



What's New & Cool in the San Juan Islands

Early Spring Edition, 2019

Note: Contacts and phone numbers below are for media follow-up and may not be the best contact for consumers

Awards and Anniversaries

A Centennial Celebration

Lime Kiln Lighthouse turns 100 years old on June 30, 2019. The Friends of Lime Kiln Society is planning a celebration that includes lighthouse tours, live music and performances, silent auctions and raffles, arts and crafts, keynote speeches from the Coast Guard and Washington State Parks and lighthouse experts, and even a lighthouse anniversary wine label. An epicenter for research, education, and inspiration, this distinctive island landmark is considered one of the most photographed icons in the San Juan Islands. Lime Kiln Point State Park, also known as Whale Watch Park, welcomes 350,000 visitors from roughly 40 different countries every year. Contact: Erin Corra ancientearthsji@gmail.com www.folksSJI.org;

Barn Owl Bakery Brings Home the Bacon

Sage Dilts of Lopez Island's Barn Owl Bakery took home the grand prize in the NASDA Foundation's Women's Farm to Food Competition for 2019. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) created the Women's Farm to Food Competition to support women leading agricultural and food businesses. As part of the grand prize, Dilts was awarded \$20,000 to help grow her artisanal bakery. "We're proud to recognize outstanding women farmers and entrepreneurs," said NASDA CEO Barb Glenn. "The passion and creativity these entrepreneurs have shown in their agriculture businesses is commendable." Find Barn Owl bread year-round at Blossom Grocery and the Orcas Co-op. Restaurants that serve Barn Owl bread are Vortex Cafe, Vita's Wildly Delicious, Poutine, Catkin Cafe, Rosario Resort, and Ursa Minor. Contact: granary@barnowlbakery.com. <http://barnowlbakery.com/>;

Good Food for Girl Meets Dirt

Introducing Shiro Plum Tree Bitters, the newest product development from Girl Meets Dirt and just named a 2019 [Good Food Awards Finalist](#) along with classics like the Lemon Lavender Shrub, the Rhubarb Lavender Spoon Preserves, and the Shiro Plum with Mint Preserves. Visitors can try all of the above in the newly expanded tasting room and retail shop. The original space will now be used exclusively for production and storage - but no fear- they'll retain the big barn doors so that customers can continue to peep in on what's happening in the kitchen, something tourists and

locals alike have always enjoyed. Contact Audra Lawlor, audra@girlmeetsdirt.com; www.girlmeetsdirt.com/ (360) 375-6269

Honor for Howe

Anthony Howe is a kinetic sculptor, based on Orcas Island, and perhaps best known for the Olympic cauldron at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. But in 2019, Howe will receive the special “Lorenzo il Magnifico” Prize of the President for the XII edition of Florence Biennale, a prestigious international contemporary art exhibition in Florence, Italy.

Chef on the Rise

Orcas Island Chef Jay Blackinton, who daringly split his locavore haven Hogstone’s Wood Oven into two restaurants in 2017 with the advent of Aelder, is once again a semifinalist for the 2019 James Beard Award for Rising Star Chef of the Year. Aelder’s focus is on a seasonal tasting menu while Hogstone’s is an outdoor venue focused on pizza, salad, and more rustic fare. Contact: Jay Blackinton, hogstone@gmail.com; www.hogstone.com/aelder (360) 376-4647

Fete for a Ferry

Back when a gallon of gas cost 23 cents, and before Alaska became a state, the *M/V Tillikum* began its public service on the waters of Puget Sound. Washington State Ferries has unveiled the first ever 60 years in service decoration aboard the *Tillikum*, the state’s oldest operating ferry. While the *Tillikum* has covered every route in its long history, it now serves the inter-island route for the San Juan Islands. Washington State Ferries is the largest ferry system in the United States, and one of the most extensive in the world, based on the number of vessels and ports of call.

Grand Openings, Lodging Upgrades

Air Travel No Longer a Pain

Alaska Airlines launched their new North Puget Sound service from Everett’s Paine Field this spring, with 18 daily nonstop flights connecting to eight cities across the West – Portland, San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Phoenix. This puts travelers an hour closer to Anacortes, the gateway to the San Juan Islands.

<https://www.alaskaair.com/content/cities/flights-from/paine-field-everett>

Outlook’s new lookout

The Outlook Inn is in the midst of expanding. Five luxury rooms located across the street from the New Leaf Cafe will overlook Indian Island and Eastsound. Called The New Leaf Cottages, each room will boast freestanding soaking bathtubs, fireplaces, and original art. A small meeting space and lawn are also under construction, allowing the business to host additional meetings, retreats, and events. Contact: Sara Farish sara@outlookinn.com www.outlookinn.com/

Friday Harbor House Goes Raw Out!

For Friday Harbor House, a new patio last year just wasn’t enough. This summer, they are opening an outdoor Raw Bar. Guests can expect a menu filled with oysters, ceviche, poke, crab, mussels, caviar, and

seafood towers. Pair this briny rainbow with champagne, wine, a frozen margarita, a Bloody Mary, or beer on tap and watch the sun go down over the harbor. Contact: sarahc@greenrubino.com
<https://www.fridayharborhouse.com/>

Three Chefs are Better than One

As the saying goes, the sum is greater than each of the parts. The powerhouse trio of Chef Ryan Lockhart, Chef Tim Payne, and Pastry Chef Jessica Bryan will increase the capacity of Friday Harbor's Coho Restaurant. Each night they will present and execute a more intricate a la carte menu along with a weekly [Chef's Tasting menu](#). This will allow expanded hours and services while maintaining and strengthening the relationships with our local producers. Contact: Anna Maria de Freitas am@tuckerhouse.com
<https://www.cohorestaurant.com/>

Events & Activities

Snapshots of Soldier Life

"The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." –Douglas MacArthur. The new exhibitions at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art are a testament to this sentiment. *MY WAR* and companion exhibit *A War Never Ends* open April 5th, 2019 and run through June 3rd, 2019, at the [San Juan Islands Museum of Art](#) (SJIMA), located at 540 Spring Street in Friday Harbor, WA. *MY WAR* features the Vietnam War through the lens of the "average Joe." The exhibition showcases photographs, poems and journal entries by twenty-five Vietnam veterans from around the U.S. Complementing the pictures in the main gallery; the north gallery will hold a more intimate display called *A War Never Ends*. It honors the Vietnam wartime experience of San Juan County men and women. Their stories will be told through personal artifacts and statements that reflect their scars and memories, good and bad, from the war. Contact: Diane Martindale
diane.martindale@rockisland.com www.sjima.org

On the Road with Meat Machine Cycles

Friday Harbor bike shop Meat Machine Cycles now offers scheduled as well as customized cycling tours on the San Juan Islands. "Our friendly and professional local tour guides have created sets of itineraries that will take you to all of San Juan Island's most iconic locations and tourist hotspots. We offer a fun-filled cycling activity for friends and the whole family. We are currently offering History & Birding Tours, Sunset Tours, and customized tours for more personalized adventures," says Seth Cox, owner of Meat Machine Cycles. Cyclists will be provided with a local professional guide, lunch, snacks, and traditional/electric bicycles. www.meatmachinebicycles.com/bike-tours/; meatmachine@icloud.com

A Sweet Spot for Skinny Tires

The upcoming Friday Harbor Bike Fest is the third annual bike ride sponsored by the San Juan Lions Club. In the past, this event was known as the Friday Harbor Bike-n-Brew. This year's event will coincide with the 30th annual San Juan Island Artists' Studio Tour. There will be numerous ride options, a 12-mile ride, a 20-mile ride, and a metric century. Other choices include the option to take in the San Juan Island Artists' Studio Tour (approximately 37 miles) by biking from studio to studio or just choosing your own course on our beautiful island backroads. www.fridayharborbikefest.org/

Friday Night Wine

The Friday night tastings at Doe Bay Wine Company in Eastsound have been growing steadily and on many nights the little shop finds itself bursting at the seams! Moving forward, each Friday night tasting will feature three time slots. Each of these will be 45 minutes and limited to 12 seats. The slots will be from 3:00-3:45pm, 4:00-4:45pm and 5:00-5:45pm. Those who RSVP will have a seat saved. Walk-ins will be accepted based on the capacity of the room. Owners Cole and Stephanie are hoping that this format leads to a more relaxed and educational tasting experience with ample time, and space, to ask questions and interact with their special guests. Contact: Cole Sisson cole@doebaywinecompany.com; www.doebaywinecompany.com/

Writings and Musings

Love for Lopez

Rie Anders might be a romance novelist, but her stories aren't just about the connection between two people. They also resonate her love for the San Juan Islands. The latest installment in her Lopez-based series, titled *On Island*, will be released in May 2019. Growing up on Lopez Island, being the sister of Nick and Jason Reid was not easy when it came to dating. All the guys thought of her as a sister and the island's darling daughter. Evie runs the bakery, and when her brother hires attorney Ethan Archer to run the Island office, she thinks he is going to be just another friend. <https://rieanders.com/>;

