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Letter from the Publisher

This issue is all about trailblazers, both literally and figuratively. From finding an undiscovered trail that leads to an epic view, to being the first Native American woman to travel to space, brave explorers lead the way.

Snohomish County has inspired many to discover and be discovered. A local musician that once played small clubs is now opening for Jack Black in Europe. Old Barns have been turned into some of the most sought-after wedding venues in the state, and a local bartender mixes up some of the best craft cocktails anywhere.

The Port of Everett is being transformed from an old mill site and shipping yard into a destination that honors the past, but also looks to the innovation and designs of the future, attracting visitors to come enjoy its fine wine, spirits, and dining, or maybe a stroll to enjoy our magnificent waterfront.

Paine Field airport has been transformed into one of the best regional airports in the world, as it looks toward a smart and uncompromising expansion.

I hope this issue inspires you to forge ahead, find your own path. Enjoy the vision of those that make Snohomish County a world class destination. Discover the next best musical act or take an epic trip out into our great outdoors. Celebrate the dreamers of today and look forward to an amazing tomorrow.

Enjoy!

Fawn Clark, Publisher

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‘Sophistigritty’

Port of Everett’s Biggest Dreams are Coming True

BY ELLEN HIATT

The energy at the Port of Everett is bubbling over with potential – realized and future. A 65-acre redevelopment dubbed Waterfront Place will inevitably have a tremendous impact on the local economy, but also will bring an ease to living, a gift of connection with the waterfront, and, combined with other projects, a decided contribution to the environment.

The Port’s Communications and Marketing Director, Catherine Soper, said they like to call the feeling there “Sophistigritty.” The working waterfront of Everett has always been a rough and tumble place, where shingle operators of the early 1900s raised four of their remaining fingers on a hand to order a beer at the bar, and Yugoslavian fishermen traded stories while their purse seiners bobbed at moorage and fishing nets were made whole again.

That history is not lost on the Port as they move deftly into the second quarter of the 21st Century. As the “new” comes in – a new way of life, a new understanding of our impact on the environment, and a new era in shipping unfolds – the Port of Everett is taking it on with gusto while honoring the past.

WATERFRONT PLACE

“The big vision is a place to eat, drink, sleep, work, and recreate,” Soper said, adding that with the realization of the Waterfront Place Apartments, that is already happening. But there is more to come. So much more. It will be another 10 years for the full build out, Soper said. By then, Cape Cod will have nothing on the Everett Marina.

The development of Waterfront Place, a once heavily-industrial property with lumber and shingle mills, will be transformed with another 1.5 million square feet of mixed use development. A modern





The yacht harbor in the Port of Everett's Waterfront Place is nestled up to the Indigo Hotel. New restaurants open this spring, overlooking the scene.

community, with housing, a hotel, restaurants and cafes, and places of work, is taking shape. Beginning at Marine Drive, it is marching toward the waterfront with infrastructure and carefully calculated timing.

An afternoon spent dining at the Indigo Hotel's highly-rated Jetty Bar and Grille with a cocktail in hand, is a fine respite for any day. In the marina, the yachts are tied to their mooring, the resident seals are slipping in and out of the water, and the seagulls are making their demands known. A visitor can see the construction of Fisherman Jack's Restaurant, next to South Fork Bakery, which both open this summer. Next door, a specialty ice cream shop, spa and a wine bar will soon give you little reason to move on as you sit atop the balcony taking it all in.

Already bustling are the residents of the nearby apartments, who are walking the boardwalk in front of Central Marina's yacht moorage, and kicking up their heels in the Pacific Rim Plaza's

splash fountain. The plaza is the center of Fisherman's Harbor, the Port's first public/private development in the plan.

All this is happening every day of the week now, Soper said. "The energy here is 'Thursday' energy," she said. "People are here no matter what day or time of the week it is - and you can just feel that energy building as new amenities are added."

The property contains three marinas: North (next to the Jetty Landing Boat Launch and Jetty Island access at 10th Street); Central (where Fisherman's Harbor, Pacific Rim Plaza, Restaurant Row and the yacht moorage are); and South (which abuts Naval Station Everett, and is home to long-time restaurants Anthony's HomePort, Woodfire Grill and Lombardi's).

The Millwright District, on the jut of land between the North and Central Marinas, is in early stages, with infrastructure going in. When it's finally built out, it will include 60,000 square feet of new retail and approximately

200,000 square feet of commercial office space, and 200 or more residential units. Soper said the office space is envisioned to be satellite offices for some of the region's largest employers.

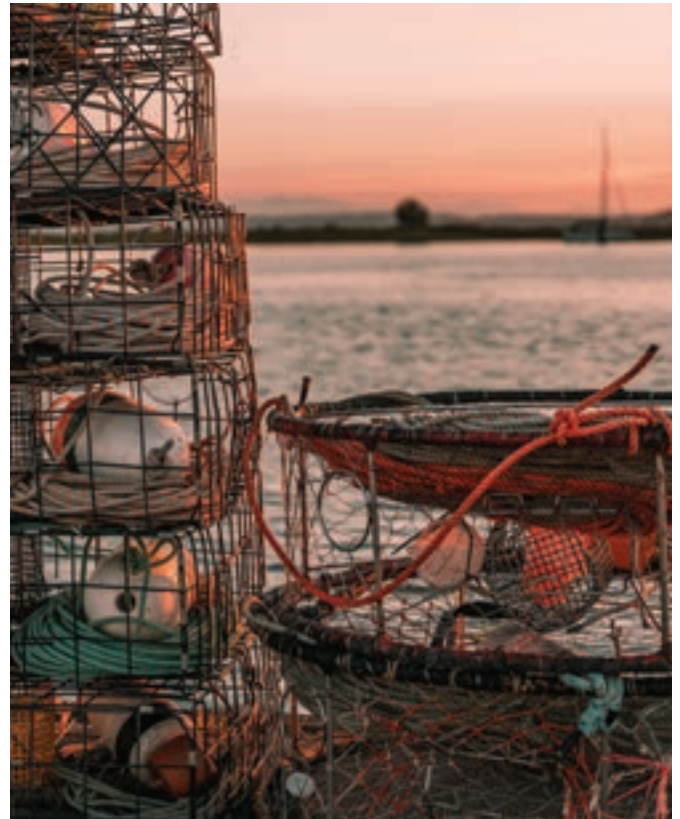
SPEAKEASY-INSPIRED WHISKEY BAR

Closer to the waterfront, the historic and beloved Weyerhaeuser Building took a leap ahead of the Millwright District and will find new life this spring. Smack dab on the waterfront, with Boxcar Park between it and Port Gardner Bay, one can hope the structure has found its forever home. Built by the Weyerhaeuser Company as a showcase of its multitude of millwork, it has been moved three times - twice by barge.

Opening this spring, the celebrated structure is finding new life as The Muse, a speakeasy-reminiscent whiskey bar by night, and a coffee bar by day, with spaces for events.



Jetty Bar and Grille is an easy choice for idyllic marina views and fine fare.



Music, art and holiday festivals draw visitors to the marina, as well as leisurely strolls along the miles of walking paths and boardwalks.

Rachel Escalle, Vice President of Operations for the NGMA Group, the holding company of The Muse and Fisherman’s Jack Restaurant, said the place has a “gentlemen’s club feeling.” It’s a fitting setting for it, with historic woodwork preserved in individual “sitting rooms” that were once spacious offices. The decor is plush, with jewel tones and warm woods, and a 1920s vibe. By day, with daylight coming through the expansive windows, it is a gathering place for friends and family as a coffee bar, with high tea service to possibly come. By night, it becomes a moody and inviting speakeasy-inspired whiskey bar with small bites and an extensive collection of spirits.

“We have post-prohibition, very old whiskeys, including some extremely old whiskeys from the FX McCrory collection, which was in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest collection” at one time, she said. There will also be a sizable wine offering, with a wine club, as well.

The Port and restaurant operators worked closely with the local historical society and preservationists to ensure the building’s character and historical integrity were maintained, installing safety features, for instance, but keeping the old glass in the windows, and tastefully adding egress stairs.

That history will also be acknowledged throughout, with a historical virtual tour and historic photos lining the walls.

BREWS AND WINES

Near Lombardi’s on Marine Drive, a spring opening of Woods Coffee & Sound 2 Summit Brewing Company is creating a gathering hub for Naval Station Everett and neighbors who walk across the Grand Avenue Park Bridge.

Lazy Boy Brewing is on tap to go up next beside the bridge landing, and the Port continues to seek a year-round fish market for the location.

In time, the Port will complete the full, 65-acre build out by adding destination

retail and park spaces, and a wine-centric experience. Move your way toward the waterfront, and you’ll see the new home of the Everett Yacht Club in the fully renovated marina offices location. The walkway along the South Marina is envisioned to become a wine walk, with destination retail and pocket parks.

But don’t wait for the final build out. The waterfront is already the place to be. Rent a kayak, enjoy some baked goods and coffee with a friend for a morning catch-up, stroll the waterfront like it’s your “Thursday” at the Marina.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

It’s not an exaggeration to say that every inch of dirt on the working waterfront of Everett has been turned over, examined, removed and replaced for a new era of environmental sustainability. The new Norton Terminal was built on the former Kimberly-Clark



“Nationally, wetlands are on the decline. I would say in Snohomish County, wetlands must be on the incline because of these projects.”

mill site, with the removal of heavy metals like arsenic and lead, and petroleum products. It was replaced with 200,000 cubic yards of clean Snohomish estuary sand, and capped with asphalt, eliminating stormwater infiltration.

As Waterfront Place has been developed, contaminated soil has been removed. The “gritty” part of the Port’s history left a legacy of contamination from its industrial issues. Environmental cleanup has been ongoing and is a part of every development project.

And north of the Snohomish River, a restoration project is underway, dwarfing all of the waterfront environmental projects combined.

Blue Heron Slough, 353 acres of estuary habitat, has been restored. The estuary is critical to salmon recovery, water quality, flood protection and bird habitat. Add to that the incredible benefit of carbon sequestration.

“WWU (Western Washington University) and Earth Corps determined these projects, especially in the Snohomish estuary where the study was done, sequester carbon. They trap greenhouse gasses and store them at a higher rate, four to ten times greater than forests do,” said Eric Gerking, Director of Environmental Programs at the Port of Everett.

“What’s cool about it – talk about sustainability! – is the greatest offset of Blue Heron Slough is as a mitigation bank.” Mitigation banks allow development on other sensitive areas to be offset with the purchase of credits for restoration elsewhere. The restoration of a larger estuarine body has higher function, however, than fragmented estuaries. “It’s generating mitigation credits but there’s not people knocking down the door on this thing. From the Port’s perspective, it’s more in the realm of sustainability and to offset future impacts.”

The restoration of the former Biringer berry farm property is part of a larger estuary restoration, including the Qwuloolt and Smith Island Estuary, Union Slough, and Mid-Spencer Island projects done by the Tulalip Tribes, City of Marysville and Snohomish County. Taken together, they add up to nearly 1,200 acres, with more projects to come.

