REPORTING FROM
THE HEART OF CASCADIA
WHATCOM ★ SKAGIT ★ ISLAND ★ LOWER B.C.
{01.15.14}{#03}{V.09}{FREE}

CASCADIA WEEKLY

TOXIC TIDES:
The trouble with Bellingham Bay, P.8

DRAW THE LINE:
Human rights and Martin Luther King, P.12

BLACK MAPS:
David Maisel's apocalyptic art, P.18

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OF PARTY ANTHEMS AND CRUNK, P.20
A glance at what's happening this week

WEDNESDAY [01.15.14]

ONSTAGE
Vaudevillingham: 7pm and 9pm, Cirque Lab

GET OUT
Bike Travel Show: 7pm, Old Federal Building

THURSDAY [01.16.14]

ONSTAGE
Aladdin Jr.: 7pm, Blaine Performing Arts Center
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
The Illusion: 8pm, iDiOM Theater
The Project: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

DANCE
Folk Dance: 7:15pm, Fairhaven Library

MUSIC
Skagit Opera Benefit Concert: 7pm, Lairmont Manor

WORDS
Chris Jarmick Poetry Workshop: 5-8pm, Whatcom Museum's Lightcatcher Building
Kevin Sampsel: 7pm, Village Books

GET OUT
Mt. Baker Travelogue: 7pm, Whatcom Museum's Old City Hall

FRIDAY [01.17.14]

ONSTAGE
Fiddler on the Roof: 7pm, Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth
Aladdin Jr.: 7pm, Blaine Performing Arts Center
Harold: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
The Illusion: 8pm, iDiOM Theater
Comedy Rite: 8pm, H2O Club, Anacortes
Games Galore: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

MUSIC
A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra: 8pm, Mount Baker Theatre

WORDS
Family Story Night: 7pm, Fairhaven Library
William Stafford Tribute: 7pm, Village Books

GET OUT
Wild Things: 9:30-11am, Lake Padden

SATURDAY [01.18.14]

ONSTAGE
Fiddler on the Roof: 2pm and 7pm, Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth
Darren Collins Magic Show: 6pm, Cirque Guild
Drag Show: 6pm, MBT’s Walton Theatre
Aladdin Jr.: 7pm, Blaine Performing Arts Center
Harold: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
The Illusion: 8pm, iDiOM Theater
Comedy Rite: 9pm, Poppey 360
Games Galore: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

DANCE
Experience Tango: 8-11:30pm, Presence Dance Studio

MUSIC
Music and Memories Benefit: 5pm, St. Joseph Center, Mount Vernon
Michael Gonzalez: 6:30-8pm, Jansen Art Center

T.B. Ritchie Benefit Concert: 7:30pm, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

WORDS
Writers in the Limelight: 12pm, Limelight Cinema
Luci Shaw: 7pm, Village Books

COMMUNITY
Human Rights Conference: 9:30am-3pm, Whatcom Community College

FOOD
Swedish Pancake Breakfast: 8-11am, Norway Hall
Pancake Breakfast: 8-11am, Blaine Senior Center
Winter Farmers Market: 10am-3pm, Depot Market Square

GET OUT
Skagit Eagle Festival: Throughout the day, throughout eastern Skagit County
Hatchery Tours: 10am-3pm, Marblemount Fish Hatchery

VISUAL ARTS
The Gathering: 11am-5pm, Skagit County Historical Museum, La Conner

SUNDAY [01.19.14]

ONSTAGE
Guffawingham: 9:30pm, Green Frog

WORDS
Martin Luther King, Jr. Read-In: 10am-2pm, Village Books
Martin Luther King, Jr. Poetry Reading: 6pm, Community Food Co-op
Poetry Night: 8pm, Alternative Library

COMMUNITY
MLK Day Poverty Action March: 11am, Bellingham High School

MONDAY [01.20.14]

ONSTAGE
Guffawingham: 9:30pm, Green Frog

WORDS
Martin Luther King, Jr. Read-In: 10am-2pm, Village Books
Martin Luther King, Jr. Poetry Reading: 6pm, Community Food Co-op

COMMUNITY
MLK Day Poverty Action March: 11am, Bellingham High School

TUESDAY [01.21.14]

WORDS
Mount Baker Book Release: 5:30-7:30pm, Boundary Bay Brewery

GET OUT
Baker Backcountry Basics: 6pm, REI

A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra will push the boundaries of its musical genre at a Jan. 17 show at the Mount Baker Theatre

Seasonally hardy crops can be perused and purchased at the monthly Winter Farmers Market Jan. 18 at Depot Market Square

Swinomish carver Kevin Paul will be one of the many Native American artists demonstrating and showing their art at “The Gathering” Jan. 18-19 at La Conner’s Skagit County Historical Museum
January 31st

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EGYPTIAN EYES

FIREWIGHT

FORTUNE

FIREFRACKER
OIL TRAIN SAFETY

Why is it that reasonable people who accept safety regulations for airplane, automobile and truck traffic become upset when increased safety regulations are proposed for train traffic?

Most people see the logical reasons for speed limits, weight limits, safety inspections, safety equipment (seat belts, safety glass, etc.) and insurance requirements for liability. What is wrong with requiring dangerous railroad cargo (oil, coal, propane, butane, chlorine, anhydrous ammonia, etc.) to have:

- More rigorous tank car safety inspections.
- More frequent track inspections.
- Reduced speed limits for trains in urban areas.
- Larger liability insurance requirements for dangerous cargo.
- Limits on the number of rail cars in these unit trains.
- Safety equipment in cars that crews can use before first responders arrive.

Why is the safety of our community and loved ones less important than the profits of Buffett’s BNSF or the oil refineries? Where are the corporate leaders who see themselves as good corporate neighbors? When did our corporate and political leaders forget that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure or that it is better to be safe than sorry. Or lose the wisdom to protect Bellingham from the real possibility of an exploding oil train?

—Thomas Gilmore, Bellingham

MORE OIL TRAINS ARE COMING

An increase in the number of trains carrying oil will be coming to our county and you need to be aware of this and what this means for our community.

In the past six months there have been four horrific oil train explosions in Canada and the United States. Oil from the North Dakota Bakken oil fields is more flammable than traditional oil.

Audubon Washington has recommendations for you to pursue and act upon. Please check their website (www.wa.audubon.org/oil-trains) for their advice.

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities recommends that we ask our legislators to expand the state barrel tax to cover rail to go along with vessel and barge tax, close oil tax loopholes and pass an oil spill prevention act.

Learn more about what is at stake. Spread the word. Notify your elected officials of your concerns. There are steps we can take to slow the progress of these trains and also make the venture less profitable. Less potential profits may make this venture less attractive to investors and the people involved in the industry. We need...
FRESH AIR AND SUNSHINE DISINFECTS
Public interest in civic involvement is alienated, in part, by perpetuating the rituals of institutionalized convenience. It is small wonder that approval is at an all-time low for these structurally undemocratic legislative houses installed to do the bidding of privileged corporate lobbyists. The real estate they occupy has become so inflated in hypothetical value that they need to spend most of their time raising rent money.

Rather than to continue subsidizing this shell game masquerading as responsible representation, send these hucksters packing. Turn the entire capital district into an open-air museum, and relocate ongoing vital debates of democratic process and responsive governing out in the field where genuine working life actually takes place.

Elect some sincere workers for the common good willing to motivate and take the discussion with us, their constituents, back into neighborhoods where citizens really live. With the advent of post-paper Pushing technology, bureaucratic functions can now be managed from any internet-serviced coordinates.

Put Congress on a permanent bus tour around the country and remove them from their comfy isolation that likes to abstract ideas as far as possible away from the actual realities their constituents experience, to play games of political party-ball when they should be doing the people’s work.

—Eric Lovald, Blaine

OCCUPY THE INITIATIVE PROCESS
Recently, I’ve read a number of letters lamenting how Monsanto, Dow, and other corporations and agribusiness bought the election about GMOs. I take a completely different stand on this. Thanks to these chemical conglomerates, we now have a way to question many of their practices and products by using the initiative process in every state where possible. Let’s face it, they spent $46 million in California and another $23 million in Washington to convince us that GMO’s might be safe. My question, how much are they willing to spend overall?

And Genetically Modified Organisms are not the only questionable products that many of these companies distribute that they claim have health and environmental benefits and do little harm.

I propose using the initiative process to question some of these assertions that have been put forward to us by writing initiatives that force these corporations to prove their chemicals and products provide true value and safety, or remove them from the American retail and business market. And if they choose to spend millions to fight any disclosures of their products that may have little value, or might even be dangerous, then let them. And if we have to run multiple initiatives on multiple products that they sell, then again, let’s do that.

But if you’re a group planning on running an initiative and you feel there may be other issues you want to become involved in, then be smart and keep a copy of all those individuals that signed the original initiative document so you can easily contact them about other issues. This way it would be much easier to coordinate where signature gatherers would be and when, as a convenience to the public while shortening the amount of time needed to collect these signatures.

KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE
A conversation I had in line at the bank steered toward bilingual education. The person I was speaking with expressed dismay at monolinguals who spoke only Spanish.

“They are in America now, and in America we speak English.”

I am not one to disagree with speaking, or rather, learning English. The problem is, when we say that it is time to learn English, we’re often asking a little more than just language acquisition. We are asking for assimilation. In assimilation theory one gives up their culture for the dominant culture. In doing so a type of deficit thinking becomes pervasive when we speak of immigrant individuals and families. We have a harder time seeing the benefits that can be brought by embracing the diversity of culture, and we are left wondering, “When are they going to become like us?”

In critical race theory, when we see assimilation as the solution to the problem, we negate the fact that not everyone is the same. There are fundamental identities people cannot change about themselves. What can change are our attitudes and beliefs about how we educate.

Research tells us that English as a second language students learn comprehension much faster when they are encouraged to continue using their mother tongue. They also retain their own language throughout their lifetimes. A bilingual approach to ESL education would not only bolster test scores, it would promote a more diverse culture in the Northwest.

—Naomi Murphy, Ferndale

—Bill Walker, Maple Falls
**THE GRISTLE**

**THE COSTS OF COSTCO:** Mayor Kelli Linville came one step closer to her goal, convincing her own City Council, at least, to request $2.5 million from Whatcom County’s Economic Development Investment (EDI) fund to help finance a large regional stormwater facility to serve a planned retail expansion in the city’s north end. Council agreed. The expansion is planned along Interstate 5 at Bakerview Road, a patchwork of interconnected wetlands and planned, buildable lands in an area already heavily impacted by big-box retail and associated traffic. The centerpiece of the expansion is a proposed 160,000 sq. ft. Costco and its associated 24-pump gasoline station, intended to replace the warehouse retailer’s existing store on Meridian. Costco Wholesale management claims the existing store is inadequate for future retail.

Whatcom County Council balked at approving a $1.68 million loan and related $825,000 grant from the county’s EDI fund late last year after tentatively approving the transaction. County Council’s primary concern was increased traffic in an area already under heavy development for hotels, other big-box retail and similar amenities in a section of the city that shares a growth boundary with Ferndale.

“Even before all of these existing developments were constructed, the day that interchange opened it was a transportation nightmare,” County Council member and former County Executive Pete Kremen commented in October.

“The city’s request meets all the requirements for EDI, getting a ‘compelling’ rating from the EDI board,” Linville said afterward. The EDI board ranks applications according to their economic significance. The city projects the development proposal could create or retain as many as 750 jobs, based on estimates of the number of employees per square foot of commercial development of this kind.

“This is a property that has long been in the city’s inventory for economic activity and commercial development,” Linville said. “I was a little surprised that the County Council would object to that now.”

