WEDNESDAY [03.30.16]

MUSIC
Greg Ruby Quintet: 7pm, the Majestic
High School Jazz: 7pm, Lincoln Theatre, Mount Vernon

VISUAL ARTS
New Exhibits Reception: 4-6pm, La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum

THURSDAY [03.31.16]

ONSTAGE
Noises Off!: 7pm, Bellingham High School
Mary Poppins: 7:30pm, McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon
The Drowsy Chaperone: 7:30pm, Anacortes Community Theatre
Good, Bad, Ugly: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
The Project: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

WEDNESDAY [03.30.16]

MUSIC
Festival of Music Concert: 7:30pm, Performing Arts Center, WWU
Early Music Festival: 7:30pm, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

WORDS
Bharti Kirchner: 7pm, Village Books

FRIDAY [04.01.16]

ONSTAGE
Noises Off!: 7pm, Bellingham High School
Love’s Fool: 7pm, Mount Baker Theatre
Mary Poppins: 7:30pm, McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon
The Drowsy Chaperone: 7:30pm, Anacortes Community Theatre
Bellinghamiet: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
Pirates!: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

DANCE
Dance Gallery Spring Concert: 7:30pm, Firehouse Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY [04.02.16]

ONSTAGE
Farewell to 1418: 7-10pm, iBloom Theater
Noises Off!: 7pm, Bellingham High School
Post Secrets: 7:30pm, Mount Baker Theatre
Mary Poppins: 7:30pm, McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon

GET OUT
Dig Into Spring: 6pm, Mount Vernon City Library
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

APRIL 8, 2016

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
SHOW STARTS AT 7PM

WA WALTON EVENT CENTER
TICKETS $10

Must be 18 or older to attend
END CORPORATE CONTROL

The LA Times and Union of Concerned Scientists exposed ExxonMobil’s startling climate change research in 1970. By 1980, the petroleum company realized the consequences of global warming could be catastrophic and began the climate science denier campaign.

Monanto produces GMO seeds that survive their pesticides. Agribusiness are subsidized to help create diets that cause heart attacks and diabetes. We subsidize pharmaceutical companies who charge the highest prices in the world for our medications and have for-profit medical delivery. Many companies, to protect their profits, fight the EPA against safety requirements and disclosure. That is why we were not informed about the cervical cancer/talcum powder relationship, or tobacco/lung cancer, pesticides/neurological disorders question, etc.

America sells more arms than any other nation. Military contracts do provide jobs, but would we be better served improving national infrastrucure, the environment, mental health infrastrucure or prisons?

America sells more arms than any other nation. Military contracts do provide jobs, but would we be better served improving national infrastructure, the environment, mental health infrastructure or prisons?

Average citizens are sick of corporate abuse and manipulation, demonstrated by the frustrated masses backing Sanders or Trump.

Stopping the corporate control over our lives is not going to be pretty, but it must be done.

It will be a matter of teamwork or turmoil. When corporate greed or government inaction (paid for by corporate legislative control) puts people's health, safety and well-being at risk, we need to step up with our votes.

Consider carefully the consequences of your candidate support, both presidential and legislative.

—Donna Starr, Blaine

A DESTRUCTIVE CAMPAIGN

In addition to degrading their personal credibility, these bullying Republican hatemongers are decimating any respect for the higher office they are running down through arrogant negative campaigning.

What had once been an affirmative ritual to sincerely debate national issues every four years has degenerated into deploying the lowest possible dive for attention, spouting the ugliest prejudice for effect.

Small wonder widespread discontent now registers with younger voters, naturally turned off from a lot of spoiled-brat attitudes on conspicuous display—showy misbehavior egged on by opportunistic commercial media outlets. Instead of leading by positive example, that tired old party of shame, greed and fear only cheapens the institution of public service it is dying to capture.

—Eric Lovold, Blaine
THE BANKRUPTCY OF ‘BERNIE OR BUST’

An honest and vigorous debate is good for the Democratic Party and the country, but we need to remember that the opposing party are about half the populace, and—like confused, impressionable children—unable to discern complexities or subtleties.

We really need to end this vaudeville show of our own, be the adults, and get on to showing a serious face against the absolutely absurd Teapublican ideas passing for higher thought.

Sensible Bernsters say they will support either candidate. I haven’t heard any Hillary folks saying they would not support whatever candidate is finally chosen, but I have heard a ton of nonsense coming from the mouths of some Bernsters about not supporting Hillary should she be the candidate.

That only makes me think these folks are pretty naive. They toy with false equivalencies and mouth Faux News ignorance like a crazed Teapublican, as if this weren’t a crux point for America and the most important election in decades.

Just that the clown car is getting the support they are should be of huge concern to any American with a sense of history and a functioning brain. All this “Bernie or bust” nonsense has got to end.

I will feel better when we finally arrive at a nomination so everyone has time to wrestle with their demons and start thinking about what could happen should one of the clown car sneak in if we cannot unite.

There is no such thing as a perfect president and never has been. But letting a Republican anywhere near the White House, other than on a tour, means a huge step backward.

In my lifetime there has always been a bizarre cycle of electing a Republican based on ignorance or fear, and then looking to a Democrat to clean up their mess once they have fouled our nest. I would like to see us continue the cleanup Obama has started, as well as expand upon the important things he has managed to accomplish, in spite of the Grand Old Obstructionist Party.

Let’s abandon the purist, esoteric rhetoric and unite. Our world is in too much trouble on too many fronts to leave anything to a Republican president or Congress. Let’s work together to keep the White House and take back at least the Senate—we owe it to ourselves.

—Michael Waite, Sedro-Woolley

Send us your letters

But keep ‘em short (300 words or less). Send to letters@cascadiaweekly.com or mail to P.O. Box 2833, Bellingham, WA 98229
THE INSTRUMENTS WE HAVE, 2: Legislative dysfunction at the federal and state level means local governments must sharpen their pencils to balance revenues and costs to avoid a structural deficit, a discussion that will undoubtedly consume Bellingham City Council for the next several years. Thiers is a discussion that really goes to the heart of that long, long honored debate in America on the size and shape of government—what level of public assets and amenities do we want, and how do we intend to pay for it?

Last week we detailed a number of revenue instruments that were of a similar kind, and currently being discussed by policymakers—special purpose taxing districts—that allow voters fairly direct control over the level of services the city will provide. That list of available financial tools was by no means exhaustive, and did not mention an array of other instruments like utilities and fees. Utilities are generally intended to fully recover system or program costs without surplus. Fees are intended for cost recovery, but are persistently less successful in that aim; and they moreover invite policy discussions on the consequences of such fees—such as the drag fees might impose on the local economy. In that category are permit and impact fees, ostensibly designed to recover costs associated with growth—impact fees for roads, parks, schools and fire protection.

Utilities and fees are less under the direct control of voters than levies, and are more subject to policy decisions (or policy waivers) by elected representatives. Council recently approved an entire program of reductions—a business and occupation tax reduction; a multi-family tax exemption; credits on permit fees and development charges—intended to spur development into planned urban renewal areas like Old Town, Samish Way, and the Fountain District. The program is consistent with city policy to create tight, walkable communities that limit sprawl; however, it is also a glimmering example of how the city forgoes one set of goals to achieve others.

An eye-searing example might be found in the policy discussion at the annual meeting of Lake Whatcom Cooperative Management team. The joint meeting brings together the Whatcom County Council, the Bellingham City Council, and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District board of commissioners to compare notes and update their five-year work plan for the restoration of the Lake Whatcom reservoir. The total cost of that program work plan, overseen by the state Dept. of Ecology to restore the lake to the equivalent of a more natural, forested environment with reduced urban runoff, is estimated at $45.7 million. It is a cost mandated by the state with a timetable for completion; and the primary questions for policymakers and taxpayers are how do want to approach this and how do we intend to pay for it?

Point number one, lakes left alone generally take care of themselves and impose no particular costs on taxpayers. At the price of a chain link fence, most cities throughout the West enjoy drinking water from protected reservoirs from systems easily maintained by the water utility. No so, Bellingham.

Adding to the lengthy list of Lake Whatcom’s woes was the discovery in 2012 of several aquatic invasive species of plants and animals that can upset the chemical balance of a fresh water body and ultimately render a reservoir undrinkable. Investigation strongly suggested the species were introduced to the lake by visiting watercraft.

THE GRISTLE

Horror Persists
FROM BRUSSELS TO CUBA—GUANTANAMO, CUBA, THAT IS

ISIS MILITANTS attacked a European city this week, setting off three bombs in Brussels that killed 31 and injured 260. In the United States, the response was immediate, first with the outpouring of support from the public, then, unsurprisingly, with a flurry of bellicose pronouncements from most of the remaining major-party presidential candidates.

The violence overshadowed what might well be one of the most enduring and significant accomplishments of the Obama presidency: the reopening of relations with Cuba, cemented when he became the first president in 88 years to visit the island nation.

After the bombings in Brussels, Republican candidate Ted Cruz said, “We need to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized.” Donald Trump told NBC regarding Salah Abdeslam, the suspect in the November Paris massacre who was captured in Brussels last Friday, “If they could expand the laws, I would do a lot more than waterboarding.” On CNN, Trump said, “He may be talking, but he’ll talk faster with the torture.” Give Trump credit for calling it what it is, torture. But actually advocating for torture?

Speaking from Brussels, writer Frank Barat, president of the Palestine Legal Action Network, told us on the “Democracy Now!” news hour, “We either continue the eye-for-an-eye, tooth-for-a-tooth war and more revenge-type of things that have led to nothing but more terrorism on the ground… or we decide to stop and start to ask the tough questions that need to be answered.” Barat continued: “It came out of radicalization through what’s happening in Syria, which is actually key to understand the creation of ISIS. What’s happened in Syria in the last few years is a total betrayal on the part of the Western world. People rising to fight its oppressor and the West sort of turning its back on them, allowing slaughter, this created so much anger, so much rancor.”

Barat went on, “When you put this on top of the failure of U.S. foreign policy and U.S. imperialism, when you put this on top of the sort of ambitions of the West in terms of oil, in terms of trade routes and in terms of supporting dictators and Israel, it creates a powerful and very dangerous mixture that then manifests in the form of ISIS or al-Qaeda or any other terrorist organizations.

“In Norway, after the attacks of Anders Breivik in 2011, which killed more than 70 people, the prime minister of Norway said that Norway’s response to terror would be more openness, greater political participation and more democracy.”

Across the Atlantic, President Barack Obama was making history with his state visit to Cuba. In a public address, he said, “I have come here to bury the last remnant of the Cold War in the Americas.” Yet the official embargo against Cuba remains in place until the intransigent U.S. Congress votes to end it.

President Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro held a joint news conference on Monday. “We contin-
THE GRISTLE

Once introduced in quantities, no known solution can rid a water supply of certain varieties of these invasive species without additional destruction to that water supply. Thus, in a cost/benefit analysis, the potential cost is catastrophe, versus the benefit of, well, waterskiing.

The obvious, cheapest solution is to simply close the lake to visiting watercraft (see point number one above), or at least end the government’s role in assisting those visitors through public boat launches. Instead, the city (with the county in tow) developed an elaborate, and increasingly elaborate, inspection and monitoring program for watercraft. In 2015, the program cost $354,595.

The program has inspected nearly 9,000 boats and has discovered harmful invasive species transported by approximately 2 percent of them. According to staff data, these boats arrive from across North America, but primarily come from Washington and lower British Columbia. The program is touted as a success by the management team; but here’s the rub: Less than half the cost of inspection is recovered by the fee. The remainder is picked up by taxpayers as a subsidy to the people who derive pleasure from gunning their gasoline engines around on a public water supply.

