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MUNICIPAL ELECTION WATCH now through OCTOBER 2018 www.westshorevoicenews.com

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Friday, May 11, 2018

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND ISSUE

51 new/upgraded school playgrounds in BC by September

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News



Playground at Ecole Poirier Elementary in Sooke (above) will get a \$105,000 upgrade to become a fully accessible playground in time for September 2018.

● Ecole Poirier Elementary in Sooke School District 62 (SD62) has been awarded \$105,000 for upgrades to their school playground, it was announced by BC Premier John Horgan during an outdoor media event during the lunch hour with the happy background sound of kids at play, hosted by Education Minister Rob Fleming on the playground at Quadra Elementary in Victoria on May 8.

The funding is part of a \$5 million per year ongoing Playground Equipment Program for school playgrounds throughout BC. Funding has been awarded to one school in each of 51 school districts, regardless of the number of schools in each district or population size of the community.

Ecole Poirier in Sooke was the Ministry's pick for funding in SD62 in this first round. Quadra Elementary (in SD61) will receive \$105,000 for an accessible playground. There is no SD63 (Saanich) school on the list in this first round.

SD62 serves the communities of Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Highlands and Juan de Fuca up to Port Renfrew. In April, SD62 administration had submitted applications for three schools, and the Ministry decided that Ecole Poirier would be the first to be funded. "We will be including our other schools in next year's Capital Plan," said SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge.

"We are very excited that Government is.../

continued on page 2 ... /

Women's Rugby Sevens warm up for Mother's Day weekend tournament

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● The Women's Rugby Sevens team captains did their official pre-tournament group photo on the croquet lawn at Royal Roads University (RRU) on the sunny afternoon of May 10, with the majestic Hatley Castle in the background.

Rugby teams from 11 countries have been hosted all week by the Rugby Canada home team that is based out of Langford.

All players are staying at Bear Mountain Resort and the Four Points Sheraton. Visiting teams get to see the growing bustling town on their way to the various community appearances this week (at schools around Greater Victoria) and practice sessions at Westhills Stadium. The Canadian team players are staying with the other players at the local hotel venues, as part of the tournament experience.

"Playing at home is unique for us," says Canada Women's Rugby Sevens team captain Ghislaine Landry, as the team is now based entirely out of Langford at the new Al Charron Rugby Canada National Training Centre in Langford. "It's exciting to get out in front of the local fans," she told media after the photo shoot on Thursday. "We love to live and train here, it's fun for us," she said.

Landry expressed a "level of pride" to be operating from an established location, saying the centralization of Rugby Canada in the west shore started about six years ago. Landry ventured to say that when the Women's Rugby Sevens tournament comes to Langford it's everyone's "favourite spot".

When asked about what has been described as a poor showing for Canada when they played in Japan last month, the response was positive: "This weekend we'll show that we have trained hard," said Landry. She provided a bit of tournament analysis ahead of the May 12-13 event: "New Zealand and Australia are top teams. And France has a great shot. Spain had a good showing last game."

Countries represented in the Women's Rugby Sevens circuit are (team captains): Canada (Ghislaine Landry), Australia (Shannon Parry), New Zealand (Sarah Goss), France (Fanny Horta), USA (Nicole Heavirland), Ireland (Lucy Mulhall), Japan (Chiharu Nakamura), Russia (Alena Mikhaltsova), Spain (Barbra Pla), England Abbie Brown), Fiji (Ana Roqica) and Brazil (Raquel Kochhann).

The 2018 HSBC Canada Women's Sevens tournament will be held at Westhills Stadium in Langford this Mother's Day weekend, Saturday May 12 and Sunday May 13. Tickets for sale online: www.canadasevens.com/womens

Ticket update as of noon May 11: Premium seating is sold out, as well as General Admission tickets for Saturday. Still some Reserved seats available (single-day & tournament passes), and some single-day grandstand seats in Sections A & C go on sale first thing Saturday morning, May 12.