There’s little doubt Bellingham benefits financially from retail expansion in the near-term. Bellingham’s rate of growth of taxable retail sales was almost double the state average from 2010 to 2011. The city projects $19.8 million in taxable retail sales in 2014, up 2 percent from the previous year and up nearly 20 percent from the collapse of county fortunes in the economic downturn of 2008. The trends in retail track closely with cross border traffic from Canada, according to the Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University, indicating (as if anecdotal eyewitness evidence alone is insufficient) a healthy percentage of Bellingham shoppers are from Canada.

The thornier problems for city and county policymakers include the ultimate carrying capacity of Bakerview Road and its connections to the freeway and Meridian Street interchanges; and the ultimate capacity of the natural environment to bear the impacts of extensive acres of new impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff.

“The proposed Costco development will require stormwater detention and treatment for 21 acres,” COB Public Works Director Ted Carlson stated in the city’s application for EDI funds. “Due to the site constraints, an on-site facility would require installation of a vault of other buried system. Preliminary...
estimates for an on-site facility of this type are around $6 million. We estimate Costco’s proportional share of the regional facility to be around $1.2 million.” The balance of the project will be funded by the City of Bellingham, staff reported.

“This regional approach not only reduced permitting timelines but also reduces the cost of doing business in Bellingham,” Carlson commented.

A regional approach to handling stormwater is near to Kelli’s heart, believing it to be a more effective model than piecemeal stormwater solutions and having championed the model while still in the state Legislature.

“Investments in regional stormwater treatment facilities and wetland mitigation strategies are ways we can build capacity and create better, more cost-effective environmental results,” Linville explained.

The city’s traffic study indicates “the Costco development itself does not trigger any additional mitigation” in the near term, but the study rather glosses the cumulative impacts of construction already underway in the area by four substantial regional players—the cities of Bellingham and Ferndale, the Port of Bellingham, and—potentially—Lummi Nation at Slater Road. The county will consider its own independent traffic analysis in February.

Zooming out, and considering those multiple competitors for finite commercial and economic dollars, the cracks in the façade become evident as all compete for a boutique market created almost entirely by the idiosyncrasies of British Columbia’s revenue schemas. The area is slated for no fewer than five hotels totaling nearly 600 rooms, together with a staging area for “park-&-fly” airport expansion designed almost entirely around siphoning cheap air travel out of Canada. The latency of hotel construction coupled with the instability of airlines and air travel costs practically invites a boom-or-bust bubble economy, as does—frankly—a big-box retail strategy built to capture protest of B.C.’s peculiar consumer tax. Should the province ever correct those peculiarities, the boutique market would collapse. A small imbalance in the relative strength of the U.S. dollar against the Canadian dollar—inevitable, really—would lay waste to that market.

The capture of retail dollars is organically different from, say, efforts to capture tourism dollars. Tourism requires building a special place people want to visit and, in that effort, building a better place to live. Chain retail? Not so much.
The tiny critters living in the mud at the bottom of Bellingham Bay are showing signs of stress, according to a recently released report by the Washington Department of Ecology.

An intensive survey in 2010 sampled the top inch of sediment at 30 locations across the bay. Scientists measured the levels of chemicals, toxicity, and invertebrate abundance and diversity. The benthic zone is the ecological region at the lowest level of a body of water, including bottom sediments. Sediments in Bellingham Bay are primarily silt and clay. Samples taken from this region were compared against past surveys from 2006 and 1997 in Bellingham and elsewhere in Puget Sound.

The survey tests found “unusually low” numbers of clams, snails, sea stars, crabs, shrimp and other sea life, according to an Ecology press release. The surveys found that organisms least sensitive to pollutants were the most abundant, while the most sensitive organisms were scarce, indicating the health of the waters at the bottom of the bay is in decline.

“This is a strong indicator that the sediment quality in the bay is declining,” said Valerie Partridge, Ecology’s lead author for the report.

“Results followed a geographical pattern, with the greatest degrees of toxicity and impacted conditions occurring along the east and northeast margins of the bay and to the south by the open mouth. Low toxicity and inconclusive conditions characterized the center of the bay,” the authors of the report noted.

“None of the physical or chemical parameters measured in this 2010 survey explained the observed patterns of sediment quality conditions. Further study would be required to identify other factors, such as dissolved oxygen or additional contaminants, that may be important,” the authors reported.

While scientists found a large number of marine
organisms in each of the samples, the diversity was very low. One group of marine worms, which can survive and even thrive in harsh conditions and are considered stress-tolerant, was overly abundant in the samples. And the types of marine life that are most sensitive were rare or absent.

Several invertebrates that are resilient to harsh conditions made up a high percentage of the total abundance in Bellingham Bay. Clams, snails, crabs, shrimp and brittle stars, which are susceptible to harm from harsh conditions, were found in unusually low numbers. The findings were consistent throughout all samples, indicating sensitive marine life throughout the bay may be at risk.

“Theyir numbers were noticeably lower this time, which tells us the benthic community isn’t healthy,” Partridge said. “They were more abundant in the past surveys.”

Another strong indicator of declining sediment quality in the bay was the prevalence of sediments that were toxic in laboratory tests, the authors noted.

“About two-thirds of the samples from Bellingham Bay had some degree of toxicity,” Partridge said.

Ecology has documented a trend in declining sediment quality across Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia, but the quality in Bellingham Bay was lower than both.

The decline could not be attributed to any significant chemical contamination that Ecology measured. Scientists believe that other environmental conditions are impacting the benthic communities.

Some of the factors that may influence the health of organisms at the bottom of Bellingham Bay include:

- Changes in food resources that sink through the water and reach the sediments.
- Changes in dissolved oxygen, pH, and levels of ammonia and sulfides in the water above and within the sediments.
- Natural population cycles of sediment-dwelling organisms that may be influenced by oceanic cycles.
- Sediment movement and burial.
- Unmeasured contaminants, including contaminants of emerging concern, contaminant mixtures and contaminants that may sicken but not kill marine life.

Ecology’s sediment monitoring program was established to measure levels of toxic chemicals throughout Puget Sound, and to determine their effects on benthic invertebrates. The report recommended enhancements to Ecology’s marine sediment monitoring program including more analysis of chemicals of concern and improved toxicity tests of organisms sensitive to those chemicals.

The study is part of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, a collaboration of state, federal, tribal and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups, business, academic researchers, local integrating organizations, and other private and volunteer groups and organizations—all dedicated to monitoring environmental conditions in Puget Sound.
SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRITS
On Jan. 4, a concerned adult told Blaine Police he’d received information that a group of underage drinkers were possibly partying in Semiahmoo Park. “Officers quickly responded to the area and tiptoed up to several teens who were huddled together around a small camp fire on the beach,” police reported. “A short surveillance revealed that the only intoxicants being shared were ghost stories, so the officers pounced on the opportunity to reward the participants with an adrenaline rush. After the sand settled, the group was reminded that the park normally closed at nightfall.”

PLATE MEETS PLATE GLASS
On Jan. 1, Blaine Police checked on a domestic disturbance. Police contacted an adult couple whose verbal argument had grown out of control. “The male half had thrown two dinner plates out two separate windows,” police reported, “without bothering to open the windows first. Both plates and 40 square feet of window glass were destroyed in the tantrum. The man was arrested and booked into jail.”

BORDER BOOZERS
On Jan. 5, a man was leaving a store parking lot when he noticed another man sitting behind the wheel of a car parked nearby was pouring liquid from a newly purchased vodka bottle into a soft drink container. “The concerned passerby contacted police and described the suspect and his vehicle, a white Ford Escort with Washington license plates,” Blaine Police noted. “An officer found that the violator had already departed the parking lot, and a watch was kept on the area.”

On Jan. 6, a passerby in a store parking lot reported seeing a driver seated in his vehicle drinking from a beer can. “The suspect car had already left when officers arrived,” Blaine Police reported, “but they tracked it to the registered owner’s address. An officer contacted the young owner, and he admitted to having consumed ‘a little bit of beer’ in the parking lot. He was educated about the laws regarding drinking alcohol in a vehicle, and promised it would not happen again.”

SOUTH OF THE BORDER
On Jan. 10, a woman wanted for fraud in California tried to enter the United States at the Pacific Highway border crossing in Blaine. She was charged in 2010 for misbranding all-natural sexual enhancement drugs. The FBI reported the 30-year-old and her father used a company called Vitaspro, Inc. to deliver into interstate commerce misbranded drugs called Vitalex. The drugs were advertised and labeled as “herbal sexual enhancement supplements” and “all-natural” versions of Viagra, Cialis, or Levitra. She was booked into Whatcom County jail for extradition to California. Agents don’t know why the woman tried to return to the United States.

On Dec. 11, late in the evening, U.S. Border Patrol agents encountered someone attempting to hide on a trail in close proximity to the U.S./Canada border. The trail is located in an area commonly used for smuggling people and contraband in Blaine, agents reported. They determined the person to be a citizen of Canada, illegally present in the United States. The Canadian was returned to Canada.

On Dec. 4, U.S. Border Patrol agents were alerted to possible illegal cross-border activity east of Blaine. Agents located a person attempting to hide from them by lying down in the brush. The person was found to be a citizen of Canada, illegally present in the United States. Records checks revealed the Canadian had previously been removed from the United States. Agents reinstated that order.

On Nov. 29, remote surveillance cameras observed someone walking south from the U.S./Canada border in Blaine. Agents located the walker, a citizen of Canada, illegally present in the United States. The Canadian was processed for removal.

MANY FLAGS FLY AT BORDER
On Dec. 11, Border patrol agents witnessed a person illegally cross the U.S./Canada border west of Sumas. Agents determined the person to be a citizen of India. Records checks revealed the person had previously been removed from the United States. He was placed under arrest and processed for a prior order of removal.

On Dec. 12, U.S. Border Patrol agents learned of a possible illegal border activity in Blaine. Agents located a person attempting to secure a ride away from the border. Agents questioned the person and determined the subject to be a citizen of China, illegally present in the United States. Agents processed the Chinese citizen for removal.

On Dec. 14, Border Patrol agents stopped of a suspicious vehicle in close proximity to the U.S./Canada border west of Sumas. Agents learned that two of the passengers of the vehicle were citizens of India, illegally present in the United States. Both were placed under arrest and processed for removal.
A man leads a state trooper on a high-speed chase through Bellingham’s Puget neighborhood. The Washington State Patrol Trooper reports the man was speeding on I-5 when a trooper tried to pull him over, leading to a chase that ends at the home of his estranged girlfriend. Police find drug paraphernalia on the driver. He is booked on charges of eluding.

Crews prepare to clean a contaminated waterfront property in Blaine. The Port of Bellingham and Washington Department of Ecology removed approximately 230 cubic yards of contaminated soil from a construction site near the harbor. The soil is contaminated with low levels of metals and hydrocarbons. The soil is stockpiled nearby while arrangements are made to properly dispose of it. The investigation is part of a larger effort by the port and Ecology to determine the extent of historic contamination, design a cleanup project, and restore the Westman Marine area, an old shipyard contaminated from work dating back to the 1940s.

Sixteen commercial fishermen, two wholesale fish companies and 10 retail establishments are found to have been dealing undocumented and undersized crab from Whatcom County, taken before the crab were mature enough to spawn. KING 5 reports the ring sold the crab through the back doors of businesses that included some restaurants. People are arrested in Whatcom, Snohomish, and King counties.

Bellingham Police arrest a 16-year-old after he severely beat a 44-year-old woman. Police received a report of an unruly man creating a disturbance at Barkley Village, then an assault nearby. They discovered the Bellingham woman, who was severely beaten about the face. She said she had opened her door slightly after hearing banging and yelling. The boy pushed his way into her house and struck her many times in the face with his fist and banged her head repeatedly on the floor. At one point he put something around her neck and choked her into unconsciousness. When she awoke he was gone. Police tracked the boy to his home, where they found him covered in blood. He told police he was high on marijuana and mushrooms and that he thought he had killed the woman he attacked. He is charged with attempted murder.

