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Carbon-sequestering superheroes

Legacy forests are key to a future in a changed climate

Some friends of legacy forests

Almost all of the old growth forests that once populated the south end of Puget Sound have been logged. The South Puget Sound lowlands are now covered mostly by commercial and residential developments, agricultural fields, and industrial forestlands. The few older forests that remain are an important part of our natural heritage.

Keys to a future

They function as ecological "lifeboats" for a wide variety of plant and wildlife species, and lesser-known species of insects, lichens, and fungi. They have been described as "carbon-sequestering superheroes" and "the original teachers of the original people of these lands"—keys to a future in a changed climate, and links to a past not yet erased.

What is a "legacy forest?"

There is a growing movement to abolish the industrial harvesting of these forest landscapes, which in Washington state remain only on public land. A courageous coalition of organizations, including the Center for Responsible Forestry and the Legacy Forest Project, has emerged over the last 18 months to protect these "legacy forests." Since few people knew what a "legacy forest" was, an early task was to produce a working definition of the term.

A "legacy forest" is "a naturally regenerated (i.e. non-plantation) mixed-species forest selectively harvested before WWII that is now on a healthy trajectory to old growth in dynamic landscapes that are reservoirs of both biodiversity and carbon."

The most obvious distinction in a legacy forest is that trees are much larger than in managed forests—upwards of 200 feet tall and more than 4 feet in diameter. These forests were often selectively logged or "high-graded" in the early 1900s without benefit of chainsaws. They are much more resilient and more structurally and biologically diverse than the monocrop plantations of Douglas fir preferred by industrial logging companies. These single-species tree farms are prone to disease, drought, and wildfire.

Staying on the path

The Legacy Forest Project has organized several community hikes in Capitol State Forest to locations that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been preparing for sale. The discovery of



a large stand of old growth in the so-called "Smuggler" timber sale in March 2021 was embarrassing.

This egregious error led to a front-page story in the *Seattle Times*. To her credit, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz pulled the sale and the 40-acre unit has been spared. Franz announced a pause on the sale of older forests while DNR reviews its older forest policy, but the pause has been inconsistently applied, and legacy forests continue to be sold.

Advocates for legacy forests attend monthly meetings of the Board of Natural Resources and testify at legislative hearings, adding a new and different range of voices to counteract the chorus of those who favor industrial logging.

They want to cut it all

The Board is responsible for approving timber sales proposed by DNR. While legacy forests stand for some as "living landscapes of learning" and "resolute emblems of interdependence and regeneration," there are powerful interests at work to reduce them to a single financial function.

It is true that rural communities depend on modest revenues from timber sales as well as jobs associated with logging, but given the state's current financial surplus it should be possible to effect a just transition for those local economies.

It is also the case that public schools in Washington derive a small subset of their funding from the sale of timber on public land. But public school Superintendent Chris Reykdal, who serves on the Board of Natural Resources, has been quoted in the *Seattle Times* saying "This is not the future of school construction. We just have to think like we are in the 21st century in a climate crisis and not like we are in the 19th century funding schools."

Lobbyists for the timber industry nevertheless continue to argue that it's necessary to cut down older forests to keep local sawmills flush with material. However, the trees that are the focus of preservation are so large that few sawmills in the state have the capacity to process them. According to forest advocates, DNR's Douglas fir plantations hold

more than enough timber to satisfy sustainable harvest targets as well as to meet economic demand.

It should also be recalled that DNR manages a fraction of the forested landscape in Washington. The vast majority is owned by private corporations like Weyerhaeuser, Green Diamond and Port Blakely, among others. Many of the logs from private lands in our area are shipped overseas through the Port of Olympia.

The "Crush" timber sale in the Capital State Forest

Last fall the Center for Responsible Forestry, the Legacy Forest Project, and a broad array of other organizations initiated a campaign to prevent the DNR from selling legacy trees in the so-called "Crush" timber sale on the north end of Capital Forest.

The sale area includes streams that flow into Kennedy Creek and a majestic forest that surrounds one terminus of the Loki Trail popular among bikers and hikers. The trail is lined with towering old Douglas fir legacy trees, and vast moss-covered

▶ **Legacy,** continued on page 12

Persistent concerns about a new Port of Olympia commissioner

WIP editors

Amy Evans won election to the Port of Olympia Commission in 2021. Evans is a Vice-President at Kidder-Matthews (K-M), one of Thurston County's most prominent commercial real estate firms, which has regular dealings with the Port of Olympia. Evans took the lead with K-M Senior V-P Evan Parker in negotiating one such deal in 2020, a lease between the Port of Olympia and Panattoni Development Company, an international real estate developer.

Since Evans would share in Kidder-Matthews' \$1.57 million commission, there were specific concerns about a conflict of interest. Evans proposed to allay those concerns by foregoing her commission. Now a resident has formally requested the Port investigate Evans' relationship to the Panattoni lease and beyond that, whether Evans' role as a real estate broker active in the Thurston County market would affect her ability to participate fully in the Port's real-estate related decisions.

In a sector like real estate, where who you know is paramount and networking is everything, the likelihood of encountering conflicts would appear significant. As noted by a past Port Commissioner, the Port manages "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."

Below are excerpts from a letter asking Port Commissioners to determine that Evans' work on the Port will not be vulnerable to findings of conflict.

Port Commissioners:

Amy Evans was elected to the Port Commission in November 2021. In advance of election, Evans acknowledged she has an actual or perceived conflict of interest with respect to a Port Commission lease with the Panattoni corporation.

Evans wrote to *The Olympian* on October 24, 2021, stating: "I believed the perceived or actual conflict of interest was minimal[.]" Washington law does not permit self-identified "minimal" actual or perceived conflicts of interest; the existence of a conflict of interest is not judged by the size; and in this case there is evidence that Evans is due some or all of a real estate commission of approximately \$1.57 million

▶ Commissioner, continued on page 11

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

Grifters, moochers and... lovers?

It wouldn't be our style to have an entire issue, even a February one, devoted to flowers and Valentines, but if you look closely, love is a major player in this issue. But before we go there, here's a question: what do the Paycheck Protection Program, equity for black and brown farmers, clearcutting in forests and governmental cronyism have in common? Way too much, unfortunately.

We all know at least one favorite establishment that closed during the pandemic, unable to meet payroll or pay the rent or purchase product. The government's assistance program, PPP, promised to help stem the hemorrhaging. But now we've learned those payments, more often than not, didn't reach the small businesses and households that needed them the most. As Dan Leahy reports on page 11, more than 75% of PPP business loans went to owners and shareholders whose enterprises would likely have survived without the payments. And while a sizeable portion of payments to families went to the lowest earners, over 70% were awarded to households in the highest income bracket.

Farming assistance programs likewise say one of their goals is to level the playing field, in this instance for people who've historically been excluded from land stewardship and ownership. The question is why do programs that pay lip service to change so rarely deliver it? As Mercy McGee writes on page 6, no amount of inclusive language will translate into more farmers of color if it isn't backed up with accessibility, funding, and other tools for implementation. Until that happens, it's just the same old story on a different day.

Whose heart doesn't break a little when a logging truck full of giant tree carcasses drives by on its way to the mill? We know beyond question that old growth trees are vital to the survival of the ecosphere, securing carbon deep in the soil and providing vital diversity of plant and animal kingdoms. We also know that replanting just one species—monocropping—leaves a young forest vulnerable to disease and drought

Goodbye, Greta

WIP's unofficial four-legged mascot, Greta Ahimsa Star, crossed o'er the rainbow bridge early this year. A service companion for longtime WIPster Scott Yoos, Greta was a familiar sight to Olympians, walking and riding the bus around town with Scott, faithfully delivering the paper and greeting her many friends. Our condolences to all on Greta's passing.



Photo by Patty Imani

(and therefore, fire). Why are we still allowing the last of them—on public land, no less—to be sold off by a government entity taking its cues from the timber industry?

We also know elected officials shouldn't make decisions about public land if they stand to benefit personally from those deals. They shouldn't probably be in those positions at all, right? This time it's not just us saying it—read the story on page 1 and the letter to the editor on page 3.

We've devoted plenty of ink to vexing problems in this issue. But we also promised you some love. That part's easy. What else prompts a person to testify before lawmakers on behalf of our fellow elders, the old growth trees? To go to bat again and again for the planet? What else compels a shy writer to speak on behalf of the grandmothers in her apartment complex? What else but love keeps a farmer on her land and still gives her the energy to advocate for her brothers and sisters?

Surely it was love that led three white men to Alabama in 1965 to march in solidarity with Black Americans, and something akin to love that prompted them to record and save their memories of that powerful time. What compels people to dig plants out of their yard to help kids go to college if it isn't love, for crying out loud?

Okay, maybe some of that stuff was born as much from frustration as from love. Fair enough. But something keeps us in the fight. Something there is that doesn't love a clearcut, or an evicted elder, or a land-poor farmer. We can

change that. In the name of love.

—LL

P.S. Incredible news! As this issue went to press, we learned the Department of Natural Resources had paused the Upper Rusatz timber sale. The centuries-old forest near Nooksack River in Whatcom County isn't out of the woods yet, so to speak, but the reprieve does suggest Lands Commissioner Hillary Franz is serious about the DNR's plans to review their policies concerning older forests.

The DNR also recently rescheduled their decision on another "nearly old growth" stand known as the Bessie Timber Sale. But as Rob Lewis writes in a guest opinion piece in the Cascadia Daily News, if the DNR is truly revising their policies to protect the trees, why are these two stands still being considered for timber sales? "Is this an oversight or is DNR rushing these sales to get them to auction before the policy review?"

Alexander Harris of the Center for Responsible Forestry says the vote will probably be rescheduled for March 1. You know what that means. Call the DNR. Write them an old-fashioned letter. Circulate the Keep Washington Evergreen document we reference on the back page. And be sure to sign the petitions below and share them on your social media platforms.

