



January 2018

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Major projects get funded!

I'm thrilled to report some great news: now that lawmakers passed the State Capital/Construction budget, two vital projects in Montesano have funding.



1) Pavilion at Lake Sylvia

Volunteers with Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvia worked for years to raise \$200,000 in donations and pledges for this project. The design is by architect Will Foster, who put a lot of his own time—and love—into this project. Will designed the facility to melt into the forest, with wooden beams, large log uprights, native wood used in the wall panels and reflective lighting.

The construction budget includes \$696,000 to make this dream a reality, with room for up to 80 people inside, a tall fireplace and a kitchen to help host events.

Thank you to Will, the huge push from local donors and all the volunteers who worked, and dreamed, for years—and now it's happening.

2) Montesano Wastewater Treatment Plan



As part of \$30 million in projects for the Chehalis Basin, our city receives \$5 million to protect our wastewater treatment plant from river erosion.

This project is hugely important because a failure at this plant would be a financial and environmental catastrophe. Now we can work to fix it.

Thank you to Commissioner Vicki Raines, chair of the Flood Authority board; Councilman Dan Wood, the mayor's delegate to the flood board; Aberdeen Mayor Erik Larsen and Cosmopolis Mayor Frank Chestnut for writing letters of support; and U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer, who recently visited the site

Neither of these projects would have received state funding without the leadership of Rep. Steve Tharinger, chair of the capital budget committee, local lawmakers Brian Blake, Jim Walsh, Mike Chapman, Dean Takko and Kevin Van De Wege. Thank you!



Third courtroom

Over the next year, you'll see a lot of construction in Montesano—including major street projects—and you'll also notice work at the county courthouse.

They're building a third courtroom, in part, to help with the new drug court program.

We are proud to be the county seat and excited to see a much-needed facility and service coming to serve the people of Grays Harbor.

WA Supreme Court Justices: February 21st & 22nd

Please save the date for community events with all of the Justices from your State Supreme Court traveling to Montesano to hear cases and speak to our local students and residents.

Back: Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst, Justice Charles K. Wiggins, Associate Chief Justice



Charles W. Johnson, Justice Steven C. González, Justice Debra L. Stephens Front: Justice Mary I. Yu, Justice Susan Owens, Justice Barbara A. Madsen, Justice Sheryl McCloud

The City invites you to watch justice in action:

Community forum—Everyone is welcome to an event with the Justices on Wednesday, Feb. 21 starting at 5:45 p.m. at the Montesano High School Commons.

Oral arguments in State of WA v. Bassett—The Supreme Court will hear oral argument on this local case at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22 in the Grays Harbor Courthouse.

Openings on the Civil Service Commission & the Planning Commission

There is an opening for Civil Service Commission and two for the Planning Commission. Interested? Email vsamuel@montesano.us or send a letter to Mayor Vini Samuel, 112 N. Main, Montesano WA 98563.

Your new Councilmembers

The last election changed the face of your city Council with the addition of Kim Cristobal. This month, the Council appointed Robert Hatley to fill Nikki King's vacant position. Please join me in welcoming them to Council!

2018 State Parks Free Days

Washington State Parks has announced the following free days, when the Discover Pass will not be required to visit a state park.

- Jan. 1 — First Day Hikes; New Year's Day
- Jan. 15 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- March 19 — State Park's 105th birthday
- April 14 — Spring day
- April 22 — Earth Day
- June 2 — National Trails Day

- June 9 — National Get Outdoors Day
- June 10 — Fishing Day
- Aug. 25 — National Park Service 102nd Birthday
- Sept. 22 — National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11 — Veterans Day
- Nov. 23 — Autumn day

Congratulations to Pat Clemons!

Our city's unofficial historian, Pat Clemons, was recently honored by having our local museum renamed the Pat Clemons Chehalis Valley Historical Museum.



Front and court photos courtesy of courts.wa.gov. Newsletter design courtesy of Silver Tongue. Please send news tips and photos to vsamuel@montesano.us.

