

# THIS WEEK IN YELM

*Official newsletter of the City of Yelm*

## A PET SUCCESS STORY: TAKING CARE OF OUR FURRY FRIENDS

One of the toughest and most important jobs of Public Works is reuniting our furry friends with their families, or to find homes for abandoned and abused dogs. It doesn't matter what time of the day it is, our compassionate team will respond, beginning the process of getting that loved one back to their home.

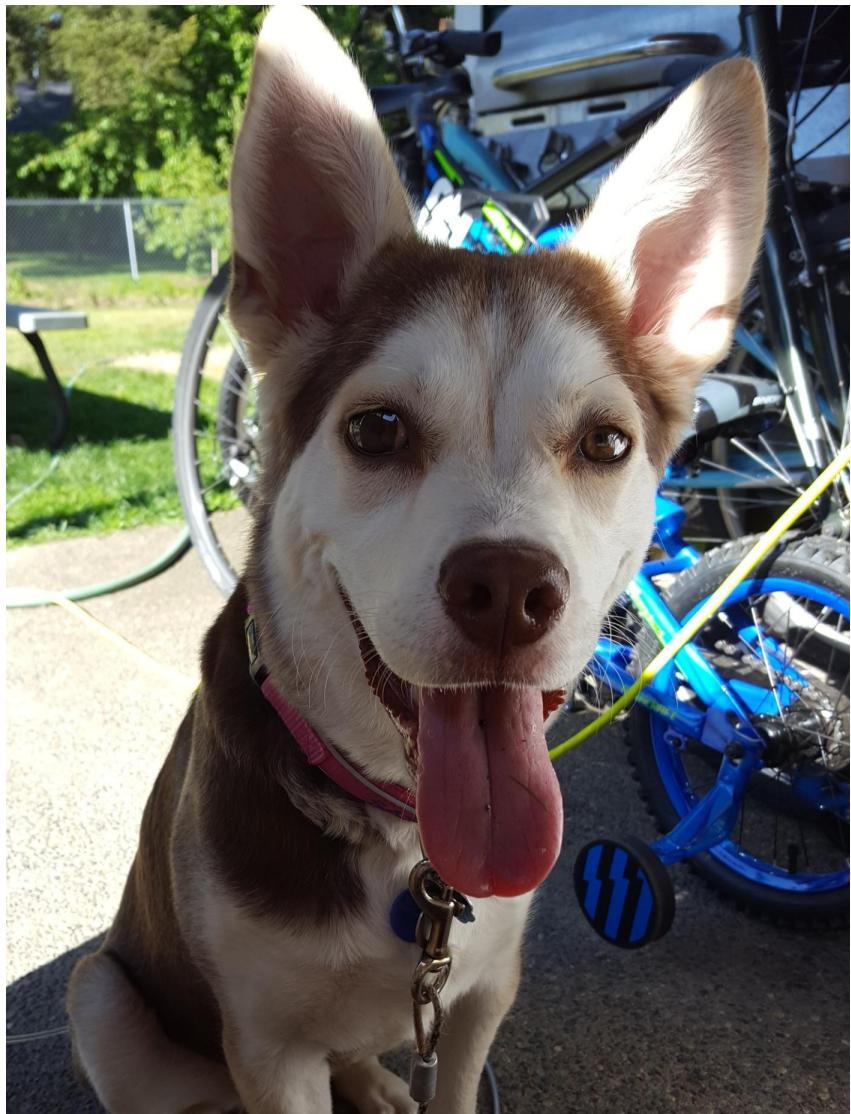
"We understand that dogs are not only lost family members but could be service animals and it is so important that we get them back with their family" Public Works Administrative Assistant Jennifer Beauchamp said. "Every time we are dealing with a lost dog, I think of my own and imagine how panicked I would be if she was missing."

Care and compassion for animals is a priority for the City as we increase our presence in online animal rescue groups to reunite lost family members and to find homes for neglected dogs. Along with the City's partnership with local nonprofit adoption agencies, multiple City employees have taken it upon themselves to provide loving homes for dogs that don't get adopted, including Beauchamp.

