

# WELCOME

Fall/Winter 2025-2026

COMPLIMENTARY

## A Transcendent Life

Sustainability at heart of global glass artist's work

*also inside:*

Vintage Finds Easy on the Eyes, Planet and Wallet

Everett Scores! Kickin' it for World Soccer Game

Seaside dining in charming Mukilteo



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## Letter from the Publisher

I was taught by my mother to always leave a place better than it was when you found it. This value has shaped my appreciation for individuals and communities that strive to improve themselves and their surroundings through art and through their way of life. My mother's ability to make a home out of every house we lived in was an inspiration to me, as are the people I've met along the way whose creative, placemaking and community-minded spirits have been.

When I met Julie Conway, I immediately sensed she was someone exceptional. She truly lives by her values—creating beauty, practicing kindness, and treading gently on the earth. I hope you find as much inspiration in discovering her story as I did.

In my ongoing pursuit of wisdom, I often ask people to share what they do to live a "net positive" life. One of the most enjoyable, impactful, and accessible practices is upcycling. In this issue, you'll find wonderful shops, owned and operated by passionate individuals, welcoming us to discover hidden treasures within their walls.

I firmly believe that when we initiate something positive, it sparks even more positivity. Perhaps that's why all of the hard work by Everett, the Port of Everett, and Snohomish County is beginning to yield results. We join in the excitement as fans from around the world come to experience our remarkable towns, vibrant culture, delicious restaurants, and local wine and brews. There is so much to look forward to in our future, and to appreciate here and now!

I hope this issue inspires you to enjoy fall and winter as they bring new and exciting adventures, people and places into your lives, and that wherever you go you leave it better than you found it.

Enjoy!

Fawn Clark, Publisher

# WELCOME Magazine

PAINE FIELD AIRPORT | SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
PNW REGION | TRAVEL | BUSINESS & LEISURE

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**Publisher/CEO**  
Fawn Clark

**Design Direction and Production**  
Jessica Shaw

**Web Design**  
Diane Conrad-Cascading Pixel

**Social Media**  
Diane Conrad

**Editor**  
Ellen Hiatt

**Contributing Writers**  
Ellen Hiatt | Richard Porter / Seattle NorthCountry  
Micheal Rios | Jeff "Wick" Wicklund | Wendy Poischbeg  
Pablo Colindres Moreno | Emily Gilbert

On the cover: Glass artist & lighting designer Julie Conway basking in the glow of her newest lighting series titled TERRA produced from 100% recycled & discarded bottles in a glass furnace fueled with vegetable oil with her partner studio in Oaxaca, Mexico.  
Photo by Marcus Badgley

**Contributing Photographers**  
Micheal Rios | Kyle Evans | Elise Giordano  
Christine Mitchell | Richard Porter  
Jake Campbell | Seattle NorthCountry  
Explore Monroe-F4 Photography captured these photos as part of the rural tourism marketing and production grant provided to the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce by the State of Washington Tourism

**Advisors**  
James Clark | Bruce Taylor | Aprilee Scott  
Luka Clark | Jody Briggs | Lloyd Spangenberg  
Taylor, Thomas and Joe Clark

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Welcome Magazine PO Box 192, Mukilteo, WA 98275

Direct all editorial and advertising inquiries to  
fawnclark@welcomemagsnoho.com

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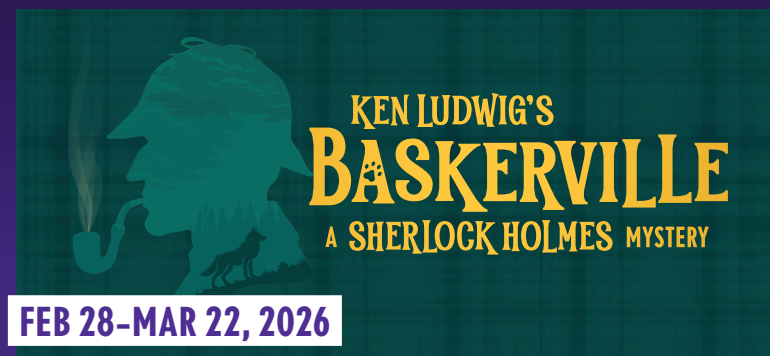
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October 23
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# Shining Light on Sustainability

Global glass artist's work a reflection of her values

BY ELLEN HIATT

Glass is an embodiment of life and legacy for artist Julie Conway, channeling the light of well being to spirit and body, and giving expression to values and philosophy. Living true to those values means using recycled bottles and working with an off-the-grid glass blowing shop in Mexico; it means living with a couch that may be older than her, and digging in dumpsters for materials she can put to good use. Her values of sustainability and “walking lightly on the earth” are not limiting her life experience, she says, they’re enriching it.



Photos by Marcus Badgley



(above) Glass artist Julie Conway creates lighting with recycled materials, including salvaged metals and discarded bottles. (right) She works with a skilled team of artisans at the Schack glass blowing studio in Everett.

With the recycled bottles transformed into glowing lighting pendants, and the relationships built in an industry where teamwork and a “hivemind” are essential, she creates beauty, inspired by nature, in her internationally known studio, Illuminata Art Glass Design.

She draws her inspiration from pyramids, temples and cathedrals, where light is intentionally used for spiritual and healing effects. Through vaulted ceilings and stained glass, light pours in, “charging you with different frequencies,” she said. Patterns in nature like the dappled light filtered through a forest are replicated in some of her pendant series. Light reflected off water made its way into a cracked glass scone, selected to show at Venice Design Week. The glass is merely Conway’s medium for refraction and reflection of light, for the expression and capture of energy.

“I shine light through glass in the home environment or in a hotel lobby so that it feels good to be around that light. I also strive to make spaces transcendent... I love that word because that is the essence of everything,” she said from her Everett studio in a historic, 1909 brick building built to sell farm implements and soon after to hold a casket company. Its high ceilings and rough hewn beams and floors are the perfect backdrop for Conway’s creativity.

Conway lives by her convictions. “And now here I am making lamps out of trash! I love it,” she shared while hovering over a high mound of discarded glass bottles in a video about the LUMi Collection of recycled glass shades, a readymade collection of glass from Illuminata Studio. Though she has glass art in the homes of wealthy people and in large installations in hotels and public spaces, she wanted

to make glass more accessible. The LUMi Collection is the summation of that effort—recycled, handblown glass lighting pendants made sustainably for a broader audience.

“I’m really talking about frequencies when I build something. I’m going to bring this into your house and you’re going to get to sit under it and eat your meals,” she said. Some of her customers say the lighting she creates for them “is the only one that feels good in the house.”

“I’m going to make you a beautiful lamp and it’s going to last a thousand years or more. And then it’s also going to bring you joy and it’s going to set the mood. I find it to be an absolute honor when people want my work in their home or in hospitality projects, because now my art is a feature focal point in their lives,” she said.

Making sustainable choices in her clothing, or housing or work allows



Photo by Julie Conway

"Luxor" (above) is a custom art glass chandelier by Conway, inspired by the era of art deco.



**"Elevating a space with light is my main goal. How can I make it align with my intention to walk lighter on this earth..."**



(top) *Acqua Sconce - Peacock Blue Crackle - Recycled Glass*, provide beautiful lighting at The Four Seasons Hotel. (bottom) Colorful pieces like the "Cielo" installation of multi pendant cluster of blown glass are brought to life by a team of artisans and Illuminata Glass.

her to live purposefully and passionately. Before moving to Everett, she has lived off the grid in a green design LEED certified home in Seattle, driven a hydrogen-powered vehicle, and built and resided in a wind-powered home in New Mexico. In her studio, a 1950s "durable" couch with boomerang shaped arms has been her studio sofa for the past 15 years. Mixed with her vintage chairs found next to a dumpster, "it feels good to be in here."

"I love collecting vintage things," she said. "I wear my grandmother's 1940s leopard coat. It's in mint condition. If things are well designed and well made, I try to honor that. And of course, I'm a producer. So how can I do that and inspire others?"

The lifelong conviction to sustainability lit a fire under her when she worked in Murano, Italy with master glass artists. After 1,000 years of glass making, a crisis of sustainability for glass artists was brought on by economic changes, including a spike in fuel prices to Asian-manufactured knock-offs of custom art glass. She began working with a biomass engineer and others to find alternative energy sources.

She connected with artists to find "eco solutions." Conway connected with legendary artists Hugh Jenkins, Charlie Correll and Mary White who were known for their environmental work. Together they formed the nonprofit BioGlass with Christian Thornton from Oaxaca, Mexico where her LUMi Collection is produced. Her efforts are focused on enclosed systems, "giving trash new life."

When not working in her studio to sort and design with the metal scraps rescued from the discard pile from nearby

manufacturers, amidst the bits and bobs of her art stored in stacks of vintage suitcases, she is blowing glass with a team at the Schack Art Center downtown Everett, or traveling to the off-the-grid glass blowing shop in Mexico to produce her designs in 100% recycled glass in furnaces fueled by vegetable oil.

Conway expresses a deep appreciation for her mentors and peers, as well as the broader cast of craftsmen who contribute to the creation of an art piece, from welders to suppliers.

The concentration of glass talent and resources in the Pacific Northwest influenced her decision to base her studio here. She settled in Everett not only because of the Schack's shared glass blowing studio, but because of the proximity to talent. It takes a skilled team working in synch, in a fast-moving dance around the concrete floor, with hot furnaces lining a wall and molten glass clinging to the ends of hollow poles.

With clear intention, Conway's breath gives life to an idea, an idea sketched onto paper as a vessel, and etched into her DNA as a life's purpose.

"Elevating a space with light is my main goal. How can I make it align with my intention to walk lighter on this earth and those values?" she asked. "It starts small," she said, adding that the intention to lessen our impact runs across all the threads of our life. "You really do gain momentum. When it's important enough, you will find a way." ♦

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# What's Good for the Planet is Good for the Wallet

## A vintage shopping guide to Snohomish County

BY RICHARD PORTER FOR DISCOVER SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Anyone who's been around for more than a couple of decades knows what's old is new again, and what's new will soon be outdated. Media cycles, generational gaps, and changing fashions conspire to make the world a very topsy-turvy place – a place where, improbably, cargo pants are suddenly a completely appropriate thing to wear in public. This point is driven home to me almost daily, as my kids tell me their love of platform shoes, bucket hats, and how they think of the White Stripes and Gorillaz as “classic rock.”

Cool. I'm super okay with that.

Yes, trends in fashion and pop culture repeat in cycles that grow quicker as I mature. Yet one thing that seems to be here to stay is the modern taste for vintage clothing and housewares.

There are different motives driving this taste for retro goods. Speaking personally, as a millennial, I've lived through one

major recession, quite a few dips in the economy, a pandemic, and some wallet-busting inflation. I can't afford to spend my hard-earned cash on cheap Amazon goods that will break. If I'm buying a coffee table, that baby is going to be made of solid walnut, because I'm not buying another one.

