

Motorcycle Versus Deer: A Cautionary Tale

By Cheryl Lugar

On May 24th I was working in my garden when, I got the call I never wanted to get. My husband, Michael, a rider with more than 50 years experience on motorcycles, had been in an accident. He was traveling 60 mph on Highway 200 outside of Sandpoint when a deer entered the highway.

According to his riding partner, Michael never even hit the brakes. The deer hit him on the right side and threw him from the bike. I had very few details and was soon on my way to Kootenia Health where he would arrive by Kootenai Life Flight.

Waiting for him to arrive was hard. No details of his condition were known. Finally, the helicopter arrived and I learned that he was awake. He had been able to tell the nurse on board his name and other information. I could breathe a little easier.

After being seen by the medical staff, I was allowed to see him. He had six broken ribs, a punctured lung, broken scapula and a couple small areas of road rash where his glove had come off. He was very fortunate. The reason for this good fortune was his safety gear.

Over the last several years, my husband has gone from wearing what looked good to what would best protect him in an accident like this. He was wearing a full helmet and it saved his life. There was no head injury; there wasn't even a scratch on his face.



On his helmet, you can see a 360 degree line where the helmet rubbed on the ground as he rolled after being thrown from the bike. The Klim jacket he was wearing was in shreds but he had no injuries other than those caused by the contact with the deer. He wears Kevlar lined jeans that were in near perfect condition (too bad they had to be cut off of

him in the ER). The ghost armor in the jacket and pants prevented additional injuries. His BMW 1600 was totaled.

We recently spoke about the accident and he confirmed the safety gear is what saved him. Living and riding in the area we do, there is always a risk of encounters with wildlife. He has had a few near misses with deer, turkey and even an elk in the past. A friend of his had the same type of accident several years ago and she is even more experienced rider than Michael. CONT.

It's been nearly five weeks since the accident and he is doing well. The Klim jacket has been replaced. The jeans will be as well. When the ribs and the scapula heal in a few more weeks, he plans to ride again. He says he will be more observant, ride a little slower, less carefree. I asked him if he remembered his first thought was after the collision. His answer was "I'm alive."



Editor's note: *Michael & Cheryl Lugar are Athol residents. This is Michael's first accident in 50 years of riding. He has traveled more than 150,000 miles and visited every state except Hawaii on motorcycle.

Meet Athol's Speech Therapist

By Sheryl Puckett

Across from the Country Boy Cafe is a quiet little office where the joy of helping children find their voice happens. That is the mission of **Sarah Desimone**, the founder of **Huckleberry Speech and Language Services**. Sarah is a pediatric speech pathologist who's been helping kids for nearly ten years.



Originally from Spokane Valley, Sarah moved to Athol in 2018. "As a child, some of my favorite memories were coming to Silverwood for Homeschool Day," she recalls. Now with her husband and their four kids Sarah is making North Idaho their home.

One of Sarah's younger sisters was born with a cleft lip and palate. Sarah was 12 years old when her family adopted her from China at 20 months old. Between the numerous surgeries her sister worked with several speech therapists and this had a lasting impression on Sarah. Sarah says, "Getting to see the direct impact they had on my baby sister's ability to communicate, as well as the love and encouragement they gave my parents, ignited my passion for speech therapy. I've always loved working with kids, whether at Sunday School, babysitting, or on short term mission trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, and China."

At her Athol clinic, Sarah works with children from birth to age 14, helping them overcome common speech challenges. Whether it's helping a child struggling with the "th" sound, Sarah helps kids gain confidence communicating. "Every child is unique CONT.

and while some sound errors will resolve on their own, not all do. That's why I offer a free consultation call to help families determine whether an evaluation is needed,' she says.

Sarah accepts Idaho Medicaid and private pay with the option of a superbill to submit to your insurance company. She also offers a discount on speech therapy sessions for homeschool families paying out of pocket.

What are Sarah's plans for the future? Sarah would love to be able to continue to grow her private practice and increase her community involvement. Offering language development based play groups, parent support groups, social groups for teens, and summer "day camp" style speech therapy groups are all in her 5-10 year plan. Sarah states, "Currently, I'm working on the logistics of adding a free library to my office and would welcome any community support for that. Please reach out if you are interested in donating a library box or books.

The fastest and most efficient way to get ahold of Sarah is via text at (208) 994-3757 or email at sarah@huckleberryspeech.com.

Her website is www.huckleberryspeech.com.

The office is located right across from Country Boy Cafe in Athol at 6101 Hwy 54, Suite A.

Still Losing Water: 5 Years Later, the Search Continues

Editorial by Sheryl Puckett

It's been a five year wait for an answer. Back in 2018, the subject of a bond was first raised by the Bayview Water & Sewer District (BWSD) due to a troubling concern. Millions of gallons of water were unaccounted for. Somewhere, there is a major leak.

At the time, suspicion centered on the old 1940s transmission lines running through Farragut State Park. Three bond elections later and after years of planning many residents hoped the recently completed bond funded upgrades would finally resolve the mystery.

At the July 17, 2025 BWSD public meeting, system operator, Bob Kuchenski, delivered the news: the water loss rate had dropped from a staggering 65% water loss to 47%. While this reduction is notable, we are still losing almost half the water running through the system which results in increased electricity cost.

Now, attention has shifted again. The board is beginning to suspect that the continued water loss may be occurring at the Navy Base. As a result, next year's budget may include funding for further investigation into this new potential source.

Although disappointing, after years of waiting and wondering, we have an answer. Stay tuned.

August Council Event

"She Loves Me" is a Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre play at the North Idaho Community College Boswell Hall. The Bayview Community Council invites all wanting to attend this play to join us **August 17, 2 p.m. matinee.**

You can order your ticket online: <https://cstidaho.com/tickets/she-loves-me>. We will be offering car pooling. For more information contact Marlys: 208-651-1124.



Farragut Knowledge Test

by Sheryl Puckett

Members of the Bayview Community Council joined a tour of the Brig Museum at Farragut State Park, hosted by the Athol Library.

We were fortunate to be guided by several knowledgeable park staff who shared an in depth look at the history of the Farragut Naval Training Station. Think you know your local history? Test yourself with these questions from the tour:

1. How many buildings were at the Farragut Naval Station?
2. How many recruits came through the base during its operation?
3. Adjusted for today's dollars, how much did it cost to build?
4. What famous phrase is Admiral Farragut known for?
5. How many individual camps made up the base?
6. True or False: The guards who ran the prison were Marines, not Navy.
7. What kind of labor were the prisoners assigned?
8. The concrete circles at Sunrise Picnic Area were originally part of what?
9. How long was the typical training period for recruits?
10. The hospital on site was enormous. How many patients could it accommodate?

Answers:

1. 776 buildings
2. Nearly 300,000 recruits
3. \$750 million in today's dollars
4. "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"
5. Six camps
6. True
7. Crushing boulders into gravel
8. The sewer system
9. Six weeks
10. 2,300 men

Save the Date: August 30, Saturday, **Food Drive**, 8 a.m. Bayview Mercantile Drop Off and September 30, Saturday, **speaker** at the Bayview Community Center. Both sponsored by the Bayview Community Council. Stay tuned

Council's Address: P. O. Box 112, Bayview, ID 83803
Council website: <https://bayviewcommunitycouncil.org>