

Lynden Tribune

LEWIS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1914

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON • \$1.50

Flood ravages Whatcom County



Monday, Nooksack resident Aaron Kurashige used his drone to photograph flooding in Everson. Clearbrook Weather Station reported 3.42 inches of rain on Sunday, Nov. 14. The rain measurement for Monday, Nov. 15 was simply “flooded.” (Photo courtesy Aaron Kurashige)



Monday, sandbags by the dozens were being filled at South 6th Street, in the Judson alleyway behind the Dutch Village Mall. (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

Flooding forces evacuations

Shelters set up in Lynden, Everson, Nooksack

By Brent Lindquist
brent@lyndentribune.com

WHATCOM — About 500 people have been displaced from their homes due to flooding, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office reported on Monday.

Lynden Mayor Scott Korthuis proclaimed an official State of Emergency during Monday night's meeting of the Lynden City Council. Lynden Chamber of Commerce Director Gary Vis reported that multiple churches in Lynden had taken displaced residents in, including North County Christ the King, Sonlight and First Reformed churches.

A news release from the Sheriff's Office reported that 280 people had moved to shelters established Monday, including the church shelters in Lynden and ones at Nooksack and Everson elementary schools.

Part of the evacuation effort

involved finding space for about 20 to 25 folks displaced from the River House apartments, located just below Lynden on Hannegan Road. Lynden Police Department officers were on hand Monday morning assessing how to tackle the situation. They ended up deciding to evacuate the first-floor residents.

North County Christ the King took in the River House residents, Vis said, and that was just part of the effort taking place county-wide. Christ the King was able to take in 80 to 100 people as the state Department of Emergency Management evacuated 100 residents from a heavily flooded Sumas.

“I was able to see a great community response, not only in the Lynden community but in our neighbors to the east, who have just been devastated from this,”

See **Flood** on A6

Nooksack man photographs flooding community from sky

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

EVERSON — Clearbrook Weather Station measured 3.42 inches of rain on Sunday, Nov. 14.

The day after? Clearbrook's measurement merely stated “flooded.”

Monday, with his wife and children safely tucked away at his parents house, Nooksack

resident Aaron Kurashige used his curiosity – and his drone – to record what for many has made the 2020 Super Bowl Flood seem subtle.

Typically, Kurashige shoots photographs and records weather data as a hobby, he said Tuesday. Living in a floodplain, the homeowner has flood insurance, and likes to keep precise weather

See **Photographs** on A7



Lynden Mayor Scott Korthuis proclaimed an official State of Emergency on Monday, Nov. 15 due to flooding that has led to about 500 people being displaced from their homes. (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

Visit LyndenTribune.com for more photographs and video



Weather

Thursday 44°/35°
Friday 46°/35°
Saturday 45°/38°
Sunday 47°/38°

42 pages • Volume CXXXIV • Number 40

Calendar • A9
Classifieds • B5
COVID-19 • A10
Elections • A2

Legal Notices • B4
Milestones • A9
News Briefs • A6
Obituaries • A5

Opinion • A4
Puzzles • B6
Sports • B1
Weather • A2

Online content:
Hear from prep athletes

www.lyndentribune.com | www.facebook.com/lyndentrib

LAMPHERE INSURANCE

113 Third Street, Lynden
360-354-5333
www.jefflamphere.com

Will your Plan fit your needs in 2022? Go See Jeff!

• Medicare Advantage Plans • Part D Prescription Plans • Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans

Your Hometown Medicare Insurance Specialists since 2002



Photographs: Nooksack man documents flooding community from sky

Continued from A1

records documented.

“So I’ve got a good idea what it translates to,” he said. “Knowledge is power. Knowing and watching the weather patterns, something seemed off. It just seemed worse than the weather forecast.”

Back in February 2020, Kurashige did not have a drone. But the flood of a year-plus ago “was part of the reason I got the drone,” he said. “I don’t use the drone much. But I purposely grabbed it from my house.”

At first, he posted several aerial images of Everson under water on a neighborhood Facebook page. Then, he said, someone asked him to share the photos.

About 30 minutes of picture taking later, and several images showing much of Everson under water.

Later today, Kurashige will see how much of his home is under water.

“In 2020, there was flooding up about half-way up the driveway,” he said.



Monday, Nooksack resident Aaron Kurashige spent about 30 minutes using his drone to photograph flooding in Everson. Clearbrook Weather Station reported 3.42 inches of rain on Sunday, Nov. 14. The rain measurement for Monday, Nov. 15 was simply “flooded.” (Photo courtesy Aaron Kurashige)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Q&A with Peoples Bank’s Kurt Kvamme

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

LYNDEN — For the past 10 years, Kurt Kvamme has been in banking, the past year at the Peoples Bank financial center in Lynden.

As a mortgage loan representative, Kvamme provides financing for new home purchases, construction loans, and bare lot loans, as well as refinance existing mortgages.

“Buying or refinancing a home can be tricky, and I enjoy explaining the process and making it as effortless for my customers as possible,” Kvamme said.

Born and raised in Whatcom County, Kvamme graduated from Lynden Christian High School and Western Washington University.

“I’m fortunate to serve the community where I grew up and is my home today,” he said.

A Lynden resident, Kvamme didn’t grow up with banking in his blood. He grew up wanting to be a golfer. He can thank his father for his love of the links.

“I have been golfing since I was 5 years old and always dreamed of going pro,” Kvamme said. “While that didn’t happen, golf is still one of my favorite hobbies.”

As the story goes, Kvamme and his fam-



Born and raised in Whatcom County, Kurt Kvamme graduated from Lynden Christian High School and Western Washington University. (Courtesy photo)

ily lived at Sudden Valley Golf Course.

“My dad took me on the course and introduced me to the game by putting around on the greens,” Kvamme said. “To this day, one of my favorite things to do is golf with my dad.”

Lynden Tribune: What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not working?

Kurt Kvamme: Spending time with my wife and two daughters. I enjoy going on walks, playing Barbies with my 5-year-old, watching movies, and playing video games with my family.

Tribune: Which around-the-house task is your least favorite?

Kvamme: Cleaning our showers and toilets are my least favorite household chores. On the contrary, my favorite chore is loading and unloading the dishwasher.

Tribune: What is your favorite food?

Kvamme: A medium-rare ribeye steak with

some mashed potatoes.

Tribune: What music do you have in your vehicle right now?

Kvamme: Anything that plays on the radio.

Tribune: What is your favorite sports team?

Kvamme: I don’t want to admit this, but I don’t have a favorite sports team at the moment.

Tribune: What’s the biggest thing on your bucket list?

Kvamme: Play a round of golf at Augusta National.

Tribune: Tell us something about you that very few people know.

Kvamme: I enjoy cleaning and detailing cars in my spare time. I’d love to open a car detailing business in the future.

Weekly Q&A series

Do you know of someone in the Lynden, Everson, Nooksack or Sumas areas you’d like to see us feature in our weekly Q&A series?

If so, send an email to bill@lyndentribune.com with the name and contact

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.

GENERAC PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

Reserve your copies of this year's Christmas Songbook & Activity Guide today!

4 copies for \$1

**Call Sharon at
(360) 354-4444**

Lynden Tribune



A NEW CAREER IS IN YOUR NEAR FUTURE

Check out the Tribune's Classified Section for more details.