Pricing: Two-day tournament passes \$49. Single-day tickets for Saturday or Sunday \$30 or group rate \$25 per person (10 or more tickets purchased). Use the code **MOMPLUS3** to get four general-admission tickets for the price of three.



Team from 12 countries will play in the HSBC Women's Rugby Sevens tournament May 12 & 13 at Westhills Stadium in Langford, BC. Team Captains at Royal Roads University on May 10 (from left): Raquel Kochhann (Brazil), Ana Roqica (Fiji), Abbie Brown (England), Barbra Pla (Spain), Alena Mikhaltsova (Russia), Shannon Parry (Australia), Ghislaine Landry (Canada), Sarah Goss (New Zealand), Fanny Horta (France), Nicole Heavirland (USA), Lucy Mulhall (Ireland), Chiharu Nakamura (Japan).

Chelsea Kirkpatrick ~ West Shore Voice News

Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Editorial

WSV EDITORIALS ADDRESS TOPICS
OF BROAD SOCIAL INTEREST

WEST
SHORE
VOICE

Motherhood musings | Mother's Day weekend



Mary P Brooke
Editor

● In the pre-digital era, the busiest day of the year for phone calls was Mother's Day. Nowadays that is trumped by email messaging, texting, Skype, Facebook and tons of other cyber ways to send a message to Mom on Mother's Day.

On the ground, this weekend is jam-packed with activities in the west shore and Greater Victoria area. So many choices! There are options all weekend -- Saturday and Sunday -- including creative relaxing things like outdoor art shows, hands-dirty options like plant sales, playful plans like going to the park, culinary moments like lunch or dinner with Mom, and high-energy activities like taking in a day or two of professional women's rugby. Or maybe you'll just spend the day at home with your mom, baking cookies or sharing time over tea.

The common thread is a recognition that mothers are a cornerstone of family and society. One day is never enough to acknowledge the deep and enduring impact of a mother on her family. Of all our relationships in life, the one that starts with Mom is the most significant of all.

More broadly, this weekend is an opportunity to engage with, send greetings to, or think fondly of all the women we've known in a mothering capacity. You might call that approach something like 'our own mother plus': sisters, aunts, grandmothers, gal friends, even mentors. And Earth Day was last month, but Mother Earth is a good gal to tip our hat to as well.

Just as the definition of family has changed dramatically over the last 30 or 40 years, so too can we see a shift in the recognition of mother. She can be any woman who nurtures us without expectation of reward, bloodline not required. It's

BC NEWS

... / continued from pg 1

WEST SHORE
VOICE NEWS

Funds for school playgrounds in BC

CONTINUED /... providing funding for playgrounds for schools," said Cambridge. "As we all are aware, active and healthy children make great learners," he told *West Shore Voice News*. "This initiative is the beginning of a long term sustainable program to restore playgrounds throughout the District," said Cambridge.

"All students deserve quality, safe and accessible playgrounds at school, regardless of how much their parents can fundraise," said Premier Horgan. "That's why we're lifting the burden off of parents by investing \$5 million today, and every year moving forward, to build playgrounds where they are needed most."

"Playgrounds make a real difference, for fitness, long term health care costs, and PAC's who spend an inordinate amount of time focused on raising money for playgrounds," Horgan said during the announcement. Playgrounds help students learn how to share, work together, overcome challenges and be creative. Outdoor play can help students focus and learn more effectively in the classroom.

The ongoing Playground Equipment Program will provide up to \$5 million each year to school districts to buy new or replacement playground equipment. This year, 26 schools are receiving \$90,000 for a standard playground, and 25 schools will receive \$105,000 for a universally accessible playground.

All districts applied for the funding in April 2018. Playgrounds are being funded based on greatest need, the government says. Schools currently without a playground got priority, followed by schools where the existing playground is aging. Districts not receiving funding this year are eligible for next year. This year's list is online at: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Playground_fund.pdf

Generally, schools parent advisory councils (PACs) have had to fundraise large sums for new and replacement playground equipment. Schools without that capability were often left without playgrounds. PACs have had to deal with fundraising for a wide range of school needs since cutbacks under the BC Liberal government during the mid-2000s. By this decade, PACs had resigned themselves to fundraising for things that many years ago (and in other provinces) were provided by the government school-funding.

