This Week
A glance at this week's happenings

WEDNESDAY [04.26.17]

MUSIC
Kevin Woods Quintet: 7pm, Whatcom Jazz Music Art Center

GET OUT
Tulip Festival: Through Sunday, throughout the Skagit Valley

FOOD
Bellingham Beer Week: Through Saturday, throughout Bellingham

THURSDAY [04.27.17]

ONSTAGE
Twelfth Night: 7pm, Sehome Little Theatre
Good Bad Ugly: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
Reinemer Brothers Improv: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

DANCE
Folk Dance: 7-9:30pm, Fairhaven Library

MUSIC
Ensembule: 4pm, Bellingham Public Library
FAME Concert: 7:30pm, Lairmont Manor
Celtic Fiddle Festival: 7pm, Littlefield Celtic Center, Mount Vernon

COMMUNITY
Law Day: 10am-4:30pm, Skagit Transit Center, Mount Vernon
Movie Trivia: 7-9pm, Bayou Annex Bar

GET OUT
Service Party and Gear Swap: 3-6:30pm, Squalicum Creek Park
Plant Sale: 9am-4pm, Bellingham Senior Activity Center

VISUAL
Open House: 3-7pm, Uptown Art

FRIDAY [04.28.17]

ONSTAGE
Aristokittens: 6pm, BAAY Theatre
Twelfth Night: 7pm, Sehome Little Theatre
Mia Solo Festival: 7:30pm, Sylvia Center
Improvized Baywatch: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
Pirates: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

MUSIC
Skagit Valley Chorale: 7:30pm, McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon
Skagit Community Band: 7:30pm, Maple Hall, La Conner

WORDS
Spring Book Sale: 10am-5pm, Deming Library
Mark Leirin-Young: 7pm, Village Books

GET OUT
Wild Things: 9:30-11am, Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
Sin & Gin Tour: 4pm, downtown Bellingham

Portland-based cartoonist Nicole J. Georges will be one of the 30-plus artists, authors and vendors taking part in the WWU Queer Comics Convention Sat., April 29 at Western’s Academic West Building

VISUAL
Studio Tour: 10am-5pm, throughout Edison

TUESDAY [05.02.17]

FOOD
Dine Out for Maple Alley Inn: Throughout throughout Bellingham

Masterful string music can be heard when the trio known as Celtic Fiddle Festival performs Thurs., April 27 at Mount Vernon’s Littlefield Celtic Center

FOOD
NW Wine Encounter: Through Sunday, Semiahmoo Resort

SATURDAY [04.29.17]

ONSTAGE
Aristokittens: 6pm, BAAY Theatre
Twelfth Night: 7pm, Sehome Little Theatre
Mia Solo Festival: 7:30pm, Sylvia Center
Improvized Baywatch: 8pm, Upfront Theatre
Pirates: 10pm, Upfront Theatre

DANCE
Contra Dance: 7-10:30pm, Fairhaven Library
Salsa Night: 9:30pm, Cafe Rumba

MUSIC
Issaquah Singers: 10:30am-1pm, Bellingham Senior Activity Center
Giant’s Causeway: 6:30pm, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
The Sweet Goodbyes: 7pm, Center for Spiritual Living
Skagit Symphony: 7:30pm, McIntyre Hall

WORDS
Independent Book Store Day: All day, Village Books

COMMUNITY
Spring Vintage Show: 9am-4pm, Port Transit Event Center, Anacortes

GET OUT
Have a Heart Run: 8am, Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon
Garden Club Plant Sale: 9am-12pm, Bellingham Public Library
DUPI Plant Sale: 9am-2pm, United Church of Ferndale
Native Plant Sale: 10am-3pm, Fairhaven Village Green
Run for the Bees: 11am, BelleWood Acres
People’s Climate March: 11am-3pm, Maritime Heritage Park
Sin & Gin Tour: 4pm, downtown Bellingham

FOOD
Pancake Breakfast: 8-10:30am, Lynden Community Center
Bellingham Farmers Market: 10am-3pm, Depot Market Square
April Brews Day: 6:30-10pm, Depot Market Square

VISUAL
Queer Con: 10am-5pm, Academic West, WWU
Community Art Museum Day: 12-4pm, Whatcom Museum’s Lightcatcher Building
Artist Talk: 4pm, Smith & Vallee Gallery, Edison

SUNDAY [04.30.17]

ONSTAGE
Help! I’m American!: 8pm, Upfront Theatre

MUSIC
Skagit Valley Chorale: 2pm, McIntyre Hall
Mockingbird: 2pm, North Fork Library, Maple Falls
Skagit Community Band: 3pm, Brodniak Hall, Anacortes
Art of Jazz: 4-6:30pm, BAAY Theatre

VISUAL
Studio Tour: 10am-5pm, throughout Edison

TUESDAY [05.02.17]

FOOD
Dine Out for Maple Alley Inn: Throughout throughout Bellingham

Masterful string music can be heard when the trio known as Celtic Fiddle Festival performs Thurs., April 27 at Mount Vernon’s Littlefield Celtic Center
MAY 13 & 14
NOON - 6pm
MOTHER'S DAY GIVEAWAY
Join us to play
Got A Brand New Bag!
a DESIGNER HANDBAG
GIRLS WEEKEND
Package Includes:
One night in Suite,
$100 Dining & $50 Slot play
WIN UP TO $1,000
IN SLOT PLAY

PLAY AND WIN
A DESIGNER HANDBAG
WIN UP TO $1,000
IN SLOT PLAY
GIRLS WEEKEND
Package Includes:
ONE NIGHT IN SUITE
$100 DINING & $50 SLOT PLAY

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Erin Moran was only 12 when she was cast as Joanie in Happy Days, but the freckle-faced actress made such an impression playing Richie Cunningham’s kid sister, she and fellow actor Scott Baio were later given their own show, Joanie Loves Chachi. After the show failed and Moran left Hollywood, she never held another leading role. Moran, 56, died last weekend in Indiana from complications from cancer.

In recent weeks, “Save Cherry Point Jobs” signs have sprouted over North Whatcom. From what? The only threat I am aware of is the future possibility the Intalco plant may close.

As I understand it, Intalco is operating temporarily under a four-year agreement. It’s also rumored that a Canadian firm has plans to buy the plant and export from the Intalco pier. BP has invested so much in upgrades it is unlikely they will move anytime in the next 50 years, if ever.

Phillips has a good location and no incentive to move. Intalco is the only plant with employees at risk. Their future depends on the world aluminum market and decisions by the management of Intalco, not the residents of Whatcom County.

I suspect that Pacific International Terminals may be funding the signs because we, the people of Birch Bay, have spoken to our County Council and Executive on the matter of the proposed 600-acre coal terminal and the 18 one-and-a-half-mile trains rumbling through the neighborhood night and day. Further heavy industrial development in this area has the potential to forever ruin our air, water, our quality of life.

Along Grandview and Kickerville roads there is ample room for light industrial development and likely no objection to any reasonable plan. Smart development, using our natural resources wisely, will provide good jobs and a quality environment.

Nooksack salmon are endangered, shellfish beds on both sides of Cherry Point are threatened, herring have been decimated. A major factor in locating new business to an area is quality of life and the amenities offered.

We have the best. Let us not foul it up.

—Alice Brown, Birch Bay

SUPPORT WOMEN’S HEALTH

I am a 23-year-old college graduate. Planned Parenthood has made such a positive impact on my life for multiple reasons but most importantly, when I’m not on birth control my periods make me violently ill. Growing up in relative poverty and then losing my health insurance when I turned 18, I had nowhere else to go for the birth control that ensured that I could function normally through my time of the month. Planned Parenthood has consistently provided safe and affordable healthcare for me.

Defunding Planned Parenthood would mean that I and millions of other patients like me could not access these vital health services. We have a collective right to affordable reproductive care. Many of us would have nowhere else to go for these services if Planned Parenthood were not there.

What’s more, more than half of Planned Parenthood providers are in medically underserved
areas. That’s why the claims made by some politicians that other health care providers could serve me and other patients as effectively when access to health care at Planned Parenthood is blocked is ridiculous.

It is so important to me and patients like me that our members of congress stand up for this amazing health care provider rather than attempting to defund it.

—Hannah Strelau, Bellingham

WASHINGTON STEPS UP

Last week marked a huge victory for Washingtonians, especially those of us who have a uterus! On the final day of the 2017 legislative session, the state Senate passed HB 1234, a bill requiring insurance companies to reimburse patients for up to 12 months of birth control at once. The bill garnered bipartisan support. Only one legislator voted against the bill: Sen. Mike Padden.

HB 1234 is a great representation of Washington’s values. We will join Oregon and California (in which similar bills were passed in 2015 and 2016, respectively) in enacting this progressive, commonsense law. We have a right to plan our families and our futures, and we have a right to protect our own bodies and our lives.

With consistent use, the birth control pill has a failure rate of less than 5 percent. Consistent use is difficult for low-income women and women who live in rural areas in particular, since these factors complicate getting to the pharmacy every four weeks. By passing HB 1234, our legislature (except Mike Padden), has demonstrated that we believe in making birth control accessible for women, regardless of their income or zip code.

Please call your state senators and thank them for supporting the bill. (Unless, of course, your senator happens to be Mike Padden.) Hooray for accessible contraception!

—Ali Brenes, Bellingham

SUPPORT WORKER RIGHTS

It is hard to believe, but every day 150 workers are killed by job injuries and illnesses. This year alone, 78 workers died in Washington from preventable injuries, and hundreds more from work-related diseases.

Every year on Workers Memorial Day, working people in America gather to commemorate those who have lost their lives due to workplace injuries and illnesses and to demand stronger safety protections on the job. Every year, thousands of workers continue to suffer from exposure to hazards like silica dust and other workplace toxins. These exposures are unnecessary and can be controlled with commonsense measures. But Big Business again puts profits over workers’ safety. This has to stop.

Despite this alarming reality, the Trump administration is making it easier for corporations to get away with putting workers’ lives in danger, by rolling back or blocking regulations that protect workers from serious hazards, infectious diseases and workplace violence.

It is time for lawmakers to put workers first and do more to ensure that job safety regulations are strengthened and enforced—not dismantled.

This Workers Memorial Day, April 28, Washington working families are standing up and calling on Congress to ensure safe workplaces for everyone.

—Michele Stelovich, Bellingham

GET TO WORK ON WATER

I am interested in the water issues that confront our county based on the recent Supreme Court’s Hirst decision regarding exempt wells. I’ve attended County Council meetings frequently over the years, but I don’t believe I’ve ever seen such a cranky lot as I did last week.

With few exceptions, Council members either criticized the Supreme Court’s decision or the unfairness of planning development using exempt wells. Some even directly or indirectly criticized comments made by citizens who attended the meeting.

We must put all that aside. It does not help. We have a big project in front of us: We need to figure out how to fairly and compassionately allocate water in Whatcom County, and our county leadership to move forward with confidence.

Take the long view. In 20 years, wouldn’t it be ideal if we knew a lot more about how much water we have in any given month, we had a system in place for allocating it fairly and efficiently, and we were prepared for the in-migration onslaught as climate change-caused drought spreads across the Southwest?

Accept that this will be hard to do. It’s complicated and it will be time-consuming. There are many constituencies who will feel picked on, and lots of compromises to be made. But this needs to be done, both ethically and legally and, hopefully, with great wisdom and practicality.

County leaders, you can do this. If you are confident and undaunted, you will get started instead of complaining about it all. It was not a pretty sight seeing you make them 300 words or fewer. Send to letters@cascadiaweekly.com or mail to P.O. Box 2833, Bellingham, WA 98229

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

DUI/Criminal
Personal Injury
Bankruptcy
Wills-Probate
First 100 Days
TRUMP AND THE DEGRADATION OF THE PRESIDENCY

TRUMP’S FAILURE to accomplish little or any of his agenda during his first 100 days is striking. But we should not forget the vast harm he has done in this comparatively short time—especially his degradation of the presidency.

From early in the Republic, we have looked at the office of the president as a focal point for the nation’s values. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and Teddy’s fifth cousin, Franklin, are studied by schoolchildren as both exemplars of what it means to be president and of the moral authority of the office. It is not merely what these men accomplished, but how they did it; not just their policies but their positive effects on the institutions of democratic governance.

True, many of our presidents have fallen short of those ideals. But our disappointments in them largely reflect the high expectations we have of those who hold that office.

But not until Trump has the moral authority of the office disappeared. I’m old enough to recall when John F. Kennedy invited the world’s great artists, writers and philosophers to dine at the White House. The nation felt ennobled. Donald Trump invites Sarah Palin and Ted Nugent, who once called President Obama a “mongrel,” and we feel sullied.

But it has not just been Trump’s vulgarity.

There have also been Trump’s lies—blatant, continuous and unsubstantiated even after the lack of evidence has been pointed out repeatedly. They are not just any lies, but lies that deepen Americans’ suspicion of one another and undermine our confidence in our system of government—such as his repeated contention that “three to five million” people voted illegally in the last election, or that Obama spied on him during the campaign.

We have also been confronted with Trump’s vast family business, from which he continues to benefit even though the decisions he makes in office affect what he earns, and the almost certain decisions by foreign governments to curry favor with him by bestowing benefits on his business. He shrugs off such conflicts—even refusing to release his tax returns, even inviting his daughter and son-in-law, each with their own businesses and conflicts of interest, to join him at the highest reaches of the White House.

