AUTHORING ACTIVISM
Floyd McKay's enduring legacy, P.08

PADILLA BAY
Of ducks and dikes, P.20

RECORD STORE DAY
A fun solution to a complex problem, P.26
“Alt country serious boogie dance music” will be the order of the day when **Petunia & the Vipers** perform at a Dance for Renewable Energy Sat., April 16 at the Majestic Pizza

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**Bellingham native Jake Beattie** talks about the non-motorized boat race he founded, **Race to Alaska**, Thurs., April 14 at Backcountry Essentials

**WEDNESDAY** [04.13.16]

**WORDS**
Noisy Water Reading: 7pm, Jansen Art Center, Lynden

**GET OUT**
Tulip Festival: Through April, throughout the Skagit Valley

**THURSDAY** [04.14.16]

**ONSTAGE**
Saturday Night Fever: 7pm, Mount Baker Theatre
The Love of the Nightingale: 7:30pm, iDiOM Theater
The Drowsy Chaperone: 7:30pm, Anacortes Community Theatre
Good, Bad, Ugly: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
The Project: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

**WORDS**
David Swanson: 7pm, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Noisy Water Reading: 7pm, Village Books

**GET OUT**
Race to Alaska: 7:30pm, Backcountry Essentials

**FRIDAY** [04.15.16]

**ONSTAGE**
Vandevillingham: 7pm and 9pm, Cirque Lab
The Love of the Nightingale: 7:30pm, iDiOM Theater
Brian Quijada: 7:30pm, Old Main Theatre, WWU
The Drowsy Chaperone: 7:30pm, Anacortes Community Theatre

**WORDs**
Family Story Night: 7pm, Fairhaven Library
Terry Pratchett Memorial Reading: 7pm, Deming Library
Brenda Miller: 7pm, Village Books

**GET OUT**
Wild Things: 9:30-11am, Stimson Family Nature Reserve

**MUSIC**
Cosi Fan Tutte: 7:30pm, Performing Arts Center, WWU
Skagit Opera’s Norma: 7:30pm, McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon

**SUNDAY** [04.17.16]

**ONSTAGE**
The Drowsy Chaperone: 2pm, Anacortes Community Theatre

**MUSIC**
Cosi Fan Tutte: 2:30pm, Performing Arts Center, WWU
Sunday @ 3: 3pm, Jansen Art Center, Lynden
Skagit Opera’s Norma: 3pm, McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon
Elvis Costello: 7:30pm, Mount Baker Theatre

**WORDS**
Matthew Thuney: 4pm, Village Books

**FOOD**
Northwest Wine Encounter: Through Sunday, Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine

**COMMUNITY**
Cherry Blossom Festival: 9:30am-5pm, Pioneer Pavilion, Ferndale
Home & Boat Tour: 11:30am-5pm, Anacortes
Blessing of the Animals: 12-3pm, Windy Acre Farm
Cornhole Tournament: 2-8pm, Bellingham Sportsplex
Firefighters Ball: 7pm-12am, Bellingham Golf & Country Club

**GET OUT**
Fun with the Fuzz: 9am, Bellingham Police Department
Cement City Trail Run: 10am, Concrete High School

**FOOD**
Pancake Breakfast: 8-11am, Ferndale Senior Center
Pancake Breakfast: 8-11am, VFW Hall, Lynden
Pancake Breakfast: 8-11am, Blaine Senior Center
Bellingham Farmers Market: 10am-3pm, Depot Market Square
Northwest Wine Encounter: Through Sunday, Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine

**VISUAL ARTS**
Quilts in Bloom: 10am-5pm, Swinomish Casino & Lodge, Anacortes

**MONDAY** [04.18.16]

**ONSTAGE**
Talent Show Auditions: 5-7pm, Mount Baker High School, Deming
Guffawingham: 9:30pm, Green Frog

**WORDS**
Jim Lynch: 7pm, Jansen Art Center, Lynden
Poetry Night: 8pm, Bellingham Public Library
Random acts of KINDNESS

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AN UGLY REFLECTION

Observing the appalling disrespect of Pacific International Terminals and BNSF Railroad toward the citizens of Whatcom County and Lummi Nation over the last five years, as well as the reprehensible behavior of Gateway Pacific Terminal spokesman Craig Cole, I am absolutely astonished that they can still show their face in the community that they have treated with such contempt.

From the sinister desecration of the sacred Lummi burial ground at Cherry Point in the dark of night, to the lavish funding of Tea Party-led PACs run by KGMI hate radio hosts, to the repeated corruption of elections year after year through money-laundering with the Republican Party, to the intimidation and libeling of journalists that exposed their ongoing nefarious deeds, to promoting interracial discord and anti-Indian resentment, I am utterly shocked that the so-called moral authorities and civic leaders of the region have sat idly by and let all this continue.

Is this now considered normal behavior for corporations in our society? Is this now viewed as acceptable social conduct? How can civic-minded people possibly contemplate maintaining silence about this injustice, and still see themselves as good role models for their children?

It’s not as though any of this is a secret. Indeed, it has been in the news time and time again.

Have people become so cynical and self-centered that they only care about themselves? My god, what a sad commentary on the state of American values and virtues.

I think it is about time for Whatcom County residents to look inside themselves to see if they still have an ounce of humanity left.

—Jay Taber, San Francisco

HILLARY’S TRAVALS

Hillary Clinton, seeing her campaign falter, complains that her essential message is being distorted by her enemies. She especially laments her failure to connect with young voters. Young voters, she feels, have moved on; Clinton remains joined at both hips, to Wall Street and to Israel, respectively.

Since 1992, Wall Street firms have funnelled an estimated $93 million into the coffers of the Clinton Foundation, described by Foundation Watch as “a vehicle to promote the careers of the Clintons,” and an “unofficial campaign headquarters” for Hillary’s presidential bid. The trade deals that Hillary has enthusiastically supported have sent millions of American jobs, both blue-collar and high-tech, overseas. Her credibility is further suffering because of her refusal to release the transcripts of three speeches she gave to Goldman Sachs for $675,000 just prior to
launching her current campaign.

As Secretary of State, Clinton, in 2011, issued a State Department waiver for the $29.4 billion sale of advanced F-15SA fighters to Saudi Arabia, after the Saudi government donated $10 million to the Clinton Foundation, and Boeing, the planes’ manufacturer, chipped in another $900,000.

Why is this transaction not under investigation?

Clinton’s pledge that she will raise relations with Israel to a higher level neglects the fact that the majority of Americans believe that we are paying too high a price, financially and morally, for our long-standing alliance with Israel. Even young Jews are beginning to reject our subservience to the Zionist yoke, as seen by their role in the rise of anti-Zionism on college campuses, and the growing worldwide success of boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS).

Clinton has already established herself as an aggressive global interventionist, with her lead role, as Secretary of State, in the 2011 overthrow of the Libyan government.

What can we expect from President Clinton when Benjamin Netanyahu, with the strong backing of the Israel lobby, tells her it’s time to attack Iran?

—Thomas J. Hussey, Bellingham

THE COMMON ENEMY

My grandfather showed me Eisenhower’s image on a dime and told me there once was a time when individuals of integrity who differed in opinion sought public office, and it required serious pondering to determine which candidate spoke most closely to your personal conscience. Now older, I doubt that situation existed very frequently in American politics. Ever read Mark Twain?

The institution of public service is not corrupt; it is pure. It is functioning well-oiled and full-throttle as designed. Wall Street owns both parties and governs the Welfare/Warfare State by a false Left/Right dichotomy.

Now, I see clearly the crimes of Bush, but have you noticed the big purple donkey in the living room that’s crapping on the Christmas presents in the United States of Denial?

Democrats wailed and wailed to get the big pink elephant out, then fell asleep for 80 percent of a decade when in moved the donkey. Obama’s administration is packed with Wall Street criminals and war hawks.

Democrats fail to see the Orwellian irony of Obama’s peace prize. Now, somehow, Obama committing nearly $1 trillion to modernizing the U.S. nuclear arsenal capabilities is another peaceful act. Kissinger was awarded the Nobel as well, as was the man who invented the nuclear trigger for the Bomb.

War is our common enemy. Clinton and Obama are part of the problem.

Only outsiders, rejected by both parties, are telling any truth.

—Daniel Cro, Bellingham
STATE OF THE COUNTY: County Executive Jack Louws delivered his annual address to Whatcom County Council last week, reviewing the year’s accomplishments and looking ahead to challenges and opportunities for the future. But despite rosy forecasts and lilies gilded with achievements, the long-term financial predicament of Whatcom County may be more dire than any of her cities.

Louws outlined several critical funding challenges the county faces—consequences related to the failure of a sales tax levy to construct a new jail and the deterioration of the County Courthouse exterior. Both of these costly, multimillion-dollar replacements appear to stem from attendant causes—notably, shabby (even fraudulent) construction practices by contractors and an absence of diligence in the oversight of that construction by county officials that have resulted in the decay far in advance of the projected life of these capital facilities. To these woes, Louws added another, a looming exhaustion of fund reserve balances for unified Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that may require a voter-approved property tax increase to address.

We’ve noted the structural deficit facing Bellingham and other cities across Washington as state and federal grants and matching programs have receded and revenues have been curtailed (frequently the result of voter-approved limits to taxing authority), placing additional strain on general operating funds. Public investment—defined as a measure of government spending per capita—has been declining for decades; and meanwhile the state’s antiquated tax systems—heavily dependent on regressive consumption taxes—have proven inadequate and unreliable to capture revenue where real growth has occurred. The county’s predicament is even worse, by law denied access to revenue instruments like utilities, and reliant almost entirely on (capped) property taxes and (over-subscribed) sales taxes.

The county hasn’t raised property taxes in more than 20 years. In 2009, a Council more idiotic than this passed a resolution forbidding themselves from taking even the 1 percent banked capacity allowed by law to keep pace with population growth and inflation. The resolution was nonbinding theater; but the consequences of failing to keep pace with growth certainly are binding.

Added to the Executive’s woes, construction costs have skyrocketed for capital facilities long on the books as needed (yet stalled as yet another creative cost control measure) as the construction industry has recovered from the recession and is fully engaged in meeting pent-up demand.

“The race against cost escalation over time is our constant companion,” Louws reported. “Our $175 million challenge of today will be well over $200 million in the year 2020 based on historical cost increases if we do not act. Waiting until fall of 2017 to present voters the opportunity to support the jail will cost us up to $10 million in cost escalation, $10 million in additional interest payments, and potentially many more millions in repairs of our existing facility. This is exponentially more than what we will take to support the ongoing EMS system for an additional $1.4 million per year in the short term.”

Executive Louws appeared to favor encumbering the EMS levy and tying its fate to that of the jail.

A GROUP of youngsters just won a major decision in their efforts to sue the federal government over climate change. An Oregon judge ruled Friday that their lawsuit, which alleges the government violated the constitutional rights of the next generation by allowing the pollution that has caused climate change, can go forward.

Federal District Court Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin ruled against the federal government and fossil fuel companies’ motions to dismiss the case, deciding in favor of 21 young plaintiffs and Dr. James Hansen.

The federal lawsuit is part of a broad effort led by Oregon-based nonprofit Our Children’s Trust. The group and its allies have filed lawsuits and petitions in every state and the country. Filed in August, the complaint alleges that the U.S. government has known for half a century that greenhouse gases from fossil fuels cause global warming and climate change.

“If the allegations in the complaint are to be believed, the failure to regulate the emissions has resulted in a danger of constitutional proportions to the public health,” Coffin wrote. He called the lawsuit “unprecedented.”

The suit is based in part on the idea of the public trust—the same doctrine that guides the Clean Water Act. Under the idea of public trust, governments must protect commonly held elements, such as waterways and the seashore, for public use. Under this lawsuit, the plaintiffs allege that the climate and atmosphere must be likewise protected.

“The debate about climate change and its impact has been far too significantly for the rule to be ready by the summer.

But there’s no legal means to hold Ecology to its promise, Rodgers says. “There’s nothing requiring that they’re going to do it” in a timely manner; “why should we believe that they’re going to do it on their own?”

Indeed, the Washington State Department of Ecology has been calling climate change an urgent global crisis for the past 26 years. As Rodgers outlines in her motion for relief, in 1990, this same agency wrote that the “potential impacts of global warming dwarf those of other environmental threats.” It knew then, and knew it again in 2008, when it wrote that “the science is clear that we must move forward quickly to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to mitigate its effects.” In December 2014, the agency issued a report arguing that the state’s existing emissions rules were not enough.

Commenting on the accumulation of court findings, “this will be the trial of the century that will determine if we have a right to a livable future, or if corporate power will continue to deny our rights for the sake of their own wealth,” 19-year-old lead plaintiff Kelsey Juliana said in a statement following the Oregon ruling.

