

What's New and Cool in the San Juans Summer 2022

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Nature, Stewardship, & Sustainability

A New Channel

A proposal to rename a San Juan Islands waterway—Harney Channel between Shaw and Orcas Islands—after one of the first Indigenous elected officials in Washington has been approved by the state Board of Natural Resources. The proposed name, Cayou Channel, would honor Indigenous longtime businessman and local politician, Henry Cayou. Cayou lived his whole life in the San Juans until his death in 1959. He served as a San Juan County Commissioner for 29 years. The approved name proposal will be added to the Washington Administrative Code, and the Washington State Board of Natural Resources will pass the proposal along to the United States Board on Geographic Names for federal review. “He was a bridge between the Indigenous and white cultures, and adopting his name will honor the First Peoples who lived in harmony with the natural world for millennia before us,” the proposal says. For more information: www.dnr.wa.gov/news/board-approves-naming-san-juan-county-channel-indigenous-businessman-and-politician

A New K...K...Killer Whale

For the first time in over a decade, there's a new calf in the endangered Southern Resident orca group known as K pod. Center for Whale Research (CWR) field biologist Mark Malleson and his colleagues confirmed that K20 'Spock' was traveling with a new calf, after previously receiving video and photographs of a possible new calf earlier this year (April and June). They captured images of K20 with her new baby traveling in a tight group with other family members. K45 is the first calf born into K Pod since 2011 when K27 'Deadhead' gave birth to K44 'Ripple' (male). The mother, K20 (born 1986), is part of the K13 matriline and has two siblings, K27 'Deadhead' (female, born 1994) and K34 'Cali' (male, born 2001). Spock is also the mother to K38 'Comet' (male, born in 2004).

For more information: www.whaleresearch.com/2022-37

On the Food and Restaurant Front

Aloha to the Orcas Hotel

Owner and Chef John Cox, with wife Julia Felder, have opened a new restaurant at the landmark Orcas Hotel. Norbu's joins the classic Orcas Café with a Hawaiian-inspired menu featuring fresh, tropical flavors using the best ingredients, including tuna direct from the

Honolulu Fish Auction and a wide selection of rare rums and spirits. Norbu's is open for dinner service on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, as well as for a special Jazz Supper Club on Monday evening. For more information, contact John Cox orcascfe@gmail.com or visit www.orcashotel.com/eat-and-drink

Roman Orcas

Roses Bakery Cafe, in the old fire station building on Prune Alley, was a longtime Orcas Island landmark. It was sold in late 2021, and has been reimagined as Monti, a Roman-inspired restaurant, market, and wine shop. Monti, which is named for a neighborhood in Rome, uses both handmade and dry pasta and offers authentic antipasti, pasta dishes, pizza and more as well as desserts made in house by Brea Currey of Seabird Bakery. The menu features a few changes each week and is influenced by owner Erin Gainey's deep attachment to Rome, where she lived for periods of time in her youth. Monti is open Friday through Tuesday from 5 to 10 p.m. Reservations can be made at www.montimontimonti.com.

New Chef for New Leaf

Chef Andrew Martin and his wife, executive pastry chef Amy Nack, have been visiting Orcas Island for fifteen years. While their son attended Camp Orkila every summer, Andrew and Amy explored the island, falling more in love with it every year. When the executive chef position opened up at New Leaf Café, despite the uncertainty of COVID, Chef Andrew leapt at the chance. At New Leaf, he's putting a regional spin on his specialty of Northern Italian cuisine, balancing flavors and textures, and incorporating local ingredients for a delicious brunch and evening experience. On the brunch menu is a much talked about Bacon, Lettuce and Avocado sandwich on hearth bread, served with a smoked tomato jam instead of sliced tomato which gives it a sweet savory bite and makes it an easier sandwich to handle. Other new brunch items include Confit Pork Shank with House Mole, and an oyster mushroom omelet. In the evening, diners can enjoy newly-introduced seasonal menus—Harissa Spiced Clams Simmered in White Wine are a guest favorite—paired with handcrafted cocktails, an approachable wine list, and PNW brews. For more information, contact Ayn Gailey ayngailey@gmail.com or visit www.outlookinn.com/newleaf

Events & Exhibits

A Porcine Sesquicentennial

2022 marks the 150th anniversary of what is known as the “Pig War” crisis – a little-known international dispute that shaped Washington State and our country. To celebrate this anniversary, park rangers are bringing back Encampment in August – a weeklong series of reenactments, demonstrations, and other fun activities with more than 50 costumed historical interpreters who will give visitors an opportunity to travel back to the 1800s. Demonstrations that will bring history to life include loom work, metalworking, fur trade, and what life was like for members of the military and their families. In the fall, the park will hold a formal commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the San Juan Boundary Dispute Resolution. For event updates, contact Cyrus Forman cyrus_forman@nps.gov or visit www.nps.gov/sajh/index.htm

