

The East County Journal Circulation Group II

**ADVERTISING DIVISION
101 Single Advertisement, ½-page or smaller**

Oct. 6, 2021, page 6, ad, lower left corner: Chehalis Sheet Metal 3x4

Community reflects on Gary Stamper's impact

The staff at the East County Journal reached out to a number of community and former community members, to share some of their thoughts and recollections of Gary Stamper and the impact he made in their lives. The following are the replies received.

One of the most striking things about Gary Stamper is how universally people will agree that he would do about anything for anyone and how universally nice he was to all. Whether in office or out — in a school or coaching position or not — he was the ultimate public servant. His life and his compassionate quest to understand everyone is a wonderful reminder for all of us about what it means to support a tight knit and caring community. Our communities need more Gary, not less. This is a very sad week for all of us as a result.

Jonathan Hopkins
Seattle

Gary was a great supporter of our community. I never saw him without a smile on his face. Whenever he saw me he always made a point to stop and talk to me about how things were going with the school district. Gary left behind some great memories of the school district he grew up in, taught in and coached. He will be missed by many but has left some great memories for us all to cherish.

Lori Cournyer
Principal, Mossyrock
Junior/Senior High School

Gary Stamper was not only a great county commissioner, but he was a good friend. I worked with Gary while he was in his educational role and again after he became a commissioner. He would often stop and visit on his way through Morton. In my past capacity as the chief of police and in my current position as mayor. He always had words of encouragement and a pleasant and positive attitude. His big stature and great big smile was always a positive role model for the service he rendered on a daily basis to our community.

He will be remembered

as a positive role model in our community. He will be missed.

Dan Mortensen
Mayor, Morton

Gary was a truly amazing person, one whom I feel blessed to have gotten to know. He loved this county, the east end, and everyone he ever met. My first time meeting Gary was when we were both principals, he at White Pass and me here in Morton. Our ASB had us in a pie-eating contest together, and Gary being Gary, he was able to talk and eat pie at the same time. Plus, he found a way to shove my face into the pie too. Its fair to say that I immediately liked him from then on. I am going to miss my friend. His passion for the east end will be missed by everyone.

John Hannah
Morton School District
Superintendent

Commissioner Stamper was a champion of nonprofits and community groups that have volunteers who work to serve their town and county. He would always ask, "How is it going?" and then truly listened to our highlights and concerns. He attended many evening events even after having worked long hours and would brave the trip home as he dodged the deer and elk and poor weather conditions. What an amazing man!

Janice Boren Grose
White Pass Country
Museum & Packwood
Visitor Center Director

I first met Gary when I was an East County Journal reporter and he was a Mossyrock School teacher. It was apparent to me then that he was a kind man and cared very much for his students in their present day and on into their futures. He carried over those same attributes to all of Lewis County when he became a Lewis County Commissioner. This county, and especially East Lewis County, has lost a true advocate. He will be greatly missed for a very long time.

Diane Markham
Arbor Health Market-
ing and Communications
Manager
Gary Stamper had such

a big heart for people, and also a heart for service. He was exceptionally devoted to his community, as a career educator and more recently as a very able county commissioner. This is a tough loss.

Sen. John Braun
R-Centralia

I had the honor to have Mr. Stamper (as a teacher) in junior high. I was a troubled teen. He treated me like I was somebody. I always will remember walking into his classroom and staring in awe at all his Viking collection up on the wall. I knew in his class, no matter what trouble I caused earlier in the day, he gave me a fresh start in there. Years later, 19 to be exact, I was back at college to get my high school diploma. He walked in to Bobbi's office and smiled at me. He said, "You were my favorite. I knew you could do it. I am proud of you." No matter where we ran into each other, he would take the time for a hug and chat. He will greatly missed.

Margarita Jara
Mossyrock

My husband and I both worked with Gary for many years at Mossyrock School District. He also taught both of my kids at Mossyrock. He was one of a kind ... always had a smile on his face and he made everyone in his presence feel loved and special. He truly cared about people, especially his students and athletes and he showed that every day. We count it an extreme honor and blessing to call him our friend and we will forever hold him in our hearts. Lewis County lost one of the very best.

Julie Cole
Mossyrock

On Friday many of us came together to honor a man that spent his life in service to others. That man was Gary Stamper. Whether in the school, on the court or in the halls of the old court house as commissioner, Gary put his service to others before himself. I was honored to know him and he helped make one feel welcome when I first moved to Morton in our

east Lewis County community, and Gary was all about this community. He loved this community and the people in it.

He always greeted you with a smile and was willing to lend an ear when needed. Always eager to know how your family was doing because he cared and knew the importance of family. He was great with children as I saw when he spoke with children attending our after-school program where they learn about our founding documents and the history of our nation as well as our community. Gary showed them what good leadership is and made each of our after-school kids feel special and spoke with them about our county's government, without making it feel like a boring discussion in third period in class. They learned a little something and didn't even know it.

