



Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

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INTERVIEW

A Commissioner reflects

Public engagement is essential to success for the Port of Olympia

E.J. Zita was elected as a Commissioner of the Port of Olympia in 2015 on a promise to work for greater accountability, transparency and environmental responsibility at the Port. She has chosen not to run again in 2021. Matt Crichton interviewed E.J. Zita for Works in Progress. The interview is edited and condensed here.

WIP: What moved you to run for a seat on the Port of Olympia?

Zita: About 20 years ago, the Port proposed a development that would have hurt my neighborhood near the airport. We organized, worked with the City of Tumwater and held the Port to higher standards.

At first, we didn't know anything about permitting processes, Environmental Impact Statements or development reviews. We learned, we spoke up and we stuck with it for years. Tumwater responded by restricting mega-warehouse developments near schools and residential neighborhoods—a victory, despite opposition from Port lawyers and big development money.

Later, as president of our neighborhood association, I served on the master planning commission for the Port's New Market Industrial Campus.

People kept asking me to run for office and I kept saying no—until I had a crippling farm accident that shifted my priorities in a lot of ways. Finally, a groundswell of outrage at the Port's treatment of Sue Gunn convinced me to run for her open seat.

[Note: Sue Gunn was elected as a Port Commissioner in 2013 after running as an environmentalist and scientist. In 2014, she was pressured to resign rather than take a leave of absence due to illness.]

WIP: What was it like, campaigning in Thurston County?

Zita: We ran a real grassroots campaign—a Port for the People. I was a political newcomer and our campaign teams were mostly volunteers who cared about making a difference. I had just graduated from a wheelchair to a walker so I had to give up on doorbelling. I hate asking for money so I didn't do as much as a candidate needs to. Our opponents raised almost twice as much as we did. We won our first election by less than 1%—but the second by double digits.

WIP: What goals and expectations did you bring to the Commission?

Zita: My main goals were accountability, transparency and environmental responsibility at the Port. That meant listening to the public and changing Port practices. I expected resistance to change. I didn't expect so much resistance to listening to the public.

WIP: Public Ports are Special Purpose Districts. How does that play out in Thurston County?

Zita: The Port of Olympia's Strategic Plan starts with the triple bottom line: Economic, environmental, and

community benefit. Our goals are nominally built around that. I don't agree that economic development is a Port district's primary goal. Contributing to the triple bottom line in real terms remains a challenge at the Port—especially if environment and community are not really prioritized.

The Port has an outsized role in politics and the environment, compared to our role in the local economy. Our budget is far smaller than the main cities—and pales compared to the County budget. We employ just a few dozen people.

The Port's political power comes mostly from our management of

hundreds of millions of dollars in public assets. Insiders and other friends of the Port can get better deals—especially in real estate and near the waterfront. Real estate and logging interests have heavily funded conservative candidates willing to continue business as usual at the Port—without asking hard questions about the bottom line.

Ports were created in Washington State a century ago—to ensure public access to the waterfront. Not to contaminate the waterfront, pave it over and fence it off with barbed wire.

WIP. An important purpose of Port Districts is to support development that will produce living wage jobs and economic growth throughout the community that funds it. How well do you think the Port is doing?

► **Commissioner**, continued on page 5

Weigh in on October 19

Will there be a Home Fund for Thurston County?

Charlotte Persons

People sleeping in tents and on park benches are only the most visible of those who suffer from being houseless in Thurston County. For Olympia alone, the 2021 “point in time” count of people experiencing homelessness—notoriously an undercount—found “1,145 people experiencing homelessness in 2021, divided into three categories: unsheltered (639), sheltered (337), and transitional housing (169).” (*The Olympian*, May 15, 2021)

County school districts have found rising levels of homelessness among students and their families. Besides students living in cars or tents, older students often live with people outside their nuclear families; some families double up with friends or relatives in housing meant for far fewer residents.

In 2018, voters in Olympia approved an addition to the sales tax of .1% to create a “Home Fund” that could help address the problem of homelessness in the city. Olympia uses about 60% for building housing and 40% for services for people who need affordable housing

Now Thurston County Commissioners are ready to consider whether to pass a county-wide version of that tax. This tax would be .1% of retail sales, or 1 cent on a \$10 purchase. These funds would be used mostly to build housing for the homeless population

In 2020, Olympia had taxable retail sales of \$2.38 billion, and at 0.1% had Home Fund tax revenues of about \$2.3 million. Similarly, in 2020 Thurston County with retail sales

The city's Home Fund provided the land and some money. Most funding is from state and federal grants obtained through the city's partnership with LIHI and Interfaith Works. In



RVs camping on Ensign Road near St Peter Hospital. Photo courtesy King 5 News

of \$6.6 billion could have collected another \$4.22 million.

Because building housing is expensive and the need so great, even a county-wide Home Fund tax will not solve the county's homeless population problem. But such a tax would provide a steady annual stream of funding that could be creatively leveraged.

An example is the new \$20.4 million facility underway at 2828 Martin Way. It will provide shelter beds for 60 people and apartments for 65 people.

addition, Interfaith Works is campaigning for private donations and is about 25% of the way toward raising \$2 million needed to complete the project.

There will be a public hearing on Oct 19 at 3 pm to hear views on the proposed tax.

Charlotte Persons is a member of the League of Women Voters and on the board of Black Hills Audubon. She follows Thurston Co. development issues for WIP.

Works in Progress (WIP), is a community newspaper based in Olympia, WA, that has been published monthly since 1990.

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

Editorial policy

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the corporate media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it's unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won't be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission. WIP reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length, and clarity of expression. We will work with authors if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

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THOUGHTS ON THE THEME
We reap what we sow

The idea that we reap what we sow was probably embedded in the collective consciousness long before it became a Bible verse, but whether it was meant as a warning or a promise is a little less clear. The articles in this issue suggest the verse is just another way of saying what quantum mechanics now confirms: humans are constantly broadcasting (sowing) energy in thoughts, words and deeds. That we receive more of exactly what we put out isn't punitive or rewarding, it's just reflexive.

What are we sowing when we forsake farmland for sprawling warehouses that bring with them infrastructure overload, increased traffic, choking emissions, constant noise, and diminished quality of life for the people, plants and animals who live there? Thurston County is listening to those who oppose plans to rezone more land near Centralia for warehouses. Hopefully they (and landowners, too, who are tempted to cash in on valuable property) will heed the warning of other municipalities and abandon rezoning plans that result in the irretrievable loss of arable land.

Arable land isn't just a pastoral notion. It's an indisputable measure of the viability of the planet. Topsoil degradation is one of the most grievous—and correctable – issues of our time. We need look no further for a literal example of reaping what we sow. Soil expert Gary Kline reminds readers that soil amendment goes far beyond growing healthy plants. It is a recipe for radically reducing climate change.

Climate change may be the ultimate example of reaping what we've sown and nowhere is the dire outlook for humans more sorrowful than in the hearts of young people. Internalizing deep despair is lonely and isolating, and cynical detachment is the default mode for lots of kids (and adults). The folks at Thurston Climate Action Team know action is an antidote to despair so they reached out to youth through a series of workshops last year that invited them to express not just their fears but their hope for the planet they are inheriting. One outcome is the climate justice mural we celebrate on pages 8-9.

An essay we received this month on being present as a witness to the suffering of addiction and homelessness illustrates the importance of following internal nudges to sow seeds of service. Melissa Rasmussen acknowledges that the small kindnesses she shared with a lost young woman recently may or may not germinate. But that doesn't mean we should forget small acts of compassion. Those seeds may live underground and, in time, sprout and flourish. What we reap in our own hearts may be the real harvest anyway.

Thurston County commissioners will decide soon whether to implement a county-wide tax to raise funds to help meet the needs of unhoused individuals and families. As contributor Charlotte Persons notes, the fund isn't designed to “solve” homelessness, but it would create a bit of housing for some of our deeply vulnerable neighbors.

Vulnerability takes many forms. As citizens, we rely on elected officials to make the best decisions on our behalf. Land use, real estate

transactions, environmental guardianship – how are these transacted, and shouldn't we be privy to the process of arriving at those decisions? Matt Crichton's interview with outgoing Port of Olympia commissioner EJ Zita underscores the absolute necessity for transparency at that agency and by extension, all those organizations in which we place our trust. We hope the issues Zita championed in her time there will serve as guide-

posts to remind the Port of their responsibility as stewards of public money, land and water. Another article on page 4 looks closer at candidates jockeying to oversee management of those resources, and to whose interests they are beholden.

When we seed our actions with intentions that build, bridge, protect and heal, we're bound to reap a goodly harvest. Maybe not immediately. Maybe not the way we planned. Maybe not even in our lifetimes. But reap we do. It's the law. Happy October, Wipsters.

—LL

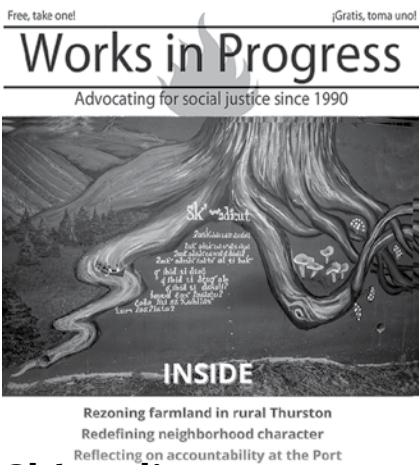
Upcoming themes

November-December: Gimme Shelter. Ever listened to the lyrics of this classic Rolling Stones song? What does “shelter” look like during the wet and windy months? What's “just a shot away?”
Deadline: November 10.

January: Where do we find light? It's dark out there but the light hasn't gone away. Can you see it yet? What helps you navigate dark times? **Deadline: December 17**



About the cover



Cover image is a detail from the Climate Justice Mural Project on Harrison Avenue at the roundabout leading to the west side of Olympia. The text is a traditional Tulalip prayer in the Southern Lushootseed language. Sometimes referred to as “the language of Puget Sound,” Lushootseed is part of the Salish family of languages spoken by the Tulalip Tribes, whose ancestral lands once ranged from what we now know as Vancouver Island to southern Oregon. Part of the Tulalip mission is to preserve ǵə́cúsadad—traditional teaching—by becoming “living records” who embody cultural wisdom, passing it to new generations. More information and images about the mural appear on pages 8-9. Photo by Lindsey Dalthorp.

Sk'wedicut

I am thankful for this day.
I am thankful for this life.
I am thankful for my life.
I am thankful for all things.
Fix my mind/heart.
Fix my body.
Fix my life/soul.
Make us one.
And all will be right in this life.
So be it.

