

The Northern Light

June 13 - 19, 2019

Community Newspaper of Blaine and Birch Bay

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ISSUE

Local groups aim to feed kids this summer, page 5

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Most Whatcom County beaches closed to shellfish harvest

BY JAMI MAKAN

The Washington state department of health has closed the recreational harvest of all species of molluscan shellfish on most Whatcom County beaches, after unsafe levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) biotoxin were detected in shellfish on county beaches.

Lummi Island, Hale Passage, Lummi Bay and all beaches from Sandy Point north to the Canadian border are closed. Point Roberts beaches are closed as a precaution until shellfish samples can be obtained to determine biotoxin levels.

According to a notice from the Whatcom County Health Department, Portage Bay, Samish Bay and Bellingham Bay south to the Skagit County border remain open. The department will be collecting additional samples each week to monitor biotoxin levels, and will notify the public when biotoxin levels have dropped below the closure limit.

Molluscan shellfish include clams, mussels, oysters and scallops. Mussels usually contain the highest toxin concentration. PSP and other naturally occurring biotoxins are not destroyed by cooking or freezing. Crab meat is not affected, but "crab butter" and crab entrails can harbor biotoxins so they should be discarded.

According to the release, shellfish sold in restaurants and markets have been tested before distribution and are safe to eat.

Mark Seymour, co-owner of Drayton Harbor Oyster Company, confirmed that shellfish sold at his restaurant is safe to eat. "If we're selling oysters, customers can rest assured that we're looking out for them and have had everything checked," he said.

He said the process starts near the Semiahmoo marina with officials testing mussels, which are considered a "signal species" for PSP. "[Mussels] pick it up the first and the highest," said Seymour. When officials detect high levels of PSP in their weekly mussel survey, they then reach out

(See Shellfish, page 2)



▲ The annual Hands Across the Border celebration took place on June 9, bringing nearly 2,000 scouts from the U.S. and Canada to the Peace Arch for a day of fun and fellowship. For more photos, see page 7.

Photo by Louise Mugar

CBP apprehensions rise at the U.S.-Canada border

BY ZOE DEAL

While the nation's eyes are on the southern border, a steady increase of northern border apprehensions tells another story.

Apprehensions along the Blaine sector of the U.S.-Canada border from October 2018 to February 2019 totaled 177, more than double the 78 apprehensions reported during the same period a year earlier.

At this rate, it is likely that border apprehensions in 2019 will continue a trend of growth in apprehensions seen along the 5,545-mile-long U.S.-Canada

border since 2015.

The Blaine sector of the northern border stretches 252 miles – 163 miles of water and 89 miles of land ending in the North Cascades. It is one of eight sectors that secure the northern border. In 2018, the northern border saw a 42 percent increase in apprehensions from 2017, totaling 4,316 apprehensions. Meanwhile, there were 396,579 apprehensions along the 1,954 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border in 2018.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) spokesperson Jason Givens said

there are a variety of factors that could be influencing the increase in apprehensions along the northern border.

Givens said that one of the primary reasons is "a false perception that crossing the northern border is safer than crossing the southern border."

This could be due to recent changes to Canada's electronic travel authorization system, which has opened up visa waivers to people from more than 50 countries including Mexico and Romania. Visa exemption allows travelers to fly into Canada without a visa, though they must still go

(See Border, page 3)

Whatcom wages rising faster than national average

BY JAMI MAKAN

Data from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows that wages in Washington state and Whatcom County are increasing faster than the national average.

Recent BLS data from the fourth quarter of 2018 shows that average weekly wages in Washington state increased 6.3 percent compared to a year earlier. This is in contrast to wages for the United States as a whole, which increased by 3.2 percent.

In Whatcom County in particular, av-

erage weekly wages increased 4.7 percent from a year earlier, also outpacing the national average.

The average weekly wage in Washington state now stands at \$1,292, compared to the national average of \$1,144. However, Whatcom County wages are lower than the state and national averages, coming in at \$944 per week.

In addition to wages, the actual number of people employed has also gone up on all fronts. Nationally, employment rose by 1.5 percent in December compared to a year

earlier. At the state level, employment rose 2.4 percent, while in Whatcom County employment rose 2.3 percent.

A closer look at the data reveals that certain industries are driving wage growth in Whatcom County. The industry that saw the largest wage increase in Whatcom County in the fourth quarter of 2018 was the federal government, which saw average wage increases of 18.2 percent compared to a year earlier.

(See Wages, page 3)

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Shellfish ...

From page 1

to commercial outlets in the area, who are required to send shellfish samples to a state laboratory in Shoreline.

The lab testing process occurs within the space of a few hours, and confirms that the harvested shellfish is safe for people to consume.

Seymour said that oysters, which his restaurant harvests locally, tend to have much lower PSP levels than other shellfish. "Oysters don't really pick the toxins up the same way," he said. "We like to say that oysters are smarter."

He said there has only been one time in five years when the restaurant's oysters have been shut down for a week due to high

PSP counts. If that happens, it's easy to reach out to another harvester to source products from them instead.

Seymour is supportive of state and county officials as they take precautions to protect the public from PSP. "They are absolutely right to do a big umbrella closure," he said. "It's to be safe, because PSP is nothing to mess around with."

According to the state department of health, PSP is a naturally occurring marine biotoxin that is produced by some species of microscopic algae. Shellfish eat these algae and can retain the toxin. People can become ill from eating shellfish contaminated with PSP. This biotoxin affects the nervous system and paralyzes muscles, thus the term paralytic shellfish poison. High levels of PSP can cause severe illness and death.

"Early symptoms include tin-

gling of the lips and tongue, which may begin within minutes of eating toxic shellfish or may take an hour or two to develop," said the state department of health's website.

"Symptoms may progress to tingling of fingers and toes and then loss of control of arms and legs, followed by difficulty in breathing. Some people feel nauseous or experience a sense of floating. If a person consumes enough toxin, muscles of the chest and abdomen become paralyzed, including muscles used for breathing, and the victim can suffocate. Death from Paralytic Shellfish Poison has occurred in less than 30 minutes."

Those with mild symptoms are urged to contact their health care provider and their local public health agency. If symptoms are severe, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately.

Stream movies for free with library card

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Kanopy, an on-demand streaming video platform that partners with libraries around the country, features a broad range of new releases, documentaries, children's movies, independent films, classic cinema, educational films including the Great Courses series and much more, all available without commercials.

To use the service, go to wcls.kanopy.com and log in using your library barcode number (with no spaces) and PIN. The service is available through AppleTV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV and as an app on most devices.

Whatcom County Library System members can watch up to 10 films a month, with three days to watch each film.

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Border ...

From page 1

through a screening process.

Instead of joining thousands of people waiting at the southern border, migrants may feel it's easier to travel to Canada first before attempting to enter the United States illegally, Givens said.

While the southern border is staffed by almost 17,000 border security agents, slightly more than 2,000 northern border patrol agents cover a great distance of open border, with the border sometimes consisting of just a line of flower pots.

But Givens said enhanced border security operations through improved information sharing and "domain awareness" have allowed CBP to function efficiently.

"As America's frontline border agency, CBP is responsible for securing America's borders against threats, while facilitating legitimate travel and trade," he said. "To do this, CBP has deployed a multi-layered, risk-based approach to enhance the security of our borders while facilitating the lawful flow of people and goods entering the United States."

Thousands of sensors along the border are equipped with motion detectors and cameras which alert nearby border agents of illegal crossings. In the Blaine sector, the number of staff has stayed around 300 for nearly a decade.

Givens also said CBP utilizes technology and partnerships to detect cross-border incursions. When needed, ATVs, snowmo-

biles, marine vessels and aircraft may be used to apprehend illegal entrants, he said.

It's possible that attempting entry into the U.S. is a last ditch effort as Canada begins to reject claims for many asylum seekers.

