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Wednesday, September 22, 2021

# SEQUIM GAZETTE

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## City, Catholic church partner on pedestrian crosswalk

JoVonne Lingvall stands by a new pedestrian crosswalk at St. Joseph where she and her sister were struck by a vehicle last November. Lingvall survived, but her sister Lorraine (Reandeu) Anderson did not. "(The crosswalk) is well needed," Lingvall said. "I felt the church and city did a good job. Too bad we didn't have it sooner. She could still be alive." Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash



## Effort follows collision that killed long-time attendee

BY MATTHEW NASH  
Sequim Gazette

More than 10 months after a crosswalk collision sent her to the hospital and killed her sister, JoVonne Lingvall, 88, says she has no memory of being hit after coming out of mass that tragic evening. "It's a blessing not to remember," Lingvall said. She and her sister Lorraine Anderson, 89, had finished mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 121 E. Maple St., on a stormy night around



5:30 p.m. on Nov. 14, 2020. While crossing the street, a 41-year-old vehicle driver accidentally struck the sisters, confirmed by Sequim Police officers who later viewed security footage of the scene. Lingvall was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center for brain bleeding but released with a cracked bone in a leg; Anderson died from  
**See CROSSWALK, A-10**

## Sequim school district's assistant superintendent on administrative leave

### Attorney: Action toward Maughan in 'direct retaliation' to complaint

BY MICHAEL DASHIELL  
Sequim Gazette

Jennifer Maughan, Sequim School District assistant superintendent, has been placed on administrative leave, district officials and Maughan's attorney said last week. An email from Sequim school board president Brandino Gibson explained that on Sept. 3 the district received a complaint from Maughan, filed by attorney Shannon McMinimee, alleging acts of discrimination/retaliation against her by interim superintendent Jane Pryne. "While this matter is under investigation, Dr. Pryne will not be Ms. Maughan's supervisor and has been directed to have no direct communication with her," Gibson wrote

on Sept. 13. "The matter has been referred to the District's insurer." In a telephone interview last week, Pryne said she was unable to comment about Maughan's placement on leave or employment status. The school district is also processing other complaints involving Maughan, Gibson wrote, "some that require coordination of her interactions with District staff, students and community members. "Further, the District has no one other than Dr. Pryne to supervise Ms. Maughan's work or complete the transition of her return from her leave of absence, which had not been completed

**See SCHOOLS, A-7**

## RAIN-SOAKED RUMBLE VICTORY



Sequim High senior Kobe Applegate, with teammates Zach McCracken (17) and Faas Christiansen (53), holds the Rainshadow Rumble rivalry trophy as the team heads toward the student section to sing the school fight song after a 17-12 win over Port Angeles on Sept. 17. See story, A-12. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell

## Sunland board considers plan to control deer population



If a plan to control the deer population in Sunland is approved by Sunland Owners Association's board of directors, deer would be reduced to 22 allowed to live in the area with state officials trapping and euthanizing the deer before donating the meat to local food banks. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

### Draft plan could be first in state, serve as case study

BY MATTHEW NASH  
Sequim Gazette

Continued concerns over deer damaging landscaping, vehicle collisions and aggressive behavior has the Sunland Owners Association's board of directors considering mitigation efforts such as reducing the Columbian black-tailed deer's numbers through trapping and euthanasia. Discussions between Sunland residents and the state date back to at least 2015 when Matthew Blankenship, a wildlife conflict specialist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, said he began working with residents to lessen the animals' impact. In recent months he partnered with

Sunland's Deer Study Committee to write a draft Sunland Urban Deer Management Plan. If implemented, the plan would be the first time the state's Fish and Wildlife department has undertaken a community-based deer management process to help communities facing deer-related conflicts, Blankenship said. "It's community-based deer management that involves the community as a whole to develop a community plan and implement and analyze its effectiveness," he said. Blankenship and Sunland volunteers have "done quite a bit of research on deer,"

he said, including surveys of residents on deer impact in 2018 and 2021, and a deer count in 2020. The plan went out in August for a one-month public comment period to hear if the public supported it, but Blankenship said only about 70 households of 900-plus responded. "That's untypical of Sunland," he said. According to survey results from Blankenship, 72 homes responded — with 42 against the plan, 27 for it, and three undecided. Blankenship said he told the Sunland Owners Association's board that the  
**See DEER, A-10**

### weather outlook:

THURSDAY, SEPT. 23  
▲65 ▼50

FRIDAY, SEPT. 24  
▲69 ▼51

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## Vaccine opponents urge restaurant owners to break mandate, offer to pay fines

BY PAUL GOTTLIEB  
Olympic Peninsula News Group

Opponents of the North Olympic Peninsula's Sept. 4 COVID-19 proof-of-vaccination mandate are offering to pay fines of restaurant owners who defy the health order, said Dr. Allison Berry, health officer for Clallam and Jefferson counties.