In this issue

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Olympia Council members act in behalf of their Hearing Examiner

[The “Appearance of Fairness Doctrine” is crucial to preserving trust in decisions made by judicial officers. Dan Leahy recently filed a complaint showing that Olympia’s Hearing Examiner had violated the fairness requirement by failing to disclose his relationship with businesses near a proposed development. The letter below addresses Council members considering whether to act on the complaint. While the Hearing Examiner acknowledged his failure to disclose the relationship, the Council voted to reject the complaint, as recommended by staff.]

Council members:

I am writing to comment on your [Sept 14] agenda item #21-0871 titled: “Action on Complaint Against Public Officer—Hearing Examiner.”

The issue before you is not whether a majority of the Council has the authority to remove the Hearing Examiner. Your authority to do this is clear. Your staff cites OMC 18.82.60 in their report to you.

The issue before you is whether Attorney Mark Scheibmeir, the City’s Hearing Examiner, violated the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine in his Wellington Heights decision. My July 13, 2021 letter to you contends that he did because he failed to disclose his business relationships with the owners of two nearby parcels and car dealerships.

Therefore, the pertinent OMC is 18.82.080 (B). The staff did not cite this in their report to you. This OMC reads in part, “The Hearing Examiner shall conduct all proceedings in a manner to avoid conflicts of interest or other misconduct and *to avoid violation of the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine.*” (My italics). Under long-standing commonly accepted judicial prac-

edents, Hearing Examiner Scheibmeir had a duty to disclose business relationships that could make a reasonable person wonder if Mr. Scheibmeir might have a conflict of interest. He breached his duty when he conducted the Wellington Heights hearing without disclosing these business relationships.

Your staff does not counter my argument that Mr. Scheibmeir violated the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine. They simply say I should have raised the issue at the time of or before the Hearing Examiner’s decision because “the information cited by Mr. Leahy is contained in public records available for inspection in 2018 and 2019.” The issue before you is whether Hearing Examiner Scheibmeir had a duty to disclose, not whether the information he should have disclosed is in the public record. Your staff’s approach flips the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine on its head. The staff would relieve the examiner of the burden of disclosure and place the burden on citizens to scour every public record.

It is the case that in June of 2021 while researching another project I discovered the relationship of Mr. Scheibmier with landowners and automobile dealers in close proximity to the Wellington Heights project he had approved. Approximately one month later, in a timely manner, I informed the City Council of my discovery.

Had Mr. Scheibmeir disclosed these relationships at the time he opened the hearing in 2018 then I would have known and could have made an argument on the merits as to why he should not have continued to preside. His failure to disclose these business relationships denied me and other parties of record the opportunity to argue

on the merits.

Mr. Scheibmeir, in his letter to you, claims “uncertainty as to the nature of Mr. Leahy’s complaint” even though my letter clearly states my complaint is his failure to “to meet the appearance of fairness standard.” Surprisingly, in his three-page response to you, Mr. Scheibmeir does not mention the appearance of fairness doctrine once. This should be of great concern to you. You should expect a Hearing Examiner, before he ever convenes a hearing, to review the property owners in the vicinity to identify friends or business relations in order to protect

the integrity and credibility of his decision-making.

I appreciate Mr. Scheibmeir’s respectful response to my letter, belatedly acknowledging his relationship with owners of nearby automobile dealerships. Mr. Scheibmeir states he did not see any connection between his decision and the owners of these properties, but the appearance of fairness doctrine is intended to notify third parties when the Hearing Examiner might appear to others to be in a situation where his fairness could be questioned. The appearance of fairness doctrine demands his disclosure of his business relationships with nearby property owners.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request the City Council to remove Mr. Scheibmeir as the City’s Hearing Examiner.

Dan Leahy

YOU WRITE TO WIP The police rode away

Dear WIP,

On the eve of a planned extremist action to “demand justice” for right-wing thug Tusitala Toese, I am writing to provide a brief account of what happened the day he was shot. I heard the shooting, but did not witness it. What I did witness were numerous and diverse people running away from a group of almost all white men wearing helmets and body armor, chasing them.

Some of the ones being chased might identify as “antifa,” “black bloc,” or other supposed groups opposing fascism, but others appeared to be the local street community, local business people, and people going about their day downtown. The ones doing the chasing were set apart by their bullet-proof vests, various military/tactical accessories, and more than a few displaying Proud Boys colors.

Besides giving a primary source observation of the riot that occurred, I want to make clear that the Olympia Police Department behaved in a way that is unacceptable. As people were being chased and reportedly maced and beaten, I witnessed two officers riding away from the incident. I stopped and asked them to help (before any shots were fired), and they ignored me and rode away from the scene.

After their repeated harassment of Black Lives Matter protestors last year, the hands-off approach as right wing thugs terrorized downtown stands out and speaks volumes. Since I encountered the police behind City Hall, I assume the encounter was recorded on camera, and my subsequent call to 911 also mentioned the police inaction, so there is a verifiable public record of OPD’s dereliction of duty.

Maurice Major
Olympia, WA

Then this happened

...**but not to us.** Hundreds of thousands of people in outlying areas of Louisiana had no electric power after 22 days. Homes were wrecked, water remained neck-high, food was scarce and gasoline supplies nonexistent. People are exhausted from coping; families are scattered to the winds or stranded on high ground with no way to get back to communities that are in pieces. Climate catastrophe is not looming; it has come while we pursue “business as usual.”

Northwest Carpenters called a strike after rejecting for the fourth time a proposed contract from the Associated General Contractors (AGC). Only some carpenters can join the strike, because they are tied by “Project Labor Agreements.” In return for public dollars in the form of tax abatements plus state and local subsidies, contractors have to abide by prevailing wage standards—but strikes are prohibited. Carpenters working on PLA sites will give at least two hours of daily pay every day to support strikers.

...**we are shocked, shocked** to find that US drone strikes are killing innocent people! All of a sudden, the mainstream press decided to pur-

sue the story of the drone killing of the “ISIS-K facilitator” and discovered that we killed an aid worker and his children. The murder of innocents has been going on for 20 years in Afghanistan but it never made the mainstream news. *The Times* cared about this particular highly politicized airstrike because they and the rest of the mass media vehemently opposed leaving Afghanistan. Maybe it would have been harder for the war machine to inflict these evils on the world if that story had been told over and over, as innocent deaths mounted.

...**we are surprised, surprised** to hear that Sirhan Sirhan, convicted of killing Presidential candidate Robert F Kennedy in 1968 was recommended for release from prison in September. No such luck for Leonard Peltier who was convicted in 1977 of killing 2 FBI agents. He is repeatedly denied parole, despite the fact that his prosecutors have said they had “a very thin case that likely would not be upheld by courts today.” Those who condemn Peltier don’t argue the point: maybe he didn’t shoot the agents, but keeping Peltier behind bars is payback for two dead officers.

Readers’ Alert—review a book! Get \$50!

WIP still has funds from our “Readers Review” grant. Each month we publish a list of books. If you’d like to be considered to review one of them, email us and put BOOK REVIEW in the subject line. We will buy the book (or reimburse you if you buy it) and pay \$50 if the review is accepted. If any of these books looks interesting, let us know. Or propose a book yourself.

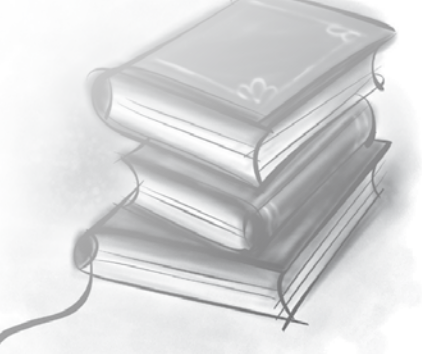
New

Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice, Rupa Marya & Raj Patel. Hard to put down—explores and reveals the interconnectedness of our current political, social and environmental arrangements on our health and wellbeing.

What Orwell Didn’t Know: Propaganda and the New Face of American Politics, Andras Szanto, ed. Essays that take as their point of departure George Orwell’s 1946 essay, “Politics and the English Language.”

Conundrum, Jan Morris. Trans is not new. This is the forthright and tender account of a 10-year journey (1964-74) begun by James Morris to becoming the woman Jan Morris, who is an extraordinary writer and traveller.

Waste: One Woman’s Fight Against America’s Dirty Secret, Catherine Coleman Flowers. Flowers evolved from country girl to student organizer to champion of environmental justice to write this story of communities across America coping with criminally deficient housing and worse sanitation.



Elections have consequences

Business as usual... or broader perspectives at the Port of Olympia?

Bethany Weidner

The Port of Olympia has a fairly small annual budget but capital assets in the tens of millions. The Port's five most recent major capital investments totaled over \$27 million—obtained largely using public funds. These investments are: the mobile harbor crane, new log loaders, the marine terminal stormwater system, the marina fuel dock, and the Commerce Business Center in Lacey. Every one of the recent commercial investments has failed to support itself.

At the same time, the Port has substantial responsibility for preserving the viability of the county's unique environmental assets: Budd Inlet as well as the waterfront, watersheds, wetlands, prairies and forests. In recent years, contamination from logging and other activities has required the Port to pay millions of dollars in direct and indirect costs for clean-up.

Ever-increasing call for tax dollars

Capital investments that don't cover their costs, and remediation of environmental damage, help to explain an ever-increasing contribution to the Port from our property taxes. The Port will collect about \$6.9 million in tax subsidies this year—slightly under the maximum allowed by law.(1) The most recent increase came when Commissioners Downing and Macgregor voted to bump up the tax levy by a hefty amount. They did this after one of their real-estate purchases failed to produce promised revenues.

Whose interests will the Port serve?

This November, Thurston County voters will choose two new Port Commissioners—potentially creating a new majority on the 3-member commission. Their choice will determine whether the Port's role in the community reflects new

priorities—or continues with “business as usual.” Public Port Districts were created

ship with the Port. However, an agreement between the Port and Kidder-Matthews provides for K-M to be paid a commission on lease

...many ports are led by Commissioners committed to serving more as a support system for influential private interests—in the case of the Port of Olympia, log exporters and boaters.

as publicly-owned assets to guide development of water and other resources in ways that preserved them and served the whole community. Today, many ports are led by Commissioners committed to serving more as a support system for influential private interests—in the case of the Port of Olympia, log exporters and boaters. This has remained the primary constituency for our Port, despite the adoption of “Vision 2050,” a community-generated plan prioritizing environmental goals and public access to the waterfront.

Elections have consequences Amy Evans vs Joel Hansen

Amy Evans's career has been exclusively in real estate development. She has been involved with the Port of Olympia, notably as part of a Kidder Matthews team promoting a deal between the Port and Panattoni Development Corporation. The proposal to lease 200 acres of wooded Port property in Tumwater evoked significant community opposition and raised concerns by the City of Tumwater. Evans helped to ensure highly favorable projections of economic impact for the project by identifying an agent for Panattoni to supply the needed data.