Staff admits that the program costs may never be fully recovered, and caution that raising the fees would discourage boat owners from participating in the program. The city’s solution? Enlarge the program, and invite in new partners. The state could certainly use a comprehensive aquatic invasive species program, but until then (and good luck with the Legislature) costs will be borne locally.

The subject of closing or restricting the public boat launches, and thereby eliminating both the program and program costs, was never addressed by the joint council of policymakers; but the decision shares analogous advantages with the watershed land acquisition and preservation program. That program has removed nearly 10,000 acres from development and commercial forestry practices. Once land is acquired, the solution is permanent and management becomes self-governing (back to point number one).

As the city considers reduction in services and elimination of programs, we’d suggest one that serves only a fragment of the population at a cost to taxpayers of half a million dollars that further threatens additional costs to a public water supply. Want to trim? Here’s one done. 😎
BLUE STATE BLUES

HOW THE DEMOCRATS CREATED A “LIBERALISM OF THE RICH”

BY THOMAS FRANK

WHEN YOU press Democrats on their uninspiring deeds—their lousy free trade deals, for example, or their flaccid response to Wall Street misbehavior—when you press them on any of these things, they automatically reply that this is the best anyone could have done. After all, they had to deal with those awful Republicans, and those awful Republicans wouldn’t let the really good stuff get through. They filibustered in the Senate. They gerrymandered the congressional districts. And besides, change takes a long time. Surely you don’t think the tepid-to-lukewarm things Bill Clinton and Barack Obama have done in Washington really represent the fiery Democratic soul.

For a generation, Democratic politicians have talked of “hope” as though it were their unique selling proposition, a secret ingredient they had that no other major-party brand could offer. Today those same Democrats express annoyance at the suggestion that anyone could really have taken them seriously on this hope business. It is hard to govern, they say; you can’t get everything you want from politics. Ordinary citizens are beyond disillusioned, though. It has been nine years since the last recession began, and whether the country is in a recovery or a slump or even a galloping bull market makes no difference to them anymore.

According to official measurements, the last few years have been a time of brisk prosperity, with unemployment down and the stock market up. Productivity advances all the time. For those who work for a living, however, nothing seems to improve. Wages do not grow. Median income is still well below where it was in 2007. Workers’ share of the gross national product (as opposed to the share taken by investors) hit a record low in 2011—and then it stayed there right through the recovery. It is there to this day; economists now regard its collapse as a quasi-permanent development.

In the summer of 2014, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average hitting all-time highs, a poll showed that nearly three-quarters of the American public thought the economy was still in recession—because for them, it was.

There was a time when average Americans knew whether we were going up or going down—because when the country prospered, its people prospered, too. But these days, things are different. From the middle of the Great Depression up to 1980, the lower 90 percent of the population, a group we might call “the American people,” took home some 70 percent of the growth in the country’s income. Look at the same numbers beginning in 1997—from the beginning of the New Economy boom to the present—and you find that this same group, the American people, pocketed none of America’s income growth at all. Their share of the good times was zero. The gains they harvested after all their hard work were nil. The upper 10 percent of the population—the country’s financiers, managers, and professionals—ate the whole thing. The privileged are doing better than at any time since economic records began.

To be a young person in this economy, just out of school and starting to feel the burden of now-inescapable student loans, is to sense instinctively the downward slope that most of us are on these days. People who are 25 today are doing worse than people of that age ten years ago, and much worse than people who were 25 back in 1996. The same is true, incidentally, of people who are 35, 45, and probably 55, but for the young this reversal of the traditional American trajectory is acutely painful: they know that no amount of labor will ever catapult them into the ranks of the winners.

At the other end of the social ladder, meanwhile, it is all upside all the time. In 2012, corporate profits (measured as a share of gross domestic product) hit their highest level on record. In 2014, according to a much-discussed think tank report, the total of all the bonuses handed out on Wall Street was more than twice as much as the total earned by every person in the country who worked full-time for the minimum wage. Measured in terms of wealth—of property and investments, stocks and bonds—matters are even more perverse.

Should all this go on—and it will—those kids of ours are going to be educated on certain matters far better than we ever were. They will know to laugh at the old middle-class promise—retirement, pension, a better life than the previous generation had—because it is propaganda so transparent it sounds like something the Soviet Union used to put out. They will understand that this isn’t a commonwealth; it’s a workhouse.

And that’s where we are, eight years post-hope. Growth that doesn’t grow; prosperity that doesn’t prosper. The country, we now understand, is simply no longer arranged in such a way as to make its citizens economically secure.
To be a young person in this economy, is to sense instinctively the downward slope that most of us are on these days.

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See the full text of this article on www.cascadiaweekly.com. This piece has been adapted from Thomas Frank's new book, Listen, Liberal, or What Ever Happened to the Party of the People? Metropolitan Books. His previous books include: Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right; The Wrecking Crew; What's the Matter with Kansas?; and One Market Under God.
A Birch Bay man will spend six years in prison for sexual assault of a child. Ray Hollis was originally charged with rape of a child, but pleaded guilty in January to reduced charges of indecent liberties and burglary. According to court documents, investigators believe Hollis was high on drugs, when he invited himself to a neighbor’s house last August while the child’s mother wasn’t home. The preteen victim says she and her sister were too afraid to make him leave.

The head of the state Dept. of Correction’s information technology staff steps down. Gov. Jay Inslee’s office said the director’s departure wasn’t part of disciplinary actions resulting from an investigation into the erroneous early releases of thousands of prisoners over a 13-year period. Two deaths have been tied to the early releases. That investigation resulted in a resignation, demotions and reprimands for a handful of employees. The director, who stepped into the position less than a year ago, cited family matters as the reason for his departure.

Haggen employees are happy with the terms of the impending sale of the company to Albertsons, union representatives report. “Throughout every single day of this difficult bankruptcy process, UFCW members have displayed complete commitment to their jobs, their coworkers, their customers and our union family,” a spokesperson for the United Food and Commercial Workers said. “The proposed sale of 29 Haggen stores in the Northwest to Albertsons rightfully ensures that our hardworking members will keep their jobs and continue to serve their communities and customers.”

Lawmakers reach halfway point of their special session, and still no supplemental state budget. The governor notes that legislators appear to be negotiating in good faith and are making slow progress, but his vetoes of bills passed in regular session remain in place until agreements are reached.

A head-on crash on the Mount Baker Highway sends two people to the hospital. The State Patrol reports a 20-year-old driver from Sumas was driving eastbound in the westbound lane near Nooksack Falls with a passenger when he struck a westbound Volkswagen Passat head-on. All three passengers were wearing a seat belt, but two are injured. The State Patrol lists the cause of the crash as improper lane use. Charges are pending.

Another landslide disrupts rail service north of Seattle. BNSF imposed a 48-hour moratorium on passenger rail travel between Seattle and Everett because of a slide south of Mukilteo. The tracks are expected to reopen on Wednesday.

A bankruptcy judge in Delaware greenlights Albertsons’ bid to take over what’s left of Haggen, bringing a supermarket saga of bold ambition and rapid failure to an end. Albertsons will pick up 29 Haggen stores throughout the Northwest. The $106 million deal, announced earlier this month, also brings an eight-decade-old Bellingham institution into the clutches of one of America’s largest grocers.

A tiny bird tried to steal a little thunder from Bernie Sanders at a rally in Portland, Ore., last Friday. The bird was not successful, although the crowd went wild. The Vermont senator swept weekend caucuses throughout the West, including Washington.
h arms, the 37-year-old spat on the duty sergeant. He was booked on multiple counts of assault.

REPOMEN
On March 14, a Blaine resident arrived home to find two men trespassing in her yard and apparently trying to enter her garage. She left the area in her car and called police from the safety of a nearby business. “Officers responded to her home and found it secure and the intruders no longer in the area,” police reported. “Investigation disclosed the two men worked with a recovery company and had gone on to several properties in the area scouting for a car they wanted to repossess. Police are investigating their trespass, attempted entry into the innocent party’s garage, and possible impersonation of law enforcement,” police noted.

ATTACK OF THE TREES
On March 10, the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office requested assistance from Blaine Police with a blocking, non-injury, car-versus-tree collision. “An officer responded and learned from the driver that high winds had caused a large tree to topple down across the road in front of him,” police reported. “The motorist was unable to stop in time before his BMW and the tree collided with one another. A witness observed the event unfolding as she was approaching from the opposite direction—fortunately she was able to stop in time. A tow truck was requested to remove the one vehicle from its place partially resting atop the tree,” police reported. “A good samaritan stopped by and volunteered to perform emergency arborist duties to remove the tree from the road before it collects more victims.”

On March 15, Blaine Police raced to Seattle for a crash between a tree and a car which left the road to attack it. The driver sustained injuries, however refused to be transported by medics. A Washington State Patrol collision report was completed.

BATTILING BUSHES
On March 19, a person called Blaine Police late at night to report seeing someone in the bushes with a flashlight. “Officers contacted the man and found that he was collecting aluminum cans from the roadside,” police reported. “They thank him for his efforts keeping the byways tidy and cleared with no further incident.”

On March 18, a Blaine resident called the police department to report that a man she did not recognize was hiding in the bushes near her home. “Officers arrived and contacted the barefoot wanderer. He was experiencing a mental health emergency and was given a ride to hospital for evaluation.”

Number of Democratic Party caucuses swept by Bernie Sanders over the weekend. Caucuses were held in Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington. Of these, the big prize was Washington, where 101 pledged delegates were up for grabs—Sanders won about 73 percent of these delegates. The high-turnout, big-percentage wins are a momentum boost to the Sanders campaign, although Clinton still maintains a lead in the pledged delegate count.

Percent of participants in the March 26 Washington State Democratic Caucus who selected Bernie Sanders as their choice for President in 2016. Associated Press reports this represents about 19,159 precinct delegates in support of the senator from Vermont. Actual caucus turnout was likely larger than numbers reported by AP.

Percent of participants in the March 26 Washington State Democratic Caucus who selected Hillary Clinton as their choice for President in 2016. Associated Press reports this represents about 7,140 precinct delegates for the former senator and Secretary of State. Actual caucus turnout was likely larger than numbers reported by AP.

Percent by which Sanders won the Alaska caucus, with 16 pledged delegates at stake.

Percent by which Sanders won Hawaii, with 25 pledged delegates at stake. Sanders’ big win in Hawaii represents a dramatic breakthrough in the senator’s appeal to a mixed, non-white demographic.

Pledged delegate count for Sanders, with several states left that are favorable to him.

Pledged delegate count for Clinton. It takes 2,383 to win the nomination.

SOURCES: Associated Press; National Public Radio; Gallup; HuffPollster
Porter in Pakistan

ON THE SILK ROAD

BILL PORTER is a Port Townsend scholar and writer renowned for his translations of classic texts from Chinese to English. Working under the name Red Pine, he has published versions of the Tao Te Ching, the Heart Sutra, poems by Zen mystics Cold Mountain and Stonehouse, and several other key-stones of Buddhism and Taoism.

Porter’s latest book, The Silk Road: Taking the Bus to Pakistan, is a travel memoir of his 1992 journey along the ancient route of the Silk Road, a network of roads, settlements and mountain passes that connected China to the Middle East and Mediterranean. Silk went west, while incense, precious stones and gold flowed east in return. Traveling with a friend by bus, train and plane, Porter makes his way from Xi’an, China to Islamabad, Pakistan exploring this storied trading route.

