurse Kelly Bower with Jamestown Family Health Clinic provides a COVID-19 vaccine to volunteer EMT Sandy Boudrou at the Clallam County Fire District 3 headquarters Dec. 29. Boudrou was one of about 20-plus people with the department, Olympic Ambulance and Sequim Police Department that day. Sequim Gazette photos by Matthew Nash**

Sharp said many fire staff weren't an outright "no," but that they'd like to wait.

Fire district staff can change their mind to receive or not to receive the vaccine, he said, and personnel can also schedule with Jamestown for one.

Dr. Molly Martin, deputy medical director for the Jamestown Family Health Clinic, said they received the Moderna vaccination because it doesn't require strict storage temperatures.

Last week, health and eye clinic staffers were given the option to take the vaccination, she said.

"I understand the fear of unknowns," Martin said. "The vaccine

has been developed under sound medical research."

She said the theory behind mRNA (Messenger RNA) vaccines — some of the first COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States — has been around for more than 20 years.

Simcosky said Jamestown Family Health Clinic will tentatively begin community vaccinations at two locations the week of Jan. 11 for residents ages 75-plus, with more details to come.

Sharp said he believes after reading the vaccines' studies, he feels "no corners were cut," and that getting a vaccine "seems like the right thing to do."



**Blaine Zechenelly, a volunteer EMT and disaster planner with Clallam County Fire District 3, was the first Sequim-area first responder to receive a COVID-19 vaccine this week. Medical assistant Liz Moseley with Jamestown Family Health Clinic helped provide vaccinations Dec. 29.**

# Principal

From page A-1

"This is what has been asked of him, and this is what he has agreed to do."

"We are prepared to turn the page to a new chapter at Sequim High School in 2021."

As for Clark, the school board on Dec. 22 apparently

voted to follow legal council recommendations to resolve the situation regarding the complaint against him.

In a move that board President Brandino Gibson described as a somewhat bizarre conclusion to a meeting, board members came out of a closed, executive session and unanimously voted to approve an unspecified ac-

tion that was discussed in the executive session.

Board members did not discuss or elaborate on what they approved.

Only in a later interview did Gibson define what the vote was about. Discussion in executive session regarded the complaint and investigation regarding superintendent Clark.

"Basically, it (the board's vote) was to allow legal counsel, giving them authorization to move forward," Gibson said.

"I am absolutely hoping the answer comes before Christmas or before the year is out," he said.

The contract for Pryne as acting superintendent expires Thursday.

Were the board to not reinstate Clark or extend Pryne's contract, the district would be left without a working superintendent in 2021.

Gibson expects the superintendent issue will be resolved at the board's next regular meeting on Jan. 4.

He said he does not expect the district to have another special meeting before then.

Complaint investigations directed toward Clark and Langston were being handled internally through the district's human resources department as well as risk management staff, Pryne said. The Washington Schools Risk Management Pool provides insurance coverage and services to Washington state public schools.

# Church Directory



*The Lord is like a father to his children,  
tender and compassionate  
to those who fear him. For he knows how  
weak we are; he remembers  
we are only dust.  
— Psalm 103: 13-14*

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--Bahá'í Writings

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Loretta Bilow holds a practice run with Bonnie Hagberg for the Sequim Prairie Grange's upcoming Drive-Up Ice Cream Social on June 7. Many Sequim community events shifted to drive-thru or virtual-only in 2020. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash



Clallam County public health officer Dr. Allison Berry Unthank, right, speaks during a coronavirus briefing in March 2020 at the Clallam County Courthouse as Undersheriff Ron Cameron listens at left. Photo by Keith Thorpe/Olympic Peninsula News Group



Railroad Bridge Park and Dungeness River Audubon Center close in late March. The center remains closed, in part because of the coronavirus, and in part because of a major expansion and renovation that kicked off this year. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell



In early April, with the 2019 novel coronavirus emerging as a pandemic threatening everyday life, Katie Smith works with her children and some neighbors to draw an inspirational chalk mural along her subdivision's fence facing South Sequim Avenue. Photo courtesy of Isaac Peiffer

# 2020: The Year in Review

BY MICHAEL DASHIELL  
Sequim Gazette

A year full of social strife, tragedies and political wrangling on the local, state and national scene were overshadowed by a single topic.

Despite its name, the 2019 novel coronavirus will be forever be linked to the plague it wrought on 2020. As we look back at the year that was in Sequim and Clallam County, it's hard to find many stories past mid-March that COVID-19 didn't alter significantly.

Here's a quick look back at the year that was:

## January

Sequim City Council members reversed a December 2019 decision and give the go-ahead for Lavender Meadows, a 38.3-acre, 217-unit manufactured home subdivision at the intersection of North Sequim Avenue and Port Williams Road. It was later marketed as a 55-and-older community.

YMCA of Sequim director Kurt Turner worked his last day at the facility on Jan. 10; he accepted a job as a multi-branch executive director for YMCAs just north of Austin, Texas.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe officially filed its application to build a 16,800-square-foot medication-assisted treatment (MAT) facility on Jan. 10.

Sequim city councilors on Jan. 13 elected William Armacost, a longtime local hair salon owner, as mayor.

Health officers Dr. Allison Unthank (Clallam) and Dr. Tom Locke (Jefferson) declared influenza B in "outbreak mode" on the Olympic Peninsula — a sign of struggles to come later in the year.

Eric Lewis, Olympic Medical Center's chief executive officer, announced to staff on Jan. 21 he'd be leaving the position after 13 years as CEO and 21 years overall with the organization. Lewis initially eyed retirement, postponing that plan in early April to help OMC handle the COVID-19 outbreak. In May, he accepted a chief financial officer role with the Washington State Hospital Association.



Tessa Jackson's office at the Sequim Boys & Girls Club is dubbed the "Shark Tank," so named based on her affinity for sharks. Jackson was named the club's Sequim unit director in September. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell

Sequim School District's board of directors removed the "interim" from Dr. Rob Clark's title and selected him the district's top administrator. Clark would have a tumultuous year ahead, first with school closures and re-openings throughout much of the calendar year and an unspecified complaint and subsequent investigation that has him on paid leave since late October.

Dave Miller in January resigned as unit director at the Sequim Boys & Girls Club; his interim, Tessa Jackson, was selected to succeed Miller, first as an interim director and then as director outright in mid-September.

## February

Joey Anthony Maillet on Feb. 4 pleaded guilty to two counts of firearm theft in connection with the theft of 26 handguns from FRED'S Guns in an April 2019 incident.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe on Feb. 6 got Clallam County approval for the first phase of an oyster farm within the Dungeness



Sequim points guard Hannah Bates, left, considers a triple team as she and the Wolves take on Port Angeles' Roughriders on Feb. 6. A month later all prep sports were shut down as schools looked to mitigate the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell



Deon Kapetan, pictured here with son C.J., left, and husband Kevin, is selected the 2019 Sequim-Dungeness Chamber Citizen of the Year in February. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell

and has stayed on since.

A body is found in Olympic National Park on Feb. 14, later identified as Dioneth Lopez of Renton. The incident led to the arrest of Alejandro Jesse Aguilera-Rojas, who was charged with second-degree murder.

Sequim High saw in February a number of strong finishes to its 2019-2020 winter sports seasons but it would be the last action local prep stars would see for the remainder of 2020, thanks to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On Feb. 25, Deon Kapetan was selected the 2019 Sequim Citizen of the Year; other finalists include Robin Bookter and Captain-Crystal Stout.

See REVIEW, A-8



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# 2020: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



**S. Beckett Thomas, 5, holds a “Don’t shoot” sign with mom Courtney Thomas looking at a protest supporting the Black Lives Matter movement in downtown Sequim in early June. Courtney organized the protest, saying, “I’m scared for the world, for my son. This (protest) is the least I can do.”** Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell



**On June 5, more than 130 people gather in front of the Sequim Civic Center for a vigil to grieve those who have died from police violence.** Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

**Gabriel Stark of Sequim leads a group of about 200 people along Washington Street on June 4 in support of Black Lives Matter and against police brutality. She said it’s “really touching to see so many people from Sequim participate.”** Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

## Review

From page A-7

A 19-year-old Sequim man, Timothy Lytle Gaskill, was sentenced on Feb. 27 to 108 months in prison for his attempted assault of a pregnant woman in August 2019.

## March

Citing safety concerns, dozens of Sequim- and Olympic Peninsula-area community groups began canceling events. In the coming days and weeks, events such as the Soroptimist Garden Gala Show, Tour De Dungeness bicycle races, First Friday Art Walk, Olympic Peninsula Humane Society’s Meowgaritas and Mutts, Olympic Birdfest, Clallam County Master Gardeners’ plant sale and garden tour and the Clallam County Home and Lifestyle Show. By year’s end, the vast majority of community events had been either canceled or moved online.