Lynden Tribune
113 Sixth St., Lynden
360-354-4444

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Let my family help protect yours

Len Corneto
360-354-4197
102 Grover St., Ste 209 | Lynden, WA 98264

0914-212



LYNDEN, LC FOOTBALL
TEAMS ADVANCE TO
STATE SEMIS.

B1



Lynden Tribune

LEWIS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1914

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON • \$1.50

Massive flood recovery begins

Timeline for flooding

Friday, Nov. 12

On Nov. 12, the Lynden Chamber of Commerce reports Environment Canada calling for a tremendous amount of rain – 3-to-6 inches – from Nov. 13-15. Randy Small of Whatcom County Weather on Facebook gave regular reports.

Saturday, Nov. 13

The National Weather Service issued a flood warning. Everson Mayor John Perry said predictions show river cresting slightly below the levels seen in the February 2020 flood.

River predicted to reach flood stage early Monday morning and crest in Everson on Monday afternoon.

Residents told flood coming in Sumas. Flood anticipated Sunday night. Preparation advised and to remove or elevate belongings that were in the flood path previously. Perry calls “all able bodied volunteers and residents to come together.”

East Main Street closed from Nooksack Avenue to Everson Market due to water over road. Lynden Chamber suggests people to clean out gutters.

Sunday, Nov. 14

Sandbags being filled in Sumas and at the Everson city shop. Rain coming down heavily.

Trees fall across Mt Baker Highway, Chuckanut Drive, and Interstate 5 and cause disruptions and closures. Back-ups for hours on highways.

Monday, Nov. 15

School cancelled in almost every local district: Lynden School District, Lynden Christian, Ebenezer Christian School, Cornerstone Christian School, Nooksack Valley School District, Mt Baker School District, Ferndale School District, and Bellingham School District.

Sightseeing discouraged from flooded areas. Lynden Chamber of Commerce gave storm stats: 7-day rainfall at 6.9 to 7.7 inches. Requests made for cots, bath towels, pet carriers, and pet food.

Volunteers sandbagging in Ferndale under direction of Council member Shuey. Ferndale Severe Weather

See **Flood Timeline** on A8

Family grieves loss of flood victim

Body of Everson man
Jose García found
Wednesday

-- With the family of Jose García not available to talk at this time, the Lynden Tribune newspaper has written this story based on social media and GoFundMe posts from the family, primarily of Sheila Giselle Mata, who is García's sister-in-law. This story was also written thanks to the media release we received from Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and from statements made by Luis García, Jose García's son, that were broadcast Wednesday evening on KIRO-TV.

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

EVERSON — Taking care of his family was more important to Jose García than his own life.

Early Monday morning, García drove to work from his Everson home. That's the last time he was seen alive.

Wednesday, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office reported that search and rescue volunteers, as well as personnel from Everson Police Department and WCSO located the body of a man believed to be García, 49.



Jose García

WCSO reported Wednesday that the final cause of death will be determined by the County Medical Examiner.

“I'm glad we found peace in our family,” Luis García, son of Jose García, said Wednesday on KIRO-TV. “Making it to work was one of his responsibilities, and he takes his responsibilities seriously.”

On the family's GoFundMe page, Sheila Gisella Mata, García's daughter-in-law, wrote that “the morning of Monday 3 a.m., my brother in law received a called from his father and was asking for help desper-

See **García** on A9

Families displaced in Sumas



James Richardson talks about buying the family's Sumas home less than two months ago, and now being displaced from it because of the recent flood. Read about Richardson on page A3 (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

Saturday is a day mostly of getting rid of sodden debris in Sumas, Everson, Nooksack



Saturday, the people of Sumas, Everson and Nooksack began their massive flood recovery effort. (Cal Bratt for the Tribune)

By Cal Bratt
for the Tribune

WHATCOM — With help, the people of Sumas, Everson and Nooksack began their massive flood recovery effort Saturday.

Mostly, it was the sorry business of tearing out ruined walls and floors, throwing out sodden belongings, scraping muck and hosing down what could be salvaged.

People continuously brought their debris by the truckload and trailerfuls to huge churning mounds along the main streets of

Everson and Sumas, where big loading machines moved it into containers and dumpsters for transit to Whatcom garbage disposal.

“This is the dump truck capital of the world right now,” said Vince Stremmer, of Stremmer Gravel, at the parking lot of Bob's Burgers & Brew along Cherry Street.

At first the company was volunteering its services earlier in the week, then became part of the contracting the City of Sumas did to make Saturday the huge community-wide day for “mucking out” the extensive flood devastation.

ServiceMaster, trying to air out Sumas Elementary School with fans and big blowers, was one example of a professional firm lending its cleanup expertise.

In both Everson and Sumas, both volunteer groups and food vendors served the hundreds of workers with soups, sandwiches, sweets and beverages. Edaleen Dairy in Sumas was giving out free ice cream cones.

A block west of Cherry Street, shocking damage to BNSF railroad tracks was evident. Rail cars including fuel tankers lay tipped

on their sides where torrents of water undercut the railroad bed. Flood torrents from Nooksack River overflow came across miles to swamp what is the normal channel of Johnson Creek through Sumas.

Fire hydrants, traffic signs and fences remained wrenched out of place or downed from the force of the flooding

The international border station continued closed at Sumas Saturday.

A huge generator was parked in front of Sumas

See **Debris** on A3



Weather

Thursday 49°/44°
Friday 53°/43°
Saturday 52°/46°
Sunday 54°/45°

44 pages • Volume CXXXIV • Number 41

Academics • A10
Calendar • A4
Christmas • A5
Classifieds • B4

Milestones • A7
News Briefs • A4
Obituaries • A6
Opinion • A5

Public Notices • B3
Puzzles • B4
Sports • B1
Weather • A2

Holiday coupon book:
Check inside for savings

www.lyndentribune.com | www.facebook.com/lyndentrib

LAMPHERE INSURANCE
113 Third Street, Lynden
360-354-5333
www.jefflamphere.com

Happy
Thanks Giving

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
His love endures forever.”
Psalm 136:1

García: Family grieves loss of flood victim found Nov. 17

Continued from A1

ately.”
“He unfortunately had been caught up with the floods and was hanging onto a nearby tree and was on call with my brother-in-law for about an hour while he was trying to reach for help from the police, until he lost connection with his father,” Mata, wrote.

Since the Nov. 17 announcement, García’s family has raised more than \$46,000 through its GoFundMe page.

That money, Luis García said through his Facebook page, would be used to cover the funeral, as well as property damage resulting from the flood.

“I thought I was going to push him around in a wheelchair someday,” Luis García wrote. “I thought he was going to someday hold my children. But I came to realize that life’s ... not fair.”

As of 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, more than 500 people have made donations to the García family GoFundMe page.

One woman who donated to the fund wrote that reading about García’s death “broke my heart.”

“It isn’t a huge donation, but I wanted to help

somehow,” she wrote. “Jose sounds like he was a hard-working man, father and husband. I pray that your hearts begin to heal, and the pain subsides until you are reunited.”

Another woman who donated money wrote that she lost her father in a flood in 2006 in Mulege, Baja California.

“I feel for your family and am so sorry for your loss,” she wrote.

Anyone who would like to donate may visit gofundme.com/f/j3jir-garcia-family.

Mata, who started the GoFundMe page, wrote on her social media page that Wednesday was a “rough day for us.”

“We finally found him, and finally gave our family closure and his wife and kids peace,” Mata wrote Wednesday after García’s body had been found. “Thank you to all the re-shares of our (social media) posts we had enough people come out to help my brother in law Luis who was out since Monday at 4 a.m. all alone with his own friends in the cold and wet to find his father.”

