



# LYNDEN, LC FOOTBALL TEAMS ADVANCE TO STATE SEMIS.

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# Lynden Tribune

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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

By Bill Helm  
bill@lyndentribune.com

*-- 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.*

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 Stremler, of Stremler 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°

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