



Dear Reader: *Salish Current* has been publishing for nearly eight months, since our soft launch in February. To increase our readership, we ask if you would share this newsletter with friends and associates who share our mission and ask them to send us at [SalishCurrent@gmail.com](mailto:SalishCurrent@gmail.com) their names and emails if they'd like to receive the next newsletter. (Names and emails are never sold nor traded.) Thanks! Amy Nelson, publisher, and Mike Sato, managing editor.

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**News from the *Salish Current* for the week ending Nov. 6, 2020:**

## [Salish Current looks to the future as two-month fundraising challenge begins](#)



A startup local news nonprofit organized to provide more local journalism in Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties is participating in a national giving campaign that runs through December. The *Salish Current*'s mission is to provide information residents need in order to make informed choices about civic life and to strengthen democracy. (Amy Nelson photo © 2020)

*Special from the Editor* — [Salish Current](#), since its launch in late February, has been dedicated to reporting news for the civic good in Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties. This week the startup online local news platform announced its participation in the national NewsMatch giving campaign.

“[Donations](#) made to *Salish Current* in November and December will be doubled by NewsMatch and applied directly to paying freelancers writing news,” said volunteer publisher Amy Nelson. “We’ve already received strong support this year from the Whatcom Community Foundation and from generous local donors. This is an excellent opportunity to widen community support for journalism in our region.” ([Read more here.](#))

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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:

### Elections

*Local election results Nov. 6, 2020, as of 12:00 p.m.*

#### Congress

- U.S. Representative Congressional District 1: Suzan DelBene 59.17% Jeffrey Beeler, Sr. 40.72%
- U.S. Representative Congressional District 2: Rick Larsen 64.1% Timothy Hazelo 35.68%

#### 42nd Legislative District

- State Representative Pos. 1: Luanne Van Werven 48.79% Alicia Rule 51.12%
- State Representative Pos. 2: Jennifer Sefzik 48.22% Sharon Shewmake 51.67%

#### 40th Legislative District

- State Senator: Liz Lovelett 73.4% Charles Carrell 26.53%
- State Representative Pos. 1: Debra Lekanoff (unopposed) 96.57%
- State Representative Pos. 2: Alex Ramel 72.21% Russ Dzialo 27.64%

#### San Juan County

- San Juan County Residency District 1: Christine Minney 51.63% Ryan Palmateer 48.12%
- San Juan County Residency District 2: Rick Hughes 46.95% Cindy Wolf 52.77%
  
- San Juan Superior Court Position 1: Kathryn C. Loring (unopposed) 98.29%

#### Skagit County

- Skagit County Commissioner District 1: Mark Lundsten 52.31% Ron Wessen 47.54%
- Skagit County Commissioner District 2: Peter Browning 53.44% Mary Hudson 46.18%
  
- Skagit County PUD Commissioner District 1: Kenneth Goodwin 38.66% Andrew Miller 60.73%
  
- Skagit County Superior Court Position 3: Tom Seguire 46.49% Elizabeth Yost Neidzwski 53.16%

#### Whatcom County

- Whatcom County PUD Commissioner District 1: Jeffrey McClure 40.99% Christine 58.73% Grant
  
- Whatcom County Superior Court Position 2: Evan Jones 50.78% James Erb 49%

- Whatcom County Superior Court Position 4: David Freeman 78.13% Jim Nelson 21.64%

## **Education**

- Ferndale voters on first count approved a school district two-year E&O Levy by a 62.4% margin. ([My Ferndale News](#))
- Washington state universities, including Western Washington University, are responding to the drop in admissions due to the pandemic by offering admission to students lower on the waiting list. ([The Western Front](#))

## **Government**

- The Lynden City Council will take public comment at its Nov. 16 meeting on a 2021 preliminary budget of \$78.5 million, which includes \$14.4 million to operate city departments. ([Lynden Tribune/paywall](#))
- City of Bellingham
- The Bellingham City Council will hold a public hearing Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. on the [2021-2022 preliminary budget](#). Special budget meetings can be viewed [here online](#).
- Whatcom County
- The Whatcom County Council will meet on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. To participate, [click here](#). Here's the [agenda](#).
- The County Council will hold a public hearing on the [County Executive's 2021 budget](#) on Nov. 24 at 6 p.m.
- Port of Bellingham
- The Port's 2021 Preliminary Strategic Budget is available [here](#). The Port will have presentations and hold public hearings on the budget and the proposed 2021 property tax levy on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. at Harbor Center Room and via Zoom. Written comments will be accepted through 5 p.m. Nov. 16. The Port is scheduled to formally adopt the budget on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m.

## **Nature**

- Join the free online Cherry Point Science Forum tomorrow (Nov. 7) from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to hear Dr. John Bower speak on "The Role of Marine Birds in the Cherry Point Food Web" and Dr. Rachel Arnold speak on "The Hooligans (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*) of the Nooksack River." ([Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee](#))
- The state Department of Natural Resources has identified the San Juan Islands as one of 16 locations in Western Washington to focus on in its 2020 Forest Action Plan. ([San Juan Journal](#))
- A single giant murder hornet was found this week in Abbotsford, B.C., in a rural farming area between the Fraser River and Highway 1. ([CBC](#))

## Business

- The Lummi Nation in partnership with the City of Ferndale and Whatcom County has launched the first phase of Salish Village, a 160-acre development at I-5 and Slater Road, with the opening of the Lummi Bay Market, a gas station and restaurants. ([Lynden Tribune/paywall](#))
- Bieker Boats of Anacortes is designing a modern, high-tech ferry that could restore passenger-only routes to parts of the region and possibly support increased use of over-water commutes around the world. ([Skagit Valley Herald/paywall](#))
- Local fishermen sold their catch on Oct. 24 at Squalicum Harbor's Bellingham Dockside Market with the help of the Port of Bellingham, the Working Waterfront Coalition of Whatcom County and Bellingham Seafeast. ([Western Front](#))

## Community

- Join Dr. Josh Cerretti, WWU history professor, on a virtual tour highlighting the perspectives of people who were marginalized and excluded from our local official history by watching "Bellingham History From Below" on Nov. 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. [Register here.](#)
- The Whatcom County Library System opened to in-person visits this week with COVID prevention measures in place, while continuing online and curbside. ([Whatcom Talk](#))
- The Lynden Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Nov. 12 on the [updated Parks and Trails Master Plan](#). ([Lynden Tribune/paywall](#))

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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 protect and improve democratic governance by reporting and curating local news with independence and strict journalistic integrity.*

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