A 61-year-old man is killed when he crashes his pickup into a rock wall at high speed along Chuckanut Drive in Skagit County. Washington State Patrol troopers arrive to find a heavily damaged 1996 Chevy pickup on the side of the road, apparently having failed to negotiate a curve. The driver, later identified as Rickie L. Moore of Bow, is pronounced dead at the scene.

Bellingham appoints a new interim fire chief. Bill Newbold will serve as interim chief of the Bellingham Fire Department following the announcement of current Fire Chief Roger Christensen that he will retire. Christensen postponed his retirement last spring to help the city complete public safety initiatives, including an agreement with Whatcom County to fund a joint emergency medical services (EMS) system.
Perhaps no group understands the impact of these three injustices more than Native Americans, who increasingly find their treaty lands at ground zero of national energy policy.

“We must massively assert our dignity and worth,” Dr. King encouraged in 1967. “We must stand up amidst a system that still oppresses us and develop an unsailable and majestic sense of values.”

In September, Lummi Nation took that stand, declaring, “Kwel hoy: We Draw the Line.”

The burial grounds and treaty rights of Lummi Nation are threatened by a proposal to build North America’s largest coal terminal on the sacred landscape at Cherry Point they call Xwe’chi’xen, a 3,500-year-old village site. If built, coal would be dumped on this historic burial site and would pollute the nearby fishing grounds, Lummi say. The waters are home to one of the best crab fisheries along the coast and provide food for salmon and Orca whales. This fishery sustains many tribal families, but those jobs could be lost if up to 55 million tons of coal is shipped over the waters.

To raise awareness of this threat to the Salish Sea, the “House of Tears” carvers of the Lummi community created a ceremonial totem pole that they carried in September along the proposed route that would freight coal from the heartland of the West to the western Pacific. Lummi carvers have much experience creating poles to bless areas struck by disaster or otherwise in need of hope and healing—lands wrecked by war and weather—but had never before carved one to heal their own. Their totem pole and witnesses traveled 1,200 miles from the coal mines in Montana to the proposed coal terminal on the coast in Washington, connecting communities and asking for blessings along the way.

“The sacred must be protected,” affirmed Jerimiah “Jay” Julius, secretary of the Lummi Nation Governing Council. Julius is a fisherman, crabber, successful businessman and father of four. He is descended from tribesmen who have fished the waters off Xwe’chi’xen for centuries. He was recently featured in a KCTS documentary and a related PBS News Hour piece about the proposed Northwest coal terminals. Council member Julius is speaking to multiple groups throughout the Puget Sound region, including the Kulshan Chorus, and a visit by Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville.

In September, Lummi Nation took that stand, declaring, “Kwel hoy: We Draw the Line.”

“T he great problem facing modern man is that, the means by which we live have outdistanced the spiritual ends for which we live. So we find ourselves caught in a messed-up world,” the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. warned 60 years ago, in 1954. “The problem is with man himself and man’s soul. We haven’t learned how to be just and honest and kind and true and loving. And that is the basis of our problem. The real problem is that through our scientific genius we’ve made of the world a neighborhood, but through our moral and spiritual genius we’ve failed to make of it a brotherhood.”

Perhaps we may learn from their tribe. Perhaps the Lummi, who have fed and sheltered one another from their abundance for many centuries, have more to teach us still.
WORDS

THURS., JAN. 16
BROWN BAG POETRY: Poet John Morgan illustrates inspiring, magnificent and unusual places in Alaska at a “Moving to Fairbanks: On Poetry and Place” Brown Bag presentation at 12:30pm at Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall, 121 Prospect St. Suggested donation is $3. www.whatcommuseum.org

POETRY WORKSHOP: Seattle poet Chris Jarriick leads a “Responding to Art” poetry reading and workshop from 5-8pm at Whatcom Museum’s Lightcatcher Building, 250 Flora St. After a tour of “Vanishing Ice,” participants will respond to prompts to inspire poems in response to the artworks. Entry is $5.
671-2626 or www.vanishing-ice.org

BETWEEN US: Kevin Sampsell reads from his new book of Fiction, This Is Between Us, at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.
671-2626

FRI., JAN. 17
FAMILY STORY NIGHT: Members of the Bellingham Storyteller’s Guild will offer an hour of coaching and an intro to storytelling at 6pm at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. At 7pm, Family Story Night will begin. Entry is free.
733-3837 or www.buff.org

SAT., JAN. 18
LUMMI PLACE NAMES: Lummi Nation’s Matt Warbus will share information on “Traditional Lummi Place Names” at a presentation at 7:30pm at the Lummi Island Library, 2144 S. Nugent Rd. All ages are welcome.
305-3600

SUN., JAN. 19
DARE TO BE: Area women are invited to a teaching, media and music presentation dubbed “Dare to Be: The Journey Continues” in Lynden. The event—which celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—will also include a variety of service projects planned throughout the day.
www.daretobeevent.com

MON., JAN. 20
POVERTY ACTION MARCH: Join the Whatcom Volunteer Center for the third annual Poverty Action March at 11am leaving from Bellingham High School, 2020 Cornwall Ave. The event—which celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—will also include a variety of service projects planned throughout the day.
www.whatcomvolunteer.org

TUES., JAN. 21
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION: Mary Jensen, co-creator of the “What You Can Do” display, will talk about how to minimize your impact at a Climate Change Action Discussion from 6:30-8pm at RE Sources, 2109 Meridian St.
www.re-sources.org

THURS., JAN. 23
HEALTHCARE TALK: “Obamacare Update” will be the focus of a United for National Healthcare meeting at 7pm at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3335 Squalicum Pkwy. Entry is free.
www.unitedforhealthcare.org

COMMUNITY

SAT., JAN. 18
LIMELIGHT WRITER: As part of a “Writers in the Limelight” series, show up at noon to watch an open mic talk and interview with The King Years author Taylor Branch at noon at the Pickford’s Limelight Cinema, 1416 Cornwall Ave. Entry is $5.
www.pickfordcinema.org

WRITING WITH ROLNICK: Skagit-based author Abbe Rolnick focuses on “Writing and Publishing” at a free presentation from 4-6pm at the Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Hwy. The discussion will span the creation of a story, from the birth of an idea to the development of characters, plot, theme and place. Please register in advance.
www.hcls.org

SHAW’S POEMS: Lauded poet, essayist, and art and faith lecturer Luci Shaw reads from her new collection, Scope: Poems, at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St. Entry is free.
www.villagebooks.com

SUN., JAN. 19
971-2626

MON., JAN. 20
POETRY NIGHT: Those looking to share their verse as part of Poetrynight can sign up at 7:30pm at the Alternative Library, 1417 Railroad Ave. Readings start at 8pm. Entry is free.
733-7230 or www.poetrynight.org

TUES., JAN. 21
CLEARING CLUTTER: Mental health counselor Carolyn Koehnline will focus on “Journal Writing to Clear Clutter” at a workshop from 12:30-3pm at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth St. The writing processes will assist participants in letting go and breaking the stress-clutter cycle. Entry is by donation.
733-3837 or www.buff.org

WED., JAN. 22
WILD AS MEMORY: As part of Whatcom Reads, Sara Geballe of Memoir Crafters will focus on “Preserving Life Stories: Wild as Memoir” from 10-11:30am at Ferndale Library, 2007 Cherry St.
305-3600

GIFTING YOU: Local author and speaker Chikeola Karimou will focus on “Gifting You: Your Business as Service and Generosity” at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St. The presentation is based on the book she co-authored with 29 other women, Network to Increase Your Net Worth.
733-2626
Baker Blowout

MOUNTAIN FOR THE MASSES

In the liner notes for their new book, Mount Baker, co-authors John D’Onofrio and Todd Warger correctly refer to the eponymous, volcanic land mass hovering near the city of Bellingham as a “study in superlatives.”

“It is the third-highest peak in the state, holds the world record for snowfall in a season (95 feet!), and is the second-most heavily glaciated peak in the contiguous United States,” they write. “The mountain also played a dominant role in the history of the region, having served as a beacon to seafarers and a lure for men in search of gold, timber, and adventure.”

When they host a book release party Tues., Jan. 21 at Boundary Bay Brewery, D’Onofrio (a frequent writer and photographer for this paper, and the publisher of Adventures NW) and Warger (a historian and filmmaker best known for the Baker-based film The Mountain Runners) will be happy to enumerate on many more of the fascinating historical tidbits they discovered while putting the tome together.

In the introduction to the book, they point out that it likely wouldn’t be as visually stimulating if not for a “trio of brilliant photographers that spent their lives capturing the beauty of the landscapes and the diversity of man’s interaction with it.” Photographs by Darius Kinsey, Galen Biery, and Bert Huntoon populate the 126-page volume, which re-creates the history of the mountain since humans—from native peoples to gold-seekers to adventurers and movie stars—discovered its many wonders.

Although it probably wasn’t planned as a compendium to the publishing of Mount Baker, an event preceding the book release also deals with the mighty mountain’s past. On Sat., Jan. 18, area historian and author Michael Impero—best known for The Lone Jack, Dreams of Gold, and The Boys of Glacier—will head to the Everson Library to talk about “The Grand Lady of Mt. Baker.”

The event will offer up a complete history of the original Mt. Baker Lodge, which opened in 1927 and burned in 1931. With the help of historical and contemporary photos, the program will also focus on early expeditions up the North Fork of the Nooksack River.

For those who are still seeking their own adventures on Mt. Baker, REI has you covered. A “Baker Backcountry Basics” clinic—also on Tues., Jan. 21—will talk about the “endless backcountry ski and snowboard lines for those with the right tools, experience and time.”

Workshop leader Patrick Kennedy will also provide details about access tools, common mistakes, best practices and places to go. And, per the theme of this trio of Baker-based activities, attendees can also expect to view plenty of photos, proving that Mt. Baker remains a “study in superlatives.”