The first 100 days has also been marked by Trump’s divisiveness—urning Americans against each other, legitimizing hateful treatment toward Mexican-Americans and Muslim-Americans, and African-Americans, fueling violence between his supporters and his opponents.

We have also seen Trump’s unnecessary cruelty—toward refugees, undocumented immigrants and the poor among us. He has issued a budget that would deeply harm the least advantaged Americans, and supported a repeal of the Affordable Care Act that would also hurt those most in need.

He has refused asylum to refugees at a time when the world faces the largest refugee crisis since World War II, and unleashed immigration enforcers on 11 million residents of the United States, many of whom have been productive members of their communities for years.

There has also been Trump’s effect on the rest of the world— legitimizing crude nationalism and hateful xenophobia. He has promoted France’s Marine Le Pen and encouraged authoritarians such as Turkey’s Tayyip Erdogan, while at the same time confusing our democratic allies and friends.

Finally, there is Donald Trump himself—who in the first 100 days as president has shown himself to be narcissistic, xenophobic, paranoid, vindictive and thin-skinned; who takes credit for the work of others and blames others for his own failings; who lashes out at the press and journalists when they criticize him; and who demonizes judges who disagree with him.

We have before had presidents such as Richard Nixon whose personality defects harmed their presidencies and tainted the office of the president. But Donald Trump is in a different league altogether. He exhibits the opposite of every civic virtue ever encouraged in our schools, town halls and churches.

The first 100 days is an artificial landmark for presidents. But it does offer an opportunity to pause and assess what they have done. Too often, though, we think in the narrow gauge of policies and legislation.

With Trump, it’s important to think more broadly. Among the most significant legacies of his first 100 days is his degrading of the moral authority of the office of the president, and, thereby, of America.
ing instrument for mental health and chemical dependency treatment services that might also fund a therapeutic court program.

The jail initiative needs to be understood in one context: The desire of the county to glom onto, and control, the last untapped portion of the public safety sales tax that was not fully grabbed in 2004.

The jail initiative needs to be understood less in its specifics—size, location, dynamics—than as the spur that compels voters to agree to fully finance the whole spectrum of county criminal and social justice initiatives.

And therein lies the problem, since the 2004 money has aero-solized into general criminal justice expenditures and the 2008 revenues have yet to demonstrate actual restorative justice.

The county’s track record, when handed cash for important defined programs, has been slow, if not terrible.

The issue of homelessness must factor huge into all its quadrants. One must wonder to what degree the sluggishness of the county in developing mental health services, in triage facilities, in drug and alcohol counseling, in therapeutic courts, in diversions to incarceration and other lapses and delays has fed directly into the homelessness crisis of the current hour. How big, in other words, would Bellingham’s problem be if the county, into which the city is already paying social service revenues, was more brisk in its solutions? Corollary, how big must the jail be if these solutions were speedily underway?

The gathering storm does raise profound questions that, if the problems ancillary to jail were properly addressed, feed into all those adjectives about the size, location, placement, cost and urgency of the jail.

Give us the money, the county argues, and the problems will be addressed. The argument takes on a form of extortion.

Earlier this month—this month!—the county finally got its data to the Vera Institute, a consulting group focused on the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, racial disparities, and the loss of public trust in law enforcement, to the unmet needs of the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those harmed by crime and violence. That seems like the start of a conversation on those topics, not the canard that “experts were consulted” as gilded fig leaf to paper over a predetermined jail initiative.

An initiative to replace an overcrowded jail is ripe unto rotten; still not ripe in terms of its fitness for public consumption.

Fridays are fun days this spring at Northwood! Start off with our amazing Seafood and Prime Rib Buffet for only $19.95, then stick around for $500 cash drawings every 30 minutes from 6pm to 10pm! Plus, get 5X Reward Points on all your play from 6pm to closing when you play with your Winners Club card!

$500 cash drawings every 30 minutes from 6pm all the way to midnight! Simple and Super! Winners Club Members get a free entry each week.
DOWN ON his knees planting onions, Vietnam War veteran Mike Hackett reflects on the way his vocation has changed lives.

“It’s a three-legged stool,” the college-trained agriculture specialist explains. “We grow food, we grow our community and we grow each other.”

He’s talking about Growing Veterans, an organization in its fifth year of farming and providing peer support to troubled war veterans. Members work the soil, grow and sell vegetables, and offer each other mental and emotional support. There’s impressive evidence the activities ease post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental afflictions.

A few feet down the onion row, former Army medic Scotty Irwin presses young plants into silty brown soil and offers a theory on the life-threatening depression that plagues so many veterans.

“In the military, you have a singular, specific mission,” she says. “You have constant companionship and support. Always someone looking out for you.”

They become your tribe, Hackett says. “And when you get out of the military,” Irwin says, “you’ve lost your tribe. You get this isolated, disconnected feeling of being without purpose.”

“But there’s something about growing food, being grounded here on the farm working with friends and looking out for each other, that gives you a brand new outlook. Without it we’d be sitting on a lot of couches in a lot of therapists’ offices.”

The farm currently operates with 10 employees and attracts scores of volunteer workers—some 450 per year, contributing 2,500 to 5,000 hours of work to the year’s production—about 45,000 pounds of food last year with about 11,000 pounds of that going to food banks.

It’s harder to put numbers to GV’s peer-support initiatives, the work aimed at holding off the dark and desperate thoughts of self-destruction. They do know that 54 members were trained in peer-support techniques last year, and that 1,056 people received help from the trained peer supporters. The nature of that help is sometimes hard to define.

Christine Wolf, GV’s director of peer support, says it involves active listening, exchanging real stories, making certain every member knows there’s someone to talk to confidentially, in complete trust.

A major goal, Executive Director Ken Holzemer says, is to remove the stigma of seeking help.

“For years, you were supposed to be a bad-ass when you came home from the war,” he says. “Nothing bothers you. Everybody who’s been there knows that’s not true, but the idea of asking for help is still somewhat un-American. We’re trying to make the pendulum swing the other way.”

From its beginning, Growing Veterans
has been blessed with good timing and good-hearted people who take to the idea of improving the lives of troubled veterans while advancing the cause of sustainable organic farming.

Cofounder Chris Brown, now a mental health counselor with the Veterans Administration, was a combat marine in Afghanistan, from 2009 through 2011. Forty-one members of his battalion died in battle. At least 15 took their own lives after they left the military.

One astonishing number haunts those who work in the field of suicide prevention: 22 veterans take their lives each day, based on a Department of Veteran Affairs analysis of death records from 21 states.

“Almost everyone who’s been in the military knows of someone who’s killed himself after leaving the service,” Brown says.

He was wounded in Afghanistan and suffered seriously from PTSD when he came home. His father talked him into seeking help. A counselor suggested he try growing plants to alleviate stress and depression. It helped, and Brown began thinking of ways to combine farming, counseling and peer support in a single organization.

One of Washington’s earliest and most successful organic farmers, Clayton Burrows of Growing Washington, liked Brown and his ideas, hired him and helped teach him the essentials of vegetable farming.

Brown began looking for veterans interested in farming cooperatively.

Christina Wolf called him. She was not a veteran, but she was a mental health counselor working with PTSD victims and brain-injured veterans. And she had a background in organic farming.

Brown and Wolf cofounded Growing Veterans with two staff members and a handful of volunteers.

Growing Washington, Clayton Burrows’ farm in Everson, nurtured the new organization, helping to find land, pay bills and handle administrative chores. In return, GV’s food production went into GW’s Community Supported Agriculture food boxes, delivered to paying customers.

“It wasn’t profitable in the classic sense,” Burrows says, “but the payback has been tenfold.”

“There is no doubt in my mind that Growing Veterans has literally saved the lives of some veterans who were having a challenging time reintegrating back into society,” he declares.

More serendipity. Just when the organization needed to expand beyond its three-acre plot near Lynden, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran got in touch with Holzemer. Would Growing Veterans be interested in leasing 40 acres within a mile and a half of I-5 at the south end of the Skagit Valley?

Not just any 40 acres. Eyeball-washing views of rolling pastures and timbered ridges. A good house that had once been a group home for brain-injured veterans. Just right for a GV office, for meetings and retreats. A snug machine shed that now— with a wood stove and easy chairs—provides a gathering place for coffee breaks.

And a summer hoop house for producing tomatoes and other hot-weather crops. And a climate-controlled greenhouse, ideal for starting vegetable plants from seed.

Best of all, it’s on the edge of an ancient lakebed, where centuries of sediments have turned into fertile, silty loam. After decades of cattle grazing, it needs only a bit of organic phosphorous to make vegetables leap out of the ground.

This week, staff and volunteers are sprucing up the place for their pre-Mother’s Day plant sale, May 6, with a complete alphabet of the Northwest’s most popular vegetable starts.

Beginning in June, they’ll be marketing produce, along with started plants, at the VA hospital’s farmers market in Seattle, Marysville’s Saturday market and Mount Vernon’s Wednesday market. Everything they sell is certified organic, matching the criteria set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Joel Swenson, GV’s farm manager, seems never to lose his smile when he’s within touching distance of a vegetable plant. It’s literally a world away from where he was a few years ago. He was an army combat medic in Afghanistan and had a hard time becoming a civilian.

“Like a lot of my military buddies,” Swenson told Columns Magazine, at the University of Washington, “I was going through a pretty rough time, and the VA was prescribing pills and they weren’t really working.

“I started volunteering out here and just fell in love with farming. Now I’ve actually quit my last med.”

While riding herd on the veggies, Swenson is a principal participant in a Seattle University study of the combined effect of hands-in-the-dirt farming and strong group interaction. Researchers want to know why mental and emotional problems diminish when the members of Growing Veterans make friends with soil and seeds, kale and kohlrabi, and each other. They plan to publish their findings in July.

Meanwhile, without scientific proof, the warrior farmers on Starbird Road could hardly be more certain of their own recovery and what brings it about.

“In a nutshell,” Holzemer says, “bringing life out of the ground is a great antidote for having put a life into the ground.”
In a rare display of transpartisan unity, all four lower House representatives serving Whatcom and Skagit counties, Democrat and Republican alike, vote in favor of House Bill 2200, intended to protect the privacy and security of Internet users. The state bill would require broadband Internet providers to obtain opt-in consent to sell or transfer a customer’s personal information. It would also require providers to obtain permission from customers before sending or displaying advertisements to them that were selected based on the customer’s personal information, such as browsing or social media use. The bill was created in response to federal initiatives that would make private information more readily available to Internet providers.

The Week that Was

BY TIM JOHNSON

LAST WEEK’S NEWS
APRIL 18-25

04.18.17 TUESDAY

A U.S. Coast Guard crew out of Bellingham rescues two boys stranded in the San Juan Islands. The 12-year-old kayakers became stranded on Crab Island in Lopez Sound, but managed to paddle out to meet the 45-foot response boat and were safely transported to shore. The boys had been paddling together in a single kayak and had been battling the water’s current for more than an hour without progress. [USCG]

The Trump administration has lifted its hiring freeze for the federal government. But the Environmental Protection Agency remains frozen. The administration has proposed cutting the EPA’s budget by 31 percent, more than at any major federal agency, and scrapping 56 programs there, including funding for Puget Sound restoration. [KUOW]

A pair of bills unanimously pass a divided Washington Legislature to revitalize forests in the face of climate change and megafires that have killed firefighters and cost the state many millions of dollars. Funding for the bills still depends on ultimate agreement on the state budget. [NPR]

04.20.17 THURSDAY

The Trump administration approves the state’s request for a major disaster declaration for 13 counties damaged by severe winter storms that hit the state Jan. 30 through Feb. 22, including Whatcom. Preliminary damage estimates from across the state from these storms total more than $27 million. Federal Emergency Management Agency’s public assistance program provides grants of 75 percent for the eligible cost of emergency response and protective measures, debris removal and repairs to damaged infrastructure. [Governor’s Office]

04.24.17 MONDAY

The Legislature begins a 30-day special session in Olympia. Lawmakers still need to tackle the two-year state budget, which must comply with a state Supreme Court order to fully fund education. So far, there has been no progress on negotiating the overall budget; but a group of lawmakers have been meeting separately to discuss the education funding piece. [Associated Press]

04.25.17 TUESDAY

The City of Bellingham offers the Port of Bellingham $300,000 and additional marine trade investments in an effort to move forward with a proposed easy-access homeless shelter. The proposed shelter site is a city-owned property where five marine trade businesses currently operate and would need to be relocated in the next year. In exchange for the investments, the city requests that the port relinquish its option to purchase the property. In total, a decrease in rents and the new transition deal provides more than $500,000 of support to working waterfront businesses. [COB]
FUZZ BUZZ

THIS MAY BE BECOMING A HABIT
On April 14, Washington State Patrol troopers arrested a man for driving while under the influence of alcohol—for the 11th time. Trooper Cadet Washington and Trooper Black were on an exit ramp on Interstate-5 investigating a report of smoke in the area when a green sedan pulled behind them on the shoulder. The driver stepped out and was contacted by Trooper Black. “Due to several indicators of impairment, including field sobriety tests, the individual was placed under arrest for DUI,” WSP reported. A subsequent check revealed the 59-year-old man was a resident of Renton. A further review of his record indicated he had 10 prior DUIS, two of which met the criteria for felony DUI. He also had a requirement of an ignition interlock device that was not present in the vehicle he was driving.