“Nationally, wetlands are on the decline,” Gerking said. “I would say in Snohomish County, wetlands must be on the incline because of these projects.” ♦

(left) Sunset views of Jetty Island in the distance provide the perfect setting to end the day with friends at the Port of Everett.



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PLAN YOUR BEST DAY EVERETT

With the Port of Everett's Waterfront Place mixed-use destination transforming the face of Everett, there are now even more ways to play tourist here. This year-round hub at the largest public marina on the West Coast features hotels, restaurants, parks and trails, 75+ events, a splash fountain and even a pop-up ice rink. Here are some of top picks to add to your Port of Everett bucket list.

Learn more at www.portofeverett.com/visit.



HIT THE BEACH

Catch a ride on the foot ferry to the Port's manmade Jetty Island Wednesday through Sunday from July 5 through Sept. 3 for Jetty Island Days.



EXPLORE THE WATER

Launch your adventure by boat, kayak or paddleboard from the Port of Everett — your gateway to all the wonders of Puget Sound.



WINE & DINE

Visit Waterfront Place and you'll find a mix of restaurants fit for any gastronomist. Grab a bite at tried-and-true favorites or check out some of the new eateries opening this year. Summer food trucks are also a tasty option.



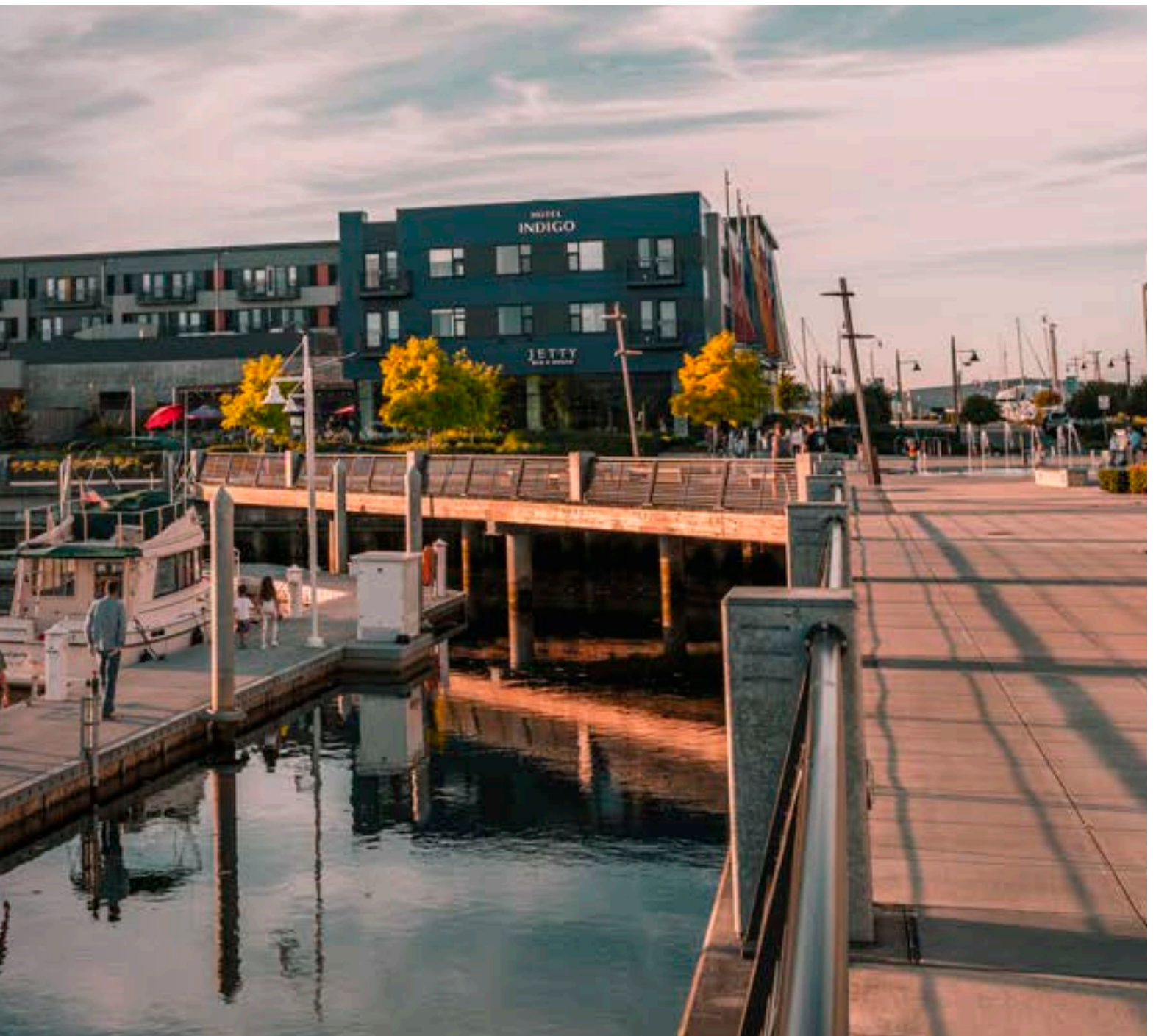
CATCH A FLICK

Watch a free outdoor movie during the Port's Sail-In Cinema on six Fridays from July through August at Boxcar Park overlooking Port Gardner Bay. Pick from throwbacks and action-packed to animated and date-night flicks.



WATERFRONT TRAILS

Discover the waterfront while you take in breathtaking views on a walk or jog along the Port's 4-mile Millwright Loop Trail. History buff? Interpretive exhibits along the trail offer a glimpse into the past.



GROOVE TO MUSIC

Catch free live music at the Port during Music at the Marina on eight Thursdays from July through August or boat in to enjoy Puget Sounds Steel Drums Fridays in August.



KODAK MOMENTS

Take your camera with you. With views of Port Gardner Bay, Jetty Island, the Marina and the Cascades, you won't run out of photography subjects — especially at sunrise or sunset.



REST & RELAX

Stay overnight at one of two waterfront hotels — Hotel Indigo or the Inn at Port Gardner. Get even more relaxation in and book an appointment at the new Anisoptera Spa for a massage, scrub, wrap, facial and more.



GO FISHING

Reel in some fun. Sign up for one of the area fishing derbies that launch out of the Port of Everett or cast a line from one of two fishing docks. One is next to the Jetty Landing Boat Launch, the other is nearby the new Mukilteo Ferry Terminal.

CHECK OUT OUR 2023 SUMMER EVENTS LINE UP!



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The South Fork of the Stillaguamish River flows under Big Four. Hot boulders and mountain-chilled water create an ideal dipping spot.

A Guide to the Perfect Mountain Loop Road Trip

BY RICHARD PORTER FOR
SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY

Summer road trips are just exactly the perfect thing. They're all about spontaneous adventure and discovery. A drive off the beaten path gives you the joys of exploring new places and filling your phone's camera roll with brilliant, color-saturated memories.

It's time to explore the Mountain Loop Highway! It can either be enjoyed as a solid day trip, or it can be stretched out into a weekend or more of camping, hiking, fishing, and mountain biking. Or maybe your best bet is to simply sit by the river doing absolutely nothing at all.

No matter how you play it, you're sure to create stories to tell for years to come.



GRANITE FALLS TO DARRINGTON

The small town of Granite Falls is the southern gateway to the Mountain Loop Highway. The Mountain Loop is a 52-mile scenic byway that takes motorists and bicyclists out into the North Cascades and back by way of the logging town of Darrington. Along the route are ample spots for pulling off the highway for recreation. Once you make a round trip back to Everett it's a full 90-plus miles. A full day, indeed.

READY? LET'S GO!

Your best bet for breakfast is Lyla's Cafe (106 S Cascade Ave #101). Located just inside town, Lyla's specializes in brunchy pastries, sandwiches, and coffee. The small-town warmth and ample carbohydrates are just the thing to warm you up before your weekend of hiking.

Need basic camping supplies? Stop one block away at the Ace Hardware (108 S Granite Ave). Be sure to pack the "10 Essentials" for outdoor safety. You'll find them here. Ace also sells maps, camping gear, and permits.

The traveler who is journeying with intention will want to visit the Granite Falls Historical Museum (109 E Union St). The town takes pride in its cultural heritage and goes to great lengths to celebrate its history of mining and timber felling.

Finally, before you leave town be sure to fill your cooler at the IGA grocery store (115 N Granite Ave). The deli has foods that require little to no prep (for those of you who aren't cool with cooking over an open fire or on a camp stove).

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

One thing to remember before you head out: there aren't any hotels in this neck of the woods, so AirBnB cabins or camping are your best bets. Reserve an AirBnB in advance, especially during the summer when folks are out and about in the hills.

Please check the signs as you head out of town. If a burn ban is in effect there are absolutely no fires.

ON THE LOOP

There are plenty of camping spots along the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River, offering glimpses of Mount Pilchuck, Big Four, and other prominent mountains in the Cascades, including the elusive Glacier Peak.

Welcome to the backcountry – a place of towering conifers, snowy peaks even into summer, and singing fresh water.

At its east end, the Mountain Loop turns from pavement to a dirt road at Barlow Pass. The outer reaches of the loop are a bit rough and potholed, yet offer some of the most memorable riverside camping spots for the intrepid traveler.

At the end of the unpaved section, you'll pull into the town of Darrington. There are several restaurants to choose from, but I highly recommend a bite at The Burger Barn (1020 Emens Ave N) and/or stopping for a refreshing pint at River Time Brewing (S 660 Emens Ave).

Driving out of Darrington, Highway 530 runs parallel to the North Fork of Stillaguamish. The North Fork is legendary among sportsmen. This is the first river to ever be designated



Elise Giordano / Seattle NorthCountry

Welcome to the backcountry – a place of towering conifers, snowy peaks even into summer, and singing fresh water.



Jake Campbell / Seattle NorthCountry

A suspended boardwalk leads hikers through evergreen forests to year-round ice caves.

as fly fishing only — thanks to the advocacy of outdoorsmen. Even if you don't fish, the views of the winding river through the valley are truly remarkable.

Stop off at a unique dining experience in Oso - meet the Rhodes River Ranch (22016 Entsminger Rd). It's a combination horse arena and restaurant. Yep! You read that right. Diners can feast on steak and other hearty American fare while looking out over prancing mares and cavorting colts. This is a one-of-a-kind experience, and an absolute must for lovers of a classic American West vibe.

When visiting Arlington at the end of your journey be sure to stop by Moe's Coffee (434 N Olympic Ave) for a caffeine refuel.

From Arlington it's a short jaunt back to the seaside city of Everett. We recommend that you lodge in comfort at the Hotel Indigo (1028 13th St) on the Everett waterfront. Enjoy hot water showers, delicious food courtesy of the in-house Jetty Bar and Grille, and breathtaking views of Port Gardner Bay in the Salish Sea. If you're lucky you might even catch a glimpse of a migratory gray whale!