ATTEND

WHAT: “Grand Lady of Mt. Baker” Presentation
WHEN: 3:30pm Sat., Jan. 18
WHERE: Everson Library, 104 Kirsh Dr.
COST: Free
INFO: www.eversonlibrary.com

WHAT: Mount Baker Book Release Party
WHEN: 5:30-7:30pm Tues., Jan. 21
WHERE: Boundary Bay Brewery, 1107 Railroad Ave.
COST: Entry is free
INFO: www.babaybrewery.com

WHAT: “Baker Backcountry Basics”
WHEN: 5pm Tues., Jan. 21
WHERE: REI, 400 36th St.
COST: Free; register in advance
INFO: 647-8955 or www.rei.com

MAKE AND TAKE:
WHAT: Mason Bees: Alternate Pollinators
WHEN: Fri., Jan. 17
WHERE: Federal Building, 104 W. Magnolia St.
COST: Free
INFO: www.everbodybike.com

WALKING CLUB:
WHAT: Make It and Take It
WHEN: Wed., Jan. 15
WHERE: Lake Padden
COST: Entry is by donation.
INFO: 647-8955 or www.rei.com

BIKE TRAVEL SHOW:
WHAT: Bike Travel Show
WHERE: Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall, 121 Prospect St.
COST: Suggested donation is $3.
INFO: www.whatcommuseum.org

THURS., JAN. 16
TRAVELOGUE TALK:
WHAT: American Alpine Institute mountain guide Jason Martin leads a “Climb for the Climate: Journey to the Top of Mount Baker”
WHERE: Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall, 121 Prospect St.
COST: Free
INFO: www.whatcommuseum.org

FRI., JAN. 17
WALKING CLUB:
WHAT: “Wild Things” excursions from 9:30-11am every Friday in January at Lake Padden.
COST: Entry is by donation.
INFO: www.wildwhatcom.org

SAT., JAN. 18
BOULEVARD WALK:
WHAT: Join members of the Mount Baker Club for a walk to Boulevard Park and on to Fairhaven starting at 10am at the Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave. The event is weather-permitting.
COST: Free
INFO: 676-5480

MAKE AND TAKE:
WHAT: Todd Rosendahl of GeoGlobal Partners will guide attendees through the process of building a lit water feature for their home at a Make It and Take It class at 9am at Garden Spot Nursery, 900 Alabama St.
COST: $39.
INFO: 676-4955 OR 319-3350

MAKE AND TAKE:
WHAT: “Bee Program: Mason Bees: Alternate Pollinators” will be the focus of a Blaine C.O.R.E. gardening program from 4-6pm at the Blaine Library.
COST: Free
INFO: 676-4955 OR www.rei.com

WED., JAN. 15
BEE PROGRAM:
WHAT: “Mason Bees: Alternate Pollinators” will be the focus of a Blaine C.O.R.E. gardening program from 4-6pm at the Blaine Library.
COST: Free
INFO: 676-4955 OR www.rei.com

AVALANCHE AWARENESS:
WHAT: Learn to access local avalanche bulletins and weather reports, recognize basic signs of avalanche danger, and discover simple ways to help avoid avalanche danger at an “Avalanche Awareness” course from 6-7:30pm at REI, 400 36th St. Register in advance for the free clinic.
COST: Free
INFO: 647-8955 OR www.rei.com

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hayrides, bonfires and much more will be part of the Skagit Eagle Festival happening every Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 26 in eastern Skagit County (Rockport, Concrete, Marblemount, etc.). Many events are free.

WWW.SKAGITEAGLEFESTIVAL.COM

HATCHERY TOURS: In conjunction with the return of the bald eagles to the Skagit River watershed system, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will offer free tours from 10am-3pm every Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 26 at the Marblemount Fish Hatchery, 8315 Fish Hatchery Rd. Attendees will learn about the operations of the hatchery, salmon and the lifecycle, the habitat needs of salmon and other wildlife, and bald eagles. Self-guided tours will be available seven days a week.

WWW.SKAGITFISHERIES.ORG

SUN., JAN. 19
RABBIT RIDE: Join members of the Mt. Baker Bike Club for the weekly “Rabbit Ride” starting at 8:30am at Fairhaven Bike & Ski, 1108 11th St. The 32-mile route sees riders heading down Chuckanut and back via Lake Samish.

733-4433 OR WWW.MTBAKERBIKECLUB.ORG

FAMILY FIELD TRIP: Join Wild Whatcom Walks for a “Riverside Ramble” family field trip from 9:30-11:30am leaving from the Welcome Bridge along the Nooksack River. “Bird nerd” and Boys Explorers Club mentor Dave Stritch will join the excursion, which will focus on the connection between spawning salmon, braided rivers, bald eagles and ancient forests. Cost is $10 per person or $30 per family. Please register by Fri., Jan. 17.

WWW.WILDWHATCOM.ORG

TUES., JAN. 21
RELAY FOR LIFE KICKOFF: If you’d like to volunteer or take part in June’s Relay for Life of North Whatcom County—which raises funds for the American Cancer Society—attend a season kickoff at 7pm at Lynden’s Mount Baker Rotary Building, 1751 Front St. Speakers, treats and door prizes will be part of the fun.

WWW.RELAYFORLIFEOFNORTHWHATCOM.ORG

WED., JAN. 22
EVENING EPIC RUN: As part of a weekly lineup of drop-in runs and walks, take part in a “EVENING Epic Run” at 6pm every Wednesday at Fairhaven Runners, 1209 11th St. The strenuous runs take place on hilly terrain with experienced trail runners. Entry is free.

WWW.FAIRHAVENRUNNERS.COM

THURS., JAN. 23
ALASKA CLIMBING: Expect comedy and entertainment when longtime climber Nick Aiello leads an “Alaska Range Climbing On A Budget” presentation at 7:30pm at Backcountry Essentials, 214 W. Holly St. Entry is $8.

WWW.BACKCOUNTRYESSENTIALS.NET

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360-733-3838
1326 E. Laurel St.
Bellingham, WA 98225
samishwayholistic.com

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The Alger Learning Center
Independence High School

We are a Washington State approved & nationally accredited K-12 private school that gives students the opportunity to experience the freedom of student-centered independent learning and unschooling. Combining unbridled creativity with flexible, free-range organic learning, our programs enhance freedom and self-directed motivation.

Serving Northwestern Washington for over 31 Years

Specialists in individualized multi-disciplinary curriculum; tutoring & learning labs; annual assessments, credit analysis & transcript evaluations; SAT, college & vocational prep; adult high school completion; consideration & respect for all learning styles & differences. Accommodating students who travel, work, or have other interests outside school.

New Bellingham classroom & office located at 100 Pine St. on the Bay at Cornwall Beach
(800) 595-2630 email: orion@nas.com www.independent-learning.com

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Modern Vaudeville
DARREN COLLINS JUGGLES HIS TALENTS

Multitasking performer and educator Darren Collins was born and raised in Port Angeles, but in the years since he left Washington State, the modern vaudevillian has visited and performed in all but one of the 50 United States (Alaska, if you're wondering) and has traveled the globe. Standup comedy, juggling, magic and knife-throwing are just a few of his talents. He'll show off more of them when he presents "Throwing Up Gracefully" Jan. 18 at the Bellingham Circus Guild's Cirque Lab.

Cascadia Weekly: What's the weirdest thing you've ever juggled? What's the most dangerous?
DC: Three cow feet, cut just below the knee—complete with skin and hair. I was in Kenya. My neighbors were about to make bone soup and I was like, "Hey, do you think I can borrow three of those?"

Most dangerous? Once a year, someone at a dinner party will inevitably challenge me to juggle knives from their kitchen. That's really dangerous. But I used to heat a frying pan onstage over a camp stove, and juggle that along with a spatula and raw egg. I did that bit for two years. A red-hot frying pan isn't just hard, it's also kind of stupid. I burned myself several dozen times.

CW: What's more difficult, throwing knives or standup comedy?
DC: Standup, by a long shot. You can't practice in your basement or garage, so you have to take your first baby steps in front of small numbers of people who are likely to be actively judging you and expecting you to deliver a laugh every 10 to 20 seconds.

CW: So throwing knives is easy?
DC: I will tell you secret: I did win the 2010 Knife Throwing World Championships in the Long Distance category, but the only reason I did so well is that I had swine flu and was so numb from fever that I didn't care. I got lucky. It wasn't skill.

CW: What can audiences expect at your Bellingham show, "Throwing Up Gracefully?"
DC: To laugh and have fun. I'm at my best when performing for school-age kids, their parents and grandparents at the same time. I'll do some magic, juggling and then a whole lot of nonsense in between. The nonsense is the best part. The adults always assume it will be an immature "kid show," which it is, and then they realize that I'm just a really friendly, sardonic, adult comedian who happens to be making their kids laugh, too. It's also inspirational.

CW: What else should audience members know?
DC: I perform almost weekly at the World Famous Improv Comedy club in Texas, but I haven't done my act in Washington for nearly a decade. Plus, I'm selling swag for my charity, so you can help educate kids in Africa by coming, too.

ATTEND
WHAT: Darren Collins presents "Throwing Up Gracefully!"
WHEN: 6pm Sat., Jan. 18
WHERE: Bellingham Circus Guild's Cirque Lab, 1401 6th St.
COST: $5 for kids, $10 for adults or $25 per family
INFO: www.bellinghamcircusguild.com

Please invite service clubs, youth groups, retirees and people who love to laugh. It's the most all age-y entertainment works. Bill Nye. Sesame Street.

CW: Edu-tainment works. Bill Nye. Sesame Street. The goofiest teacher you ever had in school. I went the direction of heady topics because it seems like puppetry and magic are the most impactful delivery systems for these topics. Human sexuality, disease, human sanitation, politics, these are things that you can't just stand up and chat about in many countries—it requires a culturally appropriate and delicate touch.

CW: Did I miss anything?
DC: I started a charity where 20 performers can reach half a million people a year with my "edu-tainment" program that provides tangible lifesaving information in East Africa.

Yes, I can teach kids about bullying from a pragmatic, thoughtful and funny point of view here in the USA—and I do. However, using that same skill to produce a show that can teach kids things that will save their lives, their peers' lives and the the lives of their families seemed like the perfect use of my particular skill set.

Kids in the United States need a lot, but what they already have that most kids do not have is access to information. So now Africa is the direction I am heading. If people check out www.projecthandup.org, they can see exactly the method and madness.

CW: Is it successful?
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CW: Is it successful?
STAGE

WED., JAN. 15
VAUDEVILLINGHAM: The monthly uncensored variety show fundraiser known as “Vauville-lingham” can be attended at 7pm and 9pm at the Bellingham Circus Guild’s Cirque Lab, 1401 8th St. Audience can typically see novice and veteran performers, dance, aerial, comedy, juggling, burlesque acts and more. Suggested donation is $5-$10.

® WWW.BELLINGHAMCIRCUSGUILD.COM

THURS., JAN. 16
GOOD, BAD, UGLY: Watch “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” at 8pm every Thursday at the Upfront Theatre, 1208 Bay St. At 10pm, stick around for the “Project.” Entry is $4-$7.
® 733-8655 OR WWW.THEUPFRONT.COM

JAN. 16-18
ALADDIN JR.: Hear songs such as “Prince Ali,” “A Whole New World” and “One Jump Ahead” when Blaine High School and Middle School presents showings of Disney’s Aladdin Jr. at 7pm Thursday through Saturday at the Blaine Performing Arts Center, 975 H St.
® WWW.BLAINEWEDNET.EDU

THE ILLUSION: See Tony Kushner’s The Illusion, at 8pm Thursday through Saturday at the iDiOM Theater, 1418 Cornwall Ave. Kushner’s adaptation of Pierre Corneille’s 1636 work about a father who seeks the help of a sorcerer while searching for his son shows through Jan. 25. Tickets are $10.
® WWW.IDIOMTHEATER.COM

JAN. 17-18
UPFRONT MIXED BAG: Long-form improv will be highlighted at “Harold” shows at 8pm every Friday and Saturday through January at the Upfront Theatre, 1208 Bay St. At 10pm, “Games Galore” shows will take the stage. Tickets are $10 in advance or $12 at the door.
® 733-8655 OR WWW.THEUPFRONT.COM

COMEDY NITE: Bay Area-based comedian Nate Jackson will be the featured performer at the monthly “Comedy Nite” standup shows at 8pm Friday at H20 Club in Anacortes, and 9pm Saturday in Bellingham at Poppes 360, 714 Lakeway Dr. Tickets will be $10 at the door.
® WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COMEDYNITE

JAN. 17-18
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF: Kids ages 11-15 will present performances of Fiddler on the Roof at 7pm Friday, 2pm and 7pm Saturday, and 2pm Sunday at the Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth, 1059 N. State St. Tickets are $10.
® WWW.BAAY.ORG

SAT., JAN. 18
DRAG SHOW: “Coronation 2014: Storm Warning” will be the focus on tonight’s Imperial Sovereign Court of the Evergreen Empire’s drag show at 8pm at the Mount Baker Theatre’s Walton Theatre, 104 N. Commercial St. Other events will happen throughout the weekend. Tickets are $33.
® WWW.MOUNTBAKERTHEATRE.COM OR WWW.EVERGREENEMPIRE.ORG