"Restaurants have contacted us concerned because they were uncomfortable with the interaction," Berry said in a series of text messages last week. Some opponents also have been rude and verbally aggressive with restaurant staff who have had to enforce the mandate, said personnel at some eateries and Marc Abshire, Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce

executive director. Mandate opponents have gone door-to-door in Port Angeles and Sequim, according to business owners and Clallam County commissioner Mark Ozias. They have said they will cover penalties for violating mask health orders, too, the entrepreneurs said.  
**See MANDATE, A-3**



## Deer

From page A-1

department “would not implement any community based plan with only hearing from 8 percent of the community.”

“The purpose of this plan is to create a plan that addresses the conflict and meets the needs of the majority of residents,” Blankenship said.

“We need to hear from more residents in order to have a large enough sample size that can be used to infer the community’s sentiments.”

Sunland’s board of directors declined to comment for this story.

Residents said a board decision on the plan tentatively could be announced at the next board meeting at 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18.

### Plan details

The draft plan looks to annually reduce the deer population in the area to 22 between 2022-2025, if necessary. State officials would trap, euthanize and harvest the deer meat for local food banks and tribal agencies, Blankenship said.

Continued deer counts by volunteer Sunland residents would determine deer density, the draft plan states.

Research by the Swinomish Indian Tribe showed that natural settings held a density of 22-deer-per-square-mile, whereas Sunland is about 2.5 times that, according to the draft plan.

Other options to control the deer population ruled out by state officials in the plan include: fertility control (considered experimental), managed hunts (too dense of population), and trapping and translocation (not allowed in Washington state, and has high deer mortality rates).

“The Sunland deer population is expected to grow exponentially if left unmanaged, resulting in a higher management cost in future years,” the draft plan states.

“Although the removal of deer within urban environments can be controversial, research across the country indicates that it can have positive effects at reducing conflicts



A survey of Sunland residents showed that they like the deer generally, but most homes have experienced damage to landscaping and/or gardens. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

associated with deer browsing and deer-vehicle collisions.”

Some of the other draft plan set goals to reduce deer vehicle collisions to an average of one collision per year, minimize the percentage of respondents who report that they are “very to extremely concerned” about deer damage to plantings, gardens, and landscaping around their homes to less than 25 percent, and reduce the number of incidents/reports of deer acting aggressively towards residents of Sunland to an average of two reports/incidents per year, all by 2025.

Blankenship and the deer committee also made multiple recommendations, such as the Homeowners Association adding information on its website on deer-resistant landscaping, repellents and more.

They recommended adopting stricter policies on wildlife feeding, and amending fence restrictions that are aesthetically pleasing and effectively excludes deer from “areas deemed critical by individual residents.”

While the state has “no horse in the race,” Blankenship said, “they want to help solve issues (for Sunland).”

If the draft plan is approved by

the board, he said the state would implement trapping with deer count assistance from Sunland residents, and use it as a case study for Washington state on community-based deer management.

### Community response

In the draft plan, it compares community surveys from 2018 and 2021 showing that the community generally likes deer, with 61.54 percent having a positive response to them in 2018 and 58.32 percent in 2021.

However, residents in 245 homes said that since 2018 they’ve experienced damage to their gardens and/or landscaping from deer, while 74 said they’ve experienced deer being aggressive, and 27 saying they’ve been involved in deer-related auto accidents, according to Blankenship’s report, “An Analysis of Deer Conflict Severity.”

Of those who have experienced garden/landscaping issues, 213 homeowners said they’ve planted deer-resistant plants, 165 have used deer repellent and 115 said they’ve upgraded fencing.

The latest survey also showed residents think more about the deer population and its density, damage to

landscaping, deer vehicle collisions, and incidents of deer acting aggressively, according to the draft plan.

The Washington Department of Transportation reported that there were 1.25 deer-vehicle collisions each year on roads adjacent to Sunland from 2017-present, while Fish and Wildlife staff states Sunland residents report 2.65 incidents of deer acting aggressively annually (from 2015-2020).

While responses to the draft plan were low, the 2021 survey showed 219 residents supported the Deer Advisory Committee and the state working together to control the deer population.

However, 84 homes said they needed more information, 41 said maybe, and 30 said no.

When residents were asked about the deer population over five years, most said it’s increased with 124 saying it’s “increased greatly,” 83 saying it’s “increased slightly,” 94 stating it’s the same, and 11 stating it’s decreased slightly (10) or greatly (one).

### Meeting

Jann Hale, a retired nurse who has lived in Sunland North for six years, said she opposes killing any deer and

seeks alternatives.

She gained enough signatures to call a residents-only meeting to discuss deer on Sept. 13 with about 20 speakers opposed to removing deer and a handful in favor, multiple residents confirmed.

About 130 people attended at capacity with masks and social distancing required.