From the mountains to the sea at a leisurely pace (and all the delicious sightseeing in between). It's all in a weekend's work, thanks to the Mountain Loop in the beautiful Stillaguamish and Sauk River Valleys of Snohomish County. Now that's the ideal road trip. ♦

Looking for more great Pacific Northwest trip inspiration? Be sure to visit us at www.seattlenorthcountry.com and follow us on social media @seattlenorthcountry.



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(left to right) Jessica Awe - Team Leader, Rachel Hull - Account Payables, Katie Stevenson - Team Leader and Heather Daigan - Finance Manager.

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Let's face it. The automotive retail sales industry has been a male dominated business. So when Jim Colon and Perry Watson III, co-owners of a new Toyota franchise, opened doors to Marysville Toyota with their unique sales model, they were pleasantly surprised when woman after woman submitted an application to work there.

"We were focused on what the marketplace wanted," Watson said, adding they conducted a survey before opening to discover the barriers and perceptions people have around car shopping.

The survey said that people don't like to negotiate their car's price, they don't like to be shuffled off to the finance office, and they wanted the whole process to go a lot faster.

Colon and Watson set about to create a different kind of auto dealership. The model is what they're calling the Power of One. A buyer works with one person from beginning to end, without being handed off to a finance closer — their finance experts work in the background finding the best solution for each customer. There will be one best price for every vehicle; Everyone receives the same deal. And from the time the buyer chooses the vehicle they want, their goal is to get the customer on the road within one hour.

The approach is working for customers. Marysville Toyota has the highest Google scores in Metro Seattle, a #1 rating for Toyota Loyalty Engagement (CSI), a record market share, phenomenal employee retention and repeat and referral business.

Customer Josh Hawes drove all the way up from Bellevue to pick up his new Tundra.

"A good friend of mine is the general manager at a dealership in Tacoma. I feel like I am getting the same experience here as we get for my wife's car there," he said.

It turns out that that being treated like a friend isn't just attractive to buyers. It's attractive to prospective employees.

"All of a sudden we had a female centric team because that negative, negotiation, commission-based aggressive sales environment was gone," Watson said.

Six out of 10 of their sales representatives are female. And the management team is also 57% majority, female led. Women make up only 9% of an average dealership's staff, and most of those are in support roles.

At Marysville Toyota, they're in every role, including service as managers, advisors and technicians.

"It's a female centric dealership. It's such a beautiful vibe here. It's vibrant. So professional. So open," he said. Indeed, the building is wide open, with massive glass panels letting the light in, and a warm, neutral palate creating a chill atmosphere.

He takes umbrage at the stereotypes Millennials and Gen Z people don't want to work, because 63% of their staff comprise that demographic.

"We have a very young staff," he said. "They are phenomenal."

But the company acknowledged their staff values their time off with a flexible work life balance, and that they don't like keeping their personal lives separate from their work lives. They have created a close family of 65 employees.

"It isn't always easy. But it's been worth it," he said.

Rachel Pitman, who manages the used car department, agrees that Marysville Toyota is a different kind of place to work.

"I love it here," she said. "We have a ton of women. I feel like everyone is just kind, thoughtful and respectful. It's just different than any other dealership or place I have worked for. I feel really spoiled."

Based upon employee and customer feedback, Marysville appears to be the future of modern automotive retailing. ♦



Nigel Lindsey, mixologist extraordinaire, creates new opportunity for his craft.

Revolution by the Barrel:

Revolutionizing the craft cocktail experience

BY NICK SHEKERYK FOR SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY

Photos courtesy of Seattle NorthCountry

What is the vibe? It's that feeling you get when everything is just right. The vibe is an intuition.

And when the vibe hits...well, let's just say you'll know when it does. When mixologist extraordinaire Nigel Lindsey is in the mix, the vibe always hits.

"My goal is ultimately to give people the best cocktail experience to fit any vibe," says Lindsey. "It's about treating yourself to the best."

Revolution by the Barrel, the Everett-based craft cocktail catering service founded by Lindsey in 2016, is the product of his desire to disrupt the unimaginative nature of drink menus he's crossed paths with far too many times at his favorite local events and venues. "You don't get that good experience with drinks when you go out to concerts or art shows or even weddings," says

Lindsey. "It's a missed opportunity to celebrate these occasions the right way."

Whether you're attending an indie rock show with hundreds of impassioned fans or hosting an intimate dinner for two, Lindsey has the *joie de vivre* to make any occasion one that's worth celebrating.

By now you're probably noticing that the Revolution by the Barrel experience comes with an air of confidence that's rare among the Snohomish County bartending scene – and you're right. But the outfit's ability to elevate any scene with innovative and budget-conscious libations proves the hype is real.

Lindsey takes great pride in the community aspect of his work. He leveraged his leadership skills – both as a former Black Student Union president at Everett Community



Imaginative craft cocktails are on the go with event catering by Revolution by the Barrel.

College and a current economic development liaison of the NAACP of Snohomish County – to not only expand his network, but to also promote other local Black-owned businesses. His community-building efforts include sourcing ingredients from a community farm in his old South Seattle neighborhood and referring his clients to Black-owned services in photography, music, event planning and more.

“Having a diverse community makes things better for everyone,” says Lindsey. “Taking the time to make sure businesses of all communities are supported makes our city and our county better.”

Like his fellow entrepreneurs, Lindsey is putting in the hours to perfect his craft. While his efforts have built him a loyal following, the journey to crafting a better cocktail blends youthful curiosity, spirited determination, and a fortuitous encounter with a local distiller.

After landing a bartending job at a restaurant during college, Lindsey showed an aptitude for mixology that quickly granted him freedom to experiment behind the bar. It set the foundation for Lindsey to learn the basics of cocktail staples such as the Manhattan, Fitzgerald and Tom Collins. Lindsey’s ability to add his own flair

to these classics wowed patrons, but it wasn’t until he served John Lundin, owner of Everett’s Bluewater Organic Distilling, that his real education in mixology began.

“He liked the drink I made for him and he came back to show me how to make a couple vodka drinks,” says Lindsey. “I was invited to their distillery to try their drinks. Obviously, this stuff was better quality.”

Lundin took Lindsey under his wing and gave him inside gave him the maestro’s knowledge to master the art of crafting a good cocktail – from making limoncello to bottling vodka and properly using syrups, shrubs and liqueurs as accent flavors.

“That was my proper introduction,” says Lindsey. “I realized I didn’t truly understand what goes into making a really nice cocktail. It was pivotal to how I look at drinks now and how I make drinks.”

The newfound appreciation for a truly great cocktail expanded Lindsey’s passion for experimentation. The dedication has paid off for Revolution by the Barrel, which has been a crowd-pleaser at concerts, weddings, and various public and private events throughout the region.



Nestled on the Waterfront at the Port of Everett, Bluewater Organic Distilling's flagship location is home to the distillery, tasting room and retail store, award-winning craft cocktail bar + fresh bistro and private event venue. Inspired by the Pacific Northwest, our dishes and cocktails are built from scratch with local and house-made ingredients. Our menus feature the finest, sustainable seafood and fresh seasonal produce!



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Sometimes it's better stirred - not shaken.

“I’m excited to find new ways for people to build familiarity with cocktails. It creates a fun atmosphere, and it’s damn cool.”

While COVID-19 killed the vibe for many in the alcohol service industry, Lindsey discovered opportunities for expanding in imaginative ways. The creativity led to new ventures such as virtual cocktail-making lessons, consulting to improve restaurant cocktail menus, partnering with food vendors for to-go meal and cocktail pairings and expanding his “party box” kits to include mocktails.

He’s also working with local artists to curate a book that includes art inspired by his expansive cocktail menu. Lindsey is even putting together a speakeasy-inspired lounge and aspires to run a venue that brings people together for craft cocktails and community events.

No matter what the future holds, what’s certain is that Revolution by the Barrel will continue finding ways to make sure you feel the vibe that comes with a better cocktail experience.

“I’m excited to find new ways for people to build familiarity with cocktails,” says Lindsey. “It creates a fun atmosphere, and it’s damn cool.”

Have a cocktail or mocktail with Revolution by the Barrel or enjoy learning how to make your own. ✦

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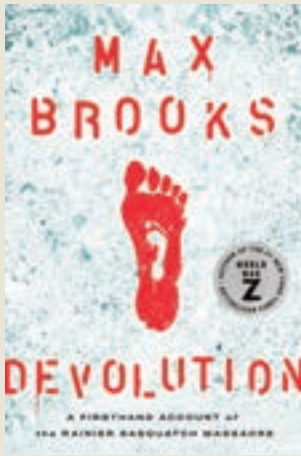


A Perfectly Pacific Northwest Reading List

A selection of addictive regional reads for the season

BY KATIE LEONE
SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES

As we get ready for summer vacations, beach days, and hours spent in the backyard hammock, it's essential to have some good books lined up. The librarians at Sno-Isle Libraries have curated a delightful list of Pacific Northwest-themed titles. Available as eBooks, digital audiobooks, or good, old-fashioned physical books; you can borrow these books using your Sno-Isle Libraries card.



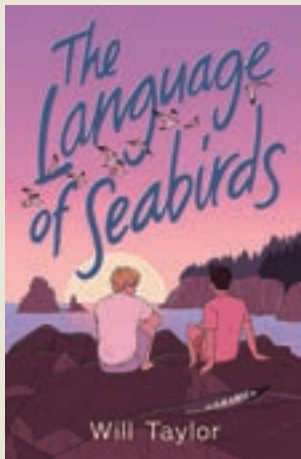
DEVOLUTION: A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF THE RAINIER SASQUATCH MASSACRE

by Max Brooks

First Matt Brooks took zombies and turned them into a terrifyingly real threat. Now Brooks takes on the Pacific Northwest's favorite cryptid: Sasquatch.

Mount Rainier has erupted, and the disaster leaves a small community in Washington cut off from the world, their dreams of living off-the-grid becoming a horrifying reality. But that's not all they have to worry about. Something is hunting them. Something large, dangerous, and eerily humanoid.

Told in a series of interviews and journal entries, this chilling survival adventure will have you gripping the edge of your seat until the very end, with a few laughs along the way. As a bonus, the audiobook has a full cast that really brings the story to life.



THE LANGUAGE OF SEABIRDS

by Will Taylor

Middle Grade books aren't just for kids! If you want something sweet, quiet, and tender, this novel by Seattle author Will Taylor is for you.

Jeremy just turned 12, and he can feel his whole life unraveling. His parents recently divorced, he doesn't know where he'll be living next year, and now he must spend two whole weeks this summer with his dad in a seaside cabin in Oregon. As he tries to settle into his new life, Jeremy meets Evan and their immediate friendship blossoms into something neither of them expected. A soft tale about growing up, family, and first love that will embrace you like a warm hug.