SUN., JAN. 19
DYNAMO: Liven up your Sunday nights at “Dynamo” shows at 8pm at the Upfront Theatre, 1208 Bay St. The performances feature 12 improvisers vying for the “Dynamo” title through a series of games and elimination rounds. Entry is $5.
® 733-8655 OR WWW.THEUPFRONT.COM

MON., JAN. 20
GUFFAWINGHAM: A weekly open mic for comedians, dubbed “Guffawinghaim,” takes place at 9:30pm Mondays at the Green Frog, 1015 N. State St. Entry is free.
® WWW.ACOUSTICTAVERN.COM

DANCE

THURS., JAN. 16
PORTLAND TAIKO: Traditional and contemporary compositions and choreography will be on display when Portland Taiko—the Japanese drum and the name of the art form—performs as part of the an Education Series at 10am and 12:15pm at the Mount Baker Theatre, 104 N. Commercial St. Tickets are $5-$6.50.
® 334-6080 OR WWW.MOUNTBAKERTHEATRE.COM

FOLK DANCE: Join the Fourth Corner Folk Dancers for a weekly Folks Dance at 7:15pm most Thursdays at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. All are welcome to come learn more about folk dances from Europe, Greece, Turkey, and Israel, and also get in some exercise. First-timers are free; suggested donation after that is $5.
® 335-0456

FRI., JAN. 17
PEACE DANCE: Celebrate the new year with meditative movement and deep spirituality at the monthly Dances of Universal Peace from 7-9pm at the Center for Spiritual Living, 2224 Yew Street.
® 333-5745

SAT., JAN. 18
EXPERIENCE TANGO: Tango Popolare will host its monthly “Experience Tango” gathering from 8-11:30pm at Presence Dance Studio, 1412 Cornwall Ave. An orientation lesson will happen from 8-11:30m at Presence Dance Studio, 1412 Cornwall Ave.
® 733-5745

Arne Hanna

Aquatic Center

Middle School Late Night Open Swim

The Arne Hanna Aquatic Center is hosting an open swim for middle-schoolers! Slide, swim, soak, splash around, dive, play water polo, hang out with friends. We provide a safe and supervised setting for boys and girls to spend their Friday night.

Fridays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31,
Feb. 14, 21, 28,
Mar. 7, 14, 21
9:00-10:30 PM

Grades: 6-8

Cost: FREE

For more information visit www.cob.org/ahac or call 360.778.7665

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Black Maps

TERRIFYING TERRAINS OF THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

I'm fairly certain the students sitting quietly in the corners of WWU's Western Gallery last Thursday weren't there studying photographer David Maisel's "Black Maps: American Landscape and the Apocalyptic Sublime" when I stopped by to peruse the exhibit. The first tipoff was that the textbooks they were clutching on their laps had nothing at all to do with art, and everything to do with math.

That said, the gallery was blissfully quiet—a condition perfect for memorizing the many vagaries of the laws of calculus, and also for ruminating on how the photographer whose work was on display managed to turn manmade disasters into eerily eye-catching works of art.

"Black Maps," which is presented in conjunction with the "Vanishing Ice" exhibit currently on display at Whatcom Museum's Lightcatcher Building, also takes a closer look at the long-lasting effects humans have had on the environment.

Maisel's large-scale images of impacted zones in the United States tackle topics such as mining and overpopulation, but do so in ways both subtle and, as mentioned in the exhibit's subtitle, sublime.

"Black Maps' leads the viewer on a hallucinatory journey through terrains that have been radically altered by environmental issues and transformed by human agency," reads the press release for the exhibit. "Maisel's aerial images of environmentally impacted zones frame the issues of contemporary landscape with equal measures of documentation and metaphor, beauty and despair."

Some of the birds-eye views are realistic in nature. A handful of photos from both "The Mining Project" and "American Mines" series feature forays into what seems to be Middle Earth. Much as the rings in a tree denote how much time the plant has spent on the planet, the circular swirls of roads and craters delving ever-deeper into the Earth's crust are an alarming reminder of what humans are willing to do to get to the elements they're seeking.

Many of the photos, however, have pigments in various shades (blood-red, icy blue, burnt umber, etc.) that have been added by the artist, making them much more abstract, and giving beauty to what ultimately are horrific scenes of environmental destruction.

In regards to the two series of photos depicting the effects of mining—which the Environmental Protection Agency has asserted is our country's largest source of toxic pollution—Maisel notes he's not necessarily trying to be a harbinger of doom.

"These sites are contemplative gardens of our time," he says, "places that offer the opportunity to reflect on who and what we are collectively as a society."

In addition to the focus on mining, another series in the exhibit includes "The Lake Project," which focuses on Owens Lake, a natural glacial lake drained at the end of the 20th century to supply water to Los Angeles that is now a desolate lakebed spewing carcinogenic dust clouds.

"Oblivion" is comprised of a trio of tonally reversed aerial views of Los Angeles. In the black-and-white photos, roads and freeways criss-cross like veins run amok, and crowded streets and suburbs make it clear that people are in control here, not nature.

Finally, "Terminal Mirage" focuses on a series of photos take near the Great Salt Lake. Depicting the area as a combination of natural wonder and manmade atrocities, viewers will be hard-pressed to figure out which colors point to naturally occurring organic matter and which are the after-effects of industry.

Despite its grim subject matter, "Black Maps"—much like "Vanishing Ice"—manages to deftly combine art and education. I hope the students who head to the Western Gallery for study breaks consider that, too.
UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 16-28
PACIFIC CREST DISPLAY: Whatcom Museum’s Jeff Jewell and staff from Bellingham Public Library will present “History of the Pacific Crest Trail” tabletop display Jan. 16-28 at the North Fork Library, 7506 Kendall Rd. The exhibit focuses on the trail’s founder, Bellingham’s Catherine Montgomery.
WWW.WWLS.ORG

SAT., JAN. 18
FAMILY ART DAY: “Let’s Shoot: Photography 101” will be the focus of Family Art Day classes with Tony Locke at 11am and 2pm at La Conner’s Museum of Northwest Art, 121 S. First St. Entry is $5-$8.
WWW.MUSEUMOFNWART.ORG

JAN. 18-19
THE GATHERING: Award-winning regional artists will show and sell a variety of Native and Native-inspired art at “The Gathering” from 11am-5pm Saturday and Sunday at La Conner’s Skagit County Historical Museum, 503 S. 4th St.
WWW.SKGITCOUNTY.NET/MUSEUM

WED., JAN. 22
ART TALK: Watercolor artist Michael Heath will share thoughts on his work on display at a talk at 7pm at Chuckanut Brewery, 601 W. Holly St. Entry is Free (beer is not).
WWW.CHUCKANUTBREWERYANDKITCHEN.COM

ONGOING EXHIBITS

ALLIED ARTS: View “The Art of Light and Technology” at through Jan. 31 at Allied Arts, 1418 Cornwall Ave. The light-themed multimedia show includes work by three artists and a technology display by SPIE.
WWW.ALLIEDARTS.ORG

ANCHOR ART SPACE: Seiko A. Purdue’s “Casting: Labor of Love” shows through Feb. 2 in Anacortes at Anchor Art Space, 216 Commercial Ave. The multimedia exhibit features large-scale hanging installations, delicate paper casts and more.
WWW.ANCHORARTSPACE.ORG

ARTWOOD: “Wood Art for the Wall” will be added through the duration of the exhibit.
WWW.ARTWOODGALLERY.COM

ART TALK: View Sue Spargo’s “Creating Texture,” Surface Design Association’s “Out of the Blue,” and “Timeless Treasures: Crazy Quilts” through March 23 at the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, 703 S. Second St.
WWW.LACONNERQUILTS.COM

ST. JOSEPH’S: “Contemporary Aboriginal Art: Australian Dreamings” shows through Jan. 26 at Peacehealth St. Joseph’s Medical Center.
WWW.LUCIADUGLAS.COM

WHATCOM ART MARKET: From 10am-6pm every Thursday through Monday through Christmas, stop by the Whatcom Art Guild’s Art Market at Fairhaven’s Waldron Building, 1314 12th St.
WWW.WHATCOMARTGUILD.ORG

WHATCOM MUSEUM: “Vanishing Ice,” “Treasures from the Trunk: The Story of J.J. Donovan” and “Romantically Modern: Pacific Northwest Landscapes” can currently be viewed at the Whatcom Museum campus.
WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG
Sir Mix-a-Lot and More

WHAT WE WHISPER ABOUT WHEN WE WHISPER ABOUT BUTTS

Ever since Macklemore proved that the lyrics “I wear your granddad’s clothes. I look incredible” and a platinum-selling hit were not mutually exclusive, I have been known to lament the fact that Seattle’s hip-hop scene—which has its roots in social consciousness and political awareness—will forever be identified with songs about big butts and thrift shopping.

Of course, I speak in jest, and my statement lacks accuracy, as Macklemore has marriage-equality song “Same Love” to his Grammy-nominated credit. But it might surprise you to know that Sir Mix-a-Lot’s “Baby Got Back,” the aforementioned paean to plentiful posteriors mentioned in the prior paragraph, was also envisioned as a barrier-breaking anthem of sorts.

To get you up to speed on the off chance you’re unclear who Sir Mix-a-Lot is or why you should care that “Baby Got Back” (little in the middle, though she might be), he’s a Seattle musician who dared to rap during the height of the grunge era—and scored a multiplatinum, Grammy-winning megahit with a song celebrating the “thick soul sisters” who “pack much back.” A shameless ode to ass, “Baby Got Back” introduced such gems as “I like big butts and I cannot lie” and “my anaconda don’t want none unless you’ve got buns, hon,” to our lexicon and encouraged us to dial 1-900-MIXALOT, all to an infectious dance beat. A video soon followed, featuring a giant yellow ass made from airplane steel, dancers who twerked before that was a thing and a whole lot of campy entendre.

As you can imagine, the song, the sentiment it so unabashedly espoused and the man responsible for it all did not escape controversy. The video was deemed too hot for prime time and was relegated to latenight programming on MTV. Critics decried what they perceived as “Baby Got Back’s” objectifying themes and overt sexuality. Mix might like big butts enough to not want to lie about it, but plenty of people thought that was an opinion he’d be better
MIX-A-LOT, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

off keeping to himself.

But as playful as the song sounded and cheesy though the video might be, simply celebrating a select part of the female form was never the sum total of Sir Mix-a-Lot’s intent with “Baby Got Back.” Instead, he wrote it to speak to a standard he saw within the entertainment industry, one in which the women—models, actresses, video extras, etc.—onscreen or on the page hewed to a stick-thin stereotype, while those with curves or “back,” as the case may be, were made to feel unattractive and unappreciated.

“I knew for a fact that many artists felt that if they didn’t use a skinny-model-type woman in their video, then mainstream America would reject the song,” the rapper told New York Magazine. “But I do not agree with that: If you look at Dolly Parton at her peak, a lot of white guys were like ‘daammm!’ At the same time, when I did casting calls for videos, curvy women wouldn’t show up. They thought they didn’t have a chance.”

A cry for social justice it isn’t, but the Seattle rapper’s call for equal objectification arose from a personal belief in body acceptance, and in that, he could be said to be ahead of his time. Either way, he gifted us with an indelible bit of pop culture and musical history—one catchy enough that many of us (myself included) can still sing along to every word.

“I still love ‘Baby Got Back,’” Mix said during that same interview. “I will perform it until I drop. It’s completely ignorant when an artist has a successful, iconic song that makes millions of dollars, but slaps his fans in the face when he says, ‘That song ain’t shit, I’m bigger than that.’ I appreciate the fact that people got behind that song back in the day, so I do a fuckin’ 10-minute-long version live.”