They don't make them like they used to.

There's also a little thing called “the planet” to consider. I don't need to tell you about the mounting environmental toll created by dyeing clothes, spinning artificial fibers out of plastics, and literally burning piles of yesterday's fast fashion.

When it comes to fashion, Snohomish County may not be Paris or Milan, but that's what gives it an advantage in the vintage game. Estate sales, antique stores, yard sales, and good old thrift shops can yield some fantastic, non-picked-over gems for those shoppers who don't mind diving into the racks looking for their next statement piece.



Nostalgia comes in highly collectible Americana-themed goods for the astute antique-hunter.

Let's take a look at your best bets for finding clothing and furniture items that are good for your wardrobe, home, and good old Mother Earth.

Heck, you might even impress your kids with that distressed denim jacket.

One man's trash is another man's treasure, and searching for secondhand treasures is more than just a pirate's pastime. Antiquers come from near and far to gander, graze, and cut deals in a place officially known as the “Antique Capital of the Northwest.”

Downtown Snohomish is home to hundreds of antique dealers at numerous shop locations. There's the Antique Station at Victoria Village, Antique Warehouse, and Star Center Mall, to start. Each of these antique malls is filled with dozens of vendor booths which have a theme: sports memorabilia, Midcentury Modern tables, army gear, impressionistic paintings, Art Deco lamps, or taxidermy. You get the idea. The Star Center Mall (829 2nd St) alone is a five-floor complex with over two hundred dealers selling art glass, vintage toys, estate jewelry, and collectibles.

Downtown Snohomish's Main Street is lined with even more small boutiques and antique stores. One could literally spend a full day in this small brick riverside downtown and not explore all of the offerings distributed throughout this treasure hunt of a city.

After shopping, sit and relax over lunch or dinner at Cabbage Patch Restaurant (2925, 111 Ave A). They play the oldies over the radio, serve up American comfort food and



Our goal is to prolong the lifespan of beautiful pieces that withstand the tests of time. The sales floor features a mix of consignment and vendors bringing an eclectic voice to antique curation. In our Everett store and our online auction, consignment items from estates are priced to move as we always have more coming in!



If you are a collector, re-seller, or someone who just loves antiques, you'll find interesting stuff, great prices, and friendly staff who care about the history of items.

1901 Hewitt Ave,  
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Photo by Richard Porter/Seattle NorthCountry

From woolen flannels to fine dishware and collectible lunch boxes, there's plenty to explore at the Victoria Village on First Street in Snohomish.

will leave you feeling nostalgic in a historic house-turned-restaurant. Their pie is made from scratch (and allegedly the old Victorian house is home to a resident ghost).

And secondhand treasures may start in Snohomish, but they don't have to end there. Fifteen minutes east in Monroe, you can find M&M Antiques and Collectibles on Main Street (110 E. Main St. Ste 200) — a trove of reasonably-priced gems. Same with Black Barrel Vintage, which has a more Americana flare with farmhouse decor and country apparel (112 W Main St.).

A few minutes to the west in the seaside city of Everett, be sure to check out Hot Rod Heidi's Vintage Clothing on downtown Hewitt Avenue (1301 Hewitt Ave). If you like retro fashion, Heidi Sawdon and company can outfit you to look like a 1930s starlet or a 1960s fashionista. Bonus: the shop is in the same storefront as Sunken Ship Tattoo. Mix and match clothes and retro goods for a whole new look before going under the needle for your next flash art piece.

Next door to Hot Rod Heidi's is Second Chance Antiques and Furniture, another antiques store offering nostalgic items at low prices. In the back of Second Chance is a staircase leading up to The Attic, which is the real treasure trove of vintage gear: a shop on par with Seattle or Bellingham.

Right on Broadway, you can find Everett's only used record store, Bargain CDs Records and Tapes (2100 25th St). Get those 45s spinning in style where all the vinyl is always half-priced.

When in Everett, be sure to also visit The Grand Leader (1502 Hewitt Ave), a 100-year-old building that's been completely remodeled and now offers a carefully curated selection of Mid Mod furniture, upscale housewares and inspired, eclectic finds in great condition.



Photo by Richard Porter/Seattle NorthCountry

Picking through racks of vintage clothes in downtown Snohomish may yield some surprises!



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These quality items are perfect examples of slow fashion: well-designed, quality garments that will hold up over time.

For those looking for upscale options, you need to head south to Downtown Edmonds to visit The Pear Tree consignment store (315 5th Ave S Ste D). Like the name of her store, owner Christine offers simple, elegant big-name brand clothing, mostly made from organic materials like wool, cotton, and linen. Score Louis Vuitton and Coach bags, Theory and Anthropologie clothes – at up to 80% off retail price. You read that right. These quality items are perfect examples of slow fashion: well-designed, quality garments that will hold up over time.

Of course, the thrill is in the search for the next thing. Treasure hunting is a good excuse to enjoy the pleasure of dining, walking, and relaxing in the classy vintage cities of Snohomish County.

Restore and reward yourself with adventure and leisure in the heart of the true PNW. You can always find more trip inspiration on our website [discoversnoco.com](http://discoversnoco.com) or by following us on social media @discoversnocowa.

Good luck hunting for treasures out there. And let us know what you find, okay? ♦



## PEAR TREE Consignment celebrates 6 Years in business!

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IHG ONE REWARDS



Tulalip Resort Casino's impressive 70,250-square-foot addition is now open, which brings the casino to a total of 270,250 square feet and marks a major milestone in the multi-year construction project. The new gaming area features an additional 400 slot machines, a new North Bar with an outdoor heated seating and smoking area, dramatic new north and east entrances, and additional restrooms.

## Looking to the Future

Award-winning Tulalip Resort Casino's expansion is complete, and renovation continues

If it was possible for Tulalip Resort Casino to improve on its long-time status as the Northwest's most distinctive gaming, dining, meeting, entertainment and shopping destination – it just did, again. Looking to the future, the sparkling Vegas-style casino just opened a spectacular 70,250-square-foot expansion featuring an additional 400 slot machines and other amenities. And there is more excitement to come.

A total renovation of the award-winning casino is now underway and scheduled for completion in late 2026.

The impressive new addition expands the casino to a total of 270,250 square feet of gaming excitement and brings the casino-wide total of slot machines to more than 2,600.

Conveniently located 20 minutes from Paine Field and a short drive from Seattle, Tulalip Resort Casino features a landmark 12-story, 370-room luxury hotel, live entertainment venues, the DraftKings Sportsbook and a highly rated full-service spa. Guests have their pick of delectable dining options

that will remain open throughout the top-to-bottom renovation.

The resort casino has been designated as a AAA Four Diamond resort every year since 2009. Other honors include top tier rankings on Condé Nast Traveler Gold and Traveler Top 100 Resorts lists, and a 2025 Travelers' Choice® award for Top Accommodations by Tripadvisor® placing the resort casino in the top 10% of all global listings.

Honoring Tulalip Tribes' culture and traditions, the new addition features stunning metallic tribal storytelling spindle whorls flanking north and east entrances with massive arched timber beams. The grand new north entrance faces the Tulalip Amphitheatre and Seattle Premium Outlets fronted by a landscaped courtyard. The striking new full-service "North Bar" provides access to an outdoor patio and smoking area.

The expansion provides guests with a glimpse of the rich color palette and use of natural materials coming to nearly every surface of the casino's

gaming floor. Innovative concepts representing the dynamics of the nearby Salish Sea, coastal shorelines and forest environments are woven into design themes. The blue and gray hues pay homage to waters and beaches, while creams and hints of copper and gold connote brilliant Pacific Northwest sunsets.

A prominent new ceiling treatment includes a distinctive, new way-finding architectural feature reflecting light with gold, copper and nickel colors. Its unique drop-down design component contains symbols of schools of fish travelling parallel to fishing nets in local waters. Other elements are representative of water currents, ripples, piers, nets, forage fish and jellyfish.

When all you want is everything, multiple dining choices abound, with exceptional freshly caught local seafood and grilled meats at Blackfish Wild Salmon Grill & Bar and handcrafted pasta dishes and woodfire grilled steaks at Tula Bene Pastaria + Chophouse. For a more casual repast there are several casual dining and beverage destinations to choose from throughout the casino.

Tulalip Resort Casino is a leading regional destination for live entertainment with Canoes Cabaret attracting top local talent each week, and top national entertainers in the intimate 1,200-seat Orca Ballroom.

Ready for pampering? The 14,000-square-foot T Spa is a haven to enrich mind, body and spirit. And if shopping is a welcome diversion, the Seattle Premium Outlets are just next door, featuring more than 125 designer brand stores.

Tulalip Resort Casino has teamed up with nearby Quil Ceda Creek Casino and Tulalip Bingo & Slots to present the ONE club card. It is free to join, and cardholders are recognized and rewarded at all three casino properties with many rewards and benefits.

For more information about Tulalip Resort Casino visit [everythingtulalip.com](http://everythingtulalip.com) or call 866.716.7162. ♦



(top) A prominent new ceiling treatment includes a distinctive new way-finding architectural feature that reflects light with gold, copper and nickel colors. A unique drop-down design component contains symbols of schools of fish travelling parallel to fishing nets in local waters.

(bottom) Tulalip Resort Casino's full-service T Spa features stress-relieving massages, body treatments and skin therapies to balance mind, body, heart and spirit.



# GO *Beyond* THE MATCH

*Come early and stay late at the Port of Everett's Waterfront Place*

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*Scarf up, join us next summer, and be part of the Everett Fan Zone.*

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Photo courtesy: Port of Everett



Photo courtesy: Port of Everett

(left) Restaurant Row at the Port of Everett's Waterfront Place will soon be home to six more restaurants with rolling grand openings planned for late 2025 and into early 2026. (top) The Port of Everett hosts nearly 100 events each year, with summer favorites like Sail-In Cinema taking full advantage of the Port's beautiful waterfront setting on Friday nights.

## Port of Everett: Casting a wide net (positive) for the region

BY EMILY GILBERT

Over the past decade, the Port of Everett has undergone a quiet yet powerful transformation – one that has reshaped its skyline, reinvigorated the local economy, and reconnected the community to the water in new and exciting ways. Once a shoreline dominated by industry, today the Port is a hub of innovation, recreation, and opportunity.

Although it has faced its share of challenges in its 100-year-plus history, its story is one of net positives. The Port now supports more than 40,000 jobs in the region and generates more than \$433 million annually in state and local taxes that benefit the entire region. Whether it's supporting global trade, creating family-wage jobs, welcoming boaters from near and far, or transforming historic shoreline into vibrant public spaces, the Port casts a wide net.

Recently honored with Economic Alliance Snohomish County's prestigious "Opportunity Lives Here"

award, the Port of Everett's is not only supporting the community today – it's creating opportunities for tomorrow.