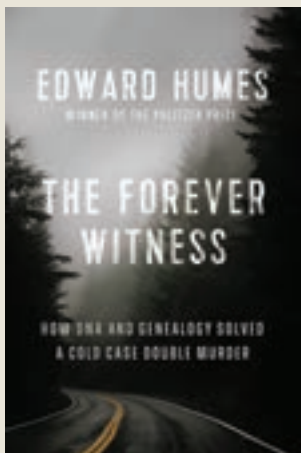


THE EX TALK

by Rachel Lynn Solomon

They say don't text your ex, but what about your fake ex? Shay Goldstein has been working at Seattle Public Radio for a decade, but despite having the job of her dreams at 29, she feels like she doesn't quite have adulthood down.

Enter Dominic Yun, her infuriating know-it-all coworker who also happens to be intimidatingly tall and attractive. Luckily for the station, their banter makes for perfect radio. Before long Shay and Dominic are assigned to be cohosts of The Ex Talk, where they pretend to be exes delivering relationship advice live on air. As the show quickly grows in popularity, Shay finds herself falling for the man behind the cocky smile and witty quips. Enemies to lovers, excellent banter, swoon-worthy moments, a dog, and a great cast of side characters – this has everything you could ask for in a romance novel!



THE FOREVER WITNESS: HOW DNA AND GENEALOGY SOLVED A COLD CASE DOUBLE MURDER

by Edward Humes

In November 1987, a teenage couple was murdered on a trip to Seattle, leaving no evidence behind except for a single handprint. Over 30 years later, after the case had gone cold, Snohomish County Detective Jim Scharf and genetic genealogist CeCe Moore would come together to track down the murderer using the latest in DNA and genetic technology.

Humes takes on the details of this case alongside the history of genetic DNA, and the political, social, and legal ramifications of the technology. A thrilling narrative true crime novel filled with fascinating facts and questions to ponder long after you're finished reading.



RED PAINT: THE ANCESTRAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A COAST SALISH PUNK

by Sasha taqʷəbɫu LaPointe

Red Paint isn't a light read, but it is a transformative one. LaPointe tells the story of her own life, intimately intertwined with stories of her Coast Salish ancestors. With the gift of her great-grandmother's name and the spirit of punk to guide her, she takes readers along on her powerful journey for home and healing. Interspersed with humor and of course punk, this is a book that's both beautiful and gutting - refusing to look away from the horrors of colonization and genocide while ultimately celebrating Indigenous knowledge, hope, and joy.



COMEUPPANCE SERVED COLD

by Marion Deeds

This fun and glamorous heist novel is set in an alternate 1920s Seattle where wealth, violence, and magic rule in equal measure. Dolly White is thrilled to accept a job as lady's companion to the unruly daughter of Seattle's Commissioner of Magi, Ambrose Earnshaw. After all, what she really wants is the prized item in the Commissioner's vault. What follows is a whirlwind tale of con artists, mystery, and revenge filled with complex side characters and wit.

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The Lodge at St. Edward State Park is a magnificent Romanesque Revival structure built as a seminary and revived as a luxury hotel and community gathering place.

Spirit Transforming

The Lodge at St. Edward Keeps Time in the Past and Present

BY ELLEN HIATT

Photos courtesy of The Lodge St Edward

The long hallway has a grandeur to it that quiets a restless spirit. A wall of windows and French doors, all capped with arched glass, let the light shift and change throughout the day, giving way by night to darkness and transforming the windows into mirrors, reflecting the fine art that lines the walls. The sheer beauty of the place, its history and the attention given to its past as well as its future, may be why The Lodge at St. Edward State Park landed recognition as a Michelin Guide-worthy hotel.

Whatever its use – in disrepair as it was for decades, as a luxury hotel, or as the Seminary its founders originally envisioned when it was finally built on 366 acres overlooking Lake Washington – the stately, Romanesque Revival style building transforms to meet the need.

First completed in 1931 by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, the historic building closed in 1976 and was donated to the state. The massive, 9,000 square foot building, however, was more than the park system could manage, and they offered it to nearby Bastyr University for one dollar. Bastyr declined.

“It took a special buyer,” said hotel General Manager Corey Roettgers. That buyer was Kevin and Mary Daniels, a Seattle couple who brought in partners for the feat.

“The historical dedication of this property and the commitment to restoring it for the community – that was driven by the Daniels,” Roettgers said.

Keeping the place whole in both structure and service, one foot in its past



The Terrazzo flooring is original to the building, bringing class to Cedar + Elm, the property's fine dining restaurant.

and a solid grip on a realizable future, took vision, as well as a lot of money. Its transformation to an 84-room luxury hotel cost \$50 million.

The vision, however, was never just about the building or creating another hotel. It was about the community.

The old seminary and its chiming clocks that once kept the time for prayer and lesson, was silenced for decades. Its place remained in the heart of the locals who remembered swimming in its pool, opened to the public for a while by the parks system.

A server in the hotel's Cedar + Elm restaurant, Will Larsen said he visited the place when it was abandoned, swimming, as well as hiking its trail system to the lakefront. Today, he enjoys working in the spacious restaurant, taking note of its terrazzo flooring, a beautiful material that shines today as though it were brand new, yet reflects the original marring where the seminary leadership's chairs sat on a platform above the students.

Larsen is among the many visitors

and staff who are captivated by the setting. Sitting 300 feet above the Lake Washington waterfront, a trail system spanning more than 16 miles from the O.O. Denny Park to Big Finn Hill Park and through the St. Edward's property provides a rare urban forest with wildlife and fauna, enjoyed by hikers and mountain bikers alike.

Lyn Wiltse visited with her husband when she first heard The Lodge opened, taking a respite from the isolation of the pandemic, they visited Cedar + Elm, noting the cozier environs of Father Mulligan's Heritage Bar and the Tonsorium Bar nearby. Within each, small bites, full meals, and craft cocktails are formed with the honey from the hotel's own apiary and greens from the chef's garden, growing beside the now-shuttered pool. Wiltse recalls the sense of camaraderie she saw in the staff.

"It felt really good," she said. "We both felt our blood pressure dropping just being there. When we first arrived we were still in our heads. We ordered

a drink, tasting each other's, then we each ordered another one. And we just got out of our heads, seeing new things with our eyes, tasting the drinks. It just felt like a place from another time, and such a relief to be out in nature and with kind and gentle people."

If the spirit is, indeed, transformed here, that was the intent all along.

The inscription in Latin over an entrance door reads "SPES MESSIS IN SEMINE."

"The hope of the harvest is in the seed."

When the building shuttered as a seminary, it was a former student, Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, who dreamed of preserving the location as a park. As a seminary student he had fallen in love with the natural beauty of the place. His life transformed, he wanted it to be shared.

Roettgers said the fruits of the location are still being realized.

"We have always felt, to us, it's an inspired place to plant the seed, yet again, and watch it grow. I don't think



The Lodge includes a full-service spa. Its rooms are formed from two of the seminary students' dorm rooms. They hold special touches, like the Pendleton wool blanket. The blanket, an unusual material in hotel environs, is a clear call to the building's history.

we have yet to harvest the full harvest. When everyone gets to know what this place is about and comes out to enjoy it, to see the beauty, the time and effort it took – to my mind, that's the harvest.”

And what the community can enjoy there is changing by the day, just as the light shifts on the walls as the sun passes by the enormous windows.

Those windows were incredibly restored to historic standards. Each one removed and re-paned with single pane glass. While Roettgers and his team at Columbia Hospitality would have preferred the energy savings of a double pane window, they recognize that maintaining the original construction, with classic brass Cremona bolts and panes, required a sacrifice.

That sacrifice reveals a beauty that spills into each room, where no detail has been overlooked. Even the hotel rooms include a Pendleton wool blanket at the foot of the bed and a chalkboard on the wall, recalling the sparer environs of a seminary student, in whose rooms guests are now staying, or in the guest library, filled with historic images, books, and family games. The art gallery graces the grand passageway and the lower, first floor public spaces, where the gallery is shared by the historical representation and the story of those students.

“The architecture has its own history, and its own story and the art work fills out that story and brings it to modern times,” shared Kamela Daniels, curator of Catalyst Fine Art Gallery, whose sole location is in the hotel.

“You will find a mixture of contemporary and modern art. I don't stick to one genre. There's a lot of artwork being created locally and a lot that people can appreciate. But the goal was to make all of that something that could connect with each person, visitors and the community.”

Hotel guests mingle with the neighbors here, all taking time to appreciate the ever-changing presentation of art and artists, she said.

“We are part of a neighborhood, part of that smaller community. We rotate at least a new artist every other week. There are currently 28 on exhibition,” she said.

Among the artists whose work was showing when the curator spoke earlier this year was Robin Layton, a Pulitzer prize nominated photojournalist, whose pieces reflect the ever-brilliant lake below and its wildlife. Daniels also tries to show budding, lesser known artists, sometimes giving them their first gallery showing. Artists like Ali Alassadi, whose reflective and complex abstract Arabic calligraphy paintings captivate.

Also part of the community-engaging nature of the gallery is an artist in residence program, art workshops and demonstrations, by Alassadi, Layton and others. The gallery provides its own window to hold up artists of all media, from sculpturists to glass and mixed media artists, oil painters and more.

“Sharing that with the bigger community, working with the City of Kenmore, artists of Kenmore, facilitating that understanding and expansion of what can be done” Daniels said, has been part of the journey of the gallery.

So if you find yourself looking for a getaway like none other, whether for a night or a day trip, or would like to hear the historic bell, dangling in the bell tower above, ring across the lake on your wedding day, visit The Lodge at St. Edward State Park. It's just a few minutes south of the Snohomish County border, and a lifetime away in spirit.

MAKE YOUR PLANS

The Catalyst Fine Art Gallery is open during hotel hours. To visit during a public event, check out catalystfineart.com and click on the events tab before making your reservations for dinner at Cedar + Elm, or plans to hike the trails.

To make a reservation at the Lodge at St. Edward State Park, or Cedar + Elm, visit thelodgeatstedward.com. ♦



Backpackers and a tuckered pup relax beside a reservoir at Gothic Basin.



5 Scenic Hikes of the PNW Backcountry

BY RICHARD PORTER

All photos by Richard Porter

This summer you can take the path less traveled and find yourself in the backwoods of Snohomish County.

Included here are routes that have been vetted and explored, so you don't have to bushwhack or go off the beaten path. Indeed, it's highly recommended that you take great care to stick to the designated trails to lessen your impact on the local ecosystem and native environment.

Before you go, it's also worth your while to read up and memorize hiking basics and essentials. Bring basic supplies and know your route. At a bare minimum, please bring proper clothing, food, water, and accessories. And never ever forget to pack an extra pair of socks!

Safety and backcountry responsibility are yours to embrace. Have fun out there and leave no trace.

