

SEDRO-WOOLLEY CityScene

FALL 2019



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American Legion Post 43 Sedro-Woolley
Holiday Season Events

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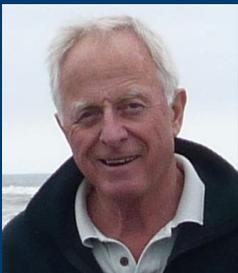
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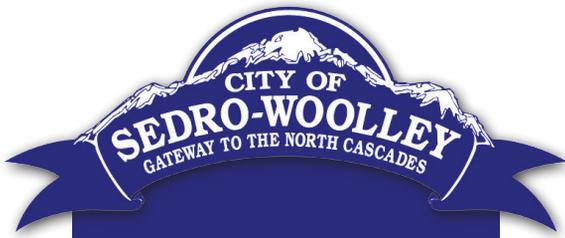
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Memorial Day Celebration 2019
Union Cemetary

PHOTO: JOHN GROUT
AMERICAN LEGION HISTORIAN AND
HONOR GUARD MEMBER



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BY MAYOR
JULIA JOHNSON

IN A GLASS CABINET, HONORABLY DISPLAYED IN OUR HOME, is a plaque with the inscription, “Presented by Company F 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry to Captain Joseph E. Eldridge—April 7th, 1880”.

Captain Eldridge, my husband’s uncle two-times removed, served in the Civil War. He kept a diary in which he described the horrors of that war, as well as his dehumanizing experience in

the Confederate Military Prison Camp, Andersonville. He survived the war and imprisonment, but we have often wondered what life was like for him after he returned home. Other than his diary, we know very little about Captain Joseph E. Eldridge, and unfortunately, that part of his story is untold. Still, we honor his memory and remember him each time we gaze at his plaque.

We should keep the discussion alive about the heroism and sacrifice made by all men and women who answered the call of their Nation and fought for our honor and freedom. Within history books and

in our families there are stories of military bravery and adventure that resonates deep with each generation. Without question, our servicemen and women who entered war or conflict zones left behind family and friends; they deserve to be recognized for their sacrifice—every one of them. On November 11, we remember veterans who have served or are serving, whether in times of peace or war, those who are forever gone but not forgotten, and those who are still with us.

George Washington once penned, “The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of early wars were treated and appreciated by our Nation.” We are blessed to see in our community, outstanding acts of support for our veterans. Individuals such as Robert and Becky Gates, who graciously encouraged and supported the opening of the new Robert M. Gates Skagit Vets Connect facility (page 14), and organizations like American Legion Post 43, which is dedicated to our community in a variety of ways, from helping veterans to awarding school scholarships; these are but a few of many shining examples of the outreach and recognition provided to veterans and their families.

As Veterans Day approaches, I’d like to dedicate this issue of *City Scene* magazine to all who have served: to the American Legion Post 43, to those veterans who have graciously shared their stories with us in the following pages of this magazine, to my husband and family members who served in times of war and peace, to the many members of our community and to the city employees who have served and those still serving (pages 10–11). These are the men and women who have courageously stepped forward when others stepped back, serving our country and protecting our freedoms. As Mayor and with the citizens of this community, with grateful hearts we say, “Thank you for serving.”



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I SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY



BY CHUCK OWEN
Ward Five
Council Member

SEDRO-WOOLLEY HAS BEEN MY HOME for over 60 years and for the past four years I have served on the City Council. I enjoy serving this community, and in my younger days, I enjoyed serving our country in the United States Navy. I joined the Navy when I was 17 years young, a country boy from Georgia, with a heart for service and an appetite for adventure. I enlisted in 1955, and after boot camp, my orders were to go to the USS Shangri-La, which was stationed in the South China Sea. I had never flown, never left the country, and I was one scared kid. The Shangri-La became my home for the next four years, where I was a gunner's mate. I did three tours through the Far East, and hit about every port. I was looking for adventure, and boy did I find it. The exotic places and rich cultures I experienced filled my eyes and heart with wonder. There was good camaraderie on the ship, and a healthy bit of competition.



Being together with the same guys day and night, you'll either make great friends or bad enemies. Luckily, I did not make one enemy, and I did make deep friendships. There was a bond formed between me and five other sailors that has lasted a lifetime. We became family to each other during our time aboard the ship, and neither time nor distance can break the bonds of those friendships. We have kept in touch throughout all these years. I actually met my wife, here in Sedro-Woolley, at the wedding of one of my Navy friends, and that is what brought me to this part of the country. I am so thankful for my time in the Navy. I experienced things I never would have experienced, saw things I never would have seen, met people I never would have met, and visited places I never would have been.

I want to honor those who have served, who are serving now, and encourage men and women today to enlist in the military and experience adventures while serving this great country, just as I did. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to reminisce and share a bit of my Navy days.

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Proposition 1

It's All About Safety

ABOUT A YEAR AGO when police department staffing was reviewed, it became clear that the department does not have the resources necessary to meet the current needs of the growing city. Sedro-Woolley has grown significantly since the last increases in staffing were made, and it has nearly doubled in population since 1990. The bottom up review found that too often, the department is reacting to problems rather than preventing them, because of limited resources. In addition, it was discovered that the city is spending money on overtime to cover basic needs and that more officers were needed.

After a deliberate process with input from elected officials, city supervisor, Chief Tucker, and many community members it became apparent that to increase public safety, additional resources beyond what is in the city budget, are needed. That's why on this November's ballot, the City of Sedro-Woolley will ask voters to consider increasing the property tax levy lid to fund public safety officers and services.

