

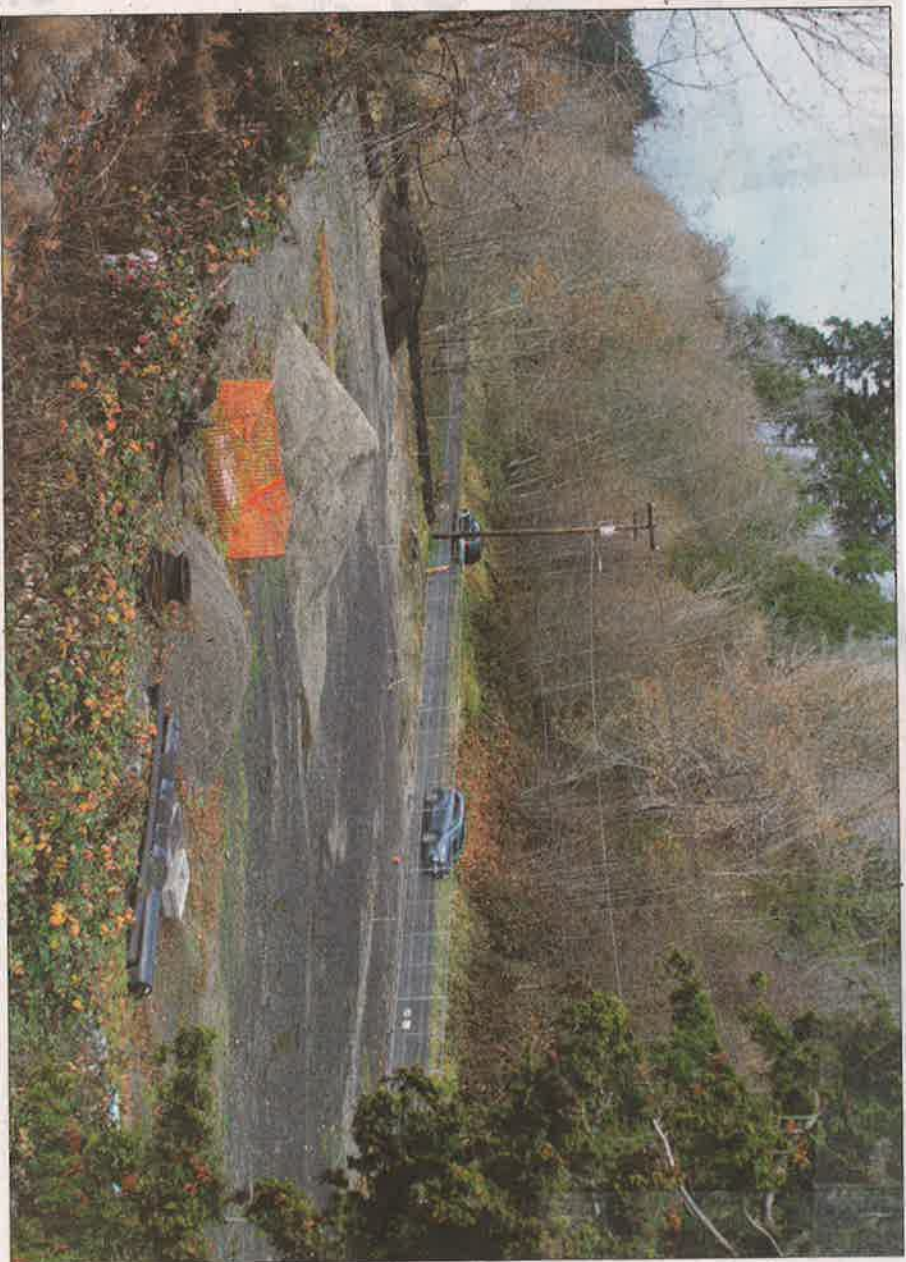
# What's buried under future park-and-ride lot in Shelton?

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The Shelton City Council on Tuesday awarded a contract to Aspect Consulting of Olympia to investigate a mysterious vault or storage tank unearthed during the construction of a park-and-ride lot on state Route 3.

The city's original wastewater treatment facility at the site at the northern entrance to the town, next to city founder David Shelton's pear orchard. According to a report by the city's public works department, Mason Transit Authority began a project during the spring to construct an improved parking lot on the city-owned property. While digging at the site, workers uncovered an "unknown vault storage tank," prompting city staff to ask about the contents, the report states.

Seven companies offered bids for the project. A committee of three staff members examined the bids, and gave Aspect Consulting the top score. The money will come out of the city's sewer department. The site is on the south side of state Route 3/Pine Street, leaving town to the east before the railroad trestle. The wastewater treatment facility was demolished in 2010. Since then, the property has been



**Aspect Consulting of Olympia will investigate an unknown vault/storage tank unearthed during the construction of a park-and-ride lot on state Route 3. The city's original wastewater treatment facility was located at the site until it was demolished in 2010. Journal photo by Gordon Weeks**

used as a gravel park-and-ride lot. According to the contract proposal by Aspect Consulting, two areas have been identified for environmental concern: an aboveground pile of street sweepings waste that is referred to as "Boot Hill," and an underground structure — a vault, storage tank or manhole — containing "contaminated liquid" discovered in May. The lot is now fenced. Aspect Consulting said it plans to test the soil and groundwater to determine whether cleanup actions are warranted under the state's Model Toxics Control Act cleanup regulations.