"The [Canadian] government has deemed that their claim is not valid and is in proceedings to remove them from the country," CBP division chief Dennis Harmon said to CBC. "We then have some of those people trying to effect their illegal entry into the U.S."

For those apprehended trying to cross the U.S.-Canada border, deportation is the likely result. "It varies on a case-by-case basis; however, individuals who illegally enter the U.S. are typically processed for removal to their country of origin," Givens said.

Wages ...


From page 1


Whatcom County's information industry also saw a double-digit increase in wages from a year earlier. According to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), the information industry includes telecommunications; data pro-


cessing, hosting and related services; and publishing industries, including software and internet publishing.


All industries in Whatcom County saw at least a small wage increase, except for financial activities, which saw no increase in wages whatsoever. According to NAICS, financial investment activities include portfolio management and investment advice.

In terms of overall employment, the leisure and hospitality industry in Whatcom County saw the largest gain with an employment increase of 5.4 percent in December compared to a year earlier. Meanwhile, the natural resources and mining industry saw a 7.8 percent decrease in employment in Whatcom County in December compared to a year earlier.

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Are You Living With, Or Worried About, A Child Struggling In Reading?

By Leading Washington Vision Specialist


PETER CHARRON, OD, FCOVD
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225.

Have YOU ever been told that a child's reading problem is just something they'll have to live with? Have you been told that the child is dyslexic or learning disabled and that they'll have to deal with it for their entire lives? If you answered "YES" to either question, and you've witnessed a child having trouble keeping up in school for longer than six months, please pay special attention to what I'm about to tell you... It could help save the child's future and prevent years of frustration for the child, not to mention for you as a parent.

It's a shame that so many people think the only options for learning problems are to go to an expensive learning center, or worse, take a potentially dangerous drug to help them focus. ...Because as you may be experiencing, if you've seen a child suffer for longer than six months, something is wrong and there is a problem. I want to help you by simply showing you all of the different options that are currently available to you!

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My name is Dr. Peter Charron and I'm a neuro optometrist who specializes in helping people age 5 and older find quick, natural and long-lasting solutions for vision problems that interfere with learning and reading.


My reasons for writing this special report are clear and simple: to help people in this area make a better, more educated and informed decision about their child's future.

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- MORE: Knowing what I reveal on page 4 could help your child right away because it takes so much releases so much tension on the eyes - tension that causes slow, labored reading in the first place.
- Ultimately, the report shows one of the most crucial things that a lot of kids need to find success in reading. The thing that I've seen take hundreds of people from hating reading to loving reading: including myself.
- Trouble with reading will hold any child back from reaching their potential in life. Many kids will have poor self-worth, or start acting out. When older, many will resort to even more risky behavior, or even turn to crime.
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- The author of this report, Dr. Peter Charron is one of the Washington's leading optometrists - an expert on finding ways to treat vision disorders that cause trouble in school.

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The Northern Light

The Northern Light is published weekly by Point Roberts Press Inc.

Locally owned and managed, the company also publishes the *All Point Bulletin*, covering Point Roberts, *Mount Baker Experience*, covering the Mt. Baker foothills area, and the summer recreation guide *Waterside* as well as maps and other publications. Point Roberts Press Inc. is a member of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, Chambers of Commerce of Bellingham/Whatcom County, Birch Bay, Blaine and Point Roberts and the Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors.

Letters Policy

The Northern Light welcomes letters to the editor. Please include name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters are limited to 350 words and may be edited or rejected for reasons of legality, length and good taste. Thank-you letters are limited to five individuals or groups. Writers should avoid personal invective. Unsigned letters will not be accepted for publication. Requests for withholding names will be considered on an individual basis. Consumer complaints should be submitted directly to the business in question or the local chamber of commerce. Only one letter per month from an individual correspondent will be published. Email letters to letters@thenorthernlight.com.

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225 Marine Drive, Suite 200, Blaine, WA 98230
Tel: 360/332-1777
Vol XXIV, No 51
Circulation: 10,500 copies

Circulation Independently verified by:



Next issue: June 20
Ads due: June 14

OPINION



▲ The Blaine AA High School baseball team won the Lynden Wood Bat Tournament on June 1-2. The team won all four games it played during the tournament. Top row, from l.: Jake Miller, Kyle Turnberg, Tyler Haggith, Griffin King, Aidan Vezzetti, Gabe Cranford, Tim Wurtz. Bottom row, from l.: Colby Bosman, Tobin Akre, Ian Dickinson, Justin Saunders, Jaxon Kortlever.

Photo by Kimberly Akre

LETTERS

The Editor:

The evidence is obvious. Year after year, one terrible fire season is followed by another terrible fire season. In the last 50 years, there have been no significant improvements in how the Forest Service fights forest fires. Maintaining the status quo means that there is no hope now or in the future for any improvements.

Isn't it time to think outside the box? Recognize that the Forest Service is not the only government agency capable of fighting forest fires. Isn't it time to consider using our military instead of the Forest Service to fight forest fires?

With the military, they have it all: the men, the pilots, the right size aircraft and, critically important, in sufficient numbers to extinguish all forest fires very rapidly. The only added item is a budget to pay for this extra responsibility and other associated costs. This is a major change and must be approved by Congress and the President, but with its obvious advantages, their approval should be automatic.

It is reported that the Italians use their military to fight forest fires, so this concept will not be unique to the U.S. In conclusion, if the public wants to get serious

about extinguishing forest fires quickly, there is but one option: the military.

Joseph Coomer
Oak Harbor

The Editor:

I grew up in Vancouver, and as a teen in the '90s, we used to come down to Blaine just to buy candy bars.

Just over 10 years ago, I bought a place in Birch Bay, and now I come down almost every weekend.

I've seen some positive changes in Blaine recently, and I hope they keep coming.

Blaine is unique in that most small towns have issues getting people to visit. With all the mailbox places, visits are not the issue, but rather getting those visits to last longer than just getting a package and heading home.

One issue I see is two of the best draws to Blaine are closed on Sunday. The dairy store and the taco truck.

Hopefully the taco place will be open more once they move into the building. They make tacos as good or better than any place in Vancouver, and they do it at a far lower cost.

Blaine gets two days a week to really pull

people from Vancouver (and Seattle). Having those two places closed really hurts the town.

If you doubt Sunday openings make a difference, look at 5d Packages. When they opened they were the first to really offer extended hours that cater to people who work in the city. They almost instantly expanded to two locations and are busy.

If Blaine/Birch Bay wants to increase the length and value of visits, you need more places that are not good for a small town, but good for the city. The food does not need to be fancy, but does need to be well made and a good value. The price should be below what comparable would be in Seattle or Vancouver (like the taco truck or Paso Del Norte now).

I'm excited to try the new oyster location. That location offers something unique for any place in Blaine and the cities – the view. There should be more patios/restaurants that take advantage of that spectacular view.

Erik Whiteway
Vancouver, B.C.

Please send letters to
letters@thenorthernlight.com
no later than noon on Monday.

CIVIC MEETINGS

Birch Bay Water & Sewer District: Second and fourth Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., district offices, 7096 Point Whitehorn Road, Birch Bay. Info: bbwsd.com.

Blaine City Council: Second and fourth Mondays, 6 p.m., Blaine City Council chambers, 435 Martin Street. Info: ci.blaine.wa.us.

Blaine Planning Commission: Second and fourth Thursdays, 7 p.m., Blaine City Council chambers, 435 Martin Street. Info: blaineplanning@cityofblaine.com.

Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation: Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., location varies. Info: blainebirchbayparkandrec.org.

Blaine Parks Board: Second Thursday, 9 a.m., Blaine City Council chambers, 435 Martin Street. Info: 360/332-8311, ext. 3330.

Blaine School Board: Fourth Monday, 7 p.m., Blaine school district offices. Info: blaine.wednet.edu.

North Whatcom Fire & Rescue: Third Thursday, 7 p.m. Blaine Fire Station. Info: nwfrs.net.

