

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



*Priorities in Action*



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, September 9, 2011

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)

 **Sept. 11: A day to reflect on changes that will forever affect our lives**

Ten years have passed since the events of Sept. 11, and we are still adjusting to the many changes that this tragic day has brought upon our lives.

Many freedoms that we took for granted, such as the ease of boarding an airplane, have been taken away from us. But we also have made many changes since then to keep us safer here in Snohomish County as well as across this nation.

One of those changes is our new Department of Emergency Management facility, which includes our Emergency Operations Center. The refurbished building will house emergency management operations and include training rooms for first responders in and around Snohomish County. It also is where Emergency Management staff coordinates responses to events such as flooding, earthquakes and heavy storms as well as manmade disasters should they occur.

We have made great strides to be prepared and to respond to any event that might disrupt our quality of life. I am truly proud of the part Snohomish County has played in these advancements.

Mostly, I'm pleased that we have not given up our spirit to keep improving our lives and protect our families in the face of adversity. This is what makes our country great.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Reardon'.

 **2012 Pacific Rim Gymnastics Championships coming to Snohomish County**



*Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon with legendary gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi.*

More than 300 of the world's best gymnasts will head to Snohomish County when the Comcast Arena plays host to the 2012 Pacific Rim Gymnastics Championships, March 16-18.

Men's and women's gymnastics will be held in the Comcast Arena at Everett, with rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline at the Comcast Community Ice Rink.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon – along with Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson, USA Gymnastics President Steve Penny and legendary gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi – attended Tuesday's announcement of the event's coming to Everett.

“With the Pacific Rim Gymnastics Championships and 2008's international Skate America competition, Snohomish County is quickly becoming the location for major indoor sporting events,” Reardon said. “We welcome the athletes, coaches and their families to what we believe is the best part of America.”

The three-day event is expected to feature athletes from more than 14 countries, including Canada, China, Japan, Russia and the United States, competing in men's, women's and rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline. This event is expected to be a showcase of some of the world's top talent as they prepare for the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Held every two years, the Pacific Rim Championships traditionally feature gymnasts from Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Hong

Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore and the United States. NBC Sports will televise action from the Pacific Rim Championships.

The 2010 Pac Rim Championships were in Melbourne, Australia, and the USA last staged the event in 2008 in San Jose, Calif.

For more information on the event or to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

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## Fair sets revenue record for admission, parking

The [Evergreen State Fair](#), the largest annual event held in Snohomish County and one of the biggest in the Northwest, set a new record this year for on-site gate admission and parking revenues totaling nearly \$1.4 million.

In addition, the fair collected more than 50,000 pounds of non-perishable food items during two Fridays of the 12-day fair, in support of local food banks throughout Snohomish County.

Preliminary gate and parking numbers show revenues totaling \$1,388,490.00, surpassing the previous record collection of \$1,368,846 set in 2007. Good weather also attributed to higher-than-expected receipts at vendors such as the iconic Purple Cow. The Snohomish County Dairy Women's Association, which operates the Purple Cow, had their second best year during its 51-year history with \$64,300 in gross receipts. Butler Amusements also reported near-record gross receipts on carnival rides and amusements.

"The Evergreen State Fair couldn't happen without the terrific support of volunteers, organizers with 4H and FFA, and our dedicated parks staff," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Warm, sunny weather – of which we've missed during recent years of the fair – doesn't hurt either."

This year's highlights included major improvements to the Evergreen Speedway, the opening of the new Evergreen Event Center, ride upgrades including state-of-the-art LED lighting, top music acts such as the Band Perry and OneRepublic and the opportunity for talented folks from around the region to showcase products and to celebrate the area's agricultural roots.

Fair planners scheduled special pricing or free entry during eight of the 12 days of the fair. Keeping with the "Hungry for Fun" theme, each person who brought three non-perishable food items was granted free admission on Fridays as part of the "Friday Food Bank Frenzy." Six days had discounts or were free for seniors and children. More than 20,000 people

took advantage of the discounts or free and reduced fair opportunities.

Another key element to this year's success was a great marketing plan and leveraged media buys, generated through a new and innovative partnership between Snohomish County and the new Evergreen Speedway operator, High Road Promotions.

The 12-day Evergreen State Fair generates more than 70 percent of the annual revenue collected at the fairgrounds.

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 **Volunteer day scheduled for Saturday at future county park**

Snohomish County Parks and other organizations will host a volunteer event Saturday at the site of the county's future Lake Stickney park.

The Lake Stickney Conservancy group, Earth Corp and REI will be onsite at Lake Stickney with as many as 80 volunteers for an invasive species cleanup day. The volunteer work party runs from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

"Snohomish County is pleased to be planning a park at such a beautiful location as Lake Stickney," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, who will help kick off the volunteer event. "It's also great to know that so many community residents are willing to volunteer to maintain such a gem."

The property is covered in Himalayan blackberry, Reed Canary Grass and other debris that are overtaking this beautiful property.

Volunteers are asked to meet at 13521 Manor Way, Lynnwood. Volunteers are asked to pre-register [here](#).

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***Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.***

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