### WORKING WATERFRONT: A HUB OF INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION

At its core, the Port of Everett is – and always has been – a working waterfront. Once the capital of Puget Sound's lumber industry, today it is Snohomish County's only international seaport, handling high-value, conventional, and overdimensional cargoes for the aerospace, military, construction, manufacturing, agriculture, energy, and forest products industries.

Over the past decade, the Port has invested more than \$150 million in maritime modernization. With more than 60 percent of jobs in Snohomish County linked to trade, this investment supports the community's economic resilience. These upgrades have strengthened key industries, spurred

job creation, and supported workforce development. Part of that work included a \$57 million South Terminal Modernization project which added a full-service berth and represented the Port's commitment to supporting global trade.

Most recently, the Port transformed a former mill site into Norton Terminal, a new 40-acre cargo yard at the heart of the working waterfront. Though it required a multi-million-dollar environmental cleanup, the facility now supports jobs, increases economic resiliency, and diversifies cargo capabilities. Nearby at Pier 3, Seaport tenant Everett Ship Repair shows the working waterfront in action and offers ship service and repair for all types of assets, including state ferries, military vessels, and commercial ships.

Soon, the Seaport will be buzzing with electric yard trucks and will offer shorepower for vessels, reinforcing the Port's commitment to efficiency and



Photo courtesy: Port of Everett

The Port of Everett's mixed-use development, Waterfront Place, offers abundant opportunities for residents and visitors to live, play, and stay.

Over the past two decades, the Port has invested more than \$180 million to transform its dockside infrastructure into a premier destination. It has upgraded esplanades with new landscaping, expanded parking, launched popular events like Sail-In Cinema and Music at the Marina, and recently opened a new fuel dock accommodating vessels of all sizes. For midweek cruisers, "Tankful Tuesdays" offer discounted fuel – a welcome perk.

**WATERFRONT PLACE:  
A DESTINATION FOR ALL**

One of the most visible projects for boaters and visitors alike at the Port of Everett is its Waterfront Place development – a community-first vision bringing housing, restaurants, office, waterside retail, public space, and more to the waterfront. Waterfront Place is already marking 1.6 million site visits per year and is only in the second stage of development.

After an extensive and multi-million-dollar environmental cleanup, the Port has built new infrastructure, roads, walkways, restaurants, boating amenities, parks, plazas, and public spaces. This infrastructure investment has unlocked more than \$350 million in private investment by way of housing and hospitality. Further, the Port is working with private development partner Lincoln Properties to keep the momentum going. Lincoln is expected to break ground on 300 housing units and ground floor retail in December 2025 and is pre-leasing for 120,000 square feet of Class-A office space.

The Port anticipates rolling grand openings for six new restaurants later this year and into early 2026 on Restaurant Row in Fisherman's Harbor. It recently announced Marina Azul Cocina & Cantina as the newest addition to the lineup that also includes Rustic Cork Wine Bar, Tapped Public House, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, and The Ned Shed (a fresh fish market and fish-and-chips bar).

But Waterfront Place is more than just a large-scale real estate venture. At full buildout, Waterfront Place is expected to support 2,100 family-wage jobs. The project's expected \$1 billion in public/private development investment will generate \$8.6 million annually in state and local sales taxes in addition to the temporary construction jobs, sales tax and building permit revenues. The project has the potential to shape the way thousands of Snohomish County residents work, play, and stay.

**A NET POSITIVE FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

The Port of Everett's transformation over the past decade is a clear example of net positives in action. From expanding trade and supporting family-wage jobs to revitalizing shoreside spaces and welcoming new visitors, the Port casts a wide net when it comes to positive impact across Snohomish County.

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environmental stewardship. The Port is also partnering with Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center and Maritime Institute on a first-of-its-kind high school maritime program in the County, preparing students to graduate as fully credentialed and professionally trained entry-level mariners.

For its wide-ranging efforts, the Port of Everett was named 2024 Port/Terminal Operator of the Year by Heavy Lift and Project Forwarding International – an industry honor for the entire region.

**PORT OF EVERETT MARINA:  
A HAVEN FOR RECREATION**

Beyond global trade, the Port is a hub for outdoor recreation. Home to the largest public marina on the West Coast, the Port offers 2,300 slips and 5,000 lineal feet of guest moorage. The Port's Jetty Island offers a natural escape just a short ferry ride away. Its 13-lane boat launch, the largest in the state, is slated for renovation expected next year. New restaurants line the waterfront (with six more coming soon), miles of paved trails invite walkers and cyclists, and a full-service boatyard, haul-out services, and more are all on site. The Port also hosts nearly 100 waterfront events, with community favorites like Haunted Harbor (the Friday before Halloween) and Holiday on the Bay (the first weekend in December) growing every year.

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(left) A big score brings "jump from your seat" big reaction. (above) No need for expensive gear. All kids from around the world need is a ball and some space.

## Everett's About to Score Big

How FIFA's 2026 World Cup is putting our city on the global map

BY WENDY POISCHBEG, CEO, GREATER EVERETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

When FIFA announced Seattle as a 2026 World Cup host city, our region scored. Everett? We're stepping onto the pitch.

While Lumen Field will host the matches, Everett will be an official Fan Zone, turning our streets and waterfront into the region's soccer headquarters. Yes, we'll have the massive screens, the watch parties, and the kind of electricity that makes a city feel alive. And when the same crowd that packs Angel of the Winds Arena for Silvertips hockey meets the world's game? Scarves up, Everett!

### WHY SOCCER RULES THE WORLD

Soccer is the ultimate equalizer. There is no need for expensive gear or specialized courts. All it takes is a ball, some space, and the kind of passion that breaks through language and culture. It is the most popular sport on the planet; four billion fans cannot be wrong. From São Paulo's back alleys to Manchester's



Crowds gather for watch parties under big outdoor tents.



(top) Crowds roar with all for one and one for all team spirit. (bottom) Obsidian Beer Hall, in the heart of Downtown Everett serves an array of beer, cider and wine. Set in a brick-walled building that recalls old Everett, it also doubles as a modern art gallery showcasing local art.



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stadiums, the game creates instant communities where strangers become teammates for 90 minutes.

Here in the U.S., that passion is catching fire. More than three million kids play organized soccer. Major League Soccer now rivals the National Hockey League in attendance, and streaming platforms are paying billions for broadcast rights. What once felt like a niche sport is becoming part of the American DNA, and Everett is ready to ride the wave.

### THE BEAUTIFUL GAME MEETS THE WORKING WATERFRONT

Starting June 15, Everett will host six major watch parties, including a Juneteenth celebration when the U.S. Men's National Team takes the pitch at Lumen Field just 30 miles south. Picture this: Hewitt Avenue buzzing with team colors, Tapped installing massive screens for the waterfront crowd, Avocado's prepping World Cup specials, and Angel of the Winds Arena ready to host overflow celebrations. That unmistakable energy that only soccer can generate will flow from Port of Everett's Boxcar Park to every corner of downtown.

From our working waterfront to Hewitt Avenue, Everett's built for celebrations that matter. When Boeing workers, shipyard crews, and families from across Snohomish County come together for soccer, you get the kind of authentic energy that can't be manufactured.

## EVERETT'S HOT SPOT FOR DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT



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The timing could not be better. The United Soccer League is working with Everett on plans for a new stadium, turning the World Cup from a one-time celebration into the start of a permanent soccer scene.

### TAPPING INTO THE SOCCER SURGE

The smart play is not just to host; it is to build. Everett businesses are already leaning in. Restaurants are planning themed menus. Staff are learning international traditions. Even the regulars at South Fork Baking Co. are swapping pastry tips for Premier League debates.

The real opportunity runs deeper than match days. Soccer culture breeds entrepreneurship — think specialty gear shops, training academies, supporter clubs that become local institutions. Everett's maker spirit aligns perfectly with soccer's grassroots energy. We're talking about building an entire ecosystem around the beautiful game.

### PLAYING BEYOND 2026

The timing could not be better. The United Soccer League is working with Everett on plans for a new stadium, turning the World Cup from a one-time celebration into the start of a permanent soccer scene. With pro-level facilities, passionate supporter groups, and a deep youth talent pool, Everett could quickly become a true soccer city.

This stadium brings economic development with cleats on, promising jobs, tourism revenue, and the kind of community pride that comes from having a team to call your own. Picture Friday night lights with international flavor and year-round seasons - the same energy that fills Angel of the Winds Arena for Silvertips games, but every week from spring through fall.

### SHIFTING A CITY'S IDENTITY

FIFA's spotlight is already sparking change. Businesses are gearing up for visitors, youth programs are expanding, and soccer is finding a permanent place in our city's identity. The beautiful game entertains, connects, and inspires, and in Everett, it is laying the groundwork for something lasting.

We have always been a city of makers and dreamers. Now, we are about to become a soccer destination. And we are ready to score. ♦

# A seafood odyssey in the heart of the Salish Sea...

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Photo courtesy: Boeing Future of Flight

(above) Family-friendly exhibits take aviation enthusiasts both young and old into the future. (right) A tail section from “The Queen of the Skies” provides a unique backdrop for a commemorative selfie.

# The “Everyday Miracle”

## Experience flight at the Boeing Future of Flight and factory tour

BY RICHARD PORTER

Maybe you don’t realize it, but we are living in the future. For millennia, humans have dreamed of the day when they would take to wing and soar skyward, carefree and lighthearted. Perhaps that’s easy to overlook when you’re sitting in a plane several thousand feet above the earth, yet it’s truly an everyday miracle that we live with in the modern era. Cruising along in the clouds while sipping a cocktail? That’s a pretty remarkable happenstance in the scope of human history.

This wonder of being airborne will be restored to you when you visit Boeing Future of Flight and experience the Boeing Everett Factory Tour where the 777 and 777X are assembled. The Gallery exhibits take you, yes, to the future; but they also transport you into the past as you walk through a decommissioned section of the International Space Station and look to the legacy of yesteryear’s Rosies bucking rivets for the Allied war effort during World War II.

Let your imagination take to the skies as you explore the exhibits. There’s no time like now to visit the Future of Flight Gallery. Pro tip: before you get started, be sure

to enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee and a snack at the newly opened Paper Plane Café.

Bonus: the Future of Flight is now open seven days a week for the first time since 2020!

Here’s what you can expect.

### BOEING AEROSPACE ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE

Explore the future of flight through interactive challenges and stories from real Boeing innovators. The Boeing Aerospace Adventure Exhibit invites visitors to design aircraft, tackle sustainability, and glimpse into the world of aerospace careers. It’s an inspiring hands-on journey for curious minds ready to dream big and join the next generation of explorers.

### SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL EXHIBIT

Next, discover how Boeing is leading aviation’s push toward decreasing emissions through innovations in sustainable aviation fuel and more. This exhibit explores

the promise of sustainable fuels—cutting carbon by up to 80%—and Boeing’s role in research, testing, and scaling global supply. It’s a window into a cleaner, more resilient future for flight, industry... and the planet!