Local groups join together to feed children this summer

BY ZOE DEAL

For some children in Birch Bay, worry settles in the pit of their stomach at the thought of summer break, when eating three meals a day isn't guaranteed.

The regular school lunches that sustained them throughout the year will disappear during summer break, and programs that provide meals during the summer like the Boys and Girls Club may simply be too far away.

"Because Birch Bay is so far from Blaine, a lot of kids get left out," said Sarah Zaremba.

Along with the Healthy Youth Coalition, Zaremba and her local church, Christ the King Community Church North Bay (CTK), are putting on a food drive and weekly bake sale with the intention of supplying children in need with enough groceries to sustain them each week.

Each Wednesday from June 19 to August 21, free youth events will be offered at CTK from 5 to 7 p.m. Children of all ages and their parents are welcome to stop by for dinner, music and games. At these events, Birch Bay kids can also grab a bag of groceries from a food pantry on site, stocked with the fruits of the food drive.

"We're hoping to get enough to give them three meals a day to take with them, though it will depend on the needs of the children," Zaremba said.

Zaremba heard about this need from staff at the school district, who have daily interactions with the kids and say there just isn't enough for them to eat. When she ran into Healthy Youth Coalition president Jesse Creydt recently, he echoed the same concern.

With little time to organize before school is out, Zaremba and the Healthy Youth Coalition pulled together a plan and are trying to spread the word. Flyers will be sent out to every child in the Blaine school district to notify them of this resource.

"The Healthy Youth Coalition is excited to partner with CTK to bring together Birch Bay youth and families to share a meal, connect to local resources and have some summer fun," Creydt said in a statement.

The community can show support by frequenting the bake sale, which will happen every Saturday at the Blaine Farmers Market, and dropping off goods at the food drive boxes available at The Market at Birch Bay in Birch Bay Square, the Pizza Factory in Blaine or at the Blaine Farmers Market.

"Many local youth experience food insecurity, especially over the summer," Creydt said. "In a small community we can fix this, but it will take a mobilizing community-wide effort."

For special requests for the bake sale or to inquire about direct donations, email bbbakesale@gmail.com.

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CITY OF BLAINE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BLAINE CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing for the Multi-Family Housing Tax Exemption is scheduled for **Monday, June 24, 2019, at 6:00pm** in the City Council Chambers, Blaine City Hall, 435 Martin Street, Suite 4000.

Pursuant to RCW 84.14.040, it is the intent of the Blaine City Council to designate the parcels zoned as the Central Business District-Market, Town Portal, Waterview, and Garden subdistricts as a Residential Targeted Area, per Resolution 1759-19.

Interested parties are encouraged to offer testimony at the public hearing, or submit written comments which will be included in the official record. Written comments shall be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2019. Written comments or questions regarding this notice should be directed to Community Development Services Director, Stacie Pratschner, 435 Martin St. Suite 3000, Blaine, WA, 98230 or SPratschner@cityofblaine.com. For further information, please contact Community Development Services Department, 360-332-8311.

The meeting location is an accessible facility. Anyone wishing to attend and participate who may need special accommodation to do so should contact the City Clerk's office no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

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CITY OF BLAINE

Unless noted, all meetings are held at City Hall, 435 Martin Street, Suite 4000 and are open to the public. Agendas can be found on the City's website.

Thursday, June 13
9am – Park and Cemetery Board

Thursday, June 13
2pm – Public Works Advisory Committee
 Location: PW 1200 Yew Ave.

Thursday, June 13
7pm – Planning Commission

Monday, June 24
6pm – Regular City Council meeting
 Public Hearing: 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
 Public Hearing: Multi-family property tax exemption

Thursday, June 27
7pm – Planning Commission

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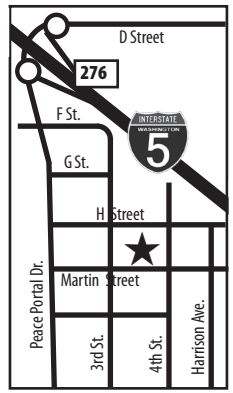
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Harbor Side apartments sold to new owner

BY JAMI MAKAN

The Harbor Side apartment complex was recently sold to a new owner, who purchased the property for approximately \$3.5 million.

Located at 1440 and 1480 Peace Portal Drive in Blaine, the apartment complex was previously owned by the Craig McLaughlin Family Trust. According to county records, the new owner is Harbor Side LP, a Washington limited partnership.

The selling price was \$3.52 million which resulted in excise tax payable of \$62,545. The state share of excise tax is \$44,973, while the local share of excise tax is \$17,568.

Hugh Wiebe, the owner of Harbor Side LP, said he decided to purchase the property because he wanted to invest in Blaine and expand his local business presence. "I've had my eye on the

property for a number of years," he said. "I was looking for some income-producing property and I wanted to do it here in Blaine."

Wiebe owns a Blaine-based business, Creation Foods, which produces snack products, cheese snacks and breakfast cereals. Wiebe has been involved with Creation Foods for about 10 years. He also owns A-Z Storage in Blaine.

"Hugh wanted something close for the sake of ease of management," said Robert Parmar of Summerfield Commercial, a broker who assisted Wiebe with the transaction. "It's a stone's throw away from his company."

Parmar said that the Harbor Side apartments were not listed on the market. However, they were on Wiebe's radar, since he had previously bid on them when they last came up for sale several years ago. According to county records, the

property last came up for sale in 2014, when the Craig McLaughlin Family Trust bought the property from Slotman Enterprises Inc. for a sale price of \$3,184,000.

Parmar said that he contacted representatives of the Craig McLaughlin Family Trust and made an unsolicited offer based on Wiebe's instructions. "The seller and his wife made a counterproposal, and after some back and forth, we ended up doing the transaction," said Parmar.

Parmar said that Wiebe paid market price for the apartment complex, and plans to hold onto it for many years to come. "Hugh sees himself owning the building for a very long time," said Parmar, who noted that the rental market in Blaine is surprisingly tight. "Rental activity in Blaine seems to be fairly good" for landlords, he said.



▲ The Harbor Side apartment complex is located at 1440 and 1480 Peace Portal Drive.

Photo by Zoe Deal

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Old Fashioned Service

Blaine residents prefer Facebook, newspaper for city news

BY JAMI MAKAN

A recent survey by the city of Blaine shows that residents prefer to learn about city news through Facebook, *The Northern Light* and electronic newsletters.

Earlier this year, the city conducted a communications survey to determine how people prefer to receive official news about the city.

The survey went live on February 27 and included outreach through the city website, Twitter, Facebook, *The Northern Light*, mailing inserts and flyers.

Thousands of people were targeted for the survey, including more than 5,200 users on Facebook and 3,600 addresses through mailing inserts. In addition, two ads were placed in *The Northern Light*, which has an independently verified circulation of 10,500 copies.

Of the thousands of people targeted, a total of 346 responses were received. Of those, 240 were Blaine residents.

In the survey, respondents were asked to select their top three preferred ways of receiving city of

Blaine news. The answer choices included electronic newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, the city website, utility bill inserts, mail, newspaper and "I am not interested in receiving information about the city of Blaine."

Among Blaine residents, the top three responses were Facebook (127 responses), newspaper (121 responses) and electronic newsletter (113 responses). The lowest three responses were Twitter (17 responses), mail (44 responses) and utility bill inserts (56 responses). Just three people said they were not interested in receiving information about the city.

Respondents were also asked to select which type of email communications they prefer to receive from the city. The answer choices included longer newsletters two or three times a year, brief monthly updates about current activities and issues, notices about city council and other meetings, a bi-monthly update regarding city council's activities and "I do not want to subscribe to electronic newslet-

ters from Blaine."

Among Blaine residents, the top two responses were brief monthly updates about current activities and issues (167 responses) followed by meeting notices (75 responses). The bottom two responses were longer newsletters (33 responses) and "I do not want to subscribe" (43 responses).

