SUBDUED STRINGBAND JAMBOREEE
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REPORTING FROM THE HEART OF CASCADIA
WHATCOM * SKAGIT * SURROUNDING AREAS
08.05.2020 • ISSUE: 32 • V.15
IT MAY be hard to believe, but mustached actor Wilfred Brimley was only 49 years old when he was cast as a senior citizen rejuvenated by aliens in the 1985 film Cocoon. In addition to other memorable roles in films like The China Syndrome, Tender Mercies, and The Natural, Brimley was also the longtime face of television ads for the Quaker Oats Company and promoted diabetes education. Brimley, 85, died last weekend at a hospital in St. George, Utah.

END DISCRIMINATORY ZONING

Recently, President Trump attacked Joe Biden, saying, “They’re going to bring people, eliminate single-family zoning, they want to eliminate single-family zoning, bringing who knows into your suburbs, so your communities will be unsafe and your housing values will go down.”

After cutting an Obama-era fair housing rule, Trump tweeted, “I am happy to inform all of the people living their Suburban Lifestyle Dream that you will no longer be bothered or financially hurt by having low income housing built in your neighborhood.”

While most of Trump’s rhetoric is anathema to Bellinghamsters, this cry might ring out for the NIMBY crowd.

Most defenders of the single-family zoning status quo will tell you they just want to preserve “character.” But intent doesn’t matter—impact does. If we want to be an anti-racist and economically just city, we have to look at the impact of our policies.

Does a policy uphold a racist system that locks people of color out of the best schools and neighborhoods, or does it result in greater equity across race and class?

Trump understands the exclusionary impacts of single-family zoning: “They’re going to bring people, eliminate single-family zoning, they want to eliminate single-family zoning, bringing who knows into your suburbs, so your communities will be unsafe and your housing values will go down.”

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Trump understands the exclusionary impacts of single-family zoning: banning duplexes, rowhouses and apartments from neighborhoods creates invisible walls that price out poorer people, disproportionately minorities. The typical white family in America has a net worth of $171,000, nearly ten times more than that of a Black family, $17,500. If you allow multiple families to share the cost of the land and walls, it’s more affordable.

Those of us advocating for housing density have been doing so out of concern for the environment, enhanced livability with lower reliance on a car, and because it’s an anti-racist policy that expands access to the best Bellingham has to offer.

Say no to Trump’s division.

It’s time to abolish single-family zoning and build affordable homes in every part of our city. The policy should be crafted thoughtfully to maximize permanent affordability.

Minneapolis and Oregon passed laws abolishing single-family zoning last year. Will we lead on this or will Bellingham be a laggard due to the influence of anti-housing activists?

Time will tell and history will judge.

—Galen Herz, Bellingham

TEACH LIFE’S LESSONS

I am voting to approve Referendum 90 on the November 2020 ballot. Approving this referendum will allow SB 5395, which passed the state legislature in 2020, to take effect, “thereby requiring,” according to Ballotpedia, “public schools to provide comprehensive sexual health education for all students and requiring
students to be excused if requested by their parents."

Prior to the bill’s approval, 42nd LD Representative Luanne Van Werven, on a February 22, 2020 KGMI Saturday Morning Live radio show, gave folks the false impression that this bill would not let local school districts determine what curriculum they use for sex education.

The bill states, “Any public school may identify, choose, or develop any other curriculum if it complies with the requirements of this section [section 6a of the bill].”

Accordingly, Van Werven’s statement on the show that, “you have one curriculum that they are going to want in all of the schools,” was not true.

Many opponents of this approved bill that would help kids more confidently navigate positive relationships, have made numerous unfounded and salacious allegations related to the legislation. On top of that, former 42nd LD Representative Vincent Buys on a May 30, 2020 Saturday Morning Live show made unfounded, salacious and defamatory claims about Olympia decision-makers regarding the bill.

In my book, the fact that such deceitful tactics were employed to collect referendum signatures, goes to show that there was nothing of substance that opponents of SB 5395 felt they could truthfully persuade people with.

Let’s make sure our youth have all the resources, education and self-determination they need to stay protected and healthy in all of their relationships. Vote to approve Referendum-90!

—Dena Jensen, Birch Bay

END THE NUCLEAR THREAT

August 6 and 9 we will observe the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Recently Pope Francis has declared that it is immoral to possess nuclear weapons.

Our current administration is investing billions in the upgrading of existing weapons, while we are in the midst of a pandemic and there is not enough testing and tracing and American families wait for hours in line to get food to feed their families. All over the world there are more countries that have acquired nuclear capabilities without being signatories to the nonproliferation treaty.

In honor of this anniversary I want to state that I stand in solidarity with the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and with the people of Japan.

I believe that the existence of these weapons pose an unnecessary risk to all life on earth and remain an ongoing theft from those who are poor. I have hope that the UN Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will be ratified by all nations of the world in an effort to eliminate this frightening threat.

Please join me in this HOPE by visiting www.icanw.org.

—Annie Welch, Bellingham
IN THE MAIL: As President Trump continues to rant without evidence about the integrity of the nation’s elections in general and mailed ballots in particular, Washington seamlessly completed another primary entirely by mail. As a barometer of the mood of voters in Western Washington moving into the fall, the results are not promising for the president or his party.

The overinflated governor’s race produced a blow-out, with the surfeit of individual candidates failing to secure more than a scattering of support across the state. Stacking the total of all of it as votes against Inslee, the incumbent governor (collecting 60 percent in the primary) still appears solid going into the fall. By the strength of his standing against so many opponents across so many divides, a Big Blue Wave appears to be standing offshore, ready to rush in in November.

Outcomes in the 40th Legislative District are unsurprising, with Democrats commanding double-digit leads over Republican challengers.

Results in the 42nd District appear more competitive, with conservative candidates holding a lead in early returns—yet not so commanding a lead as in past election cycles.

Tuesday’s early returns are likely the high-water mark for Washington Republican results in 2020. Democrats are competitive in a dozen races that were solidly red two years ago, and results will look even better moving into the fall.

For many political junkies, though, the race to watch is the Second Congressional District—among the most progressive districts in Washington. The question, as always—is there enough strength in that progressive cohort to mount a successful challenge from the left against centrist Democrat Rick Larsen, or would that effort again be dashed by the state’s aggressive top-two primary?

The math was promising in CD2, with Republicans splitting up their votes among six candidates while Democrats split their votes among two—six split 30 percent of the whole, while two split 70 percent.

Alas, the math once again appears elusive in initial returns, with progressive Jason Call appearing to fall shy of the votes needed to challenge Larsen in the fall.

Preliminary returns indicate another cycle of robust voter participation—a feature expected when the barriers to voting are reduced through easier, same-day voter registration and postage-paid ballots. Since these changes were approved by the Legislature in 2019, turnout in local elections has improved markedly.

Average turnout around the state could approach 60 percent; and that means overall participation in November could perhaps reach record territory.

Elections in Washington, one of the few states that accepts ballots almost entirely through mail, take on an added national significance during the COVID pandemic: The state just held one of the safest elections in the country.

Last week, Trump declared the 2020 election “will be, in my opinion, the most corrupt election in the history of our country.” Mail-in ballots, he said, could be stolen from carriers, counterfeited or forged by either forces inside the United States or by “foreign powers.” Incomprehensibly and inanely, the same remarks the president praised absentee
THE GRISTLE

balloting—another form of voting done entirely through mail.

His remarks are corrosive to the very concept of holding free and fair and orderly elections—ever a moment of optimism for our battered democracy.