Three fossil fuel industry trade associations, who called the Oregon case “extraordinary” and “a direct, substantial threat to [their] businesses” were granted defendant status in January.

Samantha Page is a climate reporter for ThinkProgress.
THE GRISTLE

“Postpone the EMS levy opportunity until new jail funding is fully resolved,” Louws advised Council. “I am committed to fully funding EMS at its current level of service until we solve the jail issue.”

This would be a fatal error.

The EMS program managed by the county and contributed to by its cities—primarily Bellingham—is a well understood and controlled system, with its interlocal agreements in place and policy issues resolved. Program status was reported in a report by the EMS Funding Work Group to Bellingham City Council this week. The jail, by contrast, continues to be fraught with all of the concerns raised by County Council in the policy statement on incarceration prevention, criminal justice and jail planning that body adopted earlier this year. Those cautions and reservations were supported by a resolution affirmed by Bellingham City Council this week. In short, EMS is all but settled; jail planning is not at all settled.

The administration continues to be at loggerheads with Council on even the siting of a new jail, continuing to champion policymakers to “recommit to the location of the new jail, validating the $7.4 million expense we have incurred studying, buying, designing and permitting for the new jail on the LaBounty Road site in Ferndale.” And “recommit to building a right-sized jail commensurate with the financial contribution of our potential partners,” Louws noted in his address. “We can moderately reduce the number of jail beds to a mutually accepted size with our partner jurisdictions.”

Of course, County Council is committed to nothing of the sort, and continues to voice skepticism of the jail size, location and plan. A new jail levy, broadly supported and confidently presented to voters, could be years away.

Louws’ staging only serves to create an additional hostage—that of countywide emergency medical service—to pressure and leverage support for another try at a new jail. Yet it was that very sense of manufactured crisis—that the capacity of the current jail had been gamed, that municipalities like Bellingham had been threatened with increased costs or reduced access, that all siting and jail plan alternatives had been foreclosed—that contributed to a loss of confidence and the doom of the last jail initiative.

The state of the county is grave. With mistimed and misleveraged solutions, it may only become more so.
DO IT 2 MAIL 4 VIEWS 6 20 22 24 26 30 B-BOARD 32 FOOD 38

THE DOCKET brief might have been titled *David v. Goliath.*

Attorneys representing the United States government stood shoulder to shoulder alongside their counterparts from the nation’s powerful petroleum and manufacturing interests in U.S. District Court in Oregon last week. Opposite them were kids, feisty kids concerned about climate change. The kids were trying to have their day in court; the federal attorneys and their clients were trying to stop them, attempting to have their case dismissed.

The kids won. Their complaint can proceed, a judge will hear their case. The hallway outside the courtroom erupted in cheers.

It was the latest chapter of the Pacific Northwest fighting to protect the environment against long odds and powerful, organized forces. But it certainly wasn’t the first chapter. That chapter began in Oregon with the election of Tom McCall as Secretary of State and Bob Straub as State Treasurer. Their political rivalry formed the backdrop for two of Oregon’s most transformative decades, as they successively fought for, lost, and won the governorship. Veteran Oregon journalist Floyd McKay had a front-row seat.

McKay, emeritus professor of journalism at Western Washington University, was a political reporter for *The Oregon Statesman* in Salem, and then as news analyst for KGW-TV in Portland. His reporting and commentaries ranged from analysis of the “Tom and Bob” rivalry, to the Vietnam War’s impact on Senators Wayne Morse and Mark Hatfield and the emergence of a new generation of Portland activists in the 1970s. Their story forms the narrative of the much larger story of environmental protections unfolding in the Northwest alongside an ethic of stewardship.

McKay and his colleagues were on the beaches as Oregon crafted its landmark Beach Bill, ensuring the protection of beaches for public use. They watched as activists turned back efforts to build a highway on the sand at Pacific City. Pitched battles over Oregon’s Bottle Bill, and the panic-inducing excitement of “Vortex”—the nation’s only state-sponsored rock festival—characterized the era.

Covering the period from 1964-1986 in his new book, *Reporting the Oregon Story,* McKay remembers the action, the players and the consequences, in this compelling and personal account.

“I hope the book will help people remember a time in the Northwest when things worked—particularly politics and government,” McKay said. “It was a time when people could join together in common cause, regardless of political party, and not worry about those divisions in order to build things for the future.”

It was a time also when movements had a powerful ally—one that stands humble yet prominent in McKay’s narrative—a potent and engaged local media and reporters hungry for the story.

“That was an interesting time to be a journalist,” McKay admitted. “The period from 1964 to 1980 was a time when journalism worked—particularly print journalism and local television.

“Local television in those days, when I was with the KING affiliate in Portland, we really did news, and hard news. I was lucky enough to produce documentaries as well. It was a vital force in the community,” McKay observed. “We didn’t just chase fires and cops.”

The fraying of those forces—a deepening and polarized political divide, a weakened and reduced press—make transformations like the Oregon Story much more challenging today, McKay said, but he’s been heart-
CASCADIA WEEKLY
# 15
04.13.16

DO IT
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GET OUT
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CAREER FAIRS
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this way
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A manhunt begins after two inmates escape from the state’s largest psychiatric hospital, one a violent offender. The two escaped through a window at Western State Hospital, which has been plagued by a litany of problems. Mark Adams, 58, is arrested the following day in Seattle. The more serious offender, Anthony Garver, 28, is arrested on Friday after a police K-9 tracks him down near his parents’ home in Spokane.

Whatcom’s water quality woes continue, as state health officials again close beaches to shellfish harvesting from Sandy Point to the Canadian border. High levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) biotoxin prompt the closure. Health officials also close beaches on Point Roberts to shellfish harvesting until more tests can be done.

An analysis of water systems monitored by Environmental Protection Agency data collection finds none of the 125 Whatcom water districts test for lead above allowable levels, the Associated Press reports. But officials also close beaches on Point Roberts to shellfish harvesting until more tests can be done.

The Western Environmental Law Center announces a new report on agricultural pollution in Puget Sound, detailing the fact that only two of 17 reporting regions in Puget Sound showed any improvements in water quality, despite costly programs to address the issue. The Washington Department of Ecology acknowledges significant declines in Puget Sound water conditions and the Puget Sound Partnership reported in 2015 that of 27 vital sign indicators, only 10 show improvements and “few are at—or even within reach of—their 2014 interim targets.”

A federal District Court in Oregon denies the request of the United States and its co-defendant intervenors (American Petroleum Institute, National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Fuels and Petrochemical Association) to dismiss the action by young petitioners to sue the government to compel action on climate change, with perhaps historic consequences. The challenge of the young climate activists may move forward, the judge rules. The decision still needs to be reviewed by another judge before it goes to trial.

In another victory for the little guy, the Washington state Attorney General reports several student loan debt adjustors that overcharged hundreds of students and collected illegal fees have agreed to pay back the money. The companies must pay a total of $162,000 to Washington students as refunds for alleged illegal charges. They will pay an additional $56,000 total for attorney general’s costs and attorney’s fees.

A woman is robbed of her phone and other belongings in front of Buchanan Towers residence hall on Western Wash-}

04.06.16 WEDNESDAY

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

Joan Casey, a community leader and wife and companion of former Bellingham City Council member John Watts, passed away Tuesday from complications resulting from respiratory illness. “Her damaged lungs were incapable of sustaining her life without permanent damage to her brain and other vital organs,” Watts reported. “Under these circumstances, Joan did prefer dying peacefully and pain-free.” An active outdoors enthusiast, Joan served on the Bellingham Parks Board.

After two decades of research and study, a plan to restore the health of Lake Whatcom and protect the drinking water for nearly 100,000 people became a reality last week after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officially gave its stamp of approval. The Washington Department of Ecology finalized and submitted the plan to EPA in November 2014. EPA officially approved the 50-year plan on April 7, giving the state authority to limit the amount of phosphorous entering the lake.

The Northwest Clean Air Agency reports Shell Puget Sound Refinery took shortcuts in shutting down and decontaminating its east flare system, leading to the release of chemicals on Feb. 20, 2015, that affected hundreds of people. After a year-long investigation, the agency finds Shell’s actions led to a surge of wet, chemical-laden gases moving through the flare line and extinguishing the flare flame, allowing the release of unburned chemicals to the atmosphere.

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SLIPPERY SLOPE
On April 10, a semi truck overturned in Skagit County near Bow, spilling 45,000 pounds of bananas on to the roadway and shoulders of Interstate 5 at Chuckanut Pass. No injuries were sustained as a result of the crash. Southbound I-5 lanes at the Alger exit were fully blocked as the semi was towed away. The State Patrol reported the “tricky part” was righting the semi, wedged between two guardrails.

PAKALOCCI PINEAPPLE
On April 9, Bellingham International Airport was closed and all flights grounded while the Bellingham Police Department investigated the report of yet another bomb-like object, this one reportedly a grenade. The suspicious object turned out to be a ganja grinder that only looked like a grenade.

LAW 2, BREAKER 1
On April 8, a man broke the window of a business on State Street. Bellingham Police approached the 28-year-old, who attacked them. “He was detained and arrested for two counts of assault on an officer and malicious mischief, police reported.

BLACK-AND-WHITE TAXI
On April 7, Bellingham Police observed a man stumbling in the street after a satisfying night out. “Officers gave him a ride home,” police reported.

EXPEDITED DELIVERY
On April 5, a FedEx box was returned to an address. The box contained a handgun.

On April 5, two pieces of suspicious mail were received at the Bellingham Police department. “The two pieces were examined by officers and determined to be regular mail that was oddly addressed,” police reported.

THE LABORS OF ACHILLES
On March 24, the owner of a boat kept on Blaine Marina’s C float contacted police when he discovered his dinghy had been stolen. “The theft of the gray 10-foot Achilles brand inflatable raft probably occurred sometime in the last week of January or first week of February,” police reported. “The boat was entered into law enforcement systems as stolen and all officers advised for their patrols.”

On April 6, a woman got into an argument with the staff of a restaurant north of Bellingham. She was not wearing shoes, as required by law and restaurant policy. Bellingham Police reported the woman threatened staff with her “connections” at the border. She was advised to leave the restaurant.

On April 7, a Whatcom County fire crew helped rescue five teens and a man after their boat caught fire on Lake Whatcom. The boys had been using the fiberglass boat to tow an inner tube when the boat burst into flames. The boys jumped in the water to await rescue by the South Whatcom Fire Authority.

MORE TEEN TROUBLES
On April 5, Bellingham Police responded to a report of ten teens trespassing on the train tracks on Roeder Avenue.

On April 1, a Blaine resident called 911 when someone started banging on her front door late at night. The suspects were no longer at the house when police arrived about three minutes later. “The victim’s property was checked and found to be secure,” police reported. “Other homeowners in the area were contacted and the area was patrolled. An officer located and contacted four teenagers a couple of blocks from the scene and they admitted to the trespass and harassment. Each was transported to his home and turned over to a parent,” police noted.

On April 4, police investigated a report of a party involving minors drinking alcohol at a home in Blaine. “They discovered six under-aged people at the house who were in possession of alcohol and/or marijuana,” police reported. “All of them were detained on site and their parents notified to respond to collect their children. The juvenile who brought the alcohol to the party was identified and arrested for furnishing alcohol to minors in addition to possession charges,” police noted. “One minor was arrested for possession of marijuana.”

BORDER DISORDERS
On April 5, a Federal Way man was taken into custody by U.S. Border patrol agents at the Peace Arch Port of Entry after an arrest warrant was discovered during a routine examination. “Fingerprints confirmed the National Crime Information Center warrant match for drug-related charges,” USBP reported. NCIC is a centralized automated database designed to share information among law enforcement agencies including outstanding warrants for a wide range of offenses.

On April 6, a woman got into an argument with the staff of a restaurant north of Bellingham. She was not wearing shoes, as required by law and restaurant policy. Bellingham Police reported the woman threatened staff with her “connections” at the border. She was advised to leave the restaurant.

Percent of all registered voters who say that life in America today is worse than it was 50 years ago “for people like them.” Republican and Republican-leaning voters are more than twice as likely as Democratic voters (28 percent) to express such misgivings.

Percent of Republican voters who say their party would “solidly unite” behind Donald Trump.

Percent of Republican voters who support Donald Trump who agree that life for people like them has gotten worse in the United States. Among Ted Cruz supporters, 63 percent expressed similar misgivings.

Percent of Bernie Sanders voters who say life has gotten worse in the United States for people like them.

Percent of Hillary Clinton supporters who say life has gotten worse in the United States for people like them.

Percent of American voters who say they are “angry” at the federal government. Nearly 60 percent say they’re “frustrated” by the federal government, an opinion unchanged from when a similar poll was conducted in 2014.

Percent of all registered voters who say that immigrants in the United States today strengthen the country because of their hard work and talents.