Finally, respondents were asked to select what information they are most interested in. The answer choices included community events, special projects, police alerts, city meetings and agendas, city council actions and decisions, breaking news, public notices, city programs and services, bios of city staff and new hires, private building and development projects, policy/ordinance reminders and "other."

Among Blaine residents, the top three responses were breaking news (197 responses), community events (185 responses) and police alerts (171 responses). The bottom three responses were staff biographies (73 responses), policy/ordinance reminders (98 responses) and city meetings and agendas (106 responses).

Scouts and their families enjoy Hands Across the Border celebration

The annual Hands Across the Border celebration returned on June 9, bringing scouts from across Canada and the U.S. together at the Peace Arch.

Hands Across the Border has been a part of Blaine history since 1937, when the first celebration took place at the Peace Arch. Though the event didn't take place in 2013 and 2014 due to budgetary issues, it was revived by the

International Peace Arch Association in 2015. Since then, it has consistently drawn thousands of attendees.

This year, over 1,900 people came out to the Peace Arch state

and provincial parks, participating in scavenger hunts, educational projects, patch trading and a parade through the Peace Arch. Various booths and food vendors were also a hit with attendees.

Groups of scouts from both countries camped out at Blaine Marine Park, overlooking the Peace Arch and White Rock, becoming part of a lasting tradition of peace and fellowship.



▲ The day included a flag parade through the Peace Arch.



▲ This year's event attracted more than 1,900 attendees.



▲ Kids had the chance to trade patches and make new friends.



▲ Other activities included a scavenger hunt and face painting.

Photos by Louise Mugar

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Seniors are becoming more tech-savvy and digitally engaged

Technology is the future, and digital communication has opened many doors for people around the world. Although younger generations have grown up with technology at their fingers, baby boomers and older adults did not. But in spite of that, studies show that growing numbers of seniors are open to the idea of technology and even seeking ways to further their use and knowledge.

According to a 2014 study by Pew Research Center, 59 percent of seniors regularly use the internet – a six percent increase

from the previous study conducted in 2012. Today, 67 percent of adults age 65 and older say they go online.

Pew also reports that, although seniors consistently have lower rates of technology adoption than the general public, four in 10 seniors now own smartphones, which is more than double the percentage who did in 2013. Seniors in Australia are especially tech savvy, as Deloitte's mobile consumer survey found 78 percent of Australian seniors aged 65 to 75 own a smartphone, up from 69 percent in 2016.

While stereotypes have long painted seniors as technologically inept, seniors are actually more socially and digitally engaged than ever before. Seniors use technology in many different ways. Some use mobile apps to manage medications and doctor's appointments and monitor their fitness regimens.

Some families employ 24/7 alert systems or smarthome technology to keep seniors comfortable and safe at home for as long as possible. Noninvasive, "smart" technology can analyze factors such as whether or not

doors are left open, if there has been movement in a home, or whether appliances/lights are on or off. This represents a great way for families to stay informed and provide assistance even if they are not nearby.

SilverSurfers, a senior-based information website, says other tech that seniors are embracing includes online dating; audio and digital books; online shopping, which is especially valuable to seniors who have mobility issues; and social media, which can keep seniors connected to others and feeling less lonely.

A study conducted by researchers from the University of California, San Francisco found 18 percent of American seniors live alone, and 43 percent report feeling lonely on a regular basis. Loneliness can increase death risk. Social media and internet connectivity can be an important tool in helping seniors feel like active members of society.

Technology is no longer just for teenagers or active workers. Seniors are increasingly embracing technology and becoming a fast-growing demographic for tech usage.

Adopting a dog or cat later in life can help seniors remain active

Companion animals bring great joy to their owners. The unconditional love cats and dogs provide is appealing to people of all ages. While many people associate pets with kids who can't wait to welcome the first cat or dog into their homes, pets can benefit aging men and women as well.

It's not uncommon for seniors to feel lonely or depressed when they retire, their children move away or they lose a spouse or close friend or friends.

The American Humane Society states that studies show pets help seniors overcome loneliness and depression by providing affection, company and entertainment. Pets also provide much-needed mental stimulation, and many pet owners find their pets help them become more physically active as well.

Seniors who adopt pets may also feel a sense of purpose when helping animals who may not have anywhere to live. This

is particularly true of older companion animals, which many young families are understandably hesitant to adopt. Mature pets might be an ideal fit for seniors. When seniors are looking to adopt a pet, there are various reasons why older pets or particular animals might be the perfect fit for them.

Adult pets may already be house trained, saving seniors the trouble and effort of training them.

Seniors may find cats fit their lifestyles more than dogs, as cats are less active and do not need to be walked or played with as much as dogs. Cats also are small and easily carried, meaning even seniors who have arthritis or other physical limitations can easily care for cats. Many cats are also content to spend long periods of time sleeping on their owners' laps.

Small dogs that can be active within the house might be

a good idea as well, especially for seniors with mobility issues. They're also easily transported to and from vet appointments.

It's important that seniors carefully weigh the benefits of adopting a pet against any limitations they may have. Having a backup plan for care is advantageous as well. Seniors should not adopt a pet if they anticipate frequent travel or medical care that requires they be away from home for long periods of time.

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Senior center hosting county-wide BBQ

BY JAMI MAKAN

The Blaine Senior Center has invited all Whatcom County senior centers to an upcoming barbeque lunch.

The lunch will take place on Friday, June 21 at 11:30 a.m. The senior center has invited the Bellingham, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Point Roberts, Sumas and Welcome/Deming senior centers to attend, as a chance for everyone to get together on the first official day of summer.

"I think it's just a way we can all connect as a unit, talk about what we do and what we have and show people what we offer," said Kathy Sitker, director of the

Blaine Senior Center. "I just think it's important that we all work together as a community representing seniors."

It is the first time that the Blaine Senior Center is hosting an event like this. In March, Lynden's senior center hosted a gathering for the county's senior centers, while the Ferndale and Bellingham senior centers plan to host similar events later this year.

The idea originated at a meeting that Sitker had with the Lynden and Ferndale senior center directors. "The gal in Lynden decided it would be nice if we did this quarterly," she said. "Blaine's turn is this quarter."

For the March gathering

hosted by Lynden, the attendees included at least six seniors from Blaine and five from Ferndale. Sitker said she hopes for an even better turnout this time around. "It's just something we've started and we'll see how it goes," she said.

The menu on June 21 will include hamburgers, hot dogs and possibly watermelon. There may also be a performance by the bluegrass group that plays every Saturday at the senior center. The group of musicians includes singers and entertainers of all ages, and they recently performed at the Solstice senior residence on Old Fairhaven Parkway in Bellingham.

Young at heart: a senior center update

BY KATHY SITKER

Summer is around the corner and we have quite a bit happening here at the Blaine Senior Center.

We invited the Bellingham, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Point Roberts, Sumas and Welcome (Deming) senior centers to come for lunch on Friday, June 21. This can be a great way to welcome the summer and meet some of the other senior center members.

I'm excited to announce that we are working on a new website for the center and refreshing our logo. We will be putting out a few different logo ideas at the center this month to get everyone's vote.

Maybe you want to do some traveling but going alone keeps you back. We have several people who would like to take trips. Let's talk. Bellair Tours and Adventures and San Juan

Cruises are offering some great opportunities for seniors. Take advantage, meet new friends and experience some new adventures. We have a booklet showing their full selection of tours, from day trips to multi-day excursions.

Thinking about starting to exercise? Our next strength training class starts in mid-August.

Kathy Sitker is the director of the Blaine Senior Center.

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BHS celebrates its 2019 grads

On June 7, Blaine High School seniors and their families filed into the school gymnasium for the 2019 graduation ceremony. Annie Wright gave the salutatory address to the more than 120 graduates, which was followed by an arrangement of “There

You’ll Be” by Faith Hill, sung by a small group of students. Valedictorians Alexandra Hao, Katherine Morris, Shubh Karman Walia and Jevan Wilskey all gave short speeches before honors were awarded and diplomas were presented.