Lindsey Coffman on March 7 was named the 2020 Irrigation Festival queen; princesses Alicia Pairadee and Olivia Preston and prince Logan Laxson round out this year’s court.

On March 20, the North Olympic Land Trust and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe partnered to conserve, purchased 104 acres of farmland and habitat — named “River’s Edge” — adjacent to the Dungeness River and Dungeness Valley Creamery.

Jason Bradley Hutt of Sequim was sentenced on March 26 to more than three years in prison for hunting violations in one of the largest poaching cases in state history.

Sequim School District officials in March put meals on wheels, distributing support to families with youngsters in need with prepackaged meal distribution via bus routes throughout the region.

## April

On April 2, Peninsula College officials announced classes were moving to an online/virtual format.

Gov. Jay Inslee on April 6 closed all Washington state schools to in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year — impacting about 1.2 million students, 80,000 of them high school seniors.

Ted Miller, a Sequim City Council member for more than 10 years, died of a stroke on April 10, at age 74. The retired CIA analyst and attorney was serving his third term on the council.

Organizers of the Sequim Irrigation Festival decided in mid-April to move annual events to September and October, seeking to keep the longest-running festival in Washington state going.

About 200 local high school seniors garnered support through a new “Sequim High School Adopt a Senior 2020” Facebook page co-founded by Christine Bekkevar, a 2007 SHS grad, on April 20.

Sequim city councilors selected two new members — Sarah Kincaid and Michael Pence — on April 27, replacing Miller and Jennifer States.

Neil Smith, founder of Dungeness Community Church and lead pastor for three decades, died on April 30 at age 73.

## May

Gov. Jay Inslee OKs the reopening of golf courses (with a number of health restrictions)



**Samantha “Sam” Faber and her brother James “Jimmy” Faber Jr. were victims of a shooting in their Sequim home on May 14. Family and friends remember them as family-oriented and loving people.** Photo courtesy Jim Faber Sr.



**Kaliegh Galvin watches Anna Nguyen clean her finger nails on June 1 inside Kim’s Nails, 181 W. Washington St. The business reopened that day after being closed due to the “Stay Home, Stay Safe,” state order.** Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash



**Kyle Desumma gets an elbow bump from Sequim High School board president Brandino Gibson at the 2020 SHS commencement ceremony on June 21. About 170 seniors saw their school year end taking classes remotely.** Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell

as well as a partial reopening of parks for day use across Washington.

The City of Sequim and Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce partnered to distribute \$250,000 to local business owners with the Small Business Rapid Relief Program.

Sequim lavender farmers eyed opening for July but organizers of a number of annual Lavender Weekend events — Art Jam, Sunbonnet Sue Quilt Show, Olympic Driftwood Sculptors Art Show and the Lavender Festival’s Street Fair — announced cancellations.

Sequim School Board directors on May 11 approved staffing cuts equivalent to 11 full-time staffers, as district leaders anticipated a significant drop in funding for the 2020-2021 school year.

A May 14 fatal shooting at a house near Sequim left three people dead: brother and sister James Faber Jr. and Samantha Faber, along with their acquaintance Jacob M. Hunter. Five others at the scene, two of them children, were not hurt in the shootings, law enforcement officials said. Hunter was later identified as the attacker.

City of Sequim officials announced on May 15 city staff had approved the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s MAT facility. Save Our Sequim and Jon Gibson filed an injunction to stop the processing of the tribe’s application.

In mid-May, Noah Glaude was selected executive director for the North Olympic Library System by NOLS’ board of trustees.

Formerly the library system’s assistant director, Glaude succeeded Margaret Jakubcin.

Organizers of the Clallam County Fair announced on May 29 the annual community event would not take place in 2020 — the first time since 1946 (World War II) the county has suspended the fair activities, and second time in its 101-year history it was cancelled because of a disease outbreak (1918, influenza).

## June

Hospital board commissioners named Darryl Wolfe the interim Olympic Medical Center CEO, succeeding Eric Lewis; Wolfe saw his interim title removed on July 29.

Showing support for locals and a national movement, hundreds of citizens took to Sequim downtown streets in peaceful protests to bring attention to the Black Lives Matter movement on June 3 and 4. A follow-up protest and gathering on June 12 swelled to about 400, joining other demonstrations across the state and nation. Less than two weeks later, Sequim city councilors approved a resolution condemning racism and discrimination.

Sequim Prairie Grange members adjusted to the health restrictions posed by COVID-19 with a drive-thru ice cream social on June 7.

Leaders of local soccer, baseball and softball leagues announced in early June the cancellation of their spring seasons.

**See REVIEW, A-9**



**A project in two parts: The March 20 purchase of the River’s Edge property provides 40 acres to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and 64 to the North Olympic Land Trust, preserving farmland and restoring habitat and floodplain to the Dungeness River.** Photo by John Gussman

# 2020: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## Review (cont.)

From page A-8

Sequim School district leaders on June 15 detailed plans for opening Dungeness Virtual School, an online school set to open in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Sequim High School's commencement ceremony on June 21 celebrated the school's 171 graduating seniors in a unique event held at the Security Services Northwest property east of downtown Sequim. Olympic Peninsula Academy hosted a graduation for its six students in an outside ceremony on June 12.

Clallam County Superior Court judge Brent Basden denied injunction efforts to block the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's MAT clinic proposal on June 24.

### July

Workers in mid-July broke ground on the \$3.5 million expansion of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, the final phase of a three-year effort to add 5,000 square feet of educational and meeting spaces. The project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2021.

Officials with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association announced on July 21 a modified schedule for state high school sports, a four-season plan that moved football, girls soccer and volleyball into early spring. The plan had by year's end been modified again, further pushing sports planned for the fall (cross country, girls swim/dive, boys tennis) and winter sports into early 2021.

For the fourth and reportedly final time over two years, unwanted mountain goats were in late July taken by helicopter and then trucked from Olympic National Park to their new home in the North Cascades Mountain Range.

### August

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe officials and leaders celebrated the opening of the 7 Cedars Hotel on Aug. 4.

Sequim city councilor Troy Tenneson resigned his council seat on Aug. 21, citing a family emergency.

Sequim Mayor William Armacost drew criticism across the region with comments encouraging listeners of an Aug. 27 "Coffee With The Mayor" program on KSQM to learn more about QAnon — a controversial theory that alleges certain public figures are secretly involved in child trafficking and civil unrest. On Sept. 9, Armacost and Sequim City Manager Charlie Bush distribute a joint press release noting that the sessions are not the setting for elected officials to offer their personal opinions.

Diamond Point residents John Johnson and Dave Richardson joined the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in late August.

### September

A group of Sequim High School alumni in mid-September stepped up their efforts to



Royalty (from left) princess Brie Hingtgen, prince Logan Laxson, queen Lindsey Coffman and princess Alicia Pairadee wave to a sparse crowd on Sequim-Dungeness Way during the Sequim Irrigation Festival's makeshift Grand Parade on Saturday, Oct. 10. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell



Sequim Mayor William Armacost answers questions about City of Sequim activities at a "Coffee with the Mayor" session on May 28. His Aug. 27 session, in which he encouraged listeners to learn more about the controversial QAnon theory, drew severe criticism across the region. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell



Kathy McGee and Chris Walker, both of Sequim, look at updated news on the presidential election on Nov. 7 as they rally with other community members to show their support for the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Clallam County has the nation's longest presidential picking streak (since 1980). Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

see the high school sports stadium named for Myron Teterud, a longtime SHS sports and activities supporter who resides at Sequim Health & Rehabilitation.

Organizers of the annual Reach and Row for Hospice event, a fundraiser that donates tens of thousands of dollars for Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County, cancelled the event for 2020 in mid-September.

Don Kendall, a longtime philanthropist for the Sequim Boys & Girls Club and former PepsiCo CEO, died on Sept. 19 at age 99.

### October

Sequim hosted a mostly virtual Irrigation Festival on Oct. 10, with a Grand Parade and Innovative Arts and Crafts Fair held online.

Captain-Crystal Stout was named Ms. Senior United State at an Oct. 8 contest in Las Vegas, Nev.

Two Sequim School District administrators — superintendent Dr. Rob Clark and Sequim High School principal Shawn Langston — were placed on leave after separate complaints are filed with the district. Clark was placed on leave Oct. 22, Langston the following day. Langston was later reinstated to his position just before the close of 2020, while district leaders look to resolve Clark's investigation in early January 2021.

