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# COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK

## Compiled from staff reports

### SVC staff receive excellence awards

Margo Grothe of Mount Vernon and Angela Atwell of Friday Harbor received the Puget Sound Energy Staff Excellence Award at Skagit Valley College's Spring Celebration awards ceremony. The PSE Staff Excellence Award, which includes a \$500 stipend, recognizes staff members who demonstrate excellence, a positive attitude and have had a valuable impact on the college and its students.

Grothe is a staff member at the Mount Vernon SVC campus who serves as program coordinator for the college's Life Transitions program. She was recognized for her commitment to serving adult learners who seek help with their career pathway, returning to college, finding work and rebuilding self-esteem.

Atwell is a classified staff member at SVC's San Juan Center. She was recognized for her college and community service and her role as program administrator for the Center's nationally recognized Road Scholar program.

### Skagit commissioner leadership honored

The Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges recently recognized Skagit County Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt for his outstanding service in furthering the mission of technical and community colleges in Washington state. Skagit Valley College nominated Dahlstedt for the 2012 TACTC Award for Leadership for his contributions that improved facilities at the Mount Vernon SVC campus and the quality of life in Skagit County.

Dahlstedt led projects that built McIntyre Hall, a 700-seat regional performing arts and conference center, and improved recreation facilities for the community. He was instrumental in acquiring funds to construct a new restroom facility, concession stand, jogging trail, and baseball and soccer fields for college and community use.

### Bilingual education pres. finishes term

Michael Shapiro, a thirdgrade teacher in Madison Elementary School's Dual Language Enrichment Program in Mount Vernon, has completed a term as president of the Washington Association for Bilingual Education. WABE provides professional development and advocacy for the use of bilingual education to propel all learners.

Shapiro also serves as Madison Dual Language Enrichment Committee cochair and on the state Bilingual Education Advisory Committee in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, advising Supt. Randy Dorn on bilingual education issues. Shapiro presided at the 2012 WABE Annual Conference held in Tacoma and will continue on the WABE Board of Directors.

### Veterans receive housing assistance

During a one-day intensive screening process, 13 veterans were approved for housing assistance and 10 received vouchers on Thursday, July 19, at the Housing Authority of Skagit County, 1650 Port Drive, Burlington.

The event was held in cooperation with Veteran Affairs of Puget Sound to assess homeless veterans for eligibility in HUD-VASH Section 8, a federal program aimed at providing housing incentives for homeless veterans. The screening process normally takes several months, but was condensed into one day to ease the process and boost turnout.

Event organizers said the expedited effort was a success as veterans from all around the county showed up. Out of 25 vouchers originally awarded to the Housing Authority of Skagit County in April, only nine remain, a news release said. Veterans interested in the program may call 360-428-1959 for information.

### Foothills, foundation awards grants

Foothills Toyota Scion and The Skagit Community Foundation have teamed up to award \$20,000 in grants to three local nonprofits: Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County, the Mount Baker Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Junior Achievement of Washington.

The Boys & Girls Clubs will receive a \$10,000 grant for the establishment of a year-round outdoor leadership and recreation program offering a wide range of activities.

The Mount Baker Council will receive a \$5,000 grant to help complete its Challenging Outdoor Program Experience and climbing center at Camp Black Mountain in Maple Falls. The program will serve youth and adults in Skagit, Whatcom, Island, San Juan and Snohomish counties as a confidence-building, teamwork and leadership training facility.

Junior Achievement's \$5,000 share will fund a one-year program for the YMCA after-school curriculum, supporting about 430 Skagit County youth in an early start on career awareness.

Last year, Foothills Toyota partnered with The Skagit Community Foundation to donate \$15,000 to Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and Burlington-Edison school districts for grant applications.