That supersized version of “Baby Got Back” will likely be the big payoff for those in the audience at the back-to-back Sir Mix-a-Lot shows taking place Jan. 17-18 at the Wild Buffalo. However, if you weren’t one of the hordes who bought their tickets early, you’re not likely to hear it, as both shows sold out almost as soon as tickets were made available.

Speaking of sold out, the Ying Yang Twins, who will follow hot on Mix’s heels with their own show Jan. 27 at the Buff, also caused enough of a run on tickets that a second show was added, the next day, Jan. 28. Tickets for that show are still available, but I do not suggest waiting to pull the trigger. Unlike Sir Mix-a-Lot’s big breakout hit, I cannot find one socially redeeming idea or theme in the track the Ying Yang Twins are probably most (in)famous for, the unapologetically dirty “Wait,” better known as “The Whisper Song.” I’d quote some of its lyrics to help jog your memory, but it’s impossible to string together more than two lines of the song without violating some standard of print decency. Phrases from this song also exist in our lexicon, but they’re generally uttered between consenting adults and cannot be found along the radio dial.

Not that there’s anything wrong with that. The Atlanta-based crank rappers have more to recommend than highly suggestive sex-romp songs. They also traffic in party anthems such as “Salt Shaker,” “Shake,” and “Get Low” (with some help from Lil Jon), some of which just happen to be suggestive sex-romp songs.

It’s possible the genesis for the “Whisper Song” lies somewhere in the sentiment expressed in “Baby Got Back.” Good thing all parties pertinent to the issue will soon be on hand. I believe a field study might be in order. 🎵
## music venues

See below for venue addresses and phone numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.15.14</td>
<td>Bobby Lee's Pub &amp; Eatery</td>
<td>Karaoke w/Kristina</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.16.14</td>
<td>Boundary Bay Brewery</td>
<td>Aaron Guest (Taproom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.17.14</td>
<td>Brown Lantern Ale House</td>
<td>Open Mic</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.18.14</td>
<td>Cabin Tavern</td>
<td>KickFlip</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.19.14</td>
<td>Commodore Ballroom</td>
<td>Kim Mitchell, Ballroom Brawl</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.20.14</td>
<td>Conway Muse</td>
<td>Nathaniel Talbot, Ian McFeron, Josh Clauson, John Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.21.14</td>
<td>Edison Inn</td>
<td>Piano Night, Margaret Wilder Band, Bow Oddiars</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glow Nightclub</td>
<td>DJ Boombox, Retroid Video Game Night, Girl Meets Boy, DJ Boombox, Lights Out Black Light Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Events

- **2X Point Fridays And $10 Free Play Saturdays**
  - Get 2X Reward Points on all your play, all day, every Friday in January! No need to sign up!
  - All Winners Club Members get $10 in Free Slot Play every Saturday in January! A $20 US buy-in gets you a $30 US Slot Ticket, any time on Saturdays!
  - See Winners Club for details and restrictions.

- **Free Fortune Cookie Worthy Up To $100 With Buffet Purchase**
  - Every Thursday in January
  - Purchase our 2-for-1 Asian Buffet for only $14.95 and get a Free Fortune Cookie
  - Some cookies contain prizes up to $100!

- **Win Up To $500 Every Friday Night!**
  - Welcome the Year of the Horse with cash drawings every Friday in January, hourly from 6pm to 10pm! Pick a red envelope to reveal their prize amount — up to $500! Winners Club Members get a FREE entry the day of the drawings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Green Frog</strong></td>
<td>Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin (early)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>H2O</strong></td>
<td>Comedy Nite (early), DJ Clint Westwood (late)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Honey Moon</strong></td>
<td>Open Mic w/Tad Kroening, Coty Hogue, Aaron Guest, Kat Bula</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kulshan Brewery</strong></td>
<td>Moongrass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main St. Bar and Grill</strong></td>
<td>Country Karaoke, JP Falcon, Grady, Live Music, Night Train, Boogie Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Make.Shift</strong></td>
<td>Kithkin, Polisades, Candy-sound, more</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nooksack River Casino</strong></td>
<td>Lexi Leigh, Live Music Epiphany</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Old World Deli</strong></td>
<td>Dave Nellis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Redlight</strong></td>
<td>Valley Maker, Specters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Royal</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke, DJ Partyrock</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rumors</strong></td>
<td>Levelled, Throwback Thursdays, DJ Postal, DJ Shortwave, DJ Mike Tolleson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Shakedown</strong></td>
<td>Never, Thieves of Eden, Crimean Field, Roller Betties Party w/DJ Idihnds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Silver Reef Hotel Casino &amp; Spa</strong></td>
<td>Tony &amp; the Tigers, Tony &amp; the Tigers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skagit Valley Casino</strong></td>
<td>Marlin James, The Dogtones</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skylark’s</strong></td>
<td>Jazz Open Mic, Telephone, Nuages</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Underground</strong></td>
<td>EDM Night, All-Request Night, Blessed Coast, Appetite for Deception</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Via Cafe and Bistro</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke, DJ, Karaoke, DJ Partyrock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Village Inn</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke, Karaoke, Karaoke, Karaoke</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Buffalo</strong></td>
<td>Wild Out Wednesday w/ Blessed Coast, Ill-Esha, Buku, Dubjavu, Sir Mix-a-Lot, more (late)</td>
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To get your live music listings included in this esteemed newprint, send info to clubs@cascadiaweekly.com. Deadlines are always at 5pm Friday.
**Ride Along**

**ICE CUBE’S BAD DAY**

"You are the man?" a crook asks Ice Cube as the cop comedy *Ride Along* opens. "I am the man!" Cube insists. You can’t blame him for being defensive. Now a 44-year-old father of five, Cube is three decades away from the furious teenager who co-founded N.W.A. his senior year of high school. He’s allowed to soften—or really, melt.

Not that he has. Cube is determined to prove he’s still cold and hard. In *Ride Along*, his default expression is snarl. He’s quick to blaze bullets in a crowded mall, admits his WiFi password is "SuspectShot23," and, when carjacking a valet school, is allowed to soften—or really, melt.

His Atlanta detective has two problems, and a conscience about ignoring the rules of engagement ain’t one. First, the force is sick of him pursuing an unknown mastermind named Omar, and second, his sister (Tika Sumpter) is engaged to marrying a 5-foot-2-inch high school security guard (Kevin Hart) who Cube grumbles is "about a chromosome away from being a midget." Someone should tell him there are worse things that could happen to his sister than a dude trying to put a ring on it, but judging by his daydreams of blasting Hart in the chest with his Glock, I’m calling Not It.

Hart plays a video game expert who wants to shoot real bullets by joining the police. (No, there’s no height requirement, but yes, Atlanta candidates have to be able to scale a six-foot wall.) Sure, he’s a small man, casually hopping on a kitchen counter in his scenes with 5-foot-7-inch Sumpter to gain a few inches and resigning himself to disappearing completely from the screen when she presses him against the wall for a kiss. But the script assures us he’s got a big package—his game nickname is BlackHammer—and an even bigger mouth. Which he needs. With Cube in dour dickhead mode, the standup comic works double-time for laughs. He’s forced to talk for two, eventually getting so hyped up he delivers his lines at a scream. Hart’s a millimeter away from obnoxious, but his desperation won me over. At least he’s trying to entertain.

When Hart convinces his brother-in-law-to-be to let him tag along for a day, *Ride Along* shifts into cruise control as just another cop comedy. Sort of. The clichés are all here: the big case, the tight-ass lieutenant, the partners who can’t click. It’s the same formula Hollywood’s been using since the Keystone Cops swaggered down the street with batons. We laughed at them for being fools, just as we did at the badge-wearing buffoons of *Dragnet, Police Academy, The Other Guys*, and even *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*. Even when the cops are capable, say in *Beverly Hills Cop* or *Lethal Weapon*, they’re game to make wisecracks about themselves. But in *Ride Along*, the joke feels like it’s on us.

Director Tim Story and his four-man screenwriting team think the height of hilarity is Ice Cube smacking around civilians. I bet kids who’ve been stopped and frisked will crack up when he threatens to falsely accuse a boy of assaulting a police officer. Maybe they’ll double over during the scene where he shrugs off the shooting of an unarmed man. You know who wouldn’t smile at that? Young Ice Cube.

Forget going soft—*Ride Along* proves Ice Cube’s got bigger image problems than kid-die movies and Coors Light commercials. It’s not his Hollywood career that makes him a sellout. It’s not even that the brave, bigmouthed teen who co-wrote “Fuck tha Police” grew up to play a cop. It’s that the rapper and activist who recorded 1992’s *The Predator*, a furious album about the Rodney King attack, is now embracing exactly the kind of violent, entitled, civil-rights-weapon a 24-year-old Cube was a saint. Still, it’s disheartening to see Cube in this boneheaded comedy that reflects—not dissects—our casual, at-least-it-wasn’t-me attitude toward law enforcement abuse.

It’s disheartening to see Cube in this boneheaded comedy that reflects—not dissects—our casual, at-least-it-wasn’t-me attitude toward law enforcement abuse.
The Nut Job
A TWISTED TALE OF A SUBPAR SQUIRREL

Computer-animated critters have been coveting nuts since at least the Ice Age, which means squirrelly Surly, star of The Nut Job, descends from a proud if exasperated tradition of animated acorn stealers. By way of novelty, this sharp-looking but otherwise uninspired Canadian-Korean venture gives its resident rodent a chance to steal a lifetime supply from a gang of crooks who've opened a nut shop adjacent to the bank they plan to rob. The critters look cute, but behave less so, while the competing-heists concept never quite takes off.

Credit Disney yet Ken Duncan and the artists at Canadian outfit ToonBox Entertainment with designing what is quite possibly the cutest pack of scavengers in those two respects, and the charm instantly evaporates. Though charm was in pretty short supply already, as the script's inability to resist even the laziest pun starts to make its fart jokes seem clever by comparison.

After destroying the local food supply, Surly is banished by Raccoon (Liam Neeson) and his fellow park-dwellers to a life on the streets of Oakton, a city with an endearing midcentury, all-American look about it. Seen from a squirrel's point of view, however, it's full of dangers: huge shuffling feet, mangy rats, falling bricks and so on. Lucky for Surly, he quickly manages to locate Oakton's nut shop, which we soon discover is little more than a cover operation for a bunch of mafia types' elaborate bank heist, already in progress.

While the criminals (headed up by the Stephen Lang-voiced King) tunnel into the bank vault next door, Surly and his friends attempt to burrow into the nut shop itself. Trouble is, nothing much stands in their way, apart from an adorable pug named Precious (Maya Rudolph) whom Surly swiftly learns to control via a discarded dog whistle. And so, with the animals' goal so easily achieved, Lepeniotis is left to fall back on stale twists, such as revealing Raccoon as an Animal Farm-style tyrant who manipulates his herd according to the motto “Animals are controlled by the amount of food they have.”