▲ Graduates posed for photos with their friends and family members.



▲ Diplomas were presented to members of the graduating class.



▲ Co-valedictorian Jevan Wilskey delivered a moving speech.



▲ It was the last graduation ceremony for superintendent Ron Spanjer, who will retire at the end of August.



▲ Co-valedictorian Katherine Morris offered an inspirational message to her fellow grads.



▲ It was a day full of joy and excitement for the BHS class of 2019.

Photos by Janell Kortlever

Dive into the world’s largest swim lesson at Birch Bay Waterslides

Birch Bay Waterslides is joining organizations around the world in hosting a free swim lesson from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20.

The global event is designed to raise awareness about the

importance of teaching kids to swim to help prevent drowning.

“It’s incredibly important because we are a water community that doesn’t have much access to swim lessons in our area,” said Iain Buchanan, gen-

eral manager of Birch Bay Waterslides. “It has been proven that young children who haven’t had swim lessons at an early age have a higher chance of potential drowning than those who have.”

The Whatcom County Health Department and Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2(BBBPRD2) are partnering with Birch Bay Waterslides to fund and staff the lesson.

The event is open to all ages;

it’s never too early or late to take swim lessons, Buchanan said. Those interested can register with BBBPRD2 at bit.ly/2EY9pDF.

Learn more about the world’s largest swim lesson at wsl.org.

WTA announces bus route changes, adds new airport service

The Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) has announced a series of bus route changes that will go into effect later this month.

The changes include the discontinuance of Route 65, which connects Everson, Nooksack Lynden, Birch Bay and Ferndale. Route 65 was a two-year pilot project, funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation.

According to a WTA spokesperson, the funding for Route 65

expired and ridership had also been low, leading to WTA’s decision to discontinue the service as of Sunday, June 16.

Route 75 will continue to serve Blaine and Birch Bay. Route 75 operates on weekdays and Saturdays with a new schedule that goes into effect on Sunday, June 16. It makes 10 trips per weekday from Bellingham to Blaine and 12 trips per weekday from Blaine to Bellingham.

Some of the trips are “express” trips, meaning they get

people to/from Blaine and Bellingham more quickly by skipping some of the stops.

Route 75 is also a “flex” route, which means that it not only serves bus stops on a regular schedule, but also goes off-route within a defined service area upon request. There are no eligibility requirements; flex service is available to everyone, provided they make reservations in advance.

In 2018, WTA provided about 200 trips per weekday on Route 75, and about 60 trips per Saturday.

Other changes recently announced by WTA include new service to Bellingham International Airport.

Beginning Monday, June 17, WTA will provide bus service directly to the terminal building at Bellingham International Airport. Route 3 will link the airport with both Bellingham Station in downtown Bellingham, and with Cordata Station near Whatcom Community College. The route will depart hourly from both stations be-

tween 6:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m. on weekdays, and between 7:40 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. on Saturdays.

Other changes include re-routing on Routes 4 and 50. These are intended to make it easier for residents of both the Birchwood neighborhood and Lummi Nation to reach a Fred Meyer shopping center.

Many other routes and schedules are changing in some way. To learn more about the changes, call 360/676-7433 or visit ridewta.com.

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Public Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM In the matter of the Estate of LILEEN BURLERSON, Deceased. No. 19-4-00264-37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the deceased must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner provided by RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's Attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim, and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probated proceedings have commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1) (c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of this notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim will be forever barred except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 or 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the probate and nonprobate assets of the decedent.

DATE OF FILING OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS WITH CLERK OF THE COURT: May 24, 2019
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: May 30, 2019
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: ALICE LAI HOW
ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Mark W. Stowe, WSBA#16655
ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: Stowe Law PLLC, 276 Boundary Bay Road, P.O. Box 129, Point Roberts, WA 98281, Phone: (360) 945-0337
Email: stowelawpllc@outlook.com
DATED this 24th day of May 2019.
STOWE LAW PLLC:
Mark W. Stowe, WSBA# 16655
Attorney for Personal Representative
ALICE LAI HOW

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY In re the Estate of: **BILL C MURPHY (AKA WILLIAM CHARLES MURPHY), Deceased.** No. 19-4-00316-37 NOTICE TO CREDITORS Judge Deborah E. Garrett

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probated proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 AND 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of Filing of Notice to Creditors June 5, 2019 with Clerk of Court:
Date of First Publication: June 12, 2019
Name of Personal Representative: PATRICK W. MURPHY
Attorney for Personal Representative: Steven D. Avery, WSBA #35262
Address for Mailing or Service: Avery Elder Law, P.S., 801 Samish Way, Ste. 202 Bellingham WA 98229
Telephone: (360) 325-2550
Email: steve@averyelderlaw.com
DATED June 5, 2019
AVERY ELDER LAW, P.S.
STEVEN D. AVERY, WSBA #35262
Attorney for Personal Representative
PATRICK W. MURPHY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Blaine School District No. 503, Whatcom County, Washington (the "District") will hold a public hearing during a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the District scheduled for June 24, 2019 starting at 7:00 p.m., Pacific Time, or as soon thereafter as possible in the District Office Board Room located at 765 H Street in Blaine, Washington, for the purpose of hearing comments from the public on the proposed issuance by the District of its Limited General Obligation Bond, 2019. The Bond is proposed to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$4,600,000 and will be payable over a maximum term of 6 years with the final payment to occur no later than December 1, 2024. The Bond proceeds will be used to pay costs of (i) all necessary planning, engineering and other consulting services, inspection and testing required for the construction and installation of new grandstands at Blaine High School, including the installation of any necessary appurtenances for safety of access to the grandstands, (ii) campus-wide improvements; (iii) other purposes authorized by RCW 28A.530.080, and (iv) and costs of issuance of the Bond. The Bond will be payable solely from money from the District's Capital Projects Fund, General Fund and/or from other money legally available therefore, within the constitutional and statutory limitations provided by law without a vote of the electors of the District. Any person may appear and be heard on the issue of this Bond. Comments will be heard from all interested parties attending the hearing. Written comments prior to the hearing may be directed to Amber Porter, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Blaine School District No. 503, Whatcom County, Washington, 765 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230.

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OPEN DAILY 12-5



9432 Turnstone Ln #33 \$795,000

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Lisa Kent 360-594-8034

DIRECTIONS: Exit 270 West on Birch Bay-Lynden Rd., R on Harborview, L on Lincoln Rd., to Semiahmoor Pkwy., Semiahmoor Shore on Left.
For more information visit www.SemiahmoorShore.com

OPEN DAILY 12-5



9464 Turnstone Ln #40 \$1,095,000

Newest Semiahmoor Shore waterfront home with soaring vaulted great room design & expansive full width covered patio featuring full height stone fireplace & ample room for shoreline entertaining. All the exceptional design elements you'd expect at Semiahmoor Shore with fantastic guest suites on both main & upper floors. All main living on entry level, gated luxury at Semiahmoor spit with incomparable saltwater & mtn. views. Dir: Exit 270 West on Birch Bay Lynden Rd., R on Harborview, L on Lincoln Rd., to Semiahmoor Pkwy., Semiahmoor Shore on Left. MLS# 1395934.

Mike Kent 360-527-8901

SEMIAHMOO OPEN HOUSES

OPEN SUN 12:30-3



Presale/Under Construction - September Completion

8783 Clubhouse Point Dr. \$1,049,000

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For details and floorplans visit: www.clubhousepoint.com
Brian Southwick 360-815-6638

SEMIAHMOO OPEN HOUSES

OPEN SAT 12-3



5463 Wood Duck Loop \$639,990

New construction at Semiahmoor! 3 bed 2 bath + den, mid-century modern style single level home w/ sharp facades & clean lines. Open, expansive floor plan, 10' ceilings, 8' glass doors, no steps & wide hallways make this a perfect 'forever home'. Euro-style kitchen w/ grand island. Outdoor room w/ fireplace. Enjoy AC; in-floor radiant heat under Luxury Vinyl Plank; and, the latest in materials & high efficiency appliances. A 3-car garage (710 sf.) is perfect for extra storage or hobby space.

