

# **Salish Current**

*Independent, fact-based news for Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties*

**Dear Readers —**

Congratulations — looks like we made it through the hot weather and will look forward to a long Fourth of July weekend. Be safe, be sane, take care of each other are lessons we learned during the COVID pandemic and during the heat wave—good lessons for moving forward. Take some time to read **Matt Benoit's** story below about the original Willows Inn, true hard work and island hospitality that predates the current restaurant and its controversy. Share this newsletter with others who value real news, and encourage others to subscribe to this newsletter. It's our community and [Salish Current](#) is a community service. Thank you for reading and for your [support](#).

— Amy Nelson, Publisher, and Mike Sato, Managing Editor

**News from the *Salish Current*, week of July 2, 2021**

## [Lummi Island's original Willows Inn was a local-food hotspot — 100 years before 'locavore' was trending](#)



*Tennessee-style fried chicken dinners at the family-run Willows drew diners by the hundreds to Lummi Island on Sundays during the 1940s and '50s. Nearly all ingredients used in The Willows kitchen were raised on the island, with many produced on site.*

*By Matt Benoit — Today's Lummi Island in Whatcom County is home to permanent and vacationing residents, local businesses — and a historic resort known for more than 100 years as The Willows. ([Read more](#).)*

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

## News from around the region

### Health

State money is on the way to help save the only grocery store in Point Roberts. ([KNKX](#))

Whatcom County 5/21/21 [COVID ActNow](#) Medium risk; 3.4/100K; 58.7% vaccinated

San Juan County 5/21/21 [COVID ActNow](#) Low risk; 0.0/100K; 73.3% vaccinated

Skagit County 5/21/21 [COVID ActNow](#) Medium risk; 3.6/100K; 54.4% vaccinated

### Government

#### San Juan County

Mike Thomas to be Friday Harbor Town Administrator. ([San Juan Journal](#))

#### Bellingham

The City Council is next scheduled to meet on July 12.

#### Whatcom County

The Council met on June 29. [Agenda items](#) include:

Consent Agenda: Authorized (6-1, Elenbaas opposed) contracts to provide housing case management services with agencies: Opportunity Council, Catholic Community Services, Lydia Place, Northwest Youth Services and Cascade Connections.

Consent Agenda: Authorized (6-1, Elenbaas opposed) contracts to provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities with Cascade Connections, Kulshan Supported Employment, Washington Vocational Services and Work Opportunities in the amounts of \$1,321,837, \$1,150,942, \$268,910 and \$686,136, respectively.

[\[AB2021-343\]](#) Failed to authorize (4-3, Byrd, Elenbaas, Kershner opposed) County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Department of Health to implement the second phase of the young adult COVID-19 social marketing campaign in the amount of \$106,250 and extend the contract to Sept. 30 2021 for a total amended contract amount of \$306,250.

The Council is next scheduled to meet on July 13.

#### Port of Bellingham

The Port Commission is next scheduled to meet on July 13.

## Elections

The Whatcom County-Bellingham League of Women Voters will be holding online candidate forums on July 7 from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. (Whatcom Council District 3 and Port of Bellingham District 2) and on July 8 from 6 to 8:45 p.m. (Whatcom Council-At Large, Whatcom Council District 1, and Bellingham Council-At Large). The virtual forums can be seen live on the League's [website](#), on the Bellingham City Channel and on YouTube and will be recorded for later viewing.

## Nature

Carol Macilroy tells a story of challenges facing the people of the Nooksack River. ([Floodplain by Design](#))

The state Department of Ecology is seeking public comment by Aug. 5 on a draft guidance for marine net pens aquaculture in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca. ([GoAnacortes/paywall](#))

The Whatcom County Draft Climate Action Plan is now available for public review. Comments may be submitted in the following ways by July 30. ([Whatcom County](#))

## Business

Harvest time for red raspberries from Whatcom County normally happens in July, when they're especially sweet and tangy. Before then, they're very delicate. The record heat has left immature berries sunburnt, while causing ripe ones to melt and shrivel on the vine. ([KNKX](#))

Harbor Custom Development, Inc. purchased the Horizon at Semiahmoo housing development June 28 for \$14.3 million, and are ready to develop upward of 230 residences. ([Northern Light](#))

## Commentary

Doug Edelstein muses on crab season and provides a handy guide. ([Rainshadow Journal](#))

## Community

Hear from six people in B.C. who are helping to revitalize their Indigenous languages. ([CBC](#))

Bellingham Deputy Chief Scott Grunhurd has retired after 30.5 years of city service. (City of Bellingham)

Rental Assistance Available for San Juan County Tenants and Landlords ([San Juan Update](#))

## Arts and Leisure

Poems by 74 Whatcom County teenagers are collected in *A Forest of Words: 2021 Whatcom County Teen Poetry Anthology*, an annual publication of poems selected based on their strength, content and originality. ([Whatcom County Library System](#))

## **Jump in!**

The San Juan Islands Conservation District and Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University are offering a new Ecological Restoration Certificate in the San Juan Islands. ([San Juan Journal](#))

***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.*

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