Budget 2018 includes a record \$2 billion in school capital funding over the next three years, to build new schools in growing communities, fix aging schools, and make schools safer for students in the event of a large earthquake. **WSV**

BC Youth innovation day

West Shore
Voice News

● A partnership of the BC Government and BC Innovation Council at #BCTECH Summit in Vancouver next week brings 2,000 of BC's innovative youth (Gr 10-12) together from across the province for Youth Innovation Day on Wed May 16. Livestream: www.bctechsummit.ca/youth-innovation-day **WSV**

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a high calling, and for those of us lucky to have (or be) a good mom, that's a treasure. All of our moms deserve a hearty high-five, because being a mom is the toughest job in the world -- to juggle parenting with home, family, relationship, person and society is fraught with decisions made without a safety net and sometimes endured without thanks. ■

MUNICIPAL ELECTION WATCH 2018

WEST
SHORE
VOICE

West Shore
Voice News

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● As election campaigns start to roll out in municipalities and school districts throughout BC toward the October 20 election, it's a good time to start looking at the issues that are likely to drive the campaigns and the voter interest (which are not necessarily one and the same).

In the west shore those issues are almost certainly going to include housing affordability and availability (development, OCPs, zoning), transportation (modes, corridors), overall cost of living (Greater Victoria is one of the most expensive places in Canada), and how well the school districts are keeping up with growth, social change and responsibilities to parents. **WSV**

SD62 launches Strategic Plan

West Shore Voice News



Proud of the plan! SD62 Strategic Plan 2018-2021 now rolled out with booklet. It will be used as a reference for decisions at the board table said SD62 Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull (left) at the May 8 board meeting, with SD62 board chair Ravi Parmar and SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge who retires this summer. **WSV**

Angus Reid survey: BC leadership

West Shore
Voice News

● On May 9, Angus Reid reported on their online survey of 809 British Columbians (May 4-7). Respondents were not the general public, but members of an opinion-shaping marketing organization called Maru Voice Canada.

While they lead their report with 42% saying the BC Government is on the 'wrong track', if you combine 'right track' with 'not sure' you get 57%.

In this survey, Premier John Horgan has approval of 47% of those who chose to participate in the survey (Green Leader Andrew Weaver 34%, BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson 26%); younger the age more favourable to the present government, it was found. Most important issues in BC: housing affordability (50%), pipelines/tankers (42%), healthcare/MSP (21%). **WSV**

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Regional News

Community | Health



Sooke Community Choir takes their 'HITS' concert on the road this weekend

Concert report ~ West Shore Voice News ~ with notes from Chelsea Kirkpatrick



It was a rockin' good time at the Sooke Community Choir 'HITS' concert, May 4.

● A hot *HITS* performance on a warm May 4 evening Sooke was the opening night of a four-concert series of well-known pop songs by the Sooke Community Choir. Three nights May 4, 5, and 6 at Sooke Community Hall

The Friday night audience of about 100 folks there for a good time heard the choir of about 60 singers open with a rendition of *Creep* by RadioHead. That intro got everyone tapping fingers and toes.

That was followed by a few favourites including *Hello* by Adele and Ed Sheeran's *Thinking Out Loud*, and an amazing arrangement of *Battle Of Jericho*. Two songs that evening encouraged audience participation -- *Sweet Caroline* and *Wagon Wheel*. Lyrics for those songs were on the back of the programme to encourage a sing-a-long.

There were families, couples and individuals who were treated to harmonious music. The 90-minute show included intermission. The Choir seemed pleased with their performance. A well-deserved applause filled the hall when all was done.

Where do they get so much passion for their amazing performance? Many of the choir members have been into music since they were children although some joined in the last couple years and have found it to be a hobby and a family. They encourage those who think they would like to join to just do it! The choir's artistic director and conductor Bruce Ruddell said that he doesn't set expectations, but rather encourages his choir to do their best and enjoy themselves.