On Oct. 26, Sequim city councilors selected Keith Larkin as the city's newest councilor, replacing Troy Tenneson.

### November

Jane Pryne, former Port Angeles School District superintendent, was named acting superintendent in Sequim on Nov. 2, filling in for Dr. Rob Clark who was placed on leave in late October.

A majority of incumbents grabbed early leads and held on for victories in local and statewide races in the Nov. 3 general election, including state senator Kevin Van De Wege and state representatives Mike Chapman and Steve Tharinger, congressman Derek Kilmer and Gov. Jay Inslee, all Democrats.

Clallam County made national news for correctly picking the past seven presidential race winners for, since 1980 — the longest streak in the nation.

Two Sequim sisters were struck in a crosswalk near St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Nov. 14. Lorraine (Reandeu) Anderson, 89, died four days later.

Gov. Jay Inslee reinstated a number of COVID-19 restrictions, in particular aimed at restaurants and fitness centers, to help stem a spike in cases.

Sequim School District leaders in November approved two levy proposals for a February 2021 ballot: a four-year, \$15 million capital projects levy to address various projects across the district, along with a four-year, \$29.7 million replacement educational programs and operations (EP&O) levy

The Sequim Food Bank saw a huge turnout for its Family Holiday Meal Program, distributing food to about 900 families on Nov. 20.

Justin J. Thompson Petersen, a 23-year-old Sequim man, died on Nov. 22 from injuries sustained in a crash in Carlsborg nine days earlier.

Sequim school students returned to remote learning on Nov. 25. District leaders had been gradually bringing back elementary grade level students for in-person instruction in previous weeks but a rise in COVID-19 cases coupled with a dearth of available substitute teachers and other staff forced the shift back to virtual learning, administrators said.

### December

JCPenney officials announced on Dec. 10 its Sequim store will close in the spring of 2021, following a liquidation sale.

The first COVID-19 vaccines arrive on the Olympic Peninsula in mid-December, going first to frontline health workers.



Andrew Zeppa, warehouse manager for the Sequim Food Bank, looks inside one of hundreds of food boxes ready for distribution at Trinity United Methodist Church as part of the COVID-19 Food Relief program in August. Local meal programs see huge turnouts in the fall as residents feel the impact of coronavirus-spurred shutdowns. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

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# Taking inventory

I hope by the time you read this column I will have sent some sort of holiday greeting which at this writing has become a “Happy New Year” greeting. Realistically, I won’t make it by Christmas. I wonder if you are as surprised as I am at how busy one can become while in relative isolation.



**THINK ABOUT IT ...**

Bertha Cooper

Surely, it’s not all the time spent sanitizing my hands, locating a fresh mask, sorting and spraying mail and waiting until the meat counter is clear. After all there are other things I’m not doing, such as driving to and from meetings or lunch dates.

Maybe it’s something else, something different, something besides appointments to solve a medical problem and something besides working a book through

the publishing process. Could it be the unrelenting uncertainty and occurrences of misfires, distortions, disinformation, hollow victories, humans at best wishing for harm and at worst threatening the safety of others?

All of these things call upon my moral strength nearly daily to hold my values close and embrace my fundamental belief in human goodness. No doubt some of the precious energy left at my age is being spent on worry, contemplation and sorting through it all to find hope.

I believe in hope and optimism as catalysts to action. We live in an age of tremendous scientific knowledge and technology to drive solutions and change. The emergence of vaccines in a relatively short time is a demonstration.

We also live in an age in which many people are willing to help others in need, a number that’s grown as businesses closed or went on hiatus leaving many without employment and the means to provide for basic needs.

## Why are people not in the streets?

Yes, we have an enormous counterweight of darkness and vulnerability that stress our strengths as a country and our spirits as people. Since I last wrote, Russia successfully invaded and occupies and, in some cases, could control essential government cyberspace programs. The sitting president is mulling appointing a known QAnon follower as a special counsel to prove election fraud.

We are also having a strange economic recovery now termed a “K” recovery meaning some of us have done well and some of us have done poorly. People who enjoyed relative financial security but little savings — young families and those starting out — are seen in recent car models that are snaking in long curving lines to obtain food. People are suffering not only the anxiety of a pandemic but the enormous anxiety and insecurity of losing homes or not having adequate food on the table.

Congress just passed a bill to provide some relief but insufficient to help states through major shortfalls which if not solved will result in cutting positions in public safety, health care and education.

At what point will we throw open our windows and say “I’m not going to take it anymore!” Or, as the commentator bemoaned, “Why aren’t people in the streets?!” from the comfort of her news desk.

People have been in the streets, including large groups on each “side” of BLM, white supremacy groups, health care worker supporters, who also opened windows to clap support and the angry mask-less citizens.

So far the streets and a general election turnout greater than any before it have not moved these “sides” closer to each other. We are still on guard, some waiting to be called to fight by the outgoing president and some waiting for someone to call this dangerous foolishness out and take action to stop the threats to our country, our constitution and its people during this terrible anxious time.

So far the party that could make the call stands silently except for a very few lonely voices that say “stop” and reportedly a larger group gathering around the president to offer support.

We have enough to worry about. How can this be?

## The NW corner of the USA

We inhabit one of the most remote areas of our country. Water on outside boundaries and mountains on the inside boundary with one long road that brings people in, through and out. Our landscape is stunning and our weather is moderate with occasional treats of snow. We have lovely and useful small shops and Costco and Walmart.

COVID-19, although present, has been contained mostly because of a low population density and high level of compliance with safety precautions that prevent spread. Our relatively low incidence may have spawned denial and complacency by some but most of us are practicing masked shoppers. We’ve have our share of heated mask vs no mask debates but stayed low on Thanksgiving.

Yet, we are not without issues that require community solutions. The things that mar our community are the same things that mar others.

Our community is representative of national issues outside of COVID-19. We have the very wealthy and the

See COOPER, A-11

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Treaties key in dealing with weapons threat

We need treaties that will ban the possession of nuclear weapons by Iran and North Korea. Such treaties must require the provision of immediate inspection of any site suspected of having forbidden material. Otherwise they can move it to a second site while we are waiting for the first site to be inspected, and then to a third site while we are waiting for the second site to be inspected, and so on.

Alex Sokolow  
Sequim

## To submit a letter

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# OPINION

SEQUIM GAZETTE



# Wildfires were ‘big polluters’ in 2020

While the coronavirus and its devastating effects on people and economies worldwide were unfortunately the top 2020 stories, the massive impact of western wildfires can’t be ignored. It was catastrophic.



**GUEST OPINION**

Don Brunell

The National Interagency Fire Center’s western states tally shows a record 8.6 million acres were incinerated in 2020, compared with 4.6 million acres in 2019.

In Washington state, more than 700,000 acres were burned; however, California and Oregon were not as fortunate. By comparison, a combined 5.7 million acres were destroyed. Fires incinerated small towns and threatened metropolitan areas surrounding Portland, Ore.

Thick smoke hampered fire suppression. Firefighters were not only overwhelmed by the number and magnitude of fires, but had to contend with the rapidly spreading coronavirus. Gov. Jay Inslee announced in June that fires could take up to 25 percent longer to suppress because of COVID-19-related precautions and crew safety.

According to Stanford University researchers, choking smoke from the record fires also disproportionately targeted people older than age 65. They compared air pollution readings during California’s fires with increased death rates and emergency room visits and concluded at least 1,200 “excess deaths” occurred from Aug. 1-Sept. 10 in California along with about 4,800 extra

emergency room visits.

At the same time, air quality was intolerable in the Sierra, the Sacramento Valley and parts of Southern California, where it reached 10-15 times the federal health standard.

Quartz.com climate reporter Tim McDonnell wrote in September that the sprawling wildfires in California and Oregon produced record amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, according to satellite data. In both states, 2020 wildfire emissions at the peak of the fires season surpassed those typically released annually by their natural gas and coal power plants and cars, trucks, airplanes and trains. McDonnell added in California, cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from wildfires for the year as of Sept. 13 reached about 83 million metric tons, according to data from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. That’s the highest level since the beginning of the Centre’s records in 2003.

Mammoth forest fires have been around for centuries. For example, in a single week in September 1902, the Yacolt Burn engulfed more than a half million acres and killed 56 people in the Columbia River Gorge and around Mt. St. Helens. The choking smoke was so thick that ships on the Columbia River were forced to navigate by compass and the street lights in Seattle, 160 miles to the north, glowed at noon.

