

Deputies Chavez and Hoffman crack break-in case

KITTITAS COUNTY – On Monday, Oct. 25, Kittitas County deputies responded to a report of a break-in at a business near I-90 west of Ellensburg. The business owner showed the deputies security footage of a man in a distinctive red hat jumping a fence to enter the property. Authorities said the suspect entered company buildings, stole keys and other property, damaged equipment, and went through vehicles.

Investigating Deputy Benito Chavez searched recent contacts and incidents in the area and learned that another

deputy, **Scott Hoffman**, made an arrest nearby on Sunday morning. Hoffman booked Spokane's **Jesse Sproul** when Sproul ran out of gas on I-90 in a stolen pickup.

Said Sheriff's Office spokesperson **Christopher Whitsett**, "Deputy Chavez contacted the rightful owner of the pickup for permission to search it, and inside he found property from the ransacked business. He also searched the items found on Sproul when he was booked into our jail for vehicle theft. There, Chavez found more stolen property and the dis-

tinctive red hat seen in the security footage. Chavez added charges for trespass, burglary, theft, malicious mischief and ten separate vehicle prowls."

The photo accompanying this story shows a rig that was one of several damaged in the incident.

Said Whitsett, "It appears Sproul kicked a window out when he locked himself in the cab of the CAT and couldn't find the latch to get out."

Said Sheriff **Clay Myers**, "The Kittitas County Sheriff's Office encourages and expects every deputy to be an effective criminal investigator. Deputies

Chavez and Hoffman are just two of our recent hires working proactively to make solid cases against those who can't or won't follow laws in our county.

"We're grateful to all the community partners that make this work possible, including the business owner and other victims in this incident."



SHERIFF'S DEPUTY BENITO CHAVEZ, a Cle Elum-Roslyn High alumnus, is now making a difference in Kittitas County communities. Also shown here one of the rigs damaged in the case Chavez investigated.

Photo courtesy of Kittitas County Sheriff's Office

Once upon a time, Evelyn discovered wonderful gifts for everyone on her list at local shops like **KittitasBooks**. She had fun shopping and didn't think once about stalled cargo ships or delivery delays. Getting an early start, she even carved out some extra time to indulge in curling up with a good book or two she treated herself to as a reward for being so clever. The end.



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The Emblem By Alisa Weis

Soon after Callie Rushton begins work as a tutor for a prominent businessman's children, she meets his right-hand man, Gabe Ward, and is undeniably drawn to him. She has every reason to believe her feelings are mutual. But she lives in the small, coal mining town of Roslyn, WA, and it's the 1930's, when racial tensions are high. Callie knows that a relationship with a man of color would jeopardize her standing in the town and compromise Gabe's position. The Emblem, while fiction, draws its inspiration from events of the Roslyn strike of 1888/89 when more than 300 African Americans arrived to town, not knowing they'd be made strikebreakers. Written with compassion and heart, this story invites readers to consider the hardship and decisions placed upon its characters.

Another Roslyn-based historical fiction title by Alisa Weis:

Swiftwater

Pine Tree Express, A History of the Cascade Lumber Company's Pine Hauling Railroad in Kittitas County, Washington 1916-1946

By Eugene M. Henderson

RARE OUT OF PRINT BOOK - popular with model railroaders!

This book, packed with intrigue, historic photos of Kittitas County logging train operations, maps and illustrations, is very popular with railroad fans, people interested in the logging industry, and history buffs. It is part of a 2-book series by this author. The history of logging railroads consistently surpassed the much larger mainline carriers in their rate of unusual happenings and intrigue.



Life in the Left-Hand Lane

By Terry Cubbins
The story of the Portland Maverick's Left-Handed Catcher and Seattle Comedy Club Owner Jim "Swannie" Swanson. It wasn't until 1975, after Swanson graduated college with an All-Conference baseball career that someone said, "Hey! You're a left-handed catcher! I can use you!" Learn how Swannie set sail for Seattle and how he opened an underground comedy club near the Kingdome Sports Arena. Baseball and comedy. What's not to love?

Not sure what books they already have?
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also gives them the bonus fun of picking!



