

Increased DUI patrols through July 4

WHATCOM – Law enforcement officials are placing extra patrols on roadways from June 24 through July 4. In Whatcom County, DUI Patrols will be increased though a grant funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) and supported by the Whatcom County Traffic Safety Task Force. Traffic deaths that involve a drunk and/or drugged driver are highest during the summer months in Washington. From 2005 through 2009, more than 20 percent of all impaired driver-involved traffic deaths occurred during June and July. For additional information about the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, visit www.wtsc.wa.gov/.

Online reporting available for minor incidents, no-suspect crimes

COUNTY – The Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office has a new tool to assist the public with reporting minor incidents and increase efficiency within the agency. In cooperation with Whatcom County Administrative Services, Division of Information Technology, the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office has launched an online reporting system and can now receive reports for certain minor incidents and “no-suspect” crimes via the internet. The “Report a Crime On Line” direct link can be found at: www.whatcomcounty.us/report-crime/. Users of the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office web page will also see the “Report a Crime On Line” button at the top of the page on the left. Anyone witnessing a crime in progress or other suspicious activity should continue to report those incidents directly to the dispatch center by calling 9-1-1. The online reporting system is only for certain classes of reports where there is no need to have an immediate response, or to have in person contact by a deputy.

New summer, boat tours offered

DIABLO LAKE – North Cascades Institute, in partnership with Seattle City Light and North Cascades National Park, is offering interpretive tours of the natural and cultural history of the Upper Skagit Valley this summer. Diablo Lake boat tours on the Alice Ross III and lunch at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center is available Thursdays through Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in July and August, and limited to the first 70. The cost is \$29 per adult, \$15 per youth (age 12 and under) and \$25 per senior (62 and older).

In addition, a guided shuttle tour and catered picnic lunch is available for those seeking a 6-hour tour up the North Cascades Highway, with several stops and short hikes, led by Institute naturalists and National Park rangers. The tour leaves from Newhalem Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in July and August, starting at 10 a.m. The cost is \$25 per adult, \$12.50 per youth and \$20 per senior. Walking tours of historic sites in the company town of Newhalem are also featured this summer. Meeting at the Skagit Information Center, tours are free on a first come, first served basis with a limit of 20, Wednesdays through Mondays in July and August at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no charge for this tour. For more information, visit www.skagittours.com. For reservations, call (206) 684-3030.

BTC hosts sustainable panel



DEMING – Bellingham Technical College’s Reaching Out to East 542 Program hosted a Sustainable Bellingham Workshop at the Deming Library in early June. Panelists included: Brad Tuininga, Sustainable Energy Instructor, Bellingham Technical College; Mariah Ross, Business Development Manager, Sustainable Connections; Rodd Pemble, Recycling Manager, Sanitary Service Corporation, Inc; and Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham City Council, At Large. A total of 14 students and 10 community members attended. Reaching Out East 542 Coordinator Brandi Gist organized the event. **PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDI GIST**

Community garden plots available

EVERSON – Everson Community garden plots are available to local residents, with sign up every Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. across from the Everson Library. Seeds, plants and tools are available to share. For more information, contact Gretchen at 961-6442 or Meredith at 988-0630.

Local group showing bee film

DEMING – Local Food Works! is offering a free showing of Vanishing of the Bees, a film that discusses Colony Collapse Disorder and the efforts of beekeepers and scientists to prevent it. The showing will take place Saturday, June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Deming Library. Following the movie local beekeepers will answer questions, show a demonstration hive and offer tips to potential and beginning beekeepers. Samples of local honey will be available for tasting and Local Food Works! will be giving out a limited number of mason bee houses and seeds for pollinator-friendly flowers. Backyard beekeepers and others are encouraged to bring samples of honey, honey-sweetened treat and stories to share. This event is supported by the Community Food Co-op’s Farm Fund.

Everson Council: Public hearings for storage container ordinance, TIP

EVERSON – The Everson City Council will hold two public hearings during its June 28 meeting regarding the proposed storage container ordinance and the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Council meeting starts at 7 p.m. at Everson City Hall. In addition, the City of Everson is asking residents to participate in the 2011 Everson Citizen Survey, as a way to help the City of Everson prioritize projects and effectively use resources. The 15-minute online survey can be accessed through the city’s website at www.ci.everson.wa.us/index.html.

8th annual Independents Week is July 2-8

COUNTY – The 8th Annual Independents Week, organized by Sustainable Connections, is July 2-8 and celebrates the local and independently owned businesses in Whatcom County. Participating businesses will post signs, and an insert in the *Bellingham Herald* and *Cascadia Weekly* will feature a list of businesses. Sustainable Connections will have a booth featuring the Think Local Prize Wheel at the July 2 Bellingham Farmer’s Market. For more information, visit www.SustainableConnections.org/.

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