Proposition 1 asks the voters to increase the property tax levy lid by \$0.56 per \$1,000 assessed value—this means the owner of a \$300,000 house will pay an additional \$14 a month, or \$168 per year. Proposition 1 will raise an estimated total amount of \$557,706.33, which can only be used for increasing public safety services. Senior citizens, veterans and disabled low-income residents may qualify for an exemption from the property tax increase.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

As part of the city's review, school safety was identified as a top priority. To better protect students, Proposition 1 would allow the city to partner with the school district to help pay for a public safety position to serve at Sedro-Woolley High School and Cascade Middle School. This officer would be a full-time position who would develop relationships with students and staff at the schools.

THREE ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

The addition of three new police officers would significantly increase police protection. Currently, police response times have been lagging because of staffing shortages, and officers have had to work overtime to cover basic needs. Three additional officers will provide better services to residents, while saving money from the increased cost of overtime.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Support services are essential to the daily operation of the police department. The records department processes and maintains the footage taken from police body cameras, and makes it available to prosecutors and defense attorneys, as well as to police management to use real-life examples for officer reviews and training. With three new officers, support services are also needed to make the department function efficiently.

For more information, visit www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us.

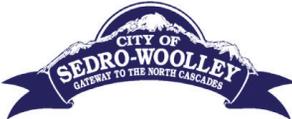
IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY!

PROPOSITION 1



THESE RESOURCES WILL BE USED TO:

- ✓ Hire 3 additional police officers
- ✓ Fund a share of a School District Resource Officer
- ✓ Expand a public safety support service position



What's Going On at City Hall?

Listed below are locations of posted meetings, notices of public hearings and passed ordinances.

- **City Hall bulletin board**
325 Metcalf Street
- **Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Public Library**
802 Ball Street
- **City website:**
www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us
- All notices of public hearings and passed ordinances are posted in the *Skagit Valley Herald*.
 - City Council agendas, meeting minutes and videos of regularly-scheduled meetings are posted on the city website.
 - Planning Commission agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the city website.

If you have any questions regarding meeting times, places, agendas or ADA access, please call City Hall at (360) 855-1661 for assistance.

CITY HALL MEETINGS

City Council, Planning Commission, Library Board and Housing Authority Board meetings are generally held at the times and days noted below:

City Council regular meetings:
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month 7:00pm, City Council Chambers, 325 Metcalf Street

City Council study sessions:
1st Wednesday of each month 7:00pm, Public Safety Training Room, 325 Metcalf Street

Planning Commission meetings:
3rd Tuesday of each month 6:30pm, City Council Chambers, 325 Metcalf Street

Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority Board meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of even months except October at 10:45am, Hillsview 830 Township Street

Meeting times and places occasionally change, so it is advisable to contact City Hall 24 hours prior to a scheduled meeting to confirm the location, date and time.

MEET YOUR EMPLOYEES



Michelle Grace Permit Technician

IT'S BEEN A LITTLE OVER FIVE MONTHS since I was hired with the City of Sedro-Woolley as Permit Technician for the Building and Planning Department and I couldn't be happier! I have 30 years of experience working as a Permit Technician and since 1995 I've carried the status of Certified Permit Technician through the International Code Council. I have always

enjoyed learning, and in the building world every day and every project presents an opportunity to learn something new. Being able to work with the public from the beginning of their project and watching it evolve to final construction is rewarding. I think this is an exciting time for Sedro-Woolley and I enjoy being part of a team that welcomes new development and helps bring projects to successful completion.

I grew up in Anacortes, Wash., although I have many family ties in Sedro-Woolley and fond memories here. My son Kameron and I moved to Sedro-Woolley five years ago and we are happy to call this our hometown. My grandparents were original stock holders in Skagit Speedway, which made me an avid race car fan; I enjoy camping, sitting by the fire, fishing, going to concerts (country music), traveling and spending time with friends and family.



Katherine Weir
Assistant Planner

I AM A RECENT GRADUATE from the Western Washington University Urban Planning program and am very excited to already be working in the field I studied. I grew up in Snoqualmie, Wash., and

have a love for cities and how they work, which makes being the new assistant planner in Sedro-Woolley—a city very similar to my hometown—an ideal position. I started as an intern in May and have been happily settling into my full-time position since August. It has been such a joy to get to know the other staff members and to be a part of the building and planning department.

When I'm not working, I enjoy being outdoors skiing or hiking with my friends and my dog. I also love to travel and explore new cities to understand how they work and how daily life flows in different environments.

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TOURISM GROWS OUR COMMUNITY



BY POLA KELLEY
Executive Director,
Sedro-Woolley
Chamber of Commerce

TOURISM BENEFITS SMALL TOWNS by supporting locally-owned businesses. A successful business district results in increased revenues, which in turn support city services and projects such as sidewalks, trails and parks. Tourism also creates jobs. In 2016 US tourism-related employment increased to 7.6 million jobs. The most recent data indicates that for every 100 direct tourism jobs, 43 additional indirect jobs are needed to support tourism trades. Rural tourism can also be the cornerstone for preserving

local traditions and supporting artisans, farming and culinary practices. All across the country new scenic byways are being designated directing people out of big cities and into rural areas. The mission of The Cascade Loop Association is to provide a world-class road trip for our visitors while delivering value to our members. We can only do this however by working together closely with the communities our byway passes through. Communities such as Sedro-Woolley are where guests truly get to know our corner of the world, give it personality, and give guests a reason to come back and visit again. We know that tourism isn't EVERYTHING

to our byway communities but it's an industry that plays a critical role in balancing each region's economic health portfolio and we are truly proud to help fill that role!