That would seem to be an almost anti-consumerist lesson tucked away within a film that, if its producers had their way, would inspire toys, tie-ins and sequels galore. Such crass commercialism, coupled with a strange sense of national pride from the South Korean entities that put up most of the money, surely explains how a computer-animated Psy came to hijack the end credits. This “Gangnam Style” music video certainly doesn't fit with the film's almost Marxian lesson in working together for the Common Good that the movie would inspire toys, tie-ins and sequels galore. Such crass commercialism, coupled with a strange sense of national pride from the South Korean entities that put up most of the money, surely explains how a computer-animated Psy came to hijack the end credits. This “Gangnam Style” music video certainly doesn't fit with the almost Marxian lesson in working together for the Common Good that the movie would inspire.
by Carey Ross

Film Shorts

By Carey Ross

47 Ronin: As long as I live, I will never comprehend quantum physics, the subtle nuances of the conflict in the Middle East or how Keanu Reeves continues to land movie roles. I have hopes of understanding the first two before I die. ★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 7 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

About Time: If the tagline “From the creators of Love Actually” fills you with anticipatory delight, your wait is over. Oh goody. ★★★ (R • 2 hrs. 4 min.) Bellis Fair: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

American Hustle: After a rocky start in Hollywood marked by public feuding with his actors, director David O. Russell has hit his stride with films like The Fighter and Silver Linings Playbook. This free-wheeling, highly comic story of political scandal, which sees the director team up again with Jennifer Lawrence, looks to be his strongest effort yet. ★★★★★ (R • 2 hrs. 9 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues: I’m pretty sure it doesn’t matter one whit whether this movie is worth watching or not because we’re all going to see it anyway. I’m also fairly certain nothing in this movie is as clever as all the pre-release Ron Burgundy antics Will Ferrell has unleashed on the world, making this movie a success before it even hits the big screen. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 59 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

August: Osage County: Although this movie is getting mixed reviews, I will see it for no other reason than watching Meryl Streep in full-on Mommie Dearest mode sounds like down-and-dirty cinematic fun at its very best/worst. ★★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 59 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2: I was pretty surprised when this children’s book was adapted for the big screen. I am no less surprised when this children’s book was adapted for the big screen. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 59 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Devil’s Due: If Rosemary’s Baby and Paranormal Activity had a child, it would hopefully be not at all like this movie lest it be promptly disowned and disavowed. ★★★ (R • 1 hr. 29 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Ender’s Game: This is a movie in which the fate of civilization is put into the hands of a teenage boy. And that’s just the first thing about the premise of this beloved book-turned-movie that I find to be a little suspect. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 54 min.) Bellis Fair: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Free Birds: Time-traveling turkeys are a weird enough plot concept for an animated adventure, but these gabby gobbles prove themselves unworthy of a Thanksgiving Day pardon. ★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 30 min.) Bellis Fair: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Frozen: Disney unleashes a brand-new princess on the world, just in time for a holiday merchandising push. However, this is no passive princess, but a girt-er-done, girl-power heroine who is not to be messed with. Has the House of Mouse finally gotten the memo that women don’t want to be damsels in distress? One can only hope. ★★★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 45 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Her: I can take or leave Spike Jonze, but his love story between a man (Joaquin Phoenix) and his operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson) is winning rave reviews from critics and audiences alike. ★★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 59 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: Not as boring as the first installment, still not as good as The Lord of the Rings franchise. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 40 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire: I would like to thank this box-office-smashing cinematic saga for giving the world with the crazy magic that is Jennifer Lawrence. I hear the movie she stars in is pretty decent too. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 26 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Inside Llewyn Davis: The ever-versatile Coen brothers hit another one out of the park with this spot-on rendition of the Greenwich Village folk scene in the early 1960s. While the supporting cast includes John Goodman, Carey Mulligan, Justin Timberlake, and more, it’s Oscar Isaac as the titular Llewyn Davis that steals this show. ★★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 44 min.) Pickford Film Center: See www.pickfordfilmcenter.com for showtimes.

Lee Daniels’ The Butler: This film starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey and directed by Precious’ Lee Daniels, spans eight presidential administrations and encompasses a whole lot of social change, all seen through the eyes of the White House butler. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 12 min.) Bellis Fair: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

The Legend of Hercules: Kellan Lutz and Renny Harlin—two people I thought only existed in celebrity gossip columns—team up to make a movie about a dude who only exists in myth. Sounds about right. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 39 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Lone Survivor: Peter Berg is never stronger as a director than when he is telling gritty, true-to-life stories (see also: Friday Night Lights). This time he’s tapped the versatile Mark Wahlberg to play a Navy SEAL on a mission to neutralize a Taliban operative—a mission that goes terribly wrong, with dire consequences. ★★★★★ (R • 2 hrs. 1 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

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Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones: Because we can’t kick off a new year without a tepid installment of a once-promising horror franchise. Here’s to a year in which Hollywood eschews sequels and superhero movies for original entertainment, and a unicorn and a leprechaun for everyone who wants one. ★ (R • 1 hr. 26 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty: I had high hopes for this big-screen adaptation of James Thurber’s short story. Ben Stiller’s interpretation (he directs and stars) is visually whimsical but otherwise blah. Methinks Walter Mitty’s secret life should’ve stayed that way. ★★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 54 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Sundance Film Festival Short Films: A roller-coaster mix of drama and comedy, the Sundance Film Festival Short Films program is a 93-minute collection of eight short films from the 2013 edition of the festival. ★★★★★ (Unrated • 1 hr. 33 min.) Pickford Film Center: See www.pickfordfilmcenter.com for showtimes.

Walking with Dinosaurs: This movie features Patchi, an “underdog dinosaur,” and will probably mismark you and your children about many matters relating to dinosaurs, their status as underdogs and their ability not only to speak, but also to tell jokes. ★★★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 20 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

The Wolf of Wall Street: Martin Scorsese is a master director somehow still at the height of his craft. Never does he seem to be having more fun than when he gets to tell freel-eeing-stories of the massive spoils of criminal enterprise, and this story of Wall Street chicanery is right in that wheelhouse. Add his cinematic muse, Leonardo DiCaprio, to the mix and you have one of the year’s most watchable films. ★★★★★ (R • 2 hrs. 59 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

Lee Daniels’ The Butler: This film starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey and directed by Precious’ Lee Daniels, spans eight presidential administrations and encompasses a whole lot of social change, all seen through the eyes of the White House butler. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 12 min.) Bellis Fair: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

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The Nut Job: See review previous page. ★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 26 min.) Barkley Village: See www.fandango.com for showtimes.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Whatcom County, WA January 2014 HOMES FOR HEROES Special program for Teachers, Police, Medical Personnel, Firefighters/EMT, Military.

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**NOW SHOWING Jan 17 - 23**

**INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS**
New from the Coen Brothers! “Beautiful, heartfelt and utterly enthralling.” Empire
Fri: (1:15), 3:45, 6:15, 8:45
Sat: (2:15), 4:00, 7:05, 9:30
Sun: (2:50), 5:20, 8:00; Mon: (3:45), 6:15, 8:45
Tue: (2:50), 5:20, 7:15
Wed & Thu: (3:45), 6:15, 8:45

**PHILOMENA**
98m “I’ve seen it twice and felt exhilarated, informed, enriched, absorbed and optimistic both times.” New York Observer
Fri: (1:30), (4:00), 6:30
Sat & Sun: (1:30), 4:00, 6:30
Mon: (1:30), 4:00; Tue: (12:30), 3:00
Wed & Thu: (4:00), 6:30

**SUNDANCE FESTIVAL SHORT FILMS**
93m Fri - Sat: 9:00; Sun: (NOON), 9:00
Mon: 9:00, Tue: 12:35, Wed - Thu: 9:00

**THE GIANT GILA MONSTER**
74m Sat: (NOON) - Rocket Sci-Fi Matinee

**JEWELS: BOLSHOI BALLET LIVE**
170m Sun: 7:00AM - Free coffee & pastries!

**BLACK OUT (NR)**
92m Mon: 6:30 - Dutch crime thriller

**LAS MARTHAS (NR)**
60m - Free!
Tue: 5:30 - ITVS Community Cinema

**AT MIDDLETOWN (R)**
99m - With an intro by Peter Travers at 8:00, Q&A with Andy Garcia to follow.
Tue: 8:30 - NY Film Critics Series

**NOW SHOWING Jan 17 - 23**

**PFC-OSCAR WATCH** - We predict this week’s films will be nominated. Inside Llewyn Davis, Philomena, Nebraska, and Dallas Buyers Club

**PHILOMENA**
“Beautiful, heartfelt and utterly enthralling.” Empire
Fri: (1:15), 3:45, 6:15, 8:45
Sat: (2:15), 4:00, 7:05, 9:30
Sun: (2:50), 5:20, 8:00; Mon: (3:45), 6:15, 8:45
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Tue: 8:30 - NY Film Critics Series
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by TOM TOMORROW

TOM THE DANCING BUG
by Ruben Bolling

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CASCADIA WEEKLY
01.15.14
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**Sudoku**

**HOW TO SUDOKU:** Arrange the digits 1-9 in such a way that each digit occurs only once in each row, only once in each column, and only once in each box. Try it!

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8 4 9 6 1 7
2 7 1 6

3 9 2 8
1 7 4

5 8
2

3

4

6

2

8

9
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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): “You know what the greatest tragedy is in the whole world?” asks novelist Terry Pratchett. “It’s all the people who never find out what it is they really want to do or what it is they’re really good at. It’s all the people who never get to know what it is that they can really be.” If that description applies to you even a little, Libra—-if you’re still not completely sure what you’re good at and what you want to do—-the coming months will be prime time to fix that problem. Start now! How? Open your mind to the possibility that you don’t know yourself as well as you someday will. Take vocational tests. Ask smart people you trust to tell you what they think about your special aptitudes and unique qualities. And one more thing: Be wildly honest with yourself about what excites you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In his book Schotterfreude: German Words for the Human Condition, Ben Schott dreams up new compound German words for use in English. Here’s one that would serve you well in the coming week: Fingerprintzentanz, meaning “fingertips-dance.” Schott says it refers to “tiny triumphs of nimble-fingered dexterity.” His examples: fastening a bracelet, tightening a minuscule screw, unknotting, removing a recalcitrant sticker in one broken peel, rolling a joint, identifying an object by touch alone, slipping something off a high shelf. Both literally and metaphorically speaking, Scorpio, you now have an abundance of this capacity. Everything about you is more agile and deft and limber than usual. You’ll be a master of Fingerpantzentanz.

AGITARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The four elements that compose cocaine are the same as those that make up TNT, caffeine, and nylon: hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen. The combinations and proportions of elements are different in each substance, of course. But the point, for our purposes, is that the same raw materials lead to different results. I foresee a similar drama unfolding in your own life, Sagittarius. How you assemble the ingredients you currently have at your disposal could produce either a rough and ragged high, a volatile risk, a painful stimulation, or a useful resource. Which will it be?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Metaphorically speaking, you have recently come into possession of some new seeds. They are robust. They are hard. They have the potential to grow big, strong blooms. So when should you plant them, metaphorically speaking? I’m going to suggest that you wait a while longer. It wouldn’t be bad for them if you sawed them right now, but I think their long-term vitality will be even greater if you postpone the planting for at least a week. Two weeks might be better, trust your intuition.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Flemish artist Jan van Eyck (1395-1441) was renowned for his innovative mastery of oil painting. He signed many of his works not just with his name but also with his motto: Abs ick kan. Its idiomatic translation is “The best I can do.” What he meant was that he had pushed his talent and craft to the limit, and then stopped and relapsed, content that he had given all he could. I invite you to have a similar attitude as you wrap up the projects you’re currently involved in, Aquarius. Summon all your passion and intelligence as you create the most excellent outcome possible, but also know when to quit. Don’t try too hard; just try hard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It’s an excellent time to rise up and revolt against conventional wisdom. I urge you to immunize yourself against trendy groupthink as you outwit and outmaneuver the status quo. Have fun and activate your playful spirit to the max as you create workarounds to the way things have always been done. At the same time, Pisces, stay acutely attuned to your compassion and common sense. Don’t be a quarrelsome intransigent. Don’t be rebellious just to please your ego. If you follow these guidelines, you will be able to pull off a graceful insurrection that both soothes and stimulates your soul.
THE ADVICE GODDESS

EAT, PRAY, BARF

My girlfriend and I just got back from vacationing in India, where we lived in an ashram (essentially a yoga camp) and she studied yoga and meditation for a month. Since we’ve been back, she’s been wearing a sari everywhere, which stands out completely here, and she greets everyone by bowing and saying “namaste” (an Indian greeting). She talks constantly to people about spirituality and energy and, to be honest, comes off as totally pretentious. This is all starting to wear on me. Is it shallow of me to be bothered by her new look and attitude? When she’s feeling so enlightened?