Trump’s comments drew rebuke from Washington’s Secretary of State Kim Wyman, a Republican, who told NPR, “I think it really shatters peoples’ confidence in the process. We need to make sure we’re inspiring confidence in the public that this is a fair election. And the ay you do that is balancing access and security.”

“When someone makes a really robust claim about fraudulent activity, we can show all the security measures,” Wyman said, “If someone said there’s rampant voter suppression, we can show all of the things we did to make the election accessible.”

Wyman’s remarks were supported by state Attorney General Bob Ferguson, a Democrat who supported the Republican’s assurance of the integrity of Washington’s vote-by-mail system.

“President Trump is simply wrong about mail-in voting,” Ferguson said. “Washington state conducts elections entirely by mail, and as Secretary of State Kim Wyman has made clear, Washington has never experienced ‘rampant’ voter fraud.

“Despite clear evidence that vote-by-mail is effective and secure, President Trump continues to claim that mail-in voting will lead to a fraudulent election. His attorney general, William Barr, echoed the president in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee last week, saying he thinks ‘there is a high risk’ mail-in voting will lead to ‘massive voter fraud.’

“Let me be clear,” Ferguson said, “There is no data to support this baseless claim. If the president uses it as an excuse to try to illegally delay the election, we’ll see him in court.”

The type of voter fraud the administration professes to be concerned about does not exist; rather, it has been used to justify policies that make it more difficult, and in too many cases, outright prevent, individuals from exercising their right to vote. The impact of these policies is inherently unequal, and disproportionately borne by communities of color.

Washington’s elections are a model for the nation. We should celebrate them, express pride at how well they work, duplicate them across the country, and not call as fraudulent the opinion of millions of Americans who desperately want this president’s reign to end.

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FORESTRY PLAN COULD ALLOW EXTENSIVE LOGGING IN NOOKSACK WATERSHED

By Tim Johnson

THE UPPER Nooksack is a rugged, forested landscape that carries glacial melt and rainfall to feed more than 1,400 stream and river miles that comprise a vast watershed. Most of the upper watershed is under federal control, and in recent years was spared the worst ravages of commercial forestry. Until now.

In a reversal of ecological policy that’s become common in the Trump administration, the U.S. Forest Service has apparently scrapped its integrated conservation and enhancement plan (NICE) for the upper reaches of the Nooksack, but say the project moves well beyond selective thinning and includes extensive clearcuts in areas prone to landslides in a critical watershed and salmon habitat. The federal forestry agency has received more than 1,500 comments on its plan.

“The Trump administration may be in its waning months, but it’s pulling out all the stops to maximize extraction of natural resources on our public lands while it still can,” board members of the North Cascades Conservation Council said in a statement. “The details of this proposal read like something from the bad old days of National Forest logging.

“It threatens to turn our green backyard in the shadow of Mount Baker into a pulp farm for Trump’s business cronies in the timber industry for years to come.”

“Regenerative harvests, also known as clearcuts, dramatically change the environment and have little environmental benefit,” Karlee Deatherage, land and water policy manager for the public policy group RE Sources, said in comments about the plan. “We strongly encourage the Forest Service to reduce or completely remove stand regeneration harvests from this plan and instead employ more environmentally sound harvesting regimes.”

Indeed, the pivot from a holistic landscape plan to restore waters and forests simultaneously as originally proposed by NICE to a more aggressive and traditional forestry plan took many conservation groups by surprise.

“For many years, the initial effort proposed some careful thinning of planta-
tions to create conditions that will more rapidly develop into older forest conditions, doing aquatics work and road de-commissioning,” Dave Werntz, science and conservation director for Conservation Northwest, said.

“This was the plan about one and a half or two years ago. The Forest Service announced NICE and started public outreach around that, and we expected that would be what was proposed,” he recalled. “Suddenly, in March or April, that comprehensive restoration effort was canceled. About a month after that, this new project was proposed.

“Vegetation management’ is a term that is often used by the Forest Service to describe not a restoration project but just a forestry project—where can we cut trees—the kind of forestry that we haven’t seen in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie under the Northwest forest plan,” Werntz explained. “It proposes instead what they call ‘regen harvest’—which can mean many things, but it typically means a clear cut: You’re removing all of the forest overstory, and you’re regenerating a new stand in its place.

“It was a surprise to us that you would propose doing this kind of intensive forestry in a riparian areas at all.”

Like many rivers in Washington, the Nooksack River has seen a century of hard use. Its upper reaches are still mostly pristine, protected as park and national forest lands. But much of the rest has been heavily logged, hardened with levee walls, farmed and altered for development.

“Given the scope of the proposed project and the very significant environmental impact it could have on the North Fork Nooksack watershed, we strongly encourage the Forest Service to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS),” Jim Davis, president of the Bellingham-based Shuksan Conservancy, noted in comments about the plan. “The unique nature of the North Fork Nooksack watershed (i.e., steep slopes, high diversity of wildlife, free-flowing rivers and streams, multiple salmon populations, and heavy recreation use) precludes application of a cookie-cutter approach to managing these National Forest lands.

“An in-depth analysis of environmental conditions, tribal treaty rights issues, and recreation needs is needed to prevent irreparable damage to the watershed,” he said. “The EIS should consider the cumulative impacts of proposed timber harvest and ongoing climate change.

“If conditions supporting Chinook degrade in the North Fork due to further timber harvest or other factors associated with the vegetation management proposal, extinction of that population will be hastened. This issue alone should compel requirement for an EIS,” Davis said.

Others expressed concerns about the steep terrain around Canyon Creek and the potential for landslides.

“The county has spent considerable money and personnel resources in the area of this proposed project, particularly to improve public safety and fish habitat in the Canyon Creek Area,” former Whatcom County Council member Carl Weimer commented on the plan. “This area is prone to rain-on-snow events that have caused major flooding in the Canyon Creek area. In 1989, 1990, and 1995 large debris floods destroyed four homes and damaged a private road, a county road, salmon habitat, and interim flood control efforts in the lower mile of Canyon Creek in the Glacier Springs community. Clear-cutting has been shown to add to these debris flood issues in many areas,” Weimer said, cautioning that extensive clear cuts could trigger similar future debris floods.

“To date no loss of life has resulted from these hazards, but significant risk to life safety is interpreted due to the presence of large platted developments on the Canyon and Glacier Creek alluvial fans and the very active SR 542 transportation corridor,” Whatcom County Public Works Director Jon Hutchings noted in comments on the plan.

“The combination of unstable lands, highly erosive soils and generative clear-cutting is a recipe for aquatic harm in Canyon Creek,” Werntz said.

“The focus in this area should instead be in improving conditions for fish and wildlife habitat, and improving public use that can produce byproducts of restoration that can go to the mill and achieve other objectives for public lands.

“Our hope as a collective of interests is to try to shift the focus back to where the Forest Service had started, and encourage them to take up that restoration work again,” he said.