Mata also thanked everyone who donated coffee, food, extra boots, hand warmers “and everything else for our fam-



Pictured, people search for Everson resident Jose García. On Nov. 17, the body of García was found in a wooded area in the 600 block of Main Street in Everson. (Cal Bratt for the Tribune)

ily and the people who were out looking for him today.”

“As of now, we ask you give the García family time to grieve and rest and give them their

space,” Mata wrote. “We appreciate everything everyone has done.”

WCSO reported that García’s body was found in a wooded area in the 600 block of Main Street in

Everson. According to García’s obituary, the public is invited to join the family for visitation from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 23 with Rosary beginning at 6 p.m. at Gillies Fu-

neral Home, 202 Front St., Lynden. García’s funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lynden, with burial following at Nooksack Cemetery.

Families, businesses affected by flood

Cherry Street Market Manager Laura Anker, right, looks at the damage caused by last week’s flood. Far right, market employees in Sumas move machines and supplies from the store on Friday, Nov. 19. (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)



Continued from A3

Rendezvous. Rebranded in 1982 as Bob’s Burgers and Brew, Rick and Wendy Kildall bought Bob’s from his father, Bob Kildall in 1996.

In 2005, they bought the Cherry Street Market and the Chevron station between the market and Bob’s.

Rick Kildall said Friday that he hoped to reopen the businesses fairly soon, within the next month or so.

“But the equipment will be a big issue,” Rick Kildall said. “A lot of the equipment is months out.”

That Bob’s is a family business, they can reopen even if they’re not able to offer all menu items

because of equipment issues.

Offering what they can, then expanding the menu back to what Bob’s customarily offers, is possible because they are not part of a chain of restaurants.

“We’ll try to get open as soon as it’s functionally possible,” he said. “I’m just not sure when that will be yet. Most of the mud is out of Bob’s.

“If the mud dries, the building will stink forever.”

Modestly complicated

Kildall described the situation at the Cherry Street Market as “modestly complicated.”


Although the floors “clean easily,” and there’s a “lot less equipment” in the Market than in Bob’s, it’s mostly about the in-

ventory, lots of inventory at Cherry Street Market.

As the market’s manager the past two years, Laura Anker said the business has become a big part of her life, and her employees like family.

Being in repair and recover mode is not what she counted on heading into the holidays.






Volkswagen of Bellingham
2200 Iowa Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
Tel: (360) 734-5230

2021 Atlas

More passenger volume than Toyota Highlander



Based on manufacturer's data available at time of publication for Model Year 2021 vehicles.

A negotiable documentary service fee of up to \$150 may be added to the Sales or CAP cost of New or Used Vehicles.

*In honor of those who have died, And in support of those who still live,
We invite you and your family to attend*

A Special Holiday Remembrance Program

Receive an ornament in honor of your loved one

Tuesday • December 7, 2021 • 7:00 pm

*Guest Speaker ~ Pastor Chuck Kleinhesselink,
Musicians ~ Rob Viens, pianist & Wendy Donaghy, soloist*

Gillies Funeral Home Chapel

With a reception to follow

For Questions and to RSVP an ornament Please Call 360-354-4428

Hosted by

Gillies

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES



35 LUXURY ROOMS MEETING ROOM SHOPPING & DINING



COMFORT & JOY

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

This Holiday Season, Give a Getaway!

Call to purchase a \$200 gift card and receive \$50 to spend at any of the five unique shops that share our historic building.

The INN AT LYNDEN

www.innatlynden.com 100 5th Street, Lynden, Washington 360/746-8597



LYNDEN, LC FOOTBALL
TEAMS ADVANCE TO
STATE SEMIS.

B1



Lynden Tribune

LEWIS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1914

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON • \$1.50

Massive flood recovery begins

Timeline for flooding

Friday, Nov. 12
On Nov. 12, the Lynden Chamber of Commerce reports Environment Canada calling for a tremendous amount of rain – 3-to-6 inches – from Nov. 13-15. Randy Small of Whatcom County Weather on Facebook gave regular reports.

Saturday, Nov. 13
The National Weather Service issued a flood warning. Everson Mayor John Perry said predictions show river cresting slightly below the levels seen in the February 2020 flood.
River predicted to reach flood stage early Monday morning and crest in Everson on Monday afternoon.
Residents told flood coming in Sumas. Flood anticipated Sunday night. Preparation advised and to remove or elevate belongings that were in the flood path previously. Perry calls “all able bodied volunteers and residents to come together.”
East Main Street closed from Nooksack Avenue to Everson Market due to water over road. Lynden Chamber suggests people to clean out gutters.

Sunday, Nov. 14
Sandbags being filled in Sumas and at the Everson city shop. Rain coming down heavily.
Trees fall across Mt Baker Highway, Chuckanut Drive, and Interstate 5 and cause disruptions and closures. Back-ups for hours on highways.

Monday, Nov. 15
School cancelled in almost every local district: Lynden School District, Lynden Christian, Ebenezer Christian School, Cornerstone Christian School, Nooksack Valley School District, Mt Baker School District, Ferndale School District, and Bellingham School District.
Sightseeing discouraged from flooded areas. Lynden Chamber of Commerce gave storm stats: 7-day rainfall at 6.9 to 7.7 inches. Requests made for cots, bath towels, pet carriers, and pet food.
Volunteers sandbagging in Ferndale under direction of Council member Shuey. Ferndale Severe Weather

See **Flood Timeline** on A8

Family grieves loss of flood victim

Body of Everson man
Jose García found
Wednesday

-- With the family of Jose García not available to talk at this time, the Lynden Tribune newspaper has written this story based on social media and GoFundMe posts from the family, primarily of Sheila Giselle Mata, who is García's sister-in-law. This story was also written thanks to the media release we received from Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and from statements made by Luis García, Jose García's son, that were broadcast Wednesday evening on KIRO-TV.

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

EVERSON — Taking care of his family was more important to Jose García than his own life.
Early Monday morning, García drove to work from his Everson home. That's the last time he was seen alive.
Wednesday, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office reported that search and rescue volunteers, as well as personnel from Everson Police Department and WCSO located the body of a man believed to be García, 49.



Jose García

WCSO reported Wednesday that the final cause of death will be determined by the County Medical Examiner.
“I'm glad we found peace in our family,” Luis García, son of Jose García, said Wednesday on KIRO-TV. “Making it to work was one of his responsibilities, and he takes his responsibilities seriously.”
On the family's GoFundMe page, Sheila Gisella Mata, García's daughter-in-law, wrote that “the morning of Monday 3 a.m., my brother in law received a called from his father and was asking for help desper-

See **García** on A9

Families displaced in Sumas



James Richardson talks about buying the family's Sumas home less than two months ago, and now being displaced from it because of the recent flood. Read about Richardson on page A3 (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

Saturday is a day mostly of getting rid of sodden debris in Sumas, Everson, Nooksack



Saturday, the people of Sumas, Everson and Nooksack began their massive flood recovery effort. (Cal Bratt for the Tribune)

By Cal Bratt
for the Tribune

WHATCOM — With help, the people of Sumas, Everson and Nooksack began their massive flood recovery effort Saturday.
Mostly, it was the sorry business of tearing out ruined walls and floors, throwing out sodden belongings, scraping muck and hosing down what could be salvaged.
People continuously brought their debris by the truckload and trailerfuls to huge churning mounds along the main streets of

Everson and Sumas, where big loading machines moved it into containers and dumpsters for transit to Whatcom garbage disposal.
“This is the dump truck capital of the world right now,” said Vince Stremmer, of Stremmer Gravel, at the parking lot of Bob's Burgers & Brew along Cherry Street.
At first the company was volunteering its services earlier in the week, then became part of the contracting the City of Sumas did to make Saturday the huge community-wide day for “mucking out” the extensive flood devastation.