**See Sasha, Page 2**

### THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

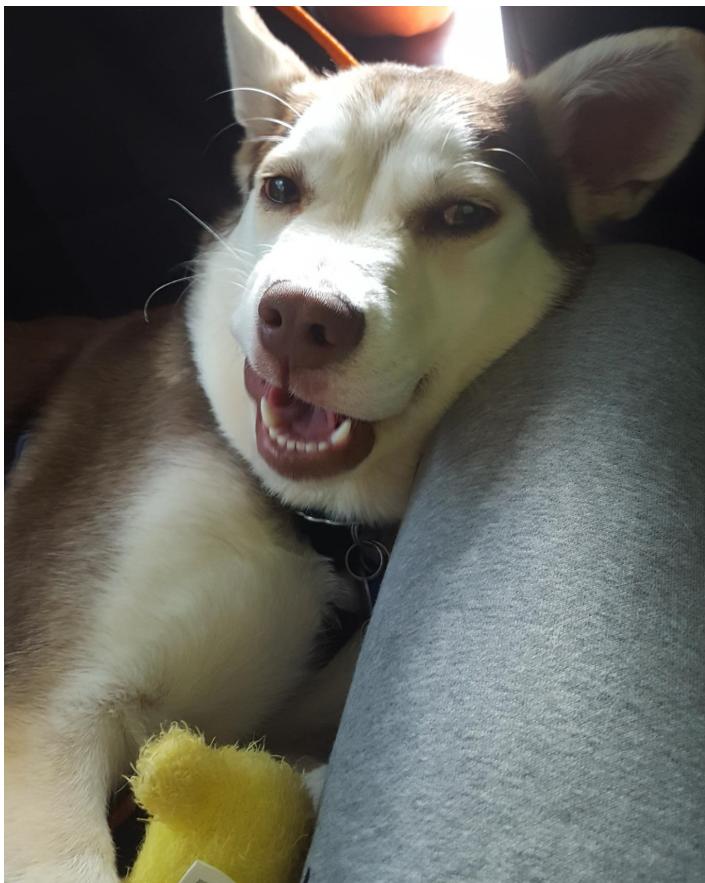
- Prairie Days This Weekend
- Yelm City Park Improvement Update
- Legislature Funds Two Yelm Projects
- Boys & Girls Club Update
- Cochrane Revitalization Underway
- Youth Council Update



*Sasha is one of the many dogs rescued by the City's animal control unit and adopted into the loving family of a staff member.*

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Annual Prairie Days Festival, June 28-30
- Nisqually Valley BBQ Rally, July 6
- Pump Park Demo, July 6
- BMX Competition, July 6



### Sasha:

*Continued From Page 1*

When the on-call Animal Control Officer received a call that a distressed, injured dog was wandering around the Safeway parking lot at midnight in the middle of winter, he was there to provide care. Little did anyone know this dog, a brown and white husky-mix, later named Sasha, would become the latest family member to Beauchamp.

Upon returning to the kennel at the Public Works Shop, Sasha showed visible signs of distress and anxiety. As the employee prepared to move her from the portable kennel to the larger, more comfortable one, Sasha bit the animal control officer for incidentally getting too close to her neck, which was sliced ear to ear by a collar that was put on when she was a puppy and never adjusted as she grew.

"Our employee was my main concern but my heart just broke for this poor dog," Jennifer said.

When a dog — especially without any information — bites an employee, the priority shifts to the well-being of that employee. The Public Works employee was encouraged to visit the doctor while Sasha was considered 'aggressive' and transported to Thurston County Animal Services (TCAS) where she would be evaluated, and tested for rabies and other diseases.

TCAS called back six days later and reported that Sasha was healthy, happy, and most importantly, she was deemed as "nonaggressive," meaning she would be eligible for adoption.