Percent of Republican voters who say that immigrants take jobs, housing and health care, and are a burden on society.

Percent of Sanders supporters who oppose subjecting U.S. Muslims to additional scrutiny because of their religious beliefs. Among Clinton supporters, 75 percent believe Muslims should not be scrutinized because of their religious beliefs.

Percent of Trump supporters who think U.S. Muslims should undergo additional scrutiny because of their religious beliefs. Among Cruz supporters, 53 percent say Muslims should be subject to heightened scrutiny.

SOURCES: Pew Research Center
While we love to spend all day gazing at your intrinsic natural beauty, Skagit County, we’re well aware that’s not the only thing going for you. To that end, we’d like to draw attention to what to do when it’s time to come inside.

Last week’s issue focused on the people, places and establishments that make your valley so special. This week, we present our reader’s favorites when it comes time to dance, dine, drink and even date. You’re the complete package, Skagit, and we’ll never forget it.
Best Music Festival - Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

One thing we do exceedingly well in this corner of the Pacific Northwest is marry our love of music to our love of our lovely outdoor spaces. Nowhere is that more evident than at Mount Vernon’s Riverwalk Plaza every Thursday night from the beginning of July until September. That's where the Riverwalk Summer Concert Series takes place, which is free, family-friendly and open to all. This year’s series features the likes of the Chris Eger Band, Rabbit Wilde, the Geoffrey Castle Trio, Polecat, Rivertalk, and more. The events are designed not only to entertain, but also to draw people to Mount Vernon's Riverwalk, a beautifully scenic spot that was almost a decade in the making.

Where: Riverwalk Plaza, Mount Vernon
Info: www.mountvernonchamber.com/riverwalk-summer-concert-series

FOOD & DRINK

Best Bakery: Farm to Market Bakery

Few things in life are better than waking up on a sunny Saturday and cruising down breathtakingly scenic Chuckanut Drive into the Skagit Valley and stopping at the Farm to Market Bakery for a sweet thing, cup of coffee and a little community commingling. Owned by Jim and Lisa Kowalski and next door to the Rhododendron Cafe, which they also own, Farm to Market has a menu full of all of our favorites, made with local ingredients and done right. On the sweet side, the Triple Chocolate Pecan Brownies and their signature Lime-Soaked Polenta Cake will never do you wrong, but if you happen to be there early enough on a Saturday or Sunday morning, you could have the great good fortune of scoring a coveted and rare Pecan Sticky Bun, and then you’ll know you’re really living right.

Where: 5507 Chuckanut Dr.
Info: www.rhodycafe.com/farmtomarketbakery

Best Grocery/Vegetarian: Skagit Valley Food Co-op

“...the highest function of love..." wrote Tom Robbins, “is that it makes the loved one a unique and irreplaceable being.” This encapsulates how I feel about the fresh-made, organically inclined food served at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op’s deli. Specifically, my love functions highest for their tuna salad sandwich on sourdough, which has become the most treasured and indispensable part of my lunchtime reveries through the years. With this super-sandwich in my life, I am fortified against the rigors that beset me as I strive to be a better man. Without it, I become sallow and listless. Same goes for their hot soups, salads, locally made cheeses, hand-made ice cream, fresh-pressed juices and fair trade espresso. Inspiration is served in many

Where: 18444 Spruce St.
Info: www.conwaymuse.com

Best Place to Dance - Conway Muse

Probably, when most of us dream of our ideal, most idyllic, life-in-a-small-town scenario, it includes a place like the Conway Muse. Much more than a music venue/restaurant/bar, it is a community hub worth making the trip for—and by the number of votes they got and the amount of categories the Muse swept, it’s a journey you’re only too happy to make. Not just a place to see music of many genres, it’s also a likely locale for those looking for love, and if it’s a bright smile behind the bar and an expertly mixed cocktail you’re after, Kelly Hayton is the bartender for you.

Where: 18444 Spruce St.
Info: www.conwaymuse.com

Best Theater - Lincoln Theatre

Bluesman Robert Cray, actress Maggie Smith, the Coen Brothers, illusionist Caleb Sigmon, the incomparable Buster Keaton, and an assorted batch of space pirates were—or will be—among the performers visiting Mount Vernon’s historic Lincoln Theatre during the month of April. While it’s true not all of them will be there in person, seeing a film on the big screen in a lovingly restored vaudeville and silent movie house is pretty much the next best thing. And if you make it to the storied theater’s 90th anniversary celebration Sat., April 23 for a viewing of Keaton’s Steamboat Bill Jr. and One Week, you’ll also be treated to the best in time travel, courtesy of the theater’s Mighty Wurlitzer and a 35-cent entry fee.

Where: 712 S. First St., Mount Vernon
Info: www.lincolntheatre.org

The highest function of love, wrote Tom Robbins, “is that it makes the loved one a unique and irreplaceable being.” This encapsulates how I feel about the fresh-made, organically inclined food served at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op’s deli. Specifically, my love functions highest for their tuna salad sandwich on sourdough, which has become the most treasured and indispensable part of my lunchtime reveries through the years. With this super-sandwich in my life, I am fortified against the rigors that beset me as I strive to be a better man. Without it, I become sallow and listless. Same goes for their hot soups, salads, locally made cheeses, hand-made ice cream, fresh-pressed juices and fair trade espresso. Inspiration is served in many
forms—including plenty of vegetarian and vegan options—at the Skagit Co-op. And I’m always ready to eat.
Where: 202 S. First St., Mount Vernon
Info: www.skagitfoodcoop.com

Best Burger: Five Guys Burgers and Fries

I love burgers. Crave them, in all their many forms. I’m not a snob about it though. When nothing but a reliable burger from a chain restaurant will do, like many of you, my chain of choice is Five Guys. And why not? The menu is simple: it is literally just burgers in a couple of sizes (cheese and bacon optional), fries, hot dogs and a handful of random sandwiches probably no one ever orders. The magic comes from the melding of thin patty to gooey cheese—and the 15 different condiments and toppings from which to choose, for no additional charge. With more than 250,000 possible combinations, you could eat a different burger every single day for the next 685 years. Imagine the delicious glory.
Where: 1870 Marketplace Dr., Burlington
Info: www.fiveguys.com

Best BBQ: Dad’s Diner

Crowding the walls are years and years of photos of luminaries local and distant who’ve dined here and gone to heaven. She orders the biscuits. I order the brisket. Hers comes topped with gravy generous with barbecue sauce on Texas toast, cooled with a tangy coleslaw. “It’s good,” the waitress said. Heck, she says that about everything on (and not always on) Dad’s handwritten menu. She is always right.
Where: 906 Commercial Ave., Anacortes
Info: (360) 840-2938

Best Steakhouse: Max Dale’s Steak & Chop House

Skagit is not the most “politically correct” place on earth—and when it comes to surf and turf, that’s a good thing! Max Dale’s serves steaks and chops thick and juicy for the appetite of a lion. The atmosphere is classic, like an airy lodge, but the menu is modern, and the trimmings include fresh vegetables and roasted potatoes alongside a mixed green salad. Old school, I order a Beefeteer martini, and it is expertly mixed—stirred, not shaken—and immaculately presented. My date orders a side car. The happy hour specials go on and on. Life is good.
Where: 2030 Riverside Dr., Mount Vernon
Info: www.maxdales.com

Best Asian: Asian One

As a frequenter of their sister store in Bellingham, I can vouch for the incredible cuisine that comes from Asian One; so it was no surprise that they would sweep in this Best of Skagit category. Delectable appetizers, crafty cocktails and mouthwatering entrees will keep you (and your family) coming back for more. Personal favorites? Try the Mongolian beef or the honey glazed chicken.
Where: 145 Cascade Pl. #112, Burlington
Info: www.asian1.us

Best Italian: La Traviata Ristorante Italiano

La Conner, small-town wonder that it is, hardly lacks for places to score an excellent meal, so it makes sense the Italian food you deemed Skagit’s best would be found there. Family owned and operated, La Traviata sources its dishes straight from Florence, Colombia, Sicily, Sardinia, and Capri, and the menu, which skews heavily on the traditional side, is huge and varied. If you have a tough time deciding, know that you can’t go wrong with the lasagna, vitello picata (that’s veal piccata to you and me), lobster ravioli, gnocchi de patate, or any of the 10-inch pizzas on the menu. Trust that no matter what you order, all will be homemade, perfectly cooked and preceded by house-made rolls, soft for the revolving menu of creamy frozen yogurt flavors and the nearly mind-numbing array of fresh toppings available for your mixing and matching. They even make their own English muffins, which is reason enough to head up Chuckanut Drive and stop in for an award-winning breakfast.
Where: 5521 Chuckanut Dr., Bow
Info: www.rhodycafe.com

Best Dessert: Just Peachy Frozen Yogurt

Let’s face it: We all eat frozen yogurt because it feels more virtuous than ice cream and because, for whatever reason, frozen yogurt establishments are far more likely than ice cream parlors to let you run the soft-serve machines and scoop your own toppings. Burlington’s only such self-serve froyo shop is Just Peachy, and it’s your go-to when your taste buds are salivating for something sweet. You love them for their friendly service and community-minded ethos—but you especially love them corner. So, while the locals all know that this is the best place to get an incredible cup o’ joe, this sweet little shop is garnering a second (and third, and fourth) stop for all those traveling near (and far) coming for the Tulip Festival and every other thing the beloved Skagit Valley has to offer. The best part? You can come in for a cup of coffee in the morning, and join them again for a glass of wine in the evening.
Where: 416 S. 1st St., Mount Vernon
Info: (360) 336-0951

The Rhododendron Cafe has been enticing breakfast-lovers for years. But when Jim and Lisa Kowalski took over the cafe last year, they elevated this restaurant’s culinary delights. Have you had their salmon Eggs Benedict? No? That’s no one else’s fault but your own. Rhody Cafe is showing its craft in every plate. They even make their own English muffins, which is reason enough to head up Chuckanut Drive and stop in for an award-winning breakfast.
Where: 5521 Chuckanut Dr., Bow
Info: www.rhodycafe.com
The Weekly staff always argues over who gets to review the Brown Lantern. This year, I drew the lucky straw. Damn, I love this place! It’s barely noon and the place is jammed, as it always is, with locals who know their stuff. The bar is honky-tonk dark, yet lighted by a large picture window of the sunny street outside, and hewn of thick, heavy slabs of varnished wood from pines that just don’t grow this big anymore. And the burgers are from another glorious bygone time, too—thick and juicy off the grill, served with no nonsense, unless you consider cheese and special sauce fixins nonsense. There’s plenty of brews to choose from, but most of the nodding, wise fellows at the bar have in front of them a cracked can of icy Hamm’s old style. Who can argue?

Where: 412 Commercial Ave., Anacortes
Info: www.brownlantern.com

It’s nice to know we’re not the only ones who think Pacioni’s has the best pie this side of the Mississippi. Using only the finest ingredients, their Neapolitan-style pizza is, in a word, delizioso. In addition to their incredible pie, handmade calzones, delectable pastas and paninis, visitors can enjoy their recently opened market with baked-in-house desserts, espresso, fresh sandwiches, ice cream and more. Also, their incredible wine list is sure to please even the pickiest of palates. Dinner tonight, anyone?

Where: 606 S. 1st St., Mount Vernon
Info: www.pacionis.com
If you’re happy and you know it, raise your glass. The Train Wreck’s Bloody Mary always brings a laugh—it is a big freaking food pyramid pinned to the bursting of a frosty salted glass! Mine’s even loaded with a biscuit sandwich with ham and cheese. Everything else on the menu is served with equal generosity and joy. So many things to choose from and keep coming back to try. I have the hang town fry—fried oysters wrapped in an omelet. Bite in, and the hot oysters burst with a smoky applewood bacon flavor. My friend orders the chicken fried steak—the gold standard by which all dining experiences should be judged, he says.

**Where:** 427 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington  
**Info:** www.trainwreckbar.com

**Best Takeout:**  
**Rachawadee Thai Cafe**

It’s likely the reason Rachawadee was voted Best Takeout is due to the diminutive size of this Mount Vernon dining establishment—as in, the restaurant literally seats about 10 people. Maybe less. But none of that matters once you taste the culinary wonders cranked out by the tiny kitchen. Forget about this being the best Thai food you’ll find in Mount Vernon, or even in the whole of the Skagit Valley—this very well might be the best Thai food you’ll ever eat in your life. For real. It’s that good. No matter what you order, be it spring rolls, soups, salads, noodles, curries or all of the above, it will be cooked to order to your particular spice level (four stars might melt the above, it will be cooked to order to your particular spice level (four stars might melt you from the inside out) and so delicious you’ll think there must be magic in the mix.