CONNIPTIONS OVER PRESCRIPTIONS
On April 18, Blaine Police were dispatched to the international border for a report of a woman in possession of 50-plus narcotic drugs in two small baggies. “An officer arrived at the Peace Arch and contacted the suspect,” police reported. “She produced a valid prescription for the medicine and was warned about having medications in their non-prescription containers.”

On April 15, Blaine Police were dispatched to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at the Peace Arch POE for an individual in possession of a prescription drug in excess of what the prescription indicated. “The investigation determined that the Nevada resident had combined the remains of two other bottles for the same prescription,” police reported. “Officers provided the individual with his legal permissible amount and the remaining tablets were destroyed.”

SOUTH OF NO NORTH
On April 14, the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office requested assistance from Blaine Police with a suspicious person. “A resident in the area reported that a ‘scuffy’ looking male had knocked on her door asking for help with his vehicle that was stuck,” police reported. “The man left when the woman declined to assist him. Blaine officers, with the assistance of US Border Patrol Agents, located the vehicle abandoned on a dead-end property just south of the resident’s home. Officers canvassed the area, but they were unable to locate the occupant(s) of the Oregon-plated vehicle.”

INSECURE SECURITY
On April 17, Blaine Police reported officers are investigating a string of burglaries at a local storage facility which are believed to have occurred over several weeks. “At this time, over 35 potential burglary victims have been identified,” police noted. “Efforts are being made to contact the renters of numerous storage units to notify them of the crime and to collect descriptions of missing property.”

SÉANCE ABEYANCE
On April 16, a woman called Bellingham Police to report ghosts are disturbing her.

LIQUOR AND LATHER
On April 19, Bellingham Police logged an attempted theft from a Fairhaven convenience store of booze and shampoo.

On March 30, a man reportedly stole $3,200 worth of high-end booze from a grocery store at Sunset Square.

CRAMPING THE CAMPING
On April 13, Bellingham Police spoke to a man who is new to town from Montana. “He set up a camp at the bottom of the Whatcom Falls staircase,” police reported. “He was advised that camping in city parks is not allowed. He agreed to pack up and move along.”

On April 15, Bellingham Police spoke to four people who were sleeping in a covered parking garage downtown.

On April 13, Bellingham Police spoke to someone who was preparing to camp in City Hall after it closed. Police asked him to leave.

THE CONTINUING CRISIS
On April 9, Blaine patrol officers noticed a 2-year-old child wandering without a parent. “Officers stopped to check the welfare of the child and determine the location of the parents,” police reported. “Officers located the worried parents and determined the older sister had engineered the great escape and the 2-year-old followed. All children were found to be safe and the parents determined to prevent future breakouts.”

On April 5, a woman got out of her car in Blaine and when she the door, other doors on the car automatically locked. “Her two young children and her keys were still inside the vehicle,” police reported. “An officer was able to unlock the vehicle. The mother was extremely happy to have her children safely back in her arms.”

Days in office, with the lowest approval ratings of any president in polls since they began measuring this in 1945.

Percent of Americans who think the president is untrustworthy. Fifty-six percent believe Trump lacks empathy. Fifty-nine percent believe Trump lacks the temperament or personality to succeed as president.

Percent of Americans who are “uneasy” about Trump’s ability to deal appropriately with North Korea.

Percentage of Trump voters who supported him in November who say they would do so again today.

Percent of Americans who say they are “uneasy” about Trump’s judgment is poor.

Percent of Americans who say they are “uneasy” about Trump’s ability to deal appropriately with North Korea.

Percent of Americans who believe Trump should try to make Affordable Care Act fail. Seventy-nine percent believe he should try to make the health-care law work. Sixty-one percent believe the current law should be kept and improved, versus 37 percent who support repeal of the law.

SOURCES: ABC News/Washington Post poll; CBS News poll
YIMBY
PUTTING THE ‘HAPPY’ IN HAPPY VALLEY

THE ISSUES of housing affordability, of infill, of neighborhood character are frequently in collision. Acknowledged successes to bring these public goals into harmony are few, and can be slow and difficult to achieve. And one reason may be that efforts to approach these convergent public goals are seldom welcomed. They’re resisted. We term it NIMBY, Not in My Backyard. And even that term draws groans of annoyance as we reduce complex concerns to terms of derision.

But what if we embraced the problem? What if, going in, we addressed the issues with better design and a greater sense of neighborhood, happy instead of annoyed?

The Happy Valley Neighborhood Association decided to work on solutions to its housing problem and volunteered to be a pilot project for detached accessory dwelling units that will presentations, roundtable discussions and a trip through neighborhoods where the group will examine alternative types of infill (such as single-family homes, cottages, tiny homes, cohousing, etc.). A highlight of the day will be presentations from Bill Kreager, the architect behind “Honey I Shrunk the Lots!,” the initiative that touched off the conversation about infill and unique housing forms in Whatcom and Skagit counties in the past decade.

His passion for affordable and workforce housing is reflected in the successful completion of communities for housing authorities, nonprofit and for-profit developers across the nation.

“Let’s work together to find solutions that do work for each neighborhood and create a model with great alternatives for housing a diverse set of demographics and people,” residential designer Shannon Maris recently wrote in Whatcom Watch. “Bellingham is a great place to live—let’s keep it that way (or make it even better!) and find ways to share that with others within our present boundaries. It might not be easy, but it will be worth it.”

ATTEND
WHAT: YIMBY: Yes in My Backyard!
WHEN: 9am Sat., Apr. 29
WHERE: Firehouse PAC, 1314 Harris Ave.
COST: Free
INFO: www.sustainableconnections.org

WORDS
COMMUNITY >> LECTURES >> BOOKS

THURS., APRIL 27
SKAGIT WRITERS: “My Worst Job and Other True (or False) Confessions” will be the topic of Skagit Valley Writers League workshop with Carolyn Wright from 1-3pm at the Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave. Please register in advance for the free event.
WWW.SKAGITWRITERS.ORG

VIKING ECONOMICS: Author and social change activist George Lakey shares ideas from his book Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right—and We Can Too at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St. Lakey, 79, recently retired from Swarthmore College.
WWW.VILLAGEBOOKS.COM

FRI., APRIL 28
A WHALE’S TALE: As part of the “Nature of Writing” series, journalist, filmmaker, playwright, and author Mark Leiren-Young shares the fascinating and heartbreaking account of Moby Doll—the first publicly exhibited captive killer whale—through rare film footage and stories from The Killer Whale Who Changed the World at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.
WWW.VILLAGEBOOKS.COM

APRIL 28-29
BOOK SALE: Browse a wide selection of great reads and find something sweet to eat at a Spring Book and Bake Sale happening from 10am-4pm Friday and Saturday, and again May 6, at the Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Hwy.
(360) 592-2422

SAT., APRIL 29
INDIE BOOKSTORE DAY: As part of the nationwide Independent Bookstore Day, be the first in line starting at 9am Village Books stores in Bellingham (1200 11th St.) and Lynden (430 Front St.) for exclusive, limited-edition items. Treats, prizes, games and giveaways will happen throughout the day. At 4pm, lauded author Tom Robbins will read an essay at the Bellingham locale about why Village Books is his favorite indie bookstore to browse, read and shop. Entry is free.
WWW.VILLAGEBOOKS.COM

SUN., APRIL 30
LATINO CELEBRATION: Attend “El día de los niños/El día de los libros” (Children’s Day/Book Day) from 1-5pm at the Lynden Library, 216 4th St. The annual celebration of children, books and the Latino community will feature food, entertainment, crafts and free books for kids.
(360) 354-4883

TANKA POETRY: Poet, essayist and Zen Buddhist priest Norman Fisher reads from his new poetry collection, Any Would Be 2f. Tanko, at 4pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.
WWW.VILLAGEBOOKS.COM

MON., MAY 1
POETRYNIGHT: Those looking to share their creative verse as part of Poetrynight can sign up at 7-9pm at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave. Readings start at 8pm. Entry is by donation.
WWW.POETRYNIGHT.ORG

POETRY WORKSHOP: Current Washington State Poet Laureate Tod Marshall leads a Poetry Writing Workshop for those 13 and older from 6-7:30pm in the resources room...
at the Mount Vernon City Library, 315 Snoquimalie St. Entry is free and open to the public, and no registration is required.  
www.mountvernonwa.gov

MAY 1-7
CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK: As part of Children’s Book Week, attend readings and events from May 1-7 at Village Books stores in Bellingham (1200 11th St.) and Lynden (430 Front St.). Village Books donates 10 percent of all kids’ book purchases made during Children’s Book Week to the children’s departments of the city and county libraries, so stock up on reading material. www.VillageBooks.com

WED., MAY 3
BOOKS AND TEA: Join in to talk about cozy mysteries surrounding gardens, bees and honey from 2-3:30pm for “Afternoon Books and Tea” and 7-8:30pm for “Evening Books and Tea” at the Lynden Library, 216 4th St. Bring your favorite tea cup and share a dessert from your book if you would like. www.WCLS.ORG

CHINESE INVENTIONS: Lecturer and author Peter Gray presents an enlightening look at ancient Chinese mariners, as well as some inventions that have come from China at an “Ancient Chinese Mariners and Inventions” presentation from 6:30-8pm at the Blaine Library, 610 3rd St. (360) 305-3637

COMMUNITY
WED., APRIL 26
RADIO TRIVIA NIGHT: Attend a Radio Trivia Night hosted by KMRE Spark Radio at 7pm at Goat Mountain Pizza, 211 W. Holly St. Test your wits on diverse subjects such as electricity, classic radio and modern millieu at the pub-style trivia contest. Entry is $5. Riley Sweeney will host. www.KMRE.org

THURS., APRIL 27
LAW DAY: Free legal advice and consultation regarding everything from bankruptcy to divorce to debt collection, immigration, criminal law, adoption, child custody and much more will be part of “Law Day” from 10am-4:30pm at Mount Vernon’s Skagit Transit Center, 105 E. Kincaid St. Spanish interpreters will be available, and there will also be a divorce seminar. (360) 416-7585

MOVIE TRIVIA: Test your cinematic knowledge with the monthly installment of Movie Trivia from 7-9pm at the Bayou Annex Bar, 1300 Bay St. It’s free to play, and there will be many prizes and raffles in between rounds. www.FACEBOOK.COM/BAYOOUNBAY

FRI., APRIL 28
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY: Join workers, labor and faith leaders, and community members to commemorate Washington workers who lost their lives on the job at a Remembrance Cerem-
ony at 12pm on the lawn at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave. The guest speaker will be Lynn Odson of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Ending the remembrance cere-
mony will be a reading of workers’ names who lost their lives in 2016. This year is particularly daunting as the Trump administration attempts to roll back or block regulations that protect workers from serious hazards and to slash the job-safety budget. (425) 851-6522

APRIL 28-29
STUDENT VETERAN CONFERENCE: Student veterans from throughout the West Coast will gather for the Western Regional Student Veteran Conference from 8am-8pm Friday and 8am-12pm Saturday at Settlemyer Hall at Bellingham Technical College. The conference is an opportunity for student veterans from all over the region to come together to create a stronger veteran community and discuss issues that affect their college campuses. The conference is open to all student veterans as well as college advisors. Registration costs $25. wwwREGIONALSTUDENTVETERANSUMMITEVENTBRITE.COM

SAT., APRIL 29
VINTAGE MARKET: Sassy Frass Company hosts an “April in Paris” Spring Vintage Show from 9am-4pm in Anacortes at the Port Transit Event Center, 100 Commercial Ave. All vendors will be fully stocked with home decor, garden goodies, antiques, repurposed and upcycled items ready to find a new home. Entry is $17 ($5 if you bring two cans of food for donation). For $20, sign up for a “Evening in Paris” event from 6-9pm Friday (includes beverages and treats). www.ANACORTESVINTAGEMARKET.COM

CRUSH CANCER: The inaugural “Crush Cancer” Silent Auction & Dance Fundraiser takes place from 6-10pm at Hampton Inn’s Fox Hall, 3985 Bennett Dr. Live music by Midnight Legend, a silent auction, light appetizers and other surprises will be part of the fun. Entry is $10-$15; proceeds from the event will go to the Relay for Life of Whatcom County in support of the American Cancer Society. www.JONESJONES.com

SUN., APRIL 30
TIRE RECYCLING: Households can recycle up to 15 auto or small truck tires from 9am-4pm today and again May 7 at the Birch Bay-Lynden Box Facility & Recycling Center, 4297 Birch Bay-Lynden Rd. Please bring proof of Whatcom County residency; no commercial, business, semi-truck or tractor tires will be allowed. (360) 736-6035

TUES., MAY 2
AUTOMOTIVE CAREERS: Community members interested in training for a career in the automotive industry can learn more about Bellingham Technical College’s automotive programs at a Transportation Information Session happening from 5:30-7:30pm at the school’s Settlemyer Hall, 3028 Lindbergh Ave. The free event will feature speakers, tours and an opportunity to talk with faculty. Please sign up in advance. www.BTC.EDU/AUTOINFOSESSIONS

WED., MAY 3
COMMUNITY MEMORY: Steve Jordan shares stories of his family’s experience with the early railroad, along with fascinating historical facts regarding surveying and growth of the community, at a Sumas Community Memory Talk at 7pm at the Sumas Library, 451 2nd St. (360) 948-2501

FRI., MAY 5
PAD PARTY: Donate feminine hygiene products to be donated to WVSAS and the Lighthouse Mission at a “Pad Party” taking place from 6-8pm at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott, 4040 Northwest Ave. Food and drinks will be provided. www.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS

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Mastering the Law of Attitudes
Spiritual Workshop - explore working with your creative imagination as you refine your attention to more fully embrace the gifts Spirit offers.
Saturday, May 20 * 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Spiritual Wisdom Discussions
Inner Guidance, Karma and Reincarnation, Relationships, Conquering Fear, Dreams, Solving Problems, Life After Death, Health and Healing, Prayer, Meditation and Contemplation
Saturday, May 20 * 2:00 pm to 1:30 pm

B-BOARD
Dig In
THE DIRT ON LOCAL PLANT SALES

THANKS TO the many machinations of my common-law landscaper, I’m now in possession of three brand-new raised beds and a wealth of additional garden space. In the nick of time, Whatcom County’s glut of plant sales begin this weekend, ensuring that my plots—and yours, if you’re so inclined—won’t stand empty for long.