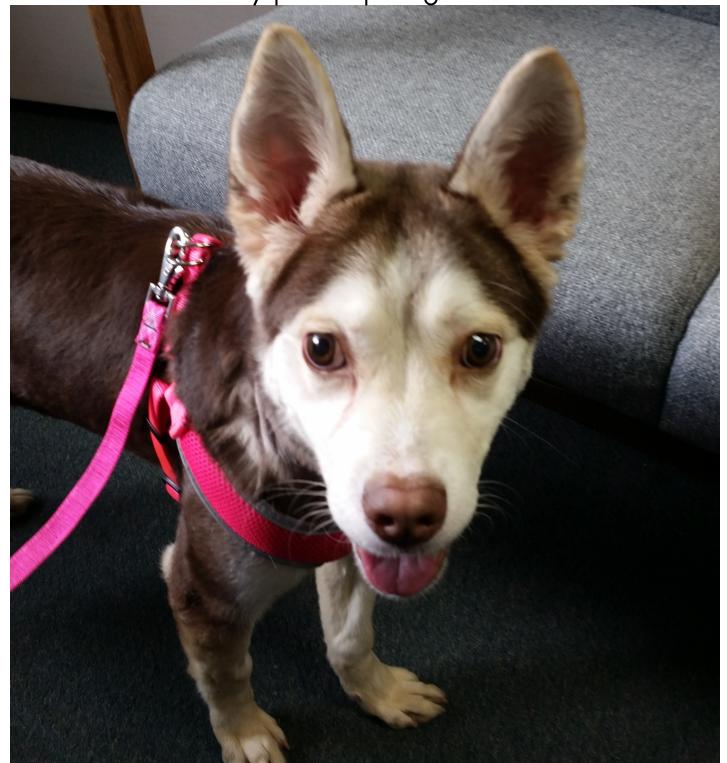
"There was no question in my mind that I was going to adopt her," Jennifer said. "I'm not even a dog person, I've never even had a dog in my adult life but I just knew Sasha was coming home with me." About two weeks after the initial call, Sasha was released to Jennifer under the condition that she would take care of the stitches on her neck and follow-up with the rehabilitation of Sasha's injuries sustained from the collar.

It was found that the collar had not only created a gash around Sasha's neck but also caused her eyes to bulge, creating blindness in her right eye. Despite the blindness in her right eye, Sasha is otherwise a healthy pup that loves to play in the snow and chomp at the water from the garden hose.

Once introduced to the family, the Beauchamp's began involving her in every activity, including hiking, camping, and even kayaking, of which she has her own boat that they tow. Jennifer's 15-year-old son, Tyler has taken special interest in the newest family member, having the dog he always wanted.

"Sasha is everything in a dog that I never knew I needed and Tyler just adores her," Jennifer said. "I couldn't be more grateful that our family was able to give her a second chance."

If you do notice or suspect a lost, neglected or abandoned dog, or if your dog has gone missing, please contact the Public Works department immediately or leave a message on the animal control hotline at 360-458-8438. Please note: Currently, animal control only picks up dogs.



*Sasha smiles at Jennifer Beauchamp on the first day she was able to go to her new and loving home.*

# FROM THE MAYOR: SOME NEW, SOME OLD AT ‘YOUR PARENTS’ PRAIRIE DAYS’



**By Mayor JW Foster**

It's summertime, the livin' is easy and our annual summer event is back and better than ever! We wanted Prairie Days to return to what many in our community remembered — a free, fun, family event. So, a group of like-minded folks got together and reimagined how we could best welcome summer to the prairie.

What we came up with was a mix old and new, but all fun.

Friday night, June 28, we welcome back the street dance! Now, we haven't had one of these for many years, but when we asked "old-timers" what they liked best about the old Prairie Days, the street dance was one of the most often cited events. So, let's dance!

Friday night, June 28, starting at 6 p.m. we'll close off Second Street right in front of the Community Center and a DJ will play music reflecting this year's theme of "Prairie Days Through the Years."

Family friendly, we'll have music all can enjoy, though as the evening progresses it will be less "Raffi" and more Rock n' Roll.

That might get you hungry, so there will be food trucks and a beer and wine garden. So strap on your dance shoes and come join the party! Don't stay up too late though, because you'll want to get up early enough to find a good spot to watch the parade Saturday morning, June 29. Organized by the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce, the parade will start on the newly constructed Tornado Alley by the high school, then proceed up Tahoma Valley Boulevard and turn onto Yelm Avenue at the Medical Center, finally dispersing at the middle school parking lot.