Accompanying the 60-person choir was pianist Kathy Russell, Steve Cross on guitar, and drummer Mark Owen. Soloists in *HITS* are Jonathan Francoeur, Elena Hoath, Jason Ince, Mike Kelley, and Iain McLean.

HITS was very well received that evening. The final concert is this weekend is on Saturday May 12 at 2 pm upisland at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747, Jones St, in Qualicum Beach. Tickets at the door: \$20 (free < age 16). **WSV**

Awards from UVic to Island Health nurses

● During Nursing Week (May 7 – 13) Island Health is celebrating nurses who also teach and are being recognized for their leadership in training nursing students. The 12th annual UVic Nursing Awards were held May 9 where Island Health staff earned four awards. **Nurse Practitioner Preceptor of the Year** - Lynn Guengerich (west shore) and Joanna Rippin (Victoria) co-recipients. **Preceptor of the Year** - Laura McDonald (Saanich). **Collaborative Learning Unit Award of Excellence** - Victoria General Hospital's 6D north acute medicine unit, led by manager Trapper Edison. **Field Guide of the Year** - Christina Berlanda (manager of general surgery, women's health, breast health and the vascular access team). "On behalf of everyone at Island Health we are proud of our award-winners for their leadership in training nurses of tomorrow," said Dawn Nedzelski, Island Health's Chief Nursing Officer and Chief of Professional Practice. " **WSV**

CRD affordable housing strategy

West Shore Voice News

● The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved its 2018 Regional Housing Affordability Strategy (RHAS) on May 9. "The renewed strategy reflects the CRD's emergent role in addressing housing affordability and homelessness while responding to changing housing market conditions and evolving government housing programs and policies," it was stated in a release. Including: • Build the right supply of housing across the spectrum. • Sustain a shared regional response to existing and emerging housing demand. • Protect and maintain existing non-market and market rental housing stock. • Develop and operationalize a regionally coordinated housing and homelessness response. • Create community understanding and support for affordable housing developments. **WSV**

Langford Mayor: walkable vibrant city requires density

Mary P Brooke
~ West Shore Voice News

● During public comment at City of Langford Council on May 7, one person complained that rapidly increasing housing density is "changing the character of the city". Langford Mayor Stew Young has for years said that Langford is evolving to a new character in response to changing times. "We're not a walkable vibrant city without density," he told *West Shore Voice News*.

"And we need to have a core to create jobs and vibrant economy," the mayor said, adding: "Not long ago we had to drive out of Langford for jobs and our kids moved away for jobs as we had 20% unemployment."

"Times are better now because we built affordable housing options for families, densified our city and created economic opportunities for local businesses and jobs for our residents," said Young. **WSV**

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Alistair MacGregor addressed youth at Belmont Secondary leadership conference

West Shore Voice News



Alistair MacGregor, MP addressed the Belmont Secondary leadership conference.

● Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) addressed the Belmont Leadership Conference at Belmont Secondary School in Langford on Saturday, May 5. He spoke passionately about his journey into public service, his roles both in Ottawa and his constituency, and what it personally means for him to be a community leader. "I am always happy for a chance to connect and engage with our youth," stated MacGregor.

Other community leaders at the leadership conference included Don Evans, Executive Directory of Our Place; David Collins of Fairvote Victoria; and Lorena Jenkins, e Ministry of Child and Family Development.

"It was fantastic to see many young faces at the 2018 Belmont Leadership Conference," said MacGregor. "Our youth are our future, and it is terrific to see them acquiring leadership skills and getting involved in causes they are passionate about to become informed change-makers. I was honoured to be included in this inspiring conference."

The conference was a free event open to all high school and middle school students interested in creating change in their communities. Organizations of the Greater Victoria area that work on a variety of causes were showcased, including areas of housing, education and restorative justice. **WSV**

Declawing of domestic cats banned in BC

West Shore Voice News



● The BC College of Veterinarians this week announced that they have banned the declawing of cats. On May 8, the college officially banned the practice of partial digital amputation, also known as onychectomy, or declawing. The procedure will now only be allowed for medical reasons.