Kathy Stauffer 360-815-4718
Hosted by Brandi Coplen 360-201-3951

OPEN SAT 12-3



5449 Wood Duck Loop \$599,990

New construction at Semiahmoor! 2 bed, 2 bath + den, mid-century modern style single level home w/ sharp facades & clean lines. Open & expansive, 10' ceilings, 8' glass doors, no steps, wide hallways & an 1,105 sqft garage! Space for 5 cars or make the third bay your workout studio, hobby shop, art gallery, you name it! Gourmet Euro-style kitchen w/ grand island. Outdoor rooms w/ gas fireplaces. AC & in-floor radiant heat under Luxury Vinyl Plank & the latest in high efficiency appliances.

Kathy Stauffer 360-815-4718
Hosted by Brandi Coplen 360-201-3951

OPEN SUN 2-4



5425 Quail Run \$739,000

Perfect location at Semiahmoor! Views of the 9th fairway offer plenty of sunshine. This single story home has 3 bed & 3 baths, large open great room, living room, and kitchen. Hardwood floors throughout the main living space, with french doors that open to the large deck in the back. Stainless steel appliances, granite counters, great attention to detail -- this is a great home for those wanting that sunny exposure!

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BMS student investigated for threat

BY OLIVER LAZENBY

A Blaine Middle School student is out of school and being investigated by the Blaine Police Department after posting an image to the social media app Snapchat that could be interpreted as a threat.

The student posted an image of a character from the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" children's book series holding a rifle with the text "enough is enough." The image is likely one the student found online rather than created, Blaine school district superintendent Ron Spanjer said.

The image was meant to look like the cover of a book titled "Enough is Enough."

"Enough is Enough" isn't an actual book in the Wimpy Kid series, which is about a middle schooler struggling to fit in, but a meme that has circulated online.

The Blaine Police Department encountered the image early on June 10, according to an announcement made that morning on the school district's website. The student won't return to school until after an "extended investigation," the website said.

"We are always going to err on the side of extreme caution and safety in these situations," Spanjer said. "Yes, every student is entitled to an education but we are always going to make sure we fully understand the context and nature of something of this magnitude."

OBITUARY



Kenneth LaVerne Markusen August 9, 1944-June 2, 2019

Ken (Bud) Markusen was born in Bellingham, WA to John and Marie Markusen on August 9, 1944. He grew up in the Whitehorn community, and it held such special memories for him that he requested that part of his ashes be spread there when he died. He was the youngest of four children. His siblings were Ronald, Dick, and Joanne. He is survived by his brother-in-law Darrel Barnes, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Ken was a lifelong resident of Whatcom county, and graduated in 1962 from Blaine High School. He excelled in sports and was the class athlete of the year, holding a record in the long jump and 110 high hurdles for over 50 years. In 1965 he met his future wife, Pamela Atkinson, while cruising in his 1958 Chevy Impala with a friend at Birch Bay. They were married in 1967, and married for 52 years. Their children are Meredith (Kevin), Jeffrey (Angela), and Rob. His family was very important to him, and he always welcomed and enjoyed his six grandkids, Hayden (Laney), Courtney (Armando), Faith, Blake, Macie, and Easton. He also had two great-grandchildren, Owen and Emery.

Ken was a very talented man who made his living initially building homes and then starting "Markusen Construction". He was also a boat builder with his first boat being "The Country Boy." One of his more adventurous endeavors was building a boat, "Nightrider" which he fished in the False Pass, AK. He commercial fished first as a gill-netter and then as a purse-seiner on the "Marco J" for 59 years. He did not miss a crab season in 56 years. He helped Jeff, Rob, and Hayden become successful fishermen too.

Ken had a lot of friends, and over the years collected a lot of stories of good times and practical jokes. He was a great story teller and could easily entertain a crowd. He will be missed by many people. We are grateful for his life of 74 years.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 1 p.m. at Semiahmoo Resort (9565 Semiahmoo Pkwy., Blaine).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Grace Lutheran Church in Blaine or the Blaine Fisherman's Memorial Fund c/o Gary Dunster, 948 Peace Portal Drive, Blaine WA 98230.

Educational day takes advantage of low tide

BY ZOE DEAL

The beaches of Point Whitehorn will become a classroom at "What's the Point," a family-friendly event on Saturday, June 15, one of the lowest tides of the spring.

That day, Point Whitehorn will experience tides three feet lower than normal for just a few hours at midday. This low-intertidal world, with all its sea cucumbers, anemones, crabs and seaweeds, will give onlookers a unique chance to see sea critters who are rarely above water.

Sponsored by the Whatcom Land Trust and the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee, the explorative event includes a geology tour of the area, plant and bird walks along the upland forest trail, a seashell display on the beach and a watershed stormwater pollution model.

"It's just a great opportunity to connect young families and children to be able to understand the connection between water and land," said Karen Parker, outreach director at the Whatcom Land Trust. "You only get a few hours to explore it, and what you get to see are things you wouldn't normally be able to see."

Events begin at 9 a.m. with low tide at 10:52 a.m. Stick around until noon to hear northwest geologist Dave Tucker tell the story of the glaciers that once moved

through the landscape.

Five naturalists will be available throughout the day to share the history of the diverse sea and forest life at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, 54 acres of trees, stones and sand that look out at the Strait of Georgia and the San Juan Islands.

Parker said children at "What's the Point" are often very excited, yet they remain engaged as naturalists teach them about their surroundings.

"Children are like sponges, they just love to learn. It's really kind of nice for them to get the facts from [the naturalists]," Parker said.

The area is preserved under a longstanding conservation easement the Whatcom Land Trust has with Whatcom County Parks and Recreation. Though the land was once zoned for high industrial use, the Whatcom Land Trust was able to purchase and save this county gem.

"What's the Point" events have been happening since 2016, according to Parker. The name is a play off its location between Cherry Point and Point Whitehorn.

For more information on the reserve or "What's the Point" and other events, visit the Whatcom Land Trust website, whatcomlandtrust.org.



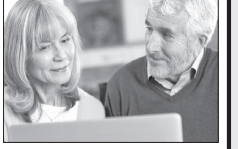
▲ The low tide will allow children to discover hidden sea creatures.

Photo by Jill Clark

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The Northern Light

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Coming up

Plover Ferry Rides: Fridays and Saturdays, 12–8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Departs from Blaine Harbor gate 2 on the hour/Semiahmoo dock on the half-hour. Adults \$5, kids \$1. Info: draytonharbormaritime.com.

Blaine Farmers Market: Saturdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., G Street Plaza.

APA Museum: Through September, Friday–Sunday, 1–5 p.m., 9261 Semiahmoo Parkway. Learn about the area's commercial fishing history with antique machinery, historic photos and an original sailboat. Info: draytonharbormaritime.com.

Firsts in Flight: A Hidden History: Through August 4, Whatcom Museum's old city hall building. Showcasing significant contributions of women and African Americans, particularly African American women, to our country's history of aviation and space flight. Info: whatcommuseum.org.

Vinyl Night and Trivia: Thursday, June 13, 7–9 p.m., The Vault Wine Bar, 277 G Street. Info: 360/392-0955.

Story Telling: Friday, June 14, 6 p.m., Birch Bay State Park wildlife theater. Info: fobbsp.org.

What's the Point? A Free Beach Discovery Event: Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, end of Koehn Road near Birch Bay.

Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, June 15, 8 a.m.–11 a.m., Blaine Senior Center, 763 G street. Choice of pancakes, French toast or waffles, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and orange juice. Adults \$6, kids \$4. Info: 36/332-8040.