**Where:** 201 Morris St., La Conner  
**Info:** www.latraviataitaliano.com

**Best Brewery:**  
**Farmstrong Brewery**

The craft beer boom has hit Skagit County, and Farmstrong Brewery is bringing its best beers to the table. Their IPAs offer up an intoxicating flora and fruit profile. Mike Armstrong and Todd Owsley opened Farmstrong late last summer, and their delicious ales have quickly found their way into regional store fronts and tap handles, innovating with everything from local coffee roasters and delectable saisons. Located right off of I-5 on Stuart Road, you’re just a hop, skip and a jump away from trying an amazing pint. (For more information about Farmstrong, read Jessamyn Tuttle’s review on page 34.)

**Where:** 110 Stewart Rd., Mount Vernon  
**Info:** www.facebook.com/farmstrongbrewing
Wine, delicious wine. Free-flowing between glasses, feeling fine. A toast to my beloved, dear, sweet wine. We’ve lost count on how many years Tulip Valley Winery has won in this category, but every year they continue to be victorious with the sweet nectars of the valley. Make this an absolute must-see while stopping to enjoy the tulips (or any other time, for that matter). Make sure to include their popular Burro Loco Tulip Festival Cider in your tasting!

*Where:* 16163 WA-536, Mount Vernon  
*Info:* www.tulipvalley.net

In an old brick bank building from another era is a vault stuffed with treasures—a deli counter filled with aromatic cheeses, meats, salads and pickles. Simmering behind the counter are savory soups to pair with hand-built sandwiches on crusty bread with all the fixins. I grab Grandma McPhee’s thick meatloaf sandy—oh, man!—and am just lucky enough to find a table. It’s lunchtime, and this Anacortes tradition is busy!

*Where:* 502 Commercial Ave., Anacortes  
*Info:* www.gere-a-deli.com

McIntyre Hall Presents

**Laney Jones & The Spirits**

Friday, April 22

Where: McIntyre Hall  
Info: McIntyreHall.org 360.416.7727

KSVR Mount Vernon presents

**International Jazz Day**

Albert “Tootie” Heath  
With Randy Porter on Piano and Tom Wakeling on Bass  
Thursday April 28, 2016  
7:00 PM  
Skagit Valley College Campus Ford 101  
FREE ADMISSION
Modern Romance

EXPLORING TODAY’S DATING SCENE

WITH CHERRY blossoms blooming, prom season is right around the corner. For some, that means happy memories of slow dances and teenage crushes. For others, it’s nightmares of working up the nerve to ask someone to the dance, or waiting anxiously to be asked.

Modern high schoolers have created a whole new scenario: instead of sweaty palms and staking out your sweetheart between classes, it’s pun-filled signs and elaborate “asks.” Google “best promposals” for a host of examples: “Will you go to prom with me, or is this too cheesy?” (written on the inside lid of a pizza box). On the flip side, sweetie between classes, it’s pun-filled signs and elaborate signs.

Initial takeaways: online dating sites make it possible for people from all corners of the world to meet one another, but paralyze some people with too many options. There’s still a fair amount of game-playing, particularly around how long one waits to text someone after meeting them.

The best way to get to know someone? Go on dates with them. Many of them. In person. And do interesting activities on your dates, so you have shared experiences and have fun. This book would be an interesting gift for young singles who are getting serious about finding “the one,” or for parents who are eager to host a wedding (hint: cool your jets). It’s also instructive for those re-entering the dating scene, and those who are just curious about contemporary culture.

nuances and foibles of today’s dating scene. You might imagine that the guy who played the sarcastic, underachieving Tom Haverford on Parks and Recreation would deliver a hilarious first-person send up of online dating, breakups via text message, and booty calls.

However, unlike recent comedic memoirs like Yes, Please by cast-mate Amy Poehler, Modern Romance: An Investigation is not actually that funny. Ansari inserts some humor here and there, but laughs are not really the point. How to find and attract a romantic partner is more the order here, and for this, Ansari brings out the big guns: science.

Ansari collaborates with New York University sociologist Eric Klinenberg, reviewing academic research and conducting surveys and research studies of their own. They interview couples of all ages and ask how they first met. They look at the ways technology has changed the ways people search for and select a date. They conduct focus groups and pump online Reddit subscribers for information.

The tone is light but readable. Ansari sprinkles in tidbits from his own dating mishaps, and does some smart-alecky asides just to mix things up, but overall this is a straightforward investigation of 21st-century dating rituals—with a frankness some may find refreshing but others off-putting.

Prathett Memorial Reading: Attend a Terry Pratchett Memorial Reading from 7-9:30pm at the Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Hwy. Everybody’s welcome to read their selections from the collection will also be on hand for a reading at 7pm Thursday at Village Books, 1200 11th St. Both events are free.

WORDS

APRIL 13-14

NOISY WATER READINGS: Aea poets will read their selections from Noisy Water: Poetry from Whatcom County at 7pm Wednesday at Lynden’s Jansen Art Center, 321 Front St. Some of the 101 poets who contributed to the collection will also be on hand for a reading at 7pm Thursday at Village Books, 1200 11th St. Both events are free.

THURS., APRIL 14

WAR IS A LIE: Author, activist, journalist and radio host David Swanson reads from and talks about his book, War is a Lie, at 7pm at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth St. Entry is free.

HONEYDRIPPERS TALES: Storytellers Harper Stone and Kelvin Saxton will be joined by guest musicians for a “Honeydrippers Tales: Stories of Love, Lust and the Wild” event from 8:30-11pm at Honey Moon, 1053 N. State St. Entry is by donation.

FRI., APRIL 15

FAMILY STORY NIGHT: Pros from the Bellingham Storyteller’s Guild will offer up an hour of coaching and an introduction to the craft at 6pm at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. At 7pm, Family Story Night will commence. Both events are free.

SAT., APRIL 16

AN EALRIER LIFE: Local author and WWU creative writing instructor Brenda Miller will read from her new collection of linked essays, An Earlier Life, at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

FIRE AND ACTIVISM: Wildfire, climate change and human resilience will be common themes when Bellingham-based author Leslie Wharton reads from Phoenix Rising: Stories of Remarkable Women Walking Through Fire at 4pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St. At 7pm, Floyd McKay shares insight behind Reporting the Oregon Story: How Activists and Visionaries Transformed a State.

SUN., APRIL 17

BUCOLIA READING: Matthew Thuney reads from Bucolia: Hymn in the Hinterlands, at 4pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.
LEGACY, FROM PAGE 8

You can look at a river and see it is a mess. And you can smell it, even.”

When coalitions do form—such as the carbon fuel resistance author Naomi Klein has dubbed “Blockadia”—they draw their strength from that earlier ferment McKay narrates.

“I don’t think there is any question that some of the activism in the Oregon Story created a foundation that we’re now seeing on several fronts in the Northwest,” McKay said. “Certainly the movement against the coal and gas and oil exports is one. But also on a number of local issues around the state.

“People are using very different tactics,” McKay explained. “A lot of social media is being used; whereas in the ‘60s and ‘70s, of course, we didn’t have that. People had to do much more of personal organizing, personal communicating and community building.

“But the idea is the same. You build from the bottom up: Activists see something that needs fixing. Or something that needs stopping. They form a critical mass that seeps up to the next level of government, involving city councils and similar local leaders, and the next thing you know you have something going on a state or regional basis. But it all started out with people who saw something happening.

“In Bellingham, the Cherry Point business formed around people who were worried about the impact on the community from coal trains,” McKay said. “Later, it broadened, and picked up an enormous amount of support for the cause, if you will, from people who are worried about climate change. Local concern tied into a much larger issue.

“You saw that, too, in Oregon,” McKay reflected. “We started the movement to protect farmland and regulate sprawl. Recycling—the Bottle Bill—was a big national headline for a long time. All of those things started, basically—as I relate in the book—with a fisherman with garbage caught in his net from a polluted river or a beachcomber picking up trash on the beach. Next thing you knew, there were others who shared the same problem. They started agitating, and suddenly they were sitting down in front of a legislative committee.”

“The process,” the distinguished journalist and teacher of the profession to countless Western students writes at the end of his book, “widens to neighbors and others of similar persuasion. Political leaders awaken and the circle widens until together they create a movement that legislators and city councils cannot ignore.

“Next thing you know, there is an Oregon Story.” ☔
Birds and Beaches

GOING INTERTIDAL ON PADILLA BAY

WHEN THE Lady of the House recently expressed a hankering to explore a part of Skagit County she’d never experienced before, I knew just the place to go.

“It’s got stellar waterfront views, a plentitude of wildlife-viewing opportunities and a two-mile dike-top trail that’s so level you could fry an egg on it,” I told her. “The official name of the place is Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, but I just call a hot date.”

“My lady is pleased, I trust?” I dutifully inquired.

“Oh yes,” she said, pausing to let the sea breeze caress her face as she surveyed the primordial expanse of our marshy surroundings. “I do feel privileged to be occupying these fecund fringes on such a wonderful day as this, dear sir.”

“You can’t see it yet,” I explained, pointing toward the middle of the bay, “but there’s 8,000 acres of eelgrass beds harboring all sorts of crucially important sea life in sediment out there. Millions of worms, shrimp, clams and other invertebrates manage to eke out a semi-submerged existence, and they help feed the resident flocks of birds and thousands of migratory waterfowl who pass through seasonally via the Pacific Flyway.”

“Hmmm,” my date mused, casting her gaze upon a sizeable flotilla of green-winged teals who were converging rambunctiously amongst the mudflats to forage behind the receding tide. “That is pretty amazing, now that you mention it.”

“Back in the 1950s and ’60s,” I added, “the titans of industry planned to infill pretty much the entire bay between Swinomish Channel and Samish Island so they could build an industrial park.

“If it wasn’t for the grassroots politicking of a woman named Edna Breazeale—a retired school teacher who spent her childhood roaming wild and free among the nearby stump ranches—they would have left the critters down here high and dry. The Breazeale Interpretive Center just up the road is named after her.”

“Bravo, Edna!” the Lady of the House proclaimed as we finally began to meander our way across the dike from one panoramic viewpoint of the North Cascades, the Olympics, and the San Juan Islands to another.

“This trail exceeded all expectations,” she concluded once we finally made it back to the car. “But the thing I appreciate most is how deeply into the enveloping landscape I got to see without having to climb all the way up some steep, slippery mountain.” Mission accomplished.
WED., APRIL 13
CONTAINER GARDENING: Learn how to choose the right containers and plants when Blaine Community Orchards for Resources and Education (CORE) leads a “Container Gardening” course at 4pm at the Blaine Library, 610 3rd St. Entry is free. 
(360) 305-3637

APRIL 13-30
TULIP FESTIVAL: The flower-focused Skagit Valley Tulip Festival takes place throughout the month of April at a variety of venues from Mount Vernon to Edison to La Conner, Anacortes, and beyond. In addition to being able to explore fields of budding daffodils and tulips, there’ll be a street fair, arts events, a kids garage sale, a boat show, a tulip run and tulip pedal, live music, a quilt walk, a wine festival, book sales, a parade and much more. Head to the website to check out the full roster of events, and remember that bloom dates take place “according to Mother Nature.”
WWW.TULIFFESTIVAL.ORG

THURS., APRIL 14
ASTRONOMY MEETING: The Whatcom Association of Celestial Observers will meet from 7-9pm at Ferndale’s Whatcom Educational Credit Union, 5609 Barrett Rd. Use I-5 exit 262. The event will include discussion of local astronomy events, outreach projects, a video presentation and more. Entry is free and open to the public.
WWW.WHATCOMASTRONOMY.ORG

RACE TO ALASKA: The Community Boating Center (CBC) brings Bellingham native Jake Beattie back to town to talk about the “Race to Alaska” at 7:30pm at Backcountry Essentials, 214 W. Holly St. Hear the story of how the no-holds-barred, non-motorized boat race from Port Townsend to Ketchikan got started, and find out what its founder plans for the next iteration taking place this coming summer. Entry is by donation; proceeds raised benefit the CBC.
WWW.BACKCOUNTRYESSENTIALS.NET OR WWW.BOATINGCENTER.ORG

GEOLoGY UNDERFOOT: Geologist and WWU research association Dave Tucker shares details on some significant geologic sites that can be visited from his book Geology Underfoot in Western Washington at a Whatcom County Historical Society meeting at 7:30pm at Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall, 121 Prospect St. Entry is open to the public. Suggested donation is $3.
WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG

FRI., APRIL 15
WILD THINGS: Kids, adults and adventurers can join Holly Roger of Wild Whatcom for a “Wild Things” Community Program from 9:30-11am every Friday in April at the Stinson Family Nature Reserve. Suggested donation is $5.
WWW.WILDWHATCOM.ORG