In fact, from 9am-4pm on Thurs., April 27 the annual BSAC Plant Sale will fill the Bellingham Senior Activity Center (315 Halleck St.) with selections from local nurseries, house plants, garden decor and tools, and homegrown plants from resident gardeners. If the weekend’s too long to wait to get your hands dirty, then come on down. Info: (360) 778-7000 or www.wnpskoma.org

Skip ahead a couple of weeks, and it’ll be temperate enough to insert warm-weather starts directly into the ground. If growing tomatoes is as important to you as it is to me, you won’t want to miss the 26th annual Whatcom County Master Gardener Plant Sale occurring from 9am-2pm Sat., May 13 at Ferndale’s Hovander Homestead Park. In addition to the 20 varieties of tomatoes available that are cultivated specifically with the Pacific Northwest climate in mind, the splashing event also features specialty perennials, herbs, shade plants, natives, dahlias and more. And since they’re grown by master gardeners, the quality is high, and the price is low. Hint: If you’re planning on purchasing plenty, bring along your own wheelbarrow or wagon for smoother sailing—and come early, as the event is a popular one. Info: www.whatcomcd.org

From 9am-4pm the following Saturday (May 20), the Cascade Cuts Plant Sale sees the wholesale nursery at 632 Montgomery Road opening its greenhouse doors to the public for one day only. Not only will gardeners and landscapers find a plethora of perennials, annuals, veggie starts, herbs, hanging baskets and “intriguing oddities” such as compost tea machines, but they’ll also be contributing to Sustainable Connections’ Food & Farming Program—which includes the farmer training program Food to Bank On, the Whatcom County Farm Tour, and more. “It’s a win-win for the community and our local farmers,” program manager Sara Southerland says. Indeed. Info: www.sustainableconnections.org

From there, head to the Komo Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society’s and Bellingham Parks and Rec’s popular Backyard Habitat and Native Flora Fair happening from 10am-3pm at the Fairhaven Village Green (1207 10th St.). In addition to providing plenty of green things for community members to purchase, the event is also a way for both new and seasoned gardeners to learn more about the importance of native plants. Experts will be on hand to answer questions, and additional activities include plant walks, activities for kids, the making of nesting boxes, and details about how to certify your yard, business landscaping or school as a wildlife-friendly habitat. Info: (360) 778-7000 or www.wnpskoma.org

WALK FOR A PAWS: As part of Bellingham Beer Week, take part in “Walk for a Paws” starting at 5pm at the beer garden at Boundary Bay Brewery, 1107 Railroad Ave. Humans will get a complimentary root beer and celebrate Boundary’s new dog-friendly beer garden before setting out at 5:30pm to take a scenic walk with your dog (or cat) along Boulevard Park to Fairhaven’s new Paws for a Beer. Upon arrival, pets will receive a Paws for a Beer swag bag, and humans can choose to enjoy beverages and food truck fare. Entry is $10. Info: www.bellinghambeerweek.com

WILD THINGS: Kids, adults and adventurers can join Holly Roger of Wild Whatcom for a “Wild Things” Community Program from 9:30-11am at the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve. Suggested donation is $5. Info: www.wildwhatcom.org

Valley Tulip Festival takes place throughout April 26-30. The flower-focused Skagit Valley Tulip Festival takes place throughout Sunday at a variety of outdoor and indoor venues—from Mount Vernon to Edison to La Conner, Anacortes, and beyond. In addition to being able to explore fields of tulips, there’ll be arts events, live music, a quilt walk and more. Head to the website to check out the full roster of events. Info: www.tulipfestival.org

All levels of experience are welcome at a weekly Group Run beginning at 6pm in Mount Vernon at the Skagit Running Company, 702 First St. The 3- to 6-mile run is great for beginners or for others wanting an easy recovery. Entry is free and no registration is required. Info: www.skagitrunners.org
ART IN THE GARDEN: Container garden artist Nancy Elvebak will show off her gallery of planted containers made of stone and repurposed material, as well as Italian pottery, at “Art in the Garden” from 9am-6pm at the Garden Spot Nursery, 900 Alabama St. Containers selected for this event will be designed with plants for shade, for hot sun and for patio privacy.

RUN FOR THE BEES: The third annual “Run for the Bees” 5K takes place from 11am-3pm at BelleWood Acres, 6140 Guide Meridian. In addition to running through a blooming orchard, attendees can learn about bees, experience a working farm and help support WSU bee research. Live music, snacks and drinks will be part of the fun. Entry is $12 for kids, $24 for adults or $40 per family. Please register in advance.

CLIMATE MARCH: Attend the People’s Climate March from 11am-3:30pm starting at Maritime Heritage Park, 500 W. Holly St. The event co-hosted by Community2Community, Bellingham NoDAPL Coalition, Bellingham Racial Justice Coalition, and 350Bellingham will feature tabling, a noontime rally with speakers and a 12:30pm march to Boulevard Park, where kayaktivists and tribal canoes can join the final leg. Stick around at Boulevard Park for a picnic and to listen to speakers talk about the next steps for climate justice.

LANDSCAPE STAGING: Accredited staging professional Karri Street will lead a presentation focused on “Landscape Staging for Selling or Living” at 11am at the Ferndale Library, 2125 Main St. The free event will teach you how to boost your curb appeal and enhance your backyard’s beauty to add value to your property through “staging” your outdoor spaces.

SKAGIT TOPIC: “Blast Open the Pass: Tales of the North Cascades” will be the focus of a “Skagit Topic” presentation from 2-4pm in La Conner at the Skagit County Historical Museum, 501 S. 4th St. At the event, Randy Rankin will share his firsthand experiences logging and working in what is now North Cascades National Park.

APRIL 29-30

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS: Become a citizen scientist by joining the North Sound Stewards for a free beach survey training from 12-4:30pm Saturday at the Heron Center at Birch Bay State Park. From 12-4:30pm Sunday, training will happening at the Interpretive Center at the Padilla Bay Reserve. At both events, attendees can learn how to help protect our marine species and habitats. Please register in advance.

SUN., APRIL 30

RABBIT RIDE: Join members of the Mount Baker Bicycle Club for a “Rabbit Ride” starting at 8am every Sunday at Fairhaven Bicycle, 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.

MON., MAY 1

DAHLIA 101: The Whatcom Dahlia Society will host a free “Dahlia Planting 101” presentation from 7-9pm at Laurel Community Grange, 6174 Guide Meridian Rd. Refreshments will be provided.

TUES., MAY 2

ALL-PACES RUN: Staff 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.

WED., MAY 3

GARDEN CLUB MEETING: Gwen Odermatt of Langley’s Petals and Butterflies Garden will present “Treasures of the Shade Garden” at Birchwood Garden Club’s monthly meeting from 7-9pm at Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall, 222 Prospect St. Entry is free, and membership is open to gardeners in Whatcom and Skagit counties.
Access Bellingham

AS SEEN ON TV

AT 6PM every Sunday night, television viewers can tune in to Comcast Channel 10 or watch online as their friends and neighbors fill the screen as part of Access Bellingham. For the past two years, Eero Johnson of EJ Visuals has been helping bring people’s visions to life—whether it’s a sketch comedy show, a cooking how-to, live performances, documentaries or a dancing hamster.

Cascadia Weekly: How did you get involved with Access Bellingham?
Eero Johnson: I’ve been producing videos for years and I’ve been a fan of public access since I was a kid in Seattle. So when I was asked to teach classes and organize equipment for Access Bellingham, I jumped at the chance.

CW: Community members from all walks of life are producing television shows for Access Bellingham. What aspect of filming are they responsible for?
EJ: Participants are responsible for everything. That’s the model of public access, it belongs to us as the public. So we as a community are responsible for creating the station and making programs. And individual producers have full editorial control.

On any given night, you might walk in to find a retired business owner and a wacky artist working together on a project. Or a war veteran and a high school student. It’s really fun to see what comes out of that mix.

CW: What are the guidelines?
EJ: Public Access is non-commercial programming, so you can’t sell things or ask for donations. You also can’t break the law; for example, you can’t use copyrighted music. Other than that it’s pretty open. Also, you have to be a Bellingham resident since the program is funded by the City.

CW: What’s exciting about helping share these programs with the community?
EJ: I love turning on the television on Sunday night and seeing people I know, and seeing shows friends have produced. You’re going to find a lot higher production values on Netflix, but you’re not going to find a documentary about the Community Boating Center, or watch your neighbor singing on stage at the idiom.

CW: What’s involved in the upcoming Camera Certification class?
EJ: It’s a chance to learn about public access and the cameras and gear we have available. After someone completes the certification classes, we continue to meet every Tuesday night for special workshops or to produce shows.

CW: How else can people get involved?
EJ: Anyone can contribute a program. You don’t need to take the classes. Just make a video, put it on a thumb drive or data DVD and drop it off at City Hall. Then turn on your TV on Sunday night.

CW: How is the training or the use of camera and editing equipment free?
EJ: I think offering the training and the video gear for free is just another way the City of Bellingham is working to give as many people the chance to be involved as possible.

CW: What are your most memorable programs?
EJ: I like the shows that connect us with other local groups. I love the shows David Huss and his team are filming at the idiom Theater. I enjoyed working with our local horror film crew to produce the first episode of Bleedingham TV. Kate Nichols and Carol Baker just worked with Stand.earth to film musicians and poets supporting the Salish Sea.

If I had to pick one moment, it was when I first saw the dancing hamster in the first episode of Bleedingham TV. Kate Nichols and Carol Baker just worked with Stand.earth to film musicians and poets supporting the Salish Sea. That was a moment that captures what I love about public access—that you just never know what you’re going to get.
at 8pm at the Upright Theatre, 1208 Bay St. Topics in the “only slightly political” show will include love, the sinking of the Titanic, and musings about moving to Canada. Tickets are $12.

MON., MAY 1
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. Each week, the event features approximately 20 standup comedians who each do a four-minute set.

www.acoustictavern.com

DANCE
THURS., APRIL 27
PARKINSON’S DANCE CLASS: Pam Kuntz leads a dance class for people with Parkinson’s disease and other movement or neurological disorders at 10am at Ballet Bellingham, 1406 Fraser St., suite #103. Entry is free. No registration is necessary; just show up ready to dance. The class continues Thursdays through June 1.

(360) 530-4711

FOLK DANCE: The Balkan Folk Dancers meet from 7-9:30pm most Thursdays at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. Dances are taught, and mentoring is available. Suggested donation is $6.

(360) 380-0450

SAT., APRIL 29
CONTRA DANCE: Heliotrope will provide live tunes and Bellingham’s Abigail Hobart will do the calling at the Bellingham Country Dance Society’s Contra Dance taking place from 7-10:30pm at the Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St. Suggested donation is $6 for students, $8-$10 general.

www.bellinghamcountrydance.org

SALSA NIGHT: Join DJ Antonio Diaz as he mixes a fabulous combination of the best Latin rhythms at Rumba Northwest’s weekly “Saturday Salsa Night” taking place from 9:30pm-12am at Cafe Rumba, 1140 N. State St. Entry is $5.

www.rumbanorthwest.com

MON., MAY 1
CUBAN SALSA: Rumba Northwest hosts a “Cuban Salsa for Beginners” class at 6pm at Bell Tower Studios, 1430 N. Garden St. At 7pm, a “Cuban Salsa Advanced” class takes place. Entry to the classes is $8 for regular students, $12 for drop-ins.

www.rumbanorthwest.com

SWING DANCE: All ages and experience levels are invited to a weekly Swing Dance starting with a beginner drop-in class from 8-8:30pm at Eagles Hall, 1125 N. Forest St. From 8:30-10:30pm, everybody is invited to dance the night away. No partner is needed due to the friendly, community atmosphere swing dancing is known for. Entry is $3-$5.

www.vintagerhythmdance.com

TUES., MAY 2
SKAGIT FOLK DANCERS: Join the Skagit-Ancortes 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

MAY 4-7
DANCE IN CONCERT: View Afro-Cuban salsa by guest choreographer Antonio Diaz and new works by Western Washington University faculty Nolan Bennett, Pam Kuntz, and Rick Merrill at “Dance in Concert” performances at 7:30pm Thursday through Saturday, and 2pm Sunday at the Performing Arts Center Mainstage. Tickets are $8-$16.

(360) 646-4144 or www.tickets.wwu.edu

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Border Crossing
IMAGES OF RESILIENCE

DESPITE THE fact that he’s been pushing for a viewing of Whatcom Museum’s “Images of Resilience: Chicana/o Art and its Mexican Roots,” exhibit for the past month, I had to assure my date I’d treat him to a post-tour lunch to get him out the front door last Sunday.