Between 2003-2012, BC’s forest fires emitted 256

million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. In the previous decade, healthy trees actually absorbed 441 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

Two years ago, according to Russia’s Federal Forestry Agency, more than 7 million acres of forest burned across six different Siberian and Far East regions. It all added up to an area about the size of Greece. The smoke from more than 400 forest fires in Siberia drifted across Alaska and portions of the west coast of Canada, according to NASA.

Looking ahead to 2021, those we elect need to change wildland management policies. They not only need to address fire suppression, but wildfire prevention. Those changes will not come easily because they are a shift away from letting nature have its way unimpeded.

Without the removal of volatile fuels such as dead trees and dense dry ground vegetation, large wildfires will continue. As part of reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and increasing public health and safety, we must have forest management policies which include tree replanting and thinning especially in fire-prone areas.

It will be expensive but income can be generated from logging and funds paid by polluters to offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

*Don C. Brunell is a business analyst, writer and columnist. He retired as president of the Association of Washington Business, the state’s oldest and largest business organization, and now lives in Vancouver, Washington. He can be contacted at theBrunells@msn.com.*



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- Letters are welcome. Letters exceeding 250 words may be shortened. We strive to publish all letters.
- Letters are subject to editing for spelling and grammar; we contact the writer when substantial changes are required, sending the letter back to the writer for revisions. Personal attacks and unsubstantiated allegations are not printed.
- All letters must have a valid signature, with a printed name, address and phone number for verification. Only the name and town/community are printed.
- **Deadline for letters to appear in the next publication is noon Friday.** Because of the volume of letters, not all letters are published the week they are submitted. Time-sensitive letters have a priority.
- Letters are published subject to legal limitations relating to defamation and factual representation.
- To submit letters, deliver or mail to 147 W. Washington St., Sequim, WA 98382; fax to 360-683-6670 or e-mail editor@sequimgazette.com.

## FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER

The weekly police blotter includes incidents that occurred in the City of Sequim and in unincorporated Clallam County in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley area.

Dec. 21  
9:22 a.m. — Theft, 400 block of South Second Avenue  
9:35 a.m. — Theft, 400 block of Louella Road  
10:06 a.m. — Burglary, near 100 block of Maple Leaf Lane  
10:16 a.m. — Burglary, 100 block of Hooker Road  
10:29 a.m. — Theft, near 100 block of South Rhodifer Road  
10:48 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 1000 block of Woodcock Road  
11:55 a.m. — Burglary near 100 block of Traxinger Trail  
3:51 p.m. — Vehicle accident, 262000 block of US Highway 101  
Dec. 22  
6:31 a.m. — Vehicle accident, East Silberhorn Road/Valley View Drive  
9:41 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 200 block of Dryke Road  
9:59 a.m. — Theft, 200 block of West Hammond Street  
10:03 a.m. — Vehicle accident, Sequim-Dungeness Way/Primrose Lane  
11:23 a.m. — Theft, 270000 block of US Highway 101  
1:23 p.m. — Burglary, near 100 block of Kane Lane  
4:33 p.m. — Theft, 1100 block of West Washington Street  
5:10 p.m. — Theft, 200 block of Louella Road  
5:29 p.m. — Vehicle accident, 100 block of West

Washington Street  
6:19 p.m. — Theft, 1000 block of West Washington Street  
Dec. 23  
(not available)  
Dec. 24  
9:45 a.m. — Vehicleprowl, 1300 block of Chicken Coop Road  
10:48 a.m. — Theft, 100 block of River Road  
8:21 p.m. — Domestic violence, East Robert Place  
8:24 p.m. — Drug violation, 270000 block of US Highway 101  
9:13 p.m. — Vehicle prowling, 300 block of West Maple Street  
Dec. 25  
9:11 a.m. — Vehicle accident, 4300 block of Old Olympic Highway  
10:41 a.m. — Theft, 300 block of West Hammond Street  
7:35 p.m. — Assault, 600 block of North Garry Oak Drive  
Dec. 26  
11:44 a.m. — Theft, 400 block of Carlsborg Road  
1:26 p.m. — Vehicle accident, US Highway 101/Happy Valley Road  
3:55 p.m. — Auto theft, 4200 block of Woods Road  
Dec. 27  
4:15 p.m. — Theft, 1200 block of West Washington Street  
7:21 p.m. — Vehicle prowling, 300 block of West Prairie Street  
Dec. 28  
1:25 a.m. — Assault, 600 block of West Hemlock Street  
8:59 a.m. — Burglary, 700 block of Taylor Cut-Off Road  
2:15 p.m. — Theft, 700 block of Taylor Cut-Off Road

# Hearing Examiner requires Advisory Committee in MAT clinic decision

BY MATTHEW NASH  
Sequim Gazette

It's been a busy few weeks — and will likely continue to be — for the future of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's proposed medication-assisted treatment (MAT) facility.

City appointed hearing examiner Phil Olbrechts ruled on the Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) on Dec. 21, agreeing with conditions from a stipulated agreement between the tribe and City of Sequim while adding a monitoring program for the medical facility off South Ninth Avenue.

If/when the facility is constructed, doctors would dispense daily doses of methadone, Suboxone and Vivitrol for patients with opioid-use disorder while offering wrap-around services.

Brent Simcosky, the tribe's director of health services, said construction on the clinic broke ground three weeks ago, prior to Olbrechts's decision and after they received a city-approved building permit. Excavation work was started, he said, with a completion target for the end of 2021.

However, the Save Our Sequim (SOS) community group filed a Land Use Petition Act (LUPA) appeal in Clallam County Superior Court prior to Olbrechts' decision, seeking city staff review the tribe's construction application again and be permitted differently.

If that appeal is successful, the tribe would have to halt construction and city staff review the permit again under a different review process. The appeal first scheduled virtual hearing regarding the appeal is

scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 14.

Both the city and tribe filed motions to dismiss the appeal, which Superior Court judge Brent Basden will consider.

Olbrechts' decision on the MDNS environmental review cannot be appealed.

### Advisory committee

Olbrechts heard testimony between Nov. 16-24 from tribal and city officials and community members about the proposed clinic in a virtual hearing. It centered on concerns for the clinic's location, transportation to and from it, homelessness, treatment plans, security and more.

In his 39-page final decision, Olbrechts approved the city/tribe stipulated agreement from Sept. 8 with revisions. One of those revisions include the establishment of a Community Advisory Committee to develop a monitoring and evaluation program for the clinic including members such as the tribe's director of health services, Sequim city manager, law enforcement leaders, and a Sequim resident who applies to join selected by committee members.

The committee will remain in place for the first three years of the clinic's operations and meet monthly the first year.

Olbrechts requires the committee to develop a contingency plan that "fully identifies potential courses of action and any corrective measures to be taken when monitoring or evaluation indicates expectations and standards are not being met."

He wrote, "With this monitoring plan, the proposal will create no significant adverse impacts to police services."

Olbrechts wrote that the monitoring plan will "directly enable the City to mitigate impacts for which there is insufficient information to evaluate at this time."

"Ultimately, an enforceable monitoring plan should successfully mitigate all impacts to non-police emergency services," he wrote.

The monitoring program adopted by this decision creates a 'wait and see' mitigation strategy that enables the City to identify precisely what impacts do occur and then tailoring the mitigation necessary to address them."

Olbrechts wrote that it's understandable the tribe doesn't want its business plan locked in concrete, but the Community Response Plan was the only document that limited the proposed clinic patient load to 250 patients per year.

Olbrechts also stated that in lieu of a potential \$250,000 bond to support local first responders' efforts if there's

an adverse impact from the clinic, and all or some funding for a Social Services Navigator may pay for studies and corrective actions found by the committee.

In his decision, Olbrechts maintained the tribe needs to provide on-site security requirements, transportation for those who need it to and from the clinic, and deter any patient loitering.

### More takeaways:

- **Transportation**  
Olbrechts found the shuttle service to and from the facility for patients without transportation to be "a significant mitigation measure" to "help reduce the transfer of residences to Sequim." But with a high number of unemployed and "housing insecure patients," they may find Sequim more appealing and move from other parts of Clallam and Jefferson counties.

- **Crime**  
On page 8 of his decision, Olbrechts noted that documents from Sequim resident Wendy Goldberg establishes "MAT clinics can be the source of non-violent drug activity, such as illegal drug transactions, loitering and littering" dependent on how a clinic is run. One article states how things go depends on being "properly run." But Olbrechts said evidence is "fairly clear the proposal will not result in any increase in violent crime."

He said Goldberg's written testimonies and examples show "that concerns over impacts to police services are not remote or speculative." However, he added, they "do not conclusively establish on their own that such impacts are likely to occur for the proposed MAT clinic."