SAT., APRIL 16
FUN WITH THE FUZZ: Sign up for the seventh annual “Fun with the Fuzz 5K” starting at 9am at the Bellingham Police Department, 505 Grand Ave. The race road supports families of police officers who are killed in the line of duty. One hundred percent of the proceeds are donated directly to the Behind the Badge Foundation. Entry is $20.
WWW.FUNWITHTHEFUZZ5K.COM

BUTTERFLY MAGIC: Laine Wheatley will teach you how to create garden way-stations that support the lifecycles of native butterflies at a “Bring the Magic of Butterflies to Your Garden” workshop at 9am at the Garden Spot Nursery, 900 Alabama St. Register in advance for the free class.
WWW.GARDEN-SPOT.COM

POTTING PARTY: Join the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association for a Potting Party from 9am-12pm at NSA’s nursery at 3057 E. Bakerview Rd. Volunteers will be preparing and organizing native trees and shrubs for future planting parties.
WWW.N-SEA.ORG

COMPOST SALE: The Kiwanis Club of Bellingham and Sehome High School will be teaming up for the annual Mushroom Compost Sale from 10am-4pm at the school’s parking lot at 2700 Bill McDonald Pkwy. Entry is free, and all women are invited.
WWW.KIWANISOFBELLINGHAM.ORG

WOMEN’S MOUNTAIN BIKING: Attend a launch party for the WMBA’s Joyriders—a women’s mountain biking club that will be leading rides on the first and third Thursday of the month for the rest of the spring and summer—at a Bike2Brew event starting at 10am at the Galbraith Samish Way (southside) parking lot for a bike check and ride registration. At 2pm, meet at Kulshan Brewery for an after-party and giveaways.
WWW.WMBABIKECLUB.ORG

SUN., APRIL 17
RABBIT RIDE: Join members of the Mount Baker Bicycle Club for a “Rabbit Ride” starting at 8:30am every Sunday at Fairhaven Bike, 1108 11th St. The 32-mile route takes riders down Chuckanut and back via Lake Samish.
WWW.MTBAKERBIKECLUB.ORG

MON., APRIL 18
FIND YOUR PARK: If you’re looking to explore the great outdoors in your own backyard, sign up in advance for a free “Find Your Park: Mount Rainier National Park” clinic at 6pm at REI, 400 36th St.
(360) 647-8955 OR WWW.REI.COM

TUES., APRIL 19
REFRESH YOUR RUN: Running specialists will review training tips, injury prevention, secondary training strategies and more at a “Refresh Your Run” clinic at 6pm at REL, 400 36th St. Whether you are just starting or are getting back on track, this class will help you get in the groove. Register in advance for the free class. Part of the class may be held outside, so dress accordingly.
(360) 647-8955 OR WWW.REI.COM

WED., APRIL 20
MOON WALK: Area women can join Wild Whatcom for a “Ladies Night Out: Moon of the Budding Trees” excursion from 7-9:30pm in Whatcom County (the locale will be divulged upon registration). Suggested donation is $12.
WWW.WILDWHATCOM.ORG

THURS., APRIL 21
GALA FOR GALS: Games, giveaways, raffle prizes, refreshments, discounts and more will be part of a Brooks-partnered “Gala for Gals” from 7-8:30pm at Fairhaven Runners, 1209 11th St. Entry is free, and all women are invited.
WWW.FAIRHAVENRUNNERS.COM
Mayor’s Arts Awards

CUE THE APPLAUSE

WHEN I interviewed Jaz Okura-Youtsey in the winter of 2012 for a piece titled “Behind the Scenes: Inside the Tech Booth,” she’d already been involved in more than 150 shows at the iDiOM Theater.

And although she’d go on to ace sound, light and rigging cues as technical director for many more productions before departing from the theater where she began sharing her talents when she was just 13 years old, it was clear that the myriad demands of her job—which also included volunteer coordinating, pre-show set-up, keeping lightbulbs stocked, occasional acting gigs and much more—didn’t phase her.

When the City of Bellingham and Mayor Kelli Linville present the 37th annual Mayor’s Arts Awards Wed., April 27 at the Mount Baker Theatre, the decade-plus Okura-Youtsey spent both behind the stage and on it will be honored when she joins a roster of other citizens who have enhanced the city’s ever-growing arts community.

Among others joining Okura-Youtsey on the performing arts faction of the annual Mayor’s Arts Awards celebration is Judith Owens-Lancaster. Most recently, the locally born director, costume designer, opera singer, actress and playwright helmed the Pulitizer Prize-winning play Baby at the Bellingham Theatre Guild, and has no plans to retire from the stage scene anytime soon.

Christopher Key, another longtime theater addict who seems to have an endless reserve of energy when it comes to staging, directing, producing and writing about shows—something he also did in the pages of the Weekly once upon a time—says he’s “deeply honored” to have been named one of the recipients of the coveted awards. On his Free Key Productions website, he says he realizes that the award “really belongs to all of the actors, directors, musicians, dancers, techies and, yes, even board members” he has worked with throughout the years.

Another awardee who hews to the “it takes a village” adage is Kunz and Company founder Pam Kunz, who took a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and created the “World Dance Project” at Carl Cozier Elementary School in February 2015. The dance residency brought performers from across the globe to Bellingham, and gave underserved populations a glimpse of cultural traditions from around the world.

Bellingham Repertory Dance also looked beyond Bellingham for “Wake,” a work the professional collective of dancers commissioned from renowned Seattle-based choreographer Mary Sheldon Scott. When it came time for the nonprofit dance company to share the experience with Bellingham audiences—something the volunteer-based company needed $10,000 to do—their patrons stepped up to the plate, ensuring the awe-inspiring work saw the light of day.

Because the Mayor’s Arts Awards are focused on the bigger picture of the arts, not all of the awardees are those who spend their lives in performing arts venues. Also being honored on April 27 are Julia Clifford (who produced the documentary Children of the Civil Rights); the Bellingham Music Club (a group that’s been supporting music in the community and enhancing cultural life in the Pacific Northwest for the past century); Mindport Exhibits founder AnMorgan Curry; poetry pushers Luther Allen and Judy Kleinberg; and the Bellingham Threshold Singers (a group of women who offer comforting song to those who are struggling to live or struggling to die).

To find out more about all the winners, show up at the free awards ceremony and see what they have to say about why they do what they do. My guess? They make our community a better place to live, and enjoy doing so.

ATTEND

WHAT: 37th annual Mayor’s Arts Awards
WHERE: Mount Baker Theatre’s Walton Theatre, 104 N. Commercial St.
COST: Entry is free
INFO: www.cob.org

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 $8 for the early show, $5 for the late one.

WWW.MOUNTBAKERTHEATRE.COM

APRIL 14-17

NIGHTINGALE LOVE: Timberlake Wertenbaker’s The Love of the Nightingale continues this week with performances at 7:30pm Thursday through Saturday at the iDiOM Theater, 1418 Cornwall Ave. The play is a modern retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Philomela, and is described as a “tale of siblinghood, betrayal and revenge, told in a way that is surprisingly poetic, beautiful and funny.” Tickets are $12-$15.

WWW.1000MYTHEATER.COM

APRIL 14-18

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE: Madcap comedy can be expected when The Drowsy Chaperone continues at 7:30pm Thursday through Saturday, and 2pm Sunday at the Anacortes Community Theatre, 918 M Ave. Tickets to see the musical within a comedy are $20.

WWW.ACTTHEATRE.COM

FRI., APRIL 15

VAUDEVILLINGHAM: Attend the Bellingham Circus Guild’s monthly uncensored variety show, “VauDevillingham,” at 7pm and 9pm performances at the Cirque Lab, 1401 6th St., suite #102. Expect to see everything from aerial performances to dance, comedy, magic, juggling, burlesque and more. Suggested donation is $5-$10.

WWW.BELLINGHAMCIRCUSGUILD.COM

APRIL 15-16

HIP HOP THEATRE: Western Washington University’s Department of Theatre and Dance brings two contemporary hip-hop theatre artists to the campus at 7:30pm shows Friday and Saturday at the Old Main Theatre, Friday’s show features New York City-based actor Brian Quijada performing “Where Did We Sit on the Bus?”—using dance, sampling, spoken word, beats and numerous instruments to explore his Latino heritage. On Saturday, actor, rapper and playwright Idris Goodwin performs “Action Words: Hip Hop, Spoken Word, and Short Plays.” He’ll be joined by Quijada and WWU students. Tickets are $4.

WWW.FRIDAYTHEATRE.WWW.WWW.WWW.WWW.EXEDU

HAMLET & PIRATES: Catch improvised Shakespeare-style performances when “BellinghamHamlet” shows at 8pm Friday and Saturday at the Upfront Theatre, 1208 Bay St. At 10pm, epic tales will continue with “Pirates” shows. Both formats show weekends through April. Tickets are $10-$12.

WWW.DITHESUPFRONT.COM

APRIL 15-17

COSS FAN TUTTE: Western Washington University’s nationally recognized Opera Studio
presents performances of Mozart’s “scintillating and salacious” opera, Cosi Fan Tutte at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday and 2:30pm Sunday at WWU’s Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $10-$16.

Www.mcintyrehall.org

SAT., APRIL 16
ROLLER BURLESQUE: The Bellingham Roller Betties will host their ninth annual Burlesque Show at 9pm at the Underground, 211 E. Chestnut St. The fundraiser will include more than 15 acts by current and retired roller derby players, merchandise, cash and prize raffles, and more. Entry is $9 in advance or $10 at the door.

Www.rollerbetties.com

WED., APRIL 20
MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET: Find out what twist of fate brought Jonny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley together for the greatest rock ‘n roll jam session in history when the Tony Award-winning musical Million Dollar Quartet takes the stage at 7pm at the Mount Baker Theatre, 104 N. Commercial St. Tickets are $30-$69.

734-6080 OR WWW.MOUNTBAKERTHEATRE.COM

DANCE
SAT., APRIL 16
HOW SPACE TURNS: View choreography and performance by Susan Haines, guest artist Shannon Tallman, and Western Washington University dance students at “How Space Turns: An Evening of Music and Dance” starting at 5:15pm at WWU’s Western Gallery. Entry to see the interdisciplinary performance—which takes place among the art exhibit of the same name—is free.

Www.westerngallery.wwu.edu

SALSA NIGHT: Join DJ Antonio Diaz as he mixes a fabulous combination of the best Latin rhythms at Rumba Northwest’s bimonthly “Salsa Night” taking place from 9pm-2am on the first and third Saturdays of the month at Cafe Rumba, 1140 N. State St. Entry is $4.

Www.rumbanorthwest.com

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Spring Scenes
NATURE ON DISPLAY AT RIVER GALLERY

IN APRIL, the River Gallery blooms with some of the best art in the Skagit Valley.

You’re already inside a magnificent scene when you drive down Landing Road; green pastures sloping away to the river, framed by mysterious, steep, forested hills. So it’s no coincidence that Donna Radke’s oil painting, “Plow Art,” gives us the view from the gallery, facing west. And nature is the theme of the mostly realist show.

Is Charlotte Decker’s dynamic “Song of the Cicadas” an abstraction? No. In her complex, intriguing puzzle of textures and shapes, careful study reveals a cicada, ribboned with aqua, khaki and crimson. Decker’s “Isadora’s Breakout” is also wonderfully free in yellow, blue and skin tones.

I can’t get enough of Peggy Olson’s lovely “Spring Mountain Meadows,” a cascade of red and gold framed by dark green of forest and the distant mountain blue. Whatever flowers inspired the scene, it approaches the best landscape art of the late 19th century.

Nancy Fulton’s still life oils are also like the old masters—sedate and formal. As a young woman, Cozie Bettinger used to paint side by side with her father, an art professor, until she “fell in love with pastels.” She has drawn these on Italian paper; glowing flowers, cackling snow geese, poplars swaying in a storm. She works from photographs, without trying to reproduce an actual scene.

The large triptych, “Orca Family Play Day,” with leaping whales and spattered paint, could only be the work of Jennifer Bowman. It would dominate your living room, for sure. And she reveals a gentler side with her delicate rendition of “Nasturtiums.”

Last autumn’s River Gallery show treated us to the architectural fantasies of the Czech artist, Vojtech Rada. Now he offers a playful vision of a medieval-looking Adam and Eve stumbling out of a geometric “Eternity”—definitely a conversation piece.

Linda Henley’s meanderings in the forest and meadows last summer have borne fruit with a large set of watercolors. She’s startled mountain hikers who came upon her, deep in foliage, sketching monskhood, monkey flowers and snowy thistle, and coloring them on the spot. Her work has been shown at the San Francisco Botanical Garden and the University of Washington Susan Miller Library.

The collages of Maggi Mason never fail to surprise. From what deep reserve does she bring up the never-ending variety of brilliant compositions of (hardly to be believed) torn papers? “Harvest Moon” is spooky. “Chrysanthemums” and “Poppy Pavers” are knockouts.

