

INTRO

Independent, nonprofit community radio KMRE brings you local news for Friday, September 16th. Good afternoon, I'm David Korb.

STORY 1

Yesterday, a Whatcom County jury convicted a Burlington man of murder for the 2019 death of a Western Washington University student. The Bellingham Herald reports Rigoberto Galvan (gal-VAHN) is scheduled for sentencing October 6th for both premeditated first-degree murder and first-degree burglary. Galvan is 24. He could face life in prison without parole. Galvan was on trial for the death of his former girlfriend, 22-year-old Stephanie Cresswell-Brenner. Prosecutors presented evidence that Galvan shot her at least 10 times. Galvan's lawyers argued that he suffered from bipolar disorder, and that disease drove his actions. The jury deliberated less than one day to reach the verdict.

STORY 2

A man died in Blaine after he was hit by a pickup truck on Thursday. The Whatcom County sheriff's office identified the victim as Dennis Genrich. The Bellingham Herald reports that Genrich died after being hit at the intersection of Portal Way and Loomis Trail Road about 5:30 am Thursday. Authorities said in that case, Genrich was walking in the roadway, wearing dark clothing in an area without lights. No charges have been filed against that driver. It was the thirteenth traffic death in Whatcom County so far this year and the seventh involving pedestrians or bicyclists.

STORY 3

A transient man has been arrested after a downtown stabbing that left one person injured.

On Tuesday, Bellingham police identified and arrested 33-year-old Anthony Beckwith in connection with the stabbing.

STORY 4

Amtrak service between Seattle and Eugene, Oregon has resumed.

Long distance Empire Builder and Coast Starlight trains from Seattle will get back into service today. The railroad workers strike was averted and Amtrak Cascades train service is scheduled to resume through Bellingham on September 26th.

STORY 5

Washington state will receive federal funds for electric vehicle recharging stations.

President Biden's huge infrastructure law provides \$900 million for expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and the state can begin receiving the funds now that their plans have been ok'd.

The goal is to install 500,000 new chargers along 53,000 miles of highway across the U.S. Charging stations could start popping up next summer.

35 states and Puerto Rico will also receive funding for charging stations.

Story 6

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, why not consider participating in a community beach cleanup or the Whatcom County farm tour?

Trash on Puget Sound beaches is much more likely to be a local issue, according to a new study. A study published by the University of Washington, looked at trash patterns in the Pacific Northwest. The data proves that beach visitors and local residents are most likely the cause of the plastic, wood, glass, and cement debris found on local beaches. Local organization RE Sources says that beach cleanups are a great way for people to become engaged with the environment and the next one is happening tomorrow at Locust Beach.

And the Whatcom County Farm Tour is also happening tomorrow from 10am-4pm. Twelve different farms will be open to the public so that residents can meet the people who grow and raise our local food. This self-guided event is free and open to all ages.

WX

Today will remain on the cooler side under mostly cloudy skies. Look for mid 60s today with cooler temperatures in the foothills. Winds should be out of the southwest at 10 mph or so. Overnight lows will be around 50 with cooler temperatures in the higher elevations and there could be a lingering shower in the foothills or higher. Skies will be mostly cloudy. Tomorrow's temperatures will be about the same as today with partly sunny skies. Sunday through Tuesday will be mostly sunny with a gradual warming trend from around 70-77 or so. There will be some variations in the higher elevations. Winds are not expected to be any factor with max velocity around 10-15 mph or a little higher along the coast. While Winter remains off in the distance, Mt Baker is expected to see some snow showers today with 1-3 inches of the white stuff possible.

OUTRO

Tune in to local news on KMRE weekdays at 3, 4 and 5pm, and on demand at kmre.org. KMRE is a nonprofit community radio station, powered by listener donations. It was produced by volunteers Matt Zable, Suzanne Blais, Staci Baird, Justine Mallahan, and Susan Lindsey. I'm David Korb.