ServiceMaster, trying to air out Sumas Elementary School with fans and big blowers, was one example of a professional firm lending its cleanup expertise.
In both Everson and Sumas, both volunteer groups and food vendors served the hundreds of workers with soups, sandwiches, sweets and beverages. Edaleen Dairy in Sumas was giving out free ice cream cones.
A block west of Cherry Street, shocking damage to BNSF railroad tracks was evident. Rail cars including fuel tankers lay tipped

on their sides where torrents of water undercut the railroad bed. Flood torrents from Nooksack River overflow came across miles to swamp what is the normal channel of Johnson Creek through Sumas.
Fire hydrants, traffic signs and fences remained wrenched out of place or downed from the force of the flooding
The international border station continued closed at Sumas Saturday.
A huge generator was parked in front of Sumas

See **Debris** on A3



Weather

Thursday 49°/44°
Friday 53°/43°
Saturday 52°/46°
Sunday 54°/45°

44 pages • Volume CXXXIV • Number 41

Academics • A10
Calendar • A4
Christmas • A5
Classifieds • B4
Milestones • A7
News Briefs • A4
Obituaries • A6
Opinion • A5
Public Notices • B3
Puzzles • B4
Sports • B1
Weather • A2

Holiday coupon book:
Check inside for savings
www.lyndentribune.com | www.facebook.com/lyndentrib

LAMPHERE INSURANCE
113 Third Street, Lynden
360-354-5333
www.jefflamphere.com

Happy
ThanksGiving

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
His love endures forever.”
Psalm 136:1

Families, businesses affected by flood



Friends and family help James Richardson deal with belongings ruined in last week's flood. (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

SUMAS — Less than two months ago, James Richardson and his family bought a home in Sumas.

In the home, James lives with his wife Sadie, 4-month-old daughter Myla and 5-year-old son James Carl Richardson II.

Following last week's flood across Whatcom County, the Richardson family has been temporarily displaced from their home.

By temporarily, Richardson said last week it's more like "possibly the middle of next year before the contractor can get to my home."

And his insurance coverage, most specifically the loss of use coverage, would provide no more than \$5,000 over three months. As for the family's personal belongings, Richardson said he was told nothing was covered.

"Flood insurance is a (expletive) joke," he said.

Richardson is not a happy man.

Walking through the damage of his home, Richardson stopped in Myla's room, then to young James' room. He held a small light his son sleeps with each night. Richardson also looked at the upgrades to the room, decorations the family had made to the walls, upgrades that likely won't survive.

Some parts of the Richardson home saw flooding come up as high as three-and-one-half feet. Other parts of the home, just shy of one foot.

For now, the family lives in an apartment, which means the Richardsons are paying rent and paying their mortgage. Not too many people in the best of times can afford to pay for two places to live and only use one of them.

At least Richardson can be thankful for the friends and family helping him out, he said, folks who helped him sort out the family's

Debris

Continued from A1

City Hall.

At a home at Sumas and Vancouver streets, a man was awaiting an insurance adjuster to visit, but he could understand that there will be delays.

The big pile receiving debris from Everson and Nooksack was between the Cafe 544 restaurant and the new O'Reilly Auto Parts store.

Cars crowded parts of west Nooksack where fairly recent new construction absorbed the brunt of flooding, and people were helping residents there clean out and begin to recover.

On South Washington Street in Everson, city council member Jaleen Pratt was helping clean up a rental property across the street from her own residence. She said she expects she may make a claim on flood insurance she has carried for years.

belongings ruined in the flood.

Rebuilding one arm of the family business

Last week's flood severely damaged the Sumas Bob's Burgers and Brew and the Cherry Street Market. Rick and Wendy Kildall, the businesses' owners, had flood insurance on Bob's, but not on the market. Rick Kildall explained that flood insurance is required on any floodplain property still being paid off.

He also admitted that if they weren't making payments on Bob's, they proba-

bly wouldn't have had flood insurance on it, either.

"It's expensive," he said. "It's that one more bill."

Fortunately for Kildall, the family business is covered.

In 1970, it opened as the

See **Families** on A9

Giving thanks



Editor,

On behalf of the residents of Riverhouse Senior Apartments, we would like to thank these five kind and generous young men for filling up and distributing sandbags to the west side of our building from the rising flood waters that was within feet of entering and damaging our building and several apartments.

These young men saw the need and took the initiative to help some of Lynden's most vulnerable citizens and we would like to thank them for their hard work and generous spirits.

Their parents should be proud of the exceptional young men they have raised.

Riverhouse Residents

Mark K. Bratt, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT

- Residential
- Multi-family
- Commercial
- Institutional

360.319.6447
mark@markbrattarchitect.com

Ask About
SPECIAL
0%
FINANCING
FOR 1 YEAR*

*Minimum new purchase of \$699 or more. On approved credit. Sale ends Monday, December 12th. No interest if paid in full with no missed or late payments by 12 month due date. Some restrictions apply. Please see store for details.

LEATHER SALE at SAMUEL'S

ALL LEATHER POWER RECLINING SOFA
\$3499 Reg. \$4579
Matching loveseat and chair also on sale

POWER RECLINING LEATHER SOFA WITH POWER HEADRESTS
\$3939 Reg. \$5129
Matching loveseat and recliner also on sale

ALL LEATHER POWER RECLINING SOFA
\$3649 Reg. \$4749
Matching loveseat and recliner also on sale

ALL LEATHER SOFA
\$4129 Reg. \$5369
Beautiful transitional style

FLEXSTEEL
HOME
LEATHER SALE

THE FLEXSTEEL DIFFERENCE

Heart of steel. You'll find our namesake Blue Steel Spring at the core of our upholstered seating. We believe so strongly in this support system, we guarantee its durability for a lifetime of use.

Together to stay. Our sturdy, precision-engineered frames are so strong, they're covered by our lifetime warranty.

Sitting is believing. Our plush seat cushions and extra-firm, high-resiliency seat cushions start out comfortable and stay that way. We cover them with our lifetime warranty. Our luxury cushion carries a two-year warranty.



We follow state and local guidelines to ensure the safety of our visitors at Samuel's Furniture.

The Largest Furniture Store in Northwest Washington
Samuel's will be closed Thurs., Nov. 25 to allow employees time with family & friends

STORE HOURS: Monday thru Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-5pm

Be sure to visit... **SAMUEL'S** Sleep Center

SAMUEL'S
FURNITURE • MATTRESS • LA-Z-BOY COMFORT STUDIO

1904 Main Street, Ferndale (Exit 262) • Just 10 minutes north of Bellingham
(360) 384-3388 • www.SamuelsFurniture.com

García: Family grieves loss of flood victim found Nov. 17

Continued from A1

ately.”
“He unfortunately had been caught up with the floods and was hanging onto a nearby tree and was on call with my brother-in-law for about an hour while he was trying to reach for help from the police, until he lost connection with his father,” Mata, wrote.

