

Long-sought Park and Ride rises

By Gordon Weeks
gordon@masoncounty.com

The pear orchard project is finally coming to fruition.

Workers hired by Mason Transit Authority are creating a Park and Ride lot at the site of Shelton founder David Shelton's former pear orchard at the east entrance into the town on state Route 3. The City of Shelton owns the land.

The project is expected to take 75 working days and be completed by the end of the year, said Danette Brannan, the general manager of Mason Transit Authority.

The project is funded through a Regional Mobility Grant and Connecting Washington Transit Project grant. The cost is \$722,905, which includes the base price of \$630,005 and \$92,900 in change orders, Brannan said.

The change orders are the result of shutting the project down and then restarting, Brannan said.

The city has been trying to estab-

lish a Park and Ride on the site for decades. About 15 years ago, the city was forced to return a federal grant because it failed to meet the construction deadline.

"The city has made several attempts in the past 20, 30 years to complete various projects in that areas, unfortunately, limited staff and available funding prevented the projects from coming to fruition," Brooke Kilts, the city of Shelton's administrative manager for the public works department, wrote in an email to the *Shelton-Mason County Journal*.

She added, "In addition to the limited staffing and funding, another attribute to the drawn-out efforts was the lingering negotiations with the Navy for an easement that was needed in order to accommodate the project. The city finally conceded its failed attempts to obtain the easement from the Navy and terminated the project after phase one of the project was completed, which included demolition of the old wastewater treatment plant, obtaining right-of-way from



After decades of discussions, the Pear Orchard Park and Ride on state Route 3 near the railroad overpass in Shelton is expected to be completed by the end of the year. *Journal photo by Gordon Weeks*

Simpson Timber Co., and installing the gravel parking lot. Completing the first phase of the project allowed

the city to pass the baton, so to speak, to Mason Transit Authority for them to be able to construct the project."

Suspect in string of thefts arrested

By Kirk Boxleitner
kboxleitner@masoncounty.com

The Mason County Sheriff's Office received a call last week from Shelton Auto Parts, on West Dayton Airport Road, reporting that several of the business' tools appeared to have been staged in wheelbarrows and barrels for removal, sheriff's Public Information Officer Matt Colbenson said.

Subsequent surveillance footage taken by the business showed two men who appeared to be stealing property from the shop Oct. 8, so the sheriff's office posted screenshots of one of the two suspects on its Facebook page on Oct. 9 and asked whether anyone could identify him.

Colbenson credited someone with helping to confirm the man's identity, then noted that a subsequent crime helped apprehend the suspect.

About 6:30 a.m. on Oct. 12, the sheriff's office received a report of a

stolen motor home from the Phillips Lake area, and around 9 a.m., a caller observed not only the motor home in the area of Southeast Arcadia Road, but also a male suspect exiting the motor home and entering a residence in the area.

When deputies arrived, they checked the motor home and residence for the suspect. The home's resident said the suspect ran through the house and out the back door.

Jano, Mason County's police dog, eventually apprehended the suspect after a 300-yard track.

The suspect was found hiding in thick brush on a neighboring property, and the suspect in the motor home theft was identified as the same suspect previously identified in the Shelton Auto Parts theft.

The sheriff's office celebrated Jano's work with a post on its K-9 unit Facebook page, resulting in many congratulations for Jano.

Tornado warning provides scare

By Kirk Boxleitner
kboxleitner@masoncounty.com

A MACECOM social media post in the early hours of Saturday warned residents of potentially dangerous weather event.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service in Seattle issued a tornado warning for northwest Washington at 4:40 a.m., including north/central Grays Harbor County and northwestern Mason County, until 5 a.m.

According to the public alert, at 4:40 a.m. on Oct. 10, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was located near Amanda Park near Lake Quinalt, moving northeast at 25 mph. "Radar indicated rotation," the alert read. "Flying debris will be dangerous to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be damaged or destroyed. Damage to roofs, windows, and vehicles will occur. Tree damage is likely."

The alert predicted the storm would be near Amanda Park in Grays Harbor County at 4:50 a.m., then Quinalt

in Grays Harbor County at 4:55 a.m., with Neilton in Grays Harbor County among the other locations expected to be affected by the storm, which radar also indicated had hail.

"Move to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building," the alert read. "Avoid windows. If you are outdoors or in a vehicle, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris. Tornadoes are extremely difficult to see and confirm at night. Do not wait to see or hear the tornado."

The message that made it on to MACECOM's Facebook page at 4:51 a.m. was slightly more mild, advising the public, "Please keep an eye on the sky," as opposed to the NWS Seattle public alert that advised, "Take cover now."

MACECOM updated its Facebook post at 5:08 a.m. to note that the tornado warning had expired, capping off 17 minutes of alarm.

MACECOM Office Manager Jann Lusignan explained that MACECOM's Facebook page simply forwarded the National Weather Service's alerts.

Shelton-Mason County Journal
Serving All of Mason County Since 1886

We deliver or U-haul **NORTHWEST ROCK, INC.** 

TAYLOR TOWNE QUARRY NOW OPEN!
CRUSHED ROCK
QUARRY SPALLS - RIP RAP

All products are WA DOT Approved
Serving Mason, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Thurston and Lewis Counties

951 W. KAMILCHE LANE IN SHELTON NWROCK.COM
360-426-3763

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7AM-4PM

State Contr. Reg. No. NORTH033NO

Make 2020 the Year for Your New Roof!

Your Full Service Roofer Since 1959!
The One Doctor That Still Makes House Calls!

FREE Estimates

The ROOF DOCTOR 

(360) 427-8611

Licensed and Bonded ROOFDI*168N8

SD 3000 BBB

1131 W. Kamilche Lane Just off Highway 181

Also Serving: Olympia • Lacey • Tumwater • Tenino • Yelm • Tacoma • Montesano
Aberdeen • McKenna • Gig Harbor • Centralia • Chehalis • Longview • Vancouver • Roy