Bison Antiquus

Bison grazed in the meadows of Orcas Island 16,000 years ago. Human beings harvested, butchered and ate bison meat in a meadow near Olga 14,000 years ago. Some of the most complete skeletal remains of prehistoric bison ever discovered were unearthed in 2003 in an excavation in Olga. Archeological staff identified a large male bison, with the head almost completely intact, a smaller male, and one other. A new installation featuring the bison presence and the significance of these particular bones will become part of the museum's permanent exhibit. "This discover helps validate Indigenous tales of antiquity," says Antoinette Botsford, exhibit chair. For more information, contact Nancy Stillger director@orcasmuseums.org or visit www.orcasmuseums.org/home.html

New Products, Services, & Shops

New Layer at San Juan Brewing Company

Kulshan and San Juan Island Brewing Companies have teamed up to bring beer lovers Marine Layer Cold IPA; a crisp and clean beer with fruit forward hop aromas, a touch of soft pine, and a maritime finish. Right in time to help San Juan Island Brewing celebrate their fifth anniversary, it's the perfect refreshment when that cold fog bubble bursts and the glorious summer sun returns to the Salish Sea. The Marine Layer joins a lineup of award-winning beers like the Bull Kelp ESB, Black Boar Porter, and Quarry No. 9 Pale Ale. For more information, contact Sean Aylward sean@sanjuanbrew.com

Sparkling Sea Rows

The future of the San Juan archipelago is bright and sparkling. Sparkling wine, that is. An extremely limited release, local fruit was hand-harvested and fermented with little intervention to express the terroir of the islands in Archipelago's 2021 Sea Rows Blanc de Noir. Stunningly aromatic, Sea Rows is the latest in a lineup of pet-nats that push the boundaries in this, the fringe of all winemaking regions. Thirty-six cases were produced and are due to be released July 31. Archipelago specializes in sparkling wines made in the petillant-naturel style, with minimal intervention. For more information: Marti McConnell archipelago.beverage@gmail.com

Flight Paine

Kenmore Air is debuting new flight service from Paine Field in Everett to the San Juans. The new routes are designed for San Juan Islands visitors and residents looking for a quick, convenient, and reliable connection between the islands and Snohomish County. The flights also tap into the growing number of connecting flights offered out of Paine Field. Each roundtrip flight will depart Paine Field for Friday Harbor Airport on San Juan Island. The flight continues to Orcas Island Airport in Eastsound before returning to Paine Field. Flights will depart three times daily. For more information, contact David Gudgel davidg@kenmoreair.com or check out www.kenmoreair.com.

Canopy of Lopez

Ever wanted to see the view from the top? Try climbing old-growth Coastal Douglas fir trees 100-200 feet high on Lopez Island with AdventureTerra. Recreational tree climbing, also known

as canopy climbing, is an unforgettable experience. Open to almost anyone, this class is something that will leave you with unforgettable memories. Explore unique and rare ecology during an intro class, a sunset canopy climb, or a multi-day tree climbing course. For more information: www.adventureterra.com/tree-canopy-climbing

Happy When Curious

Brady Ryan, known as the mad scientist behind San Juan Sea Salt, has something a little different—a podcast! He alternates between interviews with interesting people near and far with shorter episodes that are his own musings on the world and on life. It's all in service of Brady trying to live in a state of curiosity a little more often. If that makes you curious please check out all the episodes [here](#). Start with his [intro episode](#), interview with farmer and professor Eli Wheat [here](#), or interview with acclaimed naturalist and author Thor Hanson [here](#).

Awards & Anniversaries

The Pod Wins Gold

After the pandemic scrapped the live science-talk event series the SeaDoc Society hosts each winter, they went to the drawing board and dreamed up a limited podcast series that would be accessible to a casual listener who knew nothing about this orca species and their plight, but also came across as stimulating and smart to the most dedicated scientist or conservationist. The result was an evergreen seven-episode series, *Pod of Orcas*, that has created a resource that they can share with anybody concerned with the potential extinction of what is easily the most charismatic species in the Pacific Northwest. *Pod of Orcas* won gold at the 2022 CASE Awards (Council for Advancement and Support of Education). For more information and to download: www.seadocsociety.org/podoforcas

Building Better in Friday Harbor

The Town of Friday Harbor's wastewater treatment plant improvement project begins later this year and has already earned the Town special recognition. Mayor Ray Jackson accepted the Building a Better America Environmental Stewardship Award from USDA Rural Development. This award is in response to major upgrades planned for the plant that will ensure its ability to provide the increasingly high level of treatment required by the state. "As a coastal community, we have both the desire and obligation to invest in the protection of our marine environment," said Jackson, adding that the Town is proud to be bringing this quality improvement to the community. For more information, check out www.fridayharbor.org.