I enjoyed several pieces by Robert Gigliotti, not previously seen, especially the solid “World Traveler,” in bronze, and a delicate, sculpted bird in limestone, “Protector.”

Now, wonder of wonders, gallery owner Sylvia Strong reveals her own skilful oil compositions: a blue jay confronts a bale- rina in “Ready?” Her “Old Gem” and “North Coast Village” are distinguished by delicately nuanced negative space, anchored with strong architectural elements.

Take a closer look. This display of work by 36 artists, jewelers and sculptors will broaden your appreciation of what Skagit Valley has to offer. ☔
ARTWOOD: Works by woodworker and painter Gary Giovane will continue to be featured through April at Artwood Gallery, 1000 Harris Ave. “Comfortable Chairs” by various artists will also be on display and for sale.

CHUCKANUT BREWERY: Ciara Sana’s paintings and drawings are currently on display at Chuckanut Brewery and Kitchen, 601 W. Holly St.

DEMING LIBRARY: Dan Delong’s “Causalties of Painting” shows through April 22 at the Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Hwy. The subject matter is drawn from Delong’s life experiences—both the external and the internal.

DAKOTA GALLERY: “Ascending Archetypes” shows through April 17 at the recently refurbished Dakota Gallery, 1324 Cornwall Ave. The exhibit features new works by Melissa Hand, Kate Sechrist, and Coco Spadoni.

FISHBOY GALLERY: Check out the contemporary folk art of RR Clark from 1:30-5pm Fridays or by appointment at the FishBoy Gallery, 617 Commercial Ave. “Comfortable Chairs” by various artists will be featured through April at Artwood Gallery, 1000 Harris Ave.

FOURTH CORNER: “The Lay of the Land” can be viewed until April 30 at Fourth Corner Frames & Gallery, 311 W. Holly St. The multi-artist show features the vistas of the Pacific Northwest in a variety of mediums.

GALLERY CYGNUS: “From the Forest,” which includes a collection of art made with amazing fungi and bones from local woodlands, can be seen from 12-5pm Fri-Sun. through April 24 at La Conner’s Gallery Cygnus, 109 Commercial St.

GOOD EARTH: Potter Jeremy Noet’s “You CAN Do It” exhibition will be featured through April at Good Earth Pottery, 1000 Harris Ave.

I.E. GALLERY: “In This World,” an exhibit featuring oil paintings by William E. Elston and Virginia St. or by appointment at the I.E. Edison’s i.e. gallery, 617 Commercial Ave. “Ascending Archetypes” can currently be viewed on the Whatcom Museum’s Western Gallery. The works by Pacific Northwest artist include his signature large-scale woven photomontages.

JANSEN ART CENTER: View a “Spring Juried Exhibit” on display at Lynden’s Jansen Art Center, 321 Front St. Attendees can also view painter Sharon Antholt’s “Crying Out for Tragedy Like All Beautiful Places” and Nick Payne’s “Lake Padden in Bloom Challenge” are currently on display at the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, 703 S. Second St.

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Record Store Day

Drop the Needle

When Record Store Day was founded, it was intended to be a simple, fun solution to a complex problem. The year was 2007 and independent record stores all over the country were struggling even more than independent record stores typically struggle. However, the one sales sector that was keeping a good number of them from going over the brink and into insolvency was the popularity of vinyl.

In a greatly changed music industry in which no one actually pays for music anymore, record-collecting-driven revenue was not only holding steady, but it was also on the rise. Why not create an event devoted to celebrating independent record stores and lure people to it by giving them a glut of music they will actually drop their dollars on? And so, on the third Saturday of April 2008, Record Store Day was born.

From the very start, Record Store Day was a multi-pronged beast designed to conquer. It relied upon special, for-that-day-only releases, along with celebrity ambassadors, in-store performances and a support structure that encouraged participation by independent music stores. The formula proved to be wildly successful—far beyond what anyone had planned or predicted—and has remained largely the same for every Record Store Day since.

That first year featured 10 exclusive releases, from the likes of Death Cab for Cutie, R.E.M., and more, a number that seems laughable now. The number of Record Store Day releases has grown exponentially since, this year topping out at more than 350 reissues, box sets, deep cuts and unique items, all offered in limited numbers on a first-come, first-served basis. This year’s most coveted items will no doubt include a trio of David Bowie pressings, a Bob Dylan EP (on red vinyl) of four songs from his upcoming Fallen Angels album, a repressing of Jay Reatard’s solo debut (on blood-red vinyl), a two-LP set of White Stripes material from their performances on John Peel’s radio show (on red-and-white vinyl, and I’m sensing a theme here), a 40th anniversary edition of Heartworn Highways (on whiskey-brown vinyl, natch), and a couple of Metallica box sets that can best be described as “exhaustive, even for Metallica.”

As usual, the limited nature of Record Store Day releases means individual stores send in their wish lists, and from those, they get what they get—and they don’t know what that will be until it arrives. As such, the only way to be until it arrives. As such, the only way to

...
get your hands on one of those Bowie reissues is to queue at the door to your local independent record store on Sat., April 16 and hope for the best.

Except it’s not exactly the only way to nab the records you need, which brings us to some of the problems that have arisen from the Record Store Day model. A lively secondary market that traffics in Record Store Day releases—on the internet where these collectibles go for steeply inflated prices—have taken some of the profits out of the pockets of the people the day was intended to benefit and given them to the very forces that threaten their business. Another side effect of the limited nature of Record Store Day exclusives means the way forces that threaten their business.

That is certainly the case in Bellingham, where both Avalon and Everyday Music—the two longtime independent record stores that occupy opposite corners in the downtown core—are eagerly awaiting their shipments of Record Store Day releases. But Avalon doesn’t stop there. As it has every year since the inception of this occasion, Avalon will use Sat., April 16 as an excuse to throw a party, complete with a show boasting a lineup of all-local bands that play on the sidewalk outside the shop’s front door. The all-day concert begins at noon with Reavis & His Weary Boys (Ferndale country band), and then at the top of each respective hour comes Local Ghost (ex-Moongrass), Boss Rhino (in a rare appearance), and Machine Animal (super-group of sorts), before Baby Cakes (stacked soul band) rounds out the day at 4pm. The entertainment is free and family-friendly and also serves as a belated celebration of another kind for the downtown staple. On Jan. 1, Chris Lamb, longtime Avalon manager and all-around delightful man, became the record store’s owner, ensuring its legacy of proudly local ownership pretty much forever.

If past years give any clue, people will line up early outside both shops—as well as at Anacortes’ the Business (recent winner of a Cascadia Weekly Best of Skagit award)—to partake of Record Store Day spoils. Just what those might be are anyone’s guess.

**ATTEND**

**WHAT:** Record Store Day concert w/Baby Cakes, Machine Animal, more

**WHEN:** 12pm Sat., April 16

**WHERE:** Avalon Records, 1330 Railroad Ave.

**COST:** Free

**INFO:** www.avalonrecordshop.com

**MUSIC: 32nd Annual Tulip Festival Street Fair**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE RICK EPTING STAGE**

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**PETUNIA & THE VIPERS:** Canada’s Petunia & the Vipers bring their perennially popular “all country serious boogie dance music” to Bellingham for a “Dance for Renewable Energy” taking place from 8:30pm-12am at the Majestic, 1027 N. Forest St. Cayley Schmidt and Aaron Guest of Polcaat will open the show. Entry is $10, or free when you sign up with Puget Sound Energy’s Green Power Program. [WWW.PSE.COM/GREENPOWER]

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**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE RICK EPTING STAGE**

**DOWNTOWN MOUNT VERNON**

**APRIL 15-17, 2016**

**FRI & SAT, 10AM-6PM, SUN, 10AM-5PM**

**FRIDAY, 4/15**

**Puirt Na Gael**

**Knut Bell & the Blue Collars**

**Saturday, 4/16**

**Old Time Fiddlers**

**Kathy Ruddy Band**

**Kelly Thibodeaux Etouffee**

**Churchill Band**

**Sun, 4/17**

**Marcia Kester**

**Jesse Cornwell**

**Vince Pottier**

**Bob Wolfe**

**Kelly Thibodeaux Etouffee**

**Knut Bell & the Blue Collars**

**Michelle Taylor Band**

**Kristen O’Leary Band**

**Michelle Taylor Band**

**Rabbit Wilde**

**Mark DuFresne**

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## Music Venues

See below for venue addresses and phone numbers

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### Music Venues

**Anelia’s Kitchen & Stage**
- 511 Morris St., La Conner • (360) 466-4778

**Boundary Bay Brewery**
- 1107 Railroad Ave • 647-5593

**Brown Lantern Ale House**
- 412 Commercial Ave., Anacortes • (360) 293-2544

**Commodore Ballroom**
- 868 Granville St., Vancouver • (604) 739-4550

**Conway Muse**
- 18444 Spruce/Main St., Conway (360) 445-3000

**Corner Pub**
- 14565 Allen West Road, Burlington

**Eat**
- 1200 Cornwall Ave • www.4u2eat.com

**Edison Inn**
- 6140 Guide Meridian, Lynden • (360) 318-7720

**Glow Nightclub**
- DJ J-Will, DJ J-Will, DJ J-Will, DJ J-Will

**Green Frog**
- World’s Finest, DJ J-Will, DJ J-Will, DJ J-Will

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Mount Baker Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the performing arts.
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The Jungle Book

HE'S A REAL BOY!

OF ALL of the impressive details to appear on screen in Disney’s live-action adaptation of The Jungle Book, none is more startling than a title card at the close of the end credits reading: “Filmed in Downtown Los Angeles.” So immersively does the film’s visual-effects team craft every tree, waterfall and flower of Rudyard Kipling’s fantastical subcontinental setting, and so carefully are the talking CGI animals rendered, it almost beggars belief that the whole thing was shot in a 12-story building overlooking the 110 freeway. But aside from investing in top-drawer digital craftsmanship, perhaps the canniest move Disney made on this film was hiring Jon Favreau to helm it. Maintaining the buoyant heartbeat beneath all the digital flash, Favreau never loses sight of the fact that he’s making an adventure story for children.

Favreau already has one four-star family film to his credit with Iron Man, in which the director hit all the marks of an effects-heavy tentpole while still allowing the film to breathe. His lightness of touch proves an enormous asset, as he builds this jungle into the type of dangerous, sometimes pitiless setting that an average 10-year-old would nonetheless never want to leave. It can’t rival the woolly looseness of Disney’s 1967 animated classic, of course, but it succeeds on its own so well that such comparisons are barely necessary.

Pulling freely from Kipling’s stories, Disney’s own animated treatment, and the inventions of screenwriter Justin Marks, this Jungle Book certainly imposes a bit more of a strict hero’s-journey framework onto the source materials. Kipling’s story “Mowgli’s Brothers” serves as the film’s jumping-off point, and we open on the 10-year-old man-cub (first-timer Neel Sethi) as he’s deep into his wolf training. Discovered abandoned in the jungle by the sage black panther Bagheera (voiced by Ben Kingsley, all exasperated officiousness), Mowgli has been raised by wolf couple Raksha (Lupita Nyong’o) and Akela (Giancarlo Esposito), but his development is lagging behind that of his lupine siblings, and Bagheera admonishes him for using human “tricks” like tool building, instead of learning the ways of the pack.

When a dry season forces predators and prey into a brief “water truce,” the rest of the jungle gets a look at the wolf pack’s unusual new charge. The despotic Bengal tiger Shere Khan (Idris Elba) takes exception, having lost his left eye to an encounter with mankind’s “red flower,” fire, and demands the boy be surrendered to him. Akela stares down the tiger, but the conflict is enough to convince Mowgli to travel with Bagheera to rejoin human civilization; on their way, Shere Khan springs a surprise attack, and Mowgli flies off into the deep jungle alone.

It’s here that the familiar plot beats of Disney’s first Jungle Book outing kick in, and Mowgli joins forces with an ingratiatingly lazy bear, Baloo (Bill Murray). As much as modern blockbuster style might demand some sort of theme-park-ready setpiece for every reel, Favreau clearly understands that the Mowgli-Baloo relationship is the real key to the story, and he slows the film’s pace long enough to build up an effective hangout vibe.

Whether the sloped-shouldered, heavy-lidded Baloo is designed to look a bit like Murray or Murray simply looks like a half-napping bear is open to debate, but it’s only with him that the film ever risks setting foot into the uncanny valley. Otherwise, the animal effects are overwhelmingly successful, taking the standard set by Rhythm and Hues’ CG tiger in Life of Pi and applying it throughout. It isn’t just that the animal movements scan as real—Shere Khan in particular is carefully rendered to be intimidatingly weighty when looming in the foreground while lighter than air when in flight—but they’ve figured out just how much to anthropomorphize the animal movements to make their speaking seem natural, without turning them into cartoons.