It turns out I shouldn’t have promised to part with my dineros quite so quickly. After we’d done our first walk-through of the thought-provoking show, my fella informed me that not only did he love everything about the exhibit—the colors, the messages and the artistry itself—but also that he’d be perfectly happy living in the gallery for a while.

I agreed. From the moment I walked into the Lightcatcher and saw Alfredo Arreguin’s “La Alameda,” I was hooked. The giant oil painting of Frida Kahlo flanked by a much-smaller Diego Rivera and a festively festooned skeleton was a riot of color. The underlapping images of flowers and butterflies could’ve made the work cacophonous, but instead had me wondering what the story was behind the subject matter.

In fact, the entire exhibit tells a tale. In exploring the development of Chicana/o art from its beginnings in Mexican art of the early 20th century, to the Chicana/o movement of the 1960s and ’70s, to its current relevance, viewers get a glimpse of how the art form has changed—and also how at least some of it has stayed the same.

For example, a missive next to a party of festive paper mache skeletons made by the late Pedro Linares—including a guitar player, two revelers and a couple of small dogs—pointed out that the artist and his family are considered national treasures in Mexico and beyond. After learning the craft from his own father and becoming known for his skills during the 1950s, Pedro passed on his talents to his sons and grandsons, who continue to create works of art for collectors, museums and more. Nearby, Leonardo Linares’ clever “Skeleton, Newspaper Boy” shows that the familial talent is intact.

At a Community Art Museum Day taking place from 12-4pm Sat., April 29 at the Lightcatcher, visitors can get more details about the Linares family, and about the long history behind the “Images of Resilience.”

In addition to celebrating the variety of identities making up our diverse community, the all-ages event will feature guided tours of the exhibit and various art projects, and provide more of a context of how artists like Diego Rivera influenced those who came after them—including contemporary artists such as Patssi Valdez, Ester Hernandez, Carmen Lomas Garza, Gronk, Enrique Chagoya, Frank Romero, and more.

“Within the context of the Chicana/o movement for social justice, artists took their place in creating images and forms of art that would help enlist others in this movement for human rights,” artist and scholar Amalia Mesa-Bains says.


But, as anyone who’s ever crossed the border to Mexico knows, the images of struggle and change are also interspersed with joy and hope—which I guess is where the “resilience” in the title comes from.

My date and I discussed the exhibit at length over a margarita and meal at Jalapenos, and we both agreed we needed to see it again before it leaves town at the end of May to further solidify our findings. Next time, he’s buying lunch.
UPCOMING EVENTS

THURS., APRIL 27
UPTOWN OPEN HOUSE: Attend an Open House from 3-7pm at Uptown Art, 800 Harris Ave., 810. The new studio—which recently left the Bellwether area to move to Fairhaven—is a "paint-and-sip" venue where people of all painting skill levels and interests are encouraged to get creative. Food, refreshments, prize drawings and more will be part of the fun.
WWW.UPTOWNART.COM/BELLINGHAM

FRI., APRIL 28
GLASSYBABY: Peruse and purchase one-of-a-kind, hand-blown glass votives and drinkers when glassybaby hosts a pop-up shop from 4-8pm at Spruce Stationary & Design, 1422 Cornwall Ave. Ten percent of the sales from the event will be donated to Whatcom Hospice Foundation.
WWW.GLASSYBABY.COM

SAT., APRIL 29
QUEER CON: Thirty-plus artists, authors and vendors from throughout the United States and Canada will share their work at today’s Queer Comics Convention taking place from 10am-5pm at the Academic West Building on Western Washington University’s campus. Panels, a costume contest and a focus on queer comics, sci-fi, fantasy and pop culture will be part of the inclusive event. Entry is $10 for students, $15 general.
WWW.WHQQUEERCON.COM

ARTIST TALK: Painters Gregg Laananen and Rob Vetter will discuss their work and their “On the Road to Heavy Mountain” exhibit at an Artist Talk at 4pm at Edison’s Smith & Vallee Gallery, 5742 Gilkey Ave. Entry is free.
WWW.SMITHANDVALLEE.COM

PAINTING PARTY: Create your own “Down by the Bay” masterpiece at a Painting Party taking place from 6:30-9pm at Stoneycreek Glassware, 4833 Gardiner’s “Low-level Trapezoids” exhibits through May 8 at the Washington State Art Center, 15806 Best Rd.

AZUSA FARM: The Skagit Art Association’s annual “Art in a Pickle Barn” exhibit shows from 10am-5pm daily through April 30 at Mount Vernon’s Azusa Farm and Gardens, 14904 State Route 20.
WWW.SKAGITART.ORG

CHRISTIANSON’S SCHOOLHOUSE: See the Stanwood-Camano Arts Guild’s 10th annual “Art at the Schoolhouse” exhibit through April 30 at Christianson’s Nursery, 15806 Best Rd.
WWW.STANWOODCAMANOARTSGS.COM

CHUCKANUT BREWERY: Paintings by John Hoyte can be viewed through April 29 at Chuckanut Brewery and Kitchen, 601 W. Holly St.
WWW.CHUCKANUTBREWERYANDKITCHEN.COM

I.E. GALLERY: View sculptor Thor Myhr’s “Cultivating Figures” and Seattle painter T. Michael Gardiner’s “Low-level Trapezoids” exhibits through April 30 at Edison’s i.e. gallery, 5800 Cains Court.
WWW.IIEGALLERY.COM

JANSEN ART CENTER: View solo exhibitions by painters Mike Bathum and Lynn Zimmerman, as well as a multi-artist “Spring Juried Exhibit,” and a “Student Show” through May 26 at Lynden’s Jansen Art Center, 321 Front St.
WWW.JANSENARTCENTER.ORG

MONA: Peruse three concurrent solo exhibitions of prominent regional female artists through June 11 at La Conner’s Museum of Northwest Art, 121 S. First St.
WWW.MONAMUSEUM.ORG

OLD WORLD DELI: Bid on the works in the Whatcom Artists of Clay and Kiln’s annual “Platter Show” through April at the Old World Deli, 1228 N. State St. On May 5, the silent auction of the platters will conclude at an “Empty Bowls” fundraiser.
WWW.WHATCOMARTISTSOFCLAYANDKILN.ORG

WESTERN GALLERY: “Thinking Through Making: 2017 Faculty Biennial” shows through May 8 at Western Washington University’s Western Gallery.
WWW.WESTERNGALLERY.WWW.EDU

WHATCOM ART MARKET: Works by more than 45 Whatcom Art Guild members can be perused and purchased from 10am-6pm Wed. Sun. at the new Whatcom Art Market, 1303 11th St.
WWW.WHATCOMARTMARKET.ORG

ONGOING EXHIBITS

ALLIED ARTS: “ReArt” shows through April at Allied Arts, 1418 Cornwall Ave.
WWW.ALLIEDARTS.ORG

ANACORTES MUSEUM: An “Antique Quilts” exhibit shown through April at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 8th St.
WWW.CITYOFANACORTES.ORG

ARTWOOD: Peruse Gary Giovane’s paintings on wood through April at Artwood Gallery, 1000 Harris Ave.
WWW.ARTOODUGALLERY.COM

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WWW.WHATCOMARTMARKET.ORG
Bellingham Arts & Music Fest

OF GENIUS AND MADNESS

EVEN THOUGH I have lived in Bellingham for more than half of my life, I continue to exist in a constant state of amazement at the things people get up to in the name of artistic expression, entertainment and community involvement.

Currently, my mind is very busy being blown by the Bellingham Arts & Music Fest (not to be confused with the Bellingham Music Film Festival or the Bellingham Festival of Music or any other of the similarly named festivals that happen here), or BAMF as it is known.

Those of you who spend less time on the internet than I do are probably blissfully unaware that BAMF is not just the innocent acronym of a first-time festival in Bellingham, but it also stands for “Bad Ass Mother Fucker.”

I can’t figure out whether I want it to be intentional or pure coincidence that the events taking place during a 24-hour period of May 6 and 7 at the Lookout Arts Quarry have been granted this particular moniker, but I’m here for it either way.

More than just a concert, BAMF is a 24-hour, wall-to-wall celebration of all things musical and artistic. Whereas most music festivals are orchestrated and organized within an inch of their lives—necessary, considering the size of both the undertaking and the expected audience—BAMF operates according to a throw-it-all-out-there-and-see-what-sticks model. That means when the first band takes the first of four stages at noon on Sat., May 6, the remaining 44 acts will make certain those stages don’t go silent until the festival ends at noon the next day.

To refresh those numbers: that’s 45 bands and other artists on four stages performing nonstop for 24 hours straight.

The last time I can recollect someone playing a concert that prolonged in these parts, it was experimental musician Zach Zinn, who performed from inside a tiny tent in the Make Shift basement—entertaining, to be sure, but not quite on the same scale as BAMF.

BY CAREY ROSS

RUMOR HAS IT

LAST WEEKEND, LOCAL musician Brad Lockhart boarded a plane to Oakland where he played a local music festival with his band Dryland. By Monday night, he was back in Bellingham, at a City Council meeting where he saw the flag he’d designed be adopted as an official city symbol.

It’s all part and parcel of the somewhat remarkable life of Lockhart, a man of many rich and varied interests. I’d like to say playing music and making flags are the sum total of his pursuits, but those things barely scratch the surface of the things Lockhart devotes his time to.

However, with the city’s stamp of approval, it seems as though the flag may be the most enduring piece of Lockhart’s still-in-progress legacy. If you’d told me a couple of years ago that the local musician would not only design a flag, but would also steep himself in the mysterious ways of flag design, become an ardent and steadfast champion of his flag, would see the community fall over heels for his design, and then would make a presentation for City Council and that they would take up the matter and make his flag legit, I would’ve told you to take your drunk ass home and sleep it off.

But these things all happened, and come June 14 (aka Flag Day), Lockhart will raise his flag at a ceremony and then all those who have complained that they don’t understand why the city needs a flag will have to live with it forever.

As for me, I’m into the flag. Lockhart, who was born and raised in Whatcom County, imbued every element of its design with symbology that has deep meaning particular to the place in which we live, and then got buyoff not just from the city, but also from the surrounding tribes before his flag got official. Good enough for me.

Maybe you don’t much care about the flag and just want to know when you can see Lockhart’s band play a show. In that case, Dryland will perform Fri., April 28 at the Shakedown with Hobosexual and Wild Powwers.

Zach Zinn, a man who will expertly mail your package, has been hard at work booking bands at the Alternative Library, and his latest efforts have resulted in a Fri., April 28 show featuring All Over Me (the band formerly known as So, with a welcome name change), SILM, Buffet, and Girl Teeth. See some bands, pick up some reading material about how to make your world a better place and support the Alternative Library, all at the same time. ☺
SKAGIT BAND: “I’ll Remember April” will be the theme of Skagit Community Band’s annual Spring Swing Concerts at 7:30 Friday in La Conner at Maple Hall, and 7pm Sunday in Anacortes at Brodick Hall. The ensemble will be joined by vocalist Lynette McCormack. Admission is by donation.

SAT., APRIL 29 ISSAQUAH SINGERS: Expect to hear joyful, uplifting and inspirational music when the Issaquah Singers perform songs like “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” and “His Eye is on the Sparrow” from 7-8:30pm at Hope in Christ Church, 710 E. Mission at a King’s Men of Song benefit concert. Expect to hear joyful, uplifting and inspirational music when the Issaquah Singers perform songs like “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” and “His Eye is on the Sparrow” from 7-8:30pm at Hope in Christ Church, 710 E. Mission at a King’s Men of Song benefit concert. Admission is by donation.

GIANT’S CAUSEWAY: The local five-piece Irish music group, Giant’s Causeway, will perform at a fundraiser for the next Bellingham Folk Festival at 6:30pm at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 119 Texas St. Entry is free.

SWEET GOODBYES: Attend an album preview and Kickstarter concert for the local harmony-based indie folk duo, the Sweet Goodbyes, from 7-9pm at Hope in Christ Church, 710 E. Mission at a King’s Men of Song benefit concert. Expect to hear joyful, uplifting and inspirational music when the Issaquah Singers perform songs like “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” and “His Eye is on the Sparrow” from 7-8:30pm at Hope in Christ Church, 710 E. Mission at a King’s Men of Song benefit concert. Admission is by donation.

SKAGIT SYMPHONY: The Skagit Symphony will close out its 37th season with a “Classics Concert” at 7:30pm at Mount Vernon’s McIntyre Hall, 2501 E. College Way. Pianist Angela Kraft Cross will join the symphony for a performance of works by Haydn, Grieg, Schubert, and more. Tickets are $20-$40.

SUN., APRIL 30 MOKINGBIRD: The longtime Pacific Northwest trio, Mockingbird, will perform at a free concert at 2pm in Maple Falls at the North Fork Library, 7506 Kendall Rd. All ages are welcome.

ART OF JAZZ: The Marina Albero Group will perform at the Jazz Project’s monthly “Art of Jazz” concert from 4-6:30pm at BAAY Theatre, 1059 N. State St. Tickets are $10 for students, $16 general. WWW.JAZZPROJECT.ORG

KING’S MEN: Help raise funds for the Lighthouse Mission at a King’s Men of Song benefit concert from 7-8:30pm at Hope in Christ Church, 710 E. Sunset Dr. In addition to listening to this talented men’s a cappella group, attendees can hear from Hans Erching-Havis, Lighthouse Mission Executive Director. Entry is by donation.