—Downcast Dog

When your girlfriend bows and says “namaste” to the bag guy at the supermarket, you have to wonder, are there two yogis in India fist-bumping and greeting each other, “Wassup, home slice?” and “Nuthin, dawg. What’s crackalakin with you?”

It’s understandable that you feel guilty about being annoyed that your girlfriend has gone Suddenly Swami. If she’d come back from Paris and started marching around in a beret and a Hermes scarf and speaking French to the grocery bagger, you’d probably deem her an obnoxious phony and suspect she has a superiority complex (a shrink term for covering up feelings of inferiority by acting superior). The problem is, we’re told we have to “respect” people’s spiritual beliefs and practices. We should respect their right to have them, providing they don’t involve baby eating or witch burnings, but there’s been what British philosopher Simon Blackburn calls “respect creep,” the expectation of “more substantial respect”—admirations, approval and deference. Well, these things are earned; they can’t be expected or demanded, and it’s no more wrong to have critical thoughts about somebody’s spiritual beliefs and expression than about their politics or choice of pizza toppings. So, getting back to your girlfriend, no, she isn’t exempt from being considered a pretentious jerk when she signs her credit card slip in Sanskrit.

It also isn’t “shallow” to feel that the new her doesn’t work for the relatively unchanged you. (As a flamboyant bigmouth, I can tell you that flamboyant bigmouth girls aren’t for just any guy.) But you might give this some time. This might just be the yoga ‘n’ meditation version of somebody excited about losing weight on a new diet and wanting to spread the word, and she may become less affected, preachy, and annoying in a month or two. To help speed the process, you could gently ask her to consider whether her clothes and talk might be creating distance between her and other people. A person shows their spiritual growth and attracts others to their path through how they act and treat people. (The saying is “Be the change you want to see in the world,” not “Dress as the change.”)

Sure, Buddha dressed like an Asian monk, but it isn’t the monk suit that made the man. (If Buddha were from Milwaukee, he’d be sitting cross-legged in Levi’s and a trucker hat.)

A RUSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

I am 23 and like this really cute guy who lives in my building. I think he likes me, too, because he flirts back a bit when I flirt with him, so I’ve been trying to send stronger signals that I want him to ask me out. I friended him on Facebook and started posting cute photos of myself, and if I’m at the store, I’ll buy him something and knock on his door and say, “Hey, I got an extra box of cookies; thought you could use them.” I’m thinking of throwing a party and inviting him, but I’ll feel dumb if he doesn’t come and I threw the party for nothing.

—Impatient

Unfortunately, men are more complicated than cats. You can’t just tie a beer and a bag of Doritos to the end of a string. A guy takes note of your existence because your legs give him whiplash, not because you deliver snacks or slip a coupon under his door for a free carwash with every date. You should flirt to let a guy know you’re open to him being asked out—and stop at that. What makes you attractive, in addition to the physical stuff, is your being a little out of reach, not inserting yourself into his life at every possible social or social media opportunity. The ploys you’ve been engaging in may not be so overt and aggressive as asking a guy out, but especially in combination, they cross over from indicating interest to screaming desperation. Because a guy can’t unhear that scream, your best bet is forgetting this guy, chalking this up to a learning experience, and moving on. And no, that doesn’t mean moving on to the plan of covering a big pit with leaves and luring him over to it with some Fig Newtons.

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Local Love

ACME FARMS & KITCHEN

Former regulars who used to play a few rounds of pool or occasionally listen to live music in the back room of Bellingham’s Rogue Hero bar likely wouldn’t recognize it these days.

Instead of rowdy revelers or drunken hookups, the long room is now home to Acme Farms & Kitchen, which bills itself as “Whatcom and Skagit County’s simple solution to eating locally produced food.”

On a recent Friday morning, cofounders Cara Piscitello, 36, and Joy Rubey, 39, were on hand to greet me at the State Street stalwart, which they moved into after former regulars who used to play a few rounds of pool or occasionally listen to live music in the back room of Bellingham’s Rogue Hero bar likely wouldn’t recognize it these days.

And although the space no longer resembles the dark cavern that was the Rogue—the low ceilings have been taken out, and that portion of the building now has a much-needed infusion of light—it was nearly as busy as a bar at happy hour.

That’s because I had arrived during the weekly rush to get the boxes of gustatory goods to the members who had previously placed their food orders online, and the employees were busily transferring the mix of locally and regionally sourced vegetables, meat, dairy items and more—which come in wooden boxes resembling those that might carry explosive compounds such as TNT—to vehicles for delivery.

While members are free to order item-by-item from the online store, Piscitello and Rubey also offer “Locavore” boxes, which include a rotating, seasonal variety of meal plans and recipes. The large Locavore box, for example, is full of everything needed to cook five sustainably produced meals. Each order includes a meal plan with recipes, seasonal produce, two proteins and a varying assortment of bread, cheese, fresh pasta, eggs, dairy and pantry items.

The week I visited, the large box included: beef stew meat from Skagit Angus Beef in Concrete, wild shrimp from Barleins in Ferndale, Breadfarm multigrain rolls, pappardelle from the Bellingham Pasta Company, a trio of offerings from Samish Bay Cheese, pie crust produced at the ACME kitchen, eggs from Burlington’s Prairie Road Farm, shiitakes from Cascadia Mushrooms, kale from Highwater Farm, Hopewell Farm carrots, cubed squash sourced from Whidbey Island, yukon gold potatoes, garlic and delicata squash from Acme’s Moondance Farm, and fingerling potatoes and onions courtesy of La Conner’s Hedlin Farm. (Recipes included beef and mushroom stroganoff over pappardelle as well as shrimp stir fry with kale and carrots.)

Some might look at the $79 price tag for a Locavore box as high, but both Piscitello and Rubey are adamant that the time and money saved by not having to grocery shop on a regular basis is worth it (they also cite not losing money due to “impulse” buys).

“You can do almost all your shopping with us, and go to the store every two weeks instead of every day,” Piscitello says. “We’re doing this to give people easier access to local food, and by creating demand for local food, we’re able to ensure the farmers have a guaranteed outlet for their products.”

With around 40 different suppliers, Acme also sees to it that those who are purchasing edibles from them also have a whole lot to choose from.

When they first started the business in 2011, Piscitello and Rubey—who are both trained architects and have kids around the same age—did so because they wanted to figure out how to feed their own families menu items that were both sustainable and delicious.

As Acme Farms & Kitchen has grown from around 60 members to more than 800, the ideas have expanded, as well. In addition to the Locavore boxes, members can also pick and choose from a variety of meal kits, prepped and ready-to-eat menu items, baked goods, gift sets and more.

Don’t expect Piscitello and Rubey to let up on fulfilling their mission of feeding the masses anytime soon. Rubey says she’s cooking more than she ever has, and feels good that in addition to helping sustain the farmers and other purveyors, she’s also creating menus for her own family that she can feel proud about.

“When we bring our own box home, the kids always tear into it,” she says. “Basically, it’s family food your kids will eat.”
SAT., JAN. 18

SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Enjoy “Swedish pancakes made by Norwegians” when the Swedish Pancake Breakfast resumes its monthly run from 8-11am at Norway Hall, 1419 N. Forest St. Entry is $3 for kids and $7 for adults. 733-6618

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Pancakes, biscuits and gravy, waffles, French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage and beverages will be available at today’s Pancake Breakfast from 8-11am at the Blaine Senior Center, 763 G St. Entry is $4 for kids and $6 for adults. 332-8040

WINTER FARMERS MARKET: Seasonally hardy crops will be on full display at the first of three Winter Farmers Markets happening from 10am-3pm at Bellingham’s Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave. Shoppers can look forward to local meats, cheeses, bread and other baked goods, hardy vegetables and fruit as well as a variety of ready-to-eat and processed food (in addition to art, bath products, crafts and more). Additional markets happen Feb. 15 and March 15 before the weekly season opening in April. WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERS.ORG

MON., JAN. 20

FOOD AND STORYTELLING: “Marketing Your Local Food Through Storytelling” will be the focus of a Food & Farming event from 5:30-8:30pm at the Sustainable Connections Events Space, 1701 Ellis St. Farmers, chefs, restaurateurs, food artisans and processors can take part in the interactive workshop. Please RSVP in advance. WWW.SUSTAINABLECONNECTIONS.ORG

SOUP KITCHEN: Through the winter, all are welcome at a Soup Kitchen meal from 6-7pm every Monday at Bellingham’s Little Cheerful Cafe, 133 E. Holly St. Entry is free. WWW.LITTLECHEERFUL.COM

TUES., JAN. 21

EATING FABULOUSLY: Karina Davidson will helm a “Year of Eating Fabulously” course from 6:30-9pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. The class will focus on eating wholesome, real food without sacrificing taste or comfort. Entry is $39, with a $7 wine option payable at class. 383-3200

WINTER SOUPS: Portuguese white bean and kale soup, zesty black bean soup with garlic pepper sauce, and red lentil soup with sage will be on the menu at a “Winter Soups” course from 6:30-8:30pm in Mount Vernon at Gretchen’s Kitchen, 501 S. First St. Cost is $30. WWW.GRETCHENSKITCHEN.COM

PALEO TREATS: Alternative flours and sugars will be the focus of a free “Paleo Treats!” class at 6:30pm in Mount Vernon at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op, 202 S. First St. Please register in advance. WWW.SKAGITFOODCOOP.COM

JAN. 21-23

MAPLE ALLEY INN: The Maple Alley Inn prepares and serves hot, home-cooked meals to those in need from 9:30-10:30am Tuesdays at St. Paul’s Episcopal Old Parish Hall. Meals are also available from 11:30am-1:30pm Wednesdays and Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 2750 McLeod Rd. Entry is free and open to all. 734-5121

THURS., JAN. 23

INCognito: The unconventional dinner series known as “Incognito!” begins at 6pm at Ciao Thyme, 207 Unity St. The details of the seasonally focused menu won’t be revealed until you sit down at the table, but rest assured each of the six or more courses will be delicious. Entry is $68. WWW.CIAOTHYME.COM

CHINESE NEW YEAR: Chef Robert Fong leads a “Year of the Green Horse” how-to from 6:30-9pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. The class focuses on menu items to ring in the Chinese New Year, such as roast duck, sizzling shrimp and lo han jai. Entry is $48. 383-3200

ATTEND THE FIRST SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST OF THE YEAR SAT., JAN. 18 AT BELLINGHAM’S NORWAY HALL
In December Alone, Our Rewards Club Members Redeemed:

$820,107

in Player-Bucks, Fuel Cards and Cash-Back Points!

What Rewards did YOU get?

We’re the only casino in Washington that gives you Player-Bucks and Cash-Back Points every time you play your favorite slots!

SKAGIT VALLEY CASINO RESORT

Owned by Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

The Pacific Showroom

An Acoustic Evening with

COLIN HAY

of Men At Work

Friday & Saturday, January 24 & 25 at 8 pm

Buy Show Tickets Service Charge
Free at the Casino Box Office
ticketmaster 800-745-3000

$10,000

POINTS EARNING PRIZES:

Receive a special gift when you earn 150 points.
See Rewards Club Center for details

EARN TICKETS:

January 12 - 30

Casino opens at 9 am daily. Must be 21 or older with valid ID to enter casino, buffet or attend shows. Must be a Rewards Club Member – Membership is FREE! Must be present to win. Skagit Player-Bucks are non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash.