

Panattoni will begin developing warehouses without overall planning input from Tumwater

Port of Olympia officials insisted on an agreement that protected Panattoni Corporation from changes in regulations over 20 years of project work

Charlotte Persons

Some actual consequences of a Port of Olympia decision to lease 200 acres of Port land to Panattoni, an industrial development company, are becoming apparent. Panattoni signed a lease with the Port in 2020 for land in the New Market Industrial Campus next to the Olympia Airport and within Tumwater's city limits.

In November 2021 and March 2022 the City of Tumwater held permit review meetings with Panattoni for two warehouse developments within the lease area. While not as huge as the 1.1 million square foot Costco distribution center on Little Rock Road, for Tumwater the Panattoni warehouse projects will be large.

The South Sound Commerce Center at 7901 Center Street SW will be a 449,000 sq.ft. warehouse on a 30-acre parcel south of Tumwater Blvd. At 8277 Center Street SW, Center Street Commerce will be two warehouses, 200,000 sq.ft. feet and 114,190 sq.ft., just north of 83rd Avenue on part of a parcel of about 27 acres.

These warehouse projects are within the part of the New Market Industrial Campus where development specifics were to have been spelled out in an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of Tumwater and the Port of Olympia.

No ILA was ever signed. A major point of contention was whether the ILA would allow development to be “vested” for 20 years based on a sketch of proposed buildings and street access. “Vesting” would mean that the area would be developed and managed under current regulations no matter how state law might change during the 20 years. Without vesting, Panattoni will have to comply with changes in regulation as they apply to the company's development activities.

In late November 2021, Tumwater sent the Port an ILA version with the vesting removed; the Port responded that it was no longer interested in any Agreement.

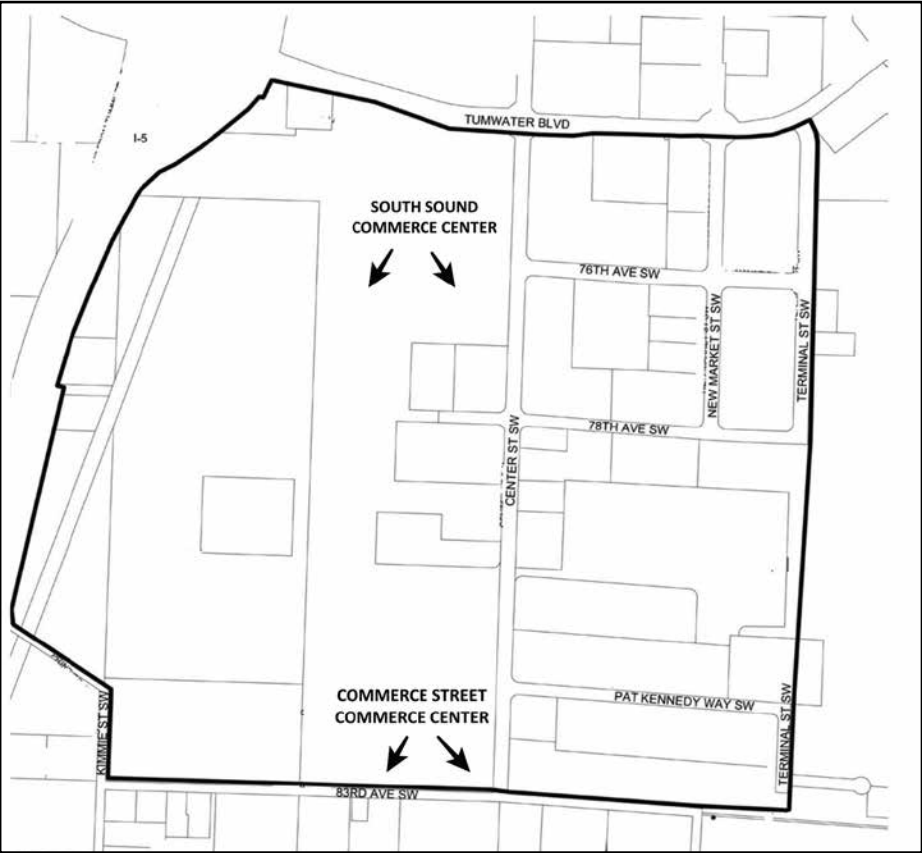
Developing the Panattoni lease area with no overall plan in place

What does it mean for Tumwater that these two Panattoni warehouse developments are going forward without an Interlocal Agreement?