“We hope to work closely with the public on this project from the very beginning as we take a look at the area to determine what is important and what needs work,” Udoff said. ☟
LAST WEEK’S NEWS
JULY 30 - AUGUST 03
BY TIM JOHNSON

07.30.20
THURSDAY

Bellingham and Whatcom County officials hold the first of four “listening sessions” on race and justice, creating an opportunity for community members to share their experiences and ideas for how leaders can make meaningful, effective changes. The series is sponsored by area elected and appointed leaders, including the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, Lummi Nation, Western Washington University, Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office, and the Bellingham Police Department. [COB]

Critics ask how can these listening sessions can produce an honest and productive conversation when the conversation is controlled by those holding power. “If these conversations truly aim at dismantling systemic racism and white supremacy, then a paradigm shift must exist from the very beginning, by bringing potential supporters to plan for a series of listening sessions together, providing accessibility—internet access, devices, interpreters, closed captions—and protecting the confidentiality, safety and dignity of those being asked to speak,” board members of the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force said in a statement. [WHRTF]

Salmon will have better habitat with help from a $332,000 penalty settlement with Cooke Aquaculture after the collapse of its floating pen near Cypress Island in 2017. The settlement requires that the fine be split, part going to an environmental project for regional salmon enhancement or habitat restoration and the other part going to a coastal protection fund. [Ecology]

An environmental group is proposing to take over and hold in trust four sites throughout Puget Sound that have for years been used to farm fish. The Wild Fish Conservancy submitted a proposal to the state’s Department of Natural Resources that would allow the group to pay to take over net pen sites that have been run by Cooke Aquaculture. The net pens have been used to raise nonnative Atlantic salmon. [Kitsap Sun]

Baker Lake is closed to fishing for sockeye salmon. Wildlife officials say the closure will help the remaining 1,500 sockeye spawn naturally. [WDFW]

07.31.20
FRIDAY

Nearly all classes at Western Washington University will be held online during the coming quarter. The college had originally recommended a hybrid model of instruction with most classes offered remotely and approximately 20 percent of classes offered in person. Since that time infection rates have increased locally and nationally. University officials say they now expect only 8 to 10 percent of classes will be held on campus during the fall quarter. [WWU]

The City of Bellingham launches a new website to allow people to engage with city government while public meetings are limited due to the pandemic. The site gives people the opportunity to provide feedback and participate in discussions about city decision-making processes through an online platform. Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department Director Rick Sepler said launching this new public engagement site now is key to being able to move forward on projects that are a priority for the city and the community. The website is located at www.engagebellingham.org. [COB]

The Lynden YMCA closed during the coronavirus pandemic and it won’t reopen. Whatcom Family YMCA officials say the Lynden Y has run at a deficit for the last several years and the shutdown has made it impossible to recover financially. The facility has served the Lynden community for 40 years. [Lynden Tribune, KGMI]

08.01.20
SATURDAY

Whatcom County health officials report an abnormally high number of cases of salmonella infection. The federal Food and Drug Administration issued a notice of a multi-state outbreak of salmonella in red onions that has sickened nearly 400 people from 34 states. It is unknown if local cases are related to the recent recall of red onions. [WUC]

08.03.20
MONDAY

The state Attorney General responds to recent statements by President Trump and members of his administration that call into question the integrity of vote-by-mail elections. “Despite clear evidence that vote-by-mail is effective and secure, President Trump continues to claim that mail-in voting will lead to a fraudulent election,” the Democrat said. “As [Republican] Secretary of State Kim Wyman has made clear, Washington has never experienced ‘rampant’ voter fraud. There is no data to support this baseless claim,” AG Bob Ferguson said. “If the president uses it as an excuse to try to illegally delay the election, we’ll see him in court.” [AGO]
**DON'T BLAME BLAINE**

On July 30, Blaine Police said they are aware of rumors on social media that a protest rally is planned for their city, but to their knowledge the rumor is untrue. “At this time, the police department is unable to confirm that a protest will occur, as there are no credible sources for the information to date,” Blaine’s police chief noted in a statement. “The Blaine Police Department and the City of Blaine support citizens’ rights to peacefully assemble. Should a peaceful protest occur, officers will work to protect the rights of those assembled.”

**ROAD TRIP**

On July 24, Whatcom County Sheriff’s deputies arrested three men from Yakima Valley after they allegedly drove all the way to Bellingham to buy drugs. They were contacted in the North Bellingham area and found to be in possession of two kilos of cocaine, over $60,000 in cash, an AR-15-style rifle and a handgun. All three admitted that their reason for coming to Whatcom County was to buy cocaine and then sell it in turn to buy even more cocaine. The wholesale value of the cocaine was estimated at about $55,000.

**THE CONTINUING CRISIS**

On July 27, Bellingham Police tried to make sense of a verbal domestic dispute that erupted in Sunnyland neighborhood that arose from a disagreement over political views.

On July 28, Blaine Police responded to a verbal dispute. “Officers determined this event was a juvenile problem involving juveniles babysitting juveniles. The parents returned home and were advised of the call,” police reported.

**THE NEVER-ENDING HOLIDAY**

On July 25, Blaine Police received a report of a loud boom. A patrol officer arrived in the area and heard additional fireworks being lit and located the source. “Contact was made with a Blaine resident who stated he wasn’t able to spend July 4 with his children and was unaware that he couldn’t ignite fireworks after July 4,” police reported. The resident was issued a verbal warning.

On July 28, Bellingham Police spoke to a defender of liberty after he discharged a display of aerial fireworks at a residence in Roosevelt neighborhood.

On July 11, an Anacortes patrol sergeant spoke with several people after police were called to investigate someone who was possibly shooting a gun. “After speaking with multiple witnesses in the area, it was determined that the noise was likely from fireworks deployed by a young male who had since left the area on foot,” police reported.

**A WELL-REGULATED MILITIA**

On July 27, Bellingham Police checked on a report of a firearm being brandished in Birchwood neighborhood.

On July 27, Bellingham Police assisted someone who reported an accidental self-inflicted BB gun wound in the leg.

On July 31, Bellingham Police checked on a person who was wearing a tin-foil hat and had pointed an object at another person in Birchwood neighborhood and said, “Bang, bang, you’re dead.”

**CRITTER CRIMES**

On July 19, a Skagit County resident called police to report a neighbor’s sheep got out. “When the officer arrived at the scene, the issue was being resolved and the sheep were being rounded up,” the Anacortes Animal Control officer said. “You might say the situation went from baa’d to good.”

On July 27, a Blaine woman called police requesting assistance with constantly barking dogs in the neighborhood. When asked if the dogs were currently barking, the woman said no. Police advised the woman to call police when the dogs are barking again.

On July 22, a mother called police to report that she and her young daughter were walking on the Tommy Thompson Trail in Anacortes when a small terrier bit her daughter on the leg. The woman told police that the man with the dog provided a name that may have been fictitious and a non-working phone number, so she was unable to follow up with him about the incident. The woman took a photo of the man and his dog that was shared by APD on social media.

**ALIEN SKIES**

On July 22, the Sedro-Woolley saucer nest was active again. An Anacortes resident noticed a couple of especially bright lights low in the southeastern sky. “I watched awhile, thinking they might move. I then walked to the eastern side of the house for a better look,” the eyewitness reported. “I took a series of photos, and a video, then went back inside. The blowup of the photos shows some odd anomalies that I can’t explain.”

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**52 WOMEN OF WHATCOM COUNTY**

**FRANCES “BESS” BAY** (1898-1998) was considered the “Grand Dame of Lynden” and was instrumental in the formation of Whatcom Community College. Born in Missouri, Bay moved West in 1949. “We liked living in Lynden and the unhurried life here,” she says. Her “unhurried life” included support of the arts and education, earning her Grand moniker and a street name, Bess Bay Drive. Her influence stretched beyond Lynden. In 1969, Governor Dan Evans appointed her to the first board of trustees for Whatcom Community College, which was committed to “borrow, rent, lease or rebuild facilities, but not create a central campus.” She served a term as trustee chair of the “campus without walls.”

“We liked living in Lynden and the unhurried life there.
—Frances “Bess” Bay

**DEBORRA GARRETT** (b.1951) was the first woman to be elected to the bench of the Whatcom County Superior Court. Before moving to Bellingham in 1979, Garrett worked as a trial attorney for the National Employment Relations Board (NLRB). In her first Bellingham job, she served as an attorney with Evergreen Legal Services, providing legal assistance to indigent individuals. After switching to private practice in employment law, in 1989, Garrett represented the plaintiff in a landmark disability rights case, Kimbro v. Atlantic Richfield Co., which established standards later encoded in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Representing the Whatcom County Library System in 2004, Garrett successfully argued that confidential use of a public library is protected by the First Amendment, leading the FBI to withdraw their subpoena for Library users’ lending records. Garrett served on the board of the Women’s Care Shelter and was an active member of Whatcom County’s Incarceration and Prevention Reduction Task Force. She was a leader in establishing the new pretrial release program for the Superior Court. This program will help reduce the number of persons held in our jail awaiting trial, Garrett remained on the court from 2012 to 2020.

Garrett received the Washington State Bar Association’s award for her pro bono work.

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**SOURCES**

- Ancestry.com: birth, death, census & other records
- Greenacres Memorial Park headstone
- Koert, Dorothy. Portrait of Lynden. 1976
- Map of Lynden with street named after her, sourced from Google
- Obituary for Bess Bay’s Mother at http://wagenweb.org/whatcom/wwobits/deathsadc_alas.htm
- Telephone call to Whatcom Community College where Ms. Bay was a founding trustee
- InternetWayBack machine to access dates & names of her degrees from Columbia
Seven Deaths
GROUNDHOG DAY MEETS AGATHA CHRISTIE

ESCAPISM SEEMS to be in order these days, and sometimes a twisty mystery is just the ticket for engrossing distraction. Stuart Turton’s inventive 2018 whodunnit, The Seven and a Half Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle, is more like a who-what-when-where-how-dunnit.

It’s been billed as “Groundhog Day meets Agatha Christie,” an unexpected but appropriate pairing. There’s intricate plotting for Kate Atkinson fans, and elements of Anthony Horowitz’s modern take on Dame Agatha. Best of all, it keeps you guessing until the end, which is always an important characteristic of a successful mystery.

The scene opens in a forest in the British countryside. Aiden Bishop is lost and bleeding, with no memory of who he is or how he got there. He witnesses what he believes is a murder. When he finally emerges from the woods, he makes his way toward Blackheath House, a down-at-the-heels estate where he desperately tries to convince people to search for the victim’s body.

The other guests are strangely not very alarmed—they recognize him as Sebastian Bell, one of the many people invited to a gala ball hosted by the Hardcastle family to commemorate the death of their son Thomas, who was murdered there years before.

Aiden struggles to piece together what has happened, but when morning comes he discovers he’s now in a different guest’s body—and he’s living the entire day again from that person’s perspective. He meets Evelyn Hardcastle, newly arrived from Paris, and learns from a masked man that Evelyn is destined to die the night of the ball at precisely 11pm. Aiden needs to solve the mystery of Evelyn’s death—and he has only eight chances to do it, as each time he falls asleep he wakes up in another person’s body, then witnesses her murder again, in a vicious loop.

If that sounds confusing, it is, but stick with it. There’s a time travel element, with one character placing clues for the next character, and changing their behavior one time in a way that impacts the next. There are other characters similarly caught in a time trap, racing to be the first to solve the puzzle and escape. There are clues aplenty and some interesting explorations of the various characters (among them, a butler, a police officer and a socialite).

Ultimately it’s a story about Aiden’s struggle to be the sort of man he aspires to be but knows deep down he hasn’t been.

This book is clever, convincing, and cohesive. It’s hard to believe it’s Turton’s first novel. Fortunately, his newest book, The Devil and the Dark Water, is set to come out later this year. Thinking ahead, your libraries already have it on order.
can be picked up curbside from 10am-6pm Monday through Saturday at the Bellingham Public Library. You’ll receive a notification by email, text or phone when your requested items are on the hold shelf. Call (360) 778-7275 on the day you plan to come to the library to pick up your items—the advance notice will give staff time to get your holds ready for you and check everything out to your account. For everybody’s safety, pickup services are contact-free. Please maintain appropriate physical distancing and wear a mask while picking up holds. Items can be dropped off through the outdoor book return; they will be quarantined for three full days before staff checks them in. 

BURLINGTON LIBRARY: Book drops are now open and express hold pickups have begun at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave. Log into your account to place items on hold, or sign up for a digital library card to access all BPL’s online resources—where new digital content is being added on a regular basis. Additionally, the library’s WiFi is available 24 hours a day. No password is needed; just park outside the library and log in. Materials that were checked out before the library closed have had their due dates extended through August, and cards that had pending expiration dates have been extended as well.

CONCRETE LIBRARY: Curb side service hours are 10am-3pm Tuesday through Saturday in Concrete at the Upper Skagit Library, 45770B. Reserve items via the catalog, or by calling staff (360-853-7939) or emailing them (info@upperskagitlibrary.org). Once your items become available you will be notified. You may then pick up items during curbside hours, and will have seven days to do so. When arriving, park in front of the library or in the parking lot. Stay in your car, and email or call staff to let them know you’ve arrived. They’ll place items in the back of your car; please be sure a door or the trunk is open so they can safely place your holds inside.
Hidden Gems
VEINS, VUGS AND VERTICAL VIVIFICATION

WORDS WERE scarce and conversation was minimal as our socially distanced party of rockhounds crawled up an overgrown boot trail that seemed to twist and turn forever through dense brush and heavy timber.

Somewhere way above us was a remote alpine basin full of jade lakes, scalable slopes and an exposed breccia vein with pockets of pyrite-bearing quartz crystals known for their rare beauty and extraordinary size.

Under any other circumstance the four of us would have been belting out show tunes, yodeling at each other or engaging in philosophical banter toward some larger known for their rare beauty and extraordinary size.

The chopping blade of a felling axe soon rang through the air and as we forged ahead with significant route-clearing work we found ourselves aided in innumerable ways by the digging blades of two small foldable shovels.

Under any other circumstance the four of us would have been belting out show tunes, yodeling at each other or engaging in philosophical banter toward some larger

...
How will you save water this summer?

Water plants and lawns before 10 a.m. to reduce water loss from evaporation.

Replace lawn with native or drought-tolerant plants.

Follow voluntary watering schedule.
Odd addresses: Wed, Fri, Sun
Even addresses: Tues, Thurs, Sat
Waterless Monday

www.cob.org/conserve

How will you save water this summer?

Water plants and lawns before 10 a.m. to reduce water loss from evaporation.

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www.cob.org/conserve
By Amy Kepferle

Bard Alert

BEYOND THE BEACH

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW has dual citizenship in the United States and Canada and owns property in Kamloops, but not even he dared cross the border during a recent trip to Whatcom County for fear of having to adhere to Canada’s strict two-week quarantine mandate before taking care of business—and eventually returning to a COVID-ridden country travelers aren’t in a particular hurry to visit.

Even before the restriction on all discretionary travel at the border was implemented on the first day of spring—and recently extended until at least Aug. 21—Canadians who depend on income from tourism, recreation and entertainment were already thinking ahead to what the ban might mean to their bottom line.

In the case of Bard on the Beach, the powers that be had already spent a month intensively exploring what could be possible for the popular Shakespeare-focused festival’s 31st season, which had been scheduled to run from June 10-Sept. 26 in Vancouver B.C.’s scenic Vanier Park. Their conclusion: Ensuring the safety and well-being of their patrons, staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors and partners meant Bard on the Beach needed to be shuttered for the summer of 2020.

An April 6 press release announcing the pandemic-related closure came with both bad and good news. In the negative category was the stark fact that more than two-thirds of Bard’s $8 million annual operating budget comes from ticket and ancillary sales generated over its four-month run, and the organization employs nearly 300 administrative and production staff and artists—people who rely on these jobs for a large portion of their annual income.

In the better-news category came a report from founding artistic director Christopher Gaze, who noted that the 2020 lineup—including the beloved comedy A Midsummer Night’s Dream, the epic drama Henry V, a restaging of 2015’s hit Jazz Age production of Love’s Labour’s Lost, and Paradise Lost, Erin Shield’s modern take on the battle between good and evil—would return in the summer of 2021, with the intention to reassemble the same talented teams next spring.

“There is some good news in that we are able to confirm we intend to present the same dynamic 2020 lineup of plays in our 2021 season,” Gaze said in a video announcement. “Each production’s concept is unique and innovative, and we’re thrilled that the promise of each of them will survive and be fulfilled next summer.”

In the meantime, however, Bard on the Beach intends to remain relevant. Last week, they announced they’ve repurposed their vision for this season to focus on creating new digitally delivered content and experiences to festival followers as well as new audiences from around the world. No cross-border considerations are required, and everybody stays safe.

The bard’s own “Hearts remote, yet not asunder” quote is the tagline of the Bard Beyond the Beach initiative, which in addition to providing “Bard Around Town” videos, performances by dancers who would’ve been portraying fairies in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and related content—as well as blog series, behind-the-scenes blogs, Shakespeare-related resources and activities, and virtual interactive gatherings—is also meant to elicit donations to help “build a bridge” to 2021.

“Our focus must be to keep the festival’s stories and spirit alive in the hearts and minds of festival followers during this ‘gap year’—and also reach new people who are able to visit our virtual spaces more easily than a physical location,” Gaze says. “We are truly excited about what we’re creating, and the new opportunities it offers for growth, relevance and inclusion.”

For more information about Bard Beyond the Beach, go to www.bardonthebeach.org
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2. go on a trip
3. garden

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Suddenly Dragons
AN ART ADVENTURE IN ARLINGTON

AT THE tail end of an epic quest that had taken us from Bellingham to Minneapolis and back via the perilous highways of America, my prince and I decided to escape the horrors of Seattle’s clogged arterials in favor of a scenic choose-your-own-adventure route that started in the town of Snoqualmie and ended in Arlington.

In between the former and latter locales, the day took on a gauzy fairy-tale quality as we happened upon colorful farm stands selling ripe peaches and freshly harvested tomatoes, watched masked tourists wander dreamily through Darrington’s historic district, detoured through a sinuous and magical agricultural road that was never identified—I’m still not sure if it actually exists—and eventually found our way to the dragons of Arlington.

That last vision wasn’t a sleep-deprived hallucination brought on by spending three days on the open road. As was evidenced by a press release awaiting me upon my return to civilization, a number of the mythical fire-breathing creatures have “flown” into downtown Arlington on recent days as part of what is described as an “interactive public art adventure.”

This means residents and those passing through the Snohomish County city south of Mount Vernon will be treated to sightings of the winged beasts crafted by area artists through August—including hidden dragons in the windows (and one fence) of local busi-nesses, a long chalk creature crafted by area youth on the sidewalk of Legion Park, a multi-artist “Suddenly Dragons” Fly-In Exhibit in the windows of the Arlington Depot, and vibrantly hued wind sock wonders waving in the summer breeze just north of the Depot along Centennial Trail.

Originally intended to tie into Arlington’s annual Fly-In Festival—which, like almost every other similar event around the world, was canceled due to the perils of the pandemic—the exhibit at the Depot and the wind dragons crafted by local artist Monica Bretherton became a way to creatively reclaim the city and take a step toward recovery from COVID-19 and its negative effects.

“Dragons are a gateway between the natural world and our imagination,” says Bretherton, who originated the project. “That’s obviously a significant relationship because we have been creating art about them for at least 10,000 years.”

Paid for by the City of Arlington’s Public Art Program—which last year started funneling 10 percent of new construction taxes into funding art—the monthlong event gives people a chance to do some socially distanced exploration of the downtown core as well as provide exposure for local merchants. Dragons can be spied everywhere from the feed store to the florist, the bowling alley, clothing and knitting stores, and even a muffler shop.

Each dragon on display is different, including a found art creation by local artist Karen Lewis, who says the challenge was a “fun way to revisit needle arts and share in my love of whimsy,” and Sarah Arney, who notes her submission is a “fine line between dragons and the colorful lizards of the earth.” Other featured artists include Coe Blackwell, Erika Bruss and her youth art crew, Stuart Heady, Mike Nordine, and Niki Spencer.

At the event’s website, each dragon has a sign with a link to its own webpage containing information about the host and the artist, as well as offering clues to help find their creations. All can be uncovered on or near the four-block stretch of North Olympic Avenue, and most can be seen from the street or out in the open.

Arney, who serves as president of the Arlington Arts Council, says she’s grateful to Bretherton for coming up with the idea for the community-minded project.

“Since we had to cancel our Art in Legion Park Festival and all our youth art events, it was lucky that Monica was able to re-conceive Suddenly Dragons to function in this new environment,” she notes.

“Ironically, she proposed the project for city funding over a year ago, before anyone even imagined such a thing as the COVID pandemic. To me, it represents the magic and power of art for recovery.”

For more details, go to www.suddenlydragons.com
Seventy-five years after the first nuclear weapons were used, the weapons are #stillhere. So are the survivors.

August 6 and 9 are the 75th anniversaries of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, respectively. No More Bombs, a Skagit Valley peace and nuclear disarmament group, is proud to join a coalition of over 100 organizations worldwide to honor the victims — and to embrace our role in ensuring these weapons are never used again.

Join us August 6th for a local remembrance from 7-8pm via Zoom. A Zoom link will be available on the NMB website August 6. National events will livestream all day on August 6 and 9. Featuring programs with luminaries such as Dr. Ira Helfand, Daniel Ellsberg, and Setsuko Thurlow. We hope you’ll join us in this global movement!

www.nomorebombs.org
www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org
Subdued Stringband Jamboree

SUFFERING IS OPTIONAL

IT IS true to say I grieve every event, concert series and festival canceled due to COVID-19. However, in the interest of honesty, it is not accurate to say I mourn them equally, as some own a larger piece of my heart than others.

One of the losses I’ve felt most keenly has been the Subdued Stringband Jamboree. When the live music was turned off a few months ago, I knew festival founder Robert Sarazin Blake would have to cancel this year’s Jamboree, and yet when it happened, it still stung. While I don’t attend the festival every year as I used to, the Jamboree and its sense of community remain dear to me.

But Stringband has always been, at its core, as much about that community as it has been about the music itself. And that community, at its core, is about figuring shit out. It is adept in the art of navigating and troubleshooting obstacles, and though Blake might’ve felt at first that the only thing to do was sit on hiatus for 2020, others nudged him in a different direction.

“For a moment back in March, at the prospect of postponing the 2020 Jamboree, I felt a sigh of relief,” Blake says. “After 19 summers of organizing a jamboree, I started to imagine an alternate pace to my summer. First up, I planned on finishing War and Peace, which I theoretically read in high school but abandoned somewhere after 1,100 pages. The momentum of the crew quickly derailed my plans for Tolstoy, and we’ve been scratching at the plan since mid-April.”

“The plan” has taken form, the 2020 festival has been rechristened the “Tin Can Jamboree,” and the details are now fleshed out. This year’s Stringband is not just a showcase of the music we’ve all come to expect and love, but is also proof of the power of ingenuity and adaptability in trying times.

It’ll work like this: On the original Stringband dates—Aug. 7-8—a safety-minded skeleton crew will film and record the lineup of musicians, and those performances will be beamed out into our ears, eyes and hearts via Facebook, YouTube, and the Jamboree’s website, as well as broadcast live on KMRE 102.3 FM.

“We’ve been guided by three principles,” Blake says. “1. In the state of Washington, by order of the governor under the stay-at-home order, artist and musician livestreaming is an essential service. 2. All plans need to be flexible to meet COVID safety needs. 3. Physical distancing is mandatory, but suffering is optional—let’s have some fun.”

Fun shall be had and it’ll come courtesy of Blake himself (of course), Devin Champlin, Sweetheart of the Rodeo, Cumulus, Baby Gramps, Sweater Weather String Band, Tango Cowboys, Meg Yates and the Kindred, Hot Damn Scandal, the Sweet Goodbyes, and more.

As I type, a small crew of volunteers is setting up a backyard stage in accordance with CDC and state guidelines and hammering out the final details about how to present the event while keeping everyone safe. While it would certainly be easier for musicians to perform at home or in their own backyards, Blake says that’s not in keeping with the spirit of the thing.

“It’s important to me that all the musicians perform from the same stage live for the at-home audience,” he says. “We’ll be presenting a consistency of sound, space and subdued charm. The at-home audience will be able to watch the shade on the set shift throughout the day. A livestream isn’t as good as the real thing but it’s still live. We know as viewers we’re sharing a moment with the performer.”

This extra-subdued Subdued Stringband Jamboree isn’t exactly what Blake had envisioned for the 20th anniversary of the event. However, he’s able to appreciate that it’s very much a return to the festival’s roots.

“This 20th annual ‘Tin Can’ Jamboree has been scaled down from three days to two days, from 40 performers to 14, from international performers to a hyper-local lineup,” he says, “but it’s still the Jamboree and—just like the first annual—it’s being held in a backyard.”

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WHO AM I Trying TO FOOL HERE? ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME IS WELL AWARE THAT EXPLORING THE NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF MY SURROUNDINGS IS LIKE OXYGEN TO ME. NAME A TINY TOWN IN WASHINGTON IN MY PRESENCE, AND IT'S LIKELY I'LL SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "I ATE A PLATE OF ENCHILADAS AND THEN ACCIDENTALLY WENT TO A PEPE RALLY THERE." OR "I DROVE THROUGH THERE AND WATCHED A GUY IN A HOT DOG COSTUME DANCE ON A STREET CORNER DURING MARIACHI LUNCH HOUR." OR "I STAYED A NIGHT IN A TINY CABIN THERE AND WENT NIGHT FISHING WITH SOME LOCALS."

THESE ARE ALL TRUE STORIES THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MOVIES, BUT I'LL GET THERE, I SWEAR.

DURING THE SUMMER, FALL AND POSSIBLY WINTER OF OUR COVID-19 DISCONTINUITY, I AM COMMITTED TO TAKING SAFE, MASKED AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED DAYTRIPS TO PLACES NEAR AND SLIGHTLY LESS NEAR. NONE OF THESE PLACES WILL BE NEW TO ME, BUT THEY'RE ALL SPOTS I LOVE, AND OF THEM, ANACORTES IS AT THE TOP OF THE LIST.

MOST PEOPLE CONSIDER THE LURE OF ANACORTES TO BE ITS SCENIC WONDERS. SITUATED ON FIDALGO ISLAND, IT IS TRULY A LOVELY WATERFRONT LOCATE AND IS ALSO THE FERRY GATEWAY TO THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS. AS FOR ME, I LOVE ANACORTES' MIXED ROOTS AS A SCRAPPY PORT TOWN AS WELL AS ARTIST ENCLAVE THE EFFECTS OF WHICH REMAIN EVIDENT IN ITS FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NATURE.

NO PLACE HARNESSES THAT FIERCENESS OR SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE QUITE LIKE THE BUSINESS. ANACORTES' MUSIC SCENE IS LONG AND STORIED AND THE STORE THAT ONCE HOUSED KNOW-YR-OWN RECORDS AND EMPLOYED KARL BLAU AND PHIL ELVERUM HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF IT SINCE 1978. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, NICK RENNIS HAS BEEN THE BUSINESS' OWNER, AND HE TAKES ITS STEWARDSHIP VERY SERIOUSLY, OFFERING ONLY A CAREFULLY CURLED SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT RELEASES BY LABELS THAT TREAT THEIR ARTISTS FAIRLY AND THEIR DISTRIBUTORS WELL.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE PART HAVING TO DO WITH MOVIES.

WHEN RENNIS TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS, IT HAD A SMALL USED VIDEO SECTION THAT WAS ALMOST AN AFTERTHOUGHT. AS HE RETOODED AND REFINED THINGS, HE JETTISONED THAT DEPARTMENT, BUT OFFERING MOVIES THAT FIT WITHIN THE STORE'S ETHOS OF DOING EVERYTHING WITH INTENTION AND WORKING DIRECTLY WITH DISTRIBUTORS WAS ALWAYS IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND. IN THEORY, THERE WERE MANY ROUTES IN THE FILM WORLD HE COULDN'T HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT THE BUSINESS' INTEGRITY AND FOCUS. IN PRACTICE, ANACORTES IS A MATCH MADE IN MOVIE HEAVEN. (THIS IS MY LIFE.)

"IN A TIME WHEN SO MANY FOLKS MIGHT NORMAL DISREGARD PHYSICAL MEDIA IN ANY WAY AS AN INCONVENIENCE, WE APPRECIATE EVEN MORE THE GREAT LENGTHS A COMPANY LIKE CRITERION GOES TOWARD MAKING A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE COLLECTOR," RENNIS SAYS. "I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A HUGE CRITERION FAN AND FEEL REALLY LUCKY THAT I GET TO SHARE THAT WITH OUR COMMUNITY."
Anger does its recalibrational work—that is, incentivizes better treatment—through two tactics, explains Sell: the potential for the angry person to inflict costs (sometimes just through the scary ugliness of aggression) or to withdraw benefits (such as the various social and emotional perks of being somebody’s friend). Either of these tactics suggests to the person doing the short shrifting that they’ll be worse off if they continue to put too little weight on the angry person’s interests, and this can motivate them to mend their selfish, neglectful ways.

In other words, in anger, you’ve got a fantastic tool to protect you from being taken advantage of—that is, if you use it instead of trying to suppress it. Because anger is triggered automatically, stifling it won’t make it go away; it’ll make it go away and get bigger and uglier. It’s likely to leak out at inappropriate times (like in sniping hostility when you speak), and there can be an eventual out-of-proportion explosion, often at some seriously minor perceived “slight,” like the person you’re angry with not passing a condiment quite zippily enough.

Healthy assertiveness, on the other hand, requires the expression of what I’d call “timely, judicious honesty.” “Timely” means expressing that you have unmet needs relatively quickly—as soon as you can after you realize there’s an issue. Being “judicious” means taking an emotionally strategic approach: framing the discussion with how you feel rather than how someone’s wronged you. In practice, this means evoking the other person’s empathy (saying, “I feel bad when...”) rather than using language of accusation or blame (“You do this rotten thing...”), which makes a person feel attacked and motivates them to fight back instead of listening.

The third step, “honesty,” is expressing, “Here’s what I need...” and seeing whether the other person says they’re up for providing it. Then, of course, there’s seeing whether they actually will (perhaps with a reminder or two from you if they automatically fall back into their old ways).