All the Buzz

Orcas Island author Thor Hanson has won one of the annual Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association's awards for his latest book, *Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees*. Hanson, a conservation biologist and Guggenheim Fellow, has also written *The Triumph of Seeds*, *The Impenetrable Forest*, *Feathers*, and the illustrated children's classic *Bartholomew Quill*. The PNBA, a non-profit trade association that supports independent bookstores, literacy, and free speech in the region has given out awards to authors residing in the region since 1965. The winners, chosen by a committee of independent booksellers, were selected from more than 400 books published last year. www.pnba.org/2019-book-awards.html; www.thorhanson.net/

The End of Apocalyptic Zombies

The *New York Times* bestselling Warm Bodies Series has captivated readers in twenty-five languages, inspiring a major film and transcending the zombie genre to become something "poetic" (*Library Journal*) "highly original" (*Seattle Times*) and "ultimately moving" (*Time Out London*). Now the story of a dead man's search for life reaches its conclusion on a scale both epic and intimate. Author Isaac Marion grew up in small towns around the Pacific Northwest, pursuing careers in writing, painting, and music until one of these finally sparked with the publication of his debut novel in 2010. He spent the next eight years writing the rest of the story over the course of four books, now concluded with *The Living*. He lives and writes on Orcas Island and plays music in Seattle with the band, Thing Quartet. <https://isaacmarion.com/>

Nature and Stewardship

The Story of the Southern Residents

San Juan Island naturalist and author Monika Wieland Shields has released a new book, *Endangered Orcas: The Story of the Southern Residents*. The Southern Resident killer whales are icons of the Pacific Northwest, a beloved population of orcas that are considered the most-watched whales in the world. Despite decades of research and focused conservation efforts, they are on the brink of extinction. From the capture era and the beginning of killer whale research to the whale-watching boom and endangered listing, the whole story of the Southern Residents is told here. Contact: Monika Wieland Shields monika.wieland@gmail.com <https://orcabehaviorinstitute.org/>

Eavesdrop on Orcas from Home

A new internet app called OrcaSound allows citizen scientists to live stream the ocean sounds of the Pacific Northwest from anywhere in the world, to help gather data about the Southern Resident orcas and their environment. Scott Veirs, the project's lead researcher, developed OrcaSound because he saw an opportunity for engaged citizens to help fill gaps in the study of orcas. The whales have long been well-observed in the summer months when the weather cooperates, and the orcas are more accessible to scientists, who survey them by boat. But questions have lingered about their lives during other times of the year. Now, in any season, listeners can notify researchers to the presence of whales, so they can rush out like first responders to collect important data. <https://www.orcasound.net/portfolio/orcasound-app/>

Greener than the Lettuce

The San Juan Island Farmers Market is putting green in more than the produce. Starting in 2019, they're eliminating all single-use plastics. No more cups, cutlery, or plastic bags allowed! The San Juan Island Farmers Market is your source on Saturdays for beautiful and bountiful island produce, fine crafts, and delicious prepared foods. <https://www.sjifarmersmarket.com/>

Salish Sea Wild

The SeaDoc Society invites viewers to explore the magnificent wildlife of the Pacific Northwest in a new adventure series called *Salish Sea Wild*. The first episode, featuring Steller sea lions, debuted in January. Hosted by science director Dr. Joe Gaydos, the team will travel from the salmon streams born in snow-capped mountains to the rich upwellings of the Pacific Ocean, encountering the wildlife – giant octopus, orcas, sea lions, and the bears, seabirds, and the other captivating creatures – that depend on this diverse environment. Team SeaDoc is partnering with scientists advancing our knowledge of these natural wonders and learning how we can all work to preserve our precious emerald sea. New episodes will appear at www.SalishSeaWild.org as well as SeaDoc's YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram feeds. Contact: Justin Cox jcox@ucdavis.edu

Students at Friday Harbor High School are working to solve a local environmental problem with technology, and a global electronics company has taken notice. Friday Harbor High's Eco Club has brainstormed how to reduce the number of crab pots lost in local waters by designing ways to locate and salvage the lost catchments using a remote-controlled underwater ROV to search the ocean floor, then retrieve the traps with bags. In November 2018, Samsung named the students as one of the 250 national

finalists in a competition called Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, which encourages students to work out real-world local issues science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

Ghostfish Brewing launched Killer Ale IPA this spring, a bold and distinctly Northwest-influenced India Pale Ale brewed to benefit Washington-based Orca Protection and Rescue. Founded in 2018 by Captain Hobbes Buchanan, Orca Protection and Rescue (OPR) is dedicated to the protection and rescue of all marine wildlife in the Salish Sea by reducing private and commercial vessel harassment, assisting with strandings and entanglements, and removing ghost fishing gear, marine debris, and plastics. Killer Ale IPA will be available on draft at the Ghostfish Brewing Taproom and in limited 16 oz. can 4-packs at select retail locations throughout Washington. 10% of the proceeds from the sale of Killer Ale IPA benefit OPR.