VESPER PEAK

This 6,214-foot mountain is for moderate to advanced hikers. It's recommended that newbies sit this one out as it requires route reading, strenuous switchbacks, and bouldering basics.

If you're ready for Vesper Peak, it's ready for you!

Start at the trailhead, you go through a small patch of forest before zig-zagging up fields of heather. Traverse fields of loose scree, taking care to keep an eye peeled for "ducks." Ducks, or cairns as they're properly called, are the stacks of stones placed by hikers to mark the route for the next wayfinder who comes behind.

Steep switchbacks carry you over Headlee Pass to the shores of Vesper Lake. This alpine body of water maintains a nice ice raft well into summer, but don't drink the water without filtering for pathogens.

From there, the trail gets fun. More switchbacks up heather slopes, then the bouldering and moderate alpine rock climbing begin. Follow the ducks carefully and keep an eye out for drop-offs. The views from the top of Vesper are incredible – bring your camera!

GOTHIC BASIN

What's so special about an alpine basin? Well, everything! The natural beauty here and flowing springs make this destination the ideal cool-off spot after a rigorous hike. And

it is rigorous. Make sure you have worked up some strength in your calves and lungs before attempting Gothic Basin.

At Barlow Pass walk down the graded road to Monte Cristo. Follow the sign to the Gothic Basin Trail. Then get ready for switchback city as you ascend through alpine forests full of chattering squirrels and songbirds. It's a forest idyll on par with a Disney movie, but it may be hard to take in as you sweat and puff your way skyward.

At the top of the ridge, you'll follow the path across several mountainside streams in front of beautiful waterfalls. Take care to carefully cross snow bridges, which linger well into summer. They can cave in abruptly, so watch your step.

After some rock scrambling, just when you think your legs are going to be dead forever, you rise above a crest and drop into a series of grassy basins intersected by streams. Take off your sweaty, dirty boots and ease your feet into glacial melt. Gaze into layers of peaks that fade into the horizon – the Cascade Mountains as far as the eye can see.

This is the place!

LAKE 22 AND HEATHER LAKE

Two relatively easy alpine lake experiences are within reach. Both are on the slopes of Mount Pilchuck and it's possible to bag both lakes in one glorious summer day.

Take care when driving to the trailhead at Heather Lake – giant potholes can deter small vehicles. Likewise, the Lake 22 trailhead parking lot can fill up quickly during sunny days



Summits buried in air: the view from the top of Vesper Peak showcases the beauty of Snohomish County from a lofty perspective.

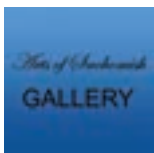




Heather Lake adorned in lush spring green.



Visit Arts of Snohomish Gallery in Historic Downtown Snohomish and purchase fine art by local artists. Find a diverse array of paintings, photography, pastels, mixed media artworks, jewelry, accessories, prints, greeting cards, and other unique handcrafted gifts. Arts of Snohomish (AoS) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit cooperative gallery.



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What's so special about an alpine basin? Well, everything! The natural beauty here and flowing springs make this destination the ideal cool-off spot after a rigorous hike.

and spill out on the shoulder of the Mountain Loop. Please park legally and carefully walk into the trailhead, safely avoiding highway traffic.

Both hikes follow a similar trajectory, starting at a low elevation, the route zigzags up through forest and over mountainside streams near waterfalls. These are classic PNW trails, complete with some root scrambling and clear views of mountainsides.

The payoff? Delightful alpine lakes in mountainside basins. Easy trails encircle both lakes, offering 360-degree views of the sparkling blue water. Both of these lakes offer a perfectly delightful and refreshing way to end a summertime's montane jaunt. *(continued next page)*



The author on the slopes of Mount Pilchuck.

MOUNT PILCHUCK

The peak of Mount Pilchuck rises to just over 5,000 feet. The hike to the peak comprises about a 2,000-foot gain, making this an intermediate hike, or at least a quite challenging hike for beginners.

Please check trail reports before leaving. The road to Pilchuck can remain closed well into hiking season due to snow. Be advised to bring microspikes if conditions are snowy or icy. The road is notoriously gnarly with ruts and potholes – please opt for a vehicle with good suspension and high clearance.

The fire lookout on the top of the mountain offers panoramic views, making this a popular route for locals, regional hikers, and even international visitors. It’s that good. ♦

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Photo courtesy Damsel Cellars

Mari Womack of Damsel Cellars.

Women Blazing the Wine-Making trail in Washington State

BY JEFF “WICK” WICKLUND

It's generally understood and accepted, particularly for the majority of female and the astute, preservation-minded male populations, that it is indeed women who naturally possess the superior sensory capacity and keen palate for evaluating wine. This statement is not hyperbole. but rather, a science-backed fact based on evolutionary genetics.

Granted, there is a ton (there's some hyperbole) to unpack with that opening pronouncement including an interesting question, "...naturally women should make great winemakers, right?" The answer is, "Yes! And they do!"

However, the wine industry as a whole has historically been a male-dominated domain but, in no way has it been exclusive. Today, Washington State has over 1,000 wineries with about 8% of them

having a woman as either winemaker or assistant winemaker and only fewer than 4% with the title of owner and winemaker. With the successes of the current minority gender, these percentages are destined to level.

Of course, there have been women "trailblazing winemakers" who helped shape the Washington wine industry and propel it to where it is today. Kay Simon of Chinook Yakima Valley Wines is the personification of trailblazing winemaking, regardless of gender. Kay was first introduced to the winemaking process as a child in California where she often assisted in crushing the grapes by stomping them under the watchful eye of her science teacher mom, Mary Louise, who kept tabs on the fermentation. These experiences inspired Kay to chase her passion and eventually get her

Photo courtesy Chinook Wines



Husband and wife team Clay Mackey and Kay Simon of Chinook Wines.

degree in Enology at the University of California, Davis which led to launching her career working for well-established Vineyards and Wineries in California. The burgeoning Washington State Wine Industry beckoned Kay and she migrated north to take a position at Chateau Ste. Michelle (CSM) in 1977 and quickly became the head Red Winemaker in 1978.

“I don’t subscribe to the idea that women naturally possess superior sensory capabilities to wine evaluation. It really has everything to do with experience”, says the ever-humble, experience-laden Kay Simon.

At CSM, Kay crossed paths with a fellow UC, Davis alumni and equally humble and talented, Clay Mackey who was the Eastern Washington Vineyard Manager for CSM from 1979-1982.

Armed with a vast amount of experience, Kay & Clay launched their own winery in 1983 and released their first wine (1983 Chinook Sauvignon Blanc) using exclusively Yakima Valley fruit. Named for the winds of the Pacific Northwest (and possibly the winds of fate). Chinook Wines are approaching four decades of providing exemplary, terroir-driven wines that have consistently punched way above their weight.

Photo courtesy Chateau Ste. Michelle



Katie Nelson, VP of winemaking at Chateau Ste. Michelle.



Photo courtesy Four Feathers

Four feathers wine service - Rebecca De Kleine / General Manager and Director of Winemaking.

There are many other women winemakers in Washington State that are greatly impacting the wine industry on many levels. Granted, some may not have total ownership but, their contributions are compelling. Katie Nelson, VP of winemaking at Chateau Ste. Michelle, is the most obvious example as she is orchestrating the wine production that eclipses nearly all of the other wineries in the state combined.

At Four Feathers Wine Services, some incredible, innovative wine production is happening. At the helm of this hugely impressive operation are some equally impressive women. Rebecca DeKleine is General Manager and Director of Winemaking at a facility that is bringing custom bulk wine production of Estate sourced Washington fruit to clients nationwide. "Our private label and control label services enable retailers, restaurants and other client partners to leverage our estate vineyards, state-of-the-art production facility and experienced team to create high-quality brands tailored specifically for their customers," Rebecca said. At the head of all wine production at Four Feathers is Frederique Vion and Casey Cobble is the lead on all red winemaking initiatives.



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"There has already been great progress in more women joining the wine industry. It will be a good day when the qualifiers can be dismissed, and we can all be simply winemakers."

On a much smaller scale and a total "hands on" operation, is an impressive (antithesis of "distressed") woman Owner and Winemaker, Mari Womack of Damsel Cellars. Mari is a classic example of passion-driven inspiration who, after catching the "wine bug," volunteered at many wineries in Woodinville before becoming Assistant Winemaker at Darby Winery. Damsel Cellars was launched in 2013.

I recently asked Mari her take on any genetic advantage women may possess for wine evaluation and where our state's wine industry is heading in relation to gender.

"While there is evidence that women are the superior tasters, there are so many factors that go into wine tasting and enjoyment. Like a muscle, you can exercise your palate and improve your tasting skills. The viticulture

(continued next page)

Photo courtesy Four Feathers



Private label from Four Feathers.



Photo courtesy Damsel Cellars Vineyard

Damsel Cellars Vineyard

and enology programs in Washington State are now filled almost equally with men and women. There has already been great progress in more women joining the wine industry. It will be a good day when the qualifiers can be dismissed, and we can all be simply winemakers". ♦



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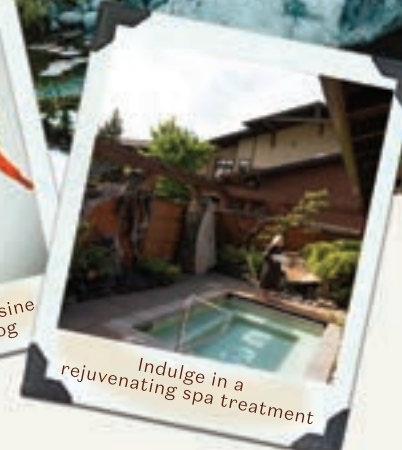
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Photo courtesy of Captain Whidbey

(above) Famous Penn Cove Mussels don't travel far to reach your plate here at Captain Whidbey's. (left) Stop and enjoy a flight at Penn Cove Brewery.

Gateway to the Islands

BY LAURA HILTON

Between the Salish Sea shores and the Cascade Mountains, Snohomish County offers plenty to do while staying local. But if it's a day trip to the islands you have in mind, then we have two jumping off points that will get you to live a little in "island time." Residents of Whidbey Island know Island Time well, as things seem to slow down a bit when your senses take in the breeze off the bow of the ferry and you slip away to another world. Slow your own clock down with a trip to the idyllic Whidbey and Camano Islands.

To reach Whidbey Island, take a shuttle from your flight to Paine Field to the state's newest ferry terminal in Mukilteo. Located just a half mile from the historic site where the US Government and local Native American tribes signed the Point Elliot Treaty in 1855, the new terminal honors that history, with a gorgeous design modeled after the form of a Coast Salish longhouse, including magnificent Coast Salish pieces by local Native artists.

