

White Pass fourth-graders study the salmon lifecycle

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2026 Spring Lawn & Garden INSIDE



Mossyrock junior Annika Ball rounds third base on her way home during their 6-5 win over Naselle on Thursday

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Thompson joins Mossyrock City Council, Pos. 3

BY BUDDY ROSE
East County Journal

Mossyrock City Council welcomed new member Mark Thompson during the regular council meeting on April 15. Thompson will assume the vacant Position No. 3 seat on the council that resulted from Shannon Mcarron resigning effective Jan. 1 of this year. He was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting by Mayor Randall Sasser.

Thompson said he has lived in the Pacific Northwest all of his life, including Portland, Vancouver and Toutle, Washington. He has resided on Aldrich Road in Mossyrock for the past one and a half years.

Also at the meeting, the mayor and council members scheduled a workshop to take place April 27 from 3-7 p.m. in the Community Center. The purpose of the workshop is to work on four city ordinances that are being amended or updated. They include: Ordinance 514, regarding motor homes and recreational vehicles on properties within the city; Ordinance 518, enacting rules, regulations and conditional use permits regarding containers on city properties; Ordinance 520, defining guidelines regarding livestock within city limits; and Ordinance 523, amending the city's

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Ric Hallock | East County Journal

One week earlier ...

Is this an image from last December during a snow flurry? No, this was the scene on the morning of Wednesday, April 15, looking east on Main Avenue in downtown Morton. The winter-like conditions only lasted about 30 minutes and by the weekend, it was the warmest it's been this calendar year.

Packwood group talks highway safety following fatality

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

At the regular monthly meeting of the Packwood Business Owners Committee (PBOC), County Commissioner Scott Brummer opened the conversation with a report on the creation of the short-term rental (STR) advisory board. Seven of the eight positions on the board have been filled and their first meeting is going to be set sometime in June, the details have not been finalized.

Brummer then talked about the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). After a fatal hit-and-run of a man in Packwood on March 13, Brummer has been in contact with WSDOT about any work going to be done in the area. "They shared their five-year plan and Packwood was not on the list," Brummer said.

There is a local petition being submitted to WSDOT in an attempt to make them look at Packwood and the work that needs to be done.

Mindy Brooks, community development director, said, "When the Packwood Subarea Plan was created, it made downtown Packwood an urban growth area. If WSDOT does any work in the Packwood area, it triggers that they would have to do a Complete Streets program to also look at crosswalks, bicycle routes and more. They have to look at managing the number of people using the streets." While nothing has happened to date, Brooks said, "We are trying."

Brummer then proactively answered questions about the Packwood Sewer Project. "It's not dead. I would consider it neutral," he said. Basically, there has been no movement on the project. He hinted that there are ideas being explored to move the

project forward but that he was unable to share at this time.

The Lewis County Planning Commission looked at the first draft of a proposed Cannabis Code at the April 14 meeting. Historically, cannabis sales have been prohibited in unincorporated Lewis County.

However, the results of a survey put out by the county came back that roughly three-quarters of the people who answered in East Lewis County agreed that cannabis sales should be allowed. Seven locations have been identified as suitable placements in Lewis County, two in Packwood.

There will be two workshops for the Lewis County Planning Commission and a hearing is scheduled to take place in May and potentially going before the Board of County Commissioners in June. "If everything goes smoothly and there are no hic-

cups, then a business could be in place as early as September," Brooks said. A more realistic timeframe would be by the end of the year.

Brummer also gave an update to a problem he had discussed at a previous meeting. Previously he had shared that there were recreational vehicles and large storage containers in the river. The ones located in the Tilton River have been removed, while the ones in the Cowlitz River are still there. They are waiting for the water levels to be safe for the crew. "There is one storage container that is in the middle of a log jam and that one will be challenging to access," he said.

In the near future, there is going to be a meeting of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology and Corps of Engineers to discuss the emergency measures that

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Morton students earn end-of-year honors

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

The Morton School District's Powerful Examples of Excellence awards banquet will take place on Tuesday, April 28 at the high school.

Powerful Examples of Excellence is a program brought to East Lewis County by DeVaul Publishing, parent company to the East County Journal, and Tacoma Power. This program began in 2003 and has been running for 24 consecutive years.

The three school districts involved are Morton, Mossyrock and White Pass. Each school had staff nominate students for different categories. The suggested

categories are academics, the arts, community service and athletics. The schools can also select different categories and a few examples are leadership, citizenship and Career and Technical Education.

Each student will be presented with trophies, congressional letters and gift bags at each individual school's recognition ceremony. The school will receive an engraved plaque that lists the students' and what they were nominated for.

The Mossyrock School District will have an assembly on Friday, June 6. White Pass School District will honor their students during Senior Tea on Wednesday, May 27.

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Artist's work has tactile elements in telling a story

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

Susan Clark is the featured artist at the BCJ Gallery in Morton for the months of April and May. A Chehalis resident and Mossyrock native, Clark is a mixed media artist that likes to have viewer participation with her artwork. "I like the interactive nature of artwork," she said.

She has a finger labyrinth currently on display at the BCJ Gallery. The eye cannot detect the labyrinth but once a finger is placed upon the art, the path can be felt and be followed.

"My goal is to tell a story and to encourage engagement. I have fun hidden things to further the



Susan Clark

story," Clark said. In one painting, she placed items that could only be seen once a black-light was shining on the piece. In another, she

used thermodynamic paint which changes color from the body heat of the person touching it.

Clark's mixed media means that she uses cotton embroidery, graphite, pen and ink, watercolor and heavy body acrylic. She does not favor oil paint because "it

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Liz Radermacher courtesy photo | East County Journal

Maybe Smokey's cousin

While out walking her dogs, Packwood resident Liz Radermacher came face to face with a bear while on Skate Creek Road on Sunday, April 19. There have been several bear sightings in Packwood recently and it may be the same bear. Residents are cautioned to keep a safe distance when seeing a bear and to not leave outside unsecured trash cans or other possible food items that can attract a bear.