Upper Rusatz petition at c4rf.org/upper-rutsatz

Bessie petition at c4rf.org/timber-sales/bessie

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Works in Progress!

Upcoming themes

March: What lies beneath. What's hidden from view just below the surface of things? Does decay fester under a veil of chipper platitudes or can we trust that dormant seeds of life are about to burst forth to nourish us? If you scratch the surface of a cynic is there an idealist underneath? Deadline February 15.

April: Taking time, making time, doing time. Do we make time for ourselves and our families, mindfully, willingly? Are others taking

our time from us? How did the 8-hour workday morph into being available by phone after the shift ends? How do incarcerated people mark time? Are we using time or the other way around? **Deadline March 15.**

May: Hostages to the future. It's moving ahead, with or without us. Who's keeping track? Is *change* the same as *progress*? Is being human still a good thing? Who gets to decide? **Deadline April 15**.

In this issue...

Worker co-ops help retiring business owners maintain their legacies

According to Project Equity, 85% of business owners do not have a succession plan. In Washington State, 49% of small business owners are baby boomers nearing retirement age. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic-from safety restrictions and supply chain disruption to the "Great Resignation"— suggest the majority of small business owners will not find a buyer for their business when they are ready to sell.

As recovery efforts continue amidst new viral outbreaks and changing employee mandates, the need for economic resilience is more important than ever. Conversion to a cooperative business model provides a path for maintaining existing businesses and building long-term recovery. Northwest Cooperative Development Center launched the Co-op Academy to help business owners safely exit their company, reward loyal and dedicated staff,

and leave the legacy of a thriving business to their community.

In partnership with the City of



Olympia, NWCDC will be offering the Co-op Academy focused on converting Olympia businesses to cooperative ownership either as a worker cooperative or a multistakeholder cooperative. Through conversion to a worker co-op, busi-

Based on October 2020 study by the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing at the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations.

About the cover

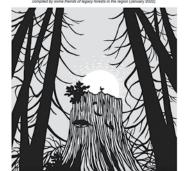
Photos throughout this issue and on the front and back cover appear courtesy of the Forest Legacy Project. Original cover art by Nikki McClure appears on Keep Washington Evergreen, a record of testimony asking lawmakers to revise HB 1895, scheduled for vote on February 1, 2022, to provide significantly more protection for carbon-sequestering old-growth trees and the removal of undue language influenced by a thriving timber industry.

Among those testifying were the Chair for the State Forests Committee for Sierra Club's Washington chapter, Director of the Washington Forest Law Center, representatives from 350 Seattle, a grassroots climate advocacy organization, the Issue Chair on Forests for the League of Women's Voters in Washington, tree farmers, residents of Whatcom, Mason, Thurston and Clallam Counties, professional conservationists and climate justice

activists. All sounded the alarm to stop the sale of the state's last old growth forest.

To view a pdf of Keep Washington Evergreen, go to httpl://tinyurl. com/2p8a7dj2. Learn more at https://www.facebook.com/LegacyForestProject.





~ CRITICAL FEEDBACK ~

"Keep Washington Evergreen"

Then this happened

Not soon enough. The Office of Independent Investigation was created by the Legislature in 2021 because "When police investigate other police, far too often families and communities are left with significant questions about the incident and doubt about the impartiality of the investigation." Unfortunately, the OII is not ready yet. So officers from Olympia, Tumwater, Yelm—and Lacey—will be the ones to determine whether the January 20 fatal shooting of a 30-year old man by a Lacey officer-was justified... Does anyone doubt what the outcome will be?

Just in time. On MLK Day, January 18 last year, hundreds of people lined the sides of Olympia's 4th Avenue Bridge with signs calling for "a peaceful transition" and to "respect the vote." This MLK Day

we're seeing just how meaningful that demand was, as the Special Committee for Jan. 6 uncovers the coordinated effort to derail the transition—and ongoing efforts to deter the vote. Another bridge action needed?

Not at all. Instead of a public hearing as promised, County Commissioners are meeting behind closed doors to discuss unspecified "procedural and substantive concerns" about a petition submitted by Citizens for a Clean Black lake. The petition raises the question of dissolving the Black Lake Flood Control District-and the District's attorney Heather Burgess seems to have succeeded in focusing the Commissioner on those concerns instead of the substance of the citizen petition. See story in September 2021 WIP.

nesses can continue into perpetuity, serving the community while maintaining economic vitality. The workers gain job security, personal development, and a voice in their workplace. The selling owner receives a fair market price for their business and peace of mind as they transition to a new chapter in their

Worker co-ops are businesses owned by the employees and based on one-member one-vote democratic governance, while multi-stakeholder co-ops are businesses owned by a group of stakeholders (often consumers and workers) with voting power distributed between the stakeholder groups.

Over the last decade, Olympia has seen a wave of worker co-ops and joins New York, San Francisco, Oakland, and Philadelphia as one of a handful of cities in the US with more than a dozen worker owned and operated businesses. Beloved

and long-term businesses in the downtown such as New Moon Café (converted in 2013), Dumpster Values, Burial Grounds, and Orca Books converted to cooperative ownership in the last five years. John McNamara, coordinator of the academy for NWCDC notes, "These businesses not only keep local jobs thriving in Olympia, they also maintain part of Olympia's unique vibe and character in the downtown."

NWCDC will provide weekly trainings on the conversion process as well as one-on-one support for up to five selected Olympia businesses. Those businesses will continue to receive support through the conversion of the business to a cooperative.

For more information on The Coop Academy, visit www.nwcdc.coop/ oly2022 or call John McNamara at 360.915.7204.

YOU WRITE TO WIP

Commissioners should hold the reins at the Port of Olympia

Dear WIP,

The Port of Olympia investigation of Port Commissioner Amy Evans' possible conflicts of interest has to be done by an outside group. The Port's staff and their attorney answer to Port Director Sam Gibboney who has shown herself to be biased in this issue. We recommend that new Chair Bob Iyall select an independent investigator.

We also have issues with new rules that Gibboney has proposed for public participation at Port meetings. There would be less opportunity for public comment at meetings and no response from Commissioners. Commissioners would have only two days' notice instead of four to prepare for agenda items. We are also concerned that the "parliamentarian" hired by Gibboney is not independent and a new one should be hired directly by the Commissioners.

L. Riner



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Where are the "Housers"?

Dan Leahy

"We call ourselves Housers," said a former staffer of the Housing Authority of Thurston County. I had never heard the term before but now I had a word for the opposite of "Developers."

Housers build housing for people in need of homes and a place to live at a price that reflects the reality of their wages or income. Developers turn over land for profit. The City favors developers. If Olympia is to exit the housing crisis, its Council and staff need to prioritize the Housers. At every Site Review Committee meeting, every Design Review Board hearing or Planning Commission discussion, someone should be saying "Let's hear from the Housers."

In Thurston County, one place to find Housers is the Housing Authority of Thurston County. The Authority provides permanent low-income housing in two main ways. It builds or buys housing units and rents them at below market rates, and it partners with non-profit organizations to provide rent subsidies.

The Authority is a public corporation authorized by the State Legislature and chartered by the Thurston County Commissioners in 1971. It became operational in the early-1980s. The Authority has a staff of twenty, an annual budget of \$22 million and is governed by a six-person Board. Five are appointed by Thurston County Commissioners; the sixth is appointed by the other five and by law is a person receiving rental assistance from the Housing Authority.

The Authority owns sixteen different housing complexes ranging from townhouses to large apartment complexes for a current total 553 units. A one-bedroom unit rents for \$725 to \$910 and a two-bedroom for \$800 to \$1200. Although chartered by the Thurston County Commission, the Authority

about 25% of those individuals in need of a voucher can obtain one.

The Authority also designates about 20% of these Housing Choice Vouchers for Project-Based Vouchers. These vouchers are tied

[The Authority] builds or buys housing units and rents them at below market rates and it partners with non-profit organizations to provide rent subsidies.

receives no annual financial allocation from the County and, unlike the Port, can't assess property taxpayers to subsidize its operations.

Instead, the Authority must compete with dozens of other operations for state and federal grants. It can, however, rely on its assets and rental income to secure financing from local banks to build or purchase more housing. It also has the option of floating tax-exempt revenue bonds for these same purposes.

The second way the Authority provides below-market-rate housing is through its voucher program. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants a certain number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) to the Authority. At the same time, HUD fixes the amount of funds that can be spent on these vouchers. As rents continue to rise, they absorb more of the money allocated for these vouchers thus making fewer available.

Additionally, none of these vouchers is enough to cover the rent of a newly built market-rate apartment. The Authority, via an electronic lottery, provides these vouchers to individuals for use in obtaining housing. It is estimated that only

to specific units and subsidize the operations of non-profit organizations that provide housing to people who can't afford to pay market rates. In total, the Authority provides Project Based Vouchers to twelve apartment complexes serving people with annual incomes of \$27,000 or less.

For example, the Authority uses project-based vouchers to provide a \$38,000/month subsidy to the Unity Commons' sixty-two unit apartment complex. Seattle-based Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) built this complex on Martin Way. Other examples of the Authority's collaboration with the LIHI are the downtown Fleetwood apartments on 7thAvenue, and the Billy Frank Jr. apartments on State Avenue.

The Authority has these mechanisms that can allow it to purchase or build housing. Such housing will prevent homelessness and contribute to solving our local and regional housing crisis, but the Authority needs to be called upon or included in regional and local planning. For example, in the City of Olympia's Housing Action Plan of June 2021, the Authority is not

even mentioned. Instead the City continues to focus on incentivizing market-rate housing.

Many people remember the debacle of the Olympia City Council gifting a prime piece of downtown real estate to their favored developer. They gave the burnt-out Griswold building on 4th avenue to millionaire developer Walker John for \$50,000, even though the City paid \$300,000 for it. They also promised to pay the demolition costs and give John a property tax exemption. If this building had been gifted to Housers, they would have built housing permanently available for residents who can't afford the market-rate apartments that litter downtown.