When a local political group in Olympia raised concerns about Evans' role as a Kidder-Matthews Vice President, Evans said that K-M has no ongoing real estate relation-

transactions from the Panatonni lease for the next 10 years. Evans has raised over \$40,000. She has over 100 contributors at \$250 each, a limit she set, although some donors and several couples together have contributed \$500. The list of contributors is varied but concentrated in financial interests, including banks, real estate firms and property developers.

Joel Hansen has a diverse career background, ranging from his current position developing solar energy systems, to several years as an investment advisor, then business manager of a vocational education start-up that expanded from one office in Tumwater to teaching programs across the US. More recently he has been a consultant on regenerative agriculture to farmers and food producers.

Hansen has been involved with the Port as a member of their Citizens' Advisory Committee, working on Climate Mitigation issues. He also serves on the Tumwater Planning Commission which is regularly briefed on the Panattoni Development.

Hansen has raised over \$27,000 with his largest contributions from the WA Federation of State Employees and a financial consulting group, who each gave \$2000. There are nine other contributions above \$500 from various individuals concentrated in no particular category, plus Hansen's own \$3000.

Bob Iyall vs. Jesse Simmons Neither of these candidates has been involved with the Port of Olympia.

Charles “Bob” Iyall is a Nisqually Tribal Elder and the Chief Executive Officer of Medicine Creek Enterprise Corporation (MCEC). He has worked on this enterprise for the past 12 years, and now manages it in partnership with a board of directors representing the Nisqually Tribe. He helped start Nisqually Markets and Nisqually Construction Services and became the CEO of both in 2014.

Iyall's campaign account totals over \$30,000 and contains an \$18,700 donation from the candidate himself. The rest came from tribes, tribal members and a few individuals.

Jesse Simmons is a US Army veteran who served in a variety of capacities in Iraq and Kuwait among other deployments. Since his discharge in 2014, he has obtained a BA from St. Martin's and a Master's of Professional Studies in Political Management from GW University in Washington DC. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Political Science at the American Military University.

Simmons has raised over \$20,000. His largest contributor is the Painters Union Clc #5 who gave \$2000. Fourteen contributions at \$500 and over came largely from union-related interests.

- 1) The Port of Olympia serves all of Thurston County and levies property taxes on every property owner. Everyone in the County is eligible to vote for Port Commissioner.

Bethany Weidner is a contributor to Works in Progress.

For more on the Port of Olympia, see extensive coverage of Port activities in Works in Progress (www.olywip.org) including a detailed analysis of the Panattoni lease decision (www.olywip.org/olympia-port-commissioners-rely-on-lobbyists-for-a-key-financial-commitment). For more information on candidates and endorsements go to their websites. For updates on contributors go to the Public Disclosure Commission at www.pdc.wa.gov and enter the candidate's name in the search box.

Port of Olympia Candidates, November 2021

Cash contributions of \$500 or more as of September 19, 2021

Bob Iyall	Amount	Jessie Simmons	Amount
Total cash: \$30,322		Total cash: \$20,991	
Bob Iyall	\$18,700.00	Painters Union District Clc #5	\$2,000.00
Nisqually Indian Tribe	\$2,000.00	Brian Duthie	\$1,000.00
Chehalis Confederated Tribes	\$1,000.00	WA Association of Realtors	\$1,000.00
Lisa Ornstein	\$1,000.00	TC Democratic Womens Club	\$1,000.00
Cynthia Iyall	\$770.10	WFSE Local 443	\$1,000.00
Sherri Goulet	\$700.00	Jessie W. Simmons	\$1,000.00
Thunderbird Medicine Creek	\$500.00	Michael Steadman	\$1,000.00
Angee Bunk	\$500.00	Thurston/Lewis/Mason CLC	\$900.00
Christopher & Toale Maglio.	\$500.00	Deborah Pattin	\$550.00
Nick Fediah	\$500.00	Lisa Parshley	\$550.00
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	\$500.00	Robert Pattin	\$500.00
		NW Regional SMART SSF	\$500.00
		Teamsters Legislative League	\$500.00
		Jessica Duthie	\$500.00
		Puget Sound Pilots	\$500.00
Amy Evans*	Amount	Joel Hansen	Amount
Total cash: \$40,791.10		Total cash: \$27,332.47	
Alexis Erickson	\$500.00	Joel Hansen	\$3,005.00
Julia Ward	\$500.00	WFSE Local 443	\$2,000.00
Teamsters Legislative League	\$500.00	Percival Consulting Group	\$2,000.00
Jared Bouchey	\$500.00	Danielle Westbrook	\$1,500.00
Jennifer Foley	\$500.00	Lisa Ornstein	\$1,200.00
Jamie Tosland	\$500.00	TC Democratic Womens Club	\$1,000.00
The Rants Group	\$500.00	Dennis Smith	\$1,000.00
Justin Erickson	\$500.00	Hope Smith	\$1,000.00
*Evans asked supporters to limit contributions to \$250; her total cash is unique in that it reflects 100+ contributions at \$250 each		Carla Wulfsberg	\$1,000.00
		Madeline Bishop	\$700.00
		Lisa Parshley	\$500.00
		Katherine Hansen	\$500.00

Chart by Dan Leahy

STYLING • CUTS • COLOR • PERMS

FREE CONSULTATIONS • FREE BANG TRIMS

DEEP CONDITIONING • MANICURES • PEDICURES • MASSAGE • ASTROLOGY • TAROT



"We'll trim it, rub it, or read it"

JAMIE LEE & COMPANY

309 E. 4TH AVE.
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

360-786-6027
JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM

KAOS patron business.

BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

Commissioner

From page 1

Zita: Direct employment at the Port is down—both Port employees and Longshore. The last economic benefit study in 2015 concluded that if the Marine Terminal closed, jobs would not be lost. They would just go elsewhere.

The Port of Olympia hasn't contributed much to Thurston County's economic development as far as jobs are concerned. Our big purchase of Lacey Commerce Business Center created few new jobs. Port leadership point to changing global markets and COVID to explain poor performance.

WIP: The Port adopted Vision 2050, prioritizing environmental sustainability and waterfront recreation over continued concentration on logging and the Marine Terminal.

Zita: People in Thurston County love outdoor recreation and want to be able to enjoy a clean waterfront. People want to be able to play and swim and fish in Budd Inlet—and maybe even eat the fish. The Port owes it to the people to help clean up our mess, restore the ecosystem and provide public access to the waterfront—not just to businesses.

WIP: How is the Port working toward the new priorities?

Zita: I don't know how economic considerations were reflected in the public vote on Vision 2050, as against business as usual at the Marine Terminal. While many locals are aware that exporting raw logs is a raw deal environmentally and financially, I think that even more are looking toward a better future. We could have a positive impact by supporting broadband

infrastructure, as other ports have done. Our support of the Ag Biz Hub has the potential to advance the triple bottom line for Thurston County.

We also built the Billy Frank Jr. Trail along Marine Drive—despite Commissioner Downing's objections that “we already gave the Indians a building [the Billy Frank Jr. Center downtown], why should we give them a trail too?”

Port staff are working on a new waterfront development project that has had a mixed reception from the public. The plan appears to be mostly for a big new building and an expensive RV park along the waterfront. The RV park would violate Olympia's Shoreline Plan, so the City is being asked to change that.

Some point to the new marine fuel dock as supporting recreation—for people who enjoy motorized boats. Yet it's not clear if the dock served even that purpose. Our 2015 financial analysis prior to building the dock assumed that 90% of local boaters would buy 90% of their fuel there—and even then, it would be in the red for over 20 years. Early data shows we're not getting that much business—another subsidy from taxpayers.

WIP: How is public engagement part of strategic planning for the Port? Master planning for the Airport and the Marine Terminal are overdue.

Zita: Public engagement isn't a priority. It may even be seen as dangerous when people participate in master planning processes and become empowered.

Practices that discourage public engagement have reached new levels in recent years. This includes things like delaying plan-

ning activities, waiting until the day before to announce meetings or agendas—allowed for “special” meetings. Sometimes public comments are removed from minutes



E.J. Zita

with no consultation. There are times when the Commission President interrupted people or shouted them down.

WIP: How should the Port as a Public District support meaningful public engagement?

Zita: One thing is video recording all meetings and making them available on line—something I accomplished. More accessibility and transparency. People are concerned and want to be part of decisions. Despite late meeting notices and minimal publicity, scores of concerned residents wrote and spoke to the Port to protest the proposed lease to Panattoni.

WIP: Do business decisions at the Port take environmental sustainability into account?

Zita: Environmental sustainability is not a high priority for this commission. We've credited developments in paved areas with utility hookups as “environmentally sustainable,” because they didn't ruin a natural area. We could pursue sustainable projects by actively cooperating with our regional partners. Thurston Regional Planning Council and Thurston County provide great opportunities, from transportation and affordable housing to legislative agendas

WIP: How have the many lawsuits about pollution from businesses activities affected the Port?

Zita: The Port's direct expenses from environmental lawsuits amount to tens of millions of dollars. Interest expenses cost extra, because the Port doesn't have millions in the bank. Indirect expenses include higher insurance costs. There are other expenses that I can't discuss because of executive privilege. Outstanding clean-up responsibilities are mostly for legacy pollution from Port activities over the decades. We built a stormwater treatment facility for log exporters at the Marine Terminal—at taxpayer expense.

WIP: How is the Port limiting the potential for continued environmental damage?

Zita: Current Port activities are

less polluting, thanks largely to the oversight of environmental activists. Concerned citizens can hold the Port to higher standards. Listening to the people up front can be cheaper than lawsuits. Looking to the future, the Port objects to the Deschutes Estuary Restoration. We could also improve our environmental impact by acting on the Port Commission's stated support for the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and by getting serious about sea level rise.

WIP: There is persistent criticism that the Port's capital investments lose money and instead serve to subsidize profits of Port clients. Are there better ways to evaluate capital investments?

Zita: One strength of the Port is that it can borrow against its ability to tax, so they have access to funding that private businesses do not. Used unwisely, that borrowing power means the Port can run up unsustainable debt for unsound projects.

In considering investments, the first thing we should do is look for those that meet goals articulated by the Commission—and the public, e.g., in Vision 2050. Don't jump at investments dangled before the Port by profiteers.

We should involve the public fully at all stages. The WA Supreme Court in a case involving the Port of Vancouver affirmed that the Open Public Meetings Act requires us to include the public at all times—not just because we have to, but because we need their input to make good decisions. Aversion to public engagement and transparency contribute to poor planning, and low levels of public trust.

Port commissioners shouldn't settle for sketchy financial pro-forma shortly before making an expensive decision that taxpayers will pay interest on for years—possibly with little or no return.