WED., MAY 3 DYNAMIC DUO: The Bellingham Music Club continues its “Dynamic Duo” series featuring powerful duos from WWU Music Department faculty when Laura and Gustavo Camacho (viola, horn) and Victor Cayres (piano) present a one-hour long concert at 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church, 119 Texas St. Entry is free.

HELSE SUN QUARTET: Lauded jazz pianist Helen Sung—a Thelonious Monk Institute graduate—will be joined by John Ellis (saxophone), Boris Kozlov (bass), and Terence Gully (drums) for a Whatcom Jazz Music Art Center concert from 7-9pm at Unity Spiritual Center, 1095 Telegraph Rd. Tickets are $5-$20.

THURS., MAY 4 NIGHT BEAT: Laura and Gustavo Camacho (violin, horn) with Victor Cayres (piano) perform Brahms’ “Horn Trio, Op. 40,” John Harbison’s “Twilight Music” and more at the Bellingham Music Club’s “Night Beat” concert series at 7:30pm at the Firehouse Performing Arts Center, 1314 Harris Ave. Tickets are $15.

WWW.BELLINGHAMMUSICCLUB.ORG
### music venues

**See below for venue addresses and phone numbers**

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<th>Event Date</th>
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<td>04.27.17</td>
<td>Boundary Bay Brewery</td>
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<td>Brown Lantern Ale House</td>
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<td>04.30.17</td>
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<td>Culture Cafe at Kombucha Town</td>
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<td>05.02.17</td>
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<td>05.02.17</td>
<td>Green Frog</td>
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<td>T Sisters, The Local Strangers</td>
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<td>Kimski, The Drs, Stereo</td>
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<td>Slow Jam (early), Malodie Ayres (late)</td>
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<td>Open Mic (early), Guffawingham (late)</td>
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**Music Venues:**

- Anelia’s Kitchen & Stage: 511 Morris St., La Conner • (360) 466-4778 | Bellewood Acres: 6140 Guide Meridian, Lynden • (360) 318-7720 | Bobby Lee’s Pub & Eatery: 108 W. Main St., Everson • 966-8838 | Boundary Bay Brewery: 1107 Railroad Ave • 647-5593 | Brown Lantern Ale House: 412 Commercial Ave., Anacortes • (360) 293-2544 | The Business: 216 Commercial Ave., Anacortes • (360) 293-9788 | Chuckanut Brewery: 601 W. Holly St. • 752-3377 | Commodore Ballroom: 886 Granville St., Vancouver • (604) 739-4500 | Conway Muse: 18444 Spruce/Main St., Conway (360) 445-3000 | Corner Pub: 14965 Allen West Road, Burlington | Culture Cafe at Kombucha Town: 2010 E. Chestnut St. • www.kombuchatown.com | Eat Restaurant & Bar: 1200 Cornwall Ave • www.4u2eat.com

### WEDNESDAY

**April 26/Commodore Ballroom**

Mount Baker Theatre invites the community to help celebrate 90 years of the beloved downtown landmark with an open house. Attendees can expect birthday cake, historical information from tour docents, two screenings of a video project about MBT’s history from local muralist Lanny Little (3pm & 4pm), and a short public presentation by local dignitaries at 4:45pm. The event is free of charge and does not require advance reservations. Join us! Afterward, stay downtown and enjoy Children’s Art Walk. Two elementary choirs will perform in MBT’s Encore Room after 6pm, and the building will remain open until 8pm.

Friday, May 5 • 3pm-5pm (tours ‘til 8pm)

Enjoy a slice of history and a slice of cake when you wish MBT a happy birthday at our free open house.

BOOK NOW: 360.255.7891 • MountBakerTheatre.com | Mount Baker Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the performing arts.
### Music Venues

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<td>H2O</td>
<td>DJ Z</td>
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<td>04.27.17</td>
<td>Honey Moon</td>
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<td>04.28.17</td>
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<td>Jesse Allen Harris</td>
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<td>04.29.17</td>
<td>Kulshan Brewing Co.</td>
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<td>05.02.17</td>
<td>Make.Shift</td>
<td>Ever Ending Kicks, Yardss, more</td>
<td>Ramona, Beverly Crusher, more</td>
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<td>Rockfish Grill</td>
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<td>Royal</td>
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<td>Party Hoos Drag Show</td>
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<td>The Shakedown</td>
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<td>No Future: '80s Night</td>
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<td>Stones Throw Brewery</td>
<td>Beer Week Block Party</td>
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<td>Swimminish Casino and Lodge</td>
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<td>The Village Inn</td>
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<td>Wild Buffalo</td>
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<td>Pass the Aux</td>
<td>Ginseng Sawka Drum Attack</td>
<td>Chapel Sound, Jouk, more</td>
<td>Devin the Dude, Knucklehead Banga, more</td>
<td>Lip Sync Battle</td>
<td>Murs, Porter Ray, DJ Boonbox Kid</td>
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- **Kickin’ A Saloon & Dance Hall**: The Lowdown Drifters
- **Kulshan Brewing Co.**: Ever Ending Kicks, Yardss, more
- **Loco Billy’s Wild Moon Saloon**: Party Hoos Drag Show
- **Main St. Bar and Grill**: JP Falcon Acoustic Showcase
- **Make.Shift**: Ever Ending Kicks, Yardss, more
- **Old World Deli**: The Yankee Drivers
- **Rockfish Grill**: Fidalgo Swing
- **Royal**: Karaoke
- **Rumors Cabaret**: Party Hoos Drag Show
- **The Shakedown**: The Obsessed, Fatso Jetson, more
- **Skagit Casino Resort**: Latigo Lace
- **Skylark’s**: Chad Petersen
- **Stones Throw Brewery**: Beer Week Block Party
- **Swillery Whiskey Bar**: Latchcheria, Curio, Fumes
- **Swimminish Casino and Lodge**: The Disco Ballz
- **The Underground**: DJ B-Mello
- **Via Cafe and Bistro**: Karaoke
- **The Village Inn**: Jam Night
- **Wild Buffalo**: '80s Night w/DJ Boonbox Kid

To get your live music listings included, send info to clubs@cascadiaweekly.com. Deadlines are always at 5pm Friday.
Their Finest

MAKING MOVIE MAGIC

NEAR THE end of the stealth charmer Their Finest, the accidental screenwriter played by Gemma Arterton slips into a movie theater among the London public during the Blitz to watch the morale-building British Ministry of Information propaganda film she has helped to shape. Director Lone Scherfig pushes every required button to evoke the style of the era in this mini-narrative recounting a Dunkirk rescue mission by patriotic civilians—the quivering lips, the plucky determination, the humble heroism and the lush swell of sorrow and stirring sentiment. But don’t be surprised if you find yourself getting misty-eyed during this lovely sequence as you surrender to every hoary cliché.

As proto-feminist protagonists go, Catrin Cole (Arterton) may be a little meek for modern tastes. But her quiet assertiveness seems truer to the period than it would have had she been given a contemporary spin and a lot of boldly declarative speeches. It also allows Arterton to explore the inner strength and resolve of this warm-hearted woman via subtle strokes that yield affecting rewards.

The performance acquires heft also from its position at the center of a sterling ensemble of British talent, from rising stars like Sam Claflin to veterans like Bill Nighy, Helen McCrory, Richard E. Grant and Jeremy Irons, the latter in a very funny self-satirizing cameo. Their Finest doesn’t match the delicacy of Danish director Scherfig’s best English-language feature, An Education. But just as that 2009 film captured Britain during the transitional time of the 1960s through the experiences of a young woman in emotional and intellectual bloom, Scherfig’s latest does something similar with the 1940s, albeit through a far softer lens of sweet nostalgia.

Adapted by Gaby Chiappe from a 2009 novel by Lissa Evans, the story is written with not only a light touch, but also a keen sense of the mood of domestic Britain in those darkest hours of 1940, when London was riddled with bombsites. That reality is reflected in the gloomy paintings of Ellis (Jack Huston), whose work is deemed too brutal and depressing for use by the War Office. Needing income, his Welsh transplant wife Catrin applies to the Ministry of Information for what she thinks is a secretarial position. But the head of the Film Division (Richard E. Grant) says her copywriting skills make her ideal to bring the women’s perspective to pictures whose mandate is “authenticity with optimism.”

Scherfig uses amusing recreations of such films early on to show how low the bar had been set, with clips of fretful housewives pegging out washing while turning to a cup of tea to calm their fears for husbands and sons off at war. Assigned to work (at a lower pay rate) with male co-writers Tom Buckley (Claflin) and Raymond Parfitt (Paul Ritter), Catrin learns that women’s dialogue in those wartime reels is referred to as “the slop.”

The real interest is in watching as the film comes together—in the screenwriters’ office, on location in Devon and later in the studio—as Catrin maneuvers to stop Rose and Lily from being sidelined by male heroics. She proves a canny negotiator also with haughty thespian Ambrose Hilliard (Nighy), the popular star of a prewar detective series now reduced to playing a supporting role he feels is beneath him. The sheer indignation on Nighy’s face as he reads the description of his character in the movie (“a shipwreck of a man; 60s, looks older”) is priceless.

Nighy’s wryly self-mocking performance puts the exploration of Ambrose’s vanity, his shaky pride and his awareness that his romantic-lead days are behind him among the movie’s most enjoyable elements. He takes career advice with weary forbearance from his Polish agent and longtime friend Sammy Smith (Eddie Marsan). But when Sammy is killed during an air raid and his sister Sophie (McCrory) takes over managing his clients, her crisp authority and wily guidance introduce a lively spark to their scenes.

Arterton brings grace and understatement to Catrin’s gradual belief in herself and in the magic of movies, while Claflin reveals maturity and dry humor that will be a surprise for audiences who know him primarily from his Hunger Games role or the weezy Me Before You.

While the strong ensemble cast is Their Finest’s most valuable asset, the movie also looks quite handsome on what appears to be a modest budget, and includes some delightful glimpses of how screen effects were achieved way back in those handcrafted days. A reveal of the visual trick behind a Dunkirk scene lands a huge laugh. The film’s score isn’t shy about pushing the sentiment, but that’s in keeping with a movie that celebrates old-fashioned screen storytelling with infectious fondness.

Reviewed by David Rooney
Cezanne et Moi

A TALE OF TWO ARTISTS

CEZANNE ET MOI is the story of the lifelong friendship between Paul Cezanne and Emile Zola; and nothing about it was easy. Zola enjoyed fairly early success as a novelist, but not until he’d spent long years almost freezing and starving to death. And Cezanne, though he had the benefit of family money for most of his life, never quite achieved the success and acknowledgment that he craved and deserved—at least not while he was breathing.

The movie begins with Cezanne paying Zola a visit in the late 1880s, when both men were almost 50. From there, we see how the two met—in school, with Cezanne rescuing Zola from a schoolyard beating. This incident shows Cezanne at his best, as fearless, spontaneous and elemental. His worst is just as dramatic. He’s vulgar, nasty, crude and resentful, with an air of violence about him; and he’s an awful dinner party guest, the kind of frustrating person who sees friendliness as dishonesty and politeness as self-betrayal.

His friendship with Zola is consistently difficult, partly because all of Cezanne’s human contacts are difficult, but also because Cezanne, despite his harshness and bluster, really cares what Zola thinks of him. Zola, by contrast, has the quiet self-possession to write off Cezanne as dishonesty and politeness as self-betrayal.

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So Cezanne et Moi presents an arresting dynamic: Two great artists in different fields, who know each other inside out, and who value each other as indispensable, and yet they clash every time they’re together. Throughout, Cezanne constantly threatens the friendship and Zola consistently reaffirms it, and yet a sense comes through in Guillaume Gallienne’s performance that Cezanne is the needier of the two, that he needs Zola more than Zola needs him.

The film benefits from standout performances from both Gallienne and Guillaume Canet, who plays Zola, but ultimately it’s Gallienne who astonishes. He brings a subtly different physicality to Cezanne at the various stages of his life, so that there’s a difference not only between 20 and 60, but also between 40 and 50. He also shows a gradual darkening of Cezanne’s spirit, as the boisterous high spirits of youth pickle into the loutishness and meanness of middle age.

Cezanne was a hard man to be friends with, and watching him over the course of Cezanne et Moi sometimes gets tiresome. It becomes monotonous watching a man make the same mistakes over and over, protecting himself when he needn’t, lashing out when he shouldn’t. But the artist’s life as presented here is interesting, and you have to admire someone who can work with the same intensity, over the course of decades, in the face of indifference and rejection.

For lovers of late 19th century French art, Cezanne et Moi has an irresistible backdrop, with appearances by Pissarro, Manet, and Renoir, as well as by the art dealer Ambroise Vollard. In one scene, a brawl breaks out in front of Manet’s “Le Déjeuner sur l’herbe,” during its first public exhibition. And throughout the film, there are countryside vistas that evoke the paintings of that era. ☺
FILM SHORTS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: This is the movie that caused people to lose their shit over its openly gay character while they simultaneously glossed over the fact that it is also a love story between a teenaged girl and the giant water buffalo who kidnaps her. Tale as old as time, indeed. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 20 min.)