Porter is a fount of knowledge of the religious and political histories of the towns, temples and oases along the way and makes for an affable tour guide always quick with a story. His grasp on thousands of years of history is stunning, and he shares dozens of local myths, religious folklore, political intrigues, poems and songs along the way, including the story of how Buddhism was brought to China from India by monks traveling on the Silk Road.

Moving at a brisk pace, the duo visit shrines, museums, bazaars, mosques, caves, tombs, stupas and ruins from the first century. The early section through central China is a bit drab and depressing (much of the history was destroyed in the Cultural Revolution), but once Porter and his companion reach the northern stretch, the landscape gets wilder and the different cultures retain an authenticity of traditional living.

Here we encounter nomadic horse people who have lived for countless generations on the vast grassy steppes, yurt-dwellers living in the Mountains of Heaven, camels grazing on the edge of vast deserts and rivers pouring forth from the Himalaya. The vast, desolate reaches of eastern China are populated with a fascinating mix of different cultures, including many travelers from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia who commingle in still-active trading centers such as Kucha and Kashgar. Modern world conveniences have yet to reach many of these areas, life is lived closer to the bone and traveling becomes more arduous.

Porter’s understated sense of humor leavens the journey. “The clerk told us our room included a bathroom,” he writes, “but he neglected to mention the bathroom didn’t include a toilet.”

The last leg of the trip, through the rugged Karakorum Range on the border of China and Pakistan, is the crux of the journey. Rumors of the mountain highway being washed out threaten the pilgrim’s progress, but they push forward on a bus full of Pakistanis, stopping to push giant boulders off the road, negotiating with remote border officials and making a treacherous river crossing. Shangri-la lies tantalizingly within reach.

My favorite aspect of Porter’s travelogue is his depiction of the many rich and rugged cultures that have existed for millennia in Central Asia: the Uighur, Hun, Kirgiz, Mongol, Wusun, Tartar, Tibetan, and Tajik just to name a few. Glimpses of their traditions, beliefs, mythologies and more come alive through the author’s generous storytelling.

In an ever-homogenizing world, where cultures are acquiring a bland sameness in the name of “progress,” it is comforting to read of places that exist without a Starbucks. Yak milk latte anyone? ☕️
TUES., APRIL 5
ONE STRAW REVOLUTIONARY: Get insight into one of the world’s leading agricultural thinkers when Larry Korn shares ideas from One Straw Revolution: The Philosophy and Work of Masanobu Fukuoka at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St. Korn lived and worked on the late philosopher’s farm for more than two years in the early 1970s.  {www.villagebooks.com}

WED., APRIL 6
FACULTY READING: Authors who will be teaching at the upcoming Chuckanut Writers Conference will be sharing their respective works at a Faculty Reading at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.  {www.villagebooks.com}

EAGLE STORY: Author, naturalist and photographer Joe Ordonez will be presenting a slideshow and book signing featuring his new book, Where Eagles Gather: The Story of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, Haines, Alaska, at 7pm at the Anacortes Public Library. 1220 10th St. Ordonez’s book combines the author’s photography with stories of the natural and cultural history of the preserve, how it came to be protected, and what makes the area so special.  {www.library.cityofanacortes.org}

THURS., APRIL 7
BARTHOLOMEW QUILL: Tour the animal kingdom from a crow’s point of view when conservation biologist and author Thor Hanson reads from Bartholomew Quill at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St. With a clever rhyme and captivating illustrations by Dana Amin, this book will teach young readers about wildlife as well as biodiversity, identifying characteristics and the clever and lovable crow.  {www.villagebooks.com}

COMING UP
TUES., APRIL 5
OPEN HOUSE: Find out more about death midwifery services at an Open House from 5-9pm at Sacred Passing, 4200 Meridian St. Wine, refreshments, live music and door prizes will be part of the free event, which will draw attention to what the business does—provide support for your end-of-life journey.  {www.asacredpassing.com}

FRI., APRIL 1
OPEN HOUSE: Find out more about death midwifery services at an Open House from 5-9pm at Sacred Passing, 4200 Meridian St. Wine, refreshments, live music and door prizes will be part of the free event, which will draw attention to what the business does—provide support for your end-of-life journey.  {www.asacredpassing.com}

SAT., APRIL 2
VETERAN BENEFITS: If you served in the United States military and are interested in knowing more about enrolling in VA health care, military discharge benefits or other related information, attend a “Veteran Benefits” event from 10am-1pm at the Ferndale Library, 2125 Main St. Entry is free.  (360) 383-5514

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Awar d-winning writer Bharti Kirchner reads from her new book of fiction, Goddess of Fire, April 1 at Village Books.

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Spring Fling

THE JOYS OF CABIN MAINTENANCE

IT WAS nearly vernal equinox and March was still roaring like a lion when the old man called to solicit our services.

His cord wood supply had dwindled to a pittance, the leaky rain cap on his chimney pipe needed to be replaced sooner rather than later and—most recently—a wind-topped maple had knocked his mailbox out of commission.

“I wouldn’t necessarily call it an emergency situation,” the salty septuagenarian informed us. “But if anyone decides to come out here and lend a hand, I won’t complain.”

Since the Lady of the House couldn’t leave town due to prior commitments, it fell on me to make the journey to her father’s rustic, storm-beleaguered residence alone.

“Bless your furry heart,” she said as I packed my bags into the escape pod. “Although your trials will be many, your rewards will be tenfold. Expect a full residence alone. I won’t complain.”

Unfortunately, I forgot about the ditch. Although my landing proved mercifully soft, my backside received a thorough drenching. Meanwhile, as I struggled to escape the ditch, a hummingbird zipped in to sussing out the new mailbox.

She bumped my hand. She bumped my arm, chest and shoulder. She even bumped me upside the head. So I decided to step away a minute and let her go to town.

“Bless your furry heart,” she said as I packed my bags into the escape pod. “Although your trials will be many, your rewards will be tenfold. Expect a full residence alone. I won’t complain.”

“Fair enough,” I said, “but if I’m not back on the mainland by tomorrow evening, you’d better call Search and Rescue. Lord only knows what sort of magic spells Lummi Island will cast upon my impressionable, nature-loving soul this go-around.”

The old man was out doing errands when I finally reached the cabin. But I was hardly alone. While unloading my gear into the bunkroom, a pair of roosting bald eagles struck up a cackling chatter that stopped me in my tracks. As their squeals and squeaks subsided the littoral quietude, I felt compelled to respond with a mischievous shrill.

“Don’t worry,” I told them. “I’m just a kindly interloper come to do a bit of spring cleaning, and you’ll be rid of me soon enough.”

Renovating the roadside mailbox seemed like the most efficient place to start. But first, I had to wallow in muddy ditch water for the better part of an hour just to chainsaw through the blowdown. Although this swampy endeavor succeeded to try my patience at every turn, it also generated a substantial quantity of wood to help replenish the supply.

Not just any transplanted pensioner will happen to have a spare mailbox sitting around, but thanks to his considerable hoarding instincts, the old man did. It was shiny-new and gleaming, and he’d left it on the front porch for me to find.

So I loaded that beast into a wheelbarrow, hauled it up to the project site and set about attaching it to the post. It was there—while kneeling precariously on the narrow ledge of grass between the road shoulder and the ditch with a screwdriver in my hand—that I found myself bombarded by an alarmingly robust, freshly unhibernated bumble bee who was intent on sussing out the new mailbox.

She bumped my head. She bumped my arm, chest and shoulder. She even bumped me upside the head. So I decided to step away a minute and let her go to town.

Unfortunately, I forgot about the ditch. Although my landing proved mercifully soft, my backside received a thorough drenching. Meanwhile, as I struggled to escape the ditch, a hummingbird zipped in to see what all the commotion was.

The bumblebee chased the hummingbird. The hummingbird chased the bumblebee. Finally, right when the old man drove up in his car, they both went buzzing off into the brush.

“Taking a bath on the job again?” the old man asked with a chuckle.

“Nope,” I said, “just soaking up the scenery.”

STORY AND IMAGE BY TRAIL RAT
DAHLIA TUBER SALE: The Whatcom County Dahlia Society will host its annual Dahlia Tuber Sale from 10am-3pm at Bloedel Donovan Park, 2214 Electric Ave. More than 600 varieties will be available—many with special garden, cut flower and exhibition qualities. WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG

CURB APPEAL: “Landscape Staging for Selling or Living” will be the focus of a presentation by staging pro Karri Street at 1pm at the South Whatcom Library, 10 Barn View Ct. Street’s garden was featured in the 2011 Whatcom Horticultural Society tour and she won “Best Backyard” for Whatcom in Bloom 2008, so she knows a thing or two about curb appeal. Entry is free. WWW.WCLS.ORG

APRIL 2-3 PLANT WALKS: “Kids N’ Bugs” will be the focus of a plant walk starting at 1pm Saturday at the Chuckanut Center, 107 Chuckanut Dr. This exploration is designed for children especially to learn about “good bugs” in the garden. At 1pm Sunday, join Abe Lloyd for an “Indigenous Wild Foods and Coast Salish Ethnobotany” plant walk. Both events are free. WWW.CHUCKANUTCENTER.ORG

SUN., APRIL 3 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. The group also holds weekly rides Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. WWW.MTBAKERBIKECLUB.ORG

MON., APRIL 4 DIG INTO SPRING: “Planting Seeds & Starts: When & How” will be the focus of a “Dig Into Spring” presentation with Skagit County Master Gardeners Valerie Rose and Janet Berger at 6pm at the Mount Vernon City Library, 315 Snoqualmie St. Entry is free and open to all. WWW.MOUNTVERNONWA.GOV

TUES., APRIL 5 TRAIL BIKE MAINTENANCE: Kristian Duft talks about “Bike Maintenance for Trail Riding” at a free workshop at 6pm at REI, 400 36th St. Quietting a noisy drivetrain, checking and replacing brake pads, cleaning a dirty bike and other basics will be covered. Please register in advance. 360-4955 OR WWW.REI.COM

ALL-PACES RUN: Staffers and volunteers are always on hand to guide the way at the weekly All-Paces Run starting at 6pm every Tuesday at Fairhaven Runners, 1209 11th St. The runs are 20 minutes out and back on two key routes—by the water or through the woods. Entry is free. WWW.FAIRHAVENRUNNERS.COM

WED., APRIL 6 FAMILY BIRD WALK: As part of Whatcom Museum’s spring break-focused events, attend a Family Bird Walk from 9am-12pm starting at Lake Padden Park, 4882 Samish Way. At the free event, Audubon member Ken Salzman will talk about the birds you’ll hear and see this time of year. Prepare for spring weather and bring binoculars if you have them. No pre-registration is needed. WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG

GARDEN CLUB MEETING: “What, How and Wow of Hydrangeas” will be the focus of a presentation by guest speaker Nita-Jo Rountree at the Birchwood Garden Club’s monthly meeting at 7pm at Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall, 121 Birchwood. The public is invited, and membership is open to gardeners in Whatcom and Skagit counties. WWW.BIRCHWOODGARDENCLUB.ORG

EVEREST AID: Western Washington University’s Outdoor Center will host Pasang Sherpa and Keith Johnson of the Lopsang Janbu Sherpa Memorial Tour at 7pm at Fraser Hall 102A. The Sherpa-led presentation is open to the public. WWW.OUTDOOR.AS.WWW.EDU

THURS., APRIL 7 FAMILY BIRD WALK: As part of Whatcom Museum’s spring break-focused events, attend a Family Bird Walk from 9am-12pm at Bloedel Donovan Park, 2214 Electric Ave. Audubon board member Paul Woodcock will lead the expedition at the urban nature area, which is a haven for local birds, both around the pond and in the adjoining woods. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them. No registration is necessary, and entry is free. WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG

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WWW.INDUSTRIALCU.ORG  |  WWW.SEEDWASYOUPLAY.ORG

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“I LIED about how I got those bruises,” reads a postcard pasted with cutouts of each individual word atop the shrouded figures of a man and a woman alone in a room crowded with various electronics.