After the parade, come on over to the new and improved Yelm City Park. Your family is going to love it! We finished installing the long-awaited playground equipment improvements and the new splash pad. In the park you'll find many of our community organizations have set up free, fun things to do for kids of all ages.

Remember, we no longer host the carnival at this event because, in part, it had become too expensive for families to enjoy and overshadowed all the cool things we can do as a community for free. Try out the National Guard's climbing wall or enter the pie-baking contest. Want to see some great old military equipment? There will be an impressive display! Tractors too! And then in the afternoon, grab some food from one of the food trucks, claim a section of cool grass and listen to live music on the little stage. Oh, and the Yelm Farmers Market will be going too!

Sunday, June 30, the fun continues with a 5K put on by Yelm Rotary, and in the park we'll cap off the festivities with two very special events — the Olympia Symphony Orchestra will play a free live concert in the community center starting at 3 p.m., which will be followed at 4:30 p.m. by a free performance of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" put on by Goldfinch Productions.

This IS your parents' Prairie Days, and now it can be your family's memories in the making. What a great way to kick off Summer in Yelm! visit Yelm Prairie Days for more information.



# NEW PLAYGROUND TO OPEN LATE-JUNE, SPLASH PAD ANTICIPATED TO OPEN MID-JULY



Construction on the much anticipated City Park play area and splash pad is coming along excellent and on schedule. The play area will be open this weekend and the Splash Pad is expected to be open for use in mid-July, after performance testing, training, and required permitting.

The playground equipment is fully installed and is nearly ready for use now that the wood chips have been placed. There will be temporary fences around the new sod to prevent it from permanent damage. Construction of the Splash Pad is complete but unfortunately, completing the construction and being ready to open to the public are not the same. Our project manager and the Thurston County Department of Health are working collaboratively to get the proper documentation prepared for review at the time the splash pad is completed.

The manufacturer must conduct performance testing and provide training to City staff who will

operate the park. The Splash Pad will use recycled potable water – not reclaimed water – which will need to be chemically balanced and the automatic chemical system will need to run for an extended amount of time to confirm it is operating as designed. This is tentatively scheduled for July 9-11.

Once the park is operational, and the operational plan and construction report are complete, the Department of Health will conduct a pre-operational inspection. The City will continue to work with Thurston County to get the park open as soon as possible.



# LEGISLATURE FUNDS TWO PROJECTS TO ENHANCE ART, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YELM

The Yelm community will see the iconic Water Tower come back to life as a 125-foot-tall art piece that stands over the center of town and — at the same time — the City will start the beginning stages of developing a South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) satellite branch and business incubator space, thanks to grant funding through the Washington State Legislature.

"We are grateful for our legislators who worked with us to find the most appropriate funding source in the final budget adopted by the Legislature," City Administrator Michael Grayum said. "Both of these community projects are important for preserving Yelm's past and building our future."

The State allocated \$200,000 in the 2019-2021 Capital Budget to fund the conceptual building design, architectural renderings, community engagement, and cost estimate for a multi-story, mixed-use community building to serve as a business incubator to serve rural parts of Thurston and Pierce counties.

"This project builds on the collaboration and partnership between the City, Yelm Community Schools, and SPSCC to help young people and adults complete their education and have the necessary tools to be successful in the workplace," City Administrator Michael Grayum said.

The City has made it a priority to improve public infrastructure and create new services for the Yelm community, most notably purchasing an existing building to revitalize Yelm City Hall along with the purchase of an adjacent half-acre of commercial property. Since the purchase, Councilmembers Colt, Stillwell, and Wood have been working with City staff and regional partners to explore developing the property into a dedicated space that provides education, training, and technology to catalyze the startup and expansion of small business enterprises and support underserved populations.

"Ever since we purchased the land, we have been wanting to utilize it in a way that benefits our community," Councilmember Cody Colt said.



"Creating an innovative education service center is a way for us to invest in our citizens in multiple ways — providing a dedicated space for secondary education, technology training, and breaking down barriers local businesses face to continue strengthening our local economy."