With incomplete information, we lack full understanding of costs, and taxpayers make up the difference down the line. There has to be responsible financial analysis first—including a market analysis, a cost-benefit analysis. And an ecosystem service analysis for developments in natural areas.

The market analysis for the Lacey Commerce Business Center was performed a year after we made the \$6.5 M purchase on credit—at which point it revealed a soft market for its intended use. Commissioners approved the Panattoni lease option the same day we first saw a draft pro-forma. It was nearly a year before we saw a “financial benefits” projection (not a proper cost-benefit analysis) provided by the developer (not an independent analyst). Thurston County's 2012 Ecosystem Services Analysis, which applied to 200 acres of flood-prone and forested land (where the Panattoni project will be sited) was, sadly, dismissed by Commissioners and staff.

Contract management also needs systematic review and more oversight. Commissioner McGregor rightly called for this last year. We're still waiting.

The power of the Executive Director to act on their own Delegated Authority needs to be reviewed. The Commission was pressured to approve a \$2.2 M purchase of log loaders after the then Executive Director signed an expensive lease (now costing \$3M with interest).

► Commissioner, continued on page 14

BOB IYALL FOR PORT COMMISSIONER DISTRICT #2



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Trying to insert a 114-unit apartment building onto a land-locked parcel

Carolyn Roos

People on Olympia's Westside know Grocery Outlet and the Westside Lanes near the intersection of Harrison and Division. Residents know there's a piece of vacant land next to Westside Lanes where a pedestrian path leads from Jackson Avenue NW to the shopping center.

In December 2020, Kyle Schrader and Taylor Wood (dba Crosswater Construction) bought that two-plus acres for a mere \$75,000. They want to put a four-story building with 114 market rate apartments on the site, along with a 118-stall parking lot and 20 street stalls.

Problematic property

This property is unusual because it is located on the edge of a commercial zone (High Density Corridor 3) with commercial properties on two sides, and a residential zone (RM-18) on the north and west property lines. The lot is set quite far back, behind other businesses; it has no frontage on any commercial street.

As a commercial lot accessed through residential streets, it is an anomalous mismatch of zoning. Properties such as this should be zoned to match the zone through which they are accessed, so that the integrity of residential neighborhoods will be preserved.

Just route the traffic into the neighborhood

People who live in the neighborhood just north of the site have heard this story before. Nine years ago, another developer proposed a 6-story, 119-unit apartment building with traffic snaking in and out of the shopping center and feeding onto Harrison Avenue. Business people in the Westside Center objected to the creation of a traffic jam in front of their stores. Neighbors, community members and shopping center businesses worked together to defeat that project.

Kyle and Taylor have a proposal to "solve" the problem of a traffic jam on Harrison Avenue: drive traffic in and out of the Jackson Street neighborhood!

Olympia's Community Planning and Development staff (CP&D) are moving this new proposal along. A design was submitted in June 2021. The Design Review Board approved it with the recommendation of City staff in early September. CP&D staff are in the process of reviewing documents and requesting revisions and conditions. The next major step is the Site Plan Review Committee, but nothing has been scheduled yet.

Constructing new streets, widening old ones

The Bing Street Apartment developers want to extend Bing Street, a tiny residential street, as the apartment's sole access. Most traffic generated by the apartments would take Bing Street, travel down Jackson Avenue (a narrow residential "local access road") then turn onto Division and finally Harrison Avenue.

The resulting traffic would far exceed the design capacity of Jackson

Avenue, compromising the character and safety of our walkable neighborhood, in violation of the City's own standards. Such a major traffic increase would make it nearly impossible for local residents to navigate Jackson Avenue. That would be true for residents of the proposed new apartments as well.

ysis, when the new traffic generated by the Bing Street Apartments is added to the existing traffic, the ADT for Jackson is projected as 632. Roads designed to carry more than 500 trips per day must be wider than Jackson Ave, with room for at least two driving lanes. Meeting the standard would require widen-



To-scale comparison of the proposed Bing Street Apartments with adjacent single-family homes on Jackson Avenue. Graphic by Alexander Solomon.



Aerial photo of Bing Street property from City of Olympia's "Concept Design Review Staff Report", August 26, 2021

If community views don't matter, supposedly the codes do

The "popularity" of a development, or how neighborhood residents may feel about it, is of no importance, according to City planners. What matters when communicating to the City about a project is whether a project violates its codes and standards—and this one does.

Olympia sets design standards for city streets based on average daily traffic volumes in their Engineering Design and Development Standards (See EDDS Chapter 4, Table 2 "Street Design Standards"). The stated purpose is to set standards required for safety, balanced with mobility of motor vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders.

Multifamily apartment buildings the size of the Bing Street Apts. are classified as commercial. The EDDS make clear that residential streets should not be used as the primary access for a commercial development (See EDDS 4I.080) The City's standards recognize that this type of project is incompatible with residential streets, regardless of whether traffic volumes exceed design capacity.

A brief foray into street standards

Streets classified as "local access roads," such as Jackson Avenue and Bing Street, are designed for a maximum of 500 trips per day on average (ADT). Using data from the developer's traffic impact anal-

ing the City right-of-way into our front yards.

Neighborhood character and scale (1)

This building would be immediately adjacent on Bing Street to small single-family residences, which would be dwarfed by its size. Olympia's Municipal Code includes a number of provisions intended to ensure multifamily developments fit in with the character of the neighborhood where they're located (See OMC 18.170).

Olympia's Design Review Board, however, decided to treat the building as connected to the bowling alley and shopping center rather than to the homes located on the street the building faces—this, despite the entrance being from the neighborhood. They therefore were satisfied that minimal changes would be sufficient for the building to fit in better with the residences in the neighborhood.

Promoting apartment construction downtown

Beginning several years ago, the City of Olympia offered generous property tax exemptions to the developers of a number of market rate apartment buildings downtown, all of which are looking for tenants. At 123 Fourth Avenue, modest two-bedroom apartments go for between \$2200 and \$2625 per month. Two-bedroom apartments in the Views on Fifth Tower

rent for \$4550. Most Olympians can't afford these rents. Two-thirds of renters in Olympia have incomes below the "median" in the HUD calculations used by City planners. Over half of renters in Olympia pay more than 30% of their income on rent.

A boom in proposals for big apartment complexes in West Oly

Developers began eyeing the west side a few years ago. The proposed West Bay Yards would be a huge 478-unit complex consisting of five buildings on the shore of Budd Inlet. The Harrison Avenue Mixed Use Binding Site Plan for property next to the Bark and Garden Center proposes to subdivide a 7-acre parcel for restaurants, retail space and offices, and more market rate apartment buildings.

The Bing Street Apartments proposal is yet another apartment complex whose units will be offered at market rates, leaving out low- and middle-income renters and adding to the glut of apartments too expensive to fill.

Who benefits

Approving Crosswater's Bing Street Apartments would create a massive headache for the surrounding neighborhood. Jackson Avenue simply wasn't built to accommodate the projected volume of traffic. The apartments will not mean more housing for working people. The only ones who will benefit from this project are Kyle Schrader and Taylor Wood of Crosswater Construction.

- 1) Council members Cooper, Huynh and Madrone have proposed to amend Olympia's Comprehensive Plan by removing the phrase "neighborhood character" and replacing it with the words "accessible, sustainable, and culturally inclusive neighborhoods." Leaders of Olympia's neighborhood associations fear the change will be used to exclude considerations of unique neighborhood features in siting new developments.

Carolyn Roos lives in West Olympia and researched Olympia's codes and standards when the proposal for a six-story apartment on Bing Street was under consideration in 2011.

To comment on the proposal

Contact Olympia city planner Paula Smith at psmith@ci.olympia.wa.us with questions and comments. Request to be made a "party of record" so the city will keep you informed. The permit number for the project is 21-2960.

Write the mayor and city council members (<https://olympiawa.gov/city-government/city-council-and-mayor.aspx>). Urge them to ensure the City manager directs staff to enforce Olympia's Engineering Design Standards and not approve projects that violate design standards for city streets.

Get in contact with neighbors at BuildGoodNeighbors@nwlink.com.



Rural Thurston County under pressure from an expanding warehouse economy

Charlotte Persons

Is there a need to designate more rural lands for warehouses? That's what would happen if Thurston County were to approve the latest request to rezone rural residential land to rural industrial. According to the 2021 Buildable Lands Report, Thurston County already has plenty of industrially zoned land, more than double the amount that we will need in the next 20 years — within the Urban Growth Boundaries of our cities.

In November 2019 Up Castle Company filed an application for a Land Use and Rezone Amendment that would apply to their property on the border of Thurston and Lewis Counties.

If successful, the Up Castle request would convert 33 acres of farmland from Rural Residential Resource (RRR) to Rural Resources Industrial (RRI) zoning, including a code change that would permit warehousing and manufacturing.

Does this sound familiar? It should. An article in the September WIP

described another company's request for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezone for Beaver Creek Farm from RRR to RRI —also to permit warehousing.



Treasurer of the Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Board, Ron Beitler, warns against overbuilding warehouses on farmland as the impacts are permanent and disabling to the economy and the environment (<https://www.mcall.com/opinion/mc-opi-warehouses-jobs-beitler>).

In 2020, warehouse developer Northpoint asked County Commissioners to change the zoning of 745 acres of rural residential land near Maytown to Rural Industrial, but were turned down.

The Up Castle request is much more far-reaching

It includes code changes that would allow other rural properties in Thurston County to be “up-zoned” to RRI. Proposed changes would allow RRR land adjacent to industrial land to be

industrial use” — in other words, warehouses. For example, under the proposed new code an estimated 300 acres around the I-5/Maytown Road intersection



could be rezoned intensive industrial RRI because they are adjacent to industrial land.

Parcel-by-parcel “de-designation” is discouraged by the Growth Management Act

The proposed code changes would violate the spirit and perhaps the substance of the law. Responding to public comments in opposition to the code revisions this September, County Planning Commissioners raised concerns about a

sion's public hearing for Up Castle on October 6. When compared to the piecemeal development that would result from approval of the proposed Up Castle code changes, a study followed by new policy for designating intensive industries on rural land could be an improvement.

The Growth Management Act prioritizes preserving the rural character of rural areas and conservation of farmland.

Right now RRI lands are permitted in rural Thurston County in a limited manner. The Comprehensive Plan on page 2-11 states “Industrial uses will generally be those that are related to and dependent on natural resources such as agriculture, lumber or minerals.” Generic warehouses are not currently part of the community's vision for rural lands, but a new policy could broaden the existing definition.