The City of Olympia is embarking on a major planning effort on the Westside of Olympia, the 272 acre Capital Mall Triangle subarea. It received a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Commerce. It appears that the City is once again creating an "investor zone" rather than a "houser zone." In the application, Mayor Selby stated she wants to "set the table for highdensity, mixed use housing" and expand the City's use of "multifamily (property) tax exemptions." In the City's response to the question of "tools to promote low-income housing in the area?" There is no mention of working with the one public entity charged with creating such housing: the Housing Authority of Thurston County.

It's clear what the Housing Authority can do working on its own and in collaboration with the Low Income Housing Institute and other non-profits. The City and the County need to prioritize the Authority's mission if housing that is affordable to low-income residents is their actual goal.

Dan Leahy lives on Olympia's Westside.

YWCA honors local leaders with Womxn of Achievement celebration

For 27 years, YWCA Olympia has recognized community members leading change at the intersection of racial and gender justice. On February 19, Womxn of Achievement recognizes Elizabeth Satiacum and Ti'eri Lino.

Elizabeth Satiacum is the Native American Coordinator at Puget Sound Education Service District (PSESD), where she works with over 350 + Indigenous youth and their families. PSESD is one of nine regional educational agencies serving school districts, tribal compact schools, and state approved charter and private schools in Washington. For years, Elizabeth co-hosted the groundbreaking radio show, Tribal Talk, on KLAY 1180 AM with Robert Satiacum, a Puyallup Elder. Elizabeth continues to foster dignity through recognition of Indigenous experiences, especially for Native Youth, educating students and their families about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement, Tribal Canoe Journeys, the Line3 protest, Native American Heritage Month and Indigenous People's Day.

As Program Director for Homeless Services for Interfaith Works, Ti'eri Lino works on behalf of our community's most vulnerable and marginalized neighbors, helping them find safety, shelter and acceptance. Ti'eri's work addresses systemic inequalities and she is currently helping revise Thurston County's assessment tool for unhoused adults. Ti'eri is committed to creat-



ing and maintaining community spaces are supportive to BIPOC staff, shelter guests and clients.

The Womxn of Achievement ceremony will be hosted by Gilda Sheppard, an award-winning filmmaker and recipient of numerous awards for her work. She is the Executive Producer, Director and Writer for her nationally acclaimed feature documentary Since I Been Down. For over a decade Sheppard has taught sociology classes in women's and men's prisons in Washington State, has been a sponsor for the Black Prisoner's Caucus, and is co-founder and faculty at Freedom Education for Puget Sound, an organization offering college credited courses at Washington Correctional Center for Women. Sheppard is a sociology, cultural and media studies faculty at The Evergreen State College's Tacoma Campus.

YWCA Olympia is focused on the mission of eliminating racism and sexism to advance the social, political, and economic status of all womxn and girls, while also seeking to engage people of all races and genders in their stated vision: All People are valued, live free from oppression and thrive in a just society.

Tickets for Womxn of Achievement can be purchased at www.tinyurl. com/woa2022. All proceeds will benefit YWCA Olympia.

Contact Marisa Caughlan, Racial Justice Events Program Manager at mcaughlan@ywcaofolympia.org for more information.

Grifters get the money—grandma gets the boot

Serial rent increases drive people out of their homes

Shah, Bang Mei

On Halloween, 2021, six grandmas and one grandpa in a 16-unit apartment community received a notice from their new property management company. It said "120-day renovation notice" and referenced an upcoming rent increase.

The notice was quite a shock, because over this last year, any time maintenance or supervisors for the company showed up, they would go on about how they "loved" the Grandma corner—How they appreciated the way the Grandmas kept the homes in good condition and planted flowers.

The notice encouraged residents to move to one of the company's newly renovated units. The residents had previously paid \$650. Then their monthly rent was raised to \$850, and then to \$1050—with encouragement to move into the renovated units for \$1675.

Grifters—those whose deceptive behavior means they gain, you lose

The Grandmas feel conned. The previous owner said he was "sick to his stomach" that he had sold to the current property owner. It is now managed by InCity Properties based in Seattle. He had no idea that they would simply start charging more for the same apartments, or worse yet, displace the residents.

Some of the residents of the apartment complex were elderly and/ or disabled. They had planned on living out their retirement years as neighbors in that community. Within a four-month period of time, their rent had increased by more than \$450. They feel unwelcome and know they have a limited amount of time to find a new home in a market where rents are high and continually rising.

According to Washington Landlord/ Tenant law, any landlord embarking on renovations can give tenants notice. The property management company could just have told the residents to move out instead of increasing their rent.

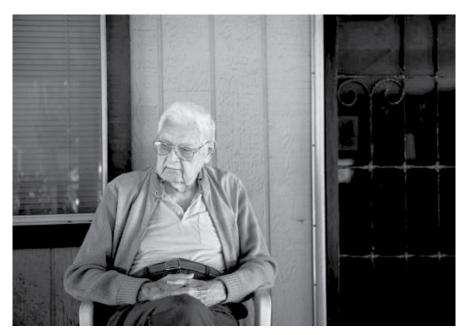
Just Cause law extends moveout time when landlords terminate a rental

The day the moratorium ended (October 2021), many tenants in Washington State were given 60-day rent increase notices. Rent hikes ranged from \$300 per month to double or triple the rent, as was seen in Spokane. While the Omicron variant is surging, many with fixed incomes face the stressful and heartbreaking task of finding a new home.

There is a ray of light coming from the efforts of the Tenants Union in Washington State. The group has little money, but a strong sense of community. The union has worked for years to get protections for tenants in Washington State. One of their victories is the "Just Cause" law that tripled the amount of time tenants facing a rent hike now have to move—60 days instead of 20.

It has been a grueling year from the pandemic and the Tenants' Union work is far from done. Many low-income and retired people will need to come up with hundreds of dollars more in rent each month—or move. Since there are no rent control laws in Washington

at \$1076 and a two-bedroom at \$1273. Section 8 voucher holders are not allowed to rent units above these amounts.



State, many wonder how they will make ends meet, and whether they can find a place to live at all.

Rent protection laws like Seattle's needed in Olympia

As of this writing, the current market rents posted on apartmenthomeliving.com show the average price for a one-bedroom rental in Thurston is \$1764, and \$2038 for two bedrooms. The average mortgage payment across the nation is \$1556. In other words, with a down payment, what people pay in rent in Thurston County could buy them a home.

These prices are nowhere near the low estimates from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which places the average rent for a one-bedroom

Policies to ensure that working families can afford housing

It is clear that Washington State needs rent protection laws. Seattle shows the way, passing two important rent protection bills in September of 2021. The first requires landlords to give 180 days' (six months) notice for a rent raise.

The second bill protects tenants faced with a rent increase of 10% or more. If they earn 80% or less of the area median income, they are eligible to receive a relocation assistance payment from their landlord. This payment is equivalent to three months of their current rent, an amount intended to help cover high "move-in" costs—a security deposit plus first and last months' rent, on their new home.

Other states have taken steps to protect their tenants. Oregon passed rent control legislation in 2019. California followed suit on January 1, 2020. California learned from the rapid rent hikes in Oregon, so they used the prices from March of the previous year as a baseline.

None of the housing built in 2021 is affordable to 47% of Olympia residents

Not only should there be rent safety legislation, there should be more investment in low-income housing. Millions of dollars of federal funds from the American Rescue Plan have been given to cities and counties. As noted in the October issue of WIP, there is little transparency or oversight to show how Thurston County's \$82 million is being used. Another WIP story from the same issue points out that no new low-income housing has been built using tax-credit financing intended for that purpose.

Shah, Bang Mei lives in Olympia and is currently looking for a safe, affordable place to live.

Sources: Average House Payment: www.businessinsider.com/personal-finance/average-mortgage-payment?op = 1

Average rent in Thurston County https://www.apartmenthomeliving.com/thurston-county-wa

HUD fair market values: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html

Seattle renter protections: www. theurbanist.org/2021/09/28/new-seattle-legislation-advances-renter-protections-against-economic-eviction/

Oregon and California rent protection: https://bungalow.com/articles/oregons-rent-control-law-explained

Tenants Union of Washington State: https://tenantsunion.org/

Works in Progress: https://olywip. org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ WIP-novdec-21-web.pdf

Supporting students in Olympia's Nicaraguan sister community

Volunteers sought for potting parties and plant sale

For 11 years, Thurston Santo Tomás Sister Community Association volunteers have donated time and energy to fundraisers that support young people in Olympia's sister community in Nicaragua, who are pursuing education in the wake of decades of political repression, violent militarism and economic upheaval.

Their annual plant sale, to be held April 28–May 1, will help students pay for costs associated with tuition and graduation. Scholars will receive \$50 per month for a total of \$600 annually for the five years of their undergraduate programs. TSTSCA's 2021 sale was so successful that they've expanded their goal to assist a total of 23 recipients.

Last year over 60 volunteers contributed to the effort by digging and repotting native and non-native flowering plants, tomato and vegetable starts, annuals, grasses, and hybrid and heirloom bearded irises from their own yards, helping to publicize the community event, or boxing orders. Buyers

will view photos of the plants and make their purchases online. Orders will be ready for pick up in west Olympia that same weekend.



TSTSCA says its volunteer base, as well as donors and buyers who

"round up" their purchase prices, are largely responsible for their ability to help Nicaraguan students. This year the Yip Harburg Lyrics Foundation, which funds projects aimed at eliminating economic and social descrimination and social injustice, will join TSTSCA's annual endeavor.

Potting parties will begin outside in mid-February at physically-distanced work tables and lots of plants are needed to make the sale a success. New volunteers are welcome for supplying plants, packaging them for sale, and organizational assistance. For more information, email tstsca@gmail. com or text (360) 259-2974.