—Annette Pitts, Executive Director, Cascade Loop Association
Bob Dylan's song "The Times They Are A-Changin'" rings true in Sedro-Woolley. Our downtown district is as vibrant as ever. The times have never been better for adding tourism to our small town's economic strategy. Large numbers of travelers have lost interest in chain restaurants, lodging and attractions and instead seek out locally grown and prepared foods and small town rural experiences. This has led to new trends—such as Authentic and Historic Tourism, and Agri-tourism (think Eagle Haven Winery, Hoehn Bend Farm and Willowbrook Manor).

The city, Chamber and Downtown Association have spent considerable time and resources focusing on the downtown core, while at the same time, encouraging growth on our byways, making Sedro-Woolley inviting to all. BYK Construction has renovated the old grocery store into Pioneer Marketplace and along with the new library, a welcoming west entrance is now emerging.

There are new eating and drinking establishments like the Iron Mountain Bar and Grill, Magnolia Grill, El Antojitos and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Primal Coffee located in a refurbished 1940s era Quonset hut with a beautiful shared outdoor area with Local 20 Taproom. The Woolley Market serve yourself tap wall was featured on King5's Evening Magazine. And the shopping experiences are also here. Shelley's Shack offers a beautiful display of unique women's clothing, Bunnies by the Bay outfits for your wee ones, and more recently, a soup and sandwich spot by Sammie Jo to grab a bite. Quilting Foxes is a quilters dream and Bottorffs offers stylish fashion, home décor and gifts; some will get you snickering, but others make you ooh and aah.

Encourage folks to come and see why Sedro-Woolley claims to be the most unique and authentic place around.

CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

Doug Merriman, Finance Director

- US Army
- MOS/job: Paratrooper, Airborne infantry specialized in arctic warfare
- Units served in: 82nd Airborne Division Ft Bragg, NC and 172nd Arctic Brigade, Ft Richardson, AK
- Rank: Specialist
- 1976-1979

Lin Tucker, Police Chief

- US Navy Stationed at NAS Whidbey Island
- AT2(SW) Tucker (E5 Avionics Tech 2nd Class) on board the USS Ranger, 1989
- 7 years AT2 (SW) Avionics Tech E5 Surface Warfare Specialist
- 1985-1992

Dean Klingler, Fire Chief

- US Army and Washington Army National Guard
- Retired as First Sergeant for Charlie Company 898 Engineers
- 23 years

David Lee, City Engineer

- US Navy
- Electrician's Mate, Nuclear Power Plant Qualified
- Served on the USS Truxtun, CGN 35

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Officer Jed Cates, SWPD

- U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Corporal, 2000–2006, Company C 4th Tanks 4th Marine Division Boise ID
- U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Petty Officer 2nd Class, 2013 to current, 2013–2018 Sector Boarding Team Seattle, Port Security Unit 313 Everett, 2019

Detective James Hannawalt, SWPD

- US Navy – Six years on the USS Los Angeles and USS Bremerton (fast attack submarines)
- Honorably discharged as Sonar Technician Submarine 3rd Class Petty Officer
- 1984–1990

Officer Kerig Holmberg, SWPD

- US Navy / US Navy Reserve, Petty Officer 3rd Class, Aviation Mechanic Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron, VAQ-309, NAS Whidbey
- 1988–1996

Records Sergeant Tamara Blunt, SWPD

- US Marine Corps

Officer Dave Pierce, SWPD

- US Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve

Officer Daniel Eddy, SWPD

- US Army Reserve
- Rank: Colonel, 1989 to present

Officer Bryan Hull, SWPD

- US Air Force and now Air Force Reserve

Officer Derick Lowe, SWPD

- US Marine Corps

Senator Keith Wagoner, 39th Legislative District – Former Sedro-Woolley Mayor

- Commander, US Navy 1984–2007



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UNITED FITNESS CENTER Helps Veterans Stay Healthy

BY MARJORIE BELL, COMMUNICATIONS | GRANT WRITER
COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS | UNITED GENERAL DISTRICT 304

DRIVING ALONG SR 20 FROM SEDRO-WOOLLEY TO BURLINGTON, you pass United Fitness Center on the Sedro-Woolley hospital campus. You may not know that United Fitness Center is a program of United General District 304 which focuses on wellness and health promotion programs, including those offered by the Fitness Center. The Fitness Center has been helping community members improve their health and fitness for over two decades. We offer a variety of services tailored to individual needs. Approximately 800 Skagit County residents are currently enrolled as members and participate in activities including group fitness classes, yoga, open gym, and Trek for Treasure.

United Fitness Center currently has more than 60 veterans from all

branches of the armed services participating in its programs. For this publication we would like to feature two of our member veterans.

NANCY BROWNLEE

Nancy Brownlee served in the Air Force. She was raised on a small farm in Lyman. Joining the military allowed her to spread her wings and see the world. Nancy loves the Fitness Center for helping her maintain strength and flexibility. She has seen what can happen to people who have sedentary lifestyles and struggle with activities of daily living as they age. Nancy wants to stay fit and independent as long as possible, and we are glad to help her reach that goal.

RALPH JACKSON

United Fitness Center also honors our oldest veteran member. Ralph Jackson is an Army veteran who recently celebrated his 95th birthday. He served in World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Ralph has been exercising at United Fitness Center for eight years! According to Ralph, the Fitness Center helps him stay in tip-top shape. While he has worn out shoes and pants on the treadmill and rowing machine, it's a trade-off he's willing to make. Ralph enjoys the great camaraderie he finds in his fitness classes and learns a few new jokes. His motivation to continue exercising in his 90's is: "Keeping firm biceps and looking good. The increased mobility keeps me on my feet and moving." We are thankful



Nancy Brownlee

that he chooses to be a member of United Fitness Center.