The pressure to convert rural land to intensive industrial zoning to allow more generic warehouses and trucking centers comes from developers and investors competing to serve an anticipated growth in demand as shoppers continue to order online. Fortunately, the Thurston County Agriculture Survey Results (April 2021) show most farmers do not plan to sell their land, and most want compatible uses of land nearby, not intensive industrialized sites with high traffic volumes.

Any rural land use policy should consider the recommendations of CPA-16, the county's community review of agricultural policies and programs. This group is reviewing maps of agricultural soils and doing other research to identify additional ways to protect the agricultural lands prioritized for conservation. Recommendations related to adding more farmland to the current Open Space Agricultural tax program are being formulated now. Changes to the County's Comp Plan will be considered in 2022.

Charlotte Persons is a member of League of Women Voters Thurston County, a docent at Bigelow House Museum, and is on the board of Black Hills Audubon Society. She is following development issues in Thurston County for WIP.

For more information or to submit comments: www.thurston-countywa.gov/planning/Pages/comp-plan-upcastle-rezone.aspx

To testify by Zoom at the Oct. 6 public hearing, watch for that agenda on the Planning Commission's meeting materials webpage. To follow the work of the community review of agricultural policies www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/comp-plan-agriculture



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Constitutional amendment would grant legal protection to state’s land and water

Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory and a sterner sense of justice than we do.”

Wendell Berry

Esther Kronenberg

What if we lived in a culture where all living beings, human and otherwise had a voice, and where our laws were based on our interdependence with nature? That is the premise of the ever-growing movement for the Rights of Nature which is gaining traction around the world and in Olympia.

The idea that ecosystems and their flora and fauna are living entities is nothing new to indigenous cultures whose Traditional Knowledge has long regarded them as relatives. But for Westerners citing the Biblical verse granting man dominion over the earth as license to exploit nature for human uses, the idea of nature having rights was considered absurd. But this is changing. More and more communities and countries around the world are expanding their body of legal rights to recognize the human right to a healthy environment and the right of ecosystems to “exist, flourish and naturally evolve.”

Environmental laws are a permit to pollute

Kai Huschke of Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund recently explained the genesis of the Rights of Nature movement. Founded in the 1990s, the public interest law firm originally sought to enforce existing environmental legal structure. But CELDF quickly learned the system favored commercial and property pursuits, stemming back to the US Constitution, which granted rights to property owners (including the right to own other humans), and elevated commercial interests above others. The Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court, which granted personhood to corporations, is the latest version of this mindset.

CELDf’s efforts to protect communities within the existing legal system proved frustrating and counterproductive. Because environmental laws were focused on the use of permits to allow a certain level of pollution and were heavily influenced by corporate pressure on legislators, CELDF initially succeeded only in helping corporate polluters write better permits. Once permits were obtained, holders basically had a license to destroy the environment with no right to intervene by community opposition.

ELDF now works to change the basic structure of law that favors endless growth and development over its legitimate purpose of protecting people, communities and the environment. Using Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution which asserts that power resides in the people, the fund is working for state constitutional change and assisting communities in passing local laws that protect human and ecosystem rights.

An expanding rights movement

Similar to the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Rights of Nature

is about building a viable political movement to change our legal structure. It directly challenges the power corporate and commercial interests hold over communities who face opposition from local governments and courts when attempting to protect their resources and way of life from commercial interests.

It appoints the state in all its forms as trustees and affirms the rights are “on par with other protected inalienable rights.” The bill, which counts LD22 Representative Laurie Dolan as one of its sponsors, will likely be reintroduced into the upcoming legislative session.

Rights of Nature has also gained

Because environmental laws were focused on the use of permits to allow a certain level of pollution and were heavily influenced by corporate pressure on legislators, CELDF initially succeeded only in helping corporate polluters write better permits. Once permits were obtained, holders basically had a license to destroy the environment with no right to intervene by community opposition.

Who has standing?

In 1972, law professor Christopher Stone’s article, “Should trees have standing—toward legal rights for natural objects” was cited by Chief Justice William O. Douglas as the basis of his dissenting opinion in the Morton v. Sierra Club case stating, “The critical question of ‘standing’ would be simplified and also put neatly in focus if we fashioned a federal rule that allowed environmental issues to be litigated before federal agencies or federal courts in the name of the inanimate object about to be despoiled, defaced or invaded by roads and bulldozers, and where injury is the subject of public outrage.”

In Olympia, environmental advocates have experienced such obstacles when challenging land use decisions that ignore or bypass environmental laws. Olympia Urban Waters League challenge to the downtown Westman Mills project in 2018 and OlyEcosystem’s recent challenge to the West Bay Yards Project were both rejected on the basis of lack of standing. If a rights of Nature law was in place, the Deschutes River Watershed itself could have standing to be represented in court, and these challenges could have gone forward.

It wasn’t until 2006 that the Rights of Nature were legally recognized in Tamaqua Borough, Pennsylvania, which banned the dumping of toxic sewage sludge. Since then, dozens of communities in ten states in the U.S. have enacted Rights of Nature laws, including New Hampshire, Colorado, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Ohio, where Toledo, Ohio residents adopted the Lake Erie Bill of Rights in 2019.

Washington State’s Constitutional Amendment for Rights of Nature

In Washington’s 2021 session, House Joint Resolution (HJR) 4205, was introduced and referred to the Environment and Energy Committee. It proposes an amendment to the State Constitution that reads,

“The people of the state, including future generations, have the right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems, and a stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and healthful qualities of the environment.”

Rights of Nature are finding advocates throughout Washington State

The Washington Community Rights Network (WACRN) is drafting a mission statement to guide its actions. Some possibilities include focusing on legal rights for the Salish Sea, serving as a central support system for education, outreach and advocacy for community rights groups and communities struggling for self-governance in Washington, organizing direct action, supporting constitutional amendments, and recruiting communities to coalesce around a common goal.

Already its members are pursuing legal Rights of Nature across the state. A group in Kitsap County is trying to protect the area from overdevelopment, circulating a petition to stop clearcutting in Washington for 10 years and stop the use of toxic spraying in the forest.

Snohomish County Community Rights is also working to protect watersheds. Their website also features declassified documents about toxic poisons.

Esther Kronenberg is a regular WIP contributor. To watch Kai Hutchke’s presentation, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UspTnRgEiJg&t=51s>.

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Following nature’s evolutionary lead

Soil fertility is the ultimate agronomy

Gary Kline

"They're making more people every day but they ain't making no more dirt." —Will Rogers

The predominant conventional and chemical mode is steadily destroying and degrading soils all around the world. We need a revamped agromonic system that can restore biodiversity, halt soil carbon loss, sequester carbon and ban the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. But bold new approaches are almost never named, much less vigorously advocated.

Organic agriculture has a misplaced emphasis on avoidance of synthetic chemicals and pollutants which has obscured soil and fertility building objectives. It does not go far enough and cannot lead to true agricultural sustainability. Regenerative agriculture suffers from some of the same failings.

Nutri-culture is a revolutionary and ultimate agronomic system based on ecological understanding applying the best features of several methods focused on nutrition at all levels from the soil to human health.

Nutri-culture is more than organic

Nutri-Culture is a method of growing superior plants and crops that draws from principles and practices of Ecological Agriculture. It is also an extension of my own original concept and term of Mineral-Augmented Organics, with amplifying aspects making it more comprehensive and holistic and yielding greater results through their synergy.

Nutri-culture eschews the use of synthetic inputs and places major emphasis on the neglected role of nutrient minerals in treating soil for superior plant growth. It does not count on technological fixes to get us to more nutritious food and better health. It is not limited to making adjustments in soil chemistry or the customary organicultural techniques of composting, manuring, cover cropping, crop rotation and natural pest control methods. Nutri-Culture adds professional soil testing, mineralizing, biochar incorporation, microbe or pro-biotic inoculation and vermiculture—advancements not commonly used by farmers and gardeners, but which offer astounding qualitative benefits. This is all woven into a logical, cohesive and holistic agronomic system that can be applied all around the world and does minimal environmental harm. Indeed, it is a realistic basis for extensive soil restoration and planetary healing.

Soil balancing based on nature’s example

We can't beat the intelligence of nature, so we are well-advised to join Her. Nutri-culture works beautifully and simply because it is patterned after the methods and integrated processes worked out over millions of years by evolving nature. It has a surprising universality for application to food growing all around the world, and if instituted on a wide scale, could

solve many of the world’s seemingly intractable problems. I will go so far as to declare Nutri-Culture a panacea. I see it as the one practical, compatible and effective way to get us to true sustainability and restored health throughout the biotic realm.

A persistent theme is found in the writings of numerous prominent ecological agronomists: balance. Nutri-Culture is nearly synonymous with soil nutrient balancing, including the full array of nutrient minerals in sufficient amounts in correct ratios. It is noteworthy that the oceans of the world have long been in near perfect nutrient balance; consequently, disease among marine mammals and ocean fishes is a rarity.



Topsoil restoration is essential and achievable

Around 10% of the Earth's land area is farmland and 30% is in pasture or meadows and there is very little room for either to expand because feasibly remaining lands are so marginal their production would yield less than the cost to farm them by usual methods.

... the greatest potential for sequestering carbon is in the soil...

Erosion is a far more serious problem than people generally realize. Sir Albert Howard said that erosion is a sign of a sick soil and that it invariably proceeds from infertility. It logically follows that if we treat our agricultural soils by incorporating humus (organic matter) and minerals in the correct fashion, erosion can't get started. Many thousands of acres of eroded land await creative restoration programs. It can be done. A great example of generating employment and resources for daily living through reforestation is described in the 2004 book titled *The Green Belt Movement*, by Wangari Maathai. Instead of converting every feasible acre to agricultural production, thereby causing further massive loss of wildlife habitat, species extinction and irreversible loss of biodiversity, it is incumbent on us to first recover former agricul-

tural lands and create new topsoil.

Nutri-Culture could reverse global warming

Humanity faces many crises related to our present agricultural system, among them, hunger, greenhouse gas emissions, improper and excessive use of fertilizers and toxins and the resultant pollution from their use, water depletion and waste, non-nutritious and wasted food, drought-vulnerable crops, and loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Nutri-culture addresses all of them.

Current agricultural practices are recognized as the greatest contributor to rising greenhouse gases, mostly due to the use of synthetic fertilizers. By changing its practices, agriculture also has the greatest prospect for sequestering carbon and thereby reversing global warming. Smarter, more careful pasture management is a major factor in accomplishing this. Biochar and pro-biotic inoculants and rock powder minerals fed to livestock can get these restorative materials spread on pastureland in their manure droppings, while at the same time upgrading their health and resistance to diseases. Overgrazed and depleted pastures can be revived with correct management.