Other missives that have been mailed to PostSecret—an ongoing community art project in which people mail in their secrets anonymously on postcards, which are then posted online—are equally chilling, including “I never thought I’d love heroin more than my son” and “I felt more proud of myself the first time that I threw up than I ever had...ever.”

But as you’ll find out when "PostSecret: The Show" comes to Bellingham Sat., April 2 for a performance at the Mount Baker Theatre, not all of the secrets are horrifying. Recent missives on the humor side of things include not wearing underwear to church, breaking a toilet due to overzealous masturbation, a florist who admits she reads the private cards clients include with their orders, and a woman who was happy to report she had replaced her errant boyfriend with a cat.

Other confidences point to the ways people deal with feelings of isolation. “When I’m working the register, I try to touch my hand to the customers when giving them their change, because I cherish those small, human interactions” is a good example of a secret with staying power.

These glimpses of what people write to affirm they’re not alone in the world is one of the reasons Frank Warren started the project in 2005. And when he shows up at the Mount Baker Theatre with veteran actors and collaborators TJ Dawe, Kahili Ashant, and Justin Sudds, it’ll be to show how PostSecret connects humans of various ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds.

During the multimedia show, Warren and the three actors, along with a guitarist, will utilize projected images, animation and videos to guide the audience through narratives that reveal true tales behind some of the half-million secrets and artwork that have been mailed in since the project started more than a decade ago.

While it’s not clear what the highlighted stories will be, audience members should know that the original concept of PostSecret stuck to one steadfast rule, and hasn’t varied much since then. Most importantly, there are no restrictions made on the content of the secret—something that once led to a murder investigation, but that’s another story—but it must be completely truthful, and must never have been spoken before.

It’s difficult to quantify how sharing secrets helps those who send in postcards, or how reading them or viewing them in a theatrical setting can affect somebody else’s life; detractors say it takes a lot more than putting the secret out there to get people started on the path to healing, at least from the more painful secrets. But Warren thinks it’s precisely the shared nature of the secrets he receives that points to PostSecret’s ongoing popularity.

“Every single person has at least one secret that would break your heart,” he says. “If we could just remember this, I think there would be a lot more compassion and tolerance in the world.”

ATTEND WHAT: “PostSecret: The Show” WHEN: 7:30pm Sat., April 2 WHERE: Mount Baker Theatre, 104 N. Commercial St. COST: $20-$39 MORE: To meet Frank Warren, fans can follow his social media posts for his locations around Bellingham April 1-2. He will provide a chance to win tickets, and will also be dropping by Village Books, where his books and show tickets are also available for purchase. INFO: 734-6080 or www.mountbakertheatre.com

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MARCH 31-APRIL 2 NOISES OFF!: See a three-act farce that pays homage to the world of theatre when Noises Off! shows at 7pm Thursday through Saturday at Bellingham High School, 2020 Cornwall Ave. The comedic play-within-a-play depicts the behind-the-scenes “drama” of the cast and crew as they struggle through their final rehearsal, the backstage woes during a performance, and an inevitable train wreck of a show. Tickets are $8-$10 at the door. The show is rated PG-13.

MARCH 31-APRIL 3 THE DROWSY CHAPERONE: Wacky characters, catchy songs and madcap comedy can be expected when The Drowsy Chaperone continues at 7:30pm performances Thursday through Saturday, and 2pm Sunday at the Anacortes Community Theatre, 918 M Ave. Tickets to see the musical within a comedy are $20. Additional showings take place weekends through April 23.

FRI., APRIL 1 LOVE’S FOOL: Adults of various ages—including BAAF founder David Post, romance novelist Patricia Herlevi, Natalia Robinson of Beacon’s Ruse Vaudeville Troupe, and more—will share stories of their foibles in early romantic love at Ruse Vaudeville Troupe, and more—will share stories of their foibles in early romantic love at the bellowing time when “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” at 7:30pm 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.

MARCH 31-APRIL 2 GOOD, BAD, UGLY: Watch “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” at Bellingham’s Upfront Theatre, 1208 Bay St. At 10pm, stick around for “The Project.” Entry is $8 for the early show, $5 for the late one.

APRIL 1-3 MARY POPPINS: The Theater Arts Guild concludes its run of Disney’s Mary Poppins at 7:30pm performances Thursday through Saturday at Mount Vernon’s McIntyre Hall, 2501 E. College Way. By viewing the perennially popular musical, even grownups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that “anything can happen if you let it.” Tickets are $16-$24.

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By Amy Kepferle

Post Secret

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

"I LIED about how I got those bruises,” reads a postcard pasted with cutouts of each individual word atop the shrouded figures of a man and a woman alone in a room crowded with various electronics.

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These glimpses of what people write to affirm they’re not alone in the
SAT., APRIL 2
FAREWELL TO 1418: Live music by Julian MacDonough and friends, hearty appetizers, special performances, toasts and fond goodbyes will be part of a “Farewell to 1418” fundraiser for the Sylvia Center for the Arts taking place from 7-10pm at iDiOM Theater, 1418 Cornwall Ave. Tickets are $50; proceeds will go to iDiOM’s move to a new arts center in upcoming months. °WWW.IDIOMTHEATER.COM

MON., APRIL 4
GUFFAWINGHAM: A weekly open mic for comedians, “Guffawingham!” takes place at 9:30pm every Monday at the Green Frog, 1015 N. State St. Entry is free. °WWW.ACOUSTICTAVERN.COM

APRIL 7-9
NIGHTINGALE LOVE: Contemporary playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker’s The Love of the Nightingale opens 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 Philomele, and is described as a “tale of sisterhood, betrayal and revenge, told in a way that is surprisingly poetic, beautiful and funny.” Tickets are $12-$15; additional showings happen April 14-17 and 21-23. °WWW.IDIOMTHEATER.COM

DANCE
THURS., MARCH 31
FOLK DANCE: Join the Fourth Corner Folk Dancers to learn lively folk dances from Eastern Europe, Greece, Turkey, and Israel from 7:15-10pm every Thursday at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. Suggested donation is $5; students and first-timers are free. °(360) 380-0456

FRI., APRIL 1
POP-UP DANCE: Catch Bellingham Repertory Dance members in motion at free pop-up performances happening during the downtown Art Walk at 6:30pm and 7pm at WWU’s Alumni House in the Herald Building (1155 N. State St.) and 8pm at the Sylvia Center for the Arts (305 Prospect St.). Dancers will share excerpts of a piece they’ll be highlighting at their April 9 performance at the Mount Baker Theatre. °WWW.BHAMREP.ORG

APRIL 1-3
DANCE GALLERY FAREWELL: Dance Gallery will present its 26th—and final—annual Spring Concert at performances at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday, and 5pm Sunday at the Firehouse Performing Arts Center, 1314 Harris Ave. The farewell offering will feature works by longtime collaborators and local and national choreographers. Although the group plans to continue to offer dance classes and may make guest appearances in the future, this could be your last chance to see them performing as a cohesive unit. Tickets are $12; a free reception follows the Sunday show. °WWW.DANCEGALLERY.ORG

SAT., APRIL 2
USA DANCE: Join USA Dance for a public dance taking place from 7:15-10pm at Presence Studio, 1412 Cornwall Ave. The event will start with a Rumba lesson, followed by live music by the Thomas Harris Band and a dance party. Entry is $7-$10. °(360) 223-5449 OR WWW.PRESENCE-STUDIO.COM

FOLK DANCE: Balkanarama will play high-energy Balkan and gypsy dance music at a First Saturday Folk Dance from 7:30-10:30pm at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. All ages are welcome, and no partner or experience is necessary. Suggested donation is $15. °(360) 380-0456

SUN., APRIL 3
BRD MASTER CLASS: Dance students and professionals are invited to join Bellingham Repertory Dance for a master class in contemporary dance technique from Seattle artist Mark Haim from 11am-12:30pm at the Firehouse Performing Arts Center, 1314 Harris Ave. Haim has been working with BRD members and alum on setting a work which the company will perform in their April 9 show at the Mount Baker Theatre. Entry is $10-$15. °WWW.BHAMREP.ORG

SUNDAY NIGHT FUSION: A community partner dance dubbed “Sunday Night Fusion” takes place from 7-9pm every Sunday at Presence Studio, 1412 Cornwall Ave. The event explores “co-creative partner dance inspired by a variety of beautiful music.” No experience is necessary. Entry is $5 at the door. °WWW.PRESENCE-STUDIO.COM

TUES., APRIL 5
SKAGIT FOLK DANCERS: Join the Skagit-Anacortes Folk Dancers for a weekly International Folk Dancing event from 7-9:30pm at Bayview Civic Hall, 12615 C St. No partners are needed; just show up and dance. Entry to the drop-in event is free for the first session, $3 afterwards. °WWW.SKAGITFOLKDANCERS.ORG
**Hero Worship**

**PORTRAITS FOR THE PEOPLE**

**WHEN ART** Walk strollers make their way inside Novato Shop & Studio on Fri., April 1, they can expect to see a whole lot of familiar faces gazing back at them—among them Macho Man Randy Savage, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Morrissey, Milo Aukerman, Jon Stewart, Bob Ross, and local artist Steeb Russell. The slew of paintings by past Best of Bellingham winner Toby Stanger and Novato owner Logan McQuaig have one thing in common; all the portraits in the “Make•up” exhibit are inspired by people they consider heroes. We caught up with the artists to find out more.

**Cascadia Weekly:** Did the two of you discuss who your heroes were before you started creating the works in “Make•up,” or did you just take the idea and run with it?

**Logan McQuaig:** Toby and I talk pretty regularly about what we’re up to with Cascadia Weekly: we’re doing, but we’ve mostly been hammering out stuff on our own. I knew of a couple of his ideas and we’ve definitely stayed in touch about what we’re doing, but we’ve mostly been hammering out stuff on our own.

**CW:** It seems like you’re both fans of each other’s work—do you see heroic tendencies in each other?

**LM:** I bartended at Uisce for eight years and Toby’s studio was across the alley behind the bar, so he’d come over to sketch and drink whiskey after working. We just got along really well, bonding over old punk rock bands, Irish booze and dirty jokes.

**CW:** Toby, what’s so great about two of your subjects, Randy Savage and Bob Ross?

**TS:** The Macho Man Randy Savage was not so much great as he was awesome! That guy was a great showman and all-around badass. I could go on and on about Bob Ross. He is probably one of the most underrated painters of our generation. Who doesn’t love Bob Ross? The guy was a genius.

**CW:** Logan, what’s so great about Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Jon Stewart?

**LM:** Jon Stewart helped make a generation of people question the things they were being force-fed, and did it while consistently being the funniest thing happening at any given time. Ruth Bader Ginsburg rules. That woman has been busting ass for her gender, profession, and all of us, really, for longer than most people have been alive. We should clone eight more of her.