Olbrechts agreed with Chief Sheri Crain's "exemplary investigation" that the proposed MAT clinic's impacts to Sequim police services would be "negligible."

She interviewed six police chiefs with MATs in comparable cities, and none reported an appreciable increase in criminal activity.

Crain reported that she learned a MAT clinic with little to no negative impacts is "good site location, good building and site, the development of good relationships with neighbors and a good model of implementation."

### Response

City officials were unavailable for comment because of holiday vacations.

W. Ron Allen, Jamestown's tribal chairman/chief executive officer, said in a statement: "After hearing all the evidence, the Hearing Examiner found the Tribe would run the clinic

properly and in a manner that is sensitive to the community interest.

"This professional management approach is what our Tribe has said all along," he said. "We look forward to opening the Healing Clinic and showing how beneficial it will be to the Olympic Peninsula community and those in need of this medical service."

Save Our Sequim's board of directors thanked Olbrechts in a statement for "recognizing our main educational point for the past 18 months that installing the proposed MAT clinic, a large Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) or methadone clinic, in the retail core of Sequim will have adverse effects on our community unless properly mitigated."

SOS directors write that Olbrechts' decision states "that 'worst case ... probable impacts would involve drug dealers attracted to patrons of the MAT clinic, add to the homeless population, former and current patrons will ... congregate in the vicinity ... take, sell, and purchase illegal drugs and engage in other non-violent crime.'"

They added that Olbrechts acknowledged data that shows "significant impact on police services in a number of cities and not 'remote or speculative,'" that he feels evidence is "very compelling that patrons of MAT clinics engage in a high frequency of criminal conduct," and that while "Crain testified that only 3-5% of the Sequim population causes problems," Olbrechts acknowledged "a 13 percent rate of criminal conduct in a MAT study group, is 'significantly higher than that of the Sequim population.'"

SOS board directors said, "these impacts have not been acknowledged or adequately studied as a problem for Sequim," but "Olbrechts has done the community a great service by recognizing that these impacts are worth considering, and that they require action to reduce their effect on Sequim, which is a small town and therefore likely to suffer disproportionately" — and thus a mitigation plan is required.

However, SOS disagreed with Olbrechts on multiple points. Some of those include:

- Him finding busing patients to be mitigation, whereas they consider it a problem as he states Sequim's "climate and isolation" may be an attractive feature to move here.

They also feel the Community Advisory Committee "is unlikely to advocate for our community" and that their "mitigation will (not) have any protective influence for Sequim citizens, visitors, or businesses."

## Cooper

From page A-10

very poor. We lack affordable housing. We don't support our school district in its need to update facilities. We are beginning to see more evidence of inequality and exclusion.

We're not without conspiracy theorists who see themselves as saviors of our very goodness. Remember the paranoid locals further west who stalked visiting campers or the gun-toting men attending a BLM demonstration in Sequim because they believed a terrorist group was coming to cause violence. We have at least one elected official who is an admitted QAnon follower.

The opposition to the medicine-assisted treatment (MAT) clinic proposed by the Jamestown S'Klallam

tribe continues to be tainted by challenges to the tribe's motives and broad unfavorable characterizations of the tribe and people with Opioid Use Disorder.

None of this is news. We are not special. It's human inventory and like most inventories, we have too much of some things and not enough of others. And like inventories, we can do something about it. We've shown support through food banks, homeless shelters, charitable giving, kind words and caring. We know we can always use more giving, kindness, caring.

We can expect our elected official and community leaders to be accountable in removing barriers to opportunity.

We can be wise and carefully assess those who are not smart enough to make their point without decep-

tion and dehumanizing others because they are proving they are not smart enough to do any job.

We will manage our inventory for the best if we are clear on our values and honest in their application to our expectations and actions.

And, when we see each other again without our masks, we will be feeling success in managing the best and worst inventory left from the long dark 2020 and we will be smiling in our small corner of the world.

*Bertha Cooper, featured columnist in the Sequim Gazette, spent her career years in health care administration, program development and consultation. Cooper and her husband have lived in Sequim more than 20 years. Reach her at [columnists@sequimgazette.com](mailto:columnists@sequimgazette.com).*

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Lindy MacLaine, pictured here with her third place trophy from the 2020 Virtual World Championship of Public Speaking, invites the community to the next Skwim Toastmasters virtual meeting set for Tuesday, Jan. 5. Submitted photo

## Toastmasters to kick off 2021 with stories, humor

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

Though the group will continue to meet virtually for now — a carry-over from 2020 — the Skwim Toastmasters group looks to make a fresh start in 2021 with stories and laughs at their next meeting.

The group hosts the “What Was I Thinking?!”-themed get-together from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5 on Zoom. Pre-register for the free meeting at [BuriedStory2.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Distinguished Toastmaster Lindy MacLaine, who won third place in the world in the 2020 Virtual Word Championship of Public Speaking with her speech “Your Buried Story,” invites the community to join the fun.

“We’re taking a light-hearted approach in our first meeting of the New Year,” MacLaine said. “We’ll share our ‘What Was I Thinking?!’ stories — effectively ‘clearing out the old’ to make room for the new.”

There will be two scheduled speakers: Distinguished Toastmaster Kyle Hall, third place winner in the 2003 World Championship of Public Speaking, and Skwim Toastmaster Judy Stein. Each will receive a speech evaluation — the Toastmasters’ method of skill building. Also scheduled is 30 minutes where the audience can share their own “What Was I Thinking?!” story in 1-2 minutes.

MacLaine said that the strength of the club’s connection to each other with its continued meeting via Zoom has been powerful

She said that after telling her award-winning speech many times she gave it a new ending.

“My winning speech recounts my experience of telling the story of something I would have preferred to have kept hidden,” she said.

View a recording of her winning speech at [youtu.be/QvYfckvdBcc](https://youtu.be/QvYfckvdBcc).

Skwim Toastmasters is part of Toastmasters International, a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. In “normal” times, the Sequim club meets each Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Gathering Place in Sunland, 135 Fairway Dr.

Learn more about the club at [907529.toastmastersclubs.org](https://907529.toastmastersclubs.org).

## OBITUARIES

### Roger Glenn Crook

Roger Glenn Crook of Sequim died at his Sequim home of age-related causes on Dec. 17, 2020.

He was 77. Crook was born Jan. 26, 1943.

A service will be announced at a later date. Sign an online guestbook for the family at [www.drennanford.com](https://www.drennanford.com).

## Thank you for the present

It’s time to talk about sending out thank you notes. Everyone gets excited about Christmas and other holidays, but few get excited about thanking people for gifts they receive. This should be a regular part of receiving.

We expect our children to learn to thank people for favors they do. This is a lesson we teach from when they are very young — if someone gives you a compliment, you thank them. It’s easy. When you or your child get a donut at the shop, you both should thank the sales clerk. It is just the nice thing to do.

But when it comes time to thank someone for a gift, it is more difficult than just saying it to most people. When grandma lives in California and you live in Washington state, your child needs to send a note to let her know he likes the sweater or toy she sent him.

There is only one or two people who can make sure this gets done. If these two people — mom and dad — don’t make sure the note



PARENTING IN FOCUS

Cynthia Martin

gets written, it will undoubtedly not get sent.

### Teaching thankfulness

You can’t just expect a young person to know how to write a thank you note. You need to go over it with them. You probably need to check what he has written and make sure it is more than one line long. It needs to say more than “Thank you for the neat toy.”

It needs to sound sincere. It needs to be appreciative. It needs to sound loving.

If you can teach him to do a good job writing to grandma, he will be able to learn how to thank other people who do him favors for the rest of his life.

Another way for him to learn about the importance

of thank you notes is to see that you also write them. Sometimes this critical factor is missing. This thank you note behavior needs to be modeled like most behavior that your child learns from watching you.

Some might say this is old fashioned, but it is much more: it is the kind of behavior that people recognize as polite. Besides being polite, it is a courteous way of acknowledging how someone is treating you.

### Not just for children

This is what you, as an adult, should do after you interview someone for a job. You send a note thanking them for their time and any other way they helped you.

It is what you should do as a high school senior when someone sends a recommendation for you when you are applying for college. The person who agrees to send this recommendation spends time thinking about how to say it, getting it ready to send and then time to mail it. They deserve a note of appreciation

from you thanking them. When a child’s teacher recommends him for a position in elementary school, the teacher would be impressed when she receives a thank you from the child. They seldom get this but they would be pleased and impressed with this child.

Teaching your child this skill can pay off. It begins with a Christmas or birthday present. It begins with being taught the importance of saying thank you.

