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Three Mossyrock Elementary School teachers compete for 'Best Teacher in America'
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The East County JOURNAL

Dedicated to serving East Lewis County since 1945
March 25, 2026 \$1

Vol. 82 No. 12 • USPS 363-940

Mossy welcomes candidate for vacant council seat

BY BUDDY ROSE
East County Journal

Mossyrock City Council members welcomed Mark Thompson and expressed thanks for expressing his desire to fill the empty seat on the council during the regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18. Thompson has submitted a letter of interest in filling the vacant Position 3 seat on the council that resulted from Shannon Mcaron resigning effective Jan. 1 of this year.

Thompson said he has lived in the Pacific Northwest all of his life, including in Vancouver and Toutle, Washington. He has resided in Mossyrock for the past one and a half years. Mayor Randall Sasser noted Thompson meets the requirements

necessary to become a council member and the council voted to approve him filling the empty seat. He will be sworn in at the beginning of the next regular council meeting that is scheduled to take place April 15.

In other business, Sasser reported city public works employees have been busy cleaning and finishing the improvements at the shop and storage area adjacent to City Hall. Concrete floors have been poured throughout and large doors will be installed. The mayor also noted a vacuum truck was recently rented and used to clean drains in several locations in the city. In Klickitat Prairie Park, the entrance gates have been installed and will have locks on them soon. Also in the park, the kids' playground toys and the amphitheater have

been pressure washed.

Police Chief Cole Cournyer introduced the new officer on the force, Laura Riebold, to the council. She has finished academy training and passed the necessary requirements to become the third officer when additional training is complete. Officer Jessica Stevens was also in attendance, following her recent absence due to a dog bite injury sustained while on duty in Morton.

Cournyer responded to a request by Sasser to increase police enforcement of vehicles dangerously exceeding the speed limit that have been spotted in various locations within the city. Cournyer indicated they will concentrate patrols to apprehend those violating the speed limit, particularly noticed along Mossyrock

Road West.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Marcia Manley reported they are continuing to solicit responses to the recent survey regarding improvements or additions to the park that residents of the area would like to see. She said they are getting help with improving the communication of, and responses to, the survey from the Hispanic population.

Also, she is still searching for the cultural resource survey and report of the park area that was done years ago when the property was purchased by the city. The survey findings could limit the types of construction that would be allowed in certain areas, particularly that part of the

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PBOC survey has museum rebranding

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

Braving the wet weather on Friday, March 13, members of the community attended the Packwood Business Owners Council (PBOC) monthly meeting. Members of the community and representatives of local nonprofits gathered to talk about what had happened the month prior and what events will be coming up.

The White Pass Country Historical Museum has been busy with a lot of behind-the-scenes work. There was some painting, taking down a wall, resetting displays and taking down a breeze-way that was posing a danger.

One thing that financially hurt the museum was the furnace breaking down. They are using space heaters to offset the cold until the furnace can be fixed.

Board President Tracy Crosshaw said, "Our survey came back and gave us a lot of good information. One thing that we learned was that it was important to the community to keep the museum." However, people were interested in rebranding. New signs and a website will proclaim the lengthened name to Packwood Elementary Event Center and White Pass Country Museum.

They are preparing to reopen the museum and the displays will fo-

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ELC Chamber elects new board, making plans

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

The East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce is undergoing many changes and looking forward to the future. New president Rhonda Cornwell has recently sworn in seven new members and is working to plan two large events.

In chronological order, the first event will be the community picnic. This event is anticipated to take place on the Fourth of July. It is anticipated to take place at Jubilee Park in Morton.

However, there are currently a lot of unknowns. Morton Mayor Rick Mead has shown interest in being involved and Ed Smith, commander of the American Legion 215 in Morton, is also planning an event at the same time. There was discussion that they combine for-



Rhonda Cornwell

es to put on an event together, but this has not been confirmed yet. There will be a meeting for planning the picnic at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 at the Chamber office in Morton.

The second event is going to be the "SasqWatch: Beyond the Footprint" festival which will be on Sept. 25 to 27 at Cascade Peaks Campground in Randle. They plan to have speakers, a stage, a kid zone and much more.

There are a lot of details that still need to be finalized but Cornwell shared that they have confirmation from a speaker that rarely

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Ric Hallock / East County Journal

Reading to-go

Mossyrock resident Grady Kolb, 3, demonstrates the unique ability to read while walking in the Morton Elementary School gymnasium on Saturday, March 21, as part of the Arbor Health Family Resource Fair. The annual event brings community resources and organizations together to assist new and young families in making connections. For more images from the event, see page 7 of today's East County Journal.

Rugged Roots Photography transplants to Glenoma Egg hunts scattered across two weeks

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

Rugged Roots Photography, owned and operated by Naudica Clements, has moved to East Lewis County. A Lancaster, California native, Clements moved to Glenoma recently and has started to build up her home-based business.

"I do photography for real estate listings, short-term rentals, families, couples, maternity, portraits and lifestyle newborn sessions," she said. She has taught herself about photography over the last four years and has steadily been building her portfolio.

"I was and still am a licensed cosmetologist in another state," Clements said. She loves gardening, learning everything she can



Naudica Clements courtesy photo | East County Journal

Glenoma resident Naudica Clements, owner of Rugged Roots Photography, shared a photo illustrating her connection to photography and the country with cows in the background.

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BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

Easter egg hunts are an event that the whole family can enjoy – and there are several options available in East Lewis County this year. From the youngest of children to older teens – and even adults – have some events, too! Whether it starts at 11 a.m. with a basket or 8:30 a.m. with a flashlight, fun can be had for the whole community across the next two week-ends.

Saturday, March 28
Glenoma Firefighters Association Easter Egg Hunt, 1-3 p.m., Glenoma Community Park, 306 Glenoma Road, Glenoma. Age categories are 0-3, 4-6,

7-9, 10 plus and children with disabilities.

Sunday, March 29
Mt. Adams Trail Riders Easter Egg Hunt, 1-3 p.m., Mt. Adams Trail Riders Club, 655 Silverbrook Road, Randle.

Wednesday, April 1
Morton Historical Society Easter Coloring Contest, deadline, pick up and drop off coloring pages at 194 Main Ave., Morton.

Friday, April 3
Mead Family Market Second Annual Bunny Bash Egg Hunt, noon to 2 p.m., Mead Family Market, 8136 U.S. Hwy. 12, Glenoma. Age categories

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