BORN IN CHINA: In keeping with its tradition of re-releasing its documentaries for Earth Day, Disneynature has traveled to China and come back with stunning, intimate footage of three animal families. What I'm trying to say here is, baby pandas, baby monkeys and baby snow leopards. That's all you need to know. ★★★★★ (G • 1 hr. 19 min.)

THE BOSS BABY: This animated movie in which a business-minded infant becomes the CEO of a major corporation is obviously based on a true story because have you ever been around a baby? Those tiny tyrants are pretty much the bosses of whatever situation they're in. ★★★★★ (PG • 1 hr. 37 min.)

THE CASE FOR CHRIST: An atheist uses evidence and facts to try and prove that Christianity is a sham, only to become a true believer himself. This is obviously a true story because we all know that facts, evidence and Christianity go together like vodka, soda and the Holy Spirit. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 52 min.)

THE CIRCLE: Based on the bestseller by Dave Eggers and starring Emma Watson and Tom Hanks, this present-day piece of sci-fi social commentary deals with what happens when a social media company starts to insert itself into every aspect of daily life. Like that could ever happen. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 50 min.)

THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS: You can kill off one of this franchise's stars (RIP Paul Walker), but you cannot kill the franchise itself. I predict this installment will feature fast cars and a bunch of special effects that are only believable to anyone without a basic knowledge of physics. But it'll also be a whole bunch of high-speed fun. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 16 min.)

FREE FIRE: This ultraviolent action comedy comes with the tagline "Ali guns. No control," and yet somehow it is the story of an arms deal gone wrong and not the complete history of the United States. ★★★★ (R • 1 hr. 30 min.)

GIFTED: Chris Evans plays a man raising his niece after the death of his sister. He's just trying to give her a normal life, a thing that is complicated by the fact that she's a math prodigy with an ambitious, custody-seeking grandma who wants to milk her for her math potential. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 41 min.)

GOING IN STYLE: Zach Braff directs an old-dude buddy comedy—a sentence that makes me instinctively recoil just typing it. I'm not sure how Alan Arkin, Michael Caine, and Morgan Freeman got roped into this, but would not be surprised if Braff was holding them hostage somewhere. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 37 min.)

HOW TO BE A LATIN LOVER: Eugenio Derbez got his start at 12 years old in a telenovela and has gone on to build a media empire. Now, the hugely influential Latino star is poised for crossover success in this movie that I would only see if doing so would actually save someone's life. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 55 min.)

KONG: SKULL ISLAND: King Kong gets the origin story he didn't know he needed in this movie that should be real bad, but I must confess a soft spot for found-footage thrillers that have their origins in true events. ★★★ (PG-13 • 1 hr. 20 min.)

THE LOST CITY OF Z: Based on the true story of British explorer Percy Fawcett (Charlie Hunnam), this beautifully filmed (on actual film, no less) movie is this highly watchable movie. ★★★★★ (PG-13 • 2 hrs. 20 min.)

PHOENIX FORGOTTEN: This horror movie about the 1997 Phoenix Lights UFO sighting is probably mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for mediocre at best, but I must confess a soft spot for 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**MIND & BODY**

A NAMI Whatcom Community Education Forum on “Mindfulness” happens from 6:30-8:30pm Thurs., April 27 at the Lecture Room at the Bellingham Public Library, 201 Central Ave. This experiential program will include learning everyday practices that can readily be implemented into counseling sessions with clients as well as into therapists’ lives for more effective therapy and more peaceful living overall. Entry is free. More info: www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org

Attend “An Introduction to Labyrinth Walking” from 9am-10am Sat., April 29 at the Lynden Library, 216 4th St. Labyrinth walking guides you through a calming, meditative walk on a circular path. Personal wellness coach and labyrinth facilitator Leah Wang will briefly explore the history and various forms of the labyrinth, then let attendees experience the meditative qualities of labyrinth walking can bring. Entry is free. More info: (360) 354-4883

Learn to let go of the negative beliefs and limiting stories in your way at a “Brave and Beautiful: Retreat for Women” from 10-11am Tuesdays and 9am Saturdays in Mount Vernon at the Lynden Library, 216 4th St. There will be an open question and answer forum as well as a 30-minute walk on the meditative qualities labyrinth. Drop in anytime during the hour to receive an aura/chakra healing. Entry is $5. More info: www.simplyspiritcenter.com

Michelle Maher leads an “Essential Remedies: Pain Relief and Immunity” workshop from 6:30-8:30pm Mon., May 1 in Mount Vernon at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op, 202 S. First St. There will be an open question and discussion time, and you’ll come away with the confidence to work with essential oil remedies and get detailed notes and recipes. Entry is free; there’s an optional $10 supply fee to make and take a blend. More info: www.skagitfoodcoop.com

Learn about proactive ways to enhance memory, prevent Alzheimer’s, prevent and stabilize macular degeneration, avoid and treat cataracts, and enhance eye health when certified nutritionist Jim Elmhke leads a “Brain and Eye Health” presentation from 6:30-8:30pm Tues., May 2 at the Cordata Community Food Co-op, 315 Western Rd. Entry is $5. More info: www.communityfoodcoop.com

Women 50 and over can attend “The Magic of the Crescent” from 6:30-8:30pm Thurs., May 4 at the Lynden Library, 216 4th St. The free workshop will explore and focus on the gifts that age brings to our lives and practices and communities by expressing arts to celebrate the gifts and wisdom of our years. No artistic ability needed. More info: (360) 354-4883

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**THEIR FINEST (R) 117m **

“In its own way, an utterly sublime and sentimental look at WWII, the ways movies were made back then and the role women were to come to play in the workforce of the civilized world.” Movie Nation

Fri: (3:30), 6:15, 9:00; Sat: (12:45), 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

Sun: (11:00AM), 5:00, 7:45; Mon & Tue: (3:30), 6:15, 9:00

Wed & Thu: (12:45), (3:30), 6:15, 9:00

**TOMMY’S HONOUR (PG) 117m **

“Shot on picturesque locations, admirably well paced and emotionally centered, Tommy’s Honour rates as a delightful surprise.” Boston Herald

Fri: (3:15), 8:45; Sat: (1:00), 4:15; Sun: (2:15); Mon: 6:00; Tue: (3:45)

Wed: (12:30); Thu: (3:45)

**THE ZOOKEEPER’S WIFE (PG-13) 126m **

“A film filled with the power of exquisitely executed storytelling.”

Fri: 6:00; Sat: (3:45); Sun: 7:00; Mon: (3:15), 8:45; Tue: 8:45

Wed: (3:15); Thu: (1:00), 8:45

**KARL MARX CITY (NR) 89m **

“Q+A with Filmmakers Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker. The filmmakers travel to what was once East Germany to investigate the suicide of Epperlein’s father, who may have been a spy for the Stasi security service.”

Sat: 6:30

**A HERO OF OUR TIME (NR) 165m **

“The Bolshoi Ballet

Adapted from Mikhail Lermontov’s literary masterpiece recounting his journey and Thursdays and 9am Saturdays at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth St. More info: (360) 676-8588 or www.pugetsounduusa.org

A Grief Support Group meets at 7pm every Tuesday at the St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squillcam Pkyw. The free, drop-in support group is for those experiencing the recent death of a friend or loved one. More info: 733-5877

Come relax and meet other breastfeeding mothers in a warm, inviting and respectful environment at a Breastfeeding Cafe from 9am-12pm every Tuesday at the Bellingham Center for Healthy Motherhood, 1312 Dupont Street. Entry is free. More info: www.centerforhealthymotherhood.com

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Fri, April 28 - Thu, May 4

**THE LOST CITY OF Z (PG-13) 150m **

“An essential job of great epic cinema is to conjure the depth and context, to try and take in the beauty of the natural world while also grappling with its terrifying force. James Grey’s The Lost City of Z succeeds.” The Atlantic

Fri: (1:00), (4:15), 7:30

Sat & Sun: (1:00), 4:15, 7:30

Mon - Thu: (1:00), (4:15), 7:30

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Across
1 Alarm clock button
6 Last name of a trio of singing brothers
11 1040 preparer
14 "It is ____ told by an idiot": Macbeth
15 Dizzying images
16 Set your sights
17 Blialk of "The Big Bang Theory"
18 Highly important cloak?
20 Goes on
22 Lightning Mc-

Queen's pal
Paul
41 Business course that draws heavily on Julius Caesar?
46 "Ha! I kill me!" alien
49 Batman foe
50 Comedy style based on "yes, and"
51 Highest point
53 Show that bronies are fans of, for short
54 Bugs and Rabbits, e.g.

Down
1 Hit with force
2 Flight stat
3 Greet someone
4 "Death of a Salesman" director Kazan
5 "Forbidden" franchise brand name
6 "Einstein on the Beach," for one
7 ___-Caps (theater candy)
8 Representative Devin in 2017 news
9 Fix a friend's listing in a Facebook photo, e.g.

55 "That was ____-death experience"
56 Having sides of different lengths, as triangles go
59 Rip on one type of lettuce?
61 Samurai without a master
64 Chaney of "The Wolf Man"
65 "That ain't gonna work"
66 "Einstein on the Beach," for one
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**Free Will Astrology**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): I have misgivings when I witness bears riding bicycles or tigers dancing on their hind legs or Aries people wielding diplomatic phrases and making careful compromies at committee meetings. While I am impressed by the disciplined expression of primal power, I worry for the soul of the creature that is behaving with such civilized restraint. So here’s my advice for you in the coming weeks: Take advantage of opportunities to make deals and forge win-win situations. But also keep a part of your fiery heart untamed. Don’t let people think they’ve got you all figured out.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): “One of the advantages of being disorderly,” said author A. A. Milne, “is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.” I wouldn’t normally offer this idea as advice to a methodical dynamo like you. But my interpretation of the astrological omens compels me to override my personal theories about what you need. I must suggest that you consider experimenting with jaunty, rambunctious behavior in the coming days, even if it generates some disorder. The potential reward? Exciting discoveries, of course.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): According to my reading of the astrological omens, it’s time for you to take a break from the magic you have been weaving since your birthday in 2016. That’s why I’m suggesting that you go on a brief sabbatical. Allow your deep mind to fully integrate the lessons you’ve been learning and the transformations you have undergone over the past eleven months. In a few weeks, you’ll be ready to resume where you left off. For now, though, you require breathing room. Your spiritual batteries need time to recharge. The hard work you’ve done should be balanced by an extended regimen of relaxed playtime.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): A child of the world that is behaving with such civilized restraint. I worry for the soul of the creature that is behaving with such civilized restraint. So here’s my advice for you in the coming weeks: Take advantage of opportunities to make deals and forge win-win situations. But also keep a part of your fiery heart untamed. Don’t let people think they’ve got you all figured out.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In speaking about the arduous quest to become one’s authentic self, writer Thomas Merton used the example of poets who aspire to be original but end up being imitative. “Many poets never succeed in being themselves,” he said. “They never get around to being the particular poet they are intended to be by God. They never become the person or artist who is called for by all of the circumstances of their individual lives. They waste their years in vain efforts to be some other poet. They wear out their minds and bodies in a hopeless endeavor to have somebody else’s experiences or write somebody else’s poems.” I happen to believe that this is a problem for non-poets, as well. Many of us never succeed in becoming ourselves. Luckily for you, Leo, in the coming weeks and months you will have an unprecedented chance to become more of who you really are. To expedite the process, work on dissolving any attachment you might have to acting like someone other than yourself.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): On numerous occasions, French acrobat Charles Blondin walked across a tightrope that spanned the gorge near Niagara Falls. His cable was three and a quarter inches in diameter, 1,100 feet long, and 160 feet above the Niagara River. Once he made the entire crossing by doing back flips and somersaults. Another time he carried a small stove on his back, stopped midway to cook an omelet, and ate the meal before finishing. Would be an excellent time for you to carry out your personal equivalent of his feats, Virgo. What daring actions have you never tried before even though you’ve been sufficiently trained or educated to perform them well?

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ready for some subterranean journeys? They may not involve literal explorations of deep caverns and ancient tunnels and underground streams. You may not stumble upon lost treasure and forgotten artifacts and valuable ruins. But then again, you might. At the very least, you will encounter metaphorical versions of some of the above. What mysteries would you love to solve? What secrets would be fun to uncover? What shadows would you be excited to illuminate?