We asked Fitness Center members who are veterans to provide their name and branch of service, so we could honor them for this publication. The following members volunteered their information:

Paul Mitchell (USMC), Ralph Jackson (USA), Doug Salyer (USMC), Marcia Turner, Nancy Brownlee (USAF), Ron White (USN/USA), Peter Kelly (USA), Don Ambrose (USN), Mike Middleton (USN), Gilby Fonner (USMC), Stephen Roseberry (USAF), Keith Fisher (USA), Harold Comstock (USA), Richard Bosch (USN), Ray Pearson (USAF), Don Bingham (USA), Steven Kettel (USN), William Handy Sr. (USAF), Michael Perry (USN), Louis Barrett (USN), Richard Lindsay (USA), Lawrence Perkins (USN), Dale Thompson (USN), and Larry Huston (USA).

We thank them for their service and admire their commitment and determination to improve their health and well-being.

For more information about United Fitness Center, visit our website: <https://fitness.unitedgeneral.org/> or contact us at 360-854-0247 or fitness@unitedgeneral.org.



Ralph Jackson

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Community Action of Skagit County – Serving Those Who Have Served Us

BY JOAN PENNEY, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT | COMMUNITY ACTION OF SKAGIT COUNTY

Community Action of Skagit County is a 501(c)3 non-profit that has been serving veterans in Skagit County since 1992. Today in a new location at 160 Cascade Place in Burlington, the Robert M. Gates Skagit Vets Connect, which opened in May of 2019, is welcoming veterans to their own services center, separate from the rest of the agency that continues to operate in Mount Vernon. Vernon Hunter (retired Navy officer of 35 years) oversees the

operations of the new location and loves to see the growing numbers of veterans coming through the front doors for assistance. In the first full month of operation, they assisted 138 veterans with their benefits and in some cases helped them with housing. In July, the numbers jumped to 180. “The work we do with veterans is very rewarding and this new space means the world to them and to our staff. It is a professional and welcoming space and we have a great services team to help people out.”

Hunter has worked with Community Action for five years and is deeply inspired by the support from donors and community members who want to help those who have served their country. In order to provide comprehensive services, Skagit Vets Connect is operated by two Community Action staff, and provides work space for two community partners, as well as a number of volunteers who welcome veterans as they come through the door.

Of particular inspiration to all the veterans support staff are Robert and



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Color-Guard from Burlington Edison High School C/LCDR Kayla Bagyan, C/LTJG Cheyanne Potter, C/LT Brittney Ayala, and C/LTJG McKenzie Nielsen-Barritt with Robert Gates, former US Secretary of Defense



Samantha Zimmerman



Stephen Castleton

Becky Gates who outfitted the new facility with furniture, computers and the décor to help make veterans feel comfortable in the new space. Robert Gates not only served his country in the military but was the Secretary of Defense under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. His dedication and commitment to Skagit Vets Connect is well defined in an endorsement letter that Community Action received from him in 2018. “Now that these veterans have returned home,

we all have a responsibility to ensure they are cared about and cared for. And that is why I believe the “Vets Connect Center” is so important here in Skagit County—a place where our veterans learn about and gain access to the benefits they have earned and community provided services they need, such as housing, food, clothing and counseling. This one percent of the American people protected and defended us. Now it is our turn—our obligation—to take care of them.”

Skagit Vets Connect is open from 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. After hour appointments can also be made by calling 360-416-7585, extension 1197.

If you want to learn more about what you can do to help veterans in your community you can contact the Community Action Volunteer Center at 360-588-5731 or www.SkagitVolunteerCenter.org.

The operation of the center is run by donations to Community Action of Skagit County at www.communityactionskagit.org.



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PORT OF THE YEAR





A STORY OF VALOR

BY C. HUGH JOHNSON, MAJ. AVN. U.S. ARMY RETIRED



WHAT MOTIVATES OUR FIGHTING MEN AND WOMEN to risk their lives for actions that medals are awarded for? Who or what do they fight for?

This is the TRUE story of the ending of the movie “Full Metal Jacket”. For the few of you who haven’t seen the movie, it is about a Marine Company that trained together and served in Vietnam in the early part of 1968. These new

Marines were assigned to 3rd MAF, Da Nang, South Vietnam.

About three miles south of the Marine HQ, was the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, The Alley Cats. This was a “Gun Helicopter” unit assigned as close fire support to the US Marines of 3rd MAF. I know this because I was there.

In late 1967 and early 1968, the North Vietnamese was conducting a major build-up throughout the south. The plan that they executed on February 15, 1968 was to attack all American facilities and communication at the same time on the holiday called “Tet”. To this day, it is known as the Big Tet Offensive.

My assignment was CWO, US Army, Aircraft Commander, “Alley Cat 2”. The night of the 15th we experienced fighting all night while we defended the Naval Hospital and our own base. The communications were all knocked out, so we were slow in learning that the city of Hue Citadel, the ancient capital of Asia, had been overrun.

On February 17 our orders were to go out and see if we could find units that needed our “Gunship” help. My Crew Chief Bill Reid, had our aircraft armed and fueled and away we went to the area of Hue. The radio came alive with a frantic call for help. A Marine unit was clearing the west wall of the city and had come under fire. Three Marines lay wounded just 100 meters away. The fire was so intense that there was no way to get to the wounded men. The enemy could not fire directly onto the wounded men, so they were trying indirect mortar fire. It was just a matter of time.

The radio operator was crying for help. “You got to do something or they will kill them!” It was an extremely



difficult shot for us. We would have to put our aircraft directly into enemy fire and I would be forced to fire rockets within three feet of our own troops.

I was concerned that if I attempted this rescue I would be risking the lives of my crew. I talked to my men, and we all agreed, we couldn't just fly away leaving those men to die. Those same Marines would and had, put their lives at risk to rescue us when we were shot down.

“... Due to Warrant Officer Johnson’s courage and flying skill, the three wounded Marines were evacuated to safety. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.”