The Washington State Capital Budget also appropriated \$300,000 to a separate non-profit organization to restore Yelm's water tower, in addition to the more than \$150,000 the legislature previously dedicated to the project in the previous budget. The decommissioned tower was put on the state Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation in 2017 and is maintained by "Save the Yelm Water Tower," the nonprofit who advocated for and received the state funding. The organization imagines the tower being lit by LED lighting that will have an array of different features and colors to coincide with the holidays and other special events.

"I'm thrilled that "Save the Yelm Water Tower" was able to apply for and receive nearly half-a-million dollars to fund the water tower restoration project," Councilmember EJ Curry said. "It's going to be beautiful when it's done — with those colorful lights and the landscaping we are planning to have. That historic tower will be a community asset forever."



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AND CITY SIGN AGREEMENT TO BRING CLUB TO YELM



The former City Hall building will be the new home to a Yelm branch of the Boys & Girls club of Thurston County. Click on the image for more information or visit [www.bgctc.org/yelm/](http://www.bgctc.org/yelm/)

The Boys & Girls Club of Thurston County (BGCTC) and the City of Yelm signed a memo of understanding last week, officially bringing the sixth branch of the club to Yelm.

"It all started with a comprehensive vision to improve community services. By thinking out of the box and relocating City Hall, we created space for organizations like the Boys & Girls Club to utilize our former building and establish roots in our community," City Administrator Michael Grayum said. "We are so excited to have them come to Yelm and provide essential services for youth and families."

The Club decided to open a branch in Yelm after the invitation from administrators of Yelm Community Schools, the City of Yelm and months of planning and collaboration with community leaders and supporters. The club will host after school programs, led by professionals that are geared toward academic success, living a healthy lifestyle, character building, and good citizenship.



Photo by the Boys & Girls Club of Thurston County

"Our board and staff is excited to answer this call to serve Yelm youth and their families with a new Boys & Girls Club, but this is just the beginning," BGCTC CEO Chris Woods said. "Continued engagement with our community partners and Yelm residents will help us to grow the new Club and serve all youth who want to attend."

The next steps for the club will include determining the readiness of Club operations and the number of youth served, fundraising, making facility adjustments, staffing, and further collaboration with the Yelm community.

"Our priority as we grow is to work with Yelm Community Schools to make sure kids who most need the support and safety of the Club after school have a place to come," added Woods.

Updates on potential dates of operation and registration details will be posted at [bgctc.org](http://bgctc.org) and the BGCTC Facebook page (@BGCTC).



Photo by the Boys & Girls Club of Thurston County

# COCHRANE MEMORIAL PARK REVITALIZATION UNDERWAY



Field Supervisor Tobie Stevens digs a test pit at Cochrane Memorial Park that will guide future design of the park.

The City of Yelm has begun work on an engineering study to improve the aesthetics and functionality of Cochrane Memorial Park, one of Yelm's most popular parks and an iconic public resource.

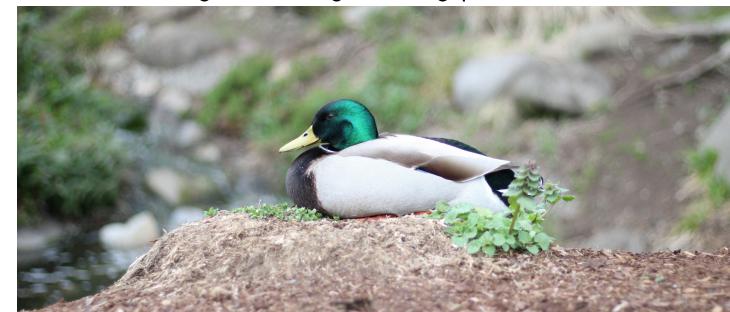
Being that Cochrane Park is one of the most appealing parks in the community, most work to remove overgrown vegetation and other modifications will take place in the winter months, when the park is less active.

The Public Works team recently dug a test pit in one of the rapid infiltration basins, which essentially takes reclaimed water — cleaner than that of California drinking water standards — from the water reclamation facility and infiltrates it back into the aquifer. This test will determine how much water we

can infiltrate back into the aquifer and provide the data that will guide the future design of the park.