Not all of it works. The all-but-contraceptually-obliged reprisals of Mouse House staples (“The Bare Necessities,” “I Wan’na Be Like You”) are inorganically threaded in, and the decision to cast King Louie (Christopher Walken) as a grotesque, Col. Kurtz-esque giantipithicus only makes the absence of Louis Prima sting stronger. But when the film gets it right, it sings.

Tackling his first feature-film role not only as the lead, but also as the only flesh-and-blood character onscreen, Sethi acquits himself well under what must have been challenging circumstances. He possesses a loose-limbed naturalness, and perhaps most importantly, he genuinely seems to be having fun. Voice work is excellent all around, from Nyong’o’s maternal warmth to Elba’s arrogant malevolence, and the late Garry Shandling has his moments as Ikki, the skittish porcupine. The symphonic score is lush, and the 3D work is impressive enough to justify the ticket price.

"It can’t rival the woolly looseness of Disney’s 1967 animated classic, of course, but it succeeds on its own so well that such comparisons are barely necessary."
Barbershop: The Next Cut: Ladies have infiltrated Calvin and Eddie’s (Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer, respectively) formerly all-male barbershop since we last checked in. Presumably, hijinks ensue. ★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 40 min.)

Criminal: Some kind of brain-swapping, memory-implanting actioner in which Kevin Costner uses a gravelly voice and tough-looking haircut to misdirect us into thinking he’s some sort of bad guy before letting his inner Kevin Costner emerge to save the day. ★ (R • 1 hr. 53 min.)

Deadpool: I’ve been skeptical of this Marvel superhero soon-to-be franchise for reasons that begin with Ryan and end with Reynolds, but an R rating (don’t bring your kiddos to this one) an all-out performance by its star and widespread critical acclaim have turned me from skeptic to believer. The wisecracking, foul-mouthed Deadpool may not be the hero we need, but he most certainly is the one we deserve. ★★ (R • 1 hr. 53 min.)

Hello, My Name is Doris: Sally Field returns to the big screen for her first starring role in decades in this comedy about a woman of a certain age who develops a crush on a man many years her junior. Hardly groundbreaking cinematic fodder, but that hardly matters when Sally Field is in the house. ★★★ (R • 1 hr. 35 min.)

Janis: Little Girl Blue: Encore showings of the documentary detailing the tragic life of the clever, groundbreaking and hugely talented Janis Joplin. Get ready for the singer to take another little piece of your heart all over again. ★★★★ (Unrated • 1 hr. 43 min.)

The Jungle Book: See review previous page. ★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 51 min.)

Marguerite: In 1920s Paris lives a woman named Marguerite who lives for her art: singing. The only problem is, she can’t carry a tune—and isn’t aware of that fact. When a rave review by a young journalist convinces Marguerite to take a big step in her career, we all get to go along for her funny, touching, occasionally tragic ride. ★★★ (R • 2 hrs. 7 min.)

Midnight Special: Writer/director Jeff Nichols (Mud) reteams with always superb, criminally underrated Michael Shannon (their last outing together was the excellent Take Shelter) for a movie that is part chase movie, part supernatural thriller and all payoff in the end. ★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 40 min.)

Mysteries from Heaven: A girl with an incurable medical condition falls, hits her head and is mysteriously cured because sometimes things happen that even scientists can’t explain, which means Jesus. I think that about sums it up. ★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 49 min.)

Deadpool: I’ve been skeptical of this Marvel superhero soon-to-be franchise for reasons that begin with Ryan and end with Reynolds, but an R rating (don’t bring your kiddos to this one) an all-out performance by its star and widespread critical acclaim have turned me from skeptic to believer. The wisecracking, foul-mouthed Deadpool may not be the hero we need, but he most certainly is the one we deserve. ★★ (R • 1 hr. 53 min.)

Demolition: Instead of taking the blockbuster route, Jake Gyllenhaal has chosen to work on smaller, more interesting, more rewarding projects, like this movie about a man who dismantles the machines around him as a means of coping with the recent death of his wife. Not everything in this movie works, but Gyllenhaal’s performance further cements his status as one of the most riveting actors working today. ★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 40 min.)

The Divergent Series: Allegiant: Apparently, when you make the same movie over and over again, people start to notice. And they don’t like it. ★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 1 min.)

Eye in the Sky: Drone warfare—and all the complicated ethical questions that go with it—gets the cinematic treatment in this taut, exceedingly well-done thriller starring a tough-as-nails Helen Mirren, Aaron Paul, and Alan Rickman in his final (and very fine) on-screen performance. ★★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 42 min.)

God’s Not Dead 2: I do not understand how this movie got itself a sequel or what Melissa Joan Hart is doing starring in it. Clarissa, you got some splainin’ to do. ★ (PG • 2 hrs. 1 min.)

Hardcore Henry: I suppose it was just a matter of time before a movie was filmed in the style of a first-person-shooter video game. I suppose if you’re into that kind of thing, this will be an exhilarating, fast-paced, adrenaline-pumping thrill ride. If you’re not, you’ll probably be a little confused, but that’s not the movie’s fault. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 30 min.)

God’s Not Dead 2: I do not understand how this movie got itself a sequel or what Melissa Joan Hart is doing starring in it. Clarissa, you got some splainin’ to do. ★ (PG • 2 hrs. 1 min.)

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2: Almost 15 years ago, a smallish indie film called My Big Fat Greek Wedding was released to little fanfare—and then became the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time, pretty much guaranteeing a sequel because Hollywood will ruin any feel-good movie by turning it into a franchise rather than risk leaving money on the table. This movie is about as good as sequels typically are, so dial down your expectations accordingly. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 34 min.)

Zootopia: Disney makes an animated adventure so good that critics can’t stop comparing it to Pixar. Which goes to show that if you can’t beat ’em, buy ’em and putting their personnel to work on your movies works every time. ★★★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 48 min.)
THE ADVICE GODDESS

THE MUMMY’S CURSOR

I'm a woman in my 20s, and female friends and I find that, generally speaking, once a guy gets into a relationship, his texting dwindles into brief news bites, like "fell asleep!" or "phone died." Why do men seem to lose interest in chatting by text like I do with my girlfriends? Are men just less feeling than women?

—Annoyed

Who says men aren’t emotional? “I don’t wanna talk about it!” is an emotion.

But actually, the male brain is not the emotional dead zone many women suspect it to be, with a few tumbleweeds and a Doritos bag blowing through in place of feelings. In fact, neuroscientist Tor Wager reviewed 65 brain imaging studies and found that men’s brains aren’t any less responsive to emotional stimuli than women’s.

However, women do tend to be more emotionally expressive. This difference makes sense, as women evolved to be the caregivers of the species—tending to the needs of babies (who typically require a more nurturing response than “Bring it, bro!”). Men, on the other hand, evolved to be the warriors of the species—competing for the alpha dog spot by clubbing a rhino or the most hordes from another tribe. This has had an effect on how men express themselves. As sex differences researcher Joyce Bensner explains, when you’re a warrior, revealing your feelings—like having a good cry on the battlefield—puts you at a disadvantage. (Kind of like going out in a T-shirt with a big arrow and "Your spear here!")

Conversationally, where men and women differ is in why they talk and what they talk about. Linguist Deborah Tannen describes male versus female styles of communication as "report" versus "rapport." In short, while women use conversation (including texting) as a form of bonding, for men, it’s a tool. And just like other tools, men use it as needed. As my boyfriend put it, “you bring out the wrench when you have a loose nut; you don’t go around looking for nuts to fasten. Also, afterward, you put the wrench away; there’s no ‘Let’s us boys get together and explore how we feel about wrenches.’

This explains why many guys text more in the chase phase, when they need to “talk chick” to a degree, to reel you in. Once they have you, they fall back to what’s more natural for them—texting merely to say stuff like “late!” or "w/get wine" (the SMS form of grunting). But this should simply be seen as a different style of communicating, not a deficient one. You judge whether a man cares about you by the sum of his actions, not by his pointer finger action. And besides, if you demand that he text you like a woman, he’s within his rights to expect you to act like a man—by carrying his luggage like a pack mule while he toffets behind you in heels or by chasing a mugger while he stands on the corner crying softly and hoping you’ll come out of it alive.

HUSH TO JUDGMENT

My boyfriend introduces me as his girlfriend to his parents, friends, coworkers, etc. However, he doesn’t like to Facebook the intimate details of his life, including our relationship. My friends think it’s a red flag that he doesn’t post about us on Facebook. Do you think they’re right?

—Hidden

Your boyfriend doesn’t post what he had for lunch—and probably not because he’s embarrassed to be seen with his sandwich or he’s looking to cheat on it with a plate of spaghetti.

Even criminals have the right to remain silent. But that isn’t what your boyfriend’s trying to do. In fact, he’s public about your relationship; he just draws the line at publicizing it on social media—as in, having a bunch of people he doesn’t know know a bunch of things about him. (In economics, this is called “information asymmetry.”)

In other words, your friends seem to be confusing privacy with secrecy. Secrecy is about having something to hide—often something shady you’ve done—while privacy is about choosing who gets the scoop on your life. There’s this notion that if you aren’t doing anything wrong, you’ve got nothing to hide. Well, you aren’t doing anything wrong on the toilet, but you probably don’t want to replace your bathroom walls with glass and set up bleachers in the backyard. Apparently, your boyfriend just expects people to put in effort to invade his privacy—rather than his being all “Welcome to our relationship! The usher will lead you to your seats—13A and B, right by the headboard. We look forward to your comments. Even if you’re an Internet troll. Even if you’re a bot!”

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Across
1 Dizzy Gillespie’s genre
6 Many August babies, astrologically
10 At a great distance
14 “Captain Blood” star Flynn
15 Prefix for pus
16 Solitary
17 1912 Nobel Peace Prize winner
18 What the three circled areas represent
20 __ Aviv, Israel
21 Submits, as a sweepstakes entry
23 Illuminated
24 Auto mechanic’s service
26 “____ Wiedersehen!”
28 Tiny drink [Miss class]
30 “A Boy Named ____” [Confident]
32 -
33 Dusseldorf
34 Taverns [Loses one’s lunch]
35 Philatelists’ prized possessions, perhaps
36 -
37 Eye afflictions
38 -
39 Slip-____ [Burden]
40 Baseball card info [Set in motion]
41 Hosp. workers [Howard and Jeremy, for two]
42 History [“Blue Ribbon” name]
43 Mongolian invader
44 Deep-____ [Slugfest]
45 “Yes ____!” [Andes native]
46 Derring-do
47 Casserole bit [“Guilty,” e.g.]
48 Riddle-me-____ [Belgian painter Magritte]
49 Brazilian soccer legend [Key’s comedy partner]
50 Blasting stuff [Campsite shelter]
51 Curvy letter [PC bailout keys]
52 “Mustache Hat” artist Jean
54 Lend a larcenous hand
56 Go back, like the tide
59 Bill killers
63 “As I suspected!”
66 Person who’s ready when an insertion is made
68 Blend completely
70 Not contaminated
73 Transmitted
74 Bumps on the back, maybe
75 Short-lived Ford
35 Philatelists’ prized possessions, perhaps
36 -
37 Eye afflictions
43 Mongolian invader
46 Derring-do
53 Actress Rosie
55 Flip of a hit single
56 Mike of “Fifty Shades of Black”
58 Hoedown site
60 “To Venus and Back” singer Amos
61 “I’m ____, boss!”