### WISK: REVOLUTIONIZING URBAN TRANSPORTATION

This exhibit takes you into the cutting edge of urban transportation. Imagine taking an Uber across the city, only instead of driving on wheels, your vehicle executes a perfect vertical takeoff before zipping through the air to your destination. Also, there’s no driver. This is the realm of autonomous aerial taxis, the future of cross-city transit. At the Future of Flight, you can get up close to a Wisk Aero craft, which looks like something from a sci-fi movie, but is coming soon to a city near you. This is the only place in the Pacific Northwest where you can experience such a craft in real life.

### THE BOEING ENGINEERING ZONE

This brand-new exhibit offers fun STEM educational opportunities to everybody. Learn about the work of Boeing engineers and how their ingenuity informs (and transforms!) the aerospace industry. “The Lettuce Lab” is geared toward younger kids by posing the question: “What’s it like to grow lettuce in space on a space station?” as a way to think about the future of space farming.

### KIDS’ ZONE

The Future of Flight sparks wonder through their STEAM activities. STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts,

and Mathematics – are the modern skills needed to help the next generation find quality jobs in the arts and sciences. At the Future of Flight, kids can get hands-on when they build simple robots, create art projects, and explore physics at the Bernoulli table. Be sure to ask the front desk for “exploration guides,” immersive scavenger hunt challenges that will encourage young aerospace enthusiasts to explore the entire facility.

### WE CAN DO IT: THE LEGACY OF ROSIE THE RIVETER

The photo archives of Boeing come to life in an exhibit that takes viewers into the history of women in the airplane industry. During World War II, trailblazing women filled Boeing Factories in Seattle and Renton (as well as subassembly plants in Everett). These women donned overalls, aprons, ballcaps and handkerchiefs to hit the assembly lines, keeping airplanes rolling out the door and into Uncle Sam’s arsenal. Their indomitable spirit is on display at the Future of Flight. Prepare to be inspired.

### QUEEN OF THE SKIES: CELEBRATING THE BOEING 747

She’s called the Queen of the Skies. The unique silhouette of the 747 has been seen on air strips around the world for over 50 years. Its double-decker humped front epitomizes the golden age of air travel. Because of its size, Boeing built its famous factory, which is the largest building in the world by volume (more on that building in a bit). The legacy of the 747 is celebrated in this exhibit, as well as the stories of the engineers who took the concept of the plane from drawing board to reality in a mere 16 months.



Photo courtesy: Boeing Future of Flight



Drones and autonomous aerial taxis are coming soon to a city near you.

Photo by: Richard Porter/Visit Snohomish County



Photo courtesy: Boeing Future of Flight

The Sky Deck offers an ideal vantage point from which you can see the comings and goings of a globally recognized commercial airport.

### SKY DECK

After you've perused the gallery, take the elevator up to the Sky Deck. You're in an ideal vantage point to watch the daily flight operations at Paine Field Airport. Glimpse private craft, commercial flights, and even experimental aircraft as they take off or land. The Sky Deck also affords inspiring views of the North Cascade Mountains and the Boeing Everett Factory, making this the perfect place for a selfie.

### THE BOEING STORE

The Boeing flagship store has all the swag. You can buy collectors-edition model airplanes or a Rosie the Riveter baseball t-shirt and many other aerospace-inspired merchandise. You could even, at one point (I'm not making this up) get a Boeing-branded Stratocaster electric guitar with a seafoam green body. You don't want to leave the Future of Flight without first hitting up the gift shop to represent your love of all things that fly and soar through the air. Paid admission is not required to visit the store.

Hop on a tour bus and discover a building you simply won't forget.



"Rosies" kept wartime manufacturing going at Boeing during World War II

**...you can get up close to a Wisk Aero craft, which looks like something from a sci-fi movie, but is coming soon to a city near you.**

How big is the Boeing Factory? It can fit 75 football fields. It can hold all of Disneyland. The enormous building even generated its own weather system of clouds and condensation, prompting the installation of state of the art air circulation systems.

The scope of this, the largest building on earth by volume, is hard to convey without resorting to superlatives. You really just have to see it to get a size and extent of this city within a building — complete with restaurants, cafes, medical care, and a video rental store. The planes on the assembly line look like toys below.

### PAPER PLANE CAFE

Grab a bite and a drink at the newly opened Paper Plane Café, featuring premium, all-day offerings, freshly brewed espresso and coffee, and baked treats. The Café has a local flare, serving specialties like Caffé D'arte, Alki Bakery, and Ivar's signature clam chowder.

Just north of Seattle, visit Boeing Future of Flight in Mukilteo and be sure to book tickets for the Boeing Everett Factory Tour. Check out Boeing Future of Flight online at [www.boeingfutureofflight.com](http://www.boeingfutureofflight.com) ♦



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## Wine. Again. Naturally.

BY JEFF “WICK” WICKLUND

Natural wine, or “natty juice” as the cool kids like to call it. What is it? I’ve been asked this question so many times over the past couple of decades, and typically with the obligatory “air quotes.” My general response has been to identify it as a rapidly growing sector of the global wine industry and then delve into a historical discussion dating back to the 1960s and a group of winemakers from the tiny village of Morgon in the Beaujolais region of France.

My understanding is that these pioneers, affectionately known as the “gang of four,” led by Marcel Lapierre, were simply trying to retrace the ways of their grandparents and generations before, when pesticides, synthetic chemicals, and other additives were not available.

The truth? I really can’t pigeon-hole it. This phenomenon has become so

much more than a fad, and to me, it has always seemed like a redundancy. How does natural wine fit in or overlap with sustainable, organic, or biodynamic farming and winemaking practices? The facts are that there is no single, official, universally recognized certification for natural wine.

So, without a real uniform definition of natural wine, there is a general understanding of the principles of its production. Simply put, unadulterated fermented grape juice!

Wine, or any form of alcohol for that matter, at its origin had to be natural. Was it a Neanderthal or some other prehistoric human who stumbled upon a beehive after rainfall and thought it would be a good idea to drink the bubbling elixir, and then thought it a better idea to continue?

When you take into account the entirety of wine production globally and



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winnow it down to somewhere in the neighborhood of natural wine, the first obvious elimination can come from what I call “refinery wineries.” The industrialization of wine production is truly the antithesis of natural wine. “McWine,” as I also fondly refer to the mass production of formula-driven wine, does, however, account for the vast majority of consumption.

Remember when Two Buck (or however many Bucks it is now) Chuck burst onto the scene decades ago? I remember thinking, “Perfect! Another gateway to expand the consumption of wine.” If there is one thing that everyone in the wine industry can agree upon, it’s that we all want to expand the consumer base.

I thought it prudent to ask a professional in the wine industry for her thoughts on natural wine. “First off, I’ve determined to abandon the term ‘natural wine’ in favor of ‘minimal intervention wine’ in describing these wines that we represent in our portfolio,” said Janet Beeby of Vinea Imports and professional Wine Educator. “Our business model is anchored in the belief and support of small, independent producers globally who adhere to the principles of minimal intervention, which to me means simply nothing added and nothing taken away in the process. There can be up to 74 additives that are currently allowed without being required to put them on the label. The Whole Foods shoppers who are interested in organic products without chemicals added are gravitating to minimal intervention wines.”

(above) Sven Leiner produces certified biodynamic wines in the southern Pfalz region of Germany that reflect biodiversity and minimal intervention winemaking. (bottom) The cellar at Vie di Romans in Friuli, Italy.



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**The Whole Foods shoppers who are interested in organic products without chemicals added are gravitating to minimal intervention wines.**

On a recent trip to Northeast Italy, I saw firsthand the implementation of natural (minimal intervention) wine growing and production. I visited many multi-generational vineyards and wineries that know the importance of cultivating healthy, regenerative soils in the vineyards for future generations. I witnessed an unbridled passion to continue what their forefathers began in the wineries and cellars, which made me think, "Back to the Future." ♦

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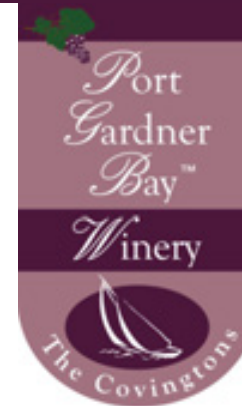
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(left) Neil Hamilton carrying a salmon from the net to the filleting table. (above) Beach seining at its finest. All are welcome to pull in the Spee-Bi-Dah catch.

## Netting community: Spee-Bi-Dah

BY MICHEAL RIOS

*Photos by Micheal Rios*

On a cool summer morning, Spee-Bi-Dah beach was quiet and gray. A soft mist clung to the tide line, gulls floated on the breeze, and the air smelled faintly of salt and seaweed. By midday, as the sun broke free of the clouds, the beach transformed. Families poured in carrying chairs, blankets, and coolers. Children darted barefoot across the sand, their laughter rising above the waves. Smoke from a fire pit curled skyward, carrying with it the savory aroma of salmon roasting over open flame.

The Tulalip Tribe's annual Spee-Bi-Dah beach seine had begun.

For the Tulalip people, whose homelands hug the Salish Sea, this event is more than a summer gathering. It's a rare revival of a practice that once defined their way of life: seining the beaches for salmon.

### FROM EVERYDAY LIFE TO ONCE A YEAR

Only a few generations ago, beach seining was common across Coast Salish territories. Families camped on the shoreline year-round, setting nets in rhythm with the tides, providing sustenance and stability for their communities. Fishing was the everyday heartbeat of coastal life.

Tulalip elder Dean Ledford, now in his late 80s, remembers those days vividly. "We used to camp right out here in the 1950s," he recalled, gesturing toward the beach. "No houses then, just the ocean and the camps. My uncle was the big fisherman of the family. He'd bring the teenagers out here with him and teach them to fish year-round. I'll tell you what, there's nothing like pulling in a frozen net in the winter. Was it difficult? Sure it was, but we did it together."

Today, that life exists only in memory and in moments like Spee-Bi-Dah. Modern regulations, increasing urban development, and the pressures on smaller and smaller salmon runs have all but ended regular beach seining. What was once daily practice has become an annual celebration. Today, Spee-Bi-Dah is a single day when the Tulalip people return to ancestral sands to honor the water that has always sustained them.

### PULLING THE NET, PULLING THE PAST

When the seine begins, dozens of people gather at the ropes. Teenagers laugh as they lean back with all their weight, while seasoned fishermen call out steady instructions. Elders, grounded in memory, watch



Elders look on with pure joy as the youngest generation enjoys the beach, bay, and beautiful tradition.

carefully, offering advice when needed.

The work is physical, slow, and collective. As the net tightens, the water shimmers with life. Silver flashes break the surface as salmon leap in panic, attempting to escape the net, allowing the sunlight to scatter off their scales. Gasps ripple through the crowd, followed by cheers as the catch comes into view.

For many of the youth, this is their first time hauling a net, their first tactile connection to a practice their great-grandparents once considered ordinary.

