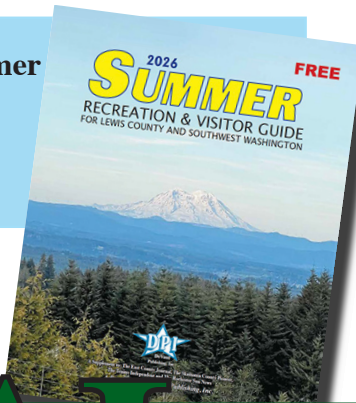


Outdoors: Bounty of clams, oysters means 'Seafood Safari'

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2026 Summer Visitors Guide INSIDE



Mossyrock sophomore Avery Teinhaara runs the first leg of the 400-relay at the District IV Track meet in Centralia on Thursday

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Mossyrock preparing 50-year time capsule for 2076

BY BUDDY ROSE

East County Journal

As part of this year's celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the City of Mossyrock is preparing a time capsule to be buried near City Hall and the Community Center. The capsule is intended to be dug up in 50 years (2076) in celebration of the 300th anniversary.

At the May 20 city council meeting, Mayor Randall Sasser explained it is planned to be buried near the sidewalk

in front of the Community Center as part of the Fourth of July celebration and the site will include a plaque explaining its purpose, etc. Although the entire contents of the capsule are still being determined, it will include a copy of the recently reprinted "Red Book" of local history first published for the 200th anniversary by the Mossyrock Grange in 1976.

Sasser also noted the Cowlitz Indian Tribe has indicated they will be donating some items to be included in the time capsule. Historically, Mossyrock was considered the dividing line between the Lower

and Upper Cowlitz populations within this area and was often a center of activities for both.

Sasser reported there are two new clarifiers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Water is separated from solids by the clarifiers to produce sludge for disposal and, after being treated to make it completely free of bacteria or any other harmful materials, the water is pumped underground to near the mouth of Klickitat Creek and into Mayfield Lake. He welcomed those attending the meeting to contact City Hall and arrange for a tour of the facility, in-

dicating past tours have been very much enjoyed by the participants.

Sasser also described the two lift stations that are part of the wastewater system in the city. The lift stations are located in areas lower than the treatment plant and are needed to pump wastewater uphill to the treatment plant. One is in the Meadow Lane area. The other is in Klickitat Park and it is being improved.

He noted a recent \$16,000 repair to a failed pump at the Meadow Lane site

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Mossy Schools Superintendent resigning June 30

BY BUDDY ROSE

East County Journal

Mossyrock School Superintendent Mark Chandler has announced his resignation, effective June 30, the date his current three-year contract with the district expires. Chandler is leaving Mossyrock to accept a new position. School board directors met for a special board meeting on April 29 where they accepted his resignation and began the process for selection of a replacement.

At a separate workshop on May 5, the directors discussed the qualifications for an interim superintendent to assume the position beginning July 1.

Northwest Leadership Associates, a widely recognized consulting firm for Washington schools, has been engaged to advertise and solicit applications for the interim superintendent position.

Current deadline for submitting applications is Tuesday, June 2, but subsequent applications will continue to be accepted after that date if an interim superintendent candidate has not been identified and selected. The process of

selecting a new superintendent will continue until a suitable candidate has been identified and approved by the board.

In other business during May, Jennifer Halleck, with Construction Services Group at Educational Service District 112, provided an overview of their plan to assist Mossyrock School District in identifying future facility needs. The process she identified applies to the entire district, not just the current problem with the junior high gymnasium.

Halleck explained the planning will begin this summer with collection and review of data regarding the condition of all buildings and assessment of future facility needs and will include solicitation of district residents' input.

Assessments will include how facilities support education. That assessment and survey is being paid for by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) up to \$16,000. Information from that process will then be used to identify and evaluate future facility needs for the dis-

See **Schools** Page 3



Chris Johnson | East County Journal

Morton resident Lance Scogin looks over some board games for sale in their family's moving sale on Friday, May 22. Following his graduation in June, his parents, Clint and Jessica Scogin, will be relocating to California.