Despite the fact that the greatest potential for sequestering carbon is in the soil, nearly all the attention is on reducing fossil fuel emissions, a much less effective, contentious and controversial solution. Incorporation of biochar into agricultural soils is far more effective, longer lasting, less controversial and has the huge bonus of improving our soils, and retaining moisture and nutrients for centuries to come.

Conventional nitrogen fertilizers cause pollution and impoverish soils while generating nutritionally inferior food at increasingly higher cost. Toxins and fertilizers also kill the natural plant/microbe symbiosis. Mycorrhizal fungi supplied in manure and compost are able to grow out from plant root associations to scavenge scarce phosphorus and other minerals and deliver them back to the plant in exchange for carbohydrates supplied by the plant. These natural mechanisms can be fostered so as to supply ample nitrogen and other fertilizer with no danger of pollution. Along with plant, animal and marine waste products, various natural rock powder fertilizers and concentrated liquid sea mineral extracts are quite feasible means of supplying needed full-spectrum nutrient minerals for deficient and depleted soils everywhere. These crops also are more resistant to insect and disease attacks, keep longer and obviate the need for genetically modified crops and the use of pesticides that poison our soil and water.

There is a universal code governing how the world, nature and agriculture are designed to operate. If we crack the code we could solve food supply shortfalls, restore general health, and alleviate many of the world’s problems and put civilization on the right sustainability track for the long haul. That code, I submit, is balanced soil nutrition.

Excerpted by Esther Kronenberg from "Nutri-Culture: What it is and What It Can Do" by Gary Kline. Gary is a former Fish and Wildlife biologist who operated Black Lake Organic garden store for 34 years. His vision is expressed in 10 precepts at Blossomera.com.



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For more information go to our website:
<https://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/80-2/grocery-distribution/>

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WIP is online

See more photos and expanded texts at www.olywip.org.



REFLECTION

Hitchhiking, homelessness, Hell, and hope

Melissa Rasmussen

Earlier tonight, I was driving home along Harrison Ave around 9pm when I passed a woman with her thumb out. She was very skinny, barefoot, wavering in her walk, and wearing too-large cargo pants tied up with a scarf. I figured she could use some support, and judged it unlikely that she was a threat. So I pulled up and stopped the car.

The Subaru kept beeping as she figured out how to buckle the seatbelt, mumbling thanks. I asked little of her, but just listened to her gentle patter of words—about being desperate to escape downtown, about the violence she was fleeing, about how she'd asked people for the supplies to kill herself, about wanting to get to a hospital, about being more than ready to be fully done with drugs and alcohol.

She'd missed an intake interview for an inpatient treatment bed on Monday, she said, a common situation with those suffering from addiction, who are often dealing with homelessness, mental health struggles, domestic violence, theft of phones, lack of safety to sleep, lack of access to the internet, and predatory and destructive social circles. I've seen people in this situation before—five years ago, I almost became one of them. I listened, and then I bought her McDonald's. First thing, calories.

While she devoured her McFlurry, cheeseburger, and fries ("I haven't eaten in three days"), I listened some more. She spoke barely above a whisper, and sometimes made no sense, but the general drift of her story was clear. She was 27 years old. She had been addicted for ten years. She'd used again recently, and hated it. She'd suffered violent beatings and sexual assaults on the streets. She was aggressive when she was in desperate pain. She heard voices. She hadn't had a safe place of her own in "so long, not even a bed to myself, that I can keep someone out of." She clung to a Bible and said she had felt the presence of Jesus in some of her worst moments. She had a son. She asked if I remembered him.

In between making calm, reassuring responses—usually brief ones—I sent out a few text messages. To my church group—did anyone have a room available to put her up safely for a night? (No response.) To my housemate—I'll be delayed getting home. ("Ok, good luck!") To my former coworkers at

Behavioral Health Resources—how could I help her get her intake rescheduled? They responded and, as she kept talking, a plan gradually emerged. We'd take her across town to St Pete's Hospital, where she was born. She thought they'd have access to her medical records, and might be willing to provide her with at least a dose or two of her stay-off-heroin medication. The hospital, we figured, would let her sleep for a night and help her get in touch with BHR to reschedule her intake tomorrow.



I checked several times to be sure this was what she wanted, as we drove back across town, the opposite direction from where she'd been heading. She was weak, physically, and the long walk with no shoes up the hill from downtown must have been difficult. But she confirmed, the hospital was where she wanted to go. I knew the way, and we were at the ER ten minutes later. On foot, that trip would have taken her many hours.

Once, over five years ago, a stranger helped me safely to the hospital when I was a starving, under-dressed, strung out young woman asking for help. I told her this, as the clean, strong, educated, housed, helpful woman I now am, and she was shocked. I said "I'm living proof that there's life on the other side, if you can allow yourself to accept help." (I left out the second part: "and if there's help available." My crisis occurred in Canada.) She listened, brown eyes wide.

We sat in the car in the parking lot at the hospital, and I asked her if she was ready. She said maybe she should come back in the morning. Honestly, I told her we should go in because I needed to use the bathroom. We got the McDonald's bag packed with her leftover food, some napkins, and \$5 from me. I had an extra mask, a good satin one. Since I had two, I let her pick the color she liked. She had an

infected cut on her hand, but was afraid of my antibiotic spray. I remember dealing with drug-induced paranoia before, both personally and with another mother I helped in the same situation years ago. Ok. We see this. No big deal. In we go.

The greeter at the hospital checked our temperatures and directed us to check in. She gave her name and birthdate, and I clued in the nurse to what was going on. "She's used; she's escaping violence; she needs medication and a safe place; can you help her get her intake rescheduled tomorrow?" The woman behind us, holding pressure on a gash on her finger, locked her eyes on mine every chance she could. My companion was holding up the line.

The nurse's tone began to change, louder, more stern. "So what is the emergency you wish to be treated for? What is the goal of your visit here tonight?" She responded, "I need medication; I want a referral for treatment." This wasn't

sufficient. "We're the emergency department—we treat emergencies." My companion said ok, that she could maybe come back in the morning, after she got some rest. I met the nurse's eyes and indicated that I was more than willing to take her somewhere else if that was appropriate. And so, we left.

As we approached the car, and I was mentally evaluating shelter options—the Mission? A cheap hotel? A tent in my backyard?—she thanked me for all I'd done, and veered towards the sidewalk. She knew someone who lived near here, she said. I asked, "Are you sure? Is that person safe?" She assured me that yes, they were. Ok. Dignity is dignity, and respect is respect. I don't know her life. Her call.

As I drove away, I passed her on the sidewalk. Something was bothering me, so I stopped the car and went over to her. I took off my sandals and put them in front of her. She reluctantly, but gratefully, slipped them on her feet, and said they were comfortable. (I'm glad, they were my best pair.) I asked if I could give her my number. She let me write it on a blank page in the front of her Bible. I told her to call or text anytime, that I'd give her a ride, or help her get what she needed, that I wanted her to be safe. She thanked me. I said "You're welcome. My pleasure." She walked away still wearing the mask.

Total bill: one McDonald's order, one mask, one \$5 bill, one pair of sandals, a bit of encouragement, some information, a ride across town, and an hour's listening.

Take from my story what you will. I don't know if she'll go to the hospital tomorrow; if she'll use or get beaten again tonight; if the hospital will help her; if she'll walk up the street tomorrow to BHR. And I've done this enough to accept that I'll probably never know, and I don't have to.

I can look at this experience and bemoan the systemic and social failures that put her on the street. I can feel anger at the lack of beds in treatment centers or the unmet need for safe, supportive, abundantly available shelter. I can grieve for her, and the dozens and hundreds who are like her, here in our city. Those things are real.

However, I choose to be grateful that I encountered her. That she'd been praying, and someone who was willing to help her showed up, with no judgement. That she got just that little bit of bridge support, just enough basic resources and help to get her to her next step. That the steps she chose to take, and the ones I helped her take, were her own.

Because if she's going to walk out of the hell that is addiction, homelessness, poverty, and violence, she has to take those steps herself.

But we can help.

Amen.

Melissa Rasmussen is a local writer and Evergreen graduate with a passion for integrated ecological design and affordable housing. She believes that humanity can be a beneficial presence on this planet and that everyone deserves to thrive.

Taking the off-ramps for chronic homelessness

When experiencing chronic homelessness, an individual is likely to have multiple interaction points with a siloed homelessness ecosystem. These interaction points — an ER visit, overdose crisis, mental health event, arrest — represent "off ramp" opportunities to help individuals connect with the services that they need to exit homelessness. Too often these opportunities are missed. This can be because of lack of capacity or absence of any coordinated program. Are there reentry programs linked to ER visits? Sufficient shelter capacity so that when you pick up a hitchhiker who has no place to sleep, there's a place for her to go, and services available? A recent Seattle study of chronic homelessness points out that "In order to ensure that we are achieving successful offramps and ultimately slowing the growth of our chronically homeless population, we need better coordination between service providers as well as the legal, healthcare and housing systems."

—from *Chronic Homelessness: A Crossroad*, at www.challengesattle.com



Birthing Roots Midwifery

Home Birth Midwifery Care
Stacey Callaghan

LM, CPM, ICCE, CD
360-789-9969
www.birthingroots.org
Stacey@birthingroots.org

THE

brotherhood

LOUNGE

daily happy hour 3-7

119 CAPITOL WAY

WWW.THEBROTHERHOODLOUNGE.COM

Déjà vu all over again at the Port of Olympia

Truth Ferry

Olympia Port Commissioners should have listened to the guy's wife. The Port (and the Olympian) celebrated last year, when Bart Lematta bought the 67-year-old Evergreen ferry after it had been seized for nonpayment from the previous owner. At the time of the sale Lematta said, "My wife thinks I'm nuts and I think I may be as well." Could that be applied to the Commissioners as well?

The Port has "asked Lematta to leave" (hopefully taking the ferry with him) because he has not obtained insurance policies and a \$1 million security bond they requested – a year after they agreed to keep storing the ferry.

You'd think the Port Commissioners would have learned their lesson after they first got stuck with the Evergreen State ferry. It's not like they weren't warned. Officials with the Derelict Vessel Program (DVP) at the Dept. of Natural Resources asked the Port last year to follow the protocols designed to prevent a vessel becoming derelict, prior to any sale.

The state wanted the Port to pay for a survey of the then 66-year-old Evergreen ferry to determine its seaworthiness. They also wanted the Port to take out insurance that would cover the boat in case the new owner abandoned it. DVP also encouraged the Port to vet winning bidders for their ability to maintain a vessel before finalizing a sale.

The Port didn't respond, and didn't take any of the suggestions. It seems the lure of cash trumped any other considerations. And also precluded asking questions that might reveal important downsides. (The Port was recently dinged by the State Auditor for having too little cash in the bank.)