CLINTON BREWS & BITES

After just a 20-minute ferry ride you'll disembark in Clinton. This lovely beach community has a long history as a hub for ferries, going back well over 100 years to the Mosquito Fleet boats which shuttled locals from island to mainland. Today it is a perfect place to begin your island journey and grab a bite to eat. For a welcoming atmosphere and great food, check out Cozy's, Whidbey Island's oldest continually-operated tavern, dating back to Prohibition days (okay officially, just after!). This family-friendly restaurant and local pub has recently become The Shrimp Shack at Cozy's, expanding their seafood offerings alongside their classic pizza and burger fare. For something lighter try Island Nosh right next door, serving up fresh noodle bowls and salads, along with an ever-rotating menu of comfort foods and yummy takeout options.

Before you've even left sight of the ferry you'll stumble upon some local libations not to be missed, so set your watch to island time and slow down to enjoy these local haunts or circle back before your trip is done. The Thirsty Crab Brewery is a family-owned, dog friendly place to grab a glass of locally brewed suds from a wide-ranging selection. If beer is not your drink, Clinton is also home to Skein & Tipple, a speakeasy bar tucked behind a high-quality yarn shop. Enjoy the feeling of 1920s glamor as you sip a delicious cocktail made from in-house syrups, with locally-distilled liquor available. This little gem has limited capacity and offers live music most nights of the week, so pop in early or enjoy dinner nearby and check back.

Whidbey Island is nearly 60 miles long and there are too many adorable communities to mention, but as you make your way north, the next gateway town you'll reach is Coupeville, where another short ferry ride offers access to Port Townsend and the Olympic Peninsula. Coupeville and the ferry actually sit on opposite shores, straddling a historic district that encompasses the military history of Fort Casey, agricultural history of Ebey's Landing, and maritime history of the Coast Salish peoples.

COUPEVILLE EATS & ALES

Coupeville is the second-oldest town in Washington State and looks out across Penn Cove, home of the famous Penn Cove Mussels. You can find this local delicacy served up at most restaurants in town, but for a big dose of local history and stunning water views, try them at Toby's Tavern or the Captain Whidbey Inn. Toby's is located right in the heart of town and was originally built as a mercantile in approximately 1890. The walls of this cozy pub are adorned with Pacific Northwest memorabilia and it even features its own microbrew, Toby's Parrot Red Ale. The Restaurant at Captain Whidbey is just a couple of miles up the coast, situated off the very scenic Madrona Way. This historic lodge dates back to 1907 and has long been a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. The log cabin inn and restaurant are rustic and inviting. In good weather, enjoy the large deck facing over Penn Cove, where the rafts of mussels provide a view of the aquaculture operation, and the menu is full of locally sourced ingredients.



(left) Grab a pint at Penn Cove Brewing. (right) Chef Scott Fraser works his magic.



(left) Enjoy the dog-friendly patio at Rustica in Oak Harbor. (right) Reach Whidbey Island via a ferry from Mukilteo. The classic ferry ride is an essential part of the island experience.

Coupeville is the original home of Penn Cove Brewing Company, whose success has led to an additional taproom in Freeland, which you'll have passed on your way up from Clinton and Langley. Along with a large array of standby favorites usually comes a few experimental new flavors and maybe a local collaboration, like a pumpkin stout made with over 300 pounds of locally grown pumpkins from Sherman's Pioneer Farm. If you're more of a wine lover, pay a visit to bayleaf, a food and wine lover's dream in the heart of Coupeville. Shop for high-end food products, purchase seasonal boxes, or join their wine club if you can't pick just one bottle.

OAK HARBOR DRINKING & DINING

Travel 10 miles north and you'll find yourself in Oak Harbor, by far the largest community on Whidbey. Oak Harbor has an active Navy base and brings in families from all over the country and beyond.

With more people come more restaurant choices. Rustica serves up a rotating seasonal menu of Italian delights; committed to showcasing locally produced foods and beverages. Enjoy the warm and rustic interior with its welcoming bar, or bring along man's best friend to the dog-friendly patio.

Children and dogs are also welcomed at Flyers, an aviation-inspired restaurant and brewery. Anyone who enjoyed the latest Top Gun: Maverick film (partially shot here at Naval Air Station Whidbey), will feel right at home. For fine dining, be sure to make a reservation at Frasers Gourmet Hideaway. Chef Scott Fraser spent years working in Vancouver, BC at the very finest French restaurants, before bringing his considerable talents to Oak Harbor and building this destination for steak and seafood lovers. The open-plan kitchen and charming atmosphere complement his beautifully plated creations.

This is the last township before you reach the iconic Deception Pass Bridge and drive off the island, headed to Skagit County, or west toward Anacortes, gateway to the San Juan archipelago.

CULINARY CAMANO

Although they are next door neighbors, Whidbey and Camano Islands are accessed from very different points in Snohomish County. A trip north on I-5 (turning off towards Stanwood) will take you to "the Easy Island" of Camano. Simply drive across the Camano Gateway Bridge and you'll find yourself in a Salish Sea utopia of rolling

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farmland, dense forest, and stunning water and mountain vistas. Camano Island takes its current name from an early Spanish explorer, but the first local people called it Kol-lut-chen, meaning "land jutting out into a bay."

This quaint community has farms that have remained in the same family for over four generations, so good local food is in the DNA of the place. Just across from Kristoferson Farm and their much-loved farm stand, you'll find the Rockaway Bar and Grill at the local golf course. Serving up burgers and seafood, this local favorite offers house specials and yummy vegetarian options. Enjoy the patio in summer or cozy up in the bar come wintertime.

To dine within a beloved State Park, visit Cama Beach Café. This delicious spot has an ever-changing menu and focuses on using local ingredients in their dishes. Take note that you'll need a Discover Pass to park, dine in, and enjoy all that Cama Beach State Park has to offer. Otherwise consider picking up a takeout order and finding the perfect spot for an island picnic.

A good gateway to the rest of the island is Camano Commons Marketplace. Try a locally brewed beverage at Tapped Camano or Camano Island Espresso. These pair nicely with an afternoon of shopping and a tasty bite from The Baked Café, where a French pastry chef is beloved by the community for elevating the baked goods scene.

Newly opened to rave reviews, the Blue Heron Kitchen and Bar on Cross Island Road is wowing diners. Eat like a local and try the pasta primavera and bacon wrapped figs, and a finale of strawberry rhubarb cobbler. ♦

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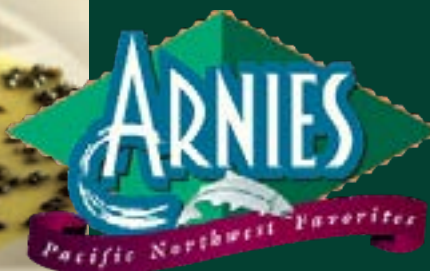


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“Seeing the first Native American woman spacewalk is a beautiful moment in time that we will all remember,” said Jessica Bustad, Director of Tulalip’s Education Division. “We not only need our children to bear witness to Native American achievement, we need all the politicians, education institutions and educators at all levels to honor and acknowledge these remarkable achievements as well.

“Our young people need to see Native American citizens continuing to break through glass ceilings, while owning all of their gifts, talents and abilities,” she continued. “We will continue to work towards breaking stereotypes and elevating the presence and strength of our ancestors. Now, when we say, ‘Reach for the stars’, we mean it quite literally.”



(left) A Tulalip youth wears a shimmering NASA-inspired outfit as he looks towards the International Space Station. (above) Native American astronaut, Nicole Mann gives a thumbs up from inside the Orion mockup at NASA's Johnson Space Center

A Native Space Odyssey

BY MICHEAL RIOS

Photos courtesy of NASA

The sky's the limit!

The popular saying – largely attributed to the early 1900s after the invention of flight – hasn't aged particularly well. After all, there was the legendary space race of the '60s that culminated in NASA sending Apollo 11 to the Moon on July 16, 1969. Four days later, hundreds of millions of Earthlings sat glued to their television sets in pure amazement as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin hopped around the Moon's near zero-gravity surface.

That singular moment changed the course of human imagination. In a manner of speaking "the sky's the limit" was forced into early retirement that day. Young Earthlings no longer capped their imagination to the sky held within our planet's atmosphere. Instead, they now thought of space as the new frontier.

Such was the case for Chickasaw Nation tribal member John Herrington. He imagined himself as a crew member on voyages of the starship Enterprise, exploring strange new worlds, seeking out new life and new civilizations...to boldly go where no Native American has gone before.

Like a true navigator, Herrington plotted his course and set out to make history. After logging over 3,800 flight hours in over 30 different types of aircraft, Herrington made history as the first ever Native American to accomplish space flight on November 23, 2002. He served as a mission specialist aboard space shuttle Endeavour on its 14-day mission to the International Space Station where Herrington was integral in completing station upgrades, equipment transfers, and the universally cool spacewalk.



"These young women, maybe Native, maybe people from different backgrounds, they realize that they have these opportunities. And so hopefully that will inspire that younger generation."

"I got to do everything I would ever do as an astronaut on my one mission," he told Indian Country Today. "I was very fortunate. I flew some Sage. I flew some sweet grass. I flew regalia for a friend of mine. Being able to take the flute and the feather out and actually float those in the International Space Station really meant a lot to my family."

Aboard space shuttle Endeavor, Herrington carried a flute made by Cherokee tribal member Jim Gilliland, a decorated eagle feather beaded by a Yankton Sioux citizen Philip Lane, and a Chickasaw Nation flag. Both flute and eagle feather remained in his possession as he transferred from his crew's shuttle into the space station. Soon after entering the International Space Station, he placed both items within the airlock where they floated together in the zero-gravity environment.

This once-in-a-lifetime moment is memorialized at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. within an exhibit holding the same flute and feather suspended in midair, like they are still in space.

Herrington performed three spacewalks totaling 19 hours and 55 minutes. The Chickasaw legend's historic achievement is commemorated on the reverse of the 2019 Sacagawea dollar coin. In 2017, he was also inducted into the International Air & Space Hall of Fame. Herrington continues to speak across the country on the topics of STEM, space aviation and the Chickasaw Nation.

It's been 20 years since the first Native American soared above our planet's stratosphere and space-walked 254 miles above Earth's surface. In late 2022, another history making cosmic event occurred for Native culture. This time for the matriarchs.



(top) Nicole Mann serves as mission commander over her crew aboard SpaceX Dragon. (bottom) With John Herrington aboard, the Space Shuttle Endeavor prepares to launch on November 23, 2002.



On display in the National Museum of the American Indian are the flute and eagle feather that travelled to space with Commander Harrington.

On October 5, NASA astronaut Nicole Mann, an enrolled member in Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes of northern California, earned the mantle of first Native American woman to soar in space. She served as spacecraft commander aboard the next generation shuttle Dragon Endurance as it launched from Florida's Kennedy Space Center to the International Space Station.

Like Herrington before her, Nicole was an exemplary student who took her education seriously. In fact, she earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in mechanical engineering with a specialty in fluid mechanics from Stanford University.

"It's very exciting," she told Indian Country Today, referring to being the first Native woman in space. "I think it's important that we communicate this to our community, so that other Native kids, if they thought maybe that this was not a possibility or to realize that some of those barriers that used to be there are really starting to get broken down."