**CW:** What’s heroic about Steeb Russell?

**LM:** If there’s a close second on the scale of influencing my art world, Steeb is it. He curated the first show I ever got to do, has supported the shop from its inception, and is always available with advice and encouragement when it’s needed.

**TS:** Steeb is probably one of the most genuine and nicest people I have ever met. He doesn’t know I painted his portrait—or at least he won’t until he reads this or sees it at the show. I hope he likes it.

**CW:** On the Facebook invite to the show, you say the exhibit is a “peek behind the curtain of what made them who they are as artists, and in life in general.” Can you elaborate?

**TS:** These portraits are just a small glimpse into what has shaped me, my mind, views I have and share, and what I like and what I’m into at different periods of my life. I wish I had more time to paint on this subject, because I wanted to do more paintings of people who I believe to be innovators, geniuses or people that just have “it.”

**LM:** We really wanted the show to reflect not just who we are as painters, but people as well. And really, my art is just as influenced by people like Jon Stewart and Milo Aukerman as it is by any actual painters or visual artists. My favorite art is simply an extension of the artist’s personality, so to me, they’re essentially one and the same.

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**Cascadia Weekly**

**Number of views:** 12

**Number of mail-in ballots:** 4

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**See it**

**What:** Opening reception for “Make•up: New Work by Toby Stanger and Logan McQuaig”

**When:** 6-10pm Fri., April 1

**Where:** Novato Shop & Studio, 115 W. Chestnut St.

**Info:** www.novatoshop.com
UPCOMING EVENTS

WED., MARCH 30

QUILT RECEPTION: An opening reception for Anita Lovera Mayer’s “Clothing: Art & Embellishment,” Kathy McNeill’s “A Magical Journey of Hand Applique,” and the annual “La Conner in Bloom Challenge” takes place from 4-6pm at the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, 703 S. Second St.

THURS., MARCH 31

ART TALK: In celebration of Women’s History Month, female sculptors who are showing in “The Contemporary Figure” exhibit will discuss their creative inspiration and process with an accompanying slideshow at 5:30pm at Sculpture Northwest Gallery, 203 Prospect St.

FRI., APRIL 1

FEED YOUR HEAD: Attend a monthly “Feed Your Head: First Friday at the Co-op” event from 5:30-7:30pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1200 N. Forest St. The free gathering—which coincides with the monthly Downtown Art Walk—will feature an “Images of the Northwest in Watercolor” exhibit by Michael Heath and students, live music by Lindsay Street and treats.

WHATCOM LAND TRUST: See Ken Speer’s “Tree Connection” paintings at an opening reception taking place from 5:30-7:30pm at the offices of the Whatcom Land Trust, 412 N. Commercial St. Speer’s “visual meditations” will be sold for special prices, with 50 percent of the proceeds being donated to the trust.

ART BASH: Skagit Artists Together hosts an opening reception for its annual Art Bash from 5:30-9pm at Mount Vernon’s Farmhouse Restaurant, 13724 La Conner Whitney Rd. The broad range of fine art and photography by more than 20 local artists can be seen through April 30 as part of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

REXVILLE OPENING: An opening reception party for the annual Rexville Grange Art Show takes place from 6-9pm at the Mount Vernon’s Rexville Grange, 19299 Rexville Rd. The multi-artist Tulip Festival exhibit can be visited from 10am-6pm daily through April 10.

ANACORTES ART WALK: A.C.M.E. Creative Spaces, the Good Stuff, Burton Jewels, the Depot Art Center, Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar, Tinkin Tiny Gallery, Scott Milo Gallery, the Majestic Inn and Spa, and H2O will be among the spaces open for perusal at the Art Walk taken place from 6-9pm throughout downtown Anacortes. Entry is free.

ART WALK: The monthly Art Walk takes place from 6-10pm throughout downtown Bellingham. Participants include the Sylvia Center for the Arts, Make.Shift, Peter James Studios, Allied Arts, the Alternative Library, Artists 12 Pop-Up Gallery, Asian Brewing Co., Backcountry Essentials, Bayou on Bay, the Beauty Institute, the Bureau of Historical Investigation, Cafe Boursing, Community Food Co-op, Dakota Gallery, Downtown Visitors Center, Fourth Corner Frames & Gallery, Old World Deli, Pickford Art Studios, the Racket, Rock & Rye, Sculpture Northwest Gallery, Studio 5, Western City Center, and Whatcom Land Trust.

MAKE.SHIFT: An opening reception for “Soaring and Boring and Fawning and Yawning” takes place from 6-10pm at Make.Shift Art Space, 306 Flora St. The exhibit features works by Seattle-based artists Ashley Armitage (photography) and Derek Erdman (painting). Make.Shift studio artists will also open up their studios to share, sell and discuss their current and future projects.

FOURTH CORNER: Attend an opening reception for “The Lay of the Land” from 6-9pm at Fourth Corner Frames & Gallery, 311 W. Holly St. The multi-artist show featuring the vistas of the Pacific Northwest in a variety of mediums can be viewed through April 30.

DOKATA GALLERY: An opening reception for “Ascending Archetypes” takes place from 6-9pm at the recently refurbished Dakota Gallery, 1234 Cornwall Ave. The new works by Melissa Hand, Kate Sechrist, and Coco Spadoni show through April 17.

FISHBOY GALLERY: Check out the contemporary folk art of RR Clark from 1:30-5pm Fridays at the FishBoy Gallery, 617 Virginia St.

GALLERY CYGNUS: “From the Forest” can be seen through April 24 at La Conner’s Gallery Cygnus, 109 Commercial St.

GOOD EARTH: Jeremy Noet’s works will be featured through April 10 at Good Earth Pottery, 1000 Harris Ave.

MONA: “Beyond Aztlan: Mexican and Chicana/o Artists in the Pacific Northwest” and “Robert Flynn: Art from the Permanent Collection” show through June 12 at La Conner’s Museum of Northwest Art, 121 S. First St.

SMITH & VALLEE: View “Surroundings” through April 3 at Smith & Vallee Gallery, 5742 Gilkey Ave.

WESTERN GALLERY: “How Space Turns” shows through May 12 at Western Washington University’s Western Gallery.

ONGOING EXHIBITS

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WESTERN GALLERY: “How Space Turns” shows through May 12 at Western Washington University’s Western Gallery.

WHATCOM MUSEUM: “Returning Home: Six Decades of Art by Ir a Yeager” and “The Dodo’s Seed: Philip McCracken’s Sculpture and Mixed-Media Painting” can currently be viewed at the Whatcom Museum campus.
brand-new Bellingham Music Film Festival, the first iteration of which takes place Fri.-Sun., April 1-3 at Make.Shift Art Space and the Pickford Film Center.

The BMFF, which marries Bellingham’s love of music to its love of movies, is an idea first dreamed up by filmmaker and WWU professor Kacey Morrow. Morrow is also a member of Make.Shift’s board of directors, which made pitching her plan to the nonprofit’s executive director, Jessica Miller, an easy choice. Miller was quick to throw Make.Shift’s resources behind the concept, and realizing the Pickford Film Center would be a natural community partner for such an endeavor, Morrow and Miller reached out to the theater’s marketing manager, Lindsey Gerhard, a diehard music fan who was only too eager to commit the PFC to the fledgling festival.

With Morrow’s concept and knowledge of the filmmaking world, Miller’s expertise in the music realm and the venue at her disposal, as well as the movie screens and marketing knowhow possessed by Gerhard, they found themselves to be the right trio for this undertaking, ambitious though it was.

After determining the structure of their festival and figuring out the broad strokes, the BMFF organizers issued a call for submissions—and then waited to see what they’d get, if anything. Rather than just focusing on local talent, they gave their festival a more regional bent, soliciting films from Washington and Oregon, and also opening the field up to music-themed movies from the world over. The hope was to draw as wide a variety of content as possible so as to create a diverse roster of musical entertainment.

But they didn’t know if people would actually respond to a festival that barely even existed in a smallish town in the corner of the country.

They needn’t have worried. Submissions they got, more than enough to cram the entire three days of the festival with original movies of all kinds, from music videos and documentaries to experimental and animated.
things usually entail. The offerings are back and forth and seeing all the shorts, music as much as movies, the night is bookended by live performances from the Scarlet Locomotive and Momo Grace. On Saturday, the BMFF begins at noon at the Lincoln Theatre, 712 S. First St. The bands are part of the school's nationally known fine arts program. Tickets are $4–$10.

**THURS., MARCH 31**

**LIBRARY MUSIC:** As part of an ongoing “Music in the Library” series, a small group of local ukulele players dubbed Ensembleule will perform at 4:30pm in the SkillShare Space at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave. Entry is free.  

**WWW.BELLINGHAMPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG**

**FRI., APRIL 1**

**ROCK FESTIVAL:** Support students who will be studying abroad in South Africa at a “No Joke Rock ‘n’ Roll Festival” from 5-9pm at the beer garden at Boundary Bay Brewery, 1107 Railroad Ave. In addition to live music, the all-ages event will feature a raffle, food and other festivities. Entry is $5.  

**WWW.BRAMBREWERY.COM**

**FSALISH SEA FESTIVAL:** As part of the Salish Sea Early Music Festival series, fortепиано player Henry Lebedinsky and flutist Jeffrey Cohen will feature duets from the last half of the 18th century at a 7:30pm concert at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2117 Walnut St. Suggested donation is $15-$25 (those 18 and under are free).  

**WWW.SALISHSEAESTIVAL.ORG**

**SAT., APRIL 2**

**TRADITIONAL JAZZ:** Ray Skjelbred and the Yeti Chasers will perform swinging music at the Bellingham Traditional Jazz Society’s monthly concert and dance from 2-5pm at the VFW Hall, 625 N State St. Entry is $6 students, $10 members, $12 general.  

**WWW.BTJS.WEBS.COM**

**JAZZ SERIES:** New York-based tenor sensation Harry Allen joins with Vancouver’s Cory Weeds for a “Battle of the Tenor Saxes” when the sixth annual Sudden Valley Jazz Series kicks off at 3pm at the Sudden Valley Dance Barn, 9 Barn View Dr. Tickets to the fundraiser are $20.  

**WWW.FSWL.ORG**

**WED., MARCH 30**

**GREG RUBY:** Seattle-based guitarist and composer Greg Ruby comes to town for a Whatcom Jazz Music Art Center concert at 7pm at the Majestic, 1027 N. Forest St. He’ll be joined by drummer Julian MacDonough, bassist Cassidy Holden, trombone player Charlie Halloran, and trumpeter Gordon Au. Entry is $5-$10.  

**WWW.WJMAC.ORG**

**MVHS JAZZ:** Mount Vernon High School jazz bands will perform at a “Live at the Lincoln” concert at 7pm at the Lincoln Theatre, 712 S. First St. The bands are part of the school’s nationally known fine arts programs. Tickets are $4–$10.  

**WWW.LINCOLNTHEATRE.ORG**

**FRI., APRIL 1**

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**WWW.BRAMBREWERY.COM**

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**WWW.LINCOLNTHEATRE.ORG**

**THURS., MARCH 31**

**LIBRARY MUSIC:** As part of an ongoing “Music in the Library” series, a small group of local ukulele players dubbed Ensembleule will perform at 4:30pm in the SkillShare Space at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave. Entry is free.  

**WWW.BELLINGHAMPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG**

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**WWW.FSWL.ORG**

**WED., APRIL 6**

**MUSIC CLUB CONCERT:** Pianist Daniel Chong and other winners of the Bellingham Music Club’s annual awards to Western Washington University students will perform at 10:30am Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 119 Texas St. Entry is by donation.  