If you accept responsibility for being delinquent in expressing what you want from your friend, it should help you cool off enough to do that now in a civil way. If it turns out she isn’t genuinely interested in your welfare—that is, in being a real friend to you with all the give-and-take that involves—you can downgrade her accordingly (like from friend to “someone I know”). Of course, you really couldn’t be a better friend to her right now—that is, unless you had your jaw wired shut for a month.
COVID CLOSURES
WEST COAST PETS
A good pet-sitter is hard to find—and now will be harder in Ferndale after the closure of West Coast Pets. Before COVID, the two-person team of pet professionals did everything from dog walking to animal care to offering pet taxi services. They also cited COVID-19 as the reason they've gone out of business, with their services going from necessary to unneeded in this time of no travel and pet owners working from home.

WISE BYE
One of COVID-19’s saddest business casualties is Wise Buys, the downtown thrift shop that operated under Lydia Place’s umbrella. For 30 years, it provided discounted wares, job training, volunteer opportunities and a supportive community atmosphere, but could not survive the “hard economic impact” of the coronavirus. Gratitude is owed to Lydia Place, Wise Buys manager Nancy Long, and the 1,200-plus volunteers who staffed the shop over the years. Wise Buys will live on in our hearts.

542 BAR
It was open for an instant before COVID-19 shut it down, but Holly Street’s second-tiniest watering hole (the smallest being Jack’s, which is also reopening with outdoor seating) has installed outdoor seating and is back open to serve you cocktails and snacks.

FRINGE BREWINING
According to the adaptable folks at Fringe Brewing, “We have expanded our beer garden to support the overwhelming desire to drink Fringe beer.” Head out Ferndale way for their newly brewed Cuprous ESB or Portal Pilsner, have a snack from the Streat Food truck often parked there—but try to limit your visit to an hour due to limited tables and the aforementioned “overwhelming desire.”

STRAIGHT EDGE BARBER CO.
Tucked inside Sola Salon Studios, which is tucked inside Bellis Fair, is the newly opened Straight Edge Barber Co. Barber Erika Graybill is offering one-on-one services in a private room, barbering only—so no fancy stuff except for the decidedly fancy hair art she can accomplish with her clippers. She also is proficient in kids cuts and will straight-razor that unsightly pandemic beard from your face.

REVISIONS AND REOPENINGS
LOCUS
Locus is taking advantage of the ability to expand outdoor seating by expanding their outdoor seating. They’re hard at work on the project and given their ability to get things done, it will no doubt roll out very soon. They plan to celebrate with White Claw spritzers and, honestly, summer 2020 has never felt so seen.

MOVIN’ ON UP
BLACK DROP COFFEEHOUSE
They outgrew their tiny corner locale about half a decade ago, and now the Black Drop Coffeehouse is on the move to a space more suitable to their needs. They’re taking over the expansive spot that used to house Rook and Rogue, and along with their regular menu of expertly crafted coffee drinks, homemade pastries and take-no-guff sass, they plan to offer additional drinks and snacks. Stay tuned.

OASIS IN THE DESERT
NUGENTS CORNER MARKET
One of the country’s most distressing food deserts has a new oasis in the now-opened Nugents Corner Market. Locals Troy and Aubree Lozano took over the building that used to house Dodson’s IGA and retooled the space with an in-house butcher, an array of homemade ready-to-eat goods, as well as standard grocery supplies and a hardware section.

One From The Heart.
hy’shqe
We want to thank the Frontline Workers and All of Our Friends & Relatives during this time.
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HAPPY HOUR IS BACK!
Open until 6 every day, and all day Sunday.

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IN THE HISTORIC HERALD BUILDING

Sudoku

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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THIS MODERN WORLD

WAYS TO REASSURE AMERICANS THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION
1. REFUSE TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION
   “I’LL HAVE TO SEE! I’M NOT GOING TO SAY YES, I’M NOT GOING TO SAY NO!”

2. HAVE YOUR ATTORNEY GENERAL PRETEND NEVER TO HAVE GIVEN THE SUBJECT ANY THOUGHT
   WHY, THE QUESTION HAS NEVER OCCURRED TO ME! NOR HAVE I EVER HEARD OF THIS “TELEVISION” DEVICE ON WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS WERE MADE. WE ABOLISH IT!

3. FLOAT THE IDEA OF DELAYING THE ELECTION
   OF COURSE, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO DO THAT.

4. HAVE YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE PRETEND NEVER TO HAVE GIVEN THAT SUBJECT ANY THOUGHT
   CAN THE PRESIDENT DELAY THE ELECTION? WHY, I COULD NOT POSSIBLY RENDER A JUDGMENT ON THIS MATTER WHICH HAS NEVER BEFORE CROSSED MY MIND!

5. SUGGEST REPEATEDLY AND WITHOUT EVIDENCE THAT MAIL-IN VOTING WILL LEAD TO MASSIVE FRAUD
   MANY PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT MY ONLY HOPES OF REMAINING IN POWER IS TO CREATE CLAMS AND CONFUSION.

6. HAVE YOUR NEW POSTMASTER GENERAL SLOW DOWN THE MAIL
   THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH VOTING BY MAIL! WE JUST WANT TO RUN THE POST OFFICE LIKE A BUSINESS--

--A TRUMP BUSINESS WHICH IS TO SAY, RUN IT INTO THE GROUND AND PICK ITS BONES CLEAN!

by TOM TOMORROW
Tom Bongiovi

"They Came From Outer Space"

By Jen Sorensen

Hey, world! There's never been a more exciting time to...

Visit America

Enjoy beautiful national parks!

Be sure to pack appropriately.

You may encounter beggars.

Not exactly what I was expecting.

Don't forget to send a postcard home.

Helpfully the post office will still exist!

Sorensen
Fried Chicken Everywhere
A SANDWICH STAYCATION

WITH COVID-19 severely curtailing my social calendar, I don’t have much going on these days. I lack the patience to traffic in sourdough starters and bread baking, and as I’ve mentioned ad nauseum, I’m not one to commune with nature, so hiking and biking are not viable means by which for me to pass the time.

What I can still do, however, is eat.

Because I like to eat with a purpose, a few weeks ago, I hatched the idea of consuming several of Bellingham’s more popular fried-chicken sandwiches and then writing about them.

And while eating four fried-chicken sandwiches in five days was definitely a treat for my taste buds, the rest of my body is not quite sure why that needed to happen. I’d like to say I have regrets, but the truth is, I’d probably do it all over again. What follows are my fried chicken takeaways, in the order said sandwiches were consumed.

Thanks to a rather aggressive recommendation from Bellingham Harold, as well as some nudging from noted local business supporter and my personal enabler Doug Starcher, the first dish on my list was the Culture Cafe’s Crispy Chicken Sandwich.

First, let me just get this out of the way: This thing is $6. Six bucks. I don’t even know how that’s possible, but that deal is very real. I think it might be styled after some other, more famous chicken sandwich, but I don’t much care about that as Culture Cafe’s version stands so well on its own. It was one of the most straightforward versions I tried—just a slab of seasoned, breaded fried chicken with some sweet mustard sauce, romaine and pickle chips between two toastey buns—and it was no-frills delicious. Despite its generous size (did I mention it’s only $6?), I ate it in about four bites and was happy to do so. In Harold, I trust.

