



Grapeview Water & Art Festival this weekend
PAGE A-20

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Shelton officers could face charges

Excessive force used during altercation, investigators say

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What began as a report of trespassing to law enforcement during the twilight hours one morning at the end of May resulted in two Shelton Police officers being placed on paid administrative leave and facing possible felony assault charges.

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office independently reviewed the incident, and with the help of witness testimony, body-camera footage from the officers and law enforcement reports, issued its own report. In its conclusion, the report, issued by TCSO lead investigator Mitch King, recommends the officers be charged for second-degree assault for use of excessive force in their dealing with a sleeping homeless man on private property. Additionally, the Shelton Police Department is conducting its own internal personnel investigation.

see **OFFICERS**, page A-14

Voters will decide on 7-member council

By **GORDON WEEKS**
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Due to a successful petition drive, Shelton voters in November will decide whether the city will change from a three-member commission to a seven-member council.

During heated exchanges at Monday's Shelton City Commission meeting, Mayor Gary Cronic called the proposed change on the Nov. 7 general election ballot "a mini coup to take over the commission" and "an attack on this commission."

see **COUNCIL**, page A-15

WOMEN'S PRISON ADDS NEW PROGRAM



Journal photos by Dana Kampa

Kaela Glover gets up close to peer at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women's newest addition, a hive of honeybees. Beekeeping is the newest program being offered for inmates at the prison.

Tending to the bees

Mission Creek Corrections Center turns inmates into bee-lievers

BY **DANA KAMPA**
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The smell of smoking burlap and a gentle humming were two sensations new to the Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women in Belfair last week.

Last Friday, two small groups of inmates took the opportunity to inspect the newest additions to the center's grounds — a canary yellow box and a turquoise blue box, each containing 40,000 to 50,000 honeybees.

Mission Creek recently started a new beekeeping program at the facility, giving inmates the opportunity to care for and learn about the bees. Though the bees arrived July 18, Friday was the first opportunity the trainees had to inspect the apiaries and handle the bees.

Doneia Santiago, Hope Fletcher and Kaela Glover all took their cues from instructor George Purkett, a mentor with the West Sound Beekeepers Association. Purkett gently smoked the hive before leading a hands-on class in the morning. This involved checking each frame for any abnormalities, finding and marking the queen with fluorescent green ink, and checking for mites. The seemingly mundane task of looking for parasites quickly becomes more interesting when it



The bees arrived July 18 at Mission Creek, where some of the inmates will be responsible for feeding and looking after them.

involves shaking a jarful of less-than-happy bees in a cloud of powdered sugar. However, sifting through the contents after releasing the bees revealed the sample was healthy and mite-less, a good sign for a new colony.

Purkett has been leading a series of classes at Mission Creek to train a small group of inmates how to manage the bees and help them thrive throughout the summer. The previous week, he focused on defining and maintaining goals.

The basic common goals of beekeeping include keeping the colony alive and healthy while maintaining functional equipment and helping the colony grow during the summer months. By helping the bees expand

see **BEES**, page A-22

INSIDE TODAY

Commission considers property tax measure
Page A-2

Grapeview fire department recommends EMS levy
Page A-20

Local yacht club heads north to San Juans
Page B-1



Bees: Mission Creek aims to expand program in future

continued from page A-1

and store away honey, the keepers have a better chance of keeping the insects alive throughout the winter.

Mission Creek has its own goals for the program. April Henderson, a senior secretary at the facility and one of the primary program overseers, helped make the program a reality in Belfair.

Henderson took an apprentice beekeeping program in February of 2016 and is now in her second year of bee-

keeping. She said she began talking about bringing a bee population to Mission Creek in the hopes of having a positive impact on the women.

The facility has sometimes struggled to maintain program diversity, Henderson said, so she was excited to add this to Mission Creek's butterfly rearing program for endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterflies.

The beekeeping program involves everything from periodically checking the bees for parasites to keeping them

well fed and well hydrated throughout the year.

Santiago, Fletcher and Glover slowly grew more comfortable handling the bees over the course of the morning, even chancing to pet some while the bees clung to honeycomb-laden frames. Santiago said the morning was an exciting and fun learning experience. She surprisingly wasn't nervous handling them, attributing it to having a good teacher.

"It's been an interest of mine and my husband's for a long

time, and this was a good opportunity to learn," Santiago said.

She said she could feel the bees buzzing under her rubber glove when she touched them, like some sort of machinery.

Conversely, Fletcher used to be terrified of bees. Now, she has learned to appreciate their intelligence and can't wait to tell her 4-year-old daughter about the "really cool" experience.

Glover said one of her favorite parts of the morning was when she spotted the elongated body of the queen amid

the hundreds of other bees swarming a single frame. She added that she was surprised to feel the warmth of the bees even through her glove when she first touched them.

Eventually, Mission Creek hopes to expand the program given nationwide concern about honeybee population declines, possibly by rearing queen bees and distributing them to others, Henderson said. But for now, the new beekeepers will be doing all they can to help the little insects survive winter in Washington.