To learn more about the circumstances contributing to their need, as well as stories and letters from individual students that describe how financial support has benefited them, visit https://oly-wa.us/tstsca. Donations can also be made by mail to TSTSCA, PO Box 561 Olympia WA 98507.

Moving past rhetorical "equity"

Funding and decision-making power are needed to address structural inequality for BIPOC farmers

Mercy Kariuke McGee

Not surprisingly, statements pledging a new commitment to "equity," and acknowledging the effects of racial discrimination began to appear in many public documents after the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in the summer of 2020.

I'm familiar with these statements, especially in the realm of agriculture. I co-founded the Haki Farmers Collective in 2020. Haki is distinct not only because we are beginning farmers, but because we are led by African-American women with a mission to serve marginalized community members.

The persistent effects of racial discrimination

We quickly learned that to farm successfully in Thurston County, we needed wholehearted participation from the community and access to land and capital. We got the former; we're still working on access to land and capital.

In a recent op-ed piece promoting a new \$2 million program to improve access to land and preserve farms into the future, Councilmember Dani Madrone made such an acknowledgement, saying that the program would prioritize historically underserved farmers: "those who experience racial discrimination face the greatest barriers, including decades of biased lending practices at the US Department of Agriculture."

Buy-protect-sell to increase opportunities for all farmers

Madrone was referring to the Farmland Protection and Land Access (FPLA) program. This program, if funded, could keep agricultural land in farmers' hands by allowing conservation organizations to acquire farmland directly. The organization would establish a conservation easement and then offer the land to a farmer at a price reflecting its constrained use.

The State Conservation Commission's request for funding the FPLA includes repeated references to equity impacts" that will satisfy "one of the governor's priorities." Specifically, this would be to increase opportunities for farmers who are part of "underrepresented communities" including "young, beginning, female and BIPOC farmers" to get land to farm.



Experience tells a different story

Unfortunately, experiences I've had as a black female farmer lead me to believe these proposals will do little to support black, indigenous and other farmers of color. Benefits to farmers of color ("underrepresented communities") are given special prominence in arguments for programs, but no priority in their operation and funding.

Agricultural relief programs are not designed to attract small-scale black and brown farmers. They are less inclusive and lack an equity lens in design and implementation. Although they claim to be designed for farmers of color, there are no provisions for outreach.

edgement of historical discrimination in an organization's statement didn't lead to matching action. When a donor reached out to Haki Farms to preserve specific farm-

Benefits to farmers of color ("underrepresented communities") are given prominence in arguments for programs, but no priority in operation and funding.

Application materials include stringent rules and requirements that disqualify or discourage many deserving applicants. Language is a barrier when English is not a farmer's first language. Where the farmer has few existing resources, they may give up, defeated by a long qualification process.

land, we recommended a model and a process that would make it possible for us to steward the land and increase ownership by black and brown people.

Initial conversations were supportive. However, over the course of discussions, ideas from Haki's model were rerouted to serve a purpose identified by the City of



In 1920 black farmers controlled 14% of US farmland. Today they control 1%.

In the case of the FPLA, there is not an actual priority for black and brown farmers. Instead, there is this bureaucratically convoluted provision:

"To advance equity and reduce disparities, the degree to which the proposed project will provide access to a Farmer or Rancher eligible and planning to pursue the beginning farmer or rancher loan program or a historically underserved farmer/rancher as defined by USDA will be included in the project selection criteria."

A rare chance to be in on the conversation

In 2021 Haki Farmers Collective was part of a Washington State University study formed to identify food supply chain disruptions and disproportionate negative impacts on BIPOC communities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. *

Our involvement was by accident. We happened to be in the right place when everything was starting, otherwise none of my counterparts would have even known that such an opportunity existed, let alone been able to be in the conversation. As it was, we were able to recommend steps that can help assure food security for Washingtonians based on data that reflects the contribution and gaps related to BIPOC farmers.

Other agendas take precedence

Haki Farms experienced another instance where detailed acknowlOlympia. Haki was shut out of a decision on the eventual proposal, which involved a relatively shortterm (20-25 years) lease to an intermediary who would lease to Haki. At the end of the lease term, the City would be free to take the land for any other use.

The arrangement didn't remove development rights from the property. There was no long-term agricultural land preservation benefit—let alone a benefit for black and brown farm ownership.

digm and enable black and brown farmers to steward the land, then decision-making has to be inclusive and not be determined by the agendas of those who possess

If the goal is to shift the para-



power and have resources and capacity already in place.

The wins of the fathers

Another goal of programs to address the loss of farmland and farmers is to attract younger farmers. The idea that programs should help children acquire the farms of their parents is implicit in the FPLA. The older generation passes land to their children. This ignores the fact that racism, exclusion and displacement mean that black families have no land to pass down to their children. Assisting children to acquire their parents' land will not put land in the hands of black and brown members of the younger generations.

Will FPLA money stop the turnover of land to developers?

I have had the opportunity to sit on the Thurston County Agricultural Advisory Board for the last couple of months. As we discuss zoning and permitting issues, I've observed that the older generation of landowners shows no intention of passing land to the younger generation. They are rather quick to invite the idea of massive developments that create fast access to capital and removes the burden of land maintenance. The fact is, no equity considerations are in place nor are measures to ensure that the decision-makers who will consider zoning will take conservation into consideration first.

"Equity" requires black and brown people in decisionmaking roles

We must have planning policies and preservation goals that acknowledge the history of the land, ideally including mechanisms and funding for that land to be regranted back to the native owners-or reassigned to black and brown farmers—so that the rhetoric about equity and providing access to land for black and brown people translates into action. That is what is needed to broaden and diversify land ownership, to give BIPOC a start on building the generational wealth that can begin to address radical structural inequity.

If the stated commitments to equity are meant to improve the status of "the underserved," people of color must be at the table in the design, creation, implementation and evaluation process. All agricultural programs currently lack such an equity lens.

Mercy Kariuke McGee is an active farmer and the co-founder of Haki Farm Collective.

* The 63-page report is available on the Haki Farm website at https:// hakifarmers.org/equity-report/.



BOOK REVIEW

Orca: Shared Waters, Shared Home

A Co-Publication with The Seattle Times

by Lynda V. Mapes

Siân Kear

Lynda Mapes' book opens with the heart-breaking story of Tahlequah, a member of the J pod who in 2018 touched the hearts of millions of readers as she carried her dead calf, who lived for only 30 minutes, for 17 days and over 1000 miles. Sharing in Tahlequah's grief, the world was asking why. Why was her newborn calf unable to survive?

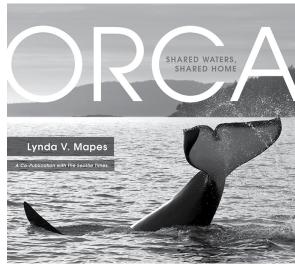
In exploring the answer to this question, Mapes expertly blends fact and science with stories of her time spent with scientific researchers and Northwest Native tribal members who are all seeking solutions to the myriad problems compromising the survival of orcas. Shared Waters, Shared Home builds upon an award-winning Seattle Times series, "Hostile Waters: Orcas in Peril" which won top honors in 2019 from the national Online News Association, as well as the National Headliner Award.

Southern resident orcas inhabit the Salish Sea during summer and the J pod is the most frequent visitor to Puget Sound. Despite being listed as an endangered species since 2005, orca populations continue to decline. At the end of 2020, the southern resident orca population totalled just 74 individuals—24 fewer than in 1995.

The book's narrative is spread across seven short chapters that flow together seamlessly.

Chapter 2 'Captives' details the horrors of the 1960s and '70s when orcas were hunted and captured to be kept as entertainment for the public. Pods were herded using firecrackers, corralled into shallow waters, encircled with nets, and the youngsters deliberately separated

from their parents. Terry Newby recalls how those that were spared did not flee, but stayed close by, calling to their captive relatives. It hit me. Hard.



The late Tsi'li'wx Bill James, the Lummi hereditary chief, draws parallels between the persecution of orcas and the persecution of the Lummi people. In reference to Lolita, the last orca captured in Puget Sound still living in captivity, Tsi'li'wx Bill James' description will stay with me. Such pain inflicted on orca and native communities alike:

We understand what happened to her... We can relate to her captivity because of the things that happened to our people. Our young people were taken away from us, just as hers were taken away. That's how I relate to her, with her captivity, and the government schools taking away our children, and the trauma, taking away our history, our language, our culture, the breaking up of our families. I can feel her heart.

Historic captures were ended (almost) with passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972, and the following chapters explore further threats: hunger due to declining Chinook salmon numbers; noise from shipping, cruise liners and whale watching tour boats; climate change; altered landscapes; degraded habitats; and the release of toxic pollutants from human activity.

Despite the desperate sadness as the many threats to orca are laid bare, the sadness is punctuated by stories of hope and positivity. Most notably, the fact that the northern resident orca population continues to thrive and grow. Mapes dedicates the penultimate chapter to exploring why and how the northern residents are faring better. What can be learned from them and how can we apply this learning to secure a better future for our southern residents?

The main theme running through the book is interconnectivity—between orca, salmon, and humans, but also beyond these individual species to their ecosystem, habitat, and wider environment. As the Coast Salish saying goes; "No little fish, no big fish, no blackfish." We cannot save the orca without also saving Chinook salmon, repairing their damaged ecosystem and their degraded habitats, and without improving the environmental quality of our region. In doing so we also protect and preserve native communities who rely upon them and who have been seeking to protect them for generations.

Although humans are the main threat to our orcas, this also means that we hold the power to mitigate, remove, and resolve those threats. We can make a difference, we can enact change, and we must better support the survival of our southern residents.

The book ends as it begins, with Tahlequah, though this time it offers hope for the future and a plea for her new calf to live.

