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Ron Kulman
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COMMUNITY MATTERS

Tracks ...

From page 1

cords. The government recommended a low end of the applicable sentencing range as part of Brooks' plea agreement.

Shortly before midnight November 28, 2020, a game camera on railway tracks near Cliffside Drive alerted a BNSF officer that someone was standing and another kneeling on the tracks, according to court documents. The officer also noticed a track "in-

dication," which can be caused by a shunt or signal the track is obstructed by a train, in the area where the person was shown on camera, according to court documents.

A Whatcom County Sheriff's Office deputy arrived to find someone dressed in black and covered in dirt near the tracks, court documents state. The deputy saw two people attempt to run from the area, but they stopped after the officer yelled after them, according to court documents.

In the plea agreement, Brooks

said she followed the other person's direction as they intended to cause train delays.

The FBI Terrorism Task Force has been investigating at least 41 shunts placed on BNSF tracks in Whatcom and Skagit counties between January 19 and November 27, 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. In mid-October, shunts caused a train carrying hazardous and combustible material to decouple from its engine after the device signaled the train's automatic braking system, according to court documents. The October incident could have led to a train derailment in a residential area, the documents state.

On 10 occasions, the shunts could have caused a crossing signaling malfunction that would have failed to block road traffic, according to court documents.

Many of the shunts, including the one found November 27, were covered in rocks that made them difficult for authorities to find, according to federal court documents.

Investigators believe the alleged attacks were furthering protests of construction of a B.C. pipeline that uses supplies BNSF transports through western Washington.



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Pirate Daze is Back!

Saturday, August 7 • 10 am-2 pm



Free Family Fun!

Two Locations!
Blaine Marine Park
Birch Bay Vogt Library

Games • Storytellers • Plays • Water Balloon Battles
PlayLab for an interactive installation
Treasure Hunt in Birch Bay • Pirate Food • & More!

Hosted by:



Pirate Daze ...

From page 1

coins and other treasures in the bay for kids to dig up, Hubbard said. The library location will also have activities like an obstacle course and temporary tattoos.

Both Pirate Daze locations will have photo opportunities with mermaids, storytelling and food. BBBPRD2 will sell hot dogs at Blaine Marine Park, and food vendors will be set up at the Birch Bay chamber office at 7900 Birch Bay Drive.

A majority of Pirate Daze activities will be free, with the exception of food vendors and Blaine Community Theater's water balloon sales during their performances.

Information about Pirate Daze can be found at bbbparkandrec.org or the Facebook event page at bit.ly/3ykduvq.



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