“You can’t just go seining anymore,” said fisherwoman Darkfeather Anchetta, her hands gripping the wet rope, water lapping at her waist. “So to see the youth who run up to grab part of the net and then pull with every bit of strength they have, it’s special. They are learning by doing what it means to live by the sea.”

#### A FEAST IN THE OLD WAY

While the seine unfolds at the shoreline, another traditional rhythm beats nearby. A clambake pit, heated by fire and stones, releases plumes of steam as layers of seafood are unearthed: clams, shrimp, crab, each infused with the earthiness of seaweed and wood-fired smoke.

Plates fill quickly with steamed shellfish and salmon smoked to perfection. Families cluster on blankets and driftwood benches, balancing food in their laps while stories spill out as freely as the tide.

Pitmaster Tony Hatch has overseen the clambake for years. “We’ve become a well-oiled machine,” he said, laughing with rake in hand. “My crew consists of my three kids, several nieces and nephews, and a few others who

show up every year and put in the work. Eventually, I want to step back and sit in my chair while one of my kids take the lead. That’s how we empower the next generation to step up and really embrace their culture. First, we teach them. Then, we let them lead.”

Food here isn’t a simple meal. It is memory made edible, a connection to the same abundance that sustained generations.

#### STORYTELLING BY THE SEA

As the afternoon lingers, stories surface as naturally as the tide. A grandmother points to the water, recalling the dugout canoes of her childhood. Her great-grandchildren splash in the same waves, carrying forward the continuity of place.

Quileute elder Harvey Eastman, walking with his grandson, said simply, “The seafood bounty is something that is passed down from generation to generation, just to share with family and friends. It’s so good to see all the smiling faces. The sun is shining. I couldn’t ask for more.”

Nearby, his daughter Marysa held her infant son. “This is Jonah’s first Spee-Bi-Dah,” she said with a smile. “My grandma Joy was telling us about her memories of splashing on a row boat out here when she was a little kid. Now, my kids, her great-grandbabies are here splashing in the same water.”

#### WELCOMING HANDS

Though rooted in Tulalip heritage, Spee-Bi-Dah extends beyond tribal lines. Friends, relatives, and



Matriarch Winona Shopbell and her daughters proudly wear ribbon skirts to the coastal celebration.

visitors are folded into the circle. Not as observers but as participants.

One such participant, Henry Dwan, a Taiwanese-born resident of nearby Shoreline, was spotted hauling the seine alongside Tulalip youth. Later he carried trays of steaming seafood to the tables. “Back home, I grew up on an island surrounded by water,” he said. “Being here and being surrounded by the water and being immersed in the nature is such a gift. I feel such a blessing being here and seeing everyone enjoy Mother Nature’s gifts.”

#### THE SALISH SEA CONNECTION

For the Tulalip Tribe, Spee-Bi-Dah is filled with nostalgia of a bygone time. It’s also a living affirmation of their enduring relationship with the Salish Sea. The water is a caring relative, a generous provider, and vigilant teacher. Through fishing, cooking, storytelling, and gathering, that connection continues, even as circumstances change.

What was once the everyday rhythm of life is now concentrated into a single day. Yet in that one glorious day, the Tulalip community, and those invited into it, experience a glimpse of what it means to live in reciprocity with the sea.



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Maria Rios watches as her 2-year-old son Enzo devours his first jumbo shrimp.

“Days like this are how we keep our traditions strong and our people connected,” Darkfeather reflected after hauling in a massive set of twenty-three salmon. “You see kids learning from elders, cousins playing together, aunts laughing, and our people taking in that good medicine from eating traditional foods. It’s our people connecting with the water and each other. That’s what Spee-Bi-Dah is all about.”

#### MORE THAN MEMORY

As evening sets in, the shoreline begins to quiet. Nets are rolled, fire pits cool, families pack up blankets and chairs. The laughter fades into the sound of waves brushing the sand.

What remains is not silence, but renewal.

Spee-Bi-Dah may only come once a year now, but in that day, it carries the weight of centuries. It is proof that even when practices shift, the essence remains. Through the pull of a net, the taste of smoked salmon, the laughter of children in the tide, Tulalip’s traditions endure.

On this small stretch of shoreline, the Salish Sea still gives. It gives fish, yes, but also unity, identity, and an opportunity to remember what it means to be a Tribe. ♦

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**VillageTheatre KIDSTAGE**



The intimate bar at John's Bar & Grill.

# Seaside Dining

Mukilteo restaurants offer another reason to experience this little "City by the Bay"

BY KANDACE BARNES

Few places in Snohomish County parallel the beauty of seaside-town Mukilteo. This hidden gem, just 30 minutes north of Seattle - has some of the best views of Possession Bay complete with a walkable beach, a fully operational and beautifully maintained lighthouse, and a fantastic dining destination. With a dozen options packed in a one-mile radius, the Mukilteo Waterfront District offers everything from fine dining, to a walk-up fish and chips bar.

John's Grill, located on 5th Street, is known for their incredible hand-cut, locally sourced steaks and fresh ingredients. Crab cake fans come near and far for John's huge, all-Dungeness version - the biggest and fluffiest. John's also offers an expansive list of Northwest wines along with an impressive whiskey lineup including bottles from E.H. Taylor, W. L. Weller, and Yamazaki.

Chris Shirley (Trails & Taphouse/Daniel's Broiler), creates a fine-dining experience that is

both casual and welcoming. Sit down for a special dinner celebration or stop by for beer and a burger (in-house ground ribeye/filet mignon/NY steak mix).

**John's Grill**  
649 5th St, #101, Mukilteo  
johnsgrillmukilteo.com

Hook & Cleaver, located in the middle of the Waterfront District, offers a stunning panoramic view from Clinton to Everett in a beautiful fine-dining atmosphere. Part of Lombardi's Restaurant Group, there's something for everyone. Try their lunch classics like the super fresh Poke Salad, the Hook & Cleaver Wagyu burger, or the Prime Rib Dip sandwich. Their Premium Northwest Beef is cast iron-seared in beef tallow with your choice of sauce, and a long list of available sides like blue cheese garlic fries or roasted cauliflower. Looking for seafood? Hook's Pasta Nera with seared scallops over squid ink pasta in a lobster cream sauce will make your seafood day. Hook & Cleaver also prepares the perfect weekend brunch with choices including Crab Cake Benedict, Chicken and Waffles, and their legendary Giant Cinnamon Roll.

Hook & Cleaver has the biggest deck in Mukilteo-sit outside and enjoy all they have to offer. They've even added monthly comedy nights, whiskey pairing events, and a Chef-paired Wine Dinner. It's a perfect destination for a special celebration or time with friends and family.

**Hook & Cleaver**  
714 2nd St, Mukilteo  
hookandcleaver.com

The warm and classy interior of Cabernets & IPA's makes it the ideal place for date night or girls' night out. With fabulous water views inside and out, enjoy one of their 20 wines by the glass options or a bottle from their wine wall. Try a beer from their 24 taps including rotating specials from local breweries, or a specialty cocktail from their full bar. Cabs & IPAs features small plates that are both filling and tasty. Make sure to check out their steak sandwich with beef sourced from Snake River Farms and bread from Macrina, their infamous Nacho plate with homemade guacamole, or the much-loved Fig and Gorgonzola flatbread. You can't miss their outdoor patio, complete with a massive gas firepit that seats 8-10, making Cabernets & IPAs a unique and fun experience



Ivar's Mukilteo Landing Halibut with fresh Chimichurri, saffron rice, and asparagus.

during colder northwest evenings. They also offer a party room that can be reserved for celebrations. Swing by on Wednesdays and Saturdays to take part in their 30% off bottle specials along with live music.

**Cabernets & IPAs**  
204 Lincoln Avenue, Mukilteo  
cabernetsandipas.com

Chef Boom at Thai Waterside offers both traditional and creative Thai dishes that are beautiful to look at and unforgettable flavor. With impeccable and personal service, step inside this charming cottage set in a picturesque garden and find signature dishes like Braised Pork Leg and Sea Bass Green Avocado Green Curry alongside fan favorite Pad Se Ew. Thai Waterside has a large menu with many vegetarian and vegan options. Make sure to leave room for dessert – their Mango Sticky Rice is a must-have.

**Thai Waterside**  
415 Lincoln Avenue, Mukilteo  
thaiwaterside.com

Ivar's Mukilteo Landing offers the quintessential seafood menu including salmon, cod, and their signature fish and chips or clam chowder. Make sure to start off with their perfectly seasoned fried calamari or their locally grown steamers in a heavenly wine-butter sauce. Try one of their

amazing entree salads such as the Northwest Seafood Cobb Salad. Their dining room offers dynamic floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the local boats and ferry traffic. Ivar's offers a robust Happy Hour menu and you can sit outside with a deck built literally over the water. You might see one of the resident otters, or if you're lucky, spot a passing whale pod.

Ivar's also offers its traditional fish and chips and soft serve ice cream cones at a walk-up window next door. You can sit at one of their outdoor tables, or stroll along the waterfront.

**Ivar's Mukilteo Landing**  
710 Front St Suite B, Mukilteo  
ivars.com/mukilteo-landing

Located up a set of stairs off 5th Street is Turning Paige, a turn-of-the-century house-turned bistro. Turning Paige features a glass-walled outdoor deck so you can enjoy the expansive views of Possession Bay even during winter months, complete with cozy blankets and heaters. Try their fabulous flatbread options like pear with brie or salmon and goat cheese. There's plenty of small plate options including crab dip and lumpia, along with sandwiches and salads. Don't miss their hand-crafted cocktails; the Tequila Mockingbird is a local favorite.

**Turning Paige**  
613 5th St, Mukilteo  
turningpaigebistro.com



View from the dining room at Ivar's Mukilteo Landing.

**With impeccable and personal service, step inside this charming cottage set in a picturesque garden and find signature dishes.**

There are also several casual dining options in Mukilteo's Waterfront District. Stop by Sound Pizza and Pub for their tasty pizzas, calzones, and wings. Grab a table on their deck or patio with a beautiful surrounding garden. Start with their amazing bruschetta or cheesy bread and a glass of wine or beer with views of the water from inside and out.

**Sound Pizza & Pub**  
403 Lincoln Avenue, Mukilteo  
thesoundpizza.com

Diamond Knot offers a wonderful pub. Kid-friendly, the menu includes specialties like their Hot Rock cooking (interactive cooking at your table), pizza, nachos, wings – a little something for everyone! Try their Peanut Butter Bacon Burger or their Seafood Chowder featuring Sockeye salmon and clams. For dessert check out their own DK Rootbeer Float, or grab a cone from their ice cream counter. Diamond Knot is next to Lighthouse Park, perfect for a stroll before or after dining.

**Diamond Knot Brewery & Alehouse**  
621 Front Street, Mukilteo  
diamondknot.com

The Red Cup Café, a Mukilteo institution, can be found in Lincoln Square. Its signature breakfast and lunch sandwiches and creative salads make the perfect place for a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. Located in a cozy cottage setting, there's charming outdoor seating in a beautifully tended garden – all with stunning views of the Olympics and Whidbey Island.