Siân Kear is a newcomer to the Pacific Northwest. She 'happy danced,' upon seeing transient orcas from the Steilacoom pier in May 2021. She hopes to one day catch sight of our southern residents—happy, thriving, and growing in number!

New coalition will improve citizen access to local government processes

Charlotte Persons

What often makes a real difference in the lives of Thurston County residents are decisions about policies and projects made by the city councils, the Port of Olympia, and the county Board of Commissioners. To influence those decisions, residents are directed to contact their local appointed and elected officials directly or during public meetings.

But how can the public learn the pros and cons of local issues, and the date by which elected officials will make decisions concerning those issues? Sometimes print or online newspapers publish the information, but some jurisdictions follow procedures that create obstacles to transparency, accountability, and accessibility. When nonprofits or individuals point out these obstacles and suggest solutions, they may not be taken seriously. It often falls to "watchdogs"—individuals or organizations—to stay abreast of dates and times and to alert the citizenry when discussion and voting on important issues will

Watchdog organizations are generally non-profit organizations specializing in one area of advocacy—environment, housing, health care, etc. They scan government records, meeting notices and agendas to discover when issues will surface. They must attend multiple meetings because published agendas often do not adequately describe what will take place and the recordings and minutes of those meetings

are sometimes posted weeks later.

Monitoring and attending these meetings in local jurisdictions—cities, port, and county—is time-consuming. Nonprofit organizations are often short-staffed or run entirely by volunteers, and they have many duties in addition to monitoring government meetings. Sometimes they discover they have been duplicating each other's work, or worse, that important issues have slipped by unnoticed until it is too late to alert people.

The Local Good Governance Coalition was formed in large part to address these problems. One of the coalition's first tasks is to create a system for coalition members to monitor local governmental meetings and to share information inside the coalition about environmental and affordable housing issues as they arise. The hope is to publish a webpage with that information when that system is working smoothly.

People from ten local non-profits helped develop the LGGC, and after months of work, have come up with a democratic and non-hierarchical structure for the coalition, a mission statement, and operating principles. The first formal meeting of LGGC on March 9 will approve the initial member groups and individuals (associate members) who have signed the membership pledge.

Unlike many other coalitions that simply share information or focus on a time-limited project, the Local Good Governance Coalition plans to

take action on selected issues and its work will be on-going. Their mission includes empowering community participation in local governments and connecting people and non-profits who promote environmental sustainability and affordable housing. By combining efforts, coalition members hope to be more efficient and to have a stronger voice.

The other currently agreed-upon action is to identify and overcome obstacles to residents' access to local governments. The Coalition and other nonprofits have initiated discussions with some jurisdictions about recreating for participants, as much as possible, the experience of face-to-face public hearings and meetings when such events use virtual formats like Zoom.

The Local Good Governance Coalition may take on other actions, such as a Rights of Nature campaign for a local geographical feature or waterway, when membership grows.

To contribute to this effort as an associate member or to inquire about your group joining LGGC, contact olywip@gmail.com with LGGC in the subject line.

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

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Sometimes the data doesn't tell the whole story

We need a worker-led social movement now

Peter Bohmer

Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is growing rapidly and the unemployment rate is low, yet there's been a mass resignation by workers, an increased number of strikes, inflation is high and we are all experiencing greater stress and anxiety about the future. What's going on?

If we evaluate the economy by the two most common measures, the unemployment rate and GDP growth, the economy is doing well over the second half of 2020 and 2021

As of December 2021, the unemployment rate is 3.9%. This is one of the lowest rates over the past seventy-five years. There has been steady growth in employment over the last year, but there are still almost four million fewer people working than before the pandemic.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the production of goods and services. After falling very rapidly from February to June 2020, GDP has been growing again. Since the third quarter of 2020 it has been growing at 5% per year, twice its historic trend. Real output has grown primarily in goods, while services only reached their prepandemic level in December 2021.

Why have employment and GDP grown significantly?

A major factor has been large increases in government income support. The child credit of \$250 to \$300 a month helped a great deal. Landlords receive income, which helped keep tenants from being evicted. There were increases in unemployment benefits of \$300 to \$600 a month and an extension of eligibility. The Paycheck Protection Program put funds in the hands of businesses and three stimulus checks totaling \$3200 for adults and \$2600 for young people put dollars directly into the hands of individuals. There was also federal aid to state and local governments and the Federal Reserve Bank lowered interest rates and substantially increased the money supply.

These Keynesian expansionary fiscal and monetary policies pursued by the Trump and Biden administrations added up to five trillion dollars between March 2020 and December 2021. Households were able to maintain their standard of living. Demand for goods grew for cars, food, consumer durables like electronics, for gym equipment and food consumed at home, as did savings. However, these government programs have largely come to an end

Is the economy really thriving? In most polls, around two-thirds of US residents say the economy is doing poorly and they expect it to get worse in 2022. A majority, however, say their financial situation is good and similar to just before the pandemic.

What's really going on

The economy is much more than GDP or the unemployment rate. It's people's lives, their access to goods including housing, the quality of one's work, and the quality and affordability of services like day care and health care.

Working conditions. Working conditions for the majority of workers have worsened. Whether you work

in retail or hospitality, a warehouse or a slaughterhouse, drive a bus or are on staff at a health care facility, the danger of catching Corona virus is real. With the Omicron variant, the risk grows. There is increased demand for workers to take on extra hours as colleagues

mizing, this increase in demand allows corporations to raise prices and sell more goods. With the various stimulus packages, families can still maintain or even increase their demand for goods. This is where inflation has been concentrated

needed more than ever is social movement unionism, where unions provide leadership and organizational strength to other movements

get sick or leave to take care of their kids. In many situations, there just aren't enough workers. Jobs go unfilled because employers refuse to improve wages and working conditions enough to attract workers.

The "Great Resignation." All this and more have led to the "Great Resignation." As many as 4 million people per month are quitting their jobs—an all-time high attributable to workers taking early retirement, fear of infection, or deciding to live off their pension and savings. The majority are women. There are ten million unfilled jobs. One can view the Great Resignation as a form of successful resistance which has led to increased wages for many openings, but it's not collective action.

On the supply side, neo-liberal capitalism has a just-in-time production system fed by global supply chains. This system was designed to eliminate the need for inventories. Many of the goods we demand are imported, but the supply chain has failed—our ports can't accommodate the increase in imports and there aren't sufficient truckers to move all the unloaded goods. The cost of shipping has risen substantially, which contributes to higher prices.

Global pandemic. The on-going pandemic exacerbates this just-in-time system. The surge in the coronavirus means higher prices and more unemployment. There are seven times more Covid cases today than in November 2021.



Inflation. Then there is inflation. Inflation is a general increase in prices. Prices rose 7% on the average in the US in 2021, the highest percentage increase since 1982. Gasoline was up 58%, meat 13%, food 6.5%; utilities and used cars rose by a third; housing prices are rising even more rapidly than rent.

One way of thinking about inflation is analyzing it in relation to wages. One's real wage is the change in their wage rate minus the change in prices. If your wages went up by 4% but prices went up 7%, your real wage went down by 3%. This is what happened in 2021. Something else happened in 2021: for the first time in forty years, the wages for lower income workers grew more rapidly than the inflation rate.

Supply and demand. This seven percent inflation rate in 2021 can be explained by looking at the interaction of demand and supply. On the demand side, there has been a shift towards purchases of durable goods. Purchasing of these goods increased over 20% in 2021. Given that firms are profit maxi-

Hospitalizations have more than doubled since November 2021 and deaths are increasing to 2000 or more a day. This means reduced income as more workers are sick or stay home to take care of others. Prices are likely to continue to rise because of increased shortage of goods and workers. We should demand another economic stimulus package, immediately, as the number of coronavirus cases continue at elevated levels. Let us put it on the national agenda!

Our economic situation in the immediate future is alarming

Higher Interest Rates or Price Controls. The Federal Reserve Bank wants to decrease the demand for goods by raising the interest rates so people will save rather than spend. This presumes that wages are the reason prices have risen. But, as we have seen, real wages have not gone up. Corporations are the ones marking up prices. A better solution to

inflation would be price control of goods, as well as rent controls on housing prices.

Biden's "Build Back Better", in whole or parts. There were many positive reforms in the Build Back Better. They include the \$300 a month child credit, affordable day care with well-paid day care workers, free preschool, expansion of Medicare to include hearing, vision and eyesight, lowering the price of prescription drugs, expanded Medicaid, a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants, and significant programs towards reducing fossil fuels and increasing the use of solar and wind energy. It was to be financed by higher taxes on the incomes and wealth of the 1% and by raising corporate taxes. Passage, however, is unlikely. If parts of the Build Back Better proposal can be made into separate bills and passed with 51 votes in the Senate that is probably the best that can be accomplished.

Worker strikes and social movement unionism. Labor organizing and worker strikes at places like Amazon, Uber, Starbucks, John Deere offer a lot of potential, especially in the midst of the Great Resignation. There is increased public support for unions but what is needed more than ever is social movement unionism, where unions provide leadership and organizational strength to other movements. Here are some possibilities:

A universal public health care system. The need for a public health care system open to all has never been clearer. Our profit-oriented private health care system has meant a pandemic disaster with needless deaths, dysfunction hospitals and endangered staff.

A universal basic income. No one should have to face death just to get a wage. Creating a universal basic income where one can survive without having to work is a sensible way forward.

A stance in favor of essential

workers. Essential workers are disproportionately immigrants, women, low paid and Black. They are demanding respect for their work, better wages, safer working conditions and their right to organize.

If we are to improve our economy, we must make it work for most US residents. This will take their active participation in broad based social movements for worker control and publicly owned infrastructure providing health care, childcare, public education, public housing and basic income.

Peter Bohmer taught at Evergreen and is a convenor of Economics for Everyone. He thanks Dan Leahy for transcribing this article from a talk he gave at a recent EE forum.