After a prayer, we went in, firing everything we had. We took a lot of hits, the windshield was blown away, but the crew escaped injury. With God’s help we knocked out the enemy guns and those three Marines were evacuated safely to the Navy Hospital. Yes, I know that was a different ending than the movie, but that was how it actually happened.

Bill Reid and I received the Award of Distinguished Flying Cross “... Due to Warrant Officer Johnson’s courage and flying skill, the three wounded Marines were evacuated to safety. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.”

Why did I risk my life? Who were we fighting for? The answer is, each other. I am alive today because others fought for me and I in return fought for them. Thank you Brothers.



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Jon is a Vietnam Veteran. Jon has PTSD.

BY PATRICK HAYDEN

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD) was once known as “shell shock”. When I was in school, several teachers were World War II veterans. My grade school principal was a 20-year old POW captured in the Battle of the Bulge. My high school principal was in the 101st Airborne. They were very good men who served their country with distinction. But both, now deceased, could be diagnosed with PTSD today.

PTSD is a recognized emotional or mental disorder which persists after a traumatic event, such as warfare, sexual

assault, serious injury, concentration camp experiences, and other similar traumatic events. Symptoms include disturbing thoughts, feelings, or dreams, mental or physical distress, inability to deal with conflict and stress, alterations in how a person thinks and feels, panic attacks, and a need to control one’s environment. PTSD can be related to alcoholism, drug abuse, and social isolation. It is not imaginary, but very real.

“PTSD is a recognized emotional or mental disorder which persists after a traumatic event, such as warfare, sexual assault, serious injury, concentration camp experiences, and other similar traumatic events.”

Jon was born into a family of six children. He grew up on a small farm on Cook Road. When his little brother drowned, Jon’s father blamed him for the accident, and Jon probably blamed himself. His relationship with his father disintegrated, and Jon moved out into the barn. He lived apart, worked for a

local farmer, and graduated from high school “by sheer force of will”.

Jon received his draft notice in 1965. After training he was posted to a Combat Engineering Detachment in a small city on the South China Sea. His job was to build facilities for additional troops at what was to be an American air base in Vietnam. Jon is reluctant to talk about his time in Vietnam. He minimizes his experiences. “The big battles of the war came later.” But for 18 months Jon worked under fire with 28 other men, and “most came back”. He would not talk about the ones who did not. The local people did business by day, but shot at US troops by night.

His detachment was subject to ambush and sniper fire. He was supported by Korean infantry. The ROK soldiers were disciplined, tough, and brutal. They retaliated completely, without mercy, and did not discriminate between combatants and civilians. Jon would not discuss the details, but he participated in combat. He described one incident when he was fired upon while operating construction equipment. He survived, returned fire, and those who fired at him did not survive. But he never told me that he took another life—he just became quiet. After his tour in Vietnam he never returned, and was honorably discharged.

Jon saw the Vietnam War as a government supported business venture, in which private companies made money and US soldiers fought and died only for their fellow soldiers. There was no larger purpose to this war, except to take care of the men under him and get home. Even the construction equipment he used was leased from US companies.

When he left the service in 1988, Jon had nothing at home. No one said a word to him about Vietnam for 30 years. He came back to a country torn by racial tension.

He knew no one who shared his experiences. Some former soldiers used drugs, drank, and committed suicide. His country tried its best to forget the war. Jon asks why he is alive, has a full life, a career, a wife whom he loves, and other men on both sides died young?

After his discharge, Jon married and fished in Alaska. He returned and found his wife had a new lover. Later, Jon had a successful career with a local construction company, and remarried. He is financially secure. He and his wife travel, and he enjoys retirement. But he has persistent personal problems—alcohol, depression, and a feeling of isolation. His wife pushed him to see a doctor, and Jon was diagnosed with PTSD. The death of his brother probably played a role, as well as the war. He needs to talk about that with someone, too.

“Jon is complex, and is not defined by PTSD.”

The war shaped Jon in good ways as well—he learned to respect personal sacrifice, and has disdain for those who seek only their own self-interest and personal safety. He is kind, friendly, completely honest about his faults, steps up, and is reliable. He is proud of the Veteran’s Park he is building. Sometimes he is angry, but not often. You would want him as a friend if you were in trouble. Jon is complex, and is not defined by PTSD.

Jon was one of 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam. He played a small part in the Vietnam War, in which over 50,000 US troops would eventually perish. Jon was not one of them. Why he survived, and others did not, is still an unanswered question in his mind. Experts suggest that over a quarter million Vietnam veterans have PTSD. Jon knows he is not alone.



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American Legion Post 43 – Sedro-Woolley

BY RON BROWN, U.S. NAVY PO3

The American Legion is the nation's largest organization of U.S. wartime veterans and their families. There are two million members who support their communities in more than 13,000 posts across the United States and beyond. This year marks the 100th anniversary of its inception. The Legion is based on four pillars—Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children and Youth.

The George Baldrige American Legion Post 43 Sedro-Woolley, was chartered in 1921 and named after the first local resident to fall in battle during WWI. George Baldrige was born in Hamilton, the son of John and Ellen Baldrige. Legion members have been meeting at the current location on Murdock Street since 1931.

Today the Sedro-Woolley Post continues its support of veterans, their families and the community in a variety of ways. The Legion hosts Friday night dinners, live music on weekends, Monday night karaoke and breakfast every 3rd Sunday, open to the public. The Legion supports Boy Scout Troop 4070 and award high school scholarships; every Friday morning volunteers provide assistance and guidance to all vets, members and non-members alike; and place U.S. flags on veteran's grave sites every Memorial Day in

three local cemeteries, Union, Lyman, and Hamilton. Post 43 offers a U.S. flag disposal box for unusable flags and the organization donates to Meals on Wheels ... the list goes on.