Since the Nov. 17 announcement, García’s family has raised more than \$46,000 through its GoFundMe page.

That money, Luis García said through his Facebook page, would be used to cover the funeral, as well as property damage resulting from the flood.

“I thought I was going to push him around in a wheelchair someday,” Luis García wrote. “I thought he was going to someday hold my children. But I came to realize that life’s ... not fair.”

As of 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, more than 500 people have made donations to the García family GoFundMe page.

One woman who donated to the fund wrote that reading about García’s death “broke my heart.”

“It isn’t a huge donation, but I wanted to help

somehow,” she wrote. “Jose sounds like he was a hard-working man, father and husband. I pray that your hearts begin to heal, and the pain subsides until you are reunited.”

Another woman who donated money wrote that she lost her father in a flood in 2006 in Mulege, Baja California.

“I feel for your family and am so sorry for your loss,” she wrote.

Anyone who would like to donate may visit gofundme.com/f/j3jir-garcia-family.

Mata, who started the GoFundMe page, wrote on her social media page that Wednesday was a “rough day for us.”

“We finally found him, and finally gave our family closure and his wife and kids peace,” Mata wrote Wednesday after García’s body had been found. “Thank you to all the re-shares of our (social media) posts we had enough people come out to help my brother in law Luis who was out since Monday at 4 a.m. all alone with his own friends in the cold and wet to find his father.”

Mata also thanked everyone who donated coffee, food, extra boots, hand warmers “and everything else for our fam-



Pictured, people search for Everson resident Jose García. On Nov. 17, the body of García was found in a wooded area in the 600 block of Main Street in Everson. (Cal Bratt for the Tribune)

ily and the people who were out looking for him today.”

“As of now, we ask you give the García family time to grieve and rest and give them their

space,” Mata wrote. “We appreciate everything everyone has done.”

WCSO reported that García’s body was found in a wooded area in the 600 block of Main Street in

Everson. According to García’s obituary, the public is invited to join the family for visitation from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 23 with Rosary beginning at 6 p.m. at Gillies Fu-

neral Home, 202 Front St., Lynden. García’s funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lynden, with burial following at Nooksack Cemetery.

Families, businesses affected by flood

Cherry Street Market Manager Laura Anker, right, looks at the damage caused by last week’s flood. Far right, market employees in Sumas move machines and supplies from the store on Friday, Nov. 19. (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)



Continued from A3

Rendezvous. Rebranded in 1982 as Bob’s Burgers and Brew, Rick and Wendy Kildall bought Bob’s from his father, Bob Kildall in 1996.

In 2005, they bought the Cherry Street Market and the Chevron station between the market and Bob’s.

Rick Kildall said Friday that he hoped to reopen the businesses fairly soon, within the next month or so.

“But the equipment will be a big issue,” Rick Kildall said. “A lot of the equipment is months out.”

That Bob’s is a family business, they can reopen even if they’re not able to offer all menu items

because of equipment issues.

Offering what they can, then expanding the menu back to what Bob’s customarily offers, is possible because they are not part of a chain of restaurants.

“We’ll try to get open as soon as it’s functionally possible,” he said. “I’m just not sure when that will be yet. Most of the mud is out of Bob’s.

“If the mud dries, the building will stink forever.”

Modestly complicated

Kildall described the situation at the Cherry Street Market as “modestly complicated.”

Although the floors “clean easily,” and there’s a “lot less equipment” in the Market than in Bob’s, it’s mostly about the in-

ventory, lots of inventory at Cherry Street Market.

As the market’s manager the past two years, Laura Anker said the business has become a big part of her life, and her employees like family.

Being in repair and recover mode is not what she counted on heading into the holidays.

Happy Holidays!

\$1.00 OFF
Any Espresso Drink

*EXCLUDES BLENDED AND CANNED BEVERAGES

Limit 1 drink per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per order. Coupon valid at any Cruisin Coffee. Not valid with any other Cruisin Coffee offer or coupon. Coupon expires 1/13/2022.

Volkswagen of Bellingham
2200 Iowa Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
Tel: (360) 734-5230

2021 Atlas
More passenger volume than Toyota Highlander

Based on manufacturer's data available at time of publication for Model Year 2021 vehicles.

A negotiable documentary service fee of up to \$150 may be added to the Sales or CAP cost of New or Used Vehicles.

*In honor of those who have died, And in support of those who still live,
We invite you and your family to attend*

A Special Holiday Remembrance Program

Receive an ornament in honor of your loved one

Tuesday • December 7, 2021 • 7:00 pm

*Guest Speaker ~ Pastor Chuck Kleinhesselink,
Musicians ~ Rob Viens, pianist & Wendy Donaghy, soloist*

Gillies Funeral Home Chapel
With a reception to follow

For Questions and to RSVP an ornament Please Call 360-354-4428

Hosted by

Gillies
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

35 LUXURY ROOMS MEETING ROOM SHOPPING & DINING

COMFORT & JOY
HOLIDAY SPECIAL

This Holiday Season, Give a Getaway!

Call to purchase a \$200 gift card and receive \$50 to spend at any of the five unique shops that share our historic building.

The INN AT LYNDEN

www.innatlynden.com 100 5th Street, Lynden, Washington 360/746-8597



LYNDEN, LC FOOTBALL
TEAMS ADVANCE TO
STATE SEMIS.

B1



Lynden Tribune

LEWIS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1914

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON • \$1.50

Massive flood recovery begins

Timeline for flooding

Friday, Nov. 12

On Nov. 12, the Lynden Chamber of Commerce reports Environment Canada calling for a tremendous amount of rain – 3-to-6 inches – from Nov. 13-15. Randy Small of Whatcom County Weather on Facebook gave regular reports.

Saturday, Nov. 13

The National Weather Service issued a flood warning. Everson Mayor John Perry said predictions show river cresting slightly below the levels seen in the February 2020 flood.

River predicted to reach flood stage early Monday morning and crest in Everson on Monday afternoon.

Residents told flood coming in Sumas. Flood anticipated Sunday night. Preparation advised and to remove or elevate belongings that were in the flood path previously. Perry calls “all able bodied volunteers and residents to come together.”

East Main Street closed from Nooksack Avenue to Everson Market due to water over road. Lynden Chamber suggests people to clean out gutters.

Sunday, Nov. 14

Sandbags being filled in Sumas and at the Everson city shop. Rain coming down heavily.

Trees fall across Mt Baker Highway, Chuckanut Drive, and Interstate 5 and cause disruptions and closures. Back-ups for hours on highways.

Monday, Nov. 15

School cancelled in almost every local district: Lynden School District, Lynden Christian, Ebenezer Christian School, Cornerstone Christian School, Nooksack Valley School District, Mt Baker School District, Ferndale School District, and Bellingham School District.

Sightseeing discouraged from flooded areas. Lynden Chamber of Commerce gave storm stats: 7-day rainfall at 6.9 to 7.7 inches. Requests made for cots, bath towels, pet carriers, and pet food.

Volunteers sandbagging in Ferndale under direction of Council member Shuey. Ferndale Severe Weather

See **Flood Timeline** on A8

Family grieves loss of flood victim

Body of Everson man
Jose García found
Wednesday

-- With the family of Jose García not available to talk at this time, the Lynden Tribune newspaper has written this story based on social media and GoFundMe posts from the family, primarily of Sheila Giselle Mata, who is García's sister-in-law. This story was also written thanks to the media release we received from Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and from statements made by Luis García, Jose García's son, that were broadcast Wednesday evening on KIRO-TV.