10 www.olywip.org February 2022

The \$800-billion Paycheck **Protection Program (PPP)**

Where did that money go and why did it go there

The Paycheck Protection Program provided \$800 billion for uncollateralized, low interest loans of up to \$10 million to businesses with fewer than 500 employees. These forgivable loans were administered through the private banking system. 94% of eligible firms took advantage of the program.

The PPP was equivalent to the other two major transfer programs enacted in response to the pandemic: \$800 billion in stimulus checks and the \$680 in Unemployment Compensation.*

The PPP funds flowed to three sets of actors: workers who would have been laid off; creditors and suppliers of PPP-receiving businesses and "windfall transfers" to businesses who would have met their financial obligations absent the PPP.

\$510 billion was disbursed in 2020

Up to 77% of 2020 PPP loans went to business owners and shareholders, not to workers' paychecks. Three quarters of PPP benefits went to the top quintile of households by income.



While 23% -34% of the 2020 disbursement supported jobs that would have been lost, 66%-77% of the

money went to owners of business, and corporate shareholders, including creditors and suppliers.

Only \$13.2 billion flowed to households in the bottom fifth of income distribution, while 72% flowed to the top fifth of households by income.

Them that's got, will get

The Congressional Budget Office concluded that the enhanced unemployment and stimulus checks were far more effective at boosting GDP than was the PPP. The authors of this report concur: the PPP was the least effective of the three programs in boosting the macroeconomy.

The PPP preserved only a moderate number of jobs at a high cost per job-year retained and overwhelmingly transferred resources to the highest quintile of households.

The above paragraphs are highlights compiled by Dan Leahy from a January 2022 report by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

*For further analysis of the economy see "We need a worker-led social movement" on page 10.

Commissioner

From page 1

[associated with the transaction between the Port and Panattoni].

As a real estate agent or broker (who is also an attorney with ethical obligations) in the employ of Kidder Mathews, and as a port commissioner, Evans is not permitted to "be beneficially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract which may be made by, through or under the supervision of such officer, in whole or in part, or which may be made for the benefit of his or her office, or accept, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward in connection with such contract from any other person beneficially interested therein."

In some circumstances a port district may let a commissioner keep the office and act as a commissioner when there is only a "remote" interest in conflict with a commissioner's duties. ...

The Port Commission has the responsibility to determine remoteness or the lack of remoteness, and thus also has the obligation to investigate and evaluate prior to reaching a conclusion on remoteness. A failure by the sitting Commissioners to investigate and evaluate fully the circumstances pertaining to a conclusion on remoteness would be both malfeasance and nonfeasance.





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One indication of remoteness is compensation by fixed wage or salary. Agents and brokers traditionally are compensated through commissions. In the event Kidder Mathews now or in the future should switch Evans's compensation (from commission to fixed wage, salary, bonus, or other compensation) it would be reasonable to conclude that it is the duty of the Commission to determine if the switch is for the pur-



pose of evasion of the conflict-of-interest prohibitions of law, and it would be reasonable to place the burden on Evans to demonstrate that such a switch was not done to evade applicable prohibitions. ...

If Kidder Mathews has an interest in present or future leases-including modifications or renegotiations during the 30-year length of the lease between the Port of Olympia and Panattoni-then Evans has an interest based on her relationship to Kidder Mathews.

Violations of chapter 42.23 RCW [Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers...] can have substantial consequences for the violator and for the Port [including voidance of contracts made, and

forfeiture of office for the person with the conflict.] ...there is a real risk that the Port (and therefore Thurston County residents), might suffer financially in the event that [Evans'] participation in any contract-not just a lease in which Kidder Matthews has an interest-is determined to be void under RCW 42.23.050 because she is in violation of any part of chapter 42.23 RCW.

In effect, the examination by the Port Commission of the conflict of interest to which Evans has admitted is also a test for the two sitting Commissioners. The sitting Commissioners have a duty to conduct a public investigation of Evans' self-admitted conflict of interest and test her conflict and the duties she will assume as commissioner against all the requirements and prohibitions of chapter 42.30 RCW.

The first issue to be examined and decided by the sitting Commissioners is whether Evans should be permitted to participate in any Port business while her self-admitted conflict of interest might have implications for her ability to serve, and while the validity of contracts made with her participation before the application of chapter 42.23 RCW is determined, especially the application of RCW 42.23.050.

Carla Wulfsberg January 7, 2021

As this issue was going to press, Works in Progress learned commissioners at the Port of Olympia voted 2-0 (Amy Evans excused herself from voting) to hire an independent investigator to determine whether a conflict of interest exists and if so, what steps should be taken to rectify the conflict both for the immediate issue of the Panattoni deal and Evans' ongoing dual positions as a Kidder-Matthews broker and Port of Olympia commissioner.

Where to find Works in Progress

In addition to many locations in downtown and West Olympia, WIP can also be found at these participating businesses.

Lacey

Lacey Transit Center (red box) Lacey Timberland Library **Lacey Fred Meyers** Yokio's Teriyaki **Albertsons** Spin City Laundry Kaiser Permanente Verts Chiropractic

Tumwater

Eight Arms Bakery Ramirez Mexican Store and Restaurant Short Stop Market **Tumwater Timberline Regional** Timberland Library

Shelton

Shelton Post Office (green box) **Shelton Timberland Library**

Know of other places that WIP should be available? Want to inquire about joining our Distribution Team? Write olywip@gmail.com with DISTRIBUTION in the subject line.

Legacy From page 1

old-growth big-leaf maple and cottonwoods.

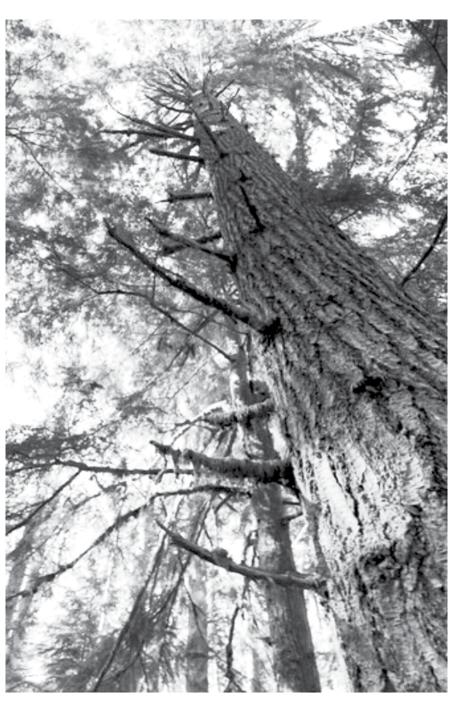
More than 450 people signed a petition to stop the sale. As part of the campaign, on the morning of the scheduled auction, upwards of 50 people gathered for a spontaneous meeting in front of the Natural Resources Building on the Capitol Campus. In response to speakers outlining the importance of stopping logging of legacy forests on public land, there were shouts of. "DNR has gone too far," and chants of "Cancel Crush, Cancel Crush."

Although DNR that morning sold "Crush" to the highest bidder (Cascadia Hardwoods LLC, for \$2.6 million), advocates take heart from growing public awareness of the value of preserving legacy forests.

Multiple news outlets featured well-researched stories on the topic in December 2021. In the coming weeks, a Supreme Court decision should help clarify the nature of the "trust mandate" that DNR argues requires them to place profit from timber sales over any other consideration.

An outpouring of public comment at recent monthly Board of Natural Resources meetings caught the attention of Board members. They have started to ask serious questions of DNR staff about the agency's older forest policy.

Similar coordination of voices speaking on behalf of legacy forests ensured that recent legislative hearings on Hilary Franz's "Keep Washington Evergreen" initiative did not reflect business-as-usual. One commentator called the proposed legislation "a radical underachiever bill that borders on greenwashing." Another introduced a robust amendment that would ensure that the bill includes a core commitment to legacy forests The Center for Responsible Forestry has appealed six recent timber sales and those cases are slowly wending their way through county courts. The Legacy Forest Project continues to organize community hikes in at-risk forests in the Olympia region. As one organizer put it, "2021 was a remarkable year for legacy forests in our region and 2022 is poised to be extraordinary as well."



Walk through this forest, and you will find that it contains multiple canopy layers, composed of a wide variety of trees of different sizes. Gaps in the overstory canopy allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, creating a complex mosaic of different plant communities composed of a diverse array of small trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Large volumes of downed wood, and standing dead trees, provide critical nesting habitat for small mammals, and countless other forms of life, and represent "legacies" of the original old growth forests.

—Excerpt from the petition to cancel the Crush timber sale

Gentrifying the forest

Joseph Enfield

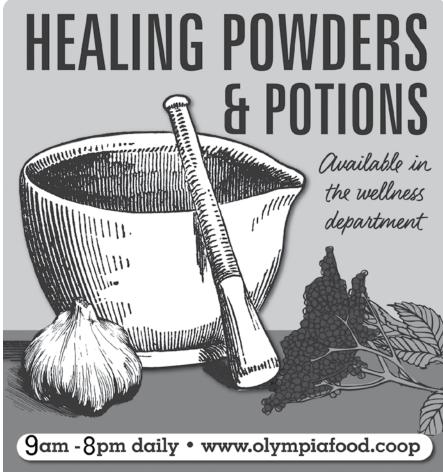
Every few months we read about another parcel of land being sacrificed for housing. The planned destruction of the forest near Evergreen and the ten acres of "non-forested" land at LBA Woods are recent examples and more will follow.

Indigenous people have a different way of seeing the natural world. In my tradition, Ojibwa, we see trees and rocks and insects as alive, and like indigenous people, they belong to this land. When we are young we are told to get to know a single tree in the forest. Later when we are older we are placed blindfolded in the forest and asked to find the tree again, the same one we once knew. This special relationship with the tree is lost today.