**WWW.BELLINGHAMMUSICCLUB.ORG**

**THURS., APRIL 7**

**NIGHT BEAT:** Percussionist Silas Stewart and saxophonist David Hoogkamer will perform “Eucations” by Jon巴斯 (a new composition written for them) at the Bellingham Music Club’s “Night Beat” concert at 7:30pm at the First Congregational Church, 2405 Cornwall Ave. Also performing will be pianist Daniel Chong, vocalist Emily Ponten, and pianist Gabija Vacekonis. Entry is free for WWU students, $15 otherwise (take a teen for free with a paying adult).  

**WWW.BELLINGHAMMUSICCLUB.ORG**
See below for venue addresses and phone numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anelia’s Kitchen &amp; Stage</td>
<td>511 Morris St., La Conner • (360) 466-4778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundary Bay Brewery</td>
<td>1107 Railroad Ave • 647-5593</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Lantern Ale House</td>
<td>412 Commercial Ave., Anacortes • (360) 293-2544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commodore Ballroom</td>
<td>108 W. Main St., Everson • 966-8838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conway Muse</td>
<td>18444 Spruce/Main St., Conway (360) 445-3000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corner Pub</td>
<td>14565 Allen West Road, Burlington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eat Restaurant &amp; Bar</td>
<td>1200 Cornwall Ave • <a href="http://www.4u2eat.com">www.4u2eat.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Edison Inn</td>
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<td>Glow Nightclub</td>
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<td>Green Frog</td>
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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 108 W. Main St., Everson • 966-8838 | Conway Muse 18444 Spruce/Main St., Conway (360) 445-3000 | Corner Pub 14565 Allen West Road, Burlington | Eat Restaurant & Bar 1200 Cornwall Ave • www.4u2eat.com

Immerse Yourself in Live Entertainment.

Mount Baker Theatre EVENTS

PostSecret: The Show
Saturday, April 2
7:30pm
Come for the camaraderie of humanity, inspiring art, and a fascinating new look at how we are all connected.

SPONSOR: LIZA GOSSETT

Visit MountBakerTheatre.com or call 360-255-7891 for tickets.
Mount Baker Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the performing arts.

Tuesday, April 12
7:00pm
Celebrate with world music artists from Brazil, Jamaica, & Haiti in a cross-cultural festival!

SPONSOR: COMMUNITY FOOD CO-OP

Photos courtesy of Massey Hall - Malcolm Cook
### Music Venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H2O</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Honey Moon</strong></td>
<td>Open Mic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KC's Bar and Grill</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kulshan Brewing Co.</strong></td>
<td>Open Mic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main St. Bar and Grill</strong></td>
<td>The Electric Soul Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Make.Shift Art Space</strong></td>
<td>Bellingham Music Film Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Old World Deli</strong></td>
<td>Tony Florino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poppe's 360</strong></td>
<td>Chad Petersen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rockfish Grill</strong></td>
<td>Swingnuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rumors Cabaret</strong></td>
<td>Throwback Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Shakedown</strong></td>
<td>Showdown at the Shakedown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skylark's</strong></td>
<td>Walt Burkett &amp; Vocals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swillery Whiskey Bar</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swinomish Casino and Lodge</strong></td>
<td>The Wingmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Underground</strong></td>
<td>DJ B-Mello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Via Cafe and Bistro</strong></td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Village Inn</strong></td>
<td>Jam Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Waterfront</strong></td>
<td>Live Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Buffalo</strong></td>
<td>'90s Night w/DJ Boombox Kid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Knight of Cups

MALICK BEING MALICK

TERRENCE MALICK’S films were once regarded as something akin to urban legends. Someone somewhere heard from a friend in the know that the director was shooting, and maybe in two or three or 10 years, a film would come out of it—one that would be received with a rapturous reception, as if heaven itself opened up to bestow a masterpiece upon the humble denizens of the Earth’s art houses.

The past few years, though, have been an incredibly prolific period in the director’s life, relatively speaking. He may have gone 20 years between 1978’s Days of Heaven and 1998’s The Thin Red Line, but since 2011, Malick has released two films, with another one, Knight of Cups, on deck. But with this (again, relative) surge in productivity has come an odd critical backlash. His 2012 drama To the Wonder landed with a thud when it premiered at the Venice Film Festival, and Knight of Cups encountered a downright hostile reaction when it debuted at the Berlinale.

Were we only in love with a director who played hard to get? That’s the only conclusion I can arrive at, since Malick’s late-period films are still just as uniquely Malickian as they’ve always been. They have the same shambolic structures, quasi-philosophical voiceovers, beautifully shot images of sun-dappled nature and all-star casts as his early works.

This isn’t a complaint. Malick’s films simply can’t be graded against the bulk of commercial cinema—they exist in a different, more delicate realm, no matter how many familiar faces populate the frame. Badlands, The New World, The Tree of Life—they are all part of a different, unique art form only Malick can produce, one that values patience and endurance as much as it does emotion and human experience.

Which brings us to Knight of Cups. Already decried as self-parody or half-assed nonsense, the drama is in fact as challenging and rewarding as Malick’s previous work, though with a more modern and caustic edge than acolytes might be used to.

Following the life of self-loathing Hollywood writer Rick (Christian Bale) as he wanders in and out of jobs and relationships, the film bounces between moments of transcendent beauty and down-in-the-muck ugliness (courtesy of gonzo cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki).

There’s no real plot, either—the title refers to a bedtime story told to Bale’s character by his troubled father (Brian Dennehy, doing lots with little)—and the film is divided into tarot-card-titled sections (“The Hanged Man,” “The High Priestess,” etc.) that are there to lend an edge of poetry, but no narrative structure.

Presumably major characters—Rick’s brother, his ex-wife, his agent—are introduced and shown the exit with little consideration. You’d be hard-pressed to figure out how much of Rick’s life passes between the start of the film and the end.

But this is all simply Malick being Malick—you’re either on his wavelength or you’re not.

Knight of Cups is no doubt a confounding film, often at war with itself over whether it wants to be a satire of celebrity or an ode to man’s eternal struggle with what it means to live a full life. But what cannot be denied is how potent it is, and how lasting an impression it leaves.

Few filmmakers are able to not only go decades without producing something, but to also emerge from such absences with a full vision intact. You are free to ignore or protest whatever that vision might be, but in Malick’s case, there is no mistaking the consistent and bold artistry behind it.
10 Cloverfield Lane: Dear J.J. Abrams, you are my nerd king, now and forevermore. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 45 min.)

Batman v. Superman: It’s been a minute since critics have taken this much obvious pleasure in savagely eviscerating a movie, and done so with such intelligence, creativity and wit—none of which can be found in this bloated mess of a film. Don’t blame the Batfleck, though. He did the best he could. ★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 31 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. 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: See review previous page. And be very afraid. ★★★★★ (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.)

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.)

Knight of Cups: See review previous page. ★★★ (R • 1 hr. 48 min.)

London Has Fallen: Rejoice! The Olympus Has Fallen sequel you didn’t ask for is here! ★★ (R • 1 hr. 39 min.)

Meet the Blacks: I’m guessing the funniest thing about this spoof of The Purge may not be the hero we need, but he most certainly is the one we deserve. ★★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 30 min.)

Miracles 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.)

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.)

The Revenant: Leo got his Oscar and now our long national nightmare is over. ★★★★★ (R • 2 hrs. 36 min.)

Star Wars: Episode VII—The Force Awakens: One million stars. Give it all of the Oscars and throw in some Grammys, a Nobel Peace Prize and a knighthood, while you’re at it. I’m not picky. Suck it, haterszzzz, this movie rules. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 16 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.)

Showtimes: Regal and AMC theaters, please see www.fandango.com.

Pickford Film Center and PFC’s Limelight Cinema, please see www.pickfordfilmcenter.com
A “Yoga for Gardeners” class begins at 6pm Sat. April 2 at the Lynden Library, 216 4th St. Spring is often accompanied by muscle soreness from long hours spent in the garden. This class will offer tools to cope with the activity’s most common physical aches and pains. A written copy of exercises will be provided at the free event. More info: (360) 354-4883.

Michelle Mahler focuses on “Perfumes with a Purpose” at a workshop at 6:30pm Tues., April 5 in Mount Vernon at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op, 202 S. First St. In this workshop you will be able to blend some of the finest-smelling and powerfully healing oils with Michelle’s helping hand. She will share her vast knowledge and experience with combining these oils to work on all levels of your being, bringing balance, vitality and wellness. Entry is free; please register in advance. More info: www.skagityoufoodcoop.com

Colon cleansing, enemas, colonics and other gut-cleansing systems will be discussed at a “Detox and Fastiging” workshop with Jim Ehmke from 6:30-8:30pm Wed., April 6 at the Cordata Community Food Co-op, 215 Westerly Rd. Attendees will learn why longevity is directly linked to calorie restriction and the advantages of intermittent fasting. Entry is $5. More info: www.communityfoodcoop.com

Sign up now for a “Flower Essence Practitioner” Training Course taking place April 8-19 at Lummi Island’s Tree Frog Farm, 4679 Sunrise Rd. This class will be interactive and hands-on, as well as lecture-oriented. The course is designed to train students to confidently select essences and prepare combination bottles for clients. This is the first class in a three-part series. More info: www.treefrogfarm.com

Co-Dependents Anonymous meets from 7:30-9pm most Mondays at PeaceHealth St. Joseph’s Community Health Education Center, 1331 Squirrel St. Open conference room B. Entry is by donation. More info: (360) 676-9588

Attend a Healing Hour from 5:30-6:30pm every Wednesday at Simply Spirit Reading & Healing Center, 1304 Meadow Ave. Drop in anytime during the hour to receive an aura/chakra healing. Entry is $5. More info: www.simplyspiritcenter.com

A “Yoga for Daily Living” class takes place from 6:30-7:45pm Wednesdays at Lynden’s Jansen Art Center, 321 Front St. The class consists of breathing practices, physical exercises, and mental focus. No experience is necessary. Entry to the ongoing event is $10 for six classes. More info: jansenartcenter.com

Join Lynne to prevent 25 pounds of greenhouse gas at lunch. More info: (360) 733-3305

Bellingham Evening Toastmasters meet from 7-8:30pm Tuesdays at the Festival Square Condominium Clubhouse, 5046 Festival Blvd. Info: 756-0217 or www.AA Toastmastersclub.org

**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: (1:40), 4:30, 7:00
Sun: (10:40am), (1:10), 7:00; Mon: (3:45), 6:15, 8:45
Tue: (3:00), 8:00; Wed: (3:45), 6:15; Thur: (3:45), 6:15, 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: (11:15am), 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
Sun: (12:45), 3:40, 6:00, 8:20; Mon & Tue: (4:10), 6:30, 8:50
Wed: (3:40), 8:50; Thu: (4:10), 8:50

**AS YOU LIKE IT (1963)** 140m - Vanessa Redgrave made her breakout performance in the Royal Shakespeare Co. production for the BBC.

Sat: (11:00am) - Enjoy free Shakespeare every Saturday in April!