Emblematic of her fulfilling a lifelong dream, Nicole carried a cultural item that is very special to her on board

her space mission. "I have this dream catcher that my mother gave me when I was very young. It's kind of always stayed with me throughout my time," she explained.

While the history books continue to be updated in real-time with Nicole's tremendous story, such as her spacewalk conducted on January 20, the Native astronaut will continue to serve as real-life icon for Native youth everywhere.

"It's so fun, I think, in our lifetime when you have firsts," she shared with NPR. "And I think it's really great to celebrate those and to communicate that, especially to the younger generation, right? These young women, maybe Native, maybe people from different backgrounds, they realize that they have these opportunities. And so hopefully that will inspire that younger generation."

As iconic culture bearers, the tremendous achievements of both astronauts have surely inspired Native youth across the nation who have a scientific mind and eyes set not on the ground beneath them, but the dazzling stars and galaxies above us all. ♦



Stewarding Smart Expansion

Growth planned with an uncompromising vision to serve the region's needs

BY ELLEN HIATT

A short conversation with Brett Smith, CEO of Propeller Airports, and it's clear that when it comes to the future of Paine Field, he has an uncompromising vision.

"Everything in this airport should be the best," he said. It's a matter of seeing the potential of the place, its intrinsic value as the Crown Jewel of Snohomish County, and its potential beyond its current operations.

With a new Master Plan just hatched, Smith and the county government are looking to expand within their existing footprint to meet the needs of the region.

"We're property constrained," Paine Field spokeswoman Kristin Banfield said. "We are not contemplating needing any additional property and we are not anticipating adding an additional runway."

But they are contemplating expansion to go from three gates to 10 within the next decade. With Smith at the helm, you can be assured that any enlarged airport operations will maintain the gold standard already set.

Paine Field was named one of America's best small airports by USA Today, and lifestyle media

company Monocle called it the best regional airport on the planet. They weren't exaggerating. During the recent commemoration of the final 747 leaving the Boeing flightline in Everett, the CEO of Lufthansa flew through Paine Field for the first time.

"He said 'You know, I don't feel like I'm in an American airport. I have never seen a terminal this nice in the United States,'" Smith recalled, with a smile spreading across his face. Smith doesn't hold it a secret that the outstanding experience of flying first class with Lufthansa was the model for his inspiration.

"We have people come through here all the time who don't expect it," he said. "I get such a kick out of it."

The bloom of free media is off the rose, though, after the original, pre-pandemic expansion of the facility, passenger traffic has dropped from 3,000 a day to just 2,000 passengers daily. He has work to do to put Paine Field on the map in a way that it becomes a household name. People from Northgate should be as



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The inspiration for Paine Field's terminal was Lufthansa's first class European operations.

“We need to make sure that we are competitive and people continue to love flying out of here, and want to fly out of here, and provide flights to places people want to go.”

inclined to choose to fly through Paine Field as someone from Dallas. Making the airport easily recognized as the preferable airport, saving time and hassle for travelers, while giving them a stellar experience, is his goal.

In the meantime, it has to grow. It's a matter of stewarding the resource that belongs to every resident of the county. Paine Field, along with its larger operations by Boeing and the bevy of related on-site aerospace companies, exceeds the GDP output of SeaTAC by nearly three times, producing nearly \$60 billion annually for the region.

The region is home to some of the leading Fortune 500 companies, including Costco, Amazon and

Microsoft, some of which have historically maintained the highest travel budgets in the world. The need for a robust regional airport is there, and Paine Field has the room to make it happen in a big way.

“If there is one flight a day to LA and you are a business traveler, you might choose to go to SeaTAC,” explained Smith. “Having a couple flights to LA, three to four from San Francisco, two to Tucson, and potentially to Dallas,” he said, would bring more travelers to the airport. “We are hoping to get Chicago service and we don't need to expand to do that,” he added.

Frequency of flights is crucial, he said. “Our vision is to be able to give

people more choice and give them the same quality of service they want.”

Such an expansion of service would also come with more traditional, high-end airport amenities. A full restaurant service, spa services, and retail are envisioned, all while making it “a really special experience. All too often you go through airports in the US and it's like a bus station.”

With all due respect to even the fanciest of bus stations, there is no comparison here.

“We need to make sure that we are competitive,” Smith said, “and people continue to love flying out of here, and want to fly out of here, and provide flights to places people want to go.” ♦





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Breathing Romance

Snohomish is the state's capital for breathtaking weddings

BY ELLEN HIATT *Photos courtesy of Snohomish Wedding Guild*

There is a reason the historic town of Snohomish and the farms and barns of the lower Stillaguamish River Valley attract the romantic type. Couples across the state gravitate to Snohomish as the premiere wedding destination. Perhaps it is nostalgia for the pastoral scenes of our past lives. Or the open vistas? The charming architecture and rough-hewn beams of century-old barns? Maybe it's the little churches and meeting halls in town that welcome the small gathering in celebration of life's moments big and small.

Craven Farm is among those charming locations, with an old barn turned silver from weather, and a pole barn for open air gatherings. The location was voted Best of 2022 and 2021 for wedding venues in

Snohomish County. It was once a dairy and berry farm simultaneously, and changed hands from its second generation farm family to a new kind of entrepreneur. Brian and Kimi Chadwick took over six years ago from Mark and Judy Craven, whose stewardship of the farm brought it from its original farming days to the agritourism site it has become.

Newly married couple Chris and Katharine Wehmeyer shared that their wedding at Craven Farms was "beyond an amazing day."

More "amazing days" are happening all the time in the valley. And there are so many one-of-a-kind places to create those special days.

Belle Chapel, The Feather Ballroom, Pemberton Farm, Jardin Sol Garden, Hidden Meadows, Twin

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More “amazing days” are happening all the time in the valley. And there are so many one-of-a-kind places to create those special days.

Willow Gardens, Crossroads at Thomas Family Farms, Woodland Meadow Farms, Lord Hill Farms, French Creek Manor, The Lookout Lodge, Machias Meadows, Maroni Meadows, Green Gates at Flowing Lake, Helios Ballroom, and A Chapel on Swans Trail.

Whew!

The Feather Ballroom alone comes with some star power. It’s “presented by” Lamb & Co., a powerhouse pair of sisters whose real estate acumen paired with a DIY spirit of home improvement and YouTube videos bought them national attention and an HGTV show of their own. Top that off with an endorsement by Hollywood actor and Lake Stevens local of “Guardians of the Galaxy” fame, Chris Pratt, who celebrated with his childhood friend, Scott Swoboda in a social media post over Swoboda’s purchase and restoration of the place before he recently transferred ownership to Lamb & Co.

The ballroom is, in fact, a unique find. Built in 1906 by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, its elegance was renowned, as well as its “sprung” dance floor, with coils beneath the hardwood to make dancers feel as if they’re floating on air. There are no other dance floors like it remaining west of the Mississippi.

Wide open barns. Floating dance floors. Secret gardens on the forest’s edge with carefully curated foliage tended by Master Gardeners. How does one choose?

Luckily for the newly engaged, that bevy of resources has come together, along with an equally impressive number of wedding planners, caterers, florists, and musicians to create a one-stop-shop for all things weddings in Snohomish.

The Snohomish Wedding Guild came together when operators in the region realized their mutual potential by working together. They’ve created in the last 15 years a network of professionals that promise to make your wedding come off without a hitch (except for the “getting hitched” part!).



The Snohomish Wedding Guild provides events and resources to locate every vendor an engaged couple might need.



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From secret gardens to historic barns and churches, the perfect intimate setting is in Snohomish.

The Guild provides tour events, open houses, and wedding planning events for its member organizations and would-be brides. The free wedding tour, June 4th, is a personal tour of more than a dozen venues and 100 wedding vendors, specialists in everything from hors d'oeuvres and bouquets to hair and makeup.

"We have built an amazing network," said Sharon St. Marie, vice president of the Guild and owner of Belle Chapel, a 138-year-old Methodist church that breathes romance and intimacy, perfect for small gatherings and eloping couples.

Wherever you choose to marry, there are memories to be made in Snohomish that will last a lifetime.

Kerry Carlson said "People still talk about how beautiful it was" when she married at Craven Farms 19 years ago.

Visit mysnohohomishwedding.com to start your wedding planning. ♦



Photo by Christine Mitchell

The Little Lies play sold out show at Tony V's Garage.

Musical Talent Abounds

National acts and little known locals provide first-class entertainment

BY RYAN CROWTHER

Let's be honest. 2022 was not an easy year for the local nightlife and music communities. As we wallowed through a third year of fewer national artists touring, and fewer people buying tickets to shows, dining and bar-hopping, our small businesses and artists did everything they could to survive. With all the challenges came some big wins.

As many festivals and annual events returned for their first year since 2019, live music fans across the region felt their first dose of normalcy. Clubs across the Puget Sound region had their first "sold out" shows in a couple years, bringing much needed revenue and confidence. Local artists released records and were even able to bring their songs on the road for regional and national tours. And, 2022 will always be the year of Steel Beans.

It's a tale as old as YouTube. Someone has their phone out at the perfect moment and captures something that elicits a hair trigger reaction of

laughter, sadness, longing and even rage. It's posted on the internet, and before scrollers can even think, the person likes, comments and/or shares the video and the algorithm has now boosted this video into the eyes and feeds of everyday people, and sometimes the biggest rock stars in the world. These viral moments can change the life of an artist in a moment. This phenomenon changed the life of Everett artist and one-man band Steel Beans this last September.

Since last fall, Steel Beans has garnered over 220,000 Instagram followers, has met several of his rock icons and has most recently been invited to open 12 dates in the US and Europe by Tenacious D, a rock band lead by comedian and actor Jack Black. This all happened after he posted a live video of him playing his song "Molotov Cocktail Lounge," which propelled views to nearly 100 million across the globe.

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“Literally six months ago I was playing in broom closets to scrape my rent together and now I’m playing the Starlight Theater in Kansas City and the O2 Arena in London.”

“It’s been a wild ride,” said Jeremy DeBardi, AKA Steel Beans. “It’s almost a sort of an overnight sensation 15 years in the making. One so sudden and massive, nothing could have prepared me for it,” said DeBardi.

Many who have watched Steel Beans over the past 15 years likely had a feeling this day would come. And for all the locals in Snohomish County who have been fortunate enough to see Steel Beans perform at Fisherman’s Village Music Festival, Mirkwood in Arlington, Tony V’s Garage in Everett or other places he’s performed over the past decade, this is an exciting time for them and DeBardi.

“Literally six months ago I was playing in broom closets to scrape my rent together and now I’m playing the Starlight Theater in Kansas City and the O2 Arena in London. But the real success is hearing from all the people that have been inspired by my music, and that it puts a smile on people’s faces across the world. That’s priceless, and that’s all bigger than me,” DeBardi said.

