



Good morning, Shelton

A brilliant sunrise, reflected on the calm waters of Oakland Bay, greeted Mason County on the first day of fall Wednesday. *Journal photo by Gordon Weeks*

Plotting a garden in Callanan Park

By Gordon Weeks
gordon@masoncounty.com

A triangle of land in the City of Shelton’s Callanan Park could bloom into a community garden that produces food for local people in need.

The Shelton City Council on Tuesday evening gave preliminary approval to allow Hands on Personal Empowerment (HOPE) Garden and the Mason Conservation District to establish a community garden of about 10,000 square feet in the park’s southeast corner at the junction of West E Street and Van Buren Street, across the street from Shelton Memorial Park. The council can make the move official at its Oct. 5 meeting.

The noncommercial garden would produce food to feed clients of two Shelton-based nonprofits, Community Lifeline and The Saints’ Pantry food bank, and offer plots to low-income residents.

“It’s a little-used area that’s quite visible to the neighbors,” Mark Ziegler, the city’s director of Parks & Recreation and Economic Development, told the council.

Callanan Park is at 400 West E St. and is the city’s largest park at 8.27 acres.

The city report states, “Staff believes this project will further add to the amenities in Callanan Park and bring new opportunities to the surrounding neighborhood to recreate and further community engagement.”

In the proposed action, the city would assist with site preparation and extend utilities to the garden. HOPE would construct the garden beds and support infrastructure.

According to the city, the spot would also be used as a “teaching garden for workshops offered to veterans, students and

see **GARDEN**, page A-2

Sports betting coming soon

By Matt Baide
matt@masoncounty.com

You will soon be able to place a wager on professional and NCAA sports at Little Creek Casino.

Gov. Jay Inslee signed a sports betting bill into law in March 2020 that permits sports wagering at Class III tribal casinos in the state.

The Washington State Gambling Commission approved the sports wagering licensing rules July 28.

“The goal was to get sports wagering in place for the tribal casinos in time for the kick-off of the 2021 NFL season and that goal was accomplished,” state Gambling Commission spokesman Kevin McCarty told the *Journal*. “That was the goal of both the Washington State Gambling Commission and the tribal gaming agencies so there was a lot to be done. Compact amendments had to be negotiated and that takes time. We’re all dealing with COVID. I would say it was a pretty smooth process given that 15 tribal gaming agencies, tribal governments were able to have their compact amendments approved in time to make that deadline.”

The Squaxin Island Tribe and Little Creek Casino were one of those 15 tribal agencies. Inslee signed the compact amendments in July. The U.S. Department of the Interior published nine amendments to the federal register Sept. 1, which was the final step of approval of revised compacts to allow sports betting.

The Skokomish Indian Tribe and Lucky

Dog Casino had their wagering compact approved by the Gambling Commission on June 22, but has yet to be signed by Gov. Inslee’s office.

Seattle SuperSonics legend Shawn Kemp made history Sept. 9 as the first person to place a sports wager at Snoqualmie Casino, the state’s first sportsbook to open, according to the commission’s Twitter account.

The public support for sports betting coming to Washington has been incredible, according to McCarty.

“The commission meetings that were held virtually to approve the compacts were widely attended by people who could join on (Microsoft) Teams, have input if they wanted to,” McCarty said. “The public interest has been great, and when I say great, I don’t mean great as in really good, I mean great as in very large. There is a lot of public interest in this. There was a lineup to place wagers at Snoqualmie when they kicked it off on the (Sept.) 10th.”

For the state and the commission, there is not much of an economic effect.

Approved tribal casinos can facilitate sports betting a few ways. Casinos can host a traditional sports book area to place bets but can also have kiosks set up throughout the casino to accept sports betting wagers. Wagers can also be placed through a mobile app on casino grounds.

“The way that works is if you were to go to a casino and you wanted to use your mobile phone, you have to go to a casino desk window, you have to open an account,” McCarty said.

see **BETTING**, page A-14

INSIDE TODAY



Rep. Kilmer visits
Mason County
Page A-3

Shelton harriers win
Salt Creek Invitational
Page A-23

North Mason schools
facing driver shortage
Page A-43