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Fun at area skate parks



Doug Ramsay 2021 photo

A skateboarder enjoys the sunshine at the Skate Park at Monroe's Lake Tye Park, 14964 Fryelands Blvd. Skateboarders should also try out the two skate parks in Everett: Wiggums Hallow Park, 2808 10th St. and Walter E. Hall Park at 1226 W. Casino Rd. Also popular is the Snohomish Skatepark at 400 Second Street.

Free pre-K classrooms for low-income kids sees gap grow

By MICHAEL WHITNEY

Spokane mom Megan Pirie considers free preschool a blessing. It let her go to work while her children learned.

However, there is no room for hundreds of young children in the county to learn pivotal primer skills under Washington's state-funded preschool network.

About 1,500 to 2,000 kids ages 3 and 4 in the county are missing out if they want it. They live in families that earn less than \$48,000 a year if they have three in the house. They earn more than that if they have a bigger households.

So, why? Those in the know say the reason there's a gap in the number of classrooms is because the state isn't covering the cost of doing business for the operators of ECEAP preschools.

These are not public school, and the children are below first grade. Private entities run the programs and are reimbursed at set rates to do so.

These classrooms are through the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, pronounced "E-cap", and they do more than teach. ECEAP also acts as a child care service and gives families parenting guidance when they need it.

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Mark Perry, Athletic Director, wraps up career at Snohomish High School

By NATHAN WHALEN
Contributing writer

SNOHOMISH — Snohomish High School Athletic Director Mark Perry is retiring after spending 40 years shaping the lives of students and athletes. With a tenure that included stints coaching the varsity football and wrestling teams, Perry will finish his career at the end of the school year.

"I'll miss being with the players and students. I'll miss the camaraderie with the students," Perry said adding it's time to retire and he is looking forward to spending time with his four grandchildren as well as hunting and fishing.

Originally from Sandpoint, Idaho, he came to the Snohomish School District in 1983 after graduating from Eastern Washington University. "I always knew I wanted to be a math teacher and coach."

In 1985, he changed schools to Snohomish High where he taught math and

was an assistant coach for the football and wrestling teams. By the mid-'90s, he was the head coach for both teams.

"I thought he was going to be around forever," said Francisco Lopez, who is an assistant football coach for the Panthers. He met Perry in 1998 when Lopez took a job as a paraeducator and volunteered coaching kickers on the football team. "He's such a gentleman. We became friends right away."

Perry took over from longtime football coach Dick Armstrong. During his tenure as head coach, Snohomish advanced to the state semifinals in 1998 and won league championships in 1996, 2001 and 2002. In wrestling, Perry's teams won five Wesco league championships, four regional championships, four regional runners-up and had five top 10 finishes.

Perry has won numerous coach of the year awards and, in 2016, he was inducted into the Washington State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In

2022, he was honored as Wesco and District 1 Athletic Director of the Year.

Lopez said Perry let him work with the kids and he was always fair.

"The biggest thing in coaching is keeping your word," Lopez said.

Snohomish High School Principal Nate DuChesne met Perry in 1983 when he was a sophomore at Snohomish and a quarterback on the football team.

"I just remember this young guy with a lot of energy," said DuChesne, who is completing his first year as principal at Snohomish High School. "He was a great coach. That's what made him a great athletic director



Doug Ramsay photo

Snohomish High School Athletic Director Mark Perry, stands before the athletic field at Snohomish Veterans Memorial Stadium on May 17.

as well."

DuChesne stayed in contact with Perry. DuChesne's career led him to becoming the athletic director at Mariner High School around 10 years ago.

"Being around all of the Wesco athletic directors, they just had a lot of respect for Mark," DuChesne said. He added that Perry ran an organized and disciplined program.

"Mark has a tremendous amount of respect in this building and this community," DuChesne said. "He has invested a lot of time in people."

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