



Mar. 6, 2020

[Downtown Bellingham waterfront site sprouts new signs of life](#)

By John Stark

— After almost 20 years of frustration and stagnation, the first tender shoots of redevelopment have appeared amid the post-industrial desolation that Georgia-Pacific Corp. left behind on Bellingham’s downtown waterfront... [Read more here.](#)

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News from around the region ...

EDITOR'S NOTE: Coronavirus news coverage in the [Bellingham Herald](#) can be accessed online without a subscription.

[Health & Safety](#)

[Hundreds of ‘desperately needed’ child care spots in Whatcom saved by acquisition](#)

The nonprofit Boys and Girls Clubs of Whatcom County has acquired Kids’ World, allowing hundreds of families in Bellingham and Ferndale to retain child care. (Bellingham Herald)

[Nursing homes fight to stay afloat with low Medicaid rates](#)

The five skilled nursing facilities in Skagit County are among those struggling to survive as the state’s Medicaid reimbursements fail to keep up with the rising costs of doing business. (Skagit Valley Herald)

[Wellness center expands; adds dental, housing](#)

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's didgwalic Wellness Center in Anacortes began its

third year of providing treatment for addictions, mental health therapy, primary care, and childcare. (Anacortes American)

Government

[Elenbaas defends 'terrorism' remark, citing citizen suits](#)

Newly elected Whatcom County councilmember Ben Elenbaas defended his controversial remark likening a local environmental nonprofit organization to domestic terrorists, citing the group's use of "citizen suits" to help enforce environmental laws. (Northern Light)

[Seattle City Light to begin process to relicense Skagit River dams](#)

Seattle City Light will be relicensing its three dams taking into account developments in climate science, impacts of climate change, and the growth of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. (Skagit Valley Herald)

[Appeals court sides with Swinomish in BNSF suit](#)

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court ruling that upheld the tribe's right to sue BNSF to enforce an agreement on train traffic on tribal land. (Skagit Valley Herald)

Nature

[Whale sanctuary, originally considered for the Pacific Northwest, to open in Nova Scotia](#)

The Whale Sanctuary Project that was considering sites in Western Washington and British Columbia has chosen to start its work in Port Hilford, on the eastern shore of Nova Scotia. (KNKX)

Business

[Creditors group joins pension agency in questioning transactions in McClatchy bankruptcy](#)

A group of McClatchy Co.'s least-protected creditors on Tuesday filed a brief in federal bankruptcy court taking issue with McClatchy's request to speed the proceedings and sought time to examine what they called "suspect" financial dealings. (McClatchy)

[Shell seeking buyer for Anacortes refinery](#)

Shell Oil Products U.S., a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, is seeking a buyer for its Shell Puget Sound Refinery on March Point and for a refinery in Mobile, Alabama. (Skagit Valley Herald)

Community

[We'll even throw in the Brooklyn Bridge ...](#)

Former Point Roberts resident John Lesow is pushing for a Whatcom county-wide advisory vote: Do voters wish for the governments of the United States and Canada to enter into consultation for the purchase of Point Roberts by Canada? (All Point Bulletin)

[Bellingham Selects Two New 'Signature Events' to Launch in 2020: Northwest Tune-Up and Strait to Sound](#)

The City of Bellingham's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's has selected Northwest Tune-Up to receive \$75,000 and Strait to Sound to receive \$55,000 to launch this year. (WhatcomTalk)

[Leadership change at Friends of the San Juans](#)

After 19 years as Executive Director of Friends of the San Juans, Stephanie Buffum submitted her letter of resignation and retired as of March 1, 2020. (Orcas Issues)

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