**Red Cup Café**  
619 4th Street, Mukilteo  
www.facebook.com/RedCupCafe

If you've got room for dessert, stop by Mukilteo Chocolate Company located next to Red Cup and Sound Pizza and Pub. They create hand-made chocolates and have ice cream by the scoop and milkshakes.

**Mukilteo Chocolate Company**  
407 Lincoln Avenue, Mukilteo  
checkle.com/biz/  
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# Village Theatre: Enriching lives and expanding perspectives

BY ELLEN HIATT

Adam Immerwahr is able to look back on a lifetime with theater as a core experience.

“Theater has touched every part of my life—it’s my career, my hobby, my community, and my passion,” he said. “It has taught me to think, to work hard, to create, and to lead.”

Immerwahr is the Artistic Director of Village Theatre. Whether you’re a theater kid or an audience member (or both!), Village Theatre has been bringing joy and hope into Everett for nearly 30 years.

The theater company began in Issaquah 46 years ago. The City of Everett expanded their world class operation to become the resident performing and management company for the Everett Performing Arts Center, which seats 500-plus patrons.

This season, as in past, offers a diverse line-up of shows.

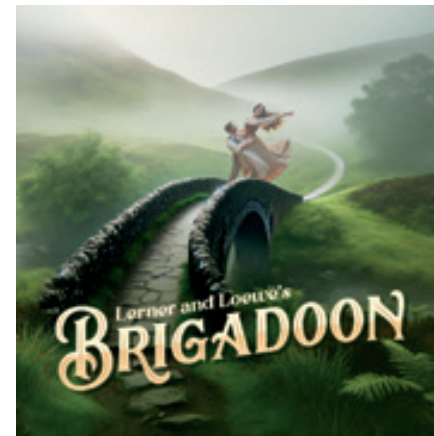
“Every year, my team and I dive into about a hundred musicals and plays in search of the right mix for our season,” explained Immerwahr. “We listen closely to our subscribers and staff, we talk with our artists about the work that excites them, and we keep an eye on productions both locally and nationally. My goal is always to build a season that blends the familiar with the unexpected—titles our audiences know they want to see alongside

discoveries they didn’t know they’d love.”

The season begins in October with *Brigadoon*, “a legendary romantic musical,” and runs through July 2026. In January, catch *9 to 5 The Musical*, a workplace revenge comedy from living legend Dolly Parton; February and March, Ken Ludwig’s *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* is playing. *Baskerville* is a fast-paced adventure with everyone’s favorite detective. *Grease* comes to the stage in May, with pop culture satire, grit, glam and youthful exuberance. And *We Ain’t Ever Gonna Break Up: The Hymon and Parfunkel Musical*, plays June and July. The season closer promises “ear-to-ear smiles as fictional folk singers Saul Hymon and Bart Parfunkel satirically skewer the jukebox musical.”

“In the end, I want someone who attends the whole season to feel they’ve experienced a rich variety of work, witnessed the incredible breadth of talent in Seattle’s artistic community, and left the theater with their life enriched and their perspective expanded,” said Immerwahr.

Theater is a lot like public art, in a way. It provides economic benefits and enriches a community’s cultural experience. But its benefits are harder to quantify than counting dollars and cents.



**“Not a week goes by when we don’t receive emails and calls from audience members as well as students and their families about their experiences at Village Theatre.”**



“More than anything else, theater makes us better people—it reminds us of our shared humanity, inspiring us not just to see the world differently, but to act differently within it,” Immerwahr added.

That kind of sentiment is heard from throughout the community, he added. “Not a week goes by when we don’t receive emails and calls from audience members as well as students and their families about their experiences at Village Theatre. Over and over, we hear that theater is bringing joy, bringing uplift, bringing hope, and bringing community to them. Our artists regularly tell us through surveys, emails, and conversations about their positive experiences—not only is it a job, but it is a chance to do their craft and collaborate with other extraordinary theater-makers.”

An added blessing is Village Theatre’s youth education program, which is in its 43rd year, having served thousands of students annually. It includes in-school residencies, after-school classes, a year-round performance institute for advanced students, summer camps, weekend classes, professionally led and student-directed productions, musical theater writing, technical theater training, and even teaching apprenticeships for older students.

“The impact of these programs has been profound—Village is helping to shape not only the next generation of theater artists, but also future audiences, donors, and community leaders,” he said. “Theater education builds skills that extend far beyond the stage: collaboration, imagination, public speaking, creative problem solving, persistence, and teamwork. And the proof is in the productions—it’s rare to see a professional musical theater show in this region that isn’t filled with alumni from Village’s youth programs.” ♦



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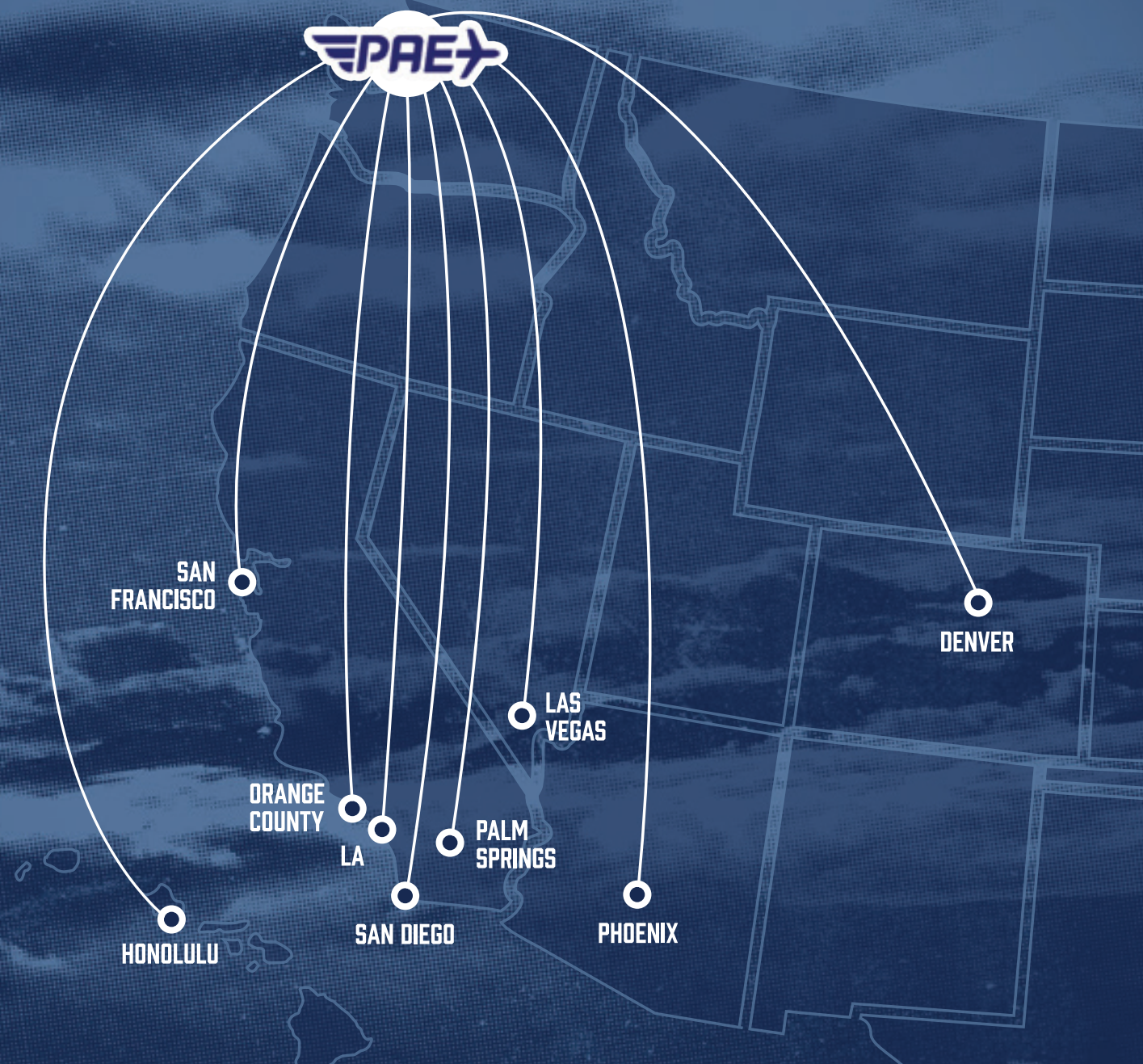
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Photo courtesy Hub N Spoke



Photo courtesy Hub N Spoke

(left) Tonya Christofferson taught women in Africa how to sew washable sanitary napkins. Here, she poses with a mother, daughter and granddaughter who all sew. (above) School girls pose for a photo in Ethiopia. Everyone wants a selfie when you go to schools, she said.

# Small Acts for Big Impact

From Snohomish to Africa, local woman serves everyone she meets

BY ELLEN HIATT

Moving half a million dollars worth of product to children in her community and across the world to the Mathare slums of Africa seems like a gargantuan task for a single woman. But it's no different, says Tonya Christofferson, than being a single, divorced and poor mother, feeding her children popcorn for dinner, and giving of her time to someone in more need than herself.

"You can't carry the weight of the world on your shoulders," Christofferson remembers hearing from her mother.

"Well!" She smiles and says, "Nothing's changed!"

When I first met her in person seven years ago, we were standing in a Starbucks parking lot and I was handing over a couple of old, dusty suitcases, so musty I was almost embarrassed to offer them. She was going to load them up with soccer balls, and cloth sanitary napkins and "dignity kits" for young women and girls in Tanzania. She and her friends had met in her living room to sew the napkins and assemble the kits.



I found her first on Facebook, where she was a friend of a friend I actually knew personally. On Facebook, as everywhere, the hum of this world is sometimes overwhelming. The chatter of opinions and emotions from every corner of my universe can come to feel as though the problems of life, my own and others, are too big to tackle. But Christofferson was different. She was positive, but not Pollyanna. She was productive, but not pushy. In short, I found her inspiring.

Christofferson makes a trip to Africa multiple times a year, channeling donations towards schools and playgrounds, and supporting communities who have a poverty of resources, but abundance of spirit.

"I think, in this weird way, walking around the Mathare slums with 800,000 people who have literally nothing, I find such peace. I love the joy and harmony. It's like my safe place, you know? I'm not dealing with lying and judging and hate. I mean, sure they have it; they're human beings. But it's not obvious." Civility is the norm, and it creates an environment of harmony, she said.

Her compulsion to help people isn't isolated to Africa. It's everywhere she goes. In her retirement she's even busier, collecting school supplies from stores like Fred Meyer's, and from her friends.