He leaves behind a legacy of compassion, a legacy of leadership and most importantly a legacy of community. To Gary, I believe he saw this community as his family. This family will miss him greatly. He called me just before he had gotten ill and wanted to catch up and talk about one of the programs we were working on. Sadly we never had that hot cup of joe and the discussion that was sure to be a pleasant and enjoyable one.

After lots of prayers community wide, Gary left us and was called to Heaven. There's so many things I wish I could say to him. If I could say one last thing to Gary it would simply be, thank you.

Roger Morningstar
Morton/Mossyrock
Police Chief

I worked next door to Gary for several years at Mossyrock in the junior high. He was so kind and

supportive, just the best neighbor I could have. I was new to teaching, and the example of his kindness, steadiness and ready smile helped me become a better teacher.

Lynne Olmos

I am a 1999 graduate of Mossyrock, and had Mr. Stamper as a Washington State history teacher, before later serving as the cameraman for one of his high school basketball teams. One of my lasting memories of Mr. Stamper was when he unexpectedly intercepted a “will you or won’t you” note between myself and my 8th grade crush — which I was then certain would lead to a meltdown of complete, pimply embarrassment. To my surprise, he proceeded to read it aloud, but instead as a love letter to himself and the content of his history class. No humiliation, no embarrassment — just a comical pivot that deflated any potential tension or worry. At that juncture in my young life, I was having lots of trust issues with adults, and the recollection of this kind man who chose to smile and shield me from ridicule is crystal-line and indelible. His caring nature was evident in how he treated me as not just a student, but with the respect of one sagacious mentor towards a younger, still growing human being.

Derek Rich
Renton

We were neighbors to the Stammers for 13 years in the town of Riffe. Gary, Terry, Pat and Mike were running mates. We played ball, climbed the huge maple trees that had branches that were above the westbound traffic on Highway 12, when a chip truck would go by underneath us we had to hang

on tight. Too many tales of mischief and fun to relate that four young boys could and did do in a small town. I remember a time when the four of us assembled some old abandoned mining track down the hill and pushed a mining car up the tracks and rode it down the hill. It was a lot of fun until the track ended and the mining car came to a quick stop. Even though it was exhausting pushing the car up the hill, we made many trips down the tracks, I not sure how old we were, maybe 8 Terry, 9 Gary, 10 Pat and me 11. Too many memories of growing up in Riffe living across Highway 12 from the Stampers for me to include in this posting. Gary will be missed and remembered by anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him.

Mike Overbay
Longtime friend

Gary was a good friend to East Lewis County. As commissioner he was a faithful listener and attendant of events and functions supporting our community. Gary regularly attended and participated in Packwood Business Owners Community (PBOC) and Packwood Improvement Club meetings keeping our community informed and connected. Certainly, Commissioner Stamper will be missed, but Gary Stamper will be missed even more.

Hal Blanton
Packwood Business
Owners Committee
President

With the passing of Gary Stamper, the heart of Lewis County has a huge hole in it. He always wanted the best for our county. He will be greatly missed.

Edna Fund
Former Lewis County
Commissioner

JnL

Stoves And Spas

State-of-the-Art
Heat Stoves, Spas, and Grills

18845 Denmark St SW
Rochester, Washington 98579
360-273-9148

<http://www.jnlstovesandspas.net>







Stop in and see us!

360-273-9148

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M., Thursday, Oct. 7
East Lewis County Transfer Station • 6745 U.S. Hwy. 12, Morton

10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M., Saturday, Oct. 9
Packwood Fire Department • 12953 U.S. Hwy. 12, Packwood

RULES

- One visit per opening
- Residential waste only
- No pharmaceuticals
- No business waste
- No explosives or ammunition

LIMITS PER VISIT

- 10 CFL Lights
- 5 gal. motor oil
- 5 gal. antifreeze
- 5 gal. cooking oil
- 15 gal. oil based paint
- No containers larger than 5 gallons
- Maximum amount of 50 items



Events are for residential customers to drop off unwanted or left-over, oil-based paint; cleaners, lawn, garden, and pool chemicals, and other household chemicals.

Lewis County Solid Waste Utility
(360) 740-1451 • swu@lewiscountywa.gov

Absentee ballots mailing

Approximately 53,519 ballots will be mailed on Wednesday, Oct. 13, to all active registered voters within Lewis County.

Ballots should begin arriving in mailboxes the week of Oct. 18-22. The USPS says it can take up to 7-10 days for delivery. If ballot packets have not been received by Oct. 22, voters may receive a replacement ballot online at votewa.gov, calling 360-740-1164 or in person at 351 NW North St, Chehalis, WA 98532 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Election Day, Nov. 2.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
888-674-7053

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

**ACT NOW TO RECEIVE
A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!***
1 (866) 954-2961

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
Solar panels sold separately.



**DON'T GET STUCK
IN THE COLD!**

**GET YOUR
HEATING SYSTEM
TUNED-UP NOW!**

Or call for a free
estimate on a
replacement system

Chehalis
SHEET METAL
HEATING & COOLING
ROOFING

#CHEHASM252MH “Dedicated to your comfort”

FREE ESTIMATES 360.748.9221

www.chehalissheetmetal.com • 24/7 Service • Maintenance