The Ojibwa were displaced and slaughtered because they did not fit into the "white" world, much like what is happening with the destruction of the forest. If developers saw the trees as people, would they approach forests in the same way they do now, as clutter or garbage to be cleared to make way for "progress" or as commodities to be cut down and sold?

The gentrification of the forest to make way for standard European monoculture is a daily trauma for native people. This genocide of the living continues so colonizers can have their own safe space. The diversity and uniqueness and aliveness becomes dead and hollow, a boring samehood. From dead spaces come unimaginative minds, a carceral kind of boredom and control.

Joseph Enfield is a member of the Canadian Ojibwa tribe. He attended The Evergreen State College, and has studied with a Tlingit medicine man. He currently works as a water protector near Tacoma.



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Help us bridge the gap in home ownership.

Many of us want to contribute to an improvement in equity as the population and property values in our area surge. Thurston Housing Land Trust works to negotiate below-market rates for home acquisition so lower income buyers can realize home ownership. We are currently working on our first purchase, and need your help to keep the momentum building by joining or renewing your membership in THLT as we work toward eligibility for governmental funding.

Join or renew by mailing \$25 to THLT, PO BOX 303, Olympia, WA 98507 or by visiting www.thurstonhousinglandtrust.org

THLT is democratically governed: one member = one vote. Join or renew membership today!

Thurston Housing Land Trust is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We are a democratic, community-based housing land trust operating in Thurston County, Washington. Our mission is to create affordable housing for low and moderate income people as a means for building equity and pathways to ownership.

Do you or someone you know have property to move into a land trust framework for ownership, or who would consider a cash donation supporting acquisitions? Contact us at info@thurstonhousinglandtrust.org to set up a chat with a board member.

www.thurstonhousinglandtrust.org

LOOKING FORWARD

How dangerous is Trumpism?

Dave Jette

How dangerous is Trumpism? Are people not more rational, long-term, than this, able to reject much of Trumpism once the leader is out of power and not setting the agenda? To get insight into such possibilities, we examine what transpired in the Soviet Union with the rise of Stalin.

I have just read *Let History Judge* by Roy Medvedev (1989, Columbia University Press). This book, translated from Russian, is a weighty tome: 903 pages, three full pounds! In it, the author exhaustively analyzes what occurred in the Soviet Union under the domination of Stalin, commencing in the late 1920s and extending to his death in 1953.

Medvedev demonstrates the falsity of many interpretations of Stalin's rule: that he continued the building of socialism initiated by the Bolsheviks led by Lenin; that his actions were necessitated by objective conditions facing the new revolutionary society; that he was a great war-time leader; that he was surrounded by countless intrigues against socialist society that had to be destroyed by vigorously rooting out "enemies of the people," etc.

Stalin was an incomparably brutal despot whose only interest was in safeguarding and expanding his own control of the Soviet state. He held "show trials" at which his political opponents were forced to plead guilty to imaginary conspiracies after being viciously tortured by his secret police and threatened with retribution against their family members.

By 1938, almost all of the "old Bolshevik" leaders of Lenin's time had been killed. Stalin wiped out communist leaders at all levels, who might oppose him, even those who had served him loyally. He had huge populations, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, transported to slave labor camps in the harsh hinterland, where many of them died.

He wiped out much of the technical and cultural intelligentsia that had loyally served the Soviet state. In the years prior to Germany's invasion of Russia in 1941, he also decimated most of the Army command apparatus (from almost all of the generals, down to the lowest levels). This ensured Germany's initial battlefield success and the loss of millions of troops through encirclement. The account of Stalin's criminal behavior in thwarting the development of socialism in the Soviet Union could go on and on.

Okay, Stalin was a horribly bad guy, one of the very worst in history, but what has that got to do with us and the struggle against Trumpism? What is of particular relevance for us is the effect that Stalin's rule had on the people of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Communist Party was hegemonic, brooking no opposition while claiming to be ruling as the instrument of the working class.

It was supposed to be internally democratic, but in reality it was completely top-down, with lower bodies simply implementing directives from above. Cadres it was obvious were wrongly accused of imaginary crimes would sometimes plead guilty in order not to impeach the prestige of the Party. (Many others, of course, were forced to plead guilty after enduring severe torture.) This was the quintessence of a one-party state!

At the village level, for example, the head functionary (a Party member) would be given a quota of well-off peasants who were enemies of the state and therefore had to be shipped off to slave-labor camps. The functionary readily complied even while realizing that these people had done nothing against the Soviet state.

The head of a mining operation, for example, might be told of a vast conspiracy to sabotage output. He would then accuse his staff members, most of whom were thereupon shot or given ten-year sentences of hard labor. Not long after, the head himself would be arrested and shot. Throughout the country people made wildly false accusations against one another, usually to protect themselves, but often to rise economically by taking the newly vacant position.

Through all this carnage, the great majority of people had little information about what was going on except that provided by the Party. They believed in the existence of conspiracies that were claimed to exist everywhere and continued to support the government. Stalin was genuinely revered by most at the time of his death!

Dave Jette writes this bi-monthly column and has been involved with Works in Progress since its beginnings. His three books are available at www.lulu.com: A Reformulation of Dialectical Materialism, which incorporates feminist theory into a traditional Marxist framework; Beyond Classical Marxism, about socialism and how to bring it about in the US; and Looking Forward, mainly offering the columns that appear here over time.

PERSPECTIVE

The consequences of personal choice should not be mistaken for oppression

Jaina Elaine

In the January WIP "Cassandra" wrote a "perspective" piece objecting to vaccine mandates. She compared restaurants requiring proof of vaccination to Jim Crow and called abortion rights "the mantra of progressive left voters." Here is my response to what I found to be a thoughtless and irresponsible statement.

Last summer the last throng of tourists ripped through the small streets of my town in Michigan. One last final push before summer ended. A woman complained her cherry lemonade "didn't taste like lemonade or cherry, it tastes like nothing-bland". A recipe rarely strays from muscle memory—grenadine and lemonade—I had made ten that morning. She left a dismal tip. My sister and I tested positive for COVID a week later, just shy of three weeks before my planned move to Olympia for school.

Rates of hospitalization are eight to ten times higher in those who are unvaccinated, according to statistics released by the Washington State Department of Health as of January 12, 2022. As COVID-19 continues to mutate and disrupt us we need to take serious consideration of the threat and our response. Not only is your argument careless, but it is void of the statistics which show how the virus ravages our healthcare systems and disrupts every aspect of public life. We don't need defense for selfishness, we need advocacy for competence and informed citizens. Cherry-picked concern is not bountiful harvest.

Vaccinations are not cures. COV-ID-19 is a highly transmissible and aggressive infection with unknown long-term effects. Vaccinations are tools by which we mitigate harm and strengthen immunity. We are in the thicket of learning and understanding, which demands cooperation. Vaccinations are not new—as you mentioned—but proven and practiced science which has in time eradicated disease.

COVID-19 is a public health epidemic—which consequently restricts and disrupts public life. Abortions are not a topic of public health. Not only is Cassandra's comparison to abortion written in coded language — it's wrong. The pro-choice argument is supported by a wide variety of voters, it is not a secular leftist ideal. For example, a very vocal right-wing activist, Tomi Lahren, admitted publicly she was pro-choice. There is no benefit in polarizing debates based on left or right, it's a futile mission.

As a community we need to fully resonate with ideas of the common good. There is tangible danger in constant close contact with strangers during a global pandemic. You minimize the risk to service workers and wrongly characterize racial segregation. You argue for "Reasonable Accommodation" but sacrificing the ability to interact with mass society is a consequence of personal choice amid a global pandemic.

When Cassandra compared Jim Crow and hundreds of years of oppression to denying casual dining for a voluntary few, she was part of a growing and concerning trend which devalues the experiences and tragedies of those who experience actual discrimination.

RFK Jr. made similar remarks, saying we are worse off today than Anne Frank because of vaccine mandates. The US Holocaust Memorial Museum responded, "Making reckless comparisons to the Holocaust, the murder of six million Jews, for a political agenda is outrageous and deeply offensive. Those who carelessly invoke Anne Frank, the star badge, and the Nuremberg Trials exploit history and the consequences of hate."

I am vaccinated and immuno-compromised, and I remain jeopardized by my physical and economic vulnerability, as are many in the service industry without insurance or paid sick leave. We cannot continue to demand customer service workers to subject themselves to the consequences of personal choice. The operation of choice is only equitable if it can move both ways. If Cassandra cannot take a prick for us, we cannot be compelled to serve her.

Jaina Elaine is a student at The Evergreen State College.



Books that shed light on the danger:

Rules for Resistance by David Coles and Melanie Stinnett. The greatest danger is erosion of the system that makes change and resistance possible. These Truths, by Jill Lepore covers the on-going struggle to strengthen democracy and live up to America's professed principles.

Works in Progress is looking for shared office space



Street level is preferred for occupancy of around 10-12 hours a month. Includes three hours one Sunday/month.

Have leads?
Contact us at olywip@gmail.com

Oral history project records challenging times and creates new community connections

Window Seat Media is a community storytelling organization in the South Sound that uses oral history and personal narrative to spark conversation, connection, and social change. When it launched its Third Thirty Oral History Project to honor and amplify elder voices, Window Seat trained community members in oral history interviewing and editing techniques and encouraged them to invite people they admired to participate in an interview. The stories gathered through this project offer a small glimpse into the lives of our community's elders. Although certainly not the whole story or only story of each narrator, the oral histories still offer us an opportunity to ask: "Is there anything we haven't heard that would be helpful to us now?"

In 2019, two stories came together to birth a third. The narrative thread that emerged sparked new community conversation about racism and stimulated creative partnerships to explore new ways to respond to enduring problems.

Lonnie Locke and John Worcester, unknown to each other at the time, were interviewed for the Third Thirty. John was interviewed by his wife Martha; Lonnie by her friend Debe Edden. Lonnie, a woman of African descent, is an Alabama native born in 1946; John, a man of European heritage, was a civil rights worker and native of the West. Lonnie and John met for the first time through the project. After hearing John's story of his experiences as a civil rights worker in Alabama during the 60s, Lonnie was reminded of a collection of memoirs she had received earlier.

