Courtney Wallace will present an overview of BNSF Railway Safety in Washington. Ms. Wallace is Regional Director for Public Affairs with BNSF Railway. She manages special projects related to port development, community relations, and external communications for the railroad’s Pacific Northwest division, which includes British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. She has more than fifteen years of experience in the communications field, focusing on the transportation and travel sector. Prior to her role with BNSF Railway, she worked for almost a decade as a consultant for American Airlines and other aviation clients helping with proactive communications and reputation management. She graduated from the University of North Texas with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. Ms. Wallace lives in Seattle with her husband.

The September luncheon is being sponsored by Gentry House in Anacortes, part of Skagit Adult Day Program (serving Skagit County since 1992) is a daytime program where adults with a dementia or other needs, can be themselves in a supportive group setting. Their program is designed to nurture participants’ physical and emotional well-being, by providing group contact, activities and interactions with peers facing similar circumstances. Puget Sound Energy will present a short program about Safe in the Sound. The lunch will be catered by Gere-a-Deli at the Anacortes Lutheran Church (22nd & O) at 11:30am. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away.

Barrett Financial, Ltd.

Barrett Financial, Ltd. an Independent Wealth Management Services Firm, has been serving their clients for over 25 years. Pat Barrett and his staff take the time to get to know each and every one of their clients. Their reason for this, so they can actively accomplish the firm’s mission... “We discover what is important to our clients and tailor wealth plans that help them achieve their life goals.”

Pat’s focus is to provide the best client service possible with care and concern for each individual. Holding true to the firm’s philosophy, that building personal vested relationships with your client’s creates the intimate long term connection needed so that everyone enjoys working with each other. With that in mind, they are able to truly design a financial and investment plan that fits their client’s lifestyle and goals like a well worn leather glove. Please join us on September 18 for the chamber after hours 5:30–7PM at Barrett Financial, Ltd., located at the Cap Sante Marina Harbor Master Building, 1019 Q Ave. Suite I, Anacortes, WA. 98221. Be sure to bring a gift for the give-away!
Cascade Loop

On August 21 the Cascade Loop held their annual meeting at the Majestic Inn & Spa to update what is happening with the Cascade Loop Corridor Management Plan. In attendance was Mayor Laurie Gere, Cascade Loop Executive Director Annette Pitts along with Pola Kelso of Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, Heather Carter—LaConner Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Verge—Tulip Chamber of Commerce, Dan Courier—Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Bjorklund—North Cascades National Park, Greg Taylor—Cascade Loop Treasurer, Nancy Wright—Hats Off Production, Sherrye Wyatt and Jack Penland of Whidbey Island tourism, Kim and Gerry Ustanik of Garden Isle Guest Cottage, Coupeville WA, Debbie Copple—Vice President-West of the Cascade Loop, Joan Bell—Meerkerk Gardens, Debbie Copple—Vice President-West of the Garden Isle Guest Cottage, Coupeville WA, Marketing representatives, Tricia Sharp and Estephanie Wyatt of Mountain View Lodge, Manson WA. Marketing was selected to take on the rebranding efforts and research surveys to establish the proper focus and theme for new branding, signage, and website design. As the only scenic byway in the United States that you can drive entirely with an electric vehicle, the Cascade Loop and the city of Anacortes is setting the bar high for eco-friendly tourism.

Mystic Sea Charters

Anacortes is the metropolis of the San Juan Islands! She is the center for whale watching, aquatic research and the gateway to the beautiful San Juan Islands. What better way to experience all of these things than on a boat? For 24 years, Mystic Sea Charters has been offering just that. In 1990 Monte and Cindy Hughes, owners of Mystic Sea Charters, dug up their 4 generations of roots from Lopez Island and moved to the “main-land” with their boat in tow. After 40 years of fishing, farming and raising a family in the islands, it was time to dip their toes into new waters. Monte and Cindy are both long time locals of the area and love sharing this archipelago with residents and visitors alike.

Mystic Sea Charters conducts whale watching, research, private charters and dinner cruises on a year round basis. During the early spring, they offer whale watching out of Langley and spend the rest of their summer

Brenden Jones

Not just your typical beach bum, Brenden Jones looks to grow professionally and personally by becoming one of our newest residents. He was raised on the sand in Ocean Shores, Washington, and has yet to fully recognize that the pebble and rocky areas, located where land meets water on Fidalgo Island, are actually beaches as well. He’s still growing up. He attended Grays Harbor College and Washington State University before finding his place in Skagit County. In his first few months here and “trying” means having the intent to fail. He actually dreams of owning a men’s department store someday. He quickly became an Ambassador, is a part of the Bier on the Pier committee, and has also joined the Kiwanis Sunrisers.