“Not everyone knew about this going on,” Hale said. “I wanted to give people an opportunity to have their say.”

Hale proposes using other methods for mitigating the deer, such as emphasizing planting more plants/trees they don’t like, using deer repellent, looking at fencing restrictions, and doing the deer count again.

“The deer count was done last October and a lot of people don’t think it’s accurate,” she said.

According to Blankenship, the Sunland deer population survey (count) was conducted twice a day at dawn and dusk by volunteers from Oct. 5-8, 2020.

“The numbers to me don’t add up and justify killing the deer,” Hale said. “(Blankenship) told us the deer are all healthy, so we don’t see any reason to support or justify it.”

She also felt the 2021 survey was vague about what controlling the deer population meant.

“A majority, at least in Sunland North, like the deer,” Hale said. “The reason I moved here was to look at deer.”

George Bannon, a Sunland North resident for seven years, said he supports the original plan.

“I’ve had some experience with (the deer) eating flowers and bushes,” he said.

While he hasn’t experienced any aggressive deer, Bannon had other concerns, such as with ticks and Lyme disease hurting pets and residents, and occasional car accidents.

“Yard damage is costly,” he said. “We spray all of our bushes with deer repellent and even that doesn’t mean they stay away.”

“The game department said it’s overpopulated,” he added. “It’s not all the deer. It’s just lowering their numbers.”

## Crosswalk

From page A-1

injuries early in the morning of Nov. 18, at Olympic Medical Center, family members said.

Standing outside the church last week for an interview, Lingvall said she continues to find comfort in her faith.

“The night we were injured, we sat together, said the rosary for the congregation, received communion and then walked out,” she said.

“(Faith) helps you accept things that happen.”

### Lights

Since the incident, City

of Sequim officials, with direction from the Sequim city council, church leaders with Clallam Catholic — an umbrella of the county’s four parishes — and Anderson’s family, have worked together on the crosswalk to hopefully prevent any future collisions.

A grant obtained by the City of Sequim earlier this year from the Washington Association of Cities for \$17,500 led to the purchase and installation of two solar powered LED-lighted pedestrian crossing signs and mounted traffic delineators.

They were installed on Aug. 12, Sequim Public Works director Matt Klontz said.

The new pedestrian crossing will help with the area’s higher risks, he said, being by an intersection that connects to an arterial, serves as a main access route to the Sequim Post Office, and has high pedestrian traffic at certain times of day.

“(It’ll) assist both motorists and pedestrians in bringing immediate attention to the use of the crossing where motorists may not be anticipating or expecting pedestrians,” Klontz said.

Cathy Wiswell, regional administrator for Clallam Catholic Parishes, said church members are “very grateful” for the city’s support, espe-

cially with it getting darker sooner in the coming months.

To ensure even greater safety with the new crosswalk, Wiswell said after church leadership had the parking lot resurfaced in late August, the parish added 10 cement, tire-stop parking dividers along Maple Street so vehicles cannot go directly into the crosswalk.

### Healing

Lingvall returned to church about two months after the collision for her sister’s funeral and began regularly attending services soon thereafter. She has mostly maintained her routine of attending St. Joseph’s since moving to Sequim in May 1941, she said.

“(The crosswalk) is well needed,” Lingvall said. “I felt the church and city did a good job. Too bad we didn’t have it sooner. (Lorraine) could still be alive.”

She feels the crosswalk will serve the parish well with children and adults crossing



Since 1941, JoVonne Lingvall said she’s attended mass at St. Joseph and finds comfort in going despite losing her sister in a traffic collision where a new pedestrian crosswalk now sits. Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

at night for education classes, services and choir practices.

As for her recovery, Lingvall said she didn’t have the same energy as prior to the collision, but she recently surprised herself working in the yard for a few hours, resting for only 15 minutes and walking two miles with a neighbor.

“At my age, I’m driving, taking care of my needs, and I don’t need to hire a house-

keeper,” she said.

### Remembering

The sisters were born 18 months apart, Lingvall said, and “almost like twin sisters.”

“When we both lost our husbands, we would just call each other, share things, and now she’s not there to share anymore,” she said.

“It’s hard to get used to.” She remembers Lorraine as someone who was “always concerned about others who might need help, was the first one there to help, and she was very loving and personable.”

Anderson is survived by three children Debbie, Mike and Paula with her son Jim Anderson passing away in June 2020; she also has eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, family members said.

She spent her married life in Port Angeles as a homemaker with her husband Bill Anderson, who died about 15 years ago.

Anderson returned to Sequim and focused on family, church and her garden.

Lingvall was also a homemaker with three children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, she said.

St. Joseph has weekend Masses at 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. Sundays in Sequim. Mass schedules and additional information for Queen of Angels in Port Angeles, St. Anne in Forks and St. Thomas in Clallam Bay can be found at clallam-catholic.org.

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