



Monte Fire celebrates 125 years

We're fortunate to have a unique fire department with volunteers and professional fire fighters working together—a team Fire Chief Corey Rux says is so well integrated that you can't tell the volunteers from the full-time firefighters.

That partnership, and a long line of volunteers, have kept our city safe for 125 years.

I was honored to attend the annual dinner celebration put on by the volunteers. Seeing so many men and women who've dedicated themselves to this call of duty was inspiring.

Congratulations to all of the members of our fire department family— retirees, career firefighters, volunteers and their families who are understanding when you have to answer the bell at oh-dark-thirty.

We can't thank you enough for what you do.

Fire Cadet program

We are rolling out a pilot program with the school district—scheduled to be approved by City council on the Feb. 28th meeting—for a vocational class that focuses on building a variety of Fire Fighting skills.



This has been discussed in Council for the past year.

The targeted age group is 16 to 18 years of age and the class size will be not more than 15 individuals.

This program will start next fall and the primary contact will be Chief Rux.

The school district will help pay for the cost and this will create a pool of potential volunteers—and maybe start students on a path to a firefighting career.

Thank you to Chief Rux, the school board, city council and everyone who worked to give our students this opportunity.



Wi-Fi is up and running

The first report on winter activity has come back and downtown Wi-Fi is being used on the average of 100 people daily on weekdays and 150 people per day on Saturdays and Sundays.



That's good news, since it means visitors and tourists are coming on weekends even during the cold and rainy winter months. When spring and summer come along, and we start truly advertising free Wi-Fi, it will be interesting to check to see which dates and events on the calendar bring more visitors.

Good-bye and Hello

Officer Nick Fosse has served our community for 9 years and has left as of mid-February to take a job with Washington State Fish and Wildlife.

We appreciate his service and look forward to meeting the new officer who will be hired over the next month.

Another bittersweet parting is of Councilman Chris Hutchings who has been on the City Council for 8.5 years.

He has determined that he would not stand for election this year and to resign now will allow another person to get a feel for the position.

Over the next ~60 days the Council will fill the position. The open position will be advertised in the Vidette and on our web-site.

Vessey Park

Happy to report progress is being made at Vessey Park. Despite the wet weather, there has been much work done. Our goals are to: replace and expand the torn barrier net, completion of guardrail, improved signage, cleaning and painting of wood structures, complete block stairway, chain link fence upgrade, remove rock for concrete walkways. Go take a look!

Fixing streets

We continue to explore options in city council meetings. Last meeting I introduced a three-color coded map as identified by DOT standards of the streets in Montesano. The streets are rated from good to average to poor, which also corresponds to three options for care: maintain, repair and replace.

Replacing a street costs upwards of half a million dollars per block. This has been the difficulty in which every administration finds itself facing.

My proposal to the council is, for example, if we cannot do a \$4 million repair of Spruce, maybe we should consider an overlay of \$200,000. This may only last for 10 or 15 years but it would allow us to tackle a piece at a time as we can.

In 2017, the money in the budget prioritizes catching up on maintenance to prevent good streets from deteriorating. The budget also includes funding so city crews can do the work, which will save time and money.

Discussions to finance streets needs to look at all options in the box, out of the box, and with no box at all.



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