Dog Behavior Improvement Training Seminar: Saturday, June 15, 2–4 p.m., Blaine Public Library, 610 3rd Street. Birch Bay dog behaviorist Lawrence Pang returns with this educational seminar to help pet parents deal with their dogs' behavioral issues. Seminar is required to attend the June 22 workshop. Registration required. Info: 360/305-3637.

Live Music at The Vault: Saturday, June 15, 7–9 p.m., The Vault Wine Bar, 277 G Street. Featuring Sam Halbert & Friends. Info: 360/392-0955.

Third Sunday Breakfast: Sunday, June 16, 9 a.m.–noon, American Legion Post 86, 4580 Legion Drive. Open to the Public. Adults \$6, Children 6 years and under \$3. Serving: eggs to order, biscuits and gravy,

French toast, pancakes, ham, coffee, milk and orange juice. 360/371-7311.

Dementia: There can still be joy in the journey! Monday, June 17, 6–7 p.m., Blaine Public Library, 610 3rd Street. Discuss challenges in communication and understanding behaviors. Classes are free, and refreshments will be served. Presented by Silverado Bellingham Memory Care. Space limited and registration is requested. Info: 360/305-3637.

Loads of Love: Monday, June 17, 5–7:30 p.m., The Washhouse, 715 3rd. Street, Blaine. Laundry costs covered.

Have a Volcanic Blast! Wednesday, June 19, 1–2:30 p.m., Blaine Public Library, 610 3rd Street. Kids grades K-5 enjoy a S.T.E.A.M.-related program. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). All materials provided. Space is limited; registration required. Info: 360/305-3637.

Birch Bay Summer Community Meals: Wednesday, June 19, Christ the King North-Bay, 4895 Birch Bay-Lynden Road. Dinner, music, games and food pantry. To donate or volunteer contact: bbsummercommunitymeals@gmail.com.

BBWARM Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 6–8 p.m., BP Heron Center, 7290 Birch Bay Drive. Parking fees will be covered for individuals attending the meeting. If you have a Discover Pass, please display it on your windshield. Information: bbwarm.whatcomcounty.org.

Semiahmoo Men's Breakfast: Thursday, June 20, 7:30 am. Semiahmoo Golf Clubhouse. Speaker: Richard Sturgill on area history on land and sea. \$15 for superb buffet breakfast. Everyone welcome.

World's Largest Swim Lesson: Thursday, June 20, 4:30–5:30 p.m., Birch Bay Waterslides, 4874 Birch Bay-Lynden Road. Free swim lesson for kids ages 0-14. Info: 360/371-7500.

Depression Bipolar Support Group: Thursday, June 20, 6–7:30 p.m., downstairs at Blaine United Church of Christ, (Use doors on Clark Street, elevator available). No cost, but donations accepted.

Blaine Kite Day: Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Blaine Marine Park. Members of kite clubs show off their skills, flying artwork and help younger fliers get their kites flying high. Info: blainechamber.com.

Teddy Bear Repair Workshop: Saturday, June 22, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Blaine Public Library, 610 3rd Street. Inspired by Mark Nixon's book, Much Loved, professional toymaker Pippa Mars will share techniques, tools, and tips for bringing vitality back to your overloved stuffed animal. Share advance info about your animal with library staff. Space limited; registration required. Info: 360/305-3637.

Dog Behavior Improvement Training Workshop: Saturday, June 22, 2–4 p.m., Blaine Public Library, 610 3rd Street. At this follow-up workshop led by dog behaviorist Lawrence Pang, pet-parents and their dogs will practice the appropriate behaviors discussed at the June 15 seminar. Attendance at the June 15 seminar is required to attend this workshop. Weather permitting, the workshop will be held in the grassy area behind the library. Info: 360/305-3637.

Paws Across the Border: Saturday, June 29, noon, Peace Arch Park. Dog walk through the Peace Arch. Gather at the park at 11 a.m. Prizes for most patriotic pooch. Preregistration required at eventbrite.com/e/paws-across-the-border-registration or at Bow Wow and Woofs in Birch Bay Square.

Puppy Rescue Mission Fundraiser: Saturday, June 29, starting at 1 p.m., American kitchen area of Peace Arch State Park. Dog festival featuring vendors, samples, caricatures, blessing of the animals, meet the dogs of Puppy Rescue Mission, Boundary Bay beer garden, silent/live auctions, BBQ. Tickets \$20 at puppyrescuemissionfundraiser.com. Proceeds benefit Puppy Rescue Mission.

ArtScape Teens: Tuesdays, 3–5 p.m., Soul Space Studio, 264B H Street. A safe place for teens to set their imaginations free through art mediums. Free studio time. Sponsor: Healthy Youth Coalition. Info: 435/704-1598.

Teen Nite: Saturdays, 5–9 p.m., Pizza Factory, 738 Peace Portal Drive. Kids ages 13–18 come enjoy open mic, karaoke and games. Free pizza at 5 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous Meeting: Sundays, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Christ Episcopal Church, 382 Boblett Street, entrance on 4th Street. For other meeting times and locations visit nwwana.org or call 360/647-3234.

Submissions to Coming Up should be sent to calendar@thenorthernlight.com no later than noon on Monday.

TIDES

June 14–20 at Blaine.
Not for navigation.

49° 0' 0"N - 122° 46' 0"W

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT
Fr 14	2:54 am	9.6	10:17 am	-0.7
	5:29 pm	8.2	10:04 pm	5.9
Sa 15	3:30 am	9.5	10:57 am	-1.5
	6:27 pm	8.9	11:06 pm	6.4
Su 16	4:04 am	9.2	11:37 am	-1.9
	7:15 pm	9.5		
Mo 17	2:06 am	6.8	4:40 am	8.9
	12:15 pm	-2.1	7:59 pm	9.8
Tu 18	1:02 am	6.9	5:16 am	8.6
	12:53 pm	-2.0	8:41 pm	9.9
We 19	1:54 am	6.9	5:52 am	8.1
	1:29 pm	-1.7	9:23 pm	9.9
Th 20	2:48 am	6.8	6:26 am	7.7
	2:05 pm	-1.2	10:01 pm	9.8

WEATHER

Precipitation: During the period of June 3-9, .11 inches of precipitation was recorded. The 2019 year-to-date precipitation is 13.92 inches.

Temperature: High for the past week was 71°F on June 3 with a low of 46°F on June 6. Average high was 69°F and average low was 50°F.

Courtesy Birch Bay Water & Sewer Dist.

CROSSWORD

Answers at thenorthernlight.com

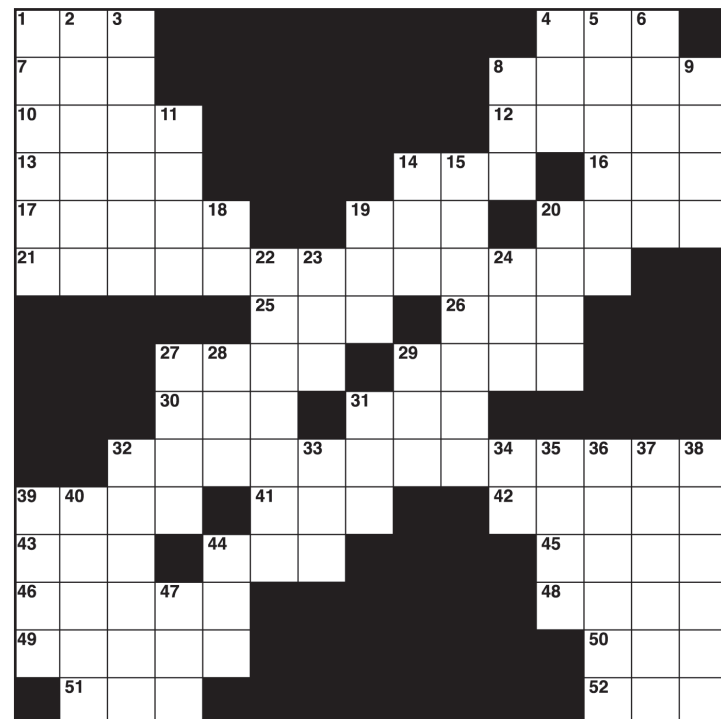
ACROSS

- Doctors' group
- One millionth of a gram
- Contrary to
- Oohed and ___
- Popular sandwiches
- Construction site machine
- Variety act
- Fall back
- An electrically charged atom
- Mountain lakes
- Japanese classical theater
- Pesky insect
- Natural wonders
- Design file extension
- Genus of grasses

- Container for shipping
- Theron film "___ Flux"
- Get older
- Chinese surname
- Edith Bunker actress
- Natives to Myanmar
- Soda comes in it
- Counting frames
- Where some get their mail (abbr.)
- Having ten
- Assn. of oil-producing countries
- A type of cigar
- World's longest river
- Single-celled animal
- Decay
- General's assistant (abbr.)