In addition to the prospect of the ferry being abandoned at the Port for the second time, 10,000 gallons of diesel oil have been sitting in its tanks for several years. The likelihood is that the fuel is contaminated and should be pumped out and disposed of. But that's expensive, so it sits in our waters, waiting til there's an accidental leak.

Thanks to the Port Commission's unquestioning acceptance of any proposition that might produce some cash, here we are again: an unqualified owner who wasn't vetted; a failure to obtain financial protection before (not after) signing a contract; 10,000 gallons of dirty diesel oil parked at the Port, a looming likelihood of another seizure (how many of those do you get?) and ultimately, shifting liability for the disposition of this derelict-in-waiting to the public.

Port staff didn't do its job

According to Sam Gibboney, Executive Director, the Port's marine terminal staff and maritime attorney came up with the initial service agreement with Lamatta. It was woefully insufficient.

Not only did the staff ignore the advice of the DVP official, they also neglected to inform themselves about Washington laws that address financial liability associated with aging vessels. Here's what the law says:

At the time of title transfer buyers of [large, old] vessels need to secure at least \$300,000 in marine insurance coverage encompassing general, legal, and pollution liability protection and provide proof of coverage to the seller, and either the Department of Licensing upon registration, or the Department of Revenue upon paying any taxes. RCW 79,100.



League offers local candidate forums

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County (LWVTC), in collaboration with Thurston Community Media (TCMedia), invites voters to view candidate forums featuring candidates for:

- Port of Olympia Commissioners, Districts 2 and 3
- Olympia City Council, Positions 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Lacey City Council, Position 7
- Tumwater City Council, Position 6
- Olympia School District Directors, Districts 3 and 5
- North Thurston School District Directors, Districts 2 and 4.

The forums are now available on Comcast Channel 77 and are available via YouTube at www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6kKZRfmGAdWNippnrpJerjk4J1k6ROMS. They can also be accessed through the League's website at Candidate Forums—League of Women Voters of Thurston County (lwvthurston.org).

These forums reflect the League's commitment to encouraging informed and active participation in government, increasing understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. A non-partisan organization, the League never supports candidates for office or political parties.

Along with the League and TCMedia, forum co-sponsors include the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition-South Puget Sound and Thurston Climate Action Team.

General Election ballots will be available/mailed October 15, 2021 and the last day to vote is November 2, 2021. For more information: Karen Tvedt, 360-584-4526 or tvedtkl@msn.com.

RETHINKING EVERYTHING #12

First, do not intimidate

One of the difficulties in discussing Critical Race Theory is that the term has become entwined with the ideas in Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*. Endless disclaimers that Critical Race Theory (CRT) is about systemic rather than individual racism seem specious to those who conflate the idea with the so-called "anti-racism training" associated with DiAngelo, and the passive-aggressive personal confrontations offered in her training sessions.

Educators and others are legitimately concerned about undoing the self-esteem of white students.

I imagine that many race-training sessions at workplaces are intimidating to adults, but the idea is even more of a danger to classroom teaching.

No teacher should enter a classroom and announce that "I will be very cautious about this, but you need to understand that you all as individual white people are perpetuating racism in this country." You cannot have a real discussion after that, no matter how gently you try to approach the subject. As a long-time teacher of American history, I hope to show that it is possible to discuss racism and the years of protests against it without intimidating students of color or white students.

—This excerpt is from teaching
"All Men Are Created Equal," by Jeff Schneider.

Read the whole two-part essay at <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/181197>



Commissioner

From page 6

WIP: There is also criticism that the financial measures approved by the Commission don't reflect actual performance.

Zita: The Port has a high commitment to reporting financial measures that make the Port look good, when those can be found. Business as usual at the Marine Terminal costs taxpayers a couple of million dollars per year—and that leaves out some big costs. For example, we are still paying interest on over \$5 million dollars invested in the Big Blue Crane, but this isn't shown on the Marine Terminal budget. To break even, the crane would have to be used over 1000 hours each year—but it's only used about 10-20 hours per year! The Marine Terminal is a great deal for Weyerhaeuser and a lousy deal for taxpayers.

WIP: What should the Port do to improve its rating by the State Auditor?

Zita: Recent “findings” by the Auditor center on mistakes and irregularities in financial reporting. Much of this was due to staff turnover and changing internal systems. Irregular contracts and hiring processes can yield unprofessional and inefficient results—and sometimes lawsuits.

We can improve by hiring a Chief Financial Officer, better training and retention of staff and settling on a consistent standard financial reporting system—instead of changing it every year. The Auditor noted other weaknesses that haven't been addressed: a low level of cash on hand and a high debt to earnings ratio.

WIP: What would you name as accomplishments you're proud of?

Zita: To start with, getting Port meetings video recorded and available online. Asking hard questions about Port decisions instead of rubber-stamping them. Empowering concerned residents and cooperating with local leaders—from Commissioner Chats to TRPC.

Some specific things are:

Support for agriculture initiatives, from the Ag Biz Hub and WSU studies to food processing equipment. Military Cargo Listening Sessions instead of militarized crackdowns on protestors. Cancelling the Port's military cargo exports. Support for Water Protectors' right to free speech and assembly. Cancelling the Port's fracking sand imports from China and exports to the Bakken oil fields. *MniWiconi*—Lakota for “water is life.”

Commission support for my PO-CAC projects—we adopted internationally recognized guidelines for public participation; community solar (Hummingbird project); EV chargers at the Farmer's Market; passenger ferry study.

Getting Commission agreement that: we need a Tribal Land Acknowledgement and funding for Sea Level adaptation and Climate Mitigation.

WIP: Advice for voters choosing two new Port Commissioners in November?

Zita: If you want business as usual at the Port of Olympia, including tax increases, vote for Amy Evans and Jessie Simmons. Evans and her firm, Kidder-Matthews, earned \$1.57 million as a commission from the Port (i.e., taxpayers) for brokering the Panattoni deal.

If you're looking for better financial oversight, more community engagement, and a new commitment to environmental sustainability at the Port, vote for Joel Hansen and Bob Iyall.

WIP. What it was like for you personally sitting on the Commission? What strengths would be important for someone looking to bring changes?

Zita: A reflex to fight for justice. I learned this as a protective big sister with two vulnerable brothers (one with Cerebral Palsy, one small, both bullied).

An analytic mind. I never studied economics, but being a scientist prepared me to learn enough to communicate clearly about Port finances—with plenty of help from smart friends.

Staff at the Port tend to be intensely loyal. A signed loyalty oath is explicitly required. “Port First” is

their motto. The Port is like a family—for better and for worse. Public inquiries and comments are often seen as threats to the Port. The family doesn't welcome outside scrutiny, even from the taxpayers who keep it afloat.

It surprised me, but the Port turned out to be meaner than I expected. Fellow Commissioners and their allies started levying attacks against me right away. I was accused of “conflict of interest” because I served on a Port committee studying our neighborhood. “Misuse of public resources.” Being an uppity dyke. And so on.

A judge investigated each major complaint—and found me innocent. Except for the uppity dyke part.

The most disturbing attacks came in the last couple of years—ranging from physical threats to false charges of crimes. Politics is not for the faint of heart

A cautionary tale Santa Claus is gunning for Joe Biden

The stock market is falling today, in part a reaction to GOP threats to shut down the government: it's all part of their plan.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen last week warned us that the GOP is about to use Jude Wanniski's “Two Santa Clauses” fraud again to damage Biden's economy and our standing in the world. And, sure enough, Mitch McConnell verified it when he said last week there would be “zero” Republican votes to raise the debt ceiling.

Yellen responded yesterday by telling The Wall Street Journal that if the Republicans force a shutdown of the US government like they did to Obama in 2011, “We would emerge from this crisis a permanently weaker nation.” But the GOP is adamant: they have their strategy and they're sticking to it.

Here's how it works, laid it out in simple summary:

First, the Two Santas strategy dictates, when Republicans control the White House they must spend money like a drunken Santa and cut taxes to run up the US debt as far and as fast as possible.

This produces three results: it stimulates the economy thus making people think that the GOP can produce a good economy; it raises the debt dramatically; and it makes people think that Republicans are the “tax-cut Santa Clauses.”

Second, when a Democrat is in the White House, Republicans must scream about the national debt as loudly and frantically as possible, freaking out about how “our children will have to pay for it!” and “we have to cut spending to solve the crisis!” Shut down the government, crash the stock market, and damage US credibility around the world if necessary to stop Democrats from spending money.

This will force the Democrats in power to cut their own social safety net programs and even Social Security, thus shooting their welfare-of-the-American-people Santa Claus right in the face.

Sure enough, here we are now with a Democrat in the White House. Following their Two Santas strategy, Republicans are again squealing about the national debt and refusing to raise the debt ceiling, imperiling Biden's economic recovery as well as his Build Back Better plans.

Once again, the media is covering it as a “Biden Crisis!” rather than what it really is: a cynical political and media strategy devised by Republicans in the 70s, fine-tuned in the 80s and 90s, and rolled out every time a Democrat is in the White House.

This is an excerpt from the Hartmann Report, Sept 21, 2021. Read the whole thing at <https://hartmannreport.com/p/santa-clause->

Look at us

Look at us
We are of earth and water
Look at them
It is the same
Look at us
We are suffering all these years
Look at them
They are connected
Look at us
We are in pain
Look at them
Surprised at our anger
Look at us
We are struggling to survive
Look at them
Expecting sorrow be benign

Look at us
We are the ones called pagan
Look at them
On their arrival
Look at us
We are called subversive
Look at them
Descending from name callers
Look at us
We wept sadly in the long dark
Look at them
Hiding in technologic light
Look at us
We buried the generations
Look at them

Inventing the body count
Look at us
We are older than America
Look at them
Chasing a fountain of youth

Look at us we are embracing earth
Look at them
Clutching today
Look at us
We are living in the generations
Look at them
Existing in jobs and debt
Look at us
We have escaped many times
Look at them
They cannot remember
Look at us
We are healing
Look at them
Their medicine is patented
Look at us
We are trying
Look at them
What are they doing
Look at us
We are children of earth
Look at them
Who are they

“Look at Us” is from Lines from a Mined Mind, the collected works of John Trudell and reprinted by permission of Fulcrum Publishing.



Community Spotlight

WALK with Erin Jones

**Saturday, October 2 and November 6,
11 am—1 pm**
ASHHO, 5757 Littlerock Road, Tumwater

Meet at the Center and walk with Erin for 1/2 mile. Some of us have experienced feeling singled out for scrutiny or comment when we're out and about, and walking alongside each other connects us and creates change. www.ashho.org/upcoming

Period Action Day

Oct 3 & 10, 10-12 noon
Olympia Woman's Club, 1002 Washington Street SE, downtown Olympia

Front porch donation drop-off of feminine hygiene products. Donations to be distributed among local organizations: Family Support Center, Community Youth Services, SafePlace, The Other Bank at the Thurston County Food Bank and CIELO. They will publish a tally of material donated at the end of the project. Or send a check! Thurston County NOW, PO Box 2041, Olympia, 98507, Write "Period Day" on the check. Want more details? lryh@hotmail.com or *Period Action Day* on facebook.