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

EVERSON — Taking care of his family was more important to Jose García than his own life.

Early Monday morning, García drove to work from his Everson home. That's the last time he was seen alive.

Wednesday, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office reported that search and rescue volunteers, as well as personnel from Everson Police Department and WCSO located the body of a man believed to be García, 49.



Jose García

WCSO reported Wednesday that the final cause of death will be determined by the County Medical Examiner.

“I'm glad we found peace in our family,” Luis García, son of Jose García, said Wednesday on KIRO-TV. “Making it to work was one of his responsibilities, and he takes his responsibilities seriously.”

On the family's GoFundMe page, Sheila Gisella Mata, García's daughter-in-law, wrote that “the morning of Monday 3 a.m., my brother in law received a called from his father and was asking for help desper-

See **García** on A9

Families displaced in Sumas



James Richardson talks about buying the family's Sumas home less than two months ago, and now being displaced from it because of the recent flood. Read about Richardson on page A3 (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

Saturday is a day mostly of getting rid of sodden debris in Sumas, Everson, Nooksack



Saturday, the people of Sumas, Everson and Nooksack began their massive flood recovery effort. (Cal Bratt for the Tribune)

By Cal Bratt
for the Tribune

WHATCOM — With help, the people of Sumas, Everson and Nooksack began their massive flood recovery effort Saturday.

Mostly, it was the sorry business of tearing out ruined walls and floors, throwing out sodden belongings, scraping muck and hosing down what could be salvaged.

People continuously brought their debris by the truckload and trailerfuls to huge churning mounds along the main streets of

Everson and Sumas, where big loading machines moved it into containers and dumpsters for transit to Whatcom garbage disposal.

“This is the dump truck capital of the world right now,” said Vince Stremmer, of Stremmer Gravel, at the parking lot of Bob's Burgers & Brew along Cherry Street.

At first the company was volunteering its services earlier in the week, then became part of the contracting the City of Sumas did to make Saturday the huge community-wide day for “mucking out” the extensive flood devastation.

ServiceMaster, trying to air out Sumas Elementary School with fans and big blowers, was one example of a professional firm lending its cleanup expertise.

In both Everson and Sumas, both volunteer groups and food vendors served the hundreds of workers with soups, sandwiches, sweets and beverages. Edaleen Dairy in Sumas was giving out free ice cream cones.

A block west of Cherry Street, shocking damage to BNSF railroad tracks was evident. Rail cars including fuel tankers lay tipped

on their sides where torrents of water undercut the railroad bed. Flood torrents from Nooksack River overflow came across miles to swamp what is the normal channel of Johnson Creek through Sumas.

Fire hydrants, traffic signs and fences remained wrenched out of place or downed from the force of the flooding

The international border station continued closed at Sumas Saturday.

A huge generator was parked in front of Sumas

See **Debris** on A3



Weather

Thursday 49°/44°
Friday 53°/43°
Saturday 52°/46°
Sunday 54°/45°

44 pages • Volume CXXXIV • Number 41

Academics • A10
Calendar • A4
Christmas • A5
Classifieds • B4

Milestones • A7
News Briefs • A4
Obituaries • A6
Opinion • A5

Public Notices • B3
Puzzles • B4
Sports • B1
Weather • A2

Holiday coupon book:
Check inside for savings

www.lyndentribune.com | www.facebook.com/lyndentrib

LAMPHERE INSURANCE
113 Third Street, Lynden
360-354-5333
www.jefflamphere.com

Happy
Thanks Giving

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
His love endures forever.”
Psalm 136:1

Families, businesses affected by flood



Friends and family help James Richardson deal with belongings ruined in last week's flood. (Bill Helm/Lynden Tribune)

By Bill Helm
bill@lyndentribune.com

SUMAS — Less than two months ago, James Richardson and his family bought a home in Sumas.

In the home, James lives with his wife Sadie, 4-month-old daughter Myla and 5-year-old son James Carl Richardson II. Following last week's flood across Whatcom County, the Richardson family has been temporarily displaced from their home.

By temporarily, Richardson said last week it's more like "possibly the middle of next year before the contractor can get to my home."

And his insurance coverage, most specifically the loss of use coverage, would provide no more than \$5,000 over three months. As for the family's personal belongings, Richardson said he was told nothing was covered.

"Flood insurance is a (expletive) joke," he said.

Richardson is not a happy man.

Walking through the damage of his home, Richardson stopped in Myla's room, then to young James' room. He held a small light his son sleeps with each night. Richardson also looked at the upgrades to the room, decorations the family had made to the walls, upgrades that likely won't survive.

Some parts of the Richardson home saw flooding come up as high as three-and-one-half feet. Other parts of the home, just shy of one foot.

For now, the family lives in an apartment, which means the Richardsons are paying rent and paying their mortgage. Not too many people in the best of times can afford to pay for two places to live and only use one of them.

At least Richardson can be thankful for the friends and family helping him out, he said, folks who helped him sort out the family's

Debris

Continued from A1

City Hall.

At a home at Sumas and Vancouver streets, a man was awaiting an insurance adjuster to visit, but he could understand that there will be delays.

The big pile receiving debris from Everson and Nooksack was between the Cafe 544 restaurant and the new O'Reilly Auto Parts store.

Cars crowded parts of west Nooksack where fairly recent new construction absorbed the brunt of flooding, and people were helping residents there clean out and begin to recover.

On South Washington Street in Everson, city council member Jaleen Pratt was helping clean up a rental property across the street from her own residence. She said she expects she may make a claim on flood insurance she has carried for years.

belongings ruined in the flood.

Rebuilding one arm of the family business

Last week's flood severely damaged the Sumas Bob's Burgers and Brew and the Cherry Street Market. Rick and Wendy Kildall, the businesses' owners, had flood insurance on Bob's, but not on the market. Rick Kildall explained that flood insurance is required on any floodplain property still being paid off.

He also admitted that if they weren't making payments on Bob's, they proba-

bly wouldn't have had flood insurance on it, either.

"It's expensive," he said. "It's that one more bill."

Fortunately for Kildall, the family business is covered.

In 1970, it opened as the

See **Families** on A9

Giving thanks



Editor,

On behalf of the residents of Riverhouse Senior Apartments, we would like to thank these five kind and generous young men for filling up and distributing sandbags to the west side of our building from the rising flood waters that was within feet of entering and damaging our building and several apartments.

These young men saw the need and took the initiative to help some of Lynden's most vulnerable citizens and we would like to thank them for their hard work and generous spirits.

Their parents should be proud of the exceptional young men they have raised.

Riverhouse Residents

Mark K. Bratt, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT

- Residential
- Multi-family
- Commercial
- Institutional

360.319.6447
mark@markbrattarchitect.com

Ask About
SPECIAL
0%
FINANCING
FOR 1 YEAR*

*Minimum new purchase of \$699 or more. On approved credit. Sale ends Monday, December 12th. No interest if paid in full with no missed or late payments by 12 month due date. Some restrictions apply. Please see store for details.

