July 4th: opportunity to remember courage, determination

On Wednesday, we will celebrate our nation’s independence, giving us the chance to remember the courage and determination of those who founded our great country and those who have fought through the years to protect our freedom.

One of this country’s great strengths is its people’s willingness to be courageous and take bold steps. Despite difficulties, this mentality is what always pulls our nation through. We’re seeing that again after several years of tough financial times. It’s this spirit that makes me proud to be an American.

I hope you have a safe and happy Fourth of July. Enjoy your barbecues and picnics with family and friends!

Reardon celebrates aerospace training center expansion
Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon joined regional business leaders and state elected officials earlier this week to celebrate the successful expansion of the **Washington Aerospace Training Center (WATR)**. Gov. Chris Gregoire and state Sen. Steve Hobbs, among others, were in attendance. The ceremony marked the culmination of a $1.5-million grant-funded overhaul into a newly remodeled facility encompassing more than 9,000 square feet of teaching and work space. The expansion was enabled by a Reardon-backed grant proposal championed by Hobbs, who worked with Sen. Derek Kilmer to allocate state capital construction funding. Since the facility opened in 2010, nearly 800 students have completed certificate programs.

**Snohomish County Tomorrow wins Governor’s award**

The members of **Snohomish County Tomorrow** – 19 cities, Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes – recently received a Governor’s Smart Communities Award for their collaboration on the Countywide Planning Policies.

This award gives Snohomish County Tomorrow members well-deserved recognition for their cooperation during a 26-month period to draft policies consistent with the state’s Growth Management Act.

“I commend the work of those local governments and their partners recognized with this award,” Gov. Chris Gregoire said. “Their efforts are vital to our continued economic recovery and help make Washington a great state in which to live and do business.”

“The work is a shining example of how communities, often with different interests and perspectives, can come together for the betterment of the whole county,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “Through this work, we have developed a blueprint for current and future development of high-quality communities and protection of resources.”
Fire Marshal urges caution, courtesy on July 4

The Snohomish County Fire Marshal’s Office urges residents to use caution when discharging fireworks during the Fourth of July fireworks season and encourages residents to extend common courtesy to their neighbors by limiting the hours during which they celebrate.

On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day and more than twice as many as on an average day. Fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

In unincorporated Snohomish County, fireworks can only be discharged between 9 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on July 4 only. Municipalities throughout Snohomish County set their own regulations, and in some municipalities the use of fireworks is banned entirely.

Follow these simple tips to help keep you and others safe:

- in case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- have a bucket of water for emergencies and to douse used fireworks.
- never build or experiment with homemade fireworks.
- never let children handle or light fireworks; even sparklers can be dangerous.
- never ignite fireworks while holding them; light one at a time and move away quickly.
- make sure you give yourself enough room in a safe location – away from buildings, vehicles and flammable materials.
- never light fireworks inside a structure.
- watch what you wear; loose clothing can catch fire while handling fireworks.
- never try to re-ignite fireworks that have malfunctioned; soak them in water, then throw them away.
- never ignite fireworks while you are under the influence of alcohol and/or mind-altering drugs.
- never aim fireworks at vehicles, homes, or people.

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