Cochrane Park was built in 1999 and was one of the first parks in the state to use clean, reclaimed water to recharge an aquifer. Since that time, the Department of Ecology found procedures to streamline the process to improve functionality and reduce vegetation challenges at similar parks.

The engineering study will include extensive analysis, conceptual exhibits, public outreach, and recommendations for reconstruction. Cochrane Park is one of the most appealing parks in the community and is symbolic of the City's effort to conserve our natural resources. It is a popular destination for the community and the City wants the public to be a part of the re-design and engineering process.



Ducks and other wildlife are prominent at Cochrane Memorial Park. Photo by Peyton Gendran, YHS Grade 12

## MEMORIAL TREE DONATION MAKES LASTING IMPACT ON BECK FAMILY

Ruth Beck, Community Development Director Grant Beck's mother expressed her appreciation to Grant's Yelm family for the memorial tree, donated by City staff, to the memory of her late husband, Chuck.

Ruth stopped by City Hall and attended the Arbor Day celebration to place Chuck's leaf on our beautiful memorial tree as part of the 'Adopt a Tree' program. The experience was so special to her that the certificate, presented along with the tree was featured in Chuck's celebration of life. Grant also stated the kindness and compassion of his co-workers is special and makes Yelm a great place to work.

The 'Adopt a Tree' program honors, memorializes, and celebrates a special person with a tree, planted on City property and cared for by staff. Trees grow in beauty and stature every year, and help provide an attractive environment for future generations.



In addition to a living tree, planted on their behalf, each donor will receive a recognition certificate and a leaf to place on the memorial tree, constructed in 2010 by Public Works employee and metal fabrication artist John Edwards, stemming from the idea of Karen Bennett. The memorial tree also contains the plaque of Yelm's first Memorial Day program held April 24, 1924 by fourth grade teacher Miss Rose Marie Chabert.

# CITY LAUNCHES NEW TOASTMASTERS CLUB



Please join us for Yelm Creative Communicators, a new Toastmasters club at City Hall for employees, community members and local business owners looking to improve their public speaking ability.

We encourage everyone in the community to attend meetings, held noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday at Yelm City Hall. This is a particularly good opportunity for local business owners to improve their own public speaking and leadership, but also offers an opportunity to empower their employees by encouraging personal and career development.

Meetings allow members an opportunity to get comfortable being uncomfortable by standing in front of a small group of their peers and deliver a speech in a friendly and welcoming environment. By getting up in front of the crowd, speakers will become more aware of their strengths, weaknesses, and their use of filler words through supportive peer evaluation.

Through a series of roles, everyone in the room is given a task to help improve the speaker's ability as well as their own listening and critical thinking skills by providing honest and fair feedback.

Along with two prepared speeches, each meeting offers an opportunity for all participants to deliver short impromptu speeches based on a topic chosen by the "table topics master." Table topics help develop the ability to organize thoughts quickly and respond to a question by delivering a cohesive response without awkward pausing or using filler words.

Meetings, in conjunction with Pathways, Toastmasters new online education program, offers 11 specialized learning paths with up to 300 unique competencies, giving club members real-world and transferable skills that will further professional development.

# YOUTH COUNCIL LOOKS TO INCREASE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



*The Youth City Council presented for the first time to the Yelm City Council at last Tuesdays meeting.*

The City of Yelm is a strong supporter of Yelm Community Schools and its thousands of students. Mayor JW Foster, City Administrator Michael Grayum and Superintendent Brian Wharton meet regularly to identify ways to empower the voice of young people and have them play a more active role in local government decision making.

One of those ideas was the creation of a Youth Council, which was officially established through a proclamation of the Mayor and City Council this January. They introduced themselves to Yelm City Council for the first time last Tuesday to share the bi-laws and some of their initial priorities, one of which is to partner with the City to increase community support for Yelm High School this fall.

The dedicated Youth Council members check in with each other every Wednesday and hold policy meetings once a month after school. Their next official meeting is Sept. 4, just before the start of the new school year.