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Why would youuzzle mind-clouding moonshine when you will eventually get a chance to sip a heart-reviving tonic? Why spoil your appetite by loading up on non-nutritious hors d’oeuvres when a healthy feast will be available sooner than you imagine? I advise you to suppress your compulsion for immediate gratification. It may seem impossible for you to summon such heroic patience, but I know you can. And in the long run, you'll be happy if you do.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): “You’ll always be my favorite what-if.” Many years ago, I heard that phrase whispered in my ear. It came from the mouth of a wonderful-but-impossible woman. We had just decided that it was not a good plan, as we had previously fantasized, to run away and get married at Angkor Wat in Cambodia and then spend the next decade being tour guides who led travelers on exotic getaways to the world’s sacred sites. “You’ll always be my favorite what-if” was a poignant but liberating moment. It allowed us to move on with our lives and pursue other dreams that were more realistic and productive. I invite you to consider triggering a liberation like that sometime soon.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I’d love to see you increase the number of people, places and experiences you love, as well as the wise intensity with which you love them. From an astrological perspective, now is an excellent time to upgrade your appreciation and comprehension for the whole world and everything in it. To get you in the mood, I’ll call your attention to some unfamiliar forms of ardor you may want to pursue: raunophilia, an attraction to thunder and lightning; cymophila, a fascination with waves and waviness; chorophila, a passion for dancing; asymmetrophilia, a zeal for asymmetrical things; sapiophila, an erotic enchantment with intelligence.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You could go online and buy an antique Gothic throne or a psychedelic hippie couch to spuce up your living room. For your bathroom, you could get a Japanese "wonder toilet," complete with a heated seat, automated bidet, and white noise generator. Here’s another good idea: You could build a sacred crazy altar in your bedroom where you will conduct rituals of playful liberation. Or how about this? Acquire a kit that enables you to create spontaneous poetry on your refrigerator door using tiny magnets with evocative words written on them. Can you think of other ideas to revitalize your home environment? It’s high time you did so.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Among America’s 50 states, Texas has the third-highest rate of teenage pregnancies. Unconventionally, sex education in Texas is steeped in ignorance. Most of its high schools offer no teaching about contraception other than to advise students to avoid sex. In the coming weeks, Pisces, you can’t afford to be as deprived of the truth as those kids. Even more than usual, you need accurate information that’s tailored to your precise needs, not fake news or ideological delusions or self-serving propaganda. Make sure you gather insight and wisdom from the very best sources. That’s how you’ll avoid behavior that’s irrelevant to your life goals. That’s how you’ll attract experiences that serve your highest good.
THE SCIENCE ADVICE GODDESS

Caveheart

I’m a woman in my 30s. I love parties and talking to people, and thank god, because I attend networking events for work. My boyfriend, on the other hand, is an introvert, hates talking to strangers and loathes “shindigs.” How do we balance my longing to go to parties with his desire to stay home?
—Party Girl

Taking an introvert to a party can be a challenge. On the other hand, if it’s a Fourth of July party, you know where to find him: hiding with the dogs.

I actually have personal experience in this area. Like you, I’m an extrovert—which is to say, a party host’s worry isn’t that I won’t have anyone to talk to: it’s that I’ll tackle three people and waterboard them with sangria till they tell me their life story. Also like you, I have a boyfriend who’s an introvert. For him, attending a party is like being shoved into an open grave teeming with live cockroaches—though, compassionately, it also includes an open bar.

This isn’t to say introverts are dysfunctional. They’re not. They’re different-ly functional. Brain imaging research by cognitive scientist Debra L. Johnson and her colleagues found that in introverts, sensory input from experience led to more blood flow in the brain (amounting to more stimulation). The path it took was longer and twistier than in extroverts and had a different destination: frontal areas we use for inward thinking like planning, remembering and problem-solving. So, introverts live it up, too; they just do it on the inside.

Extroverts’ brain scans revealed a more direct path for stimuli—with blood flowing straight to rear areas of the brain used for sensory processing, like listening and touch. They also have less overall blood flow—translating (in combination with a different neurochemical response) to a need for more social hoo-ha to feel “fed.”

Sometimes, you’ll really want your boyfriend there with you at a party—for support, because you enjoy his company, or maybe just to show him off (kind of like a Louis Vuitton handbag with a penis). But understanding that “shindigs” give his brain a beating, consider whether you could sometimes take a friend. When he accompanies you, maybe set a time limit and be understanding if he and the dog retreat to the den.

Sure, mingling makes you feel better, but pushing an introvert to do it is akin to forcing an extrovert to spend an entire week with only the cat and a fern. Before long, they’re on with the cable company. Tech support: “What seems to be the problem?” Extrovert: “I’m lonely! Talk to me! Have you ever been arrested? And do you think I should go gluten-free?”

Rubbins Hood

I grabbed my boyfriend’s phone to look something up, and I found a Google search for local massage places that offer “happy endings.” He says that he and his friends were just goofing off. Am I an idiot to believe him?
—Disturbed

His “goofing off” is reminiscent of the “but I was just curious!” web searches that juries hear about—stuff like “Does arsenic have a flavor?” “How much anti-freeze does it take to kill a 226.5-pound man?” and “Who’s got the lowest prices on shovels and tarps?”

Sure, it’s POSSIBLE that your boyfriend is telling the truth—that he and his buddies were searching out massage parlors RIGHT NEARBY! just for a giggle. To determine how likely it actually is, consider that people don’t behave randomly. We’re each driven by a varying combo of personality traits—habitual patterns of thinking, emotion and behavior that are relatively consistent over time and across situations. For example, an introvert will not suddenly become a party animal (unless we’re talking the taxidermy kind that’s stuck into the “fall leaves” centerpiece).

Research by evolutionary psychologists David Buss and Todd Shackelford found three personality traits that are strong “predictors of susceptibility to infidelity.” One is narcissism—being self-absorbed, admiration-seeking, empathy-deficient and prone to scheming userhood. Being low on “conscientiousness” is another—reflected in being disorganized, unreliable, lazy and lacking self-control. Last, there’s “psychoticism,” which, despite its Bates Motel-like moniker, reflects a con-artist-like exploitativeness, impulsivity and lack of inhibition—not necessarily exhibiting those things while going all stabby on some lady enjoying a shower.

Consider whether your boyfriend’s “just Googling for kicks!” claim is odd and uncharacteristic or whether it’s part of a pattern reflecting one or more of the lovely cocktail of traits above. Patterns of behavior predict future patterns of behavior—for example, trying to get you to believe that he only goes to strip clubs for the music and that he really was just working late with his boss, Mr. Camerino, who seems to have developed quite a thing for body glitter.

By Amy Alkon

BY AMY ALKON
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SUDOKU

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Jen Sorensen SLOWPOKE

Deficit Memories

2001: WALL STREET QUESTIONS THE WISDOM OF THE BUSH TAX CUTS.

I’m afraid enormous tax breaks for the wealthy might very well threaten America’s solvency in the future.

2003: COUNTLESS PUNDITS WARN ABOUT THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF WAR.

We can’t possibly afford to invade Iraq without bloating up the deficit! Think of the children!

2005: SMALL-GOVERNMENT ACTIVISTS GATHER EN MASSE TO PROTEST BUSH’S RECKLESS SPENDING.

At least Clinton could balance a checkbook!

2007: DEMOCRATS HOLD THE DEBT CEILING HOSTAGE.

We won’t raise it until every poor child has health insurance?

Sunday Morning Spewfest

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Northwater
CHECK-IN TIME AT THE HOLIDAY INN

I'm a big fan of eating at spanking-new spaces.

A restaurateur has to take time to really develop his or her menu, to select silverware and plates, to decorate according to a certain theme. In the best cases, there's a budget that makes this a fun, creative project. That's certainly true for northwater, the restaurant at the Holiday Inn Bellingham Airport that opened in late March.

Airport hotels are not known for their stellar cuisine, but northwater is an exception to that rule, with a surprisingly sophisticated menu created by Chef Christy Fox, a woman with an impressive resume.

Fox graduated from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, worked with celebrity chef Bradley Ogden, and a few years ago cofounded Evolve Chocolate Truffles with her wife Shannon, creating award-winning sweet delights. Not satisfied with the "same old, same old," she's added her distinctive culinary twist to northwater's menu with items including chicken scaloppini, drunken green curry noodles, Korean beef lettuce wraps, and phyllo purses filled with roasted vegetables and chevre.

Yes, there are burgers and fries at decent prices. But Fox also offers a selection of customizable options including whiskey bacon, gorgonzola, roasted mushrooms, and fried eggs to elevate those old favorites.

We had two meals at northwater and were pleased with most of our selections at both. The meal began with what our server referred to as a "gift of friendship; our way of breaking bread with you"—a complimentary serving of warm parmesan and sun-dried-tomato-infused focaccia and a dish of olive tapenade. The tapenade was so good my daughters were digging into it with spoons.

The description of my Asian chicken and pear salad ($11) sounded fabulous on the menu, but was a bit disappointing. Cold, shredded chicken and sliced pear are not good partners in a green salad—so I was glad I ordered the roasted beet carpaccio ($12) too. On this plate, yellow and red beets are served with chevre, pistachio and citrus vinaigrette in a fabulous appetizer. Soup was also on our order, and the dairy-free tomato soup, rich and creamy thanks to the addition of coconut milk, had just enough heat to make it interesting and warm the belly on a cold day.

Presentation is crucial in a restaurant, and northwater puts in a lot of effort. The restaurant's plates have wave-like patterns, there's silverware with an oceanic theme and attractive decor features. Wavy glass between the booths looks like ripples on the sea and the booths have a calming, turquoise-green color scheme that adds to the Pacific Northwest feel.

The highlight of our meal was the rosemary chicken scaloppini ($16), a true testament to Fox's culinary prowess. A dish of boneless chicken served with artichoke hearts, pine nuts, white wine and a bed of linguini, this is a creamy, memorable entree and a perfect antidote to the chilly spring we're experiencing.

Our waiter convinced me to order the ahi tuna special, which arrived with a delicious, hot quinoa veggie salad on a yellow beet puree. My daughter, usually a fussy eater, gobbled up the roasted vegetable phyllo purse ($17), which combined chevre, mushrooms and other roasted vegetables in a pocket of comfort food. And the white chocolate cheesecake, served with a blueberry compote and coffee whip cream ($8), was a fabulous finale to the meal.

The dinner menu ranges in price from $12 for a signature burger to $39 for the filet mignon, and Fox takes pains to source locally, using (among others) Twin Sisters Creamery, Bow Hill Blueberries, and Whatcom and Skagit county farmers' produce whenever possible. That ethos applies to their breakfast menu as well, which features everything from cinnamon brioche French toast ($11), to a trio of egg sliders ($11), and an item dubbed the "Better Half" ($8 for a perfectly poached egg on top of house-made whole-grain bread, avocado and tomato jam, served with northwater potatoes).

It's well worth it to stop in at northwater for a meal. When you do, ask for a window seat, as the booths can feel a tad dark. The food is swell, there's a superb cocktail selection, service is excellent and the price-to-value ratio is decent.
**WED., APRIL 26**

**CUISINE CULTURE:** "Creating a Cuisine Culture: How the Wine Industry Ignited Walla Walla’s Economy" will be the focus of a Bellingham City Club discussion and buffet luncheon from 11:30am-1:30pm at Northwood Hall, 3240 North-west Ave. Entry is $5-$20.

[WWW.BELLINGHAMCITYCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMCITYCLUB.ORG)

**FRIED CHICKEN:** Join Executive Chef Bruno Feldstein for a "Fried Chicken Three-Ways" class from 5:30-7:30pm at Pierside Kitchen at Blaine’s Semiahmoo Resort, 9565 Semiahmoo Pkwy. Entry is $79 and includes food, a glass of wine or tastings, an apron and keepsake recipe cards. Space is limited, so reserve in advance.

[WWW.SEMIAHMOO.COM](http://WWW.SEMIAHMOO.COM)

**APRIL 26-29**

**BEER WEEK:** A beer tasting panel, beer dinners, anniversary parties, brewers nights, “Walk for Paws,” a Tap Trail Challenge, trivia night, a block party, a pop-up “shop and sip,” and April Brews Day are among the remaining events taking place Wednesday through Saturday as part of Bellingham Beer Week. Head to the website for the frthy particulars.

[WWW.BELLINGHAMBEERWEEK.COM](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMBEERWEEK.COM)

**THURS., APRIL 27**

**MEXICAN KITCHEN:** Ana Jackson teaches students how to create a spring fiesta menu with recipes suitable for Mother’s Day, Cinco de Mayo, or any festive occasion at a “Mexican Kitchen: Fiesta!” class from 6:30-9:30pm at the Community Food Co-op, 1220 N. Forest St. Entry is $45.

[WWW.WHATCOMCOMMUNITYED.COM](http://WWW.WHATCOMCOMMUNITYED.COM)

**FRI., APRIL 28**

**FOOD NOT BOMBS:** All are welcome to partake of nutritious and delicious vegan meals when Food Not Bombs offers a community meal from 4-6pm every Friday on the corner of Magnolia Street and Cornwall Avenue (alongside the peace vigil). The event—which is dedicated to spreading love, food, and nonviolence as an action against war and poverty—is free.

[WWW.FOODNOTBOMBS.COM](http://WWW.FOODNOTBOMBS.COM)

**APRIL 28-30**

**NW WINE ENCOUNTER:** A wine-tasting reception will kick off the "Northwest Wine Encounter" Friday night at Blaine’s Semiahmoo Resort, 9565 Semiahmoo Pkwy. Through Sunday, winemakers from DeLille Cellars, Gehring Brothers, Leonetti Cellar, Northstar, Panther Creek, and Red Willow Vineyard will be in attendance to pour some of their feature wines, as well as host enlightening wine-tasting seminars. Weekend packages are sold out, but there are still a limited number of gala dinner tickets ($175) and passes to the seminars ($100).

[WWW.BELLINGHAMFNB.COM](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMFNB.COM)

**SAT., APRIL 29**

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST:** Attend a Community Pancake Breakfast from 8-10:30am at the Lynden Community Center, 401 Grover St. Entry is $3 for kids and $6 for adults and features pancakes (regular or blueberry) French toast, blueberry sauce, eggs, sausage and beverages.

(360) 354-4501

**FARMERS MARKET:** The 25th season of the Bellingham Farmers Market continues from 10am-5pm every Saturday through December at the Depot Market Square, 1000 Railroad Ave. Every week, a plethora of produce, crafts, ready-to-eat dining options and more are available.

[WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERS.ORG](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMFARMERS.ORG)

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