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By Gary Williams

"Author Gary Williams brings us a true American war hero in his World War II Story of Douglas A. Munro. The book is appropriately titled Guardian of Guadalcanal. The account of Munro's heroic actions during the battle for Guadalcanal made it very clear to me why the Marine Corps, to this day, has so much respect for this former member of the U.S. Coast Guard. It's easy to see that the author extensively researched both Munro's life and the combat on Guadalcanal. Once the research was done, Williams did a very good job in presenting us that story along with dozens of photos, award citations, and maps. If you like reading about American war heroes, this story of Douglas Munro, the Guardian of Guadalcanal, should definitely be up high on your list!"
— Review by Bob Doerr, Military Writers Society of America (MWSA)



Tall Tales: Short Stories from a Long Game Warden Career

By Steve Rogers

A short peek into the sometimes exciting, often funny, and occasionally scary 33 year career of Washington Fish and Wildlife Police Officer Steve Rogers. From trapping beaver, raccoons, and cougars to herding elk on snowmobile to catching poachers, there were not many dull moments. There must be humor in this line of work. One final note - not a good idea to write your local Sheriff a ticket.

Days in the Life of a Country Vet 4-book series

By Dr. Fred Newschwander DVM



"Mostly True Stories and Anecdotes About Livestock, Pets, People and Places from the Life and Career of a Retired Mixed Animal Veterinarian". Dr. Fred Newschwander established Mt. Stuart Animal Hospital in Kittitas County. Thirty one years later, he retired in the country to his horses, dog, and computer. Fred's son Jeff Newschwander has completed the collection, publishing his father's final stories posthumously in the 4th book in the series.

ROSLYN COUNCIL...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5

He said the process would accelerate after the prescribed burn season is over. He said the public would be kept abreast and asked for everyone's patience.

Councilor **Cathy Cook** expressed hope that council meetings would soon return to the in-person format and that meetings be broadcasted live and recorded for posting online. Mayor **Hals** agreed in-person meetings are necessary and agreed to work on it.

Councilor **Tom Missel** reported the 12.2 acres near the school district had been transferred and deeded to the City of Cle Elum. Read that story published in the Oct. 21 edition of the *NKC Tribune*. Note that the nonprofit created to shepherd that project through to completion soon plans to publish a progress report in the *NKC Tribune*.

CLE ELUM COUNCIL...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

... Management is challenged with the future of recycling (including curbside), container replacements, an annual service guide to educate customers, options for the city to 'join' the county's Waste Management contract, the pros and cons of the contract's length in years, and the possibility of providing free Transfer Station coupons two months out of the year versus two weeks.

Finally, Public Works Director **Mike Engelhart** reported the two water main breaks last week at Second and Teanaway, and at Peoh, triggered a loss of 600,500 gallons valued at \$1,500.

"We also spent \$6,500 on parts, \$5,730 on staff hours, and \$3,615 on equipment hours."

On that note, it was in May 2021 the subject of the city's aging infrastructure once again appeared in the news after a ten-foot stretch of water main on Fourth and Columbia required repair.

"When we dug it up," Engelhart said at the time, "we could see it had been wrapped with seven \$85 steel repair bands. The kicker is that there

are at least another 5,000 to 6,000 feet of the same pipe still in the ground."

In the same May 2021 story, Engelhart went on to say, "Right now, because there is no funding available, all we can do is repair the leaks and breaks, and upgrade pipes when and where we can."

"Grants are out there but the catch is that many of Washington's cities find themselves in the same predicament. That means Cle Elum must compete with bigger cities for those dollars, but the bigger cities have bigger problems and because of that they usually win the grants."

He also said raising water rates to build a larger reserve fund would be another solution, but he said by the time the city's entire system has been rejuvenated – and paid off – it would be time to replace the system again.

"These kinds of projects cost millions and millions of dollars and the last thing cities want to do is drive the monthly water rates through the roof."

Engelhart said the issue of aging infrastructure is an issue all over the state and the country.

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REGIONAL NEWS

CLE ELUM COUNCIL...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

... and update on the traffic congestion challenge on Upper County roads, an informative chat about the issue with Kittitas County Public Works Director **Mark Cook**.

Before concluding Osiadacz finished her presentation, Councilor **Ken Ratliff** volunteered to represent the city at Steer I-90's monthly meetings.