By the way, thank you for reading this article. Knowing that people read what I write helps me to feel good about writing. If you have any suggestions about what I should be writing, please let me know. Thanks.

Cynthia Martin is the founder of the First Teacher program and former executive director of Parenting Matters Foundation, which publishes newsletters for parents, caregivers and grandparents. For more information, email to [info@firstteacher.org](mailto:info@firstteacher.org) or call 360-681-2250.

## VHOCC to offer in-person, online orientations

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County (VHOCC) is offering community orientations, open to anyone seeking to learn more about hospice or curious about volunteering.

From 11 a.m.-noon Thursday, Jan. 7, the organization — a local nonprofit

that serves communities from Joyce to Diamond Point — offers an orientation via Zoom. Participation requires a computer, tablet or smart phone with camera, microphone and speakers. The link to connect will be sent to those who call 360-452-1511 with an email address by noon Wednesday, Jan. 6.

An in-person orientation is scheduled

for 10-11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, in Port Angeles; to participate, call 360-452-1511. Wearing a mask and social distancing is required.

There are volunteer positions open now, including medical equipment deliveries.

Learn more at [VHOCC.org](https://VHOCC.org) or [www.facebook.com/Volunteerhospiceofclallamcounty](https://www.facebook.com/Volunteerhospiceofclallamcounty), or call 360-452-1511.

## OMC lauds Patient Experience Champions

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

Five Olympic Medical Center staffers were recognized as Patient Experience Champions at a recent board of commissioners meeting.

Healthcare workers nominate their peers for the recognition of Patient Experience Champion for “com-

municating with courtesy, compassion and respect, empowering patients to learn or cope effectively, contributing to new programs, improving processes, and/or going above and beyond to serve the needs of patients and their families,” OMC officials said in a December press release.

Staff members honored included: certified nurse assistant Sergio Contreras; Christin Deese, central registration supervisor for Olympic Medical Physicians; OMC volunteer Roger Haugen; clinical informatics analyst Laura Little, and Sequim plant operator Deborah McGruther.

Patient Experience Champions are typically celebrated in May; however, because of COVID-19 gathering restrictions, it was originally postponed in hopes they could be recognized in person by the board. Given continued restrictions, the board chose to honor our Patient Experience Champions virtually.

## River

From page A-1

River said she was initially uncertain if she would go through with the project because of the pandemic, but her family felt it was important to press on.

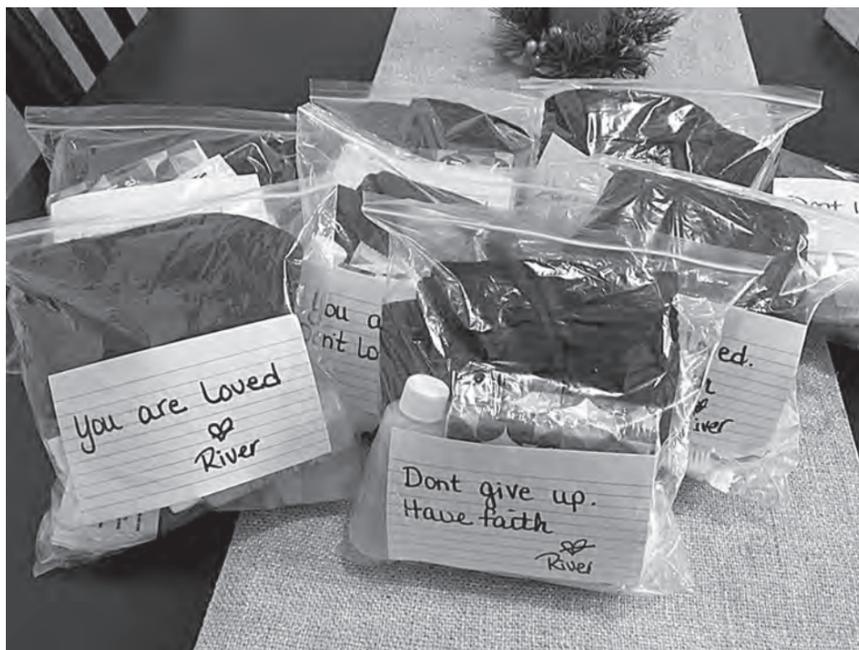
“We need to remember those who are less fortunate,” Anna said. “Even though we’re all struggling, this is all something we all need to be together on.”

River started helping those in-need by serving Christmas meals at age 6, which grew into making toiletry bags a few years later.

Even with the pandemic, River said, she found the roadblock to continue “fun, in a way.”

She added, “It’s just another challenge to get to the grand prize (of helping people).”

For her efforts, River was a finalist for the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 Citizen



Each care package from 14-year-old River Jensen features a personal note of support. Photo courtesy of Anna Larsen

of the Year. She kept the program going last year despite losing her father Chris Jensen in October 2019 to congestive heart failure.

“(This year) hasn’t been easy but she’s here to show people if there is a will there’s a way,” Anna said.

For more information

about River’s Christmas Project, contact Anna Larsen at [Annajensen99@hotmail.com](mailto:Annajensen99@hotmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/RiverJensen06](https://www.facebook.com/RiverJensen06).

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# Care

From page A-1

“They want to go to school so bad,” Coddington said. “They just want to get up here. There are so many distractions.”

With a state waiver, they’re allowed to watch their children there but it takes spots from the facility that’s licensed for 36. If schools reopen in early 2021 on a hybrid schedule, Bell and Coddington hope they can schedule it so their children can go on different days to open up a spot for a preschool-aged child.

Nicole Goettling, owner-director of Bibity Bobity, 11 Childers Lane in Carlsborg, said when the pandemic began, parents of toddlers withdrew the most from the facility, but she expanded the school-aged program.

In normal times, children 6 and up would come after school, but now 17 are enrolled from kindergarten to age 12.

“We’re still fairly full at certain ages and a good size of school-agers makes up for the gap,” Goettling said.

If school-aged children do go back to school, she said they’d start another preschool class because Bibity Bobity has a waiting list.

## Staffing

Licensed child care providers are given a 17-page list of recommendations to follow, such as maintaining 6-foot distances in the facility, Bell said.

However, with limited space and colder, wetter weather, some have been harder to follow, she said.

In the summer, Little Explorers split its preschool groups up, but combined again in mid-November because of inclement weather.

However, Bell said staff tries “to do as much outside time as possible.”

“It’s good for everybody,” she said.

However, she said, businesses like hers are working with less while needing to do more.

“This is the smallest staff I’ve ever had,” Goettling said of her nine-employee staff (including herself).

“We’re just trudging away. Without grants, it would have been touch and go. Grants helped me to keep people employed.”

Even with federal, state and local financial support, local providers like Bell and Coddington said finding staff continues to be their



Teacher Kate Merandy serves lunch to children at the Sequim’s Little Explorers Early Learning Center in late December. Co-owner Erin Bell said they do their best to follow health recommendations for the pandemic by going outside as much as possible, but cold and wet weather and limited space prevents them in some capacities. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

biggest challenge.

“We’ve barely had any applications for open positions and had reduced hours because of it,” Bell said.

In November preschool hours were temporarily extended until a teacher gave notice leading them to reduce hours again.

“Before COVID it was already a struggle,” Bell said. “We live in a rural area, wages aren’t great, there’s not a large pool of people and then the pandemic happened.”

At 10 staff, including themselves, Bell and Coddington said “that’s just bare minimum” for where they’d like to be.

## Club kids

In March, the Sequim Boys & Girls Club at 400 W. Fir St. started the pandemic with 35 children of ages 5-and-a-half to 14, and has increased that number to 70.

Budke said the club first opened up only to community essential workers’ children with no one at home. Now, unit directors for the Sequim and Port Angeles clubs have some latitude for who can come depending on situations at home.

The new Port Angeles club at Lauridsen Boulevard and Francis Street will expand Port Angeles’ capacity to 70 children, Budke said.

“We are looking at a few

spaces to use,” Budke said. “The closer to us the better. I don’t want kids transferring all over the place because that compounds the COVID impacts.”

She said community donations have helped club members with technology by providing new computers.

“Our kids are doing well; there’s a lot of laughter here,” Budke said.

“Our staff, with help from the school districts, are making it the best it can be. We know it’s best for kids to be in a classroom.”

One of her other concerns is for teenagers who have been disconnected from their friends in-person since March.

## County-wide help

A coalition of child care providers across Clallam County, including the Olympic Peninsula YMCA and the William Shore Memorial Pool District, continue to seek solutions for families.