Youth Council members are nominated by teachers and advisors, before being appointed by Mayor Foster. They meet regularly with City Administrator Grayum and Amy Stapleton, a teacher and the Youth Council advisor at Yelm High School. Each Youth Council member must have good grades with no disciplinary records in the community. They are a very in-tune, educated and eager group that is willing to roll up their sleeves and start working with local leaders to empower the voice of youth. We are lucky to have so many diverse students helping make a positive, and lasting impact in our community.

# IN THE NEWS

## CREATING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT AT YELM CITY HALL

By Heidi Smith

Thurston Talk

Anyone listening to Yelm Mayor JW Foster's annual State of the City address may have noticed a trend. Within a 27-minute span, Foster managed to thank over two dozen groups and individuals for the way they support the city and its citizens. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit [www.thurstontalk.com](http://www.thurstontalk.com)**



Lisa Hallet, center, started the 'Run to Remember' after losing her husband, Capt. John Hallet, in action. She's pictured here with City Administrator Michael Grayum and Mayor JW Foster.

## YELM POLICE SERGEANT RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Daniel Warn

Nisqually Valley News

Last Tuesday, June 18, Yelm Police Sgt. Adam Wood retired after 27 and a half years of service. To commemorate the occasion, the city of Yelm threw him a retirement party in the Yelm Community Center that afternoon.

**Click on the picture for the entire article or visit [www.yelmonline.com](http://www.yelmonline.com)**



Yelm Police Sgt. Adam Wood poses with a plaque in celebration of his more than 27 years serving as a police officer. Photo by Daniel Warn/Nisqually Valley News

## PRAIRIE DAYS PARADE THEME TO DRAW FROM ITS ROOTS

By Daniel Warn

Nisqually Valley News

Prairie Days is going back to days gone by, and the parade is no exception. The theme this year reflects a trip back into the event's history.

**Click on the picture for the entire article or visit [www.yelmonline.com](http://www.yelmonline.com)**



Thurston County Sheriff John Snaza tosses candy while Yelm Police Chief Todd Stancil drives the golf cart during the Prairie Days parade last year.

**Photo By Nisqually Valley News**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Yelm Prairie Days

**Yelm City Park, 115 Mosman Ave SE**

**June 28th-30th**

Prairie Days will be revitalized this year with multiple events for the entire family to enjoy. This year's festival has exciting list of activities, beginning with a golf tournament hosted by the Yelm Education Foundation and will continue through the weekend with events, including a street dance Friday night, the annual parade beginning at 9:30 on Saturday, finishing with a 5K to help fund the summer lunch program . **Please click on the image for a full schedule of events or visit [www.yelmprairiedays.com](http://www.yelmprairiedays.com)**



## Nisqually Valley Barbecue Festival

**Yelm City Park, 115 Mossman Ave SE**

**July, 6th 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Get ready for day of family fun! It includes: Pro BBQ Vendors, an Amateur BBQ Competition, Local Businesses, Live Music & a Beer Garden. **Please click on the image on the left for more information or visit [www.bbqrally.com](http://www.bbqrally.com)**



## Pump Park Demo

**Yelm Skate Park, 203 1st St. NE**

**July, 6th 3 to 7 p.m.**

Come get your "pump" on! We will host a pump track demo 3 to 7 p.m. July 6 between the former City Hall building and the Skate Park as part of the eBarbecue Rally and the BMX competition. The pump track demo is open to all ages, so bring your bikes, long boards, rollerblades, or anything else on wheels and come give it a try!



## BMX JAM

**Yelm Skate Park, 203 1st St. NE**

**July, 6th 3 to 7 p.m.**

BMX riders, young and old will take to the Yelm Skatepark for the third annual BMX JAM, hosted by the City of Yelm and Joy Ride Bicycles of Lacey. The BMX Jam is a free, public event. Registration is not required and there will be no entry fee or cash prizes.

If you have items of interest for us to include in future issues of "This Week in Yelm" or other questions or concerns, please contact: Communications Specialist Andrew Kollar by emailing [andrewk@yelmwa.gov](mailto:andrewk@yelmwa.gov) or calling 360-458-8420.