



**News from the *Salish Current* for the week ending March 27, 2020:**

## **[Virus versus visitors: San Juan Islanders weigh health risks of tourism amid pandemic](#)**

*By Hayley Day*

As #COVID2019 spreads across the globe, San Juan County officials are joining others in top vacation spots asking visitors to stay away for now. The calculation: A hit to the local economy may be a win for residents' safety. [Read more here.](#)

\* \* \*

### **News from around the region...**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Coronavirus news coverage in the *Bellingham Herald* and the *Lynden Tribune* can be accessed online without a subscription.

#### Health & Safety

#### [San Juan County Health Officer issues new order to prevent spread of COVID-19](#)

The order restricts non-essential travel to San Juan County, control contact with playgrounds and playground equipment, and limit transient accommodations and camping.

#### [Tulip Festival closes operations](#)

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival announced on its website that growers have closed their operations and fields to the public. The Tulip Festival usually runs through the month of April. (Bellingham Herald)

## Education

### [School in Washington is supposed to resume \(remotely\) by Monday. Will it?](#)

Washington schools have two business days to figure out how they intend to teach the state's roughly 1.1 million students remotely. (Seattle Times)

## Government

[Bellingham City Council](#) and [Whatcom County Council](#) meetings can be watched live online and are archived at the city and county websites for on-demand streaming.

### [Canadian official in Seattle: Border officers have discretion over 'essential' travel](#)

Canada's Deputy Prime Minister, Chrystia Freeland, said border crossings will be allowed to continue for certain reasons, in communities where it's important for everyday life. (KNKX)

### [WSF remains on winter schedule](#)

Washington State Ferries spring sailing schedule will now tentatively begin on April 26 rather than March 29 due to the coronavirus.

### [Lummi Island ferry adopts COVID-19 schedule – eliminates fares](#)

The Lummi Island ferry sails under a modified ferry schedule effective March 26th and fares will not be collected. (My Ferndale News)

## Commentary

### [We are carrying on our mission in this crisis](#)

Michael D. Lewis, Lynden Tribune publisher, addresses the role of the community paper in providing the latest news and information about the response to the coronavirus.

## Business

### [As advertising dries up amid coronavirus shutdown, Washington news outlets lay off staff](#)

Layoffs and furloughs put additional pressure on the remaining reporters and editors. (Seattle Times)

### [How local businesses are adjusting to closures caused by COVID-19](#)

A sampling of changes and challenges in Bellingham brought about by virus prevention measures. (Western Front)

### [Coronavirus concerns turning Washington's tourist destinations into ghost towns](#)

The losses are still being calculated, but the anecdotal evidence is overwhelming at all state tourism destinations, from Walla Walla to the San Juan Islands, where officials for more than a week have been asking tourists not to come. (Seattle Times)

*If you like to watch:* [Sustaining Seafood and Communities of the Salish Sea](#)  
Tele Aadsen, of Nerka Sea-Frozen Salmon, and Jake Hacker, of Aslan Brewing Co. talk about fresh, locally-sourced salmon and seafood. (Northwest Straits Foundation)

### [Distillery now producing hand sanitizer](#)

Probably Shouldn't Distillery in Everson got the go-ahead from the federal government March 17 to begin producing hand sanitizer from the alcohol already on hand in the distillery. (Lynden Tribune)

### [Whatcom refinery donations go toward COVID-19 response](#)

Phillips 66 provided an initial \$60,000 donation, which was matched by BP Cherry Point. (My Ferndale News)

### [Superfeet offers 3D printing capacity to help fill medical equipment shortage](#)

Ferndale manufacturer SuperFeet is using their HP MultiJet Fusion 3D printers to set up a manufacturing line to help with the supply of needed equipment to be used in treating people infected by the COVID-19 virus. (My Ferndale News)

### [Declining Ridership Due to COVID-19 Brings Change to Amtrak Cascades Trains](#)

Two daily roundtrips between Seattle and Portland are the only Cascades trains that will continue to operate in Washington. (Whatcom Talk)

### [Bankruptcy judge approves McClatchy funding, rejects challenges from government trustee](#)

McClatchy, owner of the Bellingham herald, has filed for bankruptcy and issues have arisen about its financial dealings. (Bellingham Herald)

## Community

### [New water source available to property owners in Skagit, Snohomish counties](#)

Thanks to a partnership with Seattle City Light, the state Department of Ecology is now providing 340 property owners with a legal water source and has the capacity to provide water for about 1,000 more. (Skagit Valley Herald)

### [Border restrictions force couple to visit with new grandson at Peace Arch](#)

Blaine residents John and Sharon Andes visited with their new grandson in the Peace Arch park after new border restrictions prevented them from crossing into Canada, where the baby was born and lives with his parents. (Northern Light)

### [Coronavirus costs Whatcom County its signature event in 2020](#)

The Sea to Ski Memorial Day Race held annually since 1973 in Whatcom County has been cancelled.

### [Local maritime organization restoring 114-year-old fishing boat](#)

The non-profit Drayton Harbor Maritime is restoring a fishing boat that was built in 1906 for the Alaska Packers Association's Diamond NN Cannery on the south Naknek River in Bristol Bay. (Northern Light)

*Like this newsletter? Share it. And it's easy to subscribe by reply mail. Your email address will never be shared-- and you can unsubscribe at any time.  
Mike Sato.*

\* \* \*

*Salish Current is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, online local news organization serving Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit Counties. Salish Current exists to protect and improve democratic governance by reporting and curating local news with independence and strict journalistic integrity.*

Our Facebook page is unavailable for the moment; we'll reinstate the link just as soon as possible.

Twitter: Follow and engage with us [@currentsalish](#)

Say something: [SalishCurrent@gmail.com](mailto:SalishCurrent@gmail.com)  
And check out what's new on [Salish Current](#).