Scogin family blossomed while in Morton

BY AMBER BROWN

East County Journal

Jessica and Clint Scogin came to Morton 11 years ago when Clint obtained employment with Arbor Health hospital as a controller. Over the years, their involvement in the community has permeated the town and while the Scogin's are excited for a new opportunity, leaving Morton leaves them feeling bittersweet.

Jessica's slogan in life is, "Get into a community and bloom where you are planted. Get in there and do stuff."

While Clint was working at the hospital, Jessica got involved in the community by working for or volunteering with Morton High School, Roxy Theater and Fire Mountain Arts Council (FMAC), the Hospital Foundation and the community orchestra and choir through Centralia College East.

Jessica was raised in Kennewick, Washington and Clint was raised in Sacramento, California. They met while attending the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. "Our first child was born one month before our first anniversary," Jessica said. They went

on to have eight children, including a set of twins.

When they moved to Morton, five of the eight children were still living at home. One reason that this opportunity to progress Clint's career can now be capitalized on is because the youngest child, Lance, graduates from Morton High School and will be moving to live with a sister in Texas where he has secured employment.

Jessica's mother was "a costumer" and Jessica brought 72 boxes of costumes with her when they moved to

See **Scogin family** Page 4



Amber Brown | East County Journal

A former math teacher turned museum manager, Michele Livernash is using skills learned as a teacher and is applying them to her new career.

Livernash happy to run Packwood museum

BY AMBER BROWN

East County Journal

Packwood resident, Michele Livernash is the new manager at the newly renamed Packwood Schoolhouse Events Center and White Pass Country Historical Museum (formerly the White Pass Country Historical Museum). Her first day was on March 3. She's been living full-time in Packwood for two years, even though she purchased her home

in 2019.

A Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, she discovered Packwood through her husband who had grown up in Packwood. When she stepped off the plane in 2004, the first place that they drove to and visited was Packwood. "We camped at La Wis Wis and hiked up to Packwood Lake," she said.

Her move to the West Coast was not unantic-

See **Livernash** Page 2

Council criticism leads to meeting ending in chaos

BY AMBER BROWN

East County Journal

"The First Amendment is the right to free speech. We don't have to agree with someone's opinions, but it is their right to have their own opinion," former councilman Richard Vanderslip said at the regular meeting of the Morton City Council on Monday, April 27.

This topic came up at the end of the meeting during public comment when Morton resident Tessa Boyer criticized councilman Jeff Johnson for how he spoke to a woman while at a yard sale a week earlier. Boyer said that she listened as Johnson introduced himself as a councilman and then proceeded to ask questions about how the woman who was running the yard sale was voting.

Boyer felt like he was putting undue pressure on the woman regarding how she voted and that he was criticizing other council members for actions like not taking off a hat for the Pledge of Allegiance and hanging a political sign from their porch.

Councilman Jason Sawyer thanked Tessa for speaking to the Morton City Council on this matter. "Thank you for standing up for what you feel is wrong," he said, acknowledging that taking that stance is very difficult.

The end of the meeting continued into arguing and ended

quickly going from constructive criticism and a debate into name calling.

In other news, the city council voted to approve the donation from ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) Elk Country motorcycle riding chapter for \$1,000 to be split equally between Gust Backstrom Park and Jubilee Park. ABATE was also going to be making a donation to the Glenoma Community Park for \$500.

Nancy Pettijohn spoke to the Council about "cleaning up the town." She was specifically addressing the building on the corner of Main Avenue and Second Street. "I am appalled at the state of the building," she said.

Sawyer said that the building in question had been red tagged for items that needed repair. City Clerk LuAnn Ward said that the owners have had the problems corrected and they had received permits. "The building is moving forward," she said. Sawyer expected new paint on the building sometime during the summer months.

"We could potentially hire someone who can enforce ordinances," Sawyer said. "It would need to be a city ordinance enforcement, not something that we ask the city police to take on."

"The code enforcement posi-

See **Morton** Page 2