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“Spilling Over” is an acrylic painting on canvas. Sarah deLendrecie painted it in 2026.

Landscapes for viewer to feel alone

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

The BCJ Gallery in Morton has a new featured artist on display. Sarah deLendrecie is an acrylic artist who specializes in landscapes. deLendrecie will be featured in the BCJ Gallery from now until the end of September.

“I typically paint landscapes. It’s rare that I put people in my artwork,” deLendrecie said. “I want the viewer to feel like they are the only one there.”

She feels that there are not a lot of places left in the world where a person is truly alone. She wants to provide that feeling within her paintings.

She has painted portraits and cityscapes. “I didn’t enjoy cityscapes,” she said.

While her landscapes cover a wide variety of earth, she is currently painting a lot of skies. “I like the early morning or evening. There are more colors,” she said. She wants the viewer to feel like they are flying.

“Years ago, I did set painting while my kids were in the theater,” deLendrecie said. She laughed that from a distance mistakes couldn’t be seen.

Her and another set painter actually hid designs in the paint for some of the children. During a production of “Joseph and the coat of many colors” she wrote all of the children’s names in hieroglyphics on the coat.

In the past, she has worked with watercolor. “With watercolor, you have to think backwards,” she said. “You can’t put light over dark, so you have

to consider where the light and dark need to be placed.”

As soon as she worked with acrylic paint she “fell in love with it.” “It gave me the freedom to paint however I wanted,” deLendrecie said.

However, watercolor has influenced how she uses acrylic paint. “I paint wet and sometimes I let the drips on the canvas survive,” she said.

She has also used a well-worn paint brush or scraper to “scrub back” layers of paint to let the layer underneath shine through.

Sarah deLendrecie Burnett goes by her artist’s name Sarah deLendrecie. deLendrecie is a French name and has been passed down through the daughters in the family since they immigrated

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The Aug. 4 Primary Election results

The figures below were released Monday, Aug. 17 by the Lewis County Auditor’s Office.

The candidates with the top two results move on the November ballot, regardless of party affiliation.

Voter turnout in Lewis County showed of 59,806 registered voters, 24,304 ballots were counted, representing 41 percent voter turnout, with 35 ballots left to be processed as of Monday, Aug. 17.

The results listed here

represent only the candidates receiving the most votes, not all the candidates in the field for each race.

Three candidates are listed where races are close.

Political office on ballot Candidate - Votes - Percent

Congressional District 3 – U.S. Representative

John Braun (R) 14,154 - 59.19
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D) 6,313 - 26.40

19th Legislative District State Representative Pos. 1

Jim Walsh (R) 5,033 – 72.58
Mike Coverdale (D) 1,889 – 27.24

19th Legislative District State Representative Pos. 2

Terry Carlson (D) 1,720 – 25.78
Joel McEntire (R) 3,633 – 54.45

20th Legislative District State Representative Pos. 1

Peter Abbarno (R) 11,692 – 69.79

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Community events and information shared at the PBOC meeting

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

The Packwood Business Owners Council (PBOC) is a monthly meeting where community-minded members come together to share information.

The name PBOC is a holdover from Destination Packwood Association which did not survive but the PBOC has and is holding strong with members from local non-profits to part-time residents to representatives from the Lewis County government.

The August meeting, held on Friday, Aug. 14, focused on anything new happening in the community and the future events that are coming up in the next few months so that people could mark their calendars.

Tracy Croshaw, organizer, shared that the old Peter’s Inn restaurant has been behind brown paper and something is happening.

There is speculation that a new restaurant is coming. However, the actuality is that no one knew what was happening yet.

There was discussion about what was happening at the Packwood Brewing Company. The new brewhouse had seemed to stop construction for weeks.

Elise Woodsmith, married to master brewer Nat Woodsmith, was able to share some insight. “The windows were delayed and it set back the timeline. The siding was delivered and the new brew system has been delivered,” she said.

The Livable Packwood Community Garden is having a fundraiser held in their honor by the Pacific Northwest Bite Club. Food will be created using ingredients from the garden itself.

The fundraiser will be on Sunday, Aug. 30. Tickets can be purchased at biteclubpnw.com.

Packwood Trail Days will be at the Packwood Schoolhouse Events

Center from Friday to Sunday, Aug. 21 to 23. The Packwood Trail Project will be welcoming Pacific Crest Trail hikers to the town and providing them with a place to stay and then a shuttle back up to the trail.