Ron Brown 50 years ago



Vietnam Picnic August 3, 2019

I've lived in Sedro-Woolley for 42 years, working and raising a family in this great community. My grandfather served in WWI and my father in WWII so signing on with the military was inevitable for me. At age 17 I joined the U.S. Navy and served for five years, which included two tours, '67 and '68 to '69, in Vietnam aboard two naval destroyers.

Thirty years ago I joined the American Legion, and for the past five years served as the Senior Honor Guard Officer at George Baldrige American Legion Post 43. After retiring in 2007, I answered the call to serve in the Honor Guard, as members were desperately needed to continue military honors for deceased veterans, the one thing our veterans and their families deserve without question. The Honor/Color Guard's main duty is to perform and provide military honors at funerals and memorials for veterans and their families within Skagit, Island and Whatcom counties. We also organize the annual Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day parade, growing with each year since its inception four years ago, lead the 4th of July parade, and perform at other community events and ceremonies.

“The Honor/Color Guard’s main duty is to perform and provide military honors at funerals and memorials for veterans and their families ...”

There was one special occasion when the Guard was asked to perform, a memory that will remain with me always. Two years ago, Sedro-Woolley resident and Post 43 member, Ande Mitchell, approached me and asked for a special favor. He explained that August 27, 2017 would mark the 50th anniversary of the death of his wife Lucy's brother. Twenty-year old Dennis Wayne Cole, a Sedro-Woolley graduate, was killed in Vietnam having only served one month and two days. The anniversary of his death was especially hard for Lucy. I talked with members of the Honor Guard and agreed to hold a Military Honors ceremony in Dennis Wayne Cole's name. So on the morning of August 27, Ande drove Lucy to Union Cemetery and to her great surprise, the Honor Guard was waiting. A poem, rifle tribute, playing of taps and a few tears rounded out the ceremony for Dennis Wayne Cole.

All of the extraordinary acts of service for our veterans and community, could not happen without the Honor Guard, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Legion Riders from Sedro-Woolley's American Legion Post 43.

The people we serve are our neighbors, brothers, sisters and friends, let's not forget them.

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Remembering our VETERANS

BY LOUIS H. REQUA



I wish to thank the City of Sedro-Woolley for this opportunity to express my views about being a veteran and how important it is that all Americans observe Veterans Day as a day to commemorate veterans past, present and future.

Veterans Day should be celebrated on the same level as the 4th of July, Christmas or any other significant holiday. The opportunity to live our lives as Americans in the manner we are so privileged to live is attributed in large part to the service and sacrifice of veterans of this great country.

I am proud to say that I am a Vietnam era vet and served three years in the US Army from 1967–1970. My last tour of duty was from mid-December 1968 to mid-December 1969. I was assigned to the 66th Engineers, Topographic Mapping Company; conducting high order surveying of the southern portion of Vietnam (Mekong Delta area), updating and correcting the earlier French mapping that was neither accurate

nor reliable. I was an enlisted soldier, obtaining the rank of Specialist Fifth Class (E-5). For a short period I was also a Buck Sgt. The Vietnam War was an unpopular war and many Americans protested against it and discredited those who were thrust into the conflict serving as US soldiers. It's now almost 50 years since I returned home from Vietnam, and for most of those 50 years I never disclosed that I was even in the military, let alone in Vietnam. It wasn't until about 15 years ago that Vietnam Vets

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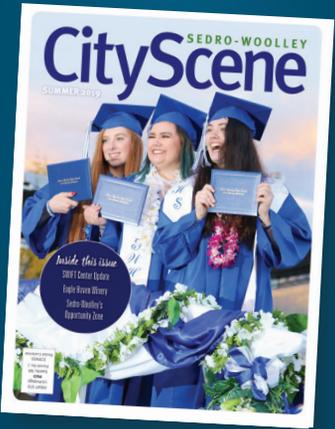
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were finally and deservedly recognized. A large part of this is a result of efforts made by a Vietnam Vets organization called Vietnam Veterans of America. The local chapter in this area is 1109, also known as VVA Chapter 1109 of which I am now a life member. The VVA motto is, "Never again will a generation of veterans abandon another". Not only did our own country fail to support Vietnam veterans, the veterans themselves didn't support one another. It was a time that many wished to forget.

As Americans we must understand the need for a strong military, today and in the future. It is also important that we respectfully recognize the men and women who are serving now as well as those who have served and sacrificed over the years in every conflict that this nation has participated in. Veterans Day is the day to officially recognize all veterans and active military, and their service should be ever present in the hearts and minds of all Americans 24/7, 365 days a year.