**THE ARMOR OF LIGHT (NR)** 83m - INDIAN LENS POP-UP
Two people of faith come together to explore the contradictions of a nation rife with gun violence. Interactive in-theatre discussion to follow
Tue: (5:30) - Free Admission

**TRAILER WARS XLIX (NR)** 90m This theme: Psychological Thrillers
Wed: 9:00 - $2 Admission

**THEY WILL HAVE TO KILL US FIRST: MALIAN MUSIC IN EXILE** 105m
When music in Mali was banned, rather than lay down their instruments, they fought back.
Thu: 6:30

**BELLINGHAM MUSIC FILM FESTIVAL: APRIL 1-3**
Weekend passes available online - bellinghammusicfilmfestival.com shows at Make:Shift, too!
What Would Beethoven Do + Shorts - Sat: 2:00
Big Gold Dream + Shorts and Live Music - Sat: 9:30
Beach Town + Shorts - Sun: 10:30am
Desert Age + Live Music and Awards - Sun: 3:00

**KNOTTHOFT CUPS (R)** 120m - New from Terence Malick
“Usually, with movies, you can imagine how they were made — how the idea came, and the process of its creation. But Knight of Cups seems as if it arrived whole. If there’s a better film this year, get ready for a very good one.” San Francisco Chronicle
Fri: (3:40), 6:15, 8:50; Sat: (1:00), 3:40, 6:15, 8:50
Sun: ( Noon), (2:40), 5:15, 7:50; Mon & Tue: (3:40), 6:15, 8:50
Wed: (3:40), 8:50; Thu: (3:40), 6:15, 8:50

**ALVIN AILEY: GREAT AMERICAN DANCE** 101m
Chroma/Grace/Takade/Kreations Revelations
Wed: 6:30
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• Full Body Massage: $50/60min ~ $80/90min

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Enhance athleticism
Renew optimism

Pamela Thomson
Director and Founder
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bellinghammindset.com
Across
1 Progressive spokesperson
4 Stanley of “Julie & Julia”
9 Grows light
14 “Hamilton” creator/star ___-Manuel Miranda
15 Take ___ for the worse
16 Novel on an iPad, e.g.
17 Actress Poehler
18 Sleepover of sorts
20 Louis or Lewis, e.g.
22 Former Boston Symphony director Seiji
23 Actor Penn of the “Harold & Kumar” films
24 Gear sprocket
26 Deprive of strength
28 Newsroom honchos
32 “Talk ___” (Pedro Almodovar film)
33 Fashion designer and daughter of a noted painter
37 ___-Pen (injector for allergic reactions)
38 1978 Peace Nobelist Anwar
39 Ted ___ and the Pharmacists
42 Study involving charged particles and fluids
47 “Check,” in poker
49 Stick at a table
50 Like much of the analysis on “Marketplace”
54 Nestle’s ___-Caps
55 Letters on Windy City trains
56 Hawaiian actor Jason who’s set to play Aquaman
58 “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” author Ken
62 Radiohead title followed by the lyric “Arrest this man”
65 ___-de-France
66 ___ a high note (finish well)
67 Eugene of travel guide fame
68 100%
69 Stopwatch button
70 Banjo ridges
71 Item hidden in the four theme entries

Down
1 “Love handles” material
2 One might pick you up at an airport
3 Multicolored agate
4 Where many brews are on draft
5 “Respect for Acting” writer Hagen
6 Stephen King novel about a dog
7 Hot trend
8 “Cold Mountain” hero W. P. ___
9 Leaves
10 Attys organization
11 Office fixture?
12 Make marginal markings
13 Walter’s wife on “Breaking Bad”
14 Leave astonished
15 Delta follower, in the NATO alphabet
16 Blades cut by blades
17 Parade columnist Marilyn ___ Savant
18 Dr. Zaius, e.g.
19 It’s no deep slumber
20 Props for driving instructors
21 One of a making-out couple
22 Number at the pump
23 Unruly hairdo
24 Peach, burgundy, or chocolate, e.g.
25 Assistants
26 “See ya!”
27 “Cold Mountain” hero W. P. ___
28 Dr. Zaius, e.g.
29 “Li’l Abner” creator Al
30 Companion of Aramis and Porthos
31 Coin portraying Louis XIV
32 “Li’l Abner” creator Al
33 Fashion designer and daughter of a noted painter
34 Film noir actress Lupino
35 “Li’l Abner” creator Al
36 Companion of Aramis and Porthos
37 ___-Pen (injector for allergic reactions)
38 1978 Peace Nobelist Anwar
39 Ted ___ and the Pharmacists
40 Coin portraying Louis XIV
41 Suffix for sugars, in chemistry
42 Study involving charged particles and fluids
43 Deighton who wrote the “Hook, Line and Sinker” trilogy
44 Cartoon hero with antennae
45 Place to get lost, per Neil Simon
46 Gin-flavoring fruit
47 One of a making-out couple
48 Number at the pump
49 Stick at a table
50 Like much of the analysis on “Marketplace”
51 Unruly hairdo
52 “See ya!”
53 Peach, burgundy, or chocolate, e.g.
54 Nestle’s ___-Caps
55 Letters on Windy City trains
56 Hawaiian actor Jason who’s set to play Aquaman
58 “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” author Ken
62 Radiohead title followed by the lyric “Arrest this man”
65 ___-de-France
66 ___ a high note (finish well)
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71 Item hidden in the four theme entries

Last Week’s Puzzle
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THE ADVICE GODDESS

WE’LL ALWAYS HAVE PARASITE

When I got remarried, I inherited a stepdaughter. At the time, I was happy about this. Though she and my husband had been estranged for many years, I was instrumental in getting them to reconcile. I’ve come to regret this. She is a rageaholic, spendaholic party girl. She has three DUIs and an extravagant lifestyle that’s financially draining her dad and me. Though I have no problem cutting her off, my husband can’t say no to his little girl—which has us on opposing ends of a bitter battle.

—Stressed-Out Stepmother

If you had the traditional kind of parasite, you could just put a lit match to its butt.

Welcome to the bottomless hole of wrongheaded empathy—the daddy guilt version of that “bottomless cup of coffee” that (if you ask politely) the Denny’s waitress will keep refilling until you finally die in the booth. Obviously, your husband means well. Unfortunately, he’s engaging in what’s called “pathological altruism.” The primary researcher on this, Dr. Barbara Oakley, explains it as an intention to help that actually ends up doing harm (sometimes to both the do-gooder and the do-goodee).

Enabling can feel so right in the moment, Oakley explains—in part because we get something out of it: activation of the same regions of the brain that “light up” from drugs and gambling. (Say hello to the “helper’s high.”) Refusing to “help,” on the other hand, is uncomfortable and tends to lead to ugly interactions, like screaming matches if Daddy says no to putting his retirement money into retiring last season’s Versace for this season’s Vuitton.

Being judiciously helpful takes asking the feel-bad questions, like “What’s the likely result of consistently attaching a garden hose to our bank account and washing away any consequences from Princess Partyhardy’s actions?” That’s a question that should be answered before she gets her fourth DUI—possibly leading to a need for somebody to pick up not only the cost of the fancy DUI lawyer but the pieces of some cute 5-year-old from along the side of the road.

You can keep telling your husband this until your teeth fall out, but because of his emotional ensnarement—along with the fear and anger that you’ll try to stop him—he’ll probably just fight harder to go along with her little-girl-voiced shakedowns. And though, with your emotional distance, you have a clearer eye on how your step-sponge is playing her dad, there are surely a few rationality-eating emotions bubbling up in you. There’s got to be anger (because your money’s getting tossed down the drunken-spender princesshole) and some fear (that you’ll end up on a street corner, begging people to drop change into your “World’s Greatest Stepmom” mug).

Fear and anger make for the worst argument partners. They trigger the amygdala, a central player in the brain’s threat-detection circuit. It, in turn, sounds the alarm, triggering the release of flight-or-flight hormones and shutting down functions not needed to battle or bolt, like—whoops—higher reasoning. And more bad news: When you keep repeating a behavior, your brain cells go, “Wait—we do this all the time; let’s put that on auto.” And this is what has happened here—which is to say, you two could be doing permanent damage to your relationship.

Advice columnists tend to squawk like parrots, “Therapy! Therapy!” (Like that option wouldn’t otherwise occur to anybody.) However, in your situation—because you two can’t seem to dial down the “bitter battle”—there is an intermediary you should consider engaging: a mediator. (Look for a marital one at Mediate.com) Mediation is dispute resolution. It’s issue-focused, so it’s worlds faster than therapy. (The mediator won’t take a month to figure out how you really felt when you were 6 and you didn’t get that cookie.)

The mediator’s job is to dial down the emotional temperature and get you two listening to each other—to the point where you understand each other’s feelings. (This is how you come to empathize with somebody—which motivates you to act in their interest and not just in your own.) The mediator then guides you to come to a decision as a couple and can help you set up a framework for discussing emotionally charged issues so date night doesn’t devolve into hate night.