A Fun Fact! He found his love for community theater just three years ago, by playing the role of Curly in the musical Oklahoma.
New Highway 20 Sign

In March of this year, we received a call from the Kiwanis telling us that “our” sign was deteriorating. We didn’t even know that the Anacortes Welcome Sign was a chamber project. Later that month, community member, Karen Thomson called me to say she would like to donate her time to refurbish our sign. And so this long and winding road to a refurbished sign began.

Once again, our community stood up and volunteered and donated and “got ‘er done.” There are so many people and businesses to thank:
- Karen Thomson spearheaded this project and was the restorer and painter of the sign; she had a vision and she made it happen.
- Troy Lang from Silver Hammer Roof, Co. removed the 13 foot “banner” on the sign.
- Les Books hauled the banner and allowed it to be restored and painted in his shop.
- The City of Anacortes moved down the amazingly big shrub under the sign, and Simply Yards dug out the remains, so that it will not grow back.
- Quantum Construction and Birch Equipment provided and set up the scaffolding.
- Frontier Industries donated the paint.
- Painters Carol Herbert and Tricia Sharp (from the chamber) worked alongside Karen Thomson.

Sign installers:
- Ian and Joy Sloan from Anacortes Rigging.
- Bob and Bernie Bell, Bob is from Morning Sunriser’s.
- Bill Chowanec from Morning Sunriser’s.
- Bob Morrow from Marine Supply and Hardware worked on rope fraying.
- Jennifer Bowman mixed custom paint for highlighting.
- Buer’s Floral and Vintage provided the ribbon for the photo shoot.

The beauty and unique character of the area is treasured by Shell and its employees, and that responsibility is embodied in the slogan “People, Planet, then Profit”, which you will hear if you are at the site for a tour or get a presentation from Shell Puget Sound Refinery General Manager Tom Rizzo.

While the company takes great pride in its history of producing high quality gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, it’s the people that make it happen and, as Rizzo will tell you, Shell employs some of the best in the business.

“Our plant is operated by people who are very talented, knowledgeable and proud of the role this Refinery plays in the community,” said Rizzo. “Our employees, contractors and families routinely step into opportunities to contribute, from schools and youth sports to service organizations and non-profits such as the United Way and American Red Cross.”

Shell and its people are also regular participants in key Anacortes events including the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, Meals on Wheels Bowling Bash, the Anacortes Waterfront Festival and the 4th of July Parade, which seems to grow larger every year.

While the parade is a fun event for all who attend, it’s also an opportunity for Shell to proudly display their emergency response capabilities which includes not just trucks and hoses but also their trained personnel. Shell directly employs about 430 people and more than 140 are trained Emergency Responders who volunteer their time to be a member of the team. They take pride in their volunteering, their training and their community, and it shows.

“In a world where the pace seems to accelerate in all areas of our lives, we have employees who can be counted on to show up and contribute their very best,” said Rizzo. “That attitude applies to work and community alike—and it is gratifying to see the positive impact Shell has as we partner with our neighbors in working towards common goals.”

Shell Puget Sound Refinery

PHOTO: ANACORTES AMERICAN

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Bier on the Pier

O ne month until thirty breweries from all over the state of Washington join us on the Guemes Channel at Pier One for two days! Many exciting new breweries are joining us this year. Big Time Brewery from Seattle, Alesiana Brewing (Washington’s first all organic brewery) from Bellingham, and Orison Brewing Co. out of Spokane are a few of the new names joining many of your long time favorites such as Big E Ales, Kushan and Foggy Noggin Brewing. Check out our website for all the breweries attending this year at anacortes.org.

Anacortes Bier on the Pier’s musical line-up includes local favorite Little Joe Argo who will surely eat a lively tune to the festival! Be sure to vote for your favorite beer (People’s Choice) and be entered to win a “Trip Back to Anacortes,” including prizes from The Monarch Inn and Spa, Le Creme and The Brown Lantern.

This year’s costume contest has a slightly different feel as we move away from our Bavarian theme and into a more eclectic contest with a nod to both Oktoberfest and upcoming Halloween (think of the costume possibilities—Dirndl Dracula? Leopard Lederhosen Man? Or be a Beer Super Hero! The important thing to remember is to have fun!)

All of the video submissions from the Hoppin’ on the Water Commercial Contest in partnership with goskagit.com will be shown in the Image 360 Video Lounge “Graphics that enhance, Signage that works, Displays that inform,” located on the pier in the 30 x 30 tent. Be sure to visit our website for all the breweries attending this year at anacortes.org.

2014 Ambassadors
April Breckenridge—Anacortes Sun
Jack Hamilton—Cap Sante Court
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Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Linda Harvey—Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
Lisa Helm-Morrow—KeyBank
Sarah Jurkovich—Anacortes Chamber of Commerce
Karl Kennedy—KeyBank
Matt McKay—Nantucket Inn; Anchor Catering
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Dirndl Dracula? Leopard Lederhosen Man? Or be a Beer Super Hero! The important thing to remember is to have fun!

Come see us for all your vehicle or vessel needs!

For more information or to make an appointment, call (360) 283-9853.
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