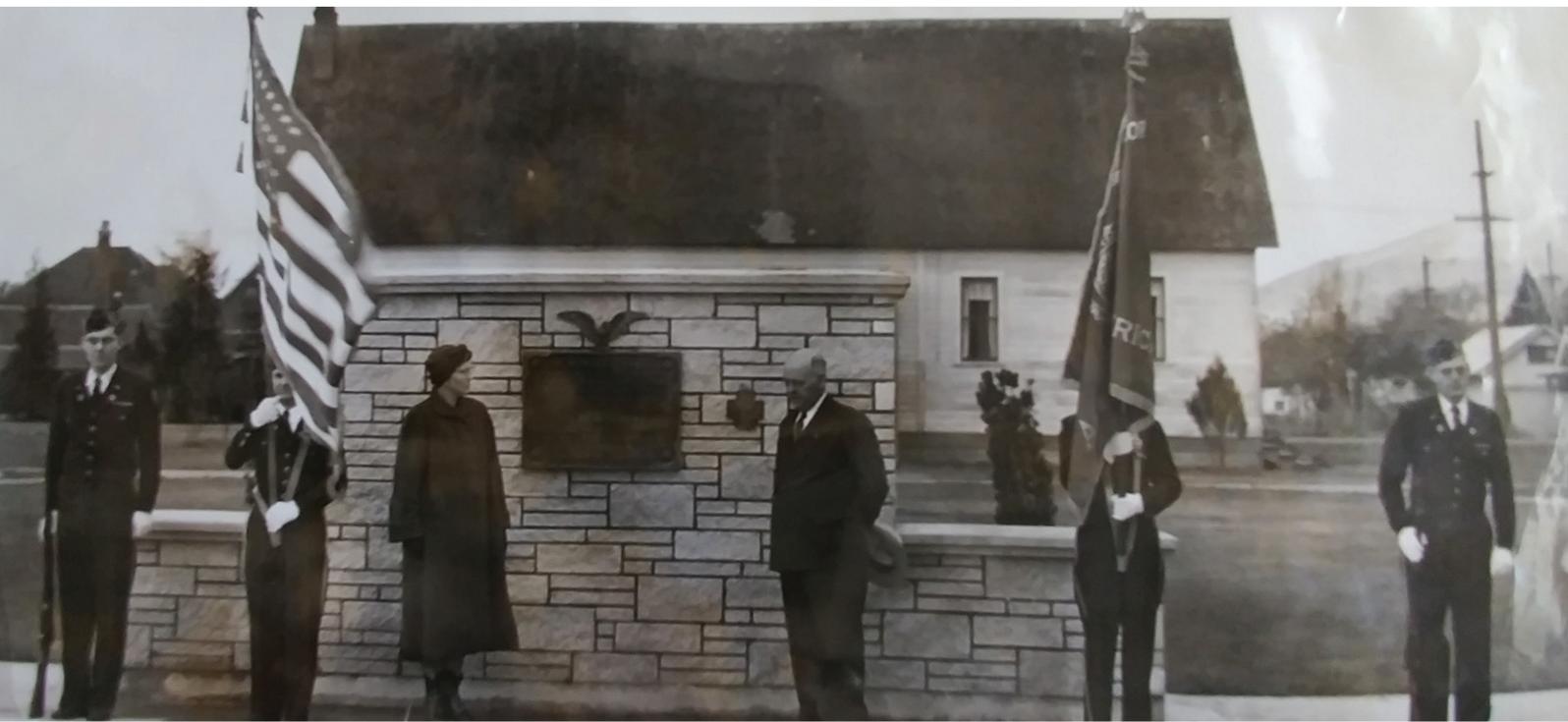
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MEMORIAL PARK

BY SHARON HOWE, RESEARCH LIBRARIAN, SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM

UNLIKE MANY TOWN PARKS THROUGHOUT THE NATION, Sedro-Woolley's had no featured monument memorializing area men and women who had given their lives in the nation's wars. That changed in 1955, when a group of Sedro-Woolley citizens transformed what was known as State Street Children's Playfield into Memorial Park.

During the early 1940s, the Kiwanis and Lions clubs led a community effort to create a playfield on a site the city had purchased from the Catholic Church. This new park featured a playground and wading pool. A 1955 ceremony dedicated the Children's Playfield "In loving memory to the veterans of this community who gave their lives that our country might have freedom."

With some distance from World War II and the need to reach out to returning Korean War veterans, the American Legion expanded its efforts to include those who had served in the smaller, often forgotten wars, including the Spanish-American War, as well as the Korean conflict.

In 1954, Legion Post 43, the Kiwanis Club, and Friends of the Community, led

by the Sedro-Woolley Garden Club, joined forces to build a memorial at State Street Park to all of the city's citizens who had died in United States wars. The Friends had the bronze memorial plaque made. The Kiwanis Club, with help from the Legion and other community organizations, constructed a stone monument on which to mount the plaque.

On a chilly Veteran's Day in 1955, with snow on the ground, the community dedicated its first memorial honoring those who gave their lives in all of the nation's wars. Joe Fisher, American Legion commander, served as welcoming officer, Mrs. Otto (Hazel) Greenstreet, former Garden Club president, presented the



Edith Lindlow presents the small plaque to her right that memorializes Spanish-American War veterans.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF GEORGE BALDRIDGE AMERICAN LEGION POST 43

Left: Hazel Greenstreet of the Garden Club presents the Memorial Park plaque in memory of veterans of all wars to Mayor P.A. Stendal. The American Legion Color Guard includes Joe Hamel, Fred Vochatzer, Glen Allen and Allen Latting. The Girl Scout Hall behind the monument had been a church building that was moved to the park from Ferry Street.

memorial plaque to the city, and Mayor P.A. Stendal accepted on behalf of the city and dedicated the monument.

In the most moving part of the ceremony, Gold Star Mother Mrs. Bert Marchant, laid a wreath at the Memorial on behalf of all parents and relatives of servicemen and women who had given their lives in the nation's wars. Her son, Glen, an Army corporal and sharpshooter, died at Heartbreak Ridge in Korea on September 26, 1954.

Mrs. Harry (Edith) Lindlow presented a small plaque recognizing the nearly forgotten veterans who served in the Spanish-American War (1898-1902).

The monument declared that the park was a memorial to the community's war dead, but there was much more work to do. The community continued to give time and money to build curving stone walls on either side of the entrance ending in posts that supported a black wrought iron sign reading "Memorial Park." The entrance provided a fitting approach to the memorial.