Still, it’s important to recognize that every problem isn’t perfectly solvable. What’s essential, however, is the “C-word”—compromise: understanding that you ultimately win by being willing to lose a little. This means accepting that you won’t always get the exact outcome you want—which, in this case, would probably involve picking up a time machine at Best Buy so you could go persuade your stepdaughter’s mother to have a purse dog instead of a child. 😄
ARIES (March 21-April 19): According to my astrological analysis, you would benefit profoundly from taking a ride in a jet fighter plane 70,000 feet above the earth. In fact, I think you really need to experience weightlessness as you soar faster than the speed of sound. Luckily, there’s an organization, MiGFlug (migflug.com), that can provide you with this healing thrill. (I just hope you can afford the $18,000 price tag.) APRIL FOOL! I do in fact think you should treat yourself to unprecedented thrills and transcendent adventures. But I bet you can accomplish that without being quite so extravagant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): “People only get really interesting when they start to rattle the bars of their cages,” says philosopher Alain de Botton. If that’s true, Taurus, you must be on the verge of becoming very interesting. Metaphorically speaking, you’re not just rattling the bars of your cage. You’re also smacking your tin cup against the bars and trying to saw through them with your plastic knife. APRIL FOOL! I lied. You’re not literally in a prison cell and I got a bit carried away with the metaphor. But there is a grain of truth to what I said. You are getting close to breaking free of at least some of your mind-forged manacles. And it’s making you more attractive and intriguing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If I had to decide what natural phenomenon you most closely resemble right now, I’d consider comparing you to a warm, restless breeze or a buoyly playful dolphin. But my first choice would be the mushrooms known as Schizophyllum commune. They’re highly adaptable: able to go dormant when the weather’s dry and spring to life when rain comes. They really get around, too, making their homes on every continent except Antarctica. But the main reason I’d link you with them is that they come in over 28,000 different sexes. Their versatility is unprecedented. APRIL FOOL! I exaggerated a bit. It’s true that these days you’re remaking yourself in all sorts of charming and multifaceted-and well-rounded. But you’re probably not capable of expressing 28,000 varieties of anything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): “Whatever it is you’re seeking won’t come in the form you’re expecting,” warns Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami. If that’s true, why bother? Why expend all your precious yearning if the net result won’t even satisfy your yearning?? That’s why I advise you to ABANDON YOUR BELIEVED PLANS! Save your energy for trivial wishes. That way you won’t be disappointed when they are fulfilled in unanticipated ways. APRIL FOOL! I was messizing with you. It’s true that what you want won’t arrive in the form you’re expecting. But I bet the result will be even better than what you expected.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You’re due to make a pilgrimage, aren’t you? It might be time to shave your head, sell your possessions, and head out on a long trek to a holy place where you can get back in touch with what the hell you’re doing here on this planet. APRIL FOOL! I was kidding about the head-shaving and possessions-dumping. On the other hand, there might be value in embarking on a less melodramatic pilgrimage. I think you’re ready to seek radical bliss of a higher order—and get back in touch with what the hell you’re doing here on this planet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Are you ready to fight the monster? Do you have the courage and strength and stamina and guile to overcome the ugly beast that’s blocking the path to the treasure? If not, turn around and head back to your comfort zone until you’re better prepared. APRIL FOOL! I lied. There is a monster, but it’s not the literal embodiment of a beastly adversary. Rather, it’s inside you. It’s an unripe part of yourself that needs to be taught and tamed and cared for. Until you develop a better relationship with it, it will just keep testing you. (P.S. Now would be a good time to develop a better relationship with it.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your advice for the near future comes from poet Stephen Dunn. “If the Devil sits down,” he says, “offer companionship, tell her you’re always admired her magnificent, false moves.” I think that’s an excellent plan, Libra! Maybe you’ll even be lucky enough to make the acquaintance of many different devils with a wide variety of magnificent, false moves. APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, I think you should avoid contact with all devils, no matter how enticing they might be. Now is a key time to surround yourself with positive influences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1841, a British medical journal prescribed the following remedy for the common cold: “Nail a hat on the wall near the foot of your bed, then retire to that bed, and drink spirits until you see two hats.” My expert astrological analysis reveals that this treatment is likely to cure not just the sniffles, but also any other discomforts you’re suffering from, whether physical or emotional or spiritual. So I hope you own a hat, hammer, and nails. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The method I suggested probably won’t help alleviate what ails you. But here’s a strategy that might: Get rid of anything that’s superfluous, rotten, outdated, or burdensome.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): To begin your oracular, I’ll borrow the words of author Ray Bradbury: “May you be in love every day for the next 28,000 days, and out of that love, remake a world.” I have reason to believe that this optimistic projection has a good chance of coming true for you. Imagine it, Sagittarius: daily swoons of delight and rapture from now until the year 2071. APRIL FOOL! I lied, sort of. It would be foolish to predict that you’ll be giddy with amorous feelings nonstop for the next 54 years and 10 months. On the other hand, I don’t think it’s unrealistic for you to expect a lot of that sweet stuff over the course of the next three weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): “I’m tired of being brave,” groaned Anne Sexton in one of her poems. “I’m sick of following my dreams,” moaned comedian Mitch Hedberg, adding, “I’m just going to ask my dreams where they’re going and hook up with them later.” In my opinion, Capricorn, you have every right to surround yourself with positive influences. Now is indeed a good time to do so. But don’t you dare feel sorry for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1991, hikers in the Italian Alps discovered the well-preserved corpse of a Bronze Age hunter. Buried in the frigid terrain, the man who came to be known as Otzi the Iceman had been there for 5,000 years. Soon the museum that claimed his body began receiving inquiries from women who wanted to be impregnated with Otzi’s sperm. I think this is an apt metaphor for you, Aquarius. Consider the possibility that you might benefit from being fertilized by an influence from long ago. APRIL FOOL! The advice I just gave you is only half-correct. It’s true that you need and deserve a respite from your earnest struggles. But now is indeed a good time to take a break so you can recharge your spiritual batteries. But don’t you dare feel sorry for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Caligula was an eccentric Roman emperor who had a physical resemblance to a goat. He was sensitive about it. That’s why he made it illegal for anyone to refer to goats in his company. I mention this, Pisces, because I’d like to propose a list of words you should forbid to be used in your presence during the coming weeks: “money,” “cash,” “finances,” “loot,” “savings,” or “investments.” Why? Because I’m afraid it would be distasteful, even confusing or embarrassing, for you to think about these sore subjects right now. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The truth is, now is a perfect time for you to be focused on getting richer quicker.
IS WALK-IN VISITS THAT FIT MY BUSY SCHEDULE

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### 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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### Jen Sorensen Slowpoke

**North Carolina is forcing trans people to use public restrooms that match the gender on their birth certificate.**

*Can't have a man in the ladies' powder room!*

**Would be dangerous for our fair maidens!**

**Now trans women have to face this:**

*Totally not a dangerous situation.*

**Maybe North Carolina republicans should be banned from public restrooms in other states.**

*I just don't feel safe using a bathroom with someone that bigoted.*

**I just don't feel safe using a bathroom with someone that bigoted.**

**It's funny how people scared of irrational things become scary themselves.**

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A HARD-BOILED BRUNCH

Some people mark the coming of spring by the first time they mow the lawn or the blooming of daffodils. Since my domestic dude and I started keeping chickens, however, I acknowledge the new season by taking note of the vast amount of eggs that are apt to pile up in our pantry.

Math has never been my strong point, but even I can figure out that when the five hens who rule our backyard are responding to the lengthening amount of daylight hours by laying an egg apiece pretty much every day—that's approximately 35 per week, divided by two humans—things get out of control pretty quickly.

This became clear the day before Easter, when my guy walked into the kitchen to find me placing the last of 42 eggs in a large silver bowl to prepare them for boiling.

"What in the world are you doing with all those precious huevos?" he yelped.

"We should sell those, or give them as gifts to people we're trying to get on our good side!"

I calmed him down not only by reminding him that I was making deviled eggs and hard-boiled specimens for hiding for the Easter brunch we'd be hosting the following day, but also by pointing out that there were still more than two dozen available for household consumption.

"Well, when you put it that way, I guess it's O.K.," he said begrudgingly. "Buy why are you doing it now?"

My answer was that, thanks to a post on the Community Food Co-op's Facebook page, I'd been directed to author and chef J. Kenji López-Alt's Food Lab column on a website called Serious Eats (www.seriouseats.com). In a manifesto dubbed "The Hard Truth About Boiled Eggs," he claimed to have a surefire method for boiling eggs that would result in edible orbs that were easy to peel and cooked uniformly.

I've mangled many hard-boiled eggs over the years despite following recipes that promised to do the same things, so I was skeptical. But since López-Alt's The Food Lab: Better Home Cooking Through Science is a bestselling cookbook, I figured it wouldn't hurt to follow his advice.

"Lower your eggs straight from the fridge into already-boiling water, or place them in a steamer insert in a covered pot steaming at full blast on the stovetop," he wrote. "If boiling, lower the heat to the barest simmer. Cook the eggs for 11 minutes for hard or 6 minutes for soft. Serve. Or, if serving cold, shock them in ice water immediately. Peel under cool running water."

In the column, López-Alt pointed out that scientific methods were vital in figuring out what worked best. He also discusses using older eggs versus fresher eggs, why he recommends starting eggs at hot temperatures instead of cold and why there is no "100 percent foolproof method."

"Finding the hard truth about boiled eggs was a tough case to, er, crack," he writes. "I can now pretty routinely produce perfectly boiled eggs with clean-peeling shells, and you can too!"

After the requisite 15-minute ice bath, but before I put the gargantuan bowl of eggs in the fridge for an overnighter, I put aside a couple for testing purposes. I cracked them gently all over their surfaces, tapped all around, and removed the shells under a stream of cold water.

Sure enough, López-Alt's methods worked on both eggs, allowing the shells to peel off with ease. When we bit into them, the yolk was cooked just right, too. That was also the case for the remaining 40 I prepared the next morning for the oversized platter of deviled eggs for Easter brunch. Miraculously, there wasn't a dud among them.

With brunch season in full swing—another sign of the changing season—I am confident that, despite how many eggs pile up each week, I now know just what to do with them.

SIMPLE DEVILED EGGS

12 eggs
4 tablespoons mayonnaise
2 teaspoons yellow mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt
freshly ground pepper
smoked paprika, for garnish
chopped chives, for garnish (optional)

DIRECTIONS: Slice boiled eggs in half, lengthwise. Separate egg yolks and place into a bowl. Add mayo, mustard, salt and pepper to yolks and mash with a form until creamy and smooth. Using a large star tip and resealable plastic bag—or by cutting a small hole in the corner of a bag—pipe the yolk mixture back into each egg, enough to fill the yolk holes completely. Dust tops with paprika and chopped chives. Refrigerate, and serve cold.
WED., MARCH 30
WHAT’S NEXT?: In collaboration with Meals on Wheels and the March for Meals Campaign, attend “What’s Next? A Healthier You: Finding Balance with Food, Fitness and Fun” from 9am-3pm at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center, 315 Hallock St. The free event will include a panel discussion, activity demos and presentations including “Kitchen Tips for Joint Protection and Energy Conservation,” “Healthy Cooking with Common Sense,” and “Softening Life’s Stressors: Finding the Balance,” by registered dietician and nutritionist Linda Banks.
☎ 733-4030 OR WWW.NECCA.ORG

THURS., MARCH 31
INCOGNITO: Expect the unexpected at the monthly “Incognito” dinner starting at 6pm at Ciao Thyme, 207 Unity St. Entry to the six-course dinner—which aims to use as many seasonal and local ingredients as possible—is $68 per person. Reservations are a must.
☎ WWW.CIAOTHYME.COM

CHUCKANUT FUNDRAISER: Attend a fundraiser for the Chuckanut Center (formerly the Center for Local Self-Reliance) from 6-10pm at Asian Brewery, 1330 N. Forest St. Ten percent of all beer sales will be donated to the center, and there’ll be live music by the Barred Owls and the Wooly Breaches.
☎ WWW.CHUCKANUTCENTER.ORG

IN VINO VERITAS: Ryan O’Connell-Elston leads a multimedia exploration of the artistic dimensions of the Latin phrase in vino veritas (“In wine, there is truth”) from 6:30-8pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. Ryan Wildstar, instructor in the popular “Art of Wine” series, provides a complementary wine and food pairing. Entry to the 21-and-over event is $30.
☎ WWW.COMMUNITYFOOD.COOP

FARMERS MARKET OPENING: Mayor Kelli Linville will toss the traditional cabbage to open the 24th season of the Bellingham Farmers Market at 10am Sat., April 2 at the Depot Market Square

SUN., APRIL 3
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: Meet and greet local politicians as they serve you coffee and made-from-scratch pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs and more at the monthly Community Breakfast taking place from 8am-10pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. Entry is $2 for kids, $5 for adults.
☎ (360) 961-9584

MON., APRIL 5
MUSHROOM PRIMER: Northwest Mushrooms Association member Jack Waytz leads an “Edible Mushrooms of Northwest Washington, and Poisonous Lookalikes” presentation from 6-8pm at the Ferndale Library, 2125 Main St. Entry to would-be foragers is free.
☎ (360) 384-3647 OR WWW.WCLS.ORG

TUES., APRIL 5
HAWAIIAN COMFORT FOOD: Beef teriyaki burgers, chicken long rice and octopus salad will be on the menu when Robert Fong leads a “Hawaiian Comfort Food” course from 6:30-9pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. Entry is $49 and includes a glass of wine or a nonalcoholic beverage.
☎ WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG

THURS., APRIL 7
THE ART OF WINE: Join wine educator and artist Ryan Wildstar for a four-part “The Art of Wine: A Mediterranean Tour” course starting tonight from 6:30-8pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. This multi-media Mediterranean tour features an in-depth exploration of the art and wine of Portugal, Greece, Corsica, and Sicily. Entry is $199 and includes wine and carefully chosen food accompaniments.
☎ WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.COM

WINE DINNER: Attend a Wine Pairing Dinner starting at 5pm at Hotel Bellwether’s Lighthouse Bar & Grill, One Bellwether Way. Tickets are $85 and include appetizers, four courses prepared by Chef Grogan, a selection of paired wines from Woodinville’s Willamette Winery, and dessert. Entry is $85. Please reserve a space in advance.
☎ (360) 392-3183 OR WWW.HOTELBELLWETHER.COM
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