LEATHER SALE at SAMUEL'S

ALL LEATHER POWER RECLINING SOFA
\$3499 Reg. \$4579
Matching loveseat and chair also on sale

POWER RECLINING LEATHER SOFA WITH POWER HEADRESTS
\$3939 Reg. \$5129
Matching loveseat and recliner also on sale

ALL LEATHER POWER RECLINING SOFA
\$3649 Reg. \$4749
Matching loveseat and recliner also on sale

ALL LEATHER SOFA
\$4129 Reg. \$5369
Beautiful transitional style

FLEXSTEEL HOME
LEATHER SALE

THE FLEXSTEEL DIFFERENCE

Heart of steel. You'll find our namesake Blue Steel Spring at the core of our upholstered seating. We believe so strongly in this support system, we guarantee its durability for a lifetime of use.

Together to stay. Our sturdy, precision-engineered frames are so strong, they're covered by our lifetime warranty.

Sitting is believing. Our plush seat cushions and extra-firm, high-resiliency seat cushions start out comfortable and stay that way. We cover them with our lifetime warranty. Our luxury cushion carries a two-year warranty.



We follow state and local guidelines to ensure the safety of our visitors at Samuel's Furniture.

The Largest Furniture Store in Northwest Washington

Samuel's will be closed Thurs., Nov. 25 to allow employees time with family & friends

STORE HOURS: Monday thru Saturday 10am-6pm,
Sunday 11am-5pm

Be sure to visit... **SAMUEL'S**
Sleep Center

SAMUEL'S

FURNITURE • MATTRESS • LA-Z-BOY COMFORT STUDIO

1904 Main Street, Ferndale (Exit 262) • Just 10 minutes north of Bellingham
(360) 384-3388 • www.SamuelsFurniture.com

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST



Wednesday
52°/37°
Rain. South southwest wind 7 to 11 m.p.h. Precipitation chance 80%.

Sunrise 7:05 a.m.
Sunset 7:27 p.m.



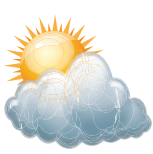
Thursday
54°/41°
Mostly cloudy throughout day. East northeast wind 5 to 9 m.p.h.

Sunrise 7:03 a.m.
Sunset 7:29 p.m.



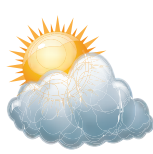
Friday
57°/43°
Mostly cloudy with rain likely in the evening after 11 p.m.

Sunrise 7:01 a.m.
Sunset 7:30 p.m.



Saturday
54°/41°
Chance of rain. Mostly cloudy throughout day and into evening.

Sunrise 6:59 a.m.
Sunset 7:32 p.m.



Sunday
53°/40°
Chance of rain. Mostly cloudy throughout day and into evening.

Sunrise 6:57 a.m.
Sunset 7:33 p.m.

Information courtesy of National Weather Service, Bellingham Asthma and Allergy and the Perry family

For the Record • March

DATE	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
HIGHS	53	54	53	52	52	50	49
LOWS	42	41	43	42	43	38	40
PRECIP.	1.00	.03	.73	.21	.73	.07	.51

LAMPHERE INSURANCE

113 Third Street, Lynden

360-354-5333

www.jefflamphere.com

NOVEMBER 2021 FLOODS

Where are they now? Sumas resident Tricia Griffin Hadeen and family looking for stability

By Elisa Claassen
For the Tribune

SUMAS -- The November 2021 floods displaced many residents in Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson. Homes were flooded, evacuated, even torn apart. Many still have not been put together. Where are the residents now?

The Lynden Tribune looked at some of the many people rendered temporarily homeless and will also talk to volunteers helping at resource centers and other flood-related efforts.

Today we talk with Tricia Hadeen of Sumas.

In an email to the *Tribune*, Hadeen wrote on Nov. 15 “we were reassured probably half a dozen times by our landlord, friends and even a police officer that our place at 1400 Boon St. Unit 101 in Sumas was not going to flood and we should be just fine.”

The home is a rental owned by Indigo Property Management. It had been the Hadeen family home for one year after moving from being in a family-owned home in Bellingham that was being sold. They were



During these challenging times we remain open to help you with estate planning and all your Elder Law needs by phone or Zoom.



360-647-8846 ■ 2828 Northwest Ave. ■ Bellingham ■ www.elderlaw-nw.com

Tricia Hadeen and her husband Dustin, before the November 2021 floods that displaced them from their Sumas home. (Courtesy Tricia Hadeen)

told to wait. They waited.



“By the end of the night we knew that to be so wrong,” Hadeen wrote. “Not only did we flood, but we had over 20 inches in our house, resulting in us sheltering in place. (We called) 911 several times to just be told we can’t leave. No one was available to help us and to just stay there.”

After three days, Hadeen and her family were rescued. The family includes her husband Dustin, 23; three children ages five or younger; Hadeen’s 18-year-old nephew; and their family dog. She explained that everything from the first floor of the home was essentially ruined. The children’s dressers managed to start to float, tipping over the contents into the water. Dishes were cracked and broken. Their big splurge on a nice mattress and bed, found online for their hurting backs, cost them \$3,000. Although greatly appreciated, it was now ruined, as were all three of the family’s cars.

“It’s been hard to make plans,” she said. “We were told that we had to completely evacuate for a month to do repairs (in the rental) but a month quickly moved into six months and being completely evicted. We moved what little we had taken out while being rescued and moved into my dad’s guest room.”

Six people were in the same room at her dad’s guest room/office in Maple Falls. But the family dog had to be rehomed.

See Hadeen on A7



CARING IS CORE

“From my first day at Lynden Door, my supervisor and team were very supportive.”

Erika
Forklift Driver
4 years

Build your career with us.
lyndendoor.com/careers

Gardening Season is Here!



Come See What’s New in Our Garden Centers.

On Friday, April 1st, we’ll be celebrating the arrival of Spring with the grand re-opening of the CHS Northwest Garden Centers. We’re loading up on exciting new products, garden art, beautiful plants, trees and luscious ceramic pots.

Friday & Saturday, April 1st & April 2nd

- Great Sale Pricing
- Coupons
- Special Purchases
- Enter to Win

The stores will be full of everything you need to make your yard a true showcase. Mark your calendars and stop by!



Everything you need for Home & Farm.
chsnw.com



Flood: \$3 million plus used by Whatcom County

Continued from A3

routes, as well as high traffic roads.

In February, both South Pass Road and Birch Bay Lynden Road were the first main thoroughfares to open.

A single gravel lane of a half mile section of South Pass Road east of Everson reopened Feb. 18 with stop signs for alternating directions of traffic. Public

Works will pave roads once the ground has settled, Duckworth explained. Birch Bay Lynden Road had collapsed over the California Creek.

Man hours have not been calculated because, Duckworth said, the repairs are far from done.

“About 80 percent of emergency/temporary repairs from the November 2021 floods will be complete in 2023,” Duckworth said. “Permanent repair work will

last into 2025 or later depending on permitting and right-of-way acquisition. Emergency repairs to Drayton Harbor Road, Sunset Road in Dewey Valley, and Goshen Road are being planned and engineered; construction hasn’t started yet on these.”

Duckworth discussed the local funding allocations: Any road-related damage costs are paid for by the County Road Fund and levee-related damage costs are paid by

the Flood Control Zone District Fund. Whatcom County expects to have 75 percent of the costs reimbursed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Additionally, levee work has been done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Whatcom County maintains an updated road closure and restriction list at whatcomcounty.us/952/Road-Closures-Restrictions.

USACE work during and immediately after the November 2021 floods was done under Public Law 84-99, Public Law 84-99, Emergency Response to Natural Disasters.

It is the Corps of Engineers’ basic authority to provide for emergency activities in support of state and local governments prior to, during, and after a flood event.