Steel Beans is amongst an impressive array of artists who have called Snohomish County home at one point. The first names that come to mind are Carol Kaye, and of course Kenny Loggins. There are also plenty of independent artists with roots here like The Moondoggies, who have kicked their arena sets off sharing proudly they’re from Everett, Washington.

Algorithms aside, there is nothing that can replace the thrill of the moment when the music and audience become one. It’s a lifeforce all its own, a special bond that only happens during a live performance. It’s what sends bands back out on the road and leaves audiences screaming for more.

There are many venues in Snohomish County where this nirvana is happening, and how perfect to think you’re supporting the budding and thriving career of an artist while also enjoying a night out with your friends, basking in the live music experience?

Over the spring and summer, there will be plenty of options to support your local artists, venues and community events. Over the last couple of years, both the Bothell Block Party and Brewfest and Snohomish Block Party have become summer staples, putting out



photo by Willy Marcia



Photo by Nate Feaster

(top) Steel Beans. (bottom) Digable Planets headline the Fisherman’s Village Music Festival.

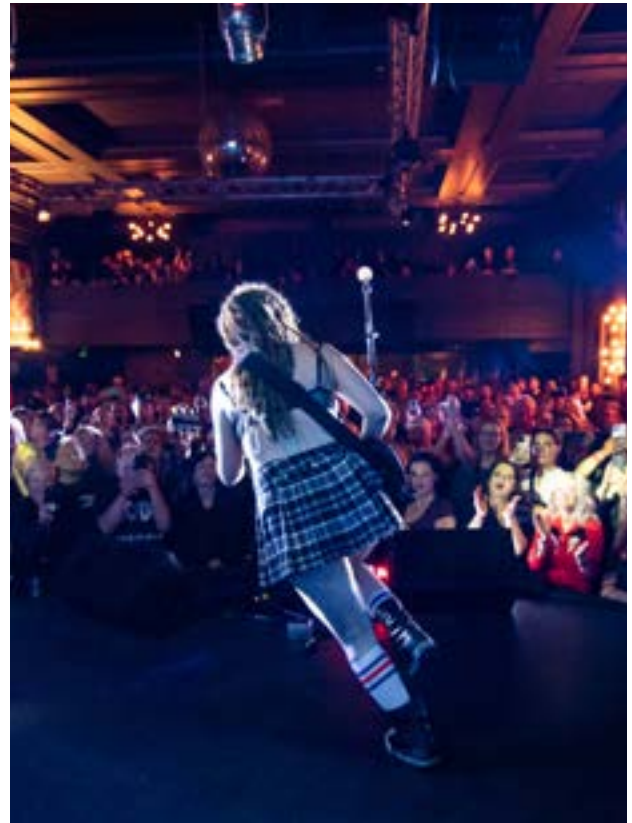


Photo by Christine Mitchell

Hell's Belles play the launch of Kings Hall at APEX Art Center.

incredible lineups of regional talent. This year, Taste Edmonds will be delivering its annual party at a new location with some new names. There's also venues in just about every Snohomish County city offering occasional live music.

No city in the County has as much momentum as Everett. With the recent addition of APEX Art and Culture Center, there are five thriving live music venues in Downtown Everett right now with venue capacity in Downtown Everett alone at nearly 2,500 people.

"We've noticed a huge wave of excitement on Hewitt," said Isabella Valencia, Owner of Black Lab. Bella just celebrated one year in her new larger location at 1805 Hewitt Ave, and has seen an uptick in attendance at shows, and in artists wanting to play. "Just since February 1st, we've seen a lot more people coming out, and it's welcomed. People seem like they are much more comfortable being out and about, and there's never been a more important time to support. People need to hold onto the things they value and show up for them, because they're precious and may not be around if they don't," said Valencia.

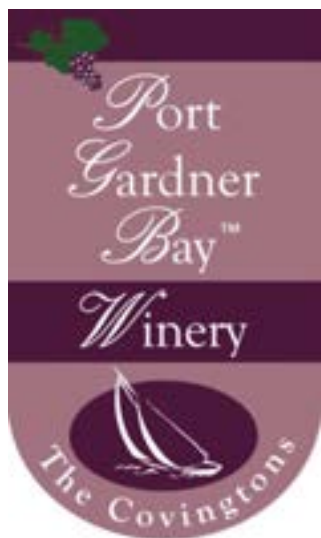
This May, Everett's largest showcase of local, regional and national talent will happen for its tenth year. Over 50 acts will fill five stages across Downtown Everett for

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Photo by Christine Mitchell

Boaters enjoying Everett's Music at the Marina series

Fisherman's Village Music Festival and Night Market on May 18, 19 and 20. Thousands of locals and visitors will hit the streets over the three days catching new and old names, filling restaurants and bars across the downtown core.

If you're unsure of the best places to go, perhaps Fisherman's Village weekend is the best place to start. ♦

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Food scraps are efficiently turned into chicken feed, benefitting poultry and planet.

Outsmarting Waste with Mill

BY WENDY POISCHBEG
FOR ECONOMIC ALLIANCE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Photos courtesy of Mill



If you're like most people, you probably don't give much thought to what happens to your food scraps once they're thrown away. But the reality is that food waste is a significant issue in our culture. It's estimated that up to 40% of the food produced in the United States is wasted, and most of that waste ends up in landfills. Not only is this a waste of resources and nutrients, but it also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change.

That's where Mill comes in. Mill is a new company founded by the same team that brought you Nest, and their mission is to outsmart waste, starting with food. Their approach is simple: they provide members with a special bin for their kitchen scraps, which dries, shrinks, and de-stinks the scraps overnight, turning them into nutrient-rich Food Grounds. Members can schedule a pickup for their Food Grounds in the Mill app once the bin is full, and Mill will work to transform the contents into an ingredient for poultry feed.

Although it may sound like composting, this is not the case. Composting involves breaking down organic matter into a soil-like substance, but Mill's process keeps the food as food, so it can be used to feed chickens instead of just enriching soil. Also, since the process is carried out in Mill's unique container, there is no need to deal with the dirt and smell associated with conventional composting techniques.

But Mill is more than just a convenient way to dispose of kitchen scraps. It's also an impactful way to make a difference for the planet. By diverting food waste from landfills and turning it into a useful product, Mill's preliminary estimate shows that its members can avoid more than a half a ton of greenhouse gas emissions per household year. And by supporting sustainable farming practices, Mill is helping to create a more circular food system that benefits both people and the planet.

Matt Rogers, Founder & CEO, Mill, explains: "Mill makes it easy to do the right

thing. Food isn't trash. But until today, it was hard to do anything except throw uneaten food in the garbage. The Mill Membership is a simple way to keep food out of landfills, send it back to farms, and make your kitchen smell awesome. From my time at Nest, we know that a small step at home can have a positive impact for people and the planet."

So how does it work? First, you'll need to sign up for a Mill Membership, which includes your special kitchen bin. Once you activate your membership by plugging in the bin, downloading the app, and connecting to Wi-Fi, you can start putting your kitchen scraps into the bin. The bin

will work its magic overnight, turning your leftovers into Food Grounds that are dry, nutrient-rich, and ready to be picked up by Mill.

When your bin is full, simply empty your Food Grounds into the prepaid box provided by Mill, and schedule a pickup in the app. The U.S. Postal Service will bring your Food Grounds back to Mill, where they'll be turned into a safe and nutritious chicken feed ingredient.

Along the way, you can track your positive impact through the Mill app. You'll be able to see how much food you've diverted from landfill, how much greenhouse gas emissions you've avoided,



Food scraps aren't waste if they're converted to soil or, as Snohomish County innovator Mill does, to feed.



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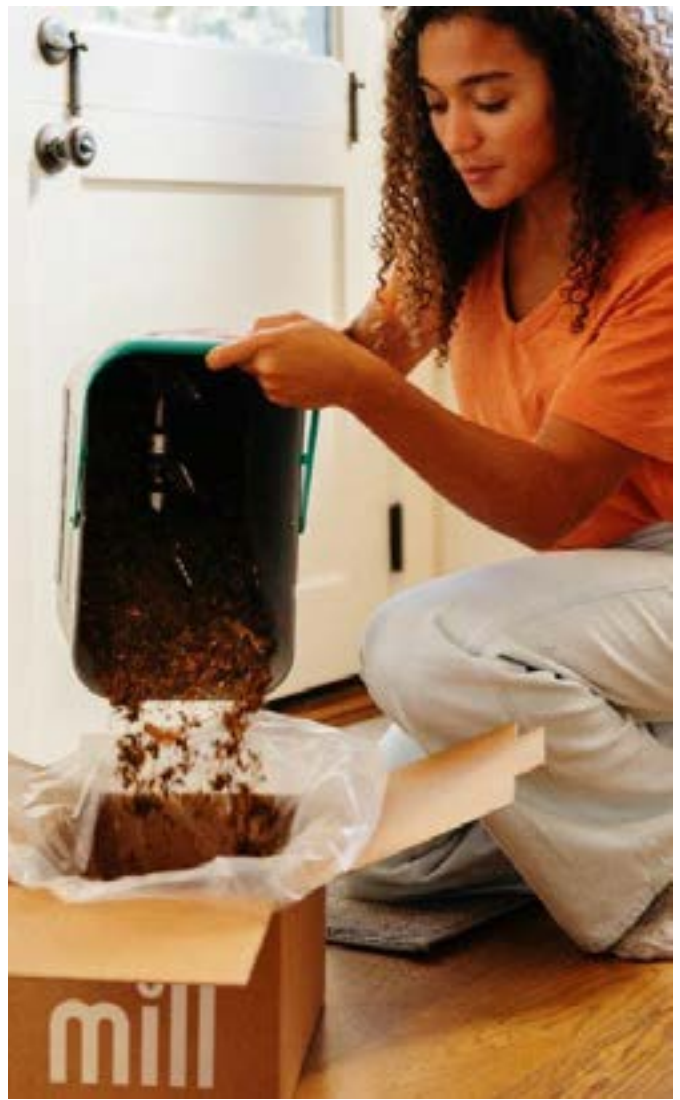


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Mill members ship their converted food scraps to the company for a hassle free process.

and more. And you'll be confident that each time you use your Mill bin, you're contributing to a healthier environment.

At a time when climate change and environmental issues are more urgent than ever, Mill offers a solution that's both practical and impactful. By outsmarting waste at home, you can help create a more sustainable food system and make a real difference for the planet. So why not give it a try?

The State of Washington has shown tremendous leadership in preventing food waste through efforts such as HB 1799, which also makes Snohomish County a great home for innovation. You can learn more about Mill at Economic Alliance Snohomish County's Economic Forecast and Annual Meeting on April 26, 2023 when Dr. Geoff Hill will provide the keynote presentation: How Snohomish County is paving the way for the hyper local food>feed>farm loop. The event will take place from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Tulalip Casino Resort. Purchase tickets at www.EconomicAllianceSC.org. ♦



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