The memoirs had been gifted to Lonnie by her friend, Peggy Evans. Peggy had heard Lonnie presenting her story of growing up in Alabama from 1946 to 1964 at a gathering sponsored by a member of the Olympia Baha'i Community. Peggy approached Lonnie after the gathering, handing her a tattered brown envelope containing handwritten accounts from her husband and two other people, which she'd found after his death. Dave Evans, a white Oregon school teacher, had traveled to Selma, Alabama in March 1965, meeting up with an unidentified white man from California. Both had answered the call to assist in the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery. The men lived with African American families during their work and

all three wrote of their experiences during that event. The three were not aware that John Worcester was the memoirs. The project became *Looking Back, Moving Forward,* dedicated to bringing local resi-



Read Lonnie Locke's (right) oral history as recorded by her friend Debe Edden (left) at https://www.windowseatmedia.org/stories/lonnie-locke.

also in Alabama at the same time, moving ahead of the marchers to set up tents and deliver food. dents together to dialogue about racism, its impact on our community, and working in partnership for solutions.

The narrative thread that emerged sparked new community conversation about racism and stimulated creative partnerships to explore new ways to respond to enduring problems.

After returning to Oregon, Dave became keeper of the memoirs, which sat aging in his possessions for over 55 years. When Peggy gave them to Lonnie, she was unaware of the profound memories they would reawaken 56 years after Lonnie left Alabama to escape the racism she experienced there.

While pondering the gift, Lonnie happened to attend a public reading and conversation hosted by Window Seat Media's Third Thirty Community Oral History Project, where John's story was being presented. To Lonnie's surprise, John had been in Selma at the same time as Dave Evans, although they never met.

John and Lonnie exchanged contact information with the intent of talking more about his story and those of the Selma three. After the Third Thirty event, Amber Huffstickler and Lonnie met and selected a name and purpose for

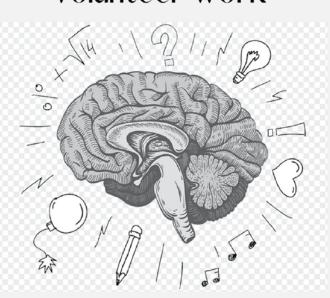
In January 2020 the project was awarded a grant by Community Foundation of South Puget Sound and sponsorship by Community Café Collaboratives. A team of community partners guided the project. Heartsparkle Players presented excerpts from the memoirs to create playback theatre and community dialogue; Window Seat Media recorded actors reading excerpts from the memoirs (who received voice coaching from Debe Edden of the Heartsparkle Players) and edited the memoirs into a short audio story; music for the story was performed and recorded by Stephen Weems of the New Life Baptist Church; Sharing Teens and Elders Project provided training on facilitating group dialogue; Equity Division of North Thurston School District promoted the project in the district; Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Thurston County- members provided zoom technological help for events; and the South Sound Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition created online events bringing in noted persons involved in social justice for story sharing and skill

Through its community storytelling mission, Window Seat Media helped spark connections and bring together people who may have never met, much less collaborated and become friends. John's photos and narrative from the voter registration drive in Alabama in the 1960s have become part of the website created by the *Looking Back, Moving Forward* Project. Another chapter to this story is being written by others still engaged in the struggle.

To listen to the Looking Back, Moving Forward memoirs, visit https://dialogtotransformation. net. To learn about Window Seat's Third Thirty Oral History Project, visit www.windowseatmedia.org.

WANTED

Graphic designer with mad creative skills for occasional volunteer work



WIP is looking for designers to collaborate on cover art and other fun projects. Interested in having your original designs published? Let's talk: 360.480.5527 or olywip@gmail.com

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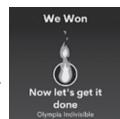
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Community Spotlight

Olympia Indivisible

Saturday, March 6, from 6-7:15 PM

You are invited to a virtual meeting hosted by Olympia Indivisible. Find out how together we can make progress to fix our democracy. Join with other progressives as we support federal and state legislation to protect healthcare, voting rights,



the environment, racial justice, and fairness in government. Together we will take steps to protect these same democratic values in Thurston County and at the Port of Olympia. Register for this event http://bit.ly/3jNcbyA

About Olympia Indivisible https://www.olympiaindivisible.org

Give your old (or new but not beloved) books a new life

Every Wed & Sat 12-2 pm downtown library

Clearing your shelves of books you've all but for-



gotten has three benefits: more room at your place; a few thousand dollars for the library from book sales; new eyes on words and pictures that (let's face it) never really get worn out. Hooray for print and paper!

Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance

Olympia/Thurston based Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance is aligned with the regional immigrant rights movement. Formed in early 2017 after the Trump election, SSA has been involved in several ongoing efforts to bring public attention to conditions that immigrant communities face on a daily basis. We have organized ourselves around several projects—including legislative policy, education, agricultural workers solidarity and law enforcement/ICE.

Visit www.strengtheningsanctuaryalliance. org/2021-annual-report to learn more and to connect with ongoing work.

West Central Park 2021 in the Rear View Mirror

Despite covid and uncertainty, the summer of 2021 brought lots of music, visitors, garden-lov-

ers, and fun to West Central Park at the corner of Harrison & Division in SW Oly. New people discovered the park, walking the path through the varied colorful plantings, fruit trees, vegetable gar-



dens, and more. The concert season was long, filled with wonderful energy from the dedicated musicians who donated their time and talents to bring everyone safely out of their Covid isolation. The park leadership made a little video of the highlights **here**. But see for yourself, even in winter this little neighborhood park created and maintained by volunteers is a treasure.

Thurston Conservation District

March 5, 2022

The 2022 Native Plant Festival and Sale will be March 5, 2022 at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. Low Maintenance: Compared with lawns and mulched tree, shrub, and perennial plantings, landscapes plant-



ed with appropriate native plants require much less maintenance. Look forward to using less water, little to no fertilizer, little to no pesticides, less pruning, and less of your time!

Intercity Transit's Bike Commuter Winter Challenge

It's almost time to celebrate winter bicycling, with the Winter Bicycle Commuter Challenge! The Winter BCC runs for the whole month of February, with awesome prize drawings each week, and a bonus drawing at the end of the month for everyone who logs rides on 10 days or more in February. Rides can be for practical purposes or for health and well-being. Look for a fun scavenger hunt for young riders—and the young at heart. Let's Bike on Through to the Other Side, together! https://bcc.intercitytransit.com/ to sign up.

Sam Miller's Olympia Comedy Show

Wednesdays at 9 PM, The Wayside, 500 Capital Way

Tickets online at eventbrite.com Covid protocols, proof of vaxx

Heart of the Deernicorn

207-4th Ave E, Olympia

Deernicorn is a studio and workshop where people design, manufacture, publish and ship award-winning games all over the world. Art drives the gameplay and players all have equal share in the story. Many game components

are handmade in the workshop. Deernicorn's website says "we believe in the power of games to inspire creativity and empower you and your friends to form deep connections through shared storytelling. During the pandemic, check their



website for activities. They offer support for people to participate who otherwise might not be able to. **Heartofthedeernicorn.com**

Free Radio Olympia, at 91.9 FM

Free Radio Oly is a collective committed to broadcasting unlicensed, uncensored content in the spirit of free expression and direct action. Currently available at http://frolympia.airtime. pro, you can find The Thunderbolt for events around Oly as well as music by local artists and bands.

Wild Food Traditions: Wild Spring Greens

Tuesday, March 1, 10:00-5:00 PM—pay what you can: \$100 or \$125

GRuB- 2016 Elliott Way NW Olympia — Registration closes March 11, 2022.

Tasty edible greens including nettles, dandelion, chickweed, wild lettuces, salmonberry sprouts, violets, and big leaf maple blos-



There is a sliding fee scale for this workshop. Proceeds cover supply costs and support GRuB programs. Classes subject to change based on COVID safety protocols.

Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Every third Thursday (Feb17) 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.

Parallax Perspectives

"Whistle-blowers Serve the Public"

The February episode of Parallax Perspectives takes on the issue of how to confront the fraud, abuse, corruption, negligence and dysfunction at all levels of government and in the private sector. Louis Clark is the Executive Director of the Government Accountability Project (GAP), a nonprofit that assists whistleblowers like Dr. Scott Allen who will also speak. Along with his regular medical practice, Dr. Allen was responsible for monitoring activities at Department of Homeland Security detention facilities. Dr. Allen and a colleague found and reported serious problems at those facilities. When the problems weren't corrected, they contacted GAP for help. (In this interview, Scott Allen is speaking on his own behalf, and NOT for the Department of Homeland Security.)

The program airs on cable on Channel 22 Mondays at 1:30, Wednesdays at 5 pm and Thursdays at 9 pm. It's also 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

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 the current situation. Above all, read and share Works in Progress!.



Climate does not care about short term financial profit for a few of its global citizens.

Climate cares about equilibrium and sustainability. It cares about biodiversity and inclusion and prosperity of all species under its atmospheric winaspan.

prosperity of all species under its atmospheric wingspan.

The Dept. of Natural Resources needs to add climate change calculations (CO2 sequestration) and other offset mitigation strategies to their formulas for determining best practices timber sales. They need to spend more time actually learning the age and bio diversity of the forests they manage.

Then the DNR needs to remember those facts and calculations when someone wants to give them a nickel for the tree. DNR needs to become proactive and push for legacy tree protection along with "old growth" protection. Legacy trees sequester CO2 much better and faster than young plantation trees.

Taken from notes by Sally Nole on the Crush timber sale in November 2021. Read Sally's and other testimonies at https://tinyurl.com/2p8a7dj2

Free, take one!

Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

Advocating for social justice since 1990

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