My next stop on my sandwich staycation was Bayou on Bay, where I primed my pump with a generous portion of chicken tenders prior to taste-testing their Fried Chicken Po Boy. Was that the smartest plan? No, but do I seem like a person capable of making and executing the smartest plan? Either way, it did not diminish my po boy experience. Of all the sandwiches I ate, Bayou’s was the biggest and the messiest—both points in its favor. From my regular consumption of their tenders, I already knew the buttermilk-brined chicken on the sandwich would be a winner, and once it was dressed up with melted provolone, lettuce, tomato, pickles and sage aioli (don’t sleep on the aioli—like the proverbial rug, it really ties the sandwich together), it did not disappoint. It did require me to deploy multiple napkins and some strategic eating methods to keep it together, so if it’s a neat little sandwich you’re after, this ain’t the one. Bayou’s offering was also the one that drove home the essentialism of pickles on such a sandwich, as their briny crispness proved a necessary and perfect counterpoint to the richness of the dish. I’ve heard people come to Bayou specifically for the Fried Chicken Po Boy, and I understand why.

Although I needed a nap and probably a salad at this point, I soldiered on in my quest to eat my weight in fried chicken with a visit to Fiamma Burger. When I began my journey, this was the fried chicken sandwich with which I was most familiar, having eaten it before on several occasions. Fiamma offers a few different options, including a very good Fried Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich and a Spicy Fried Chicken Sammy, but in the interest of the purity of my experiment, I went with the basic model: the aptly named Fried Chicken Sandwich. This is another no-frills affair, with buttermilk-brined chicken, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onion and roasted garlic mayo. At $9, it’s a few bucks more than its Culture Cafe counterpart, but it is still a screaming deal because the chicken fillet is fully twice the size of the bun, and has been every single time I’ve ordered it. I wouldn’t even call it a chicken fillet or burger, it’s more a giant slab of fried chicken. Another thing the Fiamma version has going for it is they’ve somehow solved the problem of getting their highly seasoned breading to adhere to the chicken from the first to the last bite.

The final sandwich in my journey came via Camber. It required me to make myself presentable before 2pm, when the cafe closes, which might sound easy, but after three fried chicken sandwiches, proved to be a challenge. I’m no stranger to Camber owing to my somewhat obsessive love of their lamb burger, but this was the first time I’d strayed into poultry territory. Camber’s Fried Chicken Sandwich had some things in common with its neighbor Bayou on Bay in that it was also very generously sized and had some decidedly nonstandard toppings in the form of arugula and aioli—and Mama Lil’s peppers, which is the condiment I love above all others. Their sandwich offered the zesiest, crunchiest breading of the four I tasted, but overall was a bit drier owing to it only having aioli spread on one of its buns. However, using Mama Lil’s instead of the usual pickles was an inspired choice and I very well may have to carry a jar on my person in order to add them to all future fried chicken sandwiches—after I take a break to eat a salad or some vegetables or something. 😊
DOIT

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED., AUG. 5
SEDRO MARKET: The Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market continues today from 3pm-7pm at Heritage Square. Health and safety protocols are in place in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the market is still committed to bringing fresh, local food and products to residents and neighbors Wednesdays through Oct. 14. WWW.SEDROWOOLLEYFARMERSMARKET.COM

AUG. 5-31
EAT LOCAL MONTH: Sustainable Connections and Eat Local First present the annual Eat Local Month with virtual and in-person events happening through August—a month earlier than typical, due to COVID-19 throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties. Events include Farm Week (Aug. 1-4), Restaurant Week (Aug. 9-15), Market Week (Aug. 16-22), and Seafood Week (Aug. 23-29). A Virtual Whatcom County Farm Tour starts at 6pm Thurs., Aug. 6. A farm stand tour, restaurant specials and much more will continue through the month. WWW.EATLOCALFIRST.ORG

FOOD CRUISES: Whale-watching lunch cruises, Chuckanut cracked crab dinner cruises, Sucia Island picnic cruises, Bellingham Bay BREWers cruises, UnWINEd on the Bay cruises and more take place throughout the summer aboard San Juan Cruises’ watercraft. Fees vary. Please note that COVID-19 safety measures are in place, and that capacity aboard the boats is capped at 50 percent. Masks will be required. WWW.WHALES.COM

THURS., AUG. 6
FOOD FOR STUDENTS: Various Western Washington University entities will be offering free food pickup from 12pm-2pm every Thursday through Sept. 24 at Vendors’ Row in the Viking Commons. Wear a face mask and bring your WWU student ID to pick up a bag of nonperishables and a box of farm-fresh organic produce. For any disability or allergy accommodations, contact the email listed below. DEYSHEK@WWU.EDU

FRI., AUG. 7
FERNDALE MARKET: The Ferndale Farmers Market continues today from 2pm-6pm in the parking lot next to the Grocery Outlet. If you’re interested in helping them grow, head over—and be prepared to follow safety standards. WWW.FERNDALEPUBLICMARKET.ORG

SALMON DINNER SAIL: Combine your tastes for adventure and delicious food during a Bellingham Bay Salmon Dinner Sail aboard the Schooner Zodiac leaving at 6pm from the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, 355 Harris Ave. Tickets are $59 for youth and $79 for adults. Additional sails happen Aug. 28 and Sept. 4. Please review COVID-19 safety precautions in place before booking tickets. WWW.SCHOONEZODIAC.COM

SAT., AUG. 8
ANACORTES MARKET: The Anacortes Farmers Market is open from 9am-2pm at the Depot Arts Center, 611 R Ave. Their rules include following and obeying all signs, markers, barriers and instructions from market staff or volunteers. WWW.ANACORTESFARMERSMARKET.ORG

MOUNT VERNON MARKET: The Mount Vernon Farmers Market takes place from 9am-2pm Saturdays through Oct. 23 at Riverwalk Park, 501 Main St. Only 25 customers are allowed in at a time to peruse the goods. Check their website beforehand to find out which farmers will be in attendance each week. WWW.MOUNTVERNONFARMERSMARKET.ORG

TWIN SISTERS MARKET: The Twin Sisters Market continues its fifth season from 9am-3pm at Nugent’s Corner, and 10am-2pm in Maple Falls at the North Fork Library. The markets continue Saturdays through Oct. 23. WWW.TWINSISTERSMARKET.COM

CONCRETE MARKET: The Concrete Saturday Market takes place from 10am-1pm at the Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad St.Posted signage will direct shoppers to follow safety guidelines. WWW.CONGRETESATURDAYMARKET.COM

BELLEINGHAM MARKET: Attend the Bellingham Farmers Market from 10am-2pm Saturdays at the Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave. At the modified market, social distancing is strictly enforced. Patrons are not allowed to touch the food, and a limited number of vendors are allowed on site. Entertainment, music and eating areas have been suspended until further notice, and masks are mandatory. WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERS.ORG

BLAINE MARKET: The annual Blaine Gardeners Market continues from 10am-2pm Saturdays through October at the city’s G Street Plaza. Due to social distancing requirements, vendor booths will be spread out. WWW.BLAINECHAMBER.COM

SUN., AUG. 9
BIRCHWOOD FARMERS MARKET: Find locally grown vegetables, flowers, fruits and other goods from more than 10 growers and producers in Whatcom County at the Birchwood Farmers Market happening from 9am-2pm every Sunday through October at the Park Manor Shopping Center, 1538 Birchwood Ave. WWW.BIRCHWOODFARMERSMARKET.COM

ALGER MARKET: Kids can vend for free at the Alger Sunday Market taking place from 11am-4pm Sundays through Oct. 11 at Alger Community Hall, 18735 Parkview Lane. The barter-friendly neighborhood cooperative features produce, plants, artisan crafts and recycled and upcycled items to reuse. (360) 704-0340

VIRTUAL FARM TOUR

AS PART of Eat Local Month events taking place throughout August, sign up for a Virtual Whatcom County Farm Tour beginning at 6pm Thurs., Aug. 6. A farm stand loop, restaurant specials and more are part of the food-focused fun.

Visit us virtually!
WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERSMARKET.ORG

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We hope you will join us soon!