



Stevenson Downtown Association courtesy photos | Skamania County Pioneer

Caden Harbaugh, Noah Conn and Thorin Bliss are living proof that the Spruce Up Stevenson Day on Saturday, April 25 was definitely a day to get your hands dirty as community members gathered for the annual event hosted by the Stevenson Downtown Association.

Volunteers make impact during Spruce Up Stevenson

On April 25, community members came together for Spruce Up Stevenson, the city's annual downtown clean-up day hosted by the Stevenson Downtown Association. This year served as part of Skamania County's America250 Day of Service, where the

event celebrated community pride, volunteerism and connection while making a visible impact throughout Stevenson.

A total of 86 volunteers contributed 255 hours helping beautify downtown streets, public spaces and trails. Together, volunteers

accomplished the following: 155 yard debris bags filled; 74 landscape beds weeded; 53 flowers planted and six bags of mulch spread; 7,635 feet of sidewalks cleared; 300 feet of hedges and brush trimmed; 100 feet of trail restored; and five bags of trash col-

lected.

"These accomplishments reflect the power of community and the pride we all share in Stevenson," said Kelly O'Malley-McKee, executive director of the Stevenson Downtown Association. "The energy, teamwork and dedication

shown by volunteers made a tremendous difference throughout downtown and our public spaces."

The day began with breakfast provided by the Stevenson Fire Department and Stevenson Volunteer Firefighters Association be-

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Downtown Stevenson Association courtesy photo | Skamania County Pioneer

Many of the volunteers during the Volunteer Appreciation Night hosted recently by the Downtown Stevenson Association.

America 2026 Main Street Names Stevenson Downtown Association an affiliate

Stevenson Downtown Association (SDA) has been designated as a 2026 Affiliate Main Street America program for meeting high performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the roster of designated programs in recognition of their commitment to creating meaningful improvements in their downtowns through preservation-based economic development and community revitalization using the Main Street Approach.

"We are proud to recognize the Stevenson Downtown Association as a 2026 Affiliate Main Street America program for your unwavering commitment to grassroots transformation and the extraordinary

abilities of your staff, board of directors and volunteers to respond to the needs of their community," said Erin Barnes, President and CEO at Main Street America in a press statement. "SDA demonstrates a dedication to investing in the people and places that make your downtown district special and contribute to the collective power of the Main Street movement to build vibrant spaces and durable economies."

Stevenson Downtown Association is one of 453 nationally recognized Affiliate Main Street America organizations and is a part of a network of more than 1,600 communities leading positive commercial district transformation efforts throughout the United

States.

Main Street America recognizes two tiers of national designation – Accredited and Affiliate. These designations are a powerful tool, signaling to community members, civic leaders, decision makers, funders and others that the Main Street program holds an established position within a nationwide movement with a 45-year proven track record of generating economic returns, fostering welcoming and inviting communities and creating lasting impact.

SDA's performance was evaluated through assessments conducted by the organization's personnel and board of direc-

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Cemetery Tour highlights pioneers who settled the Clark County region

Join in for an afternoon of discovery, reflection and local connection at a special tour of the local Pioneer Cemetery with local historian Peri Muhich and hosted by Two Rivers Heritage Museum, 2 to 4 p.m., on Sunday, May 17.

"The Fern Prairie Cemetery was part of the VanVleet land claim," Museum Director Julianne Lawrence said in a press statement. "It began as a family burial site on Lewis VanVleet's original land claim but was donated to the community as a cemetery." Lawrence also added, "Lewis VanVleet is a name folks might recognize because of his connection to the failed town of Parkersville, but there's a whole lot more to his story."

Located at 26700 NE Robinson Road in Camas, Washington, the Fern Prairie Cemetery is a true Pioneer Cemetery, with the first recorded burial occurring in 1855. The Old Cemetery section, as its name suggests, is the area of the cemetery where the historic, pioneer burials took place.

Muhich will lead a tour of the Fern Prairie Cemetery. Muhich, who specializes in uncovering the stories of forgotten, neglected or "buried" individuals, particularly within Clark County, is excited to share the stories beneath the headstones.

More than a simple tour, Fern Prairie Cemetery

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More work zones and delays in Bingen through May

Travelers on State Route 14 and SR 141 in Klickitat County should plan for delays and allow extra travel time.

Starting Monday, May 4, and continuing through mid-May, Washington State Department of Transportation crews, the Port of Klickitat and the City of White Salmon are working on multiple projects that will impact travel on SR 14 and SR 141 in and around Bingen.

Work includes building Juniper Street along

SR 14, a new road that will pass under the railroad bridge and constructing a roundabout near the Port of Klickitat access area. Crews are also completing water main work on SR 141 and will close the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge. Together, these projects in the same area will lead to delays.

SR 14 Bingen access improvements, Monday, May 4 through Thursday, May 7

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News Briefs

Bird Talk and Walk at the Columbia Gorge Museum

Stevenson Grange No. 121's 2026 Community Resiliency programs continue with "Bird Talk and Walk" at the Columbia Gorge Museum, 10 a.m. to noon, on Saturday, May 16. Ryan Gilpin, principal consultant at Nidus Consulting in Portland, Oregon, will lead the talk and walk; Gilpin is an arborist and founding member of Tree Care for Birds (treecareforbirds.com). Gilpin's background is in conservation and ecology, with degrees in environmental biology and international nature conservation.

This is a free program, in partnership with Stevenson Grange No. 121 and Columbia Gorge Museum (CGM).

The first hour of the program will be in the CGM theater with tips for birdwatching and information about creating wildlife habitat. The second half of the program will be outside viewing birds and talking about the plants in the locale.

This program is part of CGM's anniversary celebration and will have limited seating. Please RSVP online at www.columbiagorgemuseum.org/events/bird-walk-columbia-gorge-museum-anniversary

For program information, call Mary Repar at 360-726-7052 or email repar@saw.net. The Columbia Gorge Museum is located at 990 SW Rock Creek Drive, in Stevenson, Washington, and the telephone number is 509-427-8211.

Source: Stevenson Grange No. 121

Free America 250 bunting for businesses, organizations

Looking to be a part of the celebration of America's 250th anniversary this summer? The Skamania County Chamber and Stevenson Downtown Association is offering free bunting – the red, white and blue banners – to any businesses and organizations in Skamania County.

Anyone picking up bunting is asked to display from June 14 - July 4 (at minimum)

Bunting can be picked up at the Skamania County Chamber/Stevenson Downtown Association at 167 2nd St., Stevenson and at Crosscut Espresso, 1252 Wind River Hwy, Carson.

Additional ways to participate include patriotic window paintings, red/white/blue flower baskets

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Fifth annual Skamania Sip and Stroll

Noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 16

Sip, shop, and stroll through downtown Stevenson with local tastings, delicious food and live music. This is a 21 and over event. Tickets are \$30 and are available online at Skamania-sip-and-stroll/

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This day in history

1568 Mary Queen of Scots defeated.

1846 U.S. Congress declares war on Mexico.

1940 Churchill announces: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat" as he became prime minister of Great Britain.