

News from the *Salish Current* for the week ending June 19, 2020:

[Stakes are high for restaurateurs and staffs as eateries open under COVID-19 Phase 2 rules](#)



Got face masks? Got hand sanitizer? Phase 2 re-opening rules for restaurants require that and more as customers return to favorite businesses, including Pure Bliss Desserts. (Amy Nelson photo © 2020)

By Stella Harvey

Since Washington State approved the three northwest counties for Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan, local restaurants and cafés have adapted their facilities and practices to meet the new health and safety rules. The stakes, for failure as well as success, are high. ([Read more here.](#))

Juneteenth: Freedom Day

Although Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, it was not until after the war was over that slaves became free in Texas, possibly because the Proclamation could not be enforced there, or because news of the Proclamation had not been spread there. The war ended in April of 1865, but word did not reach Texas until the following month, and it was not until June that the Confederate Army in the area surrendered. On June 19th, Union General Gordon Granger read "General Order No. 3" in Galveston, which said all slaves were free. ([Checkiday](#))

Salish Current affirms its commitment to work for truth, justice, equality and healing for all people. #SayTheirNames #BlackLivesMatter #NoJusticeNoPeace

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News from around the region...

Health & Safety

- British Columbia closed its side of the Peace Arch Park on the U.S.-Canada border because of a "significant" increase in the number of visitors over the last month has created public safety concerns -- while the Washington side remains open, for now. ([CBC](#))
- The US-Canada border will remain closed to non-essential travel at least until July 21. ([CTVNews](#))
- San Juan County request to move to Phase 3 postponed after county health officer suggests delay to see results of Phase 2 re-openings and Black Lives Matter mass protests. ([San Juan Journal](#)) New positive test result reported on San Juan Island ([San Juan Journal](#))
- The city of Lynden begun testing sewage for COVID-19 to establish a baseline to use sewage samples to track outbreaks and pinpoint hotspots. ([Lynden Tribune/paywall](#))

Education

- The Ferndale School Board will put a Programs and Operations Replacement Levy proposal with a \$2.17 mil rate over 2-years on the November 2020 General Election ballot. ([My Ferndale News](#))

Government

- Bellingham mayor Seth Fleetwood has promised to schedule a community listening forum where elected officials can hear about "how to build equity and justice that makes safety, dignity and humanity of all people a priority." ([Bellingham Herald](#))
- Ferndale Police Chief Kevin Turner explained to the Ferndale City Council his department's procedures and policies for hiring and training law enforcement officers and provided 2019 statistics detailing the department's reported use of force incidents and complaints filed against the department. ([My Ferndale News](#))

Nature

- A leak of about 1,195 barrels (50,190 gallons) of crude oil was contained last Saturday at the Sumas Pump Station owned by the Trans Mountain Pipeline. ([CBC](#)) Trans Mountain oil spill bolsters Sumas First Nation opposition to twinned pipeline ([CBC](#))
- Now's a great time to learn about Great Blue Herons and visit the Post Point Heron Colony in Bellingham. ([North Cascades Audubon Society](#))
- After completing 40 hours of virtual study, 22 Salish Sea Stewards graduated without getting their feet muddy or hands wet -- due to pandemic precautions. ([Skagit Valley Herald/paywall](#))
- Take a self-guided tour of Bellingham's South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site and make a public comment on the cleanup action plan. ([RE Sources](#))

Business

- Washington State Ferries will remain on its winter schedule due to ridership depressed by the ongoing pandemic. ([NW News Network](#))

Community

- Bellingham's Farmers' Market opened in its 28th year facing the challenge of health and safety in the days of virus. ([Klipsun Magazine](#))
- Facing a mid-July deadline to vacate the homeless shelter at Bellingham High School, the Bellingham City Council voted approval of a long-term lease for a temporary shelter at the vacant downtown Public Market Building. ([Bellingham Herald](#))

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

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