DOWN

- ___ and Costello
- Islamic teacher
- Clothing
- Disfigure
- Irons
- NW Italian seaport
- Play a role
- A reduction
- Short poem set to music
- Pain unit
- Get in form
- Junior's father
- To the ___ degree
- Wild or sweet cherry
- Content
- Earn a perfect score
- Korean surname
- Herb ___, San Francisco columnist
- Ottoman military commander
- Satisfaction
- Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- Poke quickly
- Pouch
- City of Angels
- Dark olive black
- Nocturnal hoofed mammals
- Wild cat
- Fine detail
- Prevents harm to creatures
- A city in Louisiana
- Everyone has their own
- Basics



POLICE REPORTS

More police reports can be found online at thenorthernlight.com

June 1, 12:12 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a missing juvenile. Officers contacted the parents and determined the juvenile didn't return home last night when he was supposed to. Officers entered the juvenile as a missing person. The juvenile was later located by his parents playing. Officers cleared with no further incident.

June 1, 2:21 p.m.: Officers on routine patrol were waved down by some pedestrians who had found a stray dog. Officers were able to detain the dog and bring it back to the police station and contact the owner. Officers cleared with no further incident.

June 1, 7:12 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a fight between two men. Officers contacted the two involved parties. Neither the Ferndale nor Blaine resident wished to pursue charges for the mutual wrestling match. The Blaine resident was cautioned to keep the peace. Officers cleared with no further actions.

June 2, 10:40 a.m.: Officers were notified of a door which had been left open for three days at an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Peace Portal Drive. Officers arrived and performed a welfare check. The home was found in order and nothing suspicious was found. Officers secured the door and left the area.

June 2, 12:23 p.m.: A juvenile was reporting missing at Marine Park. Officer arrived at the same time the child was located.

June 2, 5:47 p.m.: A Blaine police officer conducted a traffic stop in the 2100 block of H Street for a speeding violation. The driver was found to have a suspended driver's license. The woman was arrested, cited and released with a mandatory court date.

June 2, 8:02 p.m.: Blaine police responded to a collision in the 2500 Block of Peace Portal Drive. The collision resulted in very minor damage to only one of the vehicles. Officers assisted in an exchange of information and cleared without further incident.

June 2, 10:28 p.m.: During routine patrols, Blaine police located a commercial trailer in the 1500 block of Boblett Street blocking a hydrant. The vehicle was ticketed and found to have no registered owner linked to the registration, therefore a request to move the vehicle by the trucking company could not be made.

The trailer was towed as a result of the violation and obvious safety concerns.

June 2, 10:30 p.m.: An officer was informed multiple garbage cans were set on fire over the weekend at Blaine High School. Video was reviewed. There are no suspects at this time.

June 3, 9:54 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Peace Arch POE in reference to a missing elderly couple from Vancouver who had arrived at the port. Officer arrived to find the two being medically treated by the fire department. Both were transported to the ER by the fire department.

June 4, 11:42 p.m.: A woman called police to report a man had been standing outside of her window late at night. When the woman confronted the man he ran away. Police checked the area but did not locate any person of interest.

June 5, 11:26 a.m.: Officers took a harassment report in the 500 block of G Street. Officers reached out to the suspected person's probation officer to assist in directing the suspect to stop their behavior.

June 5, 6:37 p.m.: Blaine police were notified of an RV entering into Blaine city limits after dumping its sewage from the holding tank while on the premises of Birch Bay Square shopping center. The officer contacted the occupants of the RV at the food bank. The suspects denied doing such a thing but an employee provided photographic evidence to the contrary. The man and woman were trespassed from the entire Birch Bay Square business area.

June 5, 10:38 p.m.: Officers responded to a complaint of a Blaine citizen making several phone calls to U.S. customs and requesting he be warned not to call unless there is an emergency. Officers contacted the man and warned him not call any law enforcement agencies or 911 without an emergency or legitimate purpose.

June 6, 10:19 p.m.: Officers responded to disorderly subject at a business. Officers contacted the male who started to harm himself. Officers placed him in protective custody and transported him to the hospital for an involuntary mental health evaluation.

Reports provided by Blaine Police Department

Thieves steal miniature locomotive used at Birch Bay attraction

BY JAMI MAKAN

A miniature steam locomotive used at Miniature World Family Fun Center in Birch Bay has been stolen from a Seattle building.

The train, which is 1/8th the size of a regular train and took six years to build, was stolen in late May from a garage in west Seattle where it was being serviced.

It was occasionally used to haul passengers on the train ride at Miniature World Family Fun Center, located at 4620 Birch Bay Lynden Road in Birch Bay. An exact replica of an old-fashioned steam locomotive, the miniature train is steam-powered and can pull about 20 passengers.

The theft was caught on surveillance video, which showed two hooded thieves breaking into the west Seattle building early in the morning on May 26.

The burglars headed straight for the corner of the garage, where the 1,300-pound locomotive was sitting on a cart. The train had been there for about a

week and was having its valves "timed" – set in time with the piston – which is periodically required as a locomotive gets older.

The two thieves wheeled the train through a back door, loaded it into a pickup truck and drove away.

"It's just like losing a family member," said train owner Don Giffen, whose son Dale owns Miniature World Family Fun Center. "You're used to it for 25 years and all of a sudden it's gone. It glued the family together, and everybody loved it. It was a common conversation piece. Everyone had fun on it."

The Seattle police have no leads at this time, said Giffen, who bought the locomotive 25 years ago for around \$60,000. Giffen said he is currently dealing with his insurance company regarding the loss. "We hope that we can have something in replacement soon," he said.

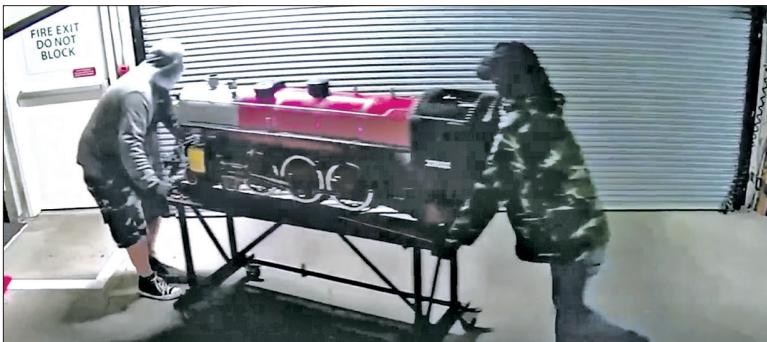
Miniature World Family Fun Center also features go-karts, miniature golf and an arcade. It is currently open on Saturdays,

Sundays and holidays. Later this month, it will open full-time for the summer season. Updates and more information about the fam-

ily fun center can be found at miniatureworld.org.

Giffen urged anyone with knowledge of the train's where-

abouts to contact the police right away. "To me, it's priceless," he said. "I don't know if I'll be able to find another one like it."



▲ The theft of the locomotive was caught on surveillance video.



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