In June, Sarah Schmedding plays with Harry Piper on the swings at Bibity Bobity. Space for child care has stayed mostly the same at Bibity Bobity in Carlsborg with school-aged children being the biggest shift, says owner-director Nicole Goettling. They used to come after school but now stay all day due to distance learning in-place due to the pandemic. Sequim Gazette file photo by Matthew Nash

Budke said “no one entity can take care of all the kids in the community” and that there’s “never been such a spirit of helping people”

as now.

In December, Sequim City Manager Charlie Bush got the OK from city councilors to support child care needs

in Sequim up to \$35,000 in December and January, with revenues from general funds for Budke to help distribute as needed.

“It’s a stressful environment right now, and we’re trying to work with them as we can,” Bush said.

Early in the pandemic, City of Sequim leaders were tasked to track child care issues in the county by Clallam County’s Emergency Operations Center.

City staff said funding likely wouldn’t be used depending on federal funds becoming available in 2021.

## More info

Child Care Aware of Washington is a nonprofit that offers free support for families to find local, licensed providers, and for providers to find support to stay open and receive supplies while meeting increased state guidelines.

For more information, call 800-446-1114 or visit [childcareawarewa.org](http://childcareawarewa.org).

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# Peninsula Singers hosting virtual holiday concert

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

The Peninsula Singers present a Holiday Virtual Cabaret that began on Christmas Day and will continue for several weeks through the new year. Access the performance at [peninsulasingers.org](http://peninsulasingers.org).

Conductor Dr. Jerome Wright has put together some top professional local and regional talent donating their performances. They include:

- accompanist Linda Dowdell and baritone Joel Yelland, who open the show with "A Child Is Born in a Manger";
- Carol Swarbrick Dries, who joins Dowdell for "Send in the Clowns" and a rap from the stage production of "Sister Act";
- Soprano Erin Wood, who sings with the "Hour of Power" and performs at the Met and Lyric Opera of Chicago will sing "O Holy Night";
- Jackson Berkey of Mannheim Steamroller fame, who presents his composition "Autumn Brilliance" and will team up with his protégé Winston F. Schneider, 12, for Berkey's two-piano arrangement of "Christmas Day in the Morning";
- Seattle Girls' Choir vocal jazz group "Sorella" will sing "Armor" by Sarah Barreilles and arranged by Sarah Zegree; and,
- in the final, the Seattle Girls' Choir "Prime Voci" the Seattle Youth Symphony and the Bellevue Youth Symphony presenting "True Colors" arranged and conducted by Jacob Winker.

The Peninsula Singers are also accepting any donations to help cover operating costs and support the 501(c)3 nonprofit group's scholarship program. Mail tax-deductible donations by mail to: Peninsula Singers, 325 E. Washington St. #135, Sequim, WA 98382.

# Holiday performance on pause

## After delays, Sequim Acrobatics team looks to perform in January

BY MICHAEL DASHIELL  
*Sequim Gazette*

In lieu of what was supposed to be their group's holiday performance — one they still hope to perform, albeit a month late — dancers Logan Laxson and Mia Underwood briefly turned the Dungeness Railroad Bridge into a stage in mid-December.

Sequim Acrobatics team members had their sights set on spring and summer performances but, like dozens of other community groups, saw those plans get delayed or outright cancelled by the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak.

The team looked to rehearse for and offer some form of a Christmas production this December, team member and coach Logan Laxson said, but COVID-19 derailed that as well.

A group of about 16 individuals generally puts in two, two-hour rehearsal sessions per week and, leading up to a performance like this, three two-and-a-half-hour sessions per week in the month leading up to the show — "not to mention all the choreography and all the behind the scenes goes into it," he said.

"We were going to have it shot virtually so people could go on our website," Laxson said.

Now, the Christmas performance will hopefully get completed in late January, possibly switching to a "winter" theme, he said.

"We're definitely going to be set back, regardless. Hopefully that muscle memory (kicks in)," Laxson said.

A Sequim High senior, Laxson said he enjoys performances with Sequim Acrobatics because of how different and yet complimentary it is with his athletic endeavors. Laxson has over the years competed in football, cross country, wrestling and several years in track and field.

"I like that (acrobatics) is not really competitive. In sports it's, 'compete, compete, compete.' There's still pressure behind it (in performing), but you can't really lose. It's a nice comfort zone.

"It also helps with all my other sports."

On Dec. 19, Laxson and Underwood took



Logan Laxson and Mia Underwood move their Sequim Acrobatics rehearsals outdoors, using the Dungeness Railroad Bridge as a stage for a Dec. 19 photo shoot. Submitted photo

to Sequim's Railroad Bridge for a quick photo shoot to encourage other Sequim Acrobatics performers to stay in shape and keep practicing at home.

"It was really cold," Laxson admitted. For more information, see [www.sequimacrobatics.com](http://www.sequimacrobatics.com) or find Sequim Acrobatics on Facebook.

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**'94 DODGE 2500 Diesel** PU, 62K miles, \$11,500. 360-797-1422 OR 360-460-6211

**Sport Utility Vehicles Others**  
**H2 HUMMER:** '06, Black on black, new battery, custom wheels and tires, 136,600 miles. \$17,000 obo. (360)797-4357

**SUV:** '93 Jeep Cherokee Country, 89k mi, 4.0 Itr inline 6, 4x4, cc, air, pw, electric seat, all original, 2 owners. \$6950. (360)460-8831 new #

**Vans & Minivans Others**  
**'12 Honda Odyssey** Touring. Fully loaded, lots of new and extras. 2 Yr Warranty, \$14,350. 360-452-4760

**Employment General**

The award-winning weekly newspaper, Whidbey News-Times and South Whidbey Record, in beautiful Oak Harbor, WA, has an opening for a general assignment reporter. We want a skilled and passionate writer who isn't afraid to tackle meaty news stories. Experience with photography and Adobe InDesign preferred. Applicants must be able to work in a team-oriented, deadline-driven environment, possess excellent writing skills, have a knowledge of community news, and be able to write about multiple topics. The ideal candidate is comfortable writing hard news and features, both long-form and short. Weekly or daily newspaper experience is preferred, though time worked on student publications and internships will be considered. Must be comfortable using a smartphone in the field to take photos and shoot video. Position requires: 1-2 years experience as a newspaper reporter 4-year college degree in Communication, Journalism, English, or equivalent journalism experience Familiarity with AP Style Use of personal vehicle, possession of valid WA State Driver's License, and proof of active vehicle insurance Job involves pagination, including knowledge of digital photography and Adobe InDesign, in addition to Web page management. The ideal candidate must: be organized, self-motivated, detail-oriented, efficient, well organized, and possess excellent multitasking skills; be a self-starter but team-oriented with lots of flexibility; possess excellent interpersonal, verbal, and written communications skills; have strong writing and layout skills; be exceptional with the public and willing to get involved in community activities. This is a full-time position that includes excellent benefits: medical, dental, life insurance, 401k, paid vacation, sick, and holidays. EOE. No calls, please. Send resume with cover letter, and three or more non-returnable clips in PDF or Text format to careers@soundpublishing.com ensuring they demonstrate: Stories you've done that were important to your community. Your ability to cover a beat in a reliable, productive, and timely fashion. Sufficient bandwidth to file developing versions of the same story to the web and print in a single news cycle. A knack for developing enterprise reports that are both substantive and interesting. Skills you possess that will strengthen our digital storytelling — audio, visuals, mapping, graphics, data, and others. Writing that is clean, clear, and engaging — qualities that indicate you could help edit your colleagues' stories. Please send web links along with any print samples you submit. Please include in the subject line ATTN: Gen-Rep - WNT Reporter. Sound Publishing, www.soundpublishing.com is an Equal Opportunity Employer and strongly supports diversity in the workplace.