"So I'm able to give generously to CASA, who has a whole bunch of children coming in, and then to the McKinney-Vento program," she said. CASA serves children



Photo by Marcus Badgley

Christofferson's friends are central to her work. (top) Michele Street sits with her at a desk they provided for schools. Street has gone to Tanzania with Christofferson, and hiked Kilimanjaro and is returning to hike Meru and continue their work. (bottom) left to right, Julie Bilyeu, Christofferson, Street and Elaine Hofstadter walk at the Port of Everett. All have volunteered or served on local boards together. "All three are a blessing to me and what I do."

**"Tonya's stories inspired me to get involved — not just emotionally, but actively. It's important we work together to make life easier for others."**

— Elaine Hofstadter

with court-appointed advocates, and McKinney-Vento is a statutory mandate for schools to help schoolchildren impacted by homelessness. "I have 5,000 brand new pencils in the garage, and a tote full of glue sticks. I'm always, constantly moving it. Right now I have school supplies for the shelter. If Darrington Food Bank called me, I would take them stuff."

In the winter, she runs a drive for cold weather gear, like coats and gloves. And every Friday she serves as a co-leader for "Trauma Reboot," a collection of women who have been in and out of prison and sex trafficking and suffering domestic violence.

"They're the same kind of women that I serve internationally. They're hard women; they've had a rough life," she said. One of the women told her that at the age of eight, her mother pimped her out.

"You have to remember that this stuff is not only in Africa or Nepal or Peru or Spain. It's happening right here," she said. "It's hard to know that a mother would sell her eight-year-old daughter for sex. It's so hard to talk about. It gets really heavy. And I know there are times when I just have to be by myself and process it."

That's when she goes on hikes, or takes her granddaughter out to the woods and teaches her the names of plants. My first conversations with Christofferson, before I'd ever met her in person, were about my desire to take my family on hikes, but I didn't know the best places. She invited me to go with her, as she does with nearly everyone she meets. She gives in small ways and in big.

"When I was first divorced, I was poorer than a church mouse. My kids and I slept in the same bed. I couldn't afford power. I went to the food bank. We ate popcorn for dinner. But I still did stuff for other people," she said. "Nothing's changed... I can just do it in a bigger way."

The bigger way today is through her non-profit, Hub N Spoke. It's intentionally small, she explained, even though



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Photo by Marcus Badgley

Tonya Christoffersen started Hub N Spoke to provide essential resources to vulnerable people at home and abroad. Learn more at [hubspokenonprofit.org](http://hubspokenonprofit.org).

there are offers from other, larger groups to collaborate. Because the resources come from her friends and her network, she is disinclined to grow beyond what she can manage herself. Her integrity is the real currency she leverages when she asks for help.

Her friends joyfully and willingly give to her mission because it fulfills their own need to leave a positive impact in this world. But they also give, she contends, because they know she will follow through and keep her word. One friend, she said, won't ever get on an airplane to go to Africa with her, but she and her husband are donating \$10,000 toward a playground.

"Do you know what that's going to do to the Mathare slums, having \$10,000 worth of playground equipment?" she asked. "Those kids are not going to know what to do! It's going to be an amazing thing."

In Africa, she said, each tribe has its own cultural values and ways of thinking about the world. One might practice polygamy and the other not. One of her African colleagues she works with to deliver resources said she was selfish to not be polygamous! Cultural norms are accepted and practiced as though they are law, differently from tribe to tribe, just as people take drastically different political points of view as though they're the only truth, she said.

What's most important, she agreed, is the underlying humanity of everyone, and how we can be a positive part of people's lives.

"Honestly, I love what I get to do." ♦



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School tour group engaged as they discuss art.

## Cascadia Art Museum: A decade of rediscovery

BY SALLY RALSTON

This year, Cascadia Art Museum celebrates a remarkable milestone—10 years of sharing the rich and often untold stories of Northwest art. Since opening its doors in 2015, the museum has become a cultural treasure in our region, dedicated to preserving, studying, and presenting the visual arts of the Northwest from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century.

From the very beginning, Cascadia set out with a bold mission: to bring to light the achievements of artists who have too often been overlooked in the broader history of American art. These are the painters, printmakers, sculptors, designers, and photographers who shaped the visual identity of our region. Many lived and worked in the Cascadia region, and their work reflects the landscapes, cultures, and ideas that make the Northwest unique.



An interactive tour at Cascadia Art Museum introduces students to visual arts of the Northwest from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century.

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Sydney Laurence (1865-1940). *A Special Potlatch*, 1924. Oil on canvas, 22 x 36 inches. Promised Gift to Cascadia from the Garvey Family Collection; Richard P. Habersham (1859-1933). *Mt. Rainier from Puget Sound*, November, 1901. Oil on canvas, 12 x 20 inches. Promised Gift to Cascadia from the Garvey Family Collection.

**Art has the power to connect  
us across generations,  
cultures, and life experiences.**

At its heart, Cascadia Art Museum is not just about preserving the past; it's about connecting that past to the present. The museum's exhibitions and programs help visitors see how art can be both a mirror and a guide, showing us where we've been and helping us understand who we are today. Whether it's a major retrospective on an influential Northwest artist or a thematic exhibition that explores design, photography, or social history, each show offers a chance to look closer, think deeper, and be inspired.

Cascadia is more than a museum of beautiful objects; it's a place of learning and discovery for people of all ages. Through school programs, students encounter works of art that spark curiosity and encourage them to see the world in new ways. Family days invite young visitors to explore with hands-on activities, while lectures, gallery talks, and guided tours provide adults with opportunities to delve into the stories behind the art.

Art has the power to connect us across generations, cultures, and life experiences. For young people, encountering original works of art can be transformative, encouraging self-expression and critical thinking. For adults, art offers perspective, reflection, and sometimes a much-needed spark of joy.

In the Northwest, our art history tells stories of innovation, resilience, and connection to place. It reveals how artists have engaged with the natural environment, responded to social



An exterior view of Cascadia Art Museum in Edmonds, Washington.



Visitors explore the Walker Gallery at Cascadia Art Museum.

change, and embraced cultural diversity. By exploring the art of the past, we gain new insight into the challenges and opportunities of our own time.

Located in Edmonds, Cascadia offers an inspiring setting for an afternoon visit, a family outing, or a personal retreat into the world of art. With changing exhibitions, educational programs, and special events throughout the year, there is always something new to discover.

Whether you are an art enthusiast or a history lover, Cascadia Art Museum is a destination that will deepen your appreciation for the cultural heritage of the Northwest. Come celebrate the 10 year anniversary and see for yourself how the past can illuminate the present and inspire the future.

For more information about current exhibitions, upcoming programs, and ways to get involved, visit [www.cascadiaartmuseum.org](http://www.cascadiaartmuseum.org). ♦

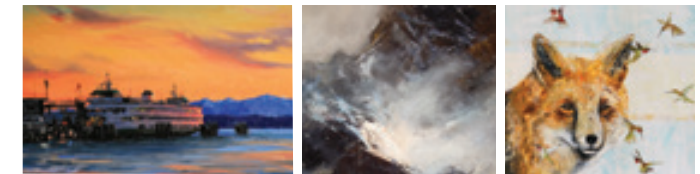
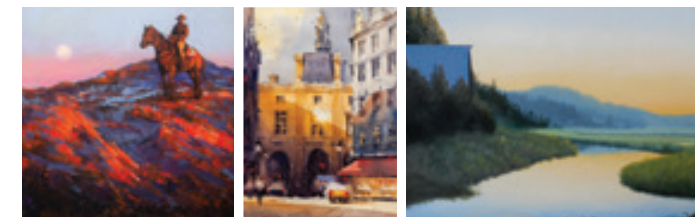


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## Passenger Favorite Paine Field Emerges as an Economic Force for the North Sound

BY PABLO COLINDRES MORENO  
FOR ECONOMIC ALLIANCE SNOHOMISH COUNTY

In June, The Washington Post named Seattle Paine Field the #5 Best Small Airport in the United States. The Post based its analysis on real feedback from passengers, including airport statistics and even Yelp reviews.

This is excellent news, of course. Passengers flying out of and into Paine Field are having a stellar experience, and they're talking about it to others. As exciting as it is to see hard work paying off, Brett Smith, CEO of Propeller Airports, was not surprised by the accolades.

"This recognition is really a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team, who understand that an airport should be about more than just moving people from one place to another," Smith said.

At most airports, gates and waiting areas feel very much like transitional spaces, not really meant for any other activity than waiting. Flying out of Paine Field, however, is one of the best airport experiences passengers have had, according to the reviews. Passengers breeze through the line for TSA and walk into the waiting lounge, an ample space with plenty of natural light filling the room. Smith continues, "At Paine Field, we believe it's about hospitality — treating every passenger with care and respect — and our goal has always been to bring civility back to the airport experience."

Propeller Airports signed a 50-year lease with Snohomish County, breaking ground on the terminal in 2017 and opening on March 4, 2019. That year, Paine Field served about 1 million





From PAE you can go to the warm winter declinations of Arizona and Southern California to the beaches of Hawaii or ski the slopes around Denver. Alaska and Frontier Airlines will take you there.

passengers. However, the pandemic dropped passenger rates all across the country, and Paine Field was no different.

Since then, Paine Field reached 580,000 passengers in the last year, with numbers already much higher at this point in the year than last year. At the gate, Alaska Airlines has expanded their flight options, and Frontier Airlines (which began operations at Paine Field in June) is already flying at full capacity, according to Propeller. Direct flights to Denver, Phoenix and Las Vegas now operate three times a week from the airport. While Paine Field has yet to meet pre-pandemic levels of traffic, the steady growth gives Propeller, and the county, the confidence to move forward with expansion plans, which were under development even only after the first year of operation in 2019.

In May, during Economic Alliance Snohomish County's (EASC) annual Snohomish County Update, county Executive Dave Somers signed an executive order which instructs relevant county departments to initiate coordination, capital planning, budgeting, environmental studies and more. While construction won't start right away, the order kickstarts the complex processes needed to set the expansion up for success.

According to the executive order, the expansion should create a viable second option for travelers

who currently have to fly out of SeaTac. Heavy auto traffic getting to the airport and facilities operating above intended passenger traffic can make the experience a long, daunting proposition. While a concurrent expansion to SeaTac is set to improve its capacity to 56 million passengers a year by 2036, that number is still 10 million short of its projected growth in the same timeline. Paine Field's expansion will grow the airport's capacity to 4 million passengers a year by 2034.

"That is significant but manageable growth for our county airport," said Somers in the press release announcing the order. The county counts on the added capacity to bring economic opportunity while easing the regional pressure on air travel. With high-profile events like the FIFA World Cup® coming to the Pacific Northwest next year, and a higher volume of events coming to the region via venue renovations such as Climate Pledge Arena and a new multi-use venue being built in Everett, this expansion will help relieve an already strained infrastructure and make travel in our surrounding area less stressful.

For the larger North Sound region, the expansion also represents new opportunities for industry and trade. Paine Field's strategic location offers various advantages, close enough to several ports of entry and major transportation arteries

but far enough away from the center of our dense metro area to maintain high efficiency. The existing runway can easily handle a larger volume of traffic.