In a statement, the college said the practice is banned immediately for domestic cats, except when medically necessary.

"Elective and non-therapeutic declawing is ethically problematic and not an appropriate means of dealing with feline behaviour issues," the statement said.

"I find that decision wonderful because when they declaw them they take a piece of the toes with it," says Margarita Dominguez who operates the Victoria Pet Food Bank and Feral Cat Rehabilitation Society.

The move brings the province in line with the recommendation of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), which has condemned the practice. Nova Scotia's college had already enacted a ban.

Medical reasons for declawing include a biopsy for diagnosis, severe trauma, or medical conditions affecting the health of the nail. **WSV**

Royal Roads & Brookes Westshore team up for teaching & research

West Shore Voice News

● Royal Roads University (RRU) and independent school Brookes Westshore (Grades 6 to 12) have signed a 5-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) to foster a relationship between the two educational institutions through mutual cooperation in teaching and research.

Announced May 10, the MOU sets the foundation for future cooperation and collaboration as Brookes Westshore prepares to open to students in Sept 2018 right next door to RRU on Sooke Road in Colwood. They aim to create a hub to benefit students, staff and faculty at both institutions. **WSV**

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Emergency Preparedness Week. Continues to May 12.

HSBC Women's Sevens Rugby Tournament. Sat May 12 and Sun May 13. Westhills Stadium, Langford. Single-day tickets \$30. Mother's Day special (4 tickets for the price of 3, use code MOMPLUS3). www.canadasevens.com/womens

Colwood Campus Plant Sale. Sat May 12. 2139 Sooke Rd. Fundraiser for Westshore Centre for Learning & Training garden project. 10am-4pm. Blueberry, raspberry & strawberry planters, tomato plants, flowers, etc. Cash & credit card.

Compost Education Centre Spring Plant Sale. Sat May 12. 1216 N. Park St, Victoria. 10 am to 2pm. www.compost.bc.ca

Sooke Community Choir 'Hits' concert. Sat May 12 at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach, 2pm. Tx \$20 at www.ticketrocket.co or 1-855-842-7575 (free < age 16). www.sookecommunitychoir.com

Royal Bay Secondary Dry Grad Carnival. Sat May 12. 7am-2pm. Parent volunteers wanted: rbpargradcommittee@gmail.com

Sooke Rotary annual fundraiser. Dinner at Prestige Hotel with silent auction. Sat May 12. Tx \$60 at Little Vienna Bakery & Shoppers Sooke, 250-642-1842 or RAD2018Tickets@gmail.com

Mother's Day Paint-in & Craft Fair. Sun May 13. 23rd annual community outdoor festival, 11-4. Royal Roads University - Hatley Park & gardens. Free admission. www.hatleypark.ca

#BCTECHsummit May 14-16 in Vancouver. www.bctechsummit.ca

Premier John Horgan addresses 5 Chambers of Commerce. Tues May 15 luncheon at Crystal Gardens, Victoria. 11:30am-1:15pm. \$110 (\$80 members). chamber@westshore.bc.ca

Victoria Day Long Weekend. Sat May 19 thru Mon May 21.

Blood Donor Clinic. Mon May 21. 12 noon to 6:45 pm. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave., Colwood. www.blood.ca

SD62 Academies Banquet. Thurs May 24.

75th Annual Swiftsure International Yacht Race. May 24 to 28. Race start at Ogden Point, Sat May 26. www.swiftsure.org

Family Fun Day. Sat May 26. Outdoors at the Sooke Family Resource Society building. 11 am to 2pm, 6672 Wadams Way. www.sfrs.ca

Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. Sun May 27. Membership Meeting. 2 pm, SEAPARC meeting room, 2168 Phillips Rd, Sooke. www.sheringhamlighthouse.org

BC Legislative Assembly in session to May 31, then summer break. Fall session starts Oct 1. www.leg.bc.ca

Sooke Fine Arts Show artist submissions open to June 4. Show dates July 27-Aug 6. www.sookefinearts.com

BC Minimum Wage up to \$12.65. June 1.