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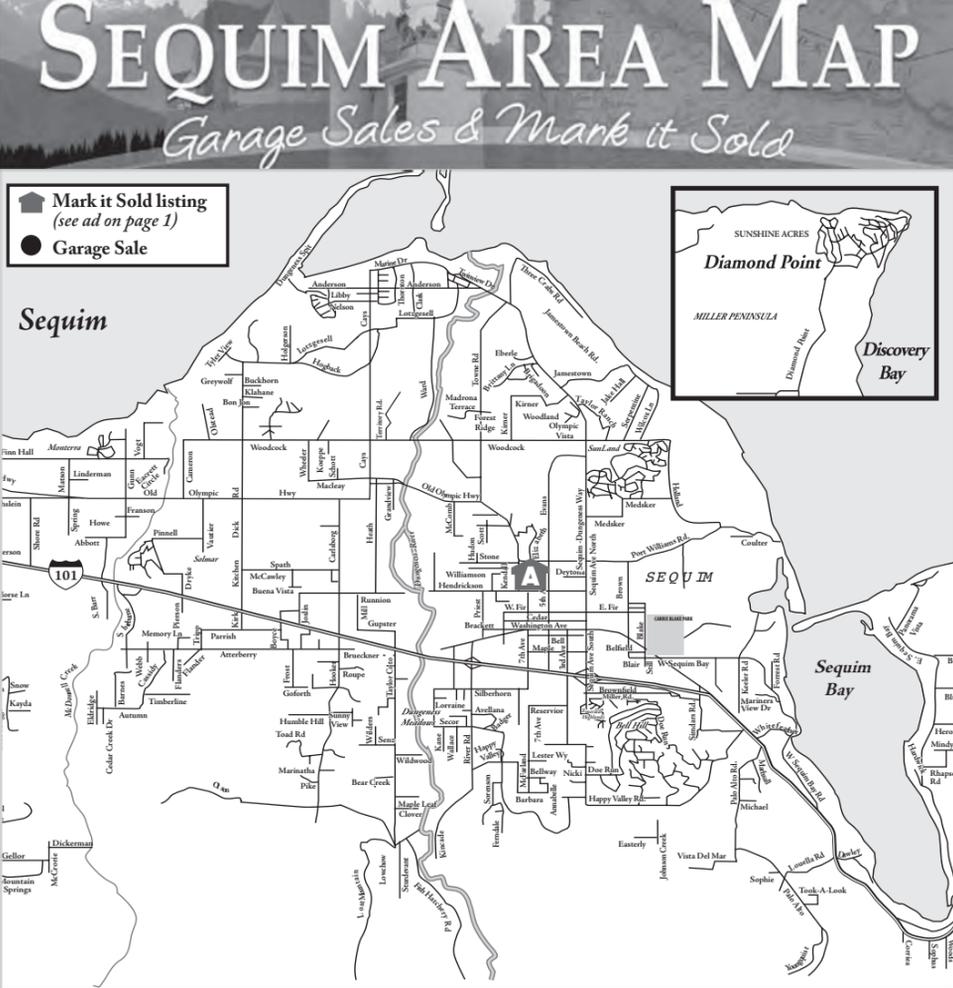


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Mark it Sold listing (see ad on page 1)  
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**Legal Notices - General**

**NOTICE OF EQUALIZATION MEETING**  
The Board of Directors of the Dungeness Irrigation District will hold their annual equalization meeting on January 5, 2021 at the home of the District Secretary, Patrice Johnston, 387 Riverview Drive, Sequim, WA 98382 at 1:00 pm to hear any and all objections to the current assessments.  
Patrice Johnston  
Secretary of the Dungeness Irrigation District  
Pub.: SEQ December 23, 30, 2020  
Legal No. 916187

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CLALLAM COUNTY**  
Estate of Hazel Jo Dilley, deceased.  
Probate Case No. 20-4-00435-05  
The personal representative named below has been appointed and has qualified as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) Four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.  
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: December 23, 2020  
Scott Michael Dilley, Personal Representative  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Alan E. Millet, WSBA #11706  
Address for Mailing or Service: P.O. Box 1029, Sequim, Washington 98382  
Pub.: SEQ December 23, 30, 2020, January 6, 2021  
Legal No. 915847

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Email: lclenard@sequimgazette.com

**NO PHONE CALLS! Bring your ads to:**  
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Peninsula Daily News, 305 West 1st St., Port Angeles

**BIKE:** 21-speed Mt. Shasta backwoods mountain bike. \$50. 360-452-9685

**FOOTBALL:** Official NFL Wilson rawhide, trophy case worthy. \$50. (225)588-0366

**Chest Waders:** Neoprene, Caddis, dark green, large, like new. \$50. 360-917-4056

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**COLLECTIBLE** cast iron motorcycle ride vintage. \$20. 360-681-7579

**Full size** used bed complete with frame. \$45. 360-461-4189

**FREE:** "Weslo" Treadmill. 360-452-8011

**RECIPROCATING Saw:** \$45. (360)504-2518

**INK CARTRIDGES:** HP 8600 compatible. 950XL 951XL. 4 colors. New. \$30. 360-379-0764

**Mountain Bike:** Mon-goose XR100, low use. \$50. 360 452-2468

**Plexiglass:** 1", approx. 10 sq.ft. new. \$10. Pt. Ludlow. 360-732-4311

**RV TOILET:** Thetford, full size, ceramic. \$95. (360)202-0928

**SOUND BAR:** Yamaha YAS 108 front surround system. Cost \$206 new. \$90. 360-477-1410

**MISC:** 3 Metal Filing Cabinet; \$30; 7' Pre-lit Christmas Tree; \$20. 949-232-3392

**"I FOUND IT IN FREEBIES!"**

**MISC:** Stationary bike, \$25; Nissan Sentra for parts \$25. 360-461-6025

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**BEN** is a sweet, older, loving Shepherd. Although Ben is almost completely blind he gets around great. He just needs a quiet, stable, loving home. Ben, sadly, has been in and out of shelters. Constant change of environment leads to stress and depression in sight challenged dogs, so we want this to be his last and final home. Ben needs a quiet, calm only dog home, with no stairs, cats or children. He likes other large dogs, but being sight impaired, he can be quick to react because he is not sure what is coming at him.

**DANY & CATELYN** are a bonded mother/daughter pair that we rescued from a hoarding situation in May 2019. It's been a long journey for these two, but they are ready to go to a forever home that will continue building their trust and confidence.



**DANY** is our beautiful merle mama dog. She continues to be shy and timid, but now walks on a leash and will allow you to pet and brush her. She is just the sweetest girl, and we want her to have a safe,



loving forever home. **CATELYN** is a little spitfire. She is wicked smart, very curious, loves to play in the water and is an excellent escape artist. She's playful and loves going on walks with Dany. This girl will bring lots of joy and laughter to your life. These two absolutely must have a securely fenced yard to run and play in. They will run if they escape. They need a quiet home with no other dogs, no cats and no children.



**SHEY SHEY** is now almost a year old and is a Shepherd mix. She and her litter mates were found trapped and dying. Shey Shey survived. Shey Shey has a very introverted personality. She is shy and slow to meet new people. Once you sit with her and she has a chance to meet you on her terms, she is an absolute love pie. She loves to cuddle and she loves to stay close. She will do best in a calm household with human companions that have a more introverted personality. She gets along well with most dogs and really needs to have a dog companion in her new home.

**Would you like to sponsor this pet page?**

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**CROSSWORD**

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	
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48							49					
50							51					

*Puzzle answers in next week's issue.*

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**last week's crossword answers**

A	G	A							E	B	B										
S	O	N							S	T	A	I	D								
T	A	N	G						T	A	B	L	A								
E	L	U	L						B	A	Y		I	B	M						
R	I	L	E	D					C	A	N		A	E	O	N					
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	H	O	O	D	S									
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B	A	E	D	A										A	X	I	S				
B	A	R	I	C											E	G	O				
C	A	D													S	E	N				

- ACROSS**
- Home of the Cowboys
  - "Hawaii Five-0" actor McBride
  - Most aged
  - Fitted with a shoe
  - Courteously
  - They form over cuts
  - Western Alaskan river
  - Aggressive men
  - Farm animal
  - Young woman (French)
  - Sixth month of Hebrew calendar
  - Short cry
  - State capital
  - Rural delivery

- "Twilight Zone" creator
- Gigabyte
- Flammable hydrocarbon
- Supervises flying
- An actor who plays a principal role
- Furnace for pottery
- Fall back
- Afrikaans word for language
- Chinese city
- Fleshy
- Inventor
- Taxis
- A citizen of Spain
- Important age for aging workers (abbr.)

- DOWN**
- Chinese mountain range
  - Romanian city
  - Fishermen cast it
  - Shelter from wind
  - Sign language
  - Pigpen
  - Make sore
  - Flat metal shelves
  - Forms that say who you are
  - Cigar lovers' necessity
  - Popular cooking ingredient
  - Skin covering the head

- Unshakable
- Exclamation meaning "Finally!"
- One of the wise men's gifts
- Take away from
- In accordance with the law
- Nicole Kidman's husband
- NY Giants legend
- Utilize
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Unwell
- More destitute
- Grinded together
- Sun up in New York
- Italian-made cars

- Most sacred site in Islam
- Rip apart
- Go in a specified direction
- Freshwater mussel genus
- "\_\_ the Man" Musical (abbr.)
- One thousand cubic feet
- West coast time zone
- Mimic
- You can get one in summer

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