Long-sought Park and Ride rises

By Gordon Weeks

The pear orchard project is finally coming to fruition.

Workers hired by Mason Transit Authority are creating a Park and Ride lot at the site of Shelton founder David Shelton’s former pear orchard at the east entrance into the town on state Route 3. The City of Shelton owns the land.

The project is expected to take 75 working days and be completed by the end of the year, said Danette Bran- nin, the general manager of Mason Transit Authority.

The project is funded by a Regional Mobility Grant and Connecting Washington Transit Project grant. The cost is $723,905, which includes the base price of $890,005 and $92,900 in change orders, Bran- nin said.

The change orders are the result of shutting the project down and then restarting, Brannin said.

The city has been trying to establish a Park and Ride on the site for decades. About 15 years ago, the city was forced to return a federal grant because it failed to meet the construction deadline.

“The city has made several attempts in the past 20, 30 years to complete various projects in that area, unfortunately, limited staff and available funding prevented the projects from coming to fruition,” Brooke Kiltz, the city of Shelton’s admin-istrative manager for the public works department, wrote in an email to the Shelton-Mason County Journal.

She added, “In addition to the limited staffing and funding, another attribute to the drawn-out efforts was the lingering negotiations with the Navy for an easement that was needed in order to accommodate the project. The city finally conceded its failed attempts to obtain the easement from the Navy and terminated the project after phase one of the project was completed, which included demolition of the old wastewater treatment plant, obtaining right-of-way from

After decades of discussions, the Pear Orchard Park and Ride on state Route 3 near the railroad overpass in Shelton is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Journal photo by Gordon Weeks

Simpson Timber Co., and installing the gravel parking lot. Completing the first phase of the project allowed the city to pass the baton, so to speak, to Mason Transit Authority for them to be able to construct the project.”

Suspect in string of thefts arrested

By Kirk Boekelein

The Mason County Sheriff’s Office received a call last weekend from Shelton Auto Parts, on West Dayton Airport Road, reporting that several of the business’ tools appeared to have been stolen in wheelbarrows and barrels for removal, sheriff’s Public Informa-
tion Officer Matt Colbenson said.

Subsequent surveillance footage taken by the business showed two men who appeared to be stealing property from the shop Oct. 8, so the sheriff’s of-

The suspect was found hiding in thick brush on a neighboring property, and the suspect in the motor home theft was identified as the same sus-

A MACECOM social media post in the early hours of Saturday warned residents of potentially dangerous weather event.

The National Oceanic and Atmo-
spheric Administration and the Na-
tional Weather Service in Seattle issued a tornado warning for northwest Washington at 4:40 a.m., including northcentral Grays Harbor County and northwestern Mason County, until 5 a.m.

According to the public alert, at 4:40 a.m. on Oct. 10, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was located near Amada Park near Lake Quinault, moving northeast at 25 mph. “Radar indicated rotation,” the alert read. “Flying debris will be dangerous to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be damaged or destroyed. Damage to roofs, windows, and vehi-
cles will occur. Tree damage is likely.” The alert predicted the storm would be near Amanda Park in Grays Har-

in Grays Harbor County at 4:55 a.m., with Neilton in Grays Harbor County among the other locations expected to be affected by the storm, which radar also indicated had hail.

“Move to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building,” the alert read. “Avoid win-
dows. If you are outdoors or in a ve-
hicle, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris. Tornadoes are extremely difficult to see and confirm at night. Do not wait to see or hear the tornado.”

The message that made it on to MACECOM’s Facebook page at 4:51 a.m. was slightly more mild, advising the public, “Please keep an eye on the sky,” as opposed to the NW5 Seattle public alert that advised, “Take cover now.”

MACECOM updated its Facebook post at 5:08 a.m. to note that the torna-

The National Weather Service’s alerts.

Tornado warning provides scare

By Kirk Boekelein

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The National Weather Service’s alerts.

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