Last Week’s Puzzle
LAW
URAL S
IMPS
LUPE
NORAH
MEAT
EXPERIENCE
PORE
GOLDEN
GATE
TOWER
YDS
ZONES
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ETHEL
BOT
NATANT
OONA
BROOKLYN
CHARLES
ECON
LENORE
EMT
YALTA
SON
SYS
ILLIAL
WES
TAPPAN
ZEERIAL
TO
ICET
BEGRUDGERY
LEGO
ERING
EVIL
EDGE
DATES
TIX

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "When I discover who I am, I’ll be free," said novelist Ralph Ellison. Would you consider making that a paramount theme in the coming weeks? Will you keep it in the forefront of your mind, and be vigilant for juicy clues that might show up in the experiences coming your way? In suggesting that you do, I'm not guaranteeing that you will gather numerous extravagant insights about your true identity and thereby achieve a blissful eruption of total liberation. But I suspect that at the very least you will understand previously hidden mysteries about your primal nature. And as they come into focus, you will indeed be led in the direction of cathartic emancipation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "We never know the wine we are becoming into while we are being crushed like grapes," said author Henri Nouwen. I don't think that's true in your case, Taurus. Any minute now, you could get a clear intuition about what wine you will ultimately turn into once the grape-crushing stage ends. So my advice is to expect that clear intuition. Once you're in possession of it, I bet that the crushing will begin to feel more like a massage—maybe even a series of strong but tender caresses.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your sustaining mantra for the coming weeks comes from Swedish poet Tomas Transtromer: "I am not empty; I am open." Say that aloud whenever you're inclined to feel lonely or lost. "I am not empty; I am open." Whisper it to yourself as you're tempted to make outlandish expostulations similar to the ones that the poet Arthur Rimbaud articulated in one of his histrionic poems: "What beast must I worship? What sacred images should I destroy? What hearts shall I break? What lies am I supposed to believe?" I encourage you to articulate salty sentiments like these in the coming days—with the understanding that you resist anger, you are always angry. If you resist sadness, you are always sad. If you resist suffering, you are always suffering. If you resist confusion, you are always confused. We think that we resist certain states because they are there, but actually they are there because we resist them." Can you wrap your imagination around Adyashanti's counsel, Libra? I hope so, because the key to dissipating at least some of the dicey stuff that has been tweaking you lately is to STOP RESISTING IT!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): During every election season, media pundits exult in criticizing candidates who have altered their opinions about important issues. This puzzles me. In my understanding, an intelligent human is always learning new information about how the world works, and is therefore constantly evolving his or her beliefs and ideas. I don't trust people who stubbornly cling to all of theirusty dogmas. I bring this to your attention, Scorpio, because the coming weeks will be an especially ripe time for you to change your mind about a few things, some of them rather important. Be alert for the cues and clues that will activate dormant aspects of your wisdom. Be eager to see further and deeper.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Friedrich Nietzsche published his first book, *The Birth of Tragedy*, in 1872, when he was 28 years old. In 1886, he put out a revised edition that included a preface entitled "An Attempt at Self-Criticism." In this unprecedented essay, he said that he now found his text "clumsy and embarrassing, its images frenzied and confused, sentimental, uneven in pace, sure of its convictions that it is above any need for proof." And yet he also glorified *The Birth of Tragedy*, praising it for its powerful impact on the world, for its "strange knack of setting out its fellow-revelers and enticing them on to new secret paths and dancing-places." In accordance with the astrological omens, Sagittarians, I invite you to engage in an equally brave and celebratory re-evaluation of some of your earlier life and work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Go back to where you started and learn to love it more." So advised Thaddeus Kosciusko in his book *The Lazy Man's Guide to Enlightenment*. I think that's exactly what you should do right now, Capricorn. To undertake such a quest would reap long-lasting benefits. Here's what I propose: First, identify three dreams that are important for your future. Next, brainstorm about how you could return to the roots of your relationships with them. Finally, reinervigate your love for those dreams. Supercharge your excitement about them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "What am I doing here in mid-air?" asks Ted Hughes in his poem "Woeida." Right about now you might have an urge to wonder that yourself. The challenging part of your situation is that you're unanchored, unable to find a firm footing. The fun part is that you have an unusual amount of leeway to improvise and experiment. Here's a suggestion: Why not focus on the fun part for now? You just may find that doing so will minimize the unsettling feelings. I suspect that as a result you will also be able to accomplish some interesting and unexpected work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): How many fireflies would you have to gather together in order to create a light as bright as the sun? Entomologist Cole Gillette estimates the number to be 14,286,000,000. That's probably beyond your ability to accomplish, Pisces, so I don't recommend you attempt it. But I bet you could pull off a more modest feat with a similar theme: accumulating a lot of small influences that add up to a big effect. Now is an excellent time to capitalize on the power of gradual, incremental progress.
EYE IN THE SKY (R) 102m [CC] - "Aaron Paul has key scenes, but it’s the late Alan Rickman, as Helen Mirren’s superior, who steals the film.
Fri: (3:45), 6:15, 8:45; Sat: (2:15), 5:00, 7:30; Sun: (2:15), 7:30
Mon: (3:45), 8:45; Tue: (3:45), 6:15, 9:15; Wed: (3:45), 6:15, 8:45
Thu: (3:45), 8:45

HELLO, MY NAME IS DORIS (R) 104m [CC] - "As the goofily endearing Doris, Sally Field is perfect." Austin Chronicle
Fri: (4:10), 6:30, 8:50; Sat: 4:35, 7:00; Sun: (1:45), 5:10
Mon: (4:10), 6:30, 8:50; Tue: (4:10), 8:50; Wed: (3:30), 8:50
Thu: (4:10), 8:30, 8:50

KING LEAR (1998) 150m - BBC Worldwide Shakespeare
Sat: (11:00AM) - Enjoy free Shakespeare every Saturday in April

THE MAN FROM PLANET X (1951) 71m - Rocket Sci-Fi Matinee
As a mysterious planet hurls toward earth, an enigmatic extraterrestrial arrives on a remote Scottish island with unknown intentions.
Sat: (Noon) - Only $3 admission!

HEARTWORN HIGHWAYS (NR) 92m - Record Store Day Special!
Explore the roots of outlaw country music with Townes, Willie, and more.
Sat: (2:30)

TRAPPED (NR) 90m - Presented by Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
Follow clinic workers and lawyers who are on the front lines of the battle to keep abortion safe and legal for millions of American women.
Mon: 6:30

NEW QUEER FILMS FROM VANCOUVER 76m - The Queens’ Vernacular
Many of the filmmakers will be on hand to discuss their work!
Wed: 6:00 - Free admission, tickets available at the box office only

LOVE THY NATURE (NR) 86m - Narrated by Liam Neeson
Thu: 6:30

MARGUERITE (R) 129m - "Giannoli’s riotously funny and heart-breaking film follows Marguerite’s attempt to stage a solo recital in a grand theater in Paris." Philadelphia Enquirer
Fri - Tue: (2:45), 5:45; Wed: (3:30); Thu: (2:45), 5:45

JANIS: LITTLE GIRL BLUE (NR) 103m - It grounds us so effectively in Joplin’s emotional realm as to partially rekindle the social transcendence that her voice must have represented for its owner.
Fri - Tue: 8:35; Wed: 1:00; Thu: 8:35

BORIS GODUNOV (NR) 103m - Royal Opera House
Presented by Mount Bakery - Starring Bryn Terfel
Sun: 11:00AM; Wed: 6:30
INSTRUCTIONS: Arrange the digits 1-9 so that each digit occurs once in each row, once in each column, and once in each box.

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4 2 1 6 2 3
1 4 5 9 3 2
2 6 1 8
5 1 2 6 3 1 4
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Mount Vernon lags far behind Bellingham in craft breweries (doesn’t everyone?), so it was exciting to hear we were going to get another brewery in town.

Farmstrong Brewing Company opened its doors last September, and has been taking over the local beer scene ever since, even garnering a Best Brewery award in this week’s Best of Skagit issue. Of course it has every reason to succeed, since one of the owners, Mike Armstrong, was head brewer at Skagit River Brewery in Mount Vernon for many years. He knows what he’s doing.

The new brewery inhabits the old Sears building right off of I-5, a location that’s easy to spot from the freeway but slightly complicated to get to (the easiest way is probably to get off at the College Way exit and take Freeway Drive north to Stewart Road).

The taproom is simple, just a bar, some large, shareable tables and a television on each wall to enable Sounders fans to get properly irate.

On one side of the building is a big open space optimistically referred to as the beer garden, but maybe it will gain more amenities as the season goes on. Essentially just a fenced-in parking lot with a few picnic tables and a food truck or two, it does give beer drinkers plenty of room to spread out.

Like many new breweries, Farmstrong only does beer at its taproom counter, plus a few easy snacks like pretzels and flavored potato chips (the horseradish chips will clear your sinuses), but they are happy for customers to bring in takeout or purchases from one of the food trucks parked outside. On a recent visit there were two, Hillbilly Gyros and Rainbow Mexican Food, both smelling wonderful.

Dogs are also welcome in the taproom, which can produce a comical bottleneck of customers and staff tripping over dogs or stopping for belly rubs. Kids are also allowed and encouraged to come into the brewery.

But how’s the beer, you ask? Remarkably good. As a hops fan, I appreciate the Stackin’ Hay and the Porch Lite IPAs, but I also like their Pull and Be Damned Porter (named for a local road). Those with different preferences may love their wheat and Gose beers, and for those who go for sour beers there’s the Salvador, produced in conjunction with one of Boundary Bay’s brewers. All of their brews have what I think of as a reasonable alcohol level (none of this 10 percent ridiculousness), but their pilsner in particular is perfect for session drinking at 3.5 percent.

Farmstrong started off with a bang, with its beers appearing on taps all around the region, and they are already producing six-packs for retail. Make sure to bring a growler with you when you visit.

The brewery, although only open for a few months, has been getting knee-deep into the community with frequent charity fundraisers benefiting NOAH, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, juvenile diabetes, and the Washington Bully Alliance. They hold a weekly trivia night, and occasionally offer “beer school” classes. And as the name implies, they are big supporters of local agriculture, and buy locally grown and malted wheat and barley for their beer from Skagit Valley Malting. This feels like a place that’s here to stay.

---

**EAT**

**WHAT:** Farmstrong Brewing Company

**WHEN:** 12-9pm Tues.-Thurs., 12-10pm Fri.-Sat., and 12-9pm Sun.

**WHERE:** 110 Stewart Rd., Mount Vernon

**INFO:** www.facebook.com/farmstrongbrewing
BELLINGHAM MARKET: Attend the Bellingham Farmers Market from 10am-3pm every Saturday through Dec. 17 at the Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave. In addition to perusing and purchasing locally grown produce, crafts and ready-to-eat foods, attendees can experience Demo Days and a Wednesday Market starting in June at the Fairhaven Village Green. [WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERS.ORG]

SUN., APRIL 17
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: Made-to-order omelets, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, French toast, bacon, sausage and more can be had at a Community Breakfast taking place from 8-11am at Lynden's VFW Hall, 7011 Hannegan Rd. Entry is $6; kids $5 and under are free. [WWW.LYNDEN.ORG]

COMPOST AND KOMBUCHA: Learn the basics of food waste recycling when Blaine Community Orchards for Resources and Education (CORE) hosts a "Vermicomposting" workshop from 10am-12pm at the Blaine Library, 610 3rd St. From 1-3pm, they’ll teach a “Kombucha and Fermentation” class; participants can sample the fermented beverage, and make some to take home. Both events are free, and no registration is required. [ (360) 384-3647]

BELLINGHAM MARKET: Attend the Bellingham Farmers Market from 10am-3pm every Saturday through Dec. 17 at the Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave. In addition to perusing and purchasing locally grown produce, crafts and ready-to-eat foods, attendees can experience Demo Days and a Wednesday Market starting in June at the Fairhaven Village Green. [WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERS.ORG]

SAT., APRIL 16
FERNDALE BREAKFAST: Choose from pancakes, French toast, eggs, sausage and beverages can be had at a Pancake Breakfast taking place from 8-11am at Lynden's VFW Hall, 7011 Hannegan Rd. Entry is $6; kids $5 and under are free. [WWW.LYNDEN.ORG]

BLAINE BREAKFAST: Join members of the community for a Pancake Breakfast happening from 8-11am at the Blaine Senior Center, 763 G St. Entry is $4 for kids and $6 for adults. [ (360) 384-9040]

APRIL 15-17
NW WINE ENCOUNTER: Winemakers from DeLille Cellars, Col Solare, Betz Family Winery, and Dobbes Family Estate will be in attendance to pour some of their feature wines, as well as host enlightening wine-tasting seminars, at a “Northwest Wine Encounter” taking place Friday through Sunday at Blaine’s Semiahmoo Resort, 9565 Semiahmoo Pkwy. Participants can sample the fermented beverage, and make some to take home. Both events are free, and no registration is required. [WWW.SEMIAHMOO.COM]

FLAVORS OF SPAIN: Chef Peter Belknap will prepare a selection of his favorite Spanish dishes at a “Flavors of Spain” class happening from 6:30-8:30pm in Mount Vernon at Gretchen’s Kitchen, 509 S. First St. Entry is $45. [WWW.GRETCHENSKITCHEN.COM]

TUES., APRIL 19
COOKING CLUB: Teens in grades 6-12 can take part in today’s “Cooking Club: Veggies 101” event from 3:30-5pm at the Ferndale Library, 2125 Main St. Participants will make veggies three ways—via homemade salsa, pea salad and a veggie wrap. All food is provided; entry is free. [ (360) 384-3647]

KNIFE SKILLS: Mataio Gillis will cover safety, knife mechanics and maintenance, and classical cutting techniques at a hands-on "Knife Skills" class starting at 5:30pm at Ciao Thyme, 207 Unity St. Entry is $48. [WWW.CIAOTHYME.COM]

ISLAND COOKING: Robert Fong will join forces with Nick Green, sous chef of the nationally ac-
claimed Willows Inn, to create deliciously out-of-this-world food at an “Ahoy, Lummi Island!” class from 6:30-9pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. Entry is $69 and includes a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage. [WWW.WHATCOMCOMMUNITYED.COM]
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