People who attended the dedication ceremony in 1955 would recognize little more than the entrance and the war memorial, which are nearly all that remain of the original Memorial Park. The playground equipment has long ago been replaced with modern attractions, and the wading pool is gone. The Community Center was constructed in 1975. During intervening years, the City acquired more property for the park through purchase and donation. The Library was built facing Ball Street to replace the Carnegie Library in 1962 and was expanded in 1990 to its present size. The Sedro-Woolley Senior Center was added in 1985.

The war memorial's staying power through nearly sixty-five years of changes at Memorial Park testifies to the value that Sedro-Woolley places on honoring its veterans for their sacrifices.

Mrs. Bert Marchant, a Gold Star Mother, lays a wreath at the memorial on behalf of all parents and relatives of servicemen who died for their country.



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HALLOWEEN

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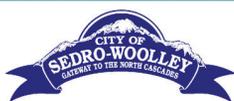
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Veterans Day Parade, Friday November 8

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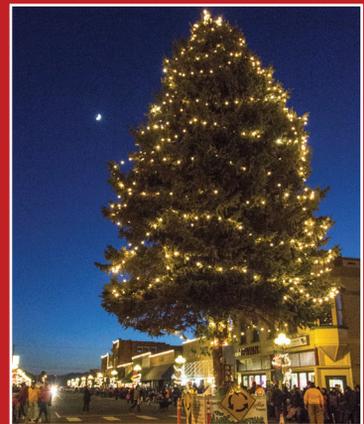
SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7 | 2:00-3:00PM

Pre-registration will begin November 4 at the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, and day of registration will begin at 1:00pm. \$10 for adults, \$5 for minors (10-17) and military, free for children under 10.

Sedro-Woolleyville Presents the Magic of Christmas!

SATURDAY, DEC 7

The season's premier event highlighting family fun! Train rides by K.I.D.S. Railroad; Crafts by the Boys and Girls Club of Sedro-Woolley; Face Painting by Chelle; and Pony Rides provided by Lang's Horse and Pony Farm. Events begin at 3:00pm. Tree Lighting followed by parade, begins at 5:00pm. Come visit with Santa after the parade.



Andy Porter / andyporterimages.com

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For high school sporting event schedules, please visit **NWCathletics.com**, the official website for Northwest Conference High School Athletic Programs. Click on the Sedro-Woolley link for all sporting event schedules.



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Sedro-Woolley School District

Continuing its focus on student learning, quality instruction, reading and math goals, student safety, and promoting a climate of trust.

There are approximately 4,300 (preschool–12th grade) students being served on twelve school campuses. The District covers 395 square miles, including the areas of Hamilton, Lyman, Samish, Clear Lake, and Big Lake. Every student graduates with the knowledge and skills for future learning and success.

801 Trail Rd., Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 • 360-855-3500, Fax: 360-855-3574



American Legion Breakfast

American Legion Post #43
701 Murdock Street
Sedro-Woolley
8:00–11:00am

Open to the public
3rd Sunday of every month
\$8 – adults
\$5 – children 10 and under

Breakfast consists of:
eggs to-order,
bacon, sausage links, ham,
Western ham and cheese
or cheese omelet,
hashbrowns,
biscuits and gravy,
pancakes, French toast



THE SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP



725 Murdock Street, Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

Wednesday
Noon to 4 p.m.
Thursday
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
360-855-2390

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Adaptive Law Firm PS
107 State Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360.336.6505 | adaptivelaw.com



SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM EVENTS

DECEMBER 14

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

- Museum Open House is 4:00 to 8:00pm
- Homes are open 5:00 to 9:00pm
- Cost \$10.00 per person, children under 5 free.
- Tickets are available at Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop and at the museum the night of the tour.
- Five to six homes, plus the museum, will be on tour.
- Music and refreshments will be provided at the museum.
- This is a self-guided tour, flashlights are suggested.
- For more tour details please contact the Museum 360-855-2390.
- Proceeds benefit the Sedro-Woolley Museum.

DECEMBER 27-28

“THE SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS”

- Featuring Chad Lindberg
- Two shows on both Friday and Saturday nights.
- Seating is limited to 25 people per show.
- Reservations are required and can be made beginning November 1.
- Call the Sedro-Woolley Museum 360-855-2390.



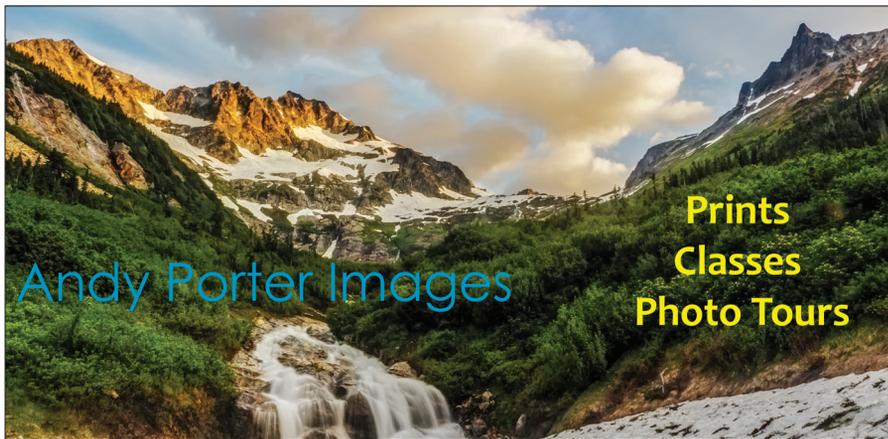
MUSEUM HOUR CHANGES

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	11:00am to 3:00pm
Thursday	11:00am to 3:00pm
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9:00am to 3:30pm
Sunday	12:30 to 3:30pm

Call 360-855-2390 for special appointments and tours

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- New Year’s Day
- Easter Sunday
- Mother’s Day
- Father’s Day
- Founders’ Day Sunday (September)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day





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peacehealth.org/yes-mammo

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