EMCS Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony. At Farquhar Auditorium, UVic. Sat June 2. 1 to 4pm.

Royal Bay Secondary - Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony. At Farquhar Auditorium, UVic. Sun June 3. 11am to 1pm.

West Shore RCMP this week

West Shore Voice News

● To honour West Shore RCMP fallen officer Cst Sarah Beckett, for a second year the CRD Traffic Safety Commission will award the \$2,000 Cst Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship to a youth who is pursuing or continuing their education towards attaining a career in law enforcement. Deadline to apply is June 30: www.crdtrafficsafety.ca

● On May 9, West Shore RCMP responded to a report of a man having been shot with a nail gun at a construction site in 300-block Wale Rd in Colwood, around 3pm. Apparently two men were exchanging words when tempers flared. The victim suffered an abdominal puncture wound and was taken to hospital. The investigation is ongoing says Cst Matt Baker. Charges under are consideration against a 35-year-old man from Langford.

● On May 10, several West Shore RCMP officers spent a casual two hours at Pilgrim Coffee House in Colwood, greeting customers and paying for coffee! This is part of a community-contact program by West Shore RCMP. WSV

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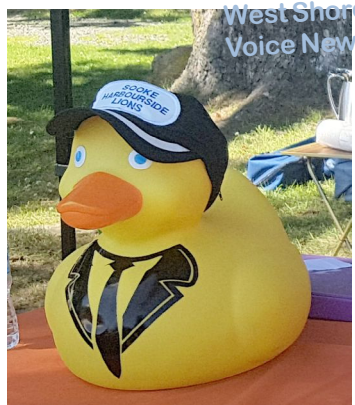
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Ducks in the river

West Shore Voice News



● The 12th annual Sooke Harbourside Lions fundraiser Duck Race was held May 5 along the Sooke River. Of 2,500 rubber duckies released, these were the lucky winners: 1&2: Danny Heggeund (\$1,400), 3: Cathy Grimstead (\$300), 4: MV Cole (\$200), 5: Clara Anderson (\$100). About 400 children participated. Proceeds go to support the food bank, diabetes & Huntington's, catering for memorial services, and helping with the Christmas Bureau. WSV

Call for 'Art in the Park' vendors

West Shore Voice News

● The Sooke Community Arts Council (SCAC) is seeking artists who want to have a table outdoors to display and sell their creations at this year's Art in the Park on Sunday July 22 (10 am to 2 pm). Free for art council members, \$15 for non-members (includes membership for the remaining fiscal year).

SCAC has a mandate from the BC Arts Council to provide opportunities for artists in the area to promote their works. Each summer 'Art in Park' as one such opportunity in Sooke. The annual event was for many years held at Ed Macgregor Park on West Coast Road. Combining Art in the Park with the classic car show (organized by Sooke Fall Fair) at Sooke River Campground offers more parking, more presentation room, and a greater number of visitors.

Art in the Park will feature a live painting demo, art for exhibit and sale, as well as photography, cards, rocks & jewelry for sale. To register a table for your art, phone 250-380-8090. www.sookecommunityarts.com WSV

TRAFFIC INFO LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

Tues May 8 to Fri May 18.

Carlow Ave closed (Costin Avenue to Goldstream) 7am to 5pm. for sewer works.



Current, to mid-June/July. Jacklin Rd closed (Jenkins to Terlane) to facilitate nearby construction efficiencies. Detour through the Belmont Market construction site on the new Division Ave.

Current, to summer 2018. Leigh Road at Langford Parkway Railway Crossing. Completion of Leigh Road Railway Crossing over to Langford Parkway (near the sports fields).

Current, until mid-summer. Traffic interruptions for sewer installation along Bray Ave, Carlow Rd, Linda Lane (west of Jacklin Rd & Goldstream Ave).

COMPLETED / OPEN APRIL 10. Improvements to the Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway.

COMPLETED APRIL 30. Two left turn lanes now open (from Millstream Rd onto Hwy 1 southbound). And two left turn lanes from Peatt Road left onto Millstream Rd.

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