City Heights disputes move to mediation

Sean Northrop and his City Heights housing development team are facing off with the City of Cle Elum over the Development Agreement with the city, which aims to regulate development and spell

out mitigations as the project moves toward construction of some 900 homes on the ridge above Cle Elum. Northrop broke ground on the first phase of the project this year, above Sixth Street.

The out-of-court mediation took place on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

After the meeting, when councilors went into Executive Session to tweak the official ground rules of the mediation, Mayor McGowan and City Administrator Omans provided this statement.

"**Louis D. Peterson** of Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson has been retained to serve as a mediator in this dispute arising between City Heights and

the City of Cle Elum over the City Heights Development Agreement.

"This expense is shared by both parties though we are disappointed we weren't able to resolve our differences without this additional expense. We do look forward to meeting with the mediator so that we can put this matter behind us and move on."

For readers just catching up, visit the city's website for a look at the issues with City Heights as they have evolved.

2022 Budget public hearing

The city council hosted the first of two public hearings on the 2022 budget. Here below are excerpts from the mayor's budget introduction, which he read at the hearing.

"The total of the 2022 budget is over 19 million dollars and

provides for an expansion in our police and fire departments as well as other services.

"This budget allows for public works shop improvements, an additional police officer, three police vehicles, upgrades in the police department, increased services in the planning department, and a full-time fire chief along with other services.

"Additionally, the city has received grant funding for the First Street Improvements Project from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), Kittitas County Council of Governments (COG), and Department of Transportation (DOT).

"Other grant funded projects include the Park and Ride Regional Mobility Grant (DOT), the Second Street Pathway Project Grant (DOT), the Stormwater Planning Grant (DOE), the Stafford and Corridor Improvement Grant (CDBG), and the American Rescue Plan Act Grant (ARPA)."

Note that there were no comments from the public at this hearing.

The second public hearing on the 2022 budget is slated for Monday, Nov. 22.

Continuance of flood hazard public hearing

Before opening the public hearing on the city's Flood Hazard Regulations, Ordinance 1615, Dohrn briefed the council.

"In September this item was on the council's agenda. At that time, we discussed the importance of approving the new FEMA flood map and some mandated revisions to the city's flood hazard prevention regulations.

"Those changes were necessary for properties within the city to remain eligible for coverage under the federal flood insurance program.

"Those changes and/or revisions were adopted on an interim basis in September and remain in effect through to February unless action is taken on them prior to that date.

"One of the requirements of adopting those revisions as an interim measure is that we're required to conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the interim measures. So tonight there is a public hearing to receive comments.

"There is also an invitation online for those who wish to submit written comments to the city, and we will have the public hearing on the agenda at the city council's next meeting to provide a second opportunity.

"So, tonight is one of three opportunities to comment on the interim regulations that were adopted. No action is required. Any comments the city receives will be shared with the planning commission and will become a part of the planning commission's review as we go over the interim regulations as well as some additional amendments that have been recommended but not required by the Department of Ecology and by FEMA.

"Everything will come back to the council in the form of a recommendation from the

planning commission, hopefully in December or January."

With that the mayor opened the public hearing, but no public comments were offered, so the mayor continued the public hearing to Monday, Nov. 22.

Annual one-percent property tax levy increase reconsidered

At the Oct. 25 council meeting Councilor Steve Harper moved to disapprove the city's annual one-percent property tax levy increase the council has approved like clockwork for years. His motion was seconded and approved.

Harper argued the increase wasn't much at all and his motion to disapprove the increase was "largely a symbolic effort to show our citizens that we are willing to vote down a tax increase. We did."

In the same discussion City Treasurer Robin Newcomb appealed to the council to approve the increase, and at the Nov. 8 council meeting the discussion of the disapproval vote returned to the table with Newcomb and Mayor McGowan lending their knowledge about how the property tax levy works, and Newcomb reiterated her position.

"If we don't approve the increase this year we're going to fall behind. Did you talk to the county assessor? There's no guarantee we'll get two-percent next year. And if we take the increase this year, though it isn't much, it will help the city. You are looking at hiring a full-time fire chief, for example, and there are other expenses where that money would help.