Hadeen: Flood displaces Sumas family from their home

Continued from A2

“Not only could we not afford him anymore but now didn’t have a house,” Hadeen said.

Then, the Hadeen family heard that their rental company had a Bellingham unit for them. However, they slightly qualify.

Although Dustin and Tricia Hadeen both had worked, they earned too much to qualify for some programs, and earned too little to afford many rentals available in Whatcom County.

The Hadeens have continued to be on the move. Catholic Community Services paid for them to go to a hotel, back to their dad’s house, went back to the Super 8 Hotel in Ferndale. The family was not alone, as a portion of the hotel was used for those like themselves affected by the floods and

needing housing in the winter. The room had a microwave and was near a Haggen for food. They needed to eat out or bring food back.

Since then they have talked with FEMA and Catholic Community Services to have food cards and placement in a hotel in Bellingham which likely ends in April.

What is next? A number of neighbors from the Sumas complex have found solid housing, although not known what that means, or have gone into limbo like them and are at the hotel.

“It’s hard for me to accept things from others,” Hadeen said initially. “We are broken. It’s a day at a time.”

Their three cars were parked by their Sumas rental when the flood hit. All three were waterlogged. Her father wanted to have them dry out and see if they could be

repaired but the police told them they had to be gone, so they were demolished since they had no place to store them. Her mother loaned them money to buy two new cars. It’s been impractical to share one vehicle with multiple people going different directions on different schedules, she said.

Just as the Hadeens found the Sumas apartment through Craigslist, they have continued to scour that and many other resources. When they called the Bellingham & Whatcom County Housing Authority, they received a notice they were denied not long after the flood.

While their nephew is finishing high school at Nooksack Valley in the coming months and plans to move out of state with a friend, the Hadeens are not sure what is next. Their children are still young and aren’t in school now but will start next year.

They go with their mother to work since she does childcare. The property in Sumas has been completely dismantled but the owner is working with FEMA. They have heard the earliest is in August they may know whether they can move back or not.

In the meantime, they are at the hotel for now.

“Since the beginning what we needed was a place to land,” Hadeen said. “We have no home. We have no place to call home. We need a private renter or a low-income rental place where we can put some roots down and just take a breath. I feel like we’re constantly still waiting for the other shoe to fall.”

Hadeen knows little of what is happening in Sumas since she is in Bellingham.

Heinrichs: Governments slow to solve flood problems

Continued from A4

were lost, lawns and out-buildings need lots of work to be restored. Who can measure the trauma of being in a house and having to get out with nothing but the clothes on your back? Or, what about having to be taken out on a tractor with flood water swirling around, in fear that the water would overtake you too as it had your home and your belongings?

How about not being able to move into your

house again because it’s too expensive to repair?

Who can measure what it would be like to come back into your community and see the devastation everywhere, instead of the peaceful, safe community you once lived in?

I’ve read up and gone to public meetings where I asked questions. Yet, the government makes things so complicated with so many agencies, reports and impossible guidelines that make restoration and progress impossible, special interest groups

prevent progress to solve problems so people can safely live in communities like Sumas, Everson, Nooksack and Ferndale.

City, county, state and federal governments have approved building and even encouraged continual building, encouraged businesses, encouraged having farms and homes in these safe, affordable communities.

Why? Governments who are supposed to be our protectors have been slack in doing so. We need help to

solve the problem – not the band-aid applied after another disaster. We had a disaster Super Bowl Sunday in 2021 and even worse in November 2021.

To the officials and government agencies: please work together to solve the problem. Find a workable solution to this emergency, so we can be safe and so our property can be safe.

-- Judy and Bob Heinrichs moved to Sumas from Canada where they had lived for 27-plus years.

Judy, whose husband passed away in 2009, is

currently staying with friends in the area.

Adding 20+ Years of Industry Experience to the LeaderOne Team!



DAVID OHLIGSCHLAGER
Branch Manager, NMLS# 422225
Phone: 360.815.1768
Email: DaveO@Leader1.com
Apply Online: www.DaveO.Leaders1.com

CONTACT DAVE FOR ALL YOUR HOME LOAN NEEDS!



102 Grover St. - Suite #208 - Lynden, WA 98264

LeaderOne Financial Corporation 7700 14th Ave NW Suite 1100 Overland Park, KS 66212 NMLS ID 12087. This advertisement does not constitute a loan agreement. Loan approval and/or loan commitment is subject to the lender's review and approval of the applicant's creditworthiness, including but not limited to: income, assets, credit history, and property. Borrowing conditions must be satisfied prior to loan closing. LeaderOne Financial Corporation does not guarantee that all applicants will be approved. Programs, fees, or rates provided in this advertisement are subject to change.

Smith: Citizens versus ecobureaucrats

Continued from A4

the river, and thus, make the water less turbulent, cleaner, and colder. However, the water doesn’t necessarily get cleaner, and it certainly becomes warmer in the summer as it drains through the warm bog lands we’ve created.

Slowing down the river is supposed to make the river higher for fish to be able to reach their spawning areas.

More truthfully though, waterflow restriction in the river builds the silt and sediment level up to the point where the river becomes shallow, sterile, and the fish are not happy. Nor do people survive this when the rainfall is heavy, because the sand has built up, blocking a swifter flow.

The practice of flood-stream-restoration increases the flooding potential and prevents proper flood control maintenance of the rivers.

To be explicit, the ecobureaucrats want to flood us out. The microbes on the banks of rivers are more important than we are as human beings.

Ecobugs and ecobureaucrats are actually part of a large financial and political group which uses patronizing tactics and tax dollars to increase their monetary wealth and political power over us at our own expense, and thus, they have taken over our communities and our nation.

If we are going to save our communities from increased future flooding, it will be necessary to

defeat the ecobugs. They themselves are like the very microbes they seek to save.

They hide from view through complex rules and procedures, as well as they use semantics to confuse us, or make certain words like dredging wrong to utter.

This is all the more reason why we citizens need to mobilize for emergency-

sediment-removal. The greater the number of citizens who are activated for doing this, the greater is our potential to force the ecobureaucrats out into the light of day, so they can be exposed and defeated.

-- Ferndale resident Doris Smith lives near the anti-ecobug streams of the Nooksack River plain.

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

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

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(888) 674-7053

*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.



Recreational Marijuana Shop

RELAX

Top Quality **CHEAP WEED** & Huge Selections of **CBD**

\$12 Dabs

\$5 Grams

CBD Oils

CBD Tinctures

STAR OUTLET 21+

On the Guide, Just South of Wiser Lake!

7157 Guide Meridian #3, Lynden, WA 98264 – 360.868.6493

Facebook.com – StarOutlet420 Open Daily: 9am – 11 pm

Instagram.com/staroutlet

*This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgement. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults twenty-one or older. Keep out of the reach of children. Marijuana Products may be purchased or possessed only by persons 21 years of age or older.



2022 SPRING Home & Garden

Featuring a look at unique & local Whatcom County homes along with tips and articles pertaining to remodeling, new construction, decorating, gardening, finance, energy efficiency and more! Let our readers know how you can help make the most of their spaces and places!

This publication will also be available online at www.lyndentribune.com and www.ferndalerecord.com

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this very popular special section inserted into the Lynden Tribune and Ferndale Record!

DEADLINE: April 13

PUBLICATION DATE: April 27

Call Mary Jo, Laurie or Mitze at 360-354-4444 or Jan at 360-224-2037

Lynden Tribune Ferndale Record