"Airports are powerful economic engines, and Paine Field is no exception. Its growth means more jobs, more trade, and more opportunity for our county and the entire region," Smith explained. "We see Paine Field not only as a gateway for travelers, but as a critical asset driving long-term prosperity."

As trade policies shift and generate higher costs for material and supplies, saving money on transporting goods from farther ports of entry presents a welcome relief for the region's business community.

Already, Snohomish County hosts more aerospace companies than anywhere else on the West Coast. Greater Seattle is home to the largest aerospace supply chain in the United States, according to Greater Seattle's Aerospace Industry 2024 Report. Research into Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) within the SAF Center is a major priority for the industry, and Paine Field is one of a handful of airports in the country that offer Sustainable Aviation Fuel, supplied by Propeller Aero Services. Major innovation companies such as ZeroAvia also call Paine Field's facilities and immediate surroundings home.

"Around the county, companies like Lafarge & Egge, Echandia, magniX and Portal Space Systems (which recently announced expansion plans) will gain easier access to imports and materials via the airport," said Ray Stephanson, EASC President and

CEO. "Access boosts progress in these fields and will complement the region's status as the home of the state's aerospace industry."

Beyond aerospace, a diverse and flourishing landscape of advanced manufacturing, life sciences and medical devices and information and communication technology (ICT) will gain simplified local access to international commerce.

"Paine Field isn't just a hub for flights—it's a hub for the future of aerospace," said Dan Tappana, EASC Director of Economic Development. "Expanding the airport's capacity strengthens our position as the center of gravity for sustainable aviation innovation. It sends a clear message: if you're building the next generation of aerospace, this is where you want to be."

Paine Field's recognition as one of the top small airports in the country is not just a point of civic pride. This expansion directly supports Snohomish County's long-range economic development strategy by strengthening our regional logistics network, enhancing market access and aligning with workforce mobility goals. The expansion will unlock new capacity, attract greater investment and encourage business retention, making Snohomish County an even more compelling destination for innovation.

The expansion is a boon to our region, and a critical step in uplifting the economy and the communities we serve. For companies evaluating where to land and grow, infrastructure matters — and Paine Field will deliver. ♦





At the WSU Everett MESA Center, students discover pathways to purpose through collaboration and innovation.

# Pathways with Purpose

Educational ecosystems strengthen the region

BY CORRIE WILDER, ED.D.

In Snohomish County, we’re doing something special—and it’s changing lives.

Across high schools, colleges, and universities, there’s a growing commitment to making education more connected, more intentional, and aligned with the real needs of our region. These partnerships go beyond degrees; they’re about momentum—helping young people (and not-so-young people) find their way into meaningful careers and building a community where opportunity is something we create together.

From dual-enrollment programs that let high schoolers earn college credit to career-focused degrees that open doors to aerospace, healthcare, tech, and more, we’re seeing what’s possible when education meets purpose.

At the heart of it all is a powerful idea: when we invest in people, we strengthen the region. A thriving community

depends on accessible, high-quality education that aligns with the needs of local employers. And here in North Puget Sound, that’s exactly what we’re building as educators—one pathway at a time.

## BUILDING BRIDGES: EARLY EXPOSURE AND DUAL CREDIT

The journey begins long before a student steps onto a college campus. An exhibit at the Imagine Children’s Museum, a middle school science class, or a hands-on workshop can spark a sense of purpose that lasts a lifetime.

In Snohomish County, that spark is being nurtured through programs connecting students to real career possibilities early on. The Snohomish STEM Network—a collaboration among K-12 schools, colleges, community partners, and industry

leaders—is leading the charge. Programs like STEM Like Me!, which brings professionals into classrooms, and Exploring Careers and Healthcare Opportunities (ECHO), which offers immersive experiences in healthcare, help students see themselves in roles they may never have imagined.

Dual credit is another powerful way to expand access. Programs like College in the High School have grown rapidly, giving students the chance to earn college credit without leaving their high school—and often without paying a dime. These courses jumpstart college pathways, build confidence, and make higher education feel within reach. In fact, 62% of Snohomish County high schoolers complete at least one dual credit class—well above the state average.

These efforts are working. By embedding college-level learning and career exploration into high school, we’re reaching students who might not have seen college in their future. That includes students from rural, low-income, and historically marginalized backgrounds—students who now know they belong.

## THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVANTAGE: A HUB FOR SKILLS AND TRANSFER

Community colleges like Everett and Edmonds are doing more than offering classes. They’re acting as launchpads. Whether students are heading into the workforce or planning to earn a four-year degree, these institutions help them move forward with purpose.



(top) The WSU Everett campus stands at 915 N. Broadway, a hub for innovation and higher education in the North Puget Sound. (above) Through higher education, students gain the skills and confidence to shape what comes next.



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Programs like the Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center help build that momentum even earlier. A collaboration among 14 local school districts, Sno-Isle gives high school students hands-on training in five career pathways—from healthcare to advanced manufacturing—equipping them with practical skills and industry insights.

One of the most forward-thinking transfer solutions in our region is the Degree Pathways Program (DPP), a partnership between Washington State University Everett and colleges like Everett Community College. It allows students to be co-enrolled at both institutions—earning their associate degree while progressing toward a four-year credential, with fewer barriers and more support. It’s a streamlined way to remove the guesswork—and the roadblocks—from the transfer process.

Students in the DPP get the best of both worlds: financial aid that works across campuses, advising at both schools, and access to campus resources. Transcripts update automatically, credits transfer cleanly, and students build a sense of belonging. Rather than preparing to transfer, they’re already part of the Cougar community.

The program began with business and hospitality and is now expanding into fast-growing fields like cybersecurity and data analytics. As the first model of its kind in Washington state, it’s proof of what’s possible when student success and access come first.

**INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT: DEGREES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE**

In Snohomish County, higher education is deeply connected to the local economy. Colleges and universities work closely with employers to ensure students graduate ready for high-demand roles.

At Washington State University Everett, degrees in engineering, software, and data analytics are designed to match the needs of top industries. It’s no coincidence that so many students at WSU Everett and UW Bothell are majoring in STEM—these programs are built for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Career readiness doesn’t stop in the classroom. Across the region, students gain valuable experience through internships, apprenticeships,

and hands-on learning opportunities. One standout is the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC), which offers advanced manufacturing training right here in Snohomish County. High school students explore careers in machining, mechatronics, and automation while earning both high school and college credit—a powerful head start in a key regional industry.

Another key piece is MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), a statewide program with a uniquely powerful footprint at WSU Everett. As the only university campus in the region with MESA, WSU collaborates closely with local community colleges to support underrepresented students in STEM, helping them not only persist but also thrive. Since launching its first cohort, MESA has seen steady gains in student achievement, with more students earning honors-level GPAs and several maintaining a 4.0. When support, access, and opportunity align, students soar.

And in a field urgently in need of talent, the Youth Early Childhood Education Career Pathways program is



WSU Everett graduates celebrate their achievements at the 2025 Commencement ceremony.

helping high school students gain classroom experience and begin working toward certification. After the region lost 25% of its childcare workforce during the pandemic, this program offers a smart and responsive solution—and a reminder that career pathways can start earlier than we think.

### EQUITY, ECONOMY, AND COMMUNITY

When education is connected, intentional, and inclusive, it does more than prepare students for jobs—it strengthens an entire region.

That's what we're seeing here in Snohomish County. These "Pathways with Purpose" are creating something greater than the sum of their parts: an ecosystem where education fuels economic growth, opens doors, and builds a foundation for lasting equity.

For students, these pathways offer clarity and confidence. They reduce barriers, spark ambition, and make postsecondary education feel possible. With hands-on learning and real-world support, students are graduating with direction as well as degrees.

For local employers, this means access to a ready, relevant workforce—a pipeline of talent aligned with industry needs. It's the kind of alignment that fuels innovation, attracts investment, and keeps economic opportunity rooted here at home.

**...an ecosystem where education fuels economic growth, opens doors, and builds a foundation for lasting equity.**

Most importantly, this work is a force for equity. From dual credit and pre-apprenticeship programs to seamless university transfers, we're widening the on-ramps to success—especially for those who've faced the highest barriers. Organizations like the Washington Alliance for Better Schools (WABS) and the Latino Educational Training Institute (LETI) are essential partners, engaging families and ensuring every student feels seen, supported, and set up to thrive.

As our region grows, this shared commitment to collaboration across sectors and systems will remain one of our greatest strengths. Purposeful pathways—rooted in equity, powered by education, and carried forward by all of us—are what a stronger future looks like. ♦

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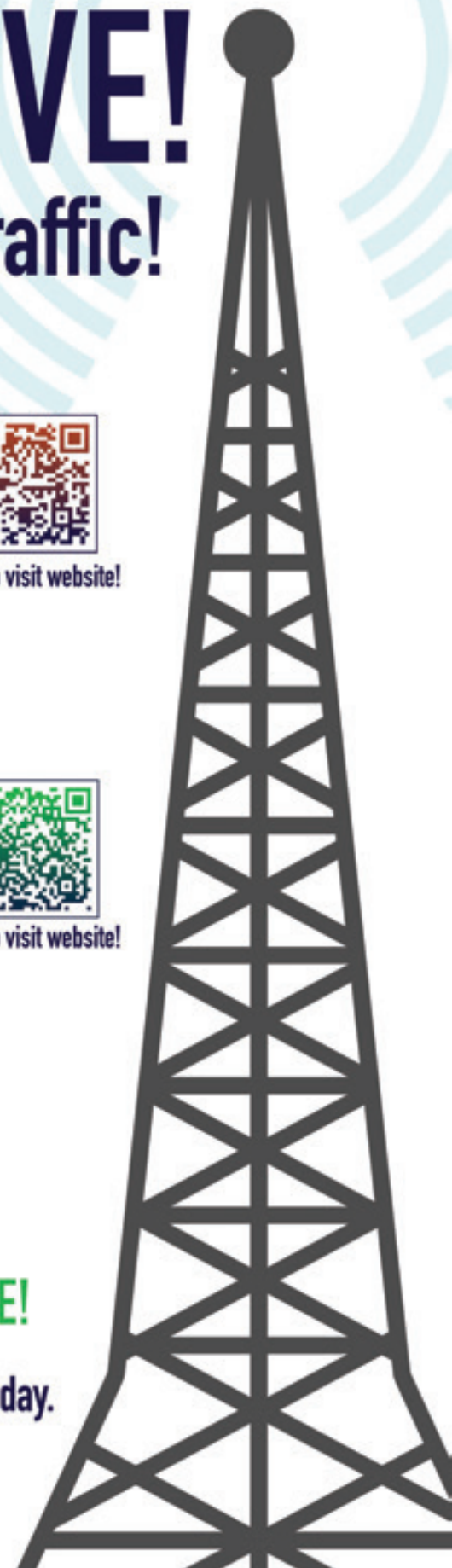
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