"I would say your best situation would be to stay on the even keel by revisiting the vote and approving the increase."

Mayor McGowan's input included a long explanation of the one-percent annual increase based on the fact that Washington has a budget-based system of property taxation versus a rate-based system (best explained with a visit to mrsc.org).

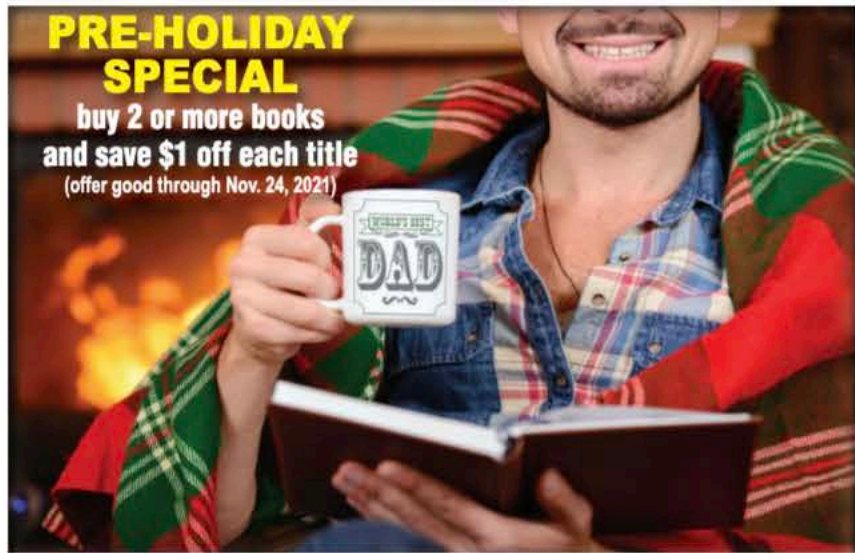
After the discussion ended, the council expressed a new understanding of the property tax levy and Harper reversed his position, citing "the new information" provided by Newcomb and the mayor, by moving to pass the one-percent increase. His motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Waste Management

Before the Nov. 8 meeting ended, Mayor McGowan asked the city's Utility Committee to "figure out what we're going to do with the Waste Management contract under review."

He went on to say, "About \$600,000 a year is coming out of the community for garbage pickup. That's going to keep going up, but we don't know what we're getting for that, and we don't know how much garbage is being picked up. We need to evaluate all options. We'll have two professional consultants advise us on those. While we have mandatory garbage pickup, we need to exercise our best, cost-effective option."

Once upon a time, Jake dropped a hint that he wanted to read more about local history. Someone heard him and knew just the place to find books of local interest. Jake was so pleased when he opened the package that he spent the rest of the day happily immersed in the past. The end.



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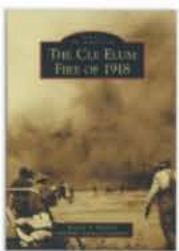
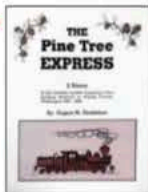
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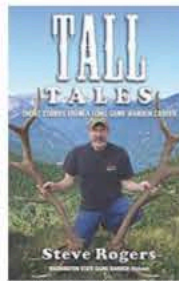


The Cle Elum Fire of 1918

By Roberta R. Newland

and John Newland-Thompson

Cle Elum, Washington, was founded in 1883 by Walter Reed and Thomas Gamble. In 1891, it survived its first fire. In 1918, after reaching its population high of over 2,700 residents, a catastrophic fire broke out on a windy June day. Two-thirds of the townspeople were left homeless, and the majority of the town was destroyed. Cle Elum rose again from the ashes, thanks to the will of its citizens and help from all around the Pacific Northwest.