Ron Blankenship, president of the Packwood Improvement Club, asked Croshaw if the Packwood Schoolhouse was full of vendors for the upcoming Labor Day weekend. The PIC grounds are full and he is looking for contacts on where to send inquiring vendors.

A question regarding oversight of the flea market came up and Brooks was able to give her guidance from a County standpoint. “Our commissioners will not institute any regulation unless the people ask for it,” she said.

“If the people want to have some form of regulation, then please tell your commissioner, Scott

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PIC seeks long-term monetary solutions to a persistent problem

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

The Packwood Improvement Club (PIC) was founded in the 1950s and in all that time, they have relied solely on fundraising and taking out low interest loans to meet their financial needs.

At the regular monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 10, after intense discussion, the PIC decided that they wanted to move forward by seeking lodging tax tourism funding from the county.

Member Elise Woodsmith has had experience in other Packwood organizations who annually request lodging tax funds and she helped members of the PIC to understand what requests would qualify for reimbursement and what would not.

One of the reasons that the PIC is seeking outside funding is to pay for paving the back driveway. Currently, the potholes that keep appearing with use are getting very large and the cost to have it repaired every year is prohibitive.

While the paving project would not be covered by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee’s (LTAC) guidelines, other events such as the Labor Day flea market would have much of the expenses covered.

If the expenses were covered, then that would free up money from other fundraising efforts to cover the cost of the paving. However, the PIC as a whole acknowledges that this process would be years in the making.

The PIC agreed to form a committee of the president,

treasurer, trustee and Woodsmith so that they could complete and submit the application by the deadline of Sept. 30.

In other news the PIC received a thank you note from the White Pass Food Bank for its annual donation.

The treasurer reported that the water bill has returned to normal and that the Bingo license has been paid for.

Treasurer Jeanette Blankenship said, “I have been trying to reach the person at the bank to get a bank card.”

She went on to explain that due to the PIC being a non-profit, there is a specialized person who works at the bank that she would need to speak to in order to get the correct paperwork. “They don’t work at the Morton branch. They rotate where they work and it has been difficult to reach the lady,” she said.

The White Pass Historical Society sent in a report that stated that the Packwood Visitors Center has had a total of 2,415 visitors so far in 2026.

President Ron Blankenship stated that the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) events that the PIC members manned the gates for in July, were a success. The PIC was paid \$750 per event for a total of \$1,500 and they did such a good job that the SCCA gave the PIC a \$200 bonus.

Blankenship asked Woodsmith if the Packwood Trail Project (PTP) would be willing to take over gate duties at the Cowlitz River Access park. PTP said no.

Woodsmith explained that managing the park would not

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Photo by Chris Johnson

Brian Bartow of Squamish, British Columbia competes in the 83rd annual Morton Loggers’ Jubilee on Saturday, Aug. 8.

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Belle of the Woods: Erin LaVoie
Bull of the Woods: Nate Hodges
Sportsmanship: Nate Hodges

Axe:

Nate Hodges 30
Mike Nicholas 25
Mel Lentz 23
Brian Bartow 22
Angus Nicholson 21
Mike Forrester 19

Hot Saw:

Nate Hodges 2.78
Josh Bitzer 3.72
Trevor Baker 4.3
Mike Forrester 4.59
Zane Sandborg 5.65
Mel Lentz 5.97

Speed Climb:

Brian Bartow 20.75
Zak Holsey 29.62
Cole Schlenker 36.84

Tree Topping:

Brian Bartow 1.10.22
Zak Holsey 2.43.41

Men’s Vertical:

Nate Hodges 18.95
Brad Read 27.95

Brian Bartow 33.15
Angus Nicholson 36.5
Mike Forrester 45.1
Zane Sandborg 47.03
Cole Schlenker 50.3
Joey Long 51.2
Nick Barrett 51.73
Josh Bitzer 53.5
Dominic Freeman 2.00.46

Women’s Vertical:

Andrea Hand 45.85
Erin LaVoie 45.94
Kailee Curtis 1.36.94

Women’s Horizontal:

Erin LaVoie 35.75
Andrea Hand 37.72
Kailee Curtis 2.09.63
Emaliah Espinzona 3.28.75

Birling:

Carly Haas 1
Brian Bartow 2
Cole Schlenker 3
Erin LaVoie 4
Mike Johnson 5
Kailee Curtis 6
Kiana McNeil 7

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