Peer under the Piers with Estuarium

October 9, 7-9 pm, Shelton Yacht Club—free for everyone
October 22, 7-9pm, Boston Harbor Marina—free for 12 and under. Others \$15

Explore with Estuarium naturalists to discover mysterious creatures that live under the docks of South Sound. Bring a flashlight—to help you attract spectacular creatures. From octopus to anemones, from sea stars to sea slugs—they're there for you! Pier Peer is a popular event, so register early to ensure a spot. It's the first time in Shelton! Everyone is required to wear a mask. Wear non-slip shoes, dress for the weather. For more information: <https://pugetsoundestuarium.org/pier-peer/>. Registration Link: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/regform?llr=xcpwlrldab&oeidk=a07eiifqye>



Sin fronteras at Arbutus Folk School

Canto Nuevo workshop for musicians of all skill levels
Oct 26 and Nov 2, 6:30-8pm.
Arbutus Folk School, 610 4th Ave E

Learn and experience Latin American folklore and *Canto Nuevo* music with musicians Patricia Mazuela and Abel Rocha of *Sin Fronteras*. All skills levels and musical talents are welcome! *Sin Fronteras* will perform live at Arbutus Folk School on November 13 at 7 pm. A few students will be selected from the workshop to perform with the band. Register for the workshop at Concert tickets are available for purchase at *Sin Fronteras* Concert – November 13th, 2021 – Arbutus Folk School. For the workshop, go to <https://www.campusce.net/arbutus/course/course.aspx?catId=17> and scroll down.

Mosaic—Celebrating 25 Years Of CIELO

!Saturday, Oct 16, 7 pm,
Celebrate with at home watch parties/ fiesta en casa.

Join CIELO for its annual celebration. Everyone can watch on YouTube and Thurston Community Media Livestream and Channel 77. Support CIELO by purchasing a "party in a box" to bring MOSAIC event from the screen to your home. Register for the Zoom afterparty!



MOSAIC te invitamos a que te unas a nosotros desde tu fiesta en casa. Nuestro programa debutará en YouTube y en la transmisión en vivo y el canal 77 de Thurston Community Media. Comprar una fiesta en una caja! Una fiesta posterior de Zoom seguirá nuestro evento virtual para unir todas las fiestas en casa para que la celebración continúe!

Details for watching, for the party box and registration for the afterparty/ Detalles para ver, para la fiesta en caja y el registro para la fiesta posterior: www.cieloprograms.org/mosaic

Volunteer at the Dispute Resolution Center

October is Dispute Resolution month

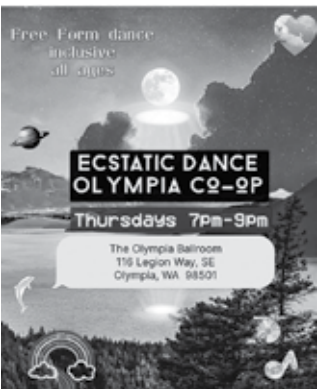
Volunteers with Olympia's Dispute Resolution Center help resolve conflict and promote civility in our community. You can become trained as a mediator and work directly with people in conflict, in-person and through the DRC's new online services. Volunteers also help people over the phone through the DRC's Conflict Resolution Resource Line. To learn more about volunteer opportunities and upcoming trainings, call 360/956-1155, email info@mediatethurston.org or visit MediateThurston.org



Ecstatic Dance

Most Thursdays, 7-9 pm—arrive early
The Olympia Ballroom, 116 Legion Way, SE, downtown Olympia

This co-op creates regular opportunities for everyone to dance. They provide a dj and space at the Olympia Ballroom most every Thursday, and welcome "all bodies, all genders, all forms of dance." Suggested donation \$15 will help pay for the space. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Details and DJ on facebook at *Ecstatic Dance Co-Op Olympia*.



To be featured on the Community Spotlight, send 120 words about your program or event to olywip@gmail.com by the last Wednesday of the month. We can also feature items on our Facebook page and Instagram when they are taking place after the deadline. Check our twitter feed for pithy comments on current situations. Above all, read and share Works in Progress!

Monthly hike habit with Wild Grief

Thursdays 1-9 pm

Every grief hike begins with an opening circle, an acknowledgement of who is here and who we are carrying in our hearts. Then we walk in silence for 10 minutes. After our silent time, the group morphs and changes, small groupings or solitary walkers. Conversations can be deep or light, mixing the here and now with our shut away places. We know each of us is somewhere in their grief journey and all are welcome. We end with a closing circle. Participation is capped at 14 so registration is required. COVID Safety Policy will be in place for this hike. **Click here to register.**



Parallax Perspectives

"Religious freedom: what it is – and what it is not"

Parallax Perspectives October interview features Bob Boston who worked many years for Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. Boston will clarify the meaning of separation of church and state and set the record straight on how to protect religious freedom and our democracy and human rights. The program will be on cable on Channel 22 Mondays at 1:30, Wednesdays at 5 pm and Thursdays at 9 pm. It will also be on Glen Anderson's blog www.parallaxperspectives.org, along with a transcript from the TV program. Reach host/producer Glen at (360) 491-9093 glenanderson@integra.net

Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Every third Thursday (Oct 21) at 5 pm via zoom

Join us for an informative, productive and enjoyable discussion. Contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glenanderson@integra.net in advance for the Zoom link and the agenda.

West Central Park

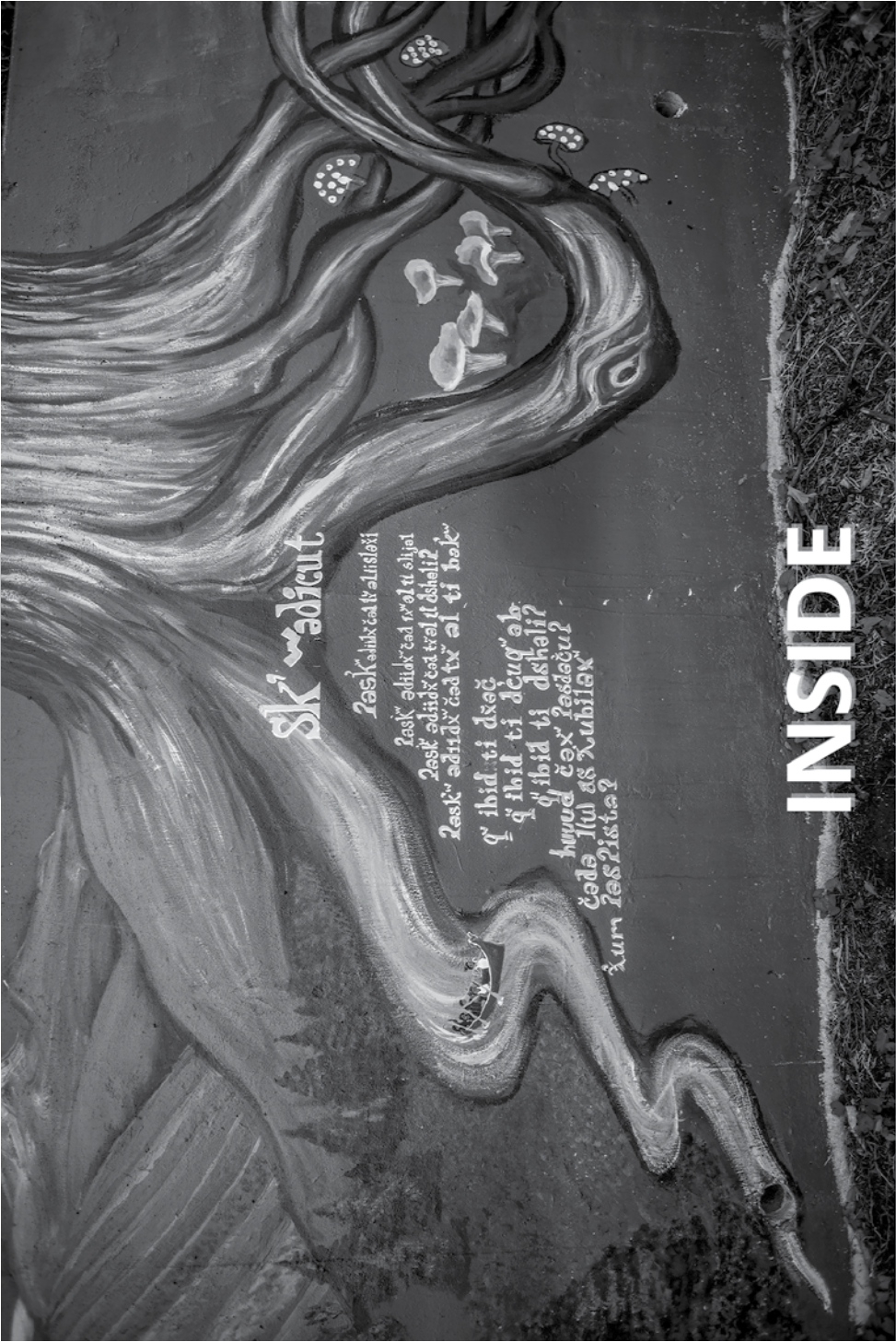
Sundays, 10 am—1 pm
Harrison and Division in West Oly

The fun is shifting from summertime live music concerts in this cozy neighborhood park to crazy fall projects. If you like working with wood, come help build new benches. Or lend your hands and head to the challenge of building a sandstone spiral herb garden. And for the rare and valued human who likes *planning* (and fresh vegetables a short walk away), a working group has started the planning phase for a neighborhood Farmer's Market in this shared space next year. Get the details on facebook at *West Central Park project*.



Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990



Rezoning farmland in rural Thurston
Redefining neighborhood character
Reflecting on accountability at the Port
PLUS
If realtors become politicians
(what could possibly go wrong?)



Last month marked the one-year anniversary of the death of Michael Reinoehl at the hands of four officers from area agencies and precincts tasked by US Marshals with apprehending him. Reinoehl had allegedly been recorded on surveillance video killing a member of the Patriot Prayer group during a clash between anti-fascists and right wing militia members in Portland, Oregon the week before. During the hunt for Reinoehl, then-President Trump tweeted that officers should “do their job and do it quick.” Although eyewitnesses said otherwise, the official account states Reinoehl fired first and died of return fire from 40 rounds. The officers were cleared of criminal wrongdoing in September 2021 amidst public concern the manhunt was an example of extrajudicial killing.