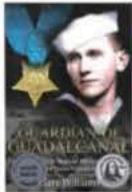


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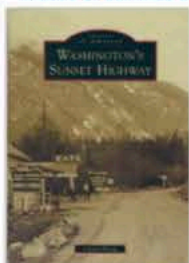
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IMAGES OF AMERICA SERIES FEATURED BOOK:



Washington's Sunset Highway

By Chuck Flood

The Sunset Highway works its way east to west across the 300-mile-wide expanse of Washington State from the Spokane River to its ending at Seattle on Puget Sound. Later known as Highway 10, the route traverses a landscape of big cities, small towns, and wide-open spaces; rolling hills and rugged mountains; fertile fields of grain, apple orchards, and ranches; roaring streams, deep rivers, and rock-walled coulees - now dry, but once a mighty watercourse. The Sunset Highway arose from a collection of existing wagon roads, becoming the main cross-state thoroughfare with highway improvements. As traffic increased, roadside businesses sprang up to accommodate motorists. In towns, bright neon lights attracted both locals and passers-through, while tourist courts, restaurants, burger stands, and service stations lined the highway approaches.



Memoirs of a Telephone Pioneer - 59 Years in the Telephone Industry 1901-1959

By Dale S. Wilkinson

Originally penned as a personal family letter, with the opening line, "To My Granddaughters Who Have Requested That I Write My Memoirs", Dale S. Wilkinson's family came to realize that their ancestor had a front row seat to the formative years of the fledgling telephone industry during landmark times in the history of Eastern Washington, the United States and the world at large.

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SUCASA Yoga opens in Cle Elum



SUCASA YOGA opened in Cle Elum on Friday, Nov. 19, at 203 North Harris (L-R) Chamber Outreach Director Darby Grimes and CEO Amy McGuffin, co-owners Amy Vetter and Shay Lasswell, and building owner Liz McAuliffe.

Photo Courtesy of Maria Adams

Once upon a time, Sarah and Jessie saw pictures of what their town used to look like in Grandma's books. Who knew that would be the spark that ignited a lifelong interest in their local heritage. What a gift! The end.



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KIWANIAN Cliff Winfrey with this year's harvest of Christmas trees for sale at Pioneer Coffee in Cle Elum. Trees are on sale Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. During the week, patrons can grab a tag and pay at Farm & Home across the street. All proceeds are used for youth and community services. N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo • 2021

Kiwanian elders take on a mountain to harvest Christmas trees

by Jim Fossett
jim@nkctribune.com

CLE ELUM - Over the span of three days, Kiwanians Cliff Winfrey, 77, Larry Donovan, 72, and Dr. Dave Bridgeman, 73, trucked up to the 4,620-foot level. Each of the three trips took them about five hours. They were in Nature Conservancy timberland (formerly Plum Creek) to harvest-by-permit the 120 or so Christmas trees needed for the Kiwanis annual sale next to Pioneer Coffee in downtown Cle Elum.

"Since Hartwig Vatheuer retired from this activity, we've been keeping this 20-plus year tradition going," said Winfrey.

"It's a long haul for men our age, but we love doing it. One of our wives baked us a batch of cookies. We brought along coffee, pepperoni, and other snacks, too. After each trip we got together for a brief rest and called it a day."

Donovan said the foray

wasn't without challenges. "It snowed twice on us," he laughed.

Bridgeman said the road needed a little work.

"We spent a couple hours removing vine maples that had grown over it."

"I must say," he laughed, "we're aging. We need some youth in our club!"

This year's harvest included Noble, Grand, Silver and Douglas firs. The three decorated a Noble fetched from Tucker Creek and set it up to give the sale some seasonal cheer.

Despite the chore, all three men enjoyed the trip.

"It's beautiful up there," said Winfrey.

"We celebrated as our own mile-high club," smiled Bridgeman.

Kiwanians welcome members of the younger generations to join the club. Interested? Call me at the *NKC Tribune* 509-674-2511 and I'll get you in touch with a club official.



LARRY DONOVAN shown here on one of the two days met with Old Man Winter's November snowfalls.

Photo courtesy of Cliff Winfrey

Santa touring Thorp area on Saturday, Dec. 4



SANTA ON A FIRE TRUCK is coming back for a second year on Saturday, Dec. 4. Kittitas County Fire District-1 (Thorp) parades a fire truck with Santa through parts of the district. Stops along the route include: 11am at Sunlight Waters Station 1-3, 12:30-1:15pm at Cascade View Estates in the 200 block of Range View Road, and 1:30pm at the main fire station in Thorp. Featured: photos with Santa, hot cocoa, and some surprises!

Photo Courtesy of KCFD1