Community members participated in public meetings and provided comments about the ILA to both the Port and Tumwater. With the elimination of the ILA, Tumwater lost the

opportunity for area-wide planning within the Panattoni lease area for traffic and stormwater treatment. Residents also lost the opportunity to preserve woodlands and to construct a trail and a community center.

There will now be no overall plan for the lease area—development will proceed one project at a time and in accord with Tumwater regulations. For example, for the first two warehouse projects, Tumwater regulations allow up to 85% of industrial



The approximate location of two warehouses slated for development in Tumwater, added to a map of the Panattoni lease area from the Port of Olympia's Inter Local Agreement dated November 3, 2021.

Stormwater treatment. Currently a large part of the Panattoni lease area is undeveloped land that absorbs rainwater. New industrial development will add thousands of feet of impermeable surfaces in the form of buildings and pavement. Stormwater from those impermeable surfaces

lots to be impermeable surface. Each project will handle stormwater by injecting it beneath the warehouse buildings.

Woodland preservation. One part of the proposed ILA responded to concerns about development re-

the lease area. Only a 12-foot wide screen of trees will remain between the Center Street Commerce site and the Bush school playing field.

A 40-foot-wide private driveway for trucks running between the warehouse and Kimmie Street SW will cut through the woodland north of the school. The biggest remaining stand of trees is to the south between the warehouse and 83rd Avenue and it will only be about 25-feet by 850 feet.

Recreational trail and community center. In response to residents' calls for community amenities, final versions of the ILA included a recreational multi-use trail from Bush Middle School north along I-5 and a possible lease to the City of Tumwater to build a community center on a ten-acre parcel on the east side of Center Street.

The proposed trail and community center are not in the part of the lease area where the first two Panattoni warehouses will be built. Conceivably Tumwater could still discuss these amenities with Panattoni and the Port.

However, without the ILA it seems unlikely Panattoni would give up any part of its lease area for the trail or the community center. Public support for both projects is also uncertain. During public comment, residents questioned both the placement of the trail, next to an interstate highway where outdoor recreation can be unhealthy, and the location of the community center in an industrial area near no other community services.

Looking back and ahead

Pete Kmet, mayor of Tumwater when the Port made its decision to no longer have an ILA, wanted time to investigate environmental issues and other higher value options for the Port property. The Port dismissed those concerns and others raised in more than 38 pages of public testimony by saying that the developer would comply with regulations.

Now Panattoni will move ahead, with no Interlocal Agreement, in the direction dictated by its commercial objectives. Whether those will be conditioned by regulations as they may evolve to take account of environmental and community needs remains to be seen.

Charlotte Persons reports regularly on development issues for Works in Progress.

Only a 12-foot wide screen of trees will remain between the Center Street Commerce site and the Bush school playing field.

must be collected, filtered to eliminate toxins, and disposed of.

Excellent stormwater treatment is especially important in the lease area because it includes the Port and Bush wells, major sources of Tumwater's drinking water. In addition, because the lease land is a high groundwater area, inadequate stormwater treatment during major rain events could exacerbate flooding in neighborhoods to the south. These neighborhoods experience flood events every few years.

ducing the area of woodland. Tumwater's regulations for industrial parcels require preservation of only 20% of existing trees. The Port's tentative sketch for the ILA showed preservation of trees in woodlands north and east of George Bush Middle School.

Now, however, according to Panattoni plans reviewed on March 10 for the Center Street Commerce project, a good portion of the trees next to Bush Middle School will be cut—no intact woodland will remain in that part of

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

Time bends and ancestral voices whisper in the ears of those who will but listen.

In *Ani.Mystic*, author Gordon White posits that ancestors and other intentional beings work through our thoughts to bring about shifts in how we perceive life, nature and each other. All those impulses we think originate within our own minds, he says, might be whisperings from a long-forgotten wisdom keeper, or the echo of an ancient river that knows better than us what it needs to thrive. Perhaps our greatest need is to be quiet enough to hear what wants to speak through us.

This often seems the case with *Works In Progress*. No matter what our intentions are for each month, the themes themselves have a way of revealing to editors what they want said. For April, we invited the community to submit stories related to how we use—or misuse—time. We just didn't realize the submissions would reveal as much about the messengers as their messages. And though we didn't directly receive any telegraphed thought forms from ancient beings, we're fairly sure they're well represented on the following pages through the words and actions of young people in our midst, who are very clear about the world directives they've embraced.

These emerging leaders jump off the following pages in photographs from the Youth Climate Strike in downtown Olympia last month. The story of the march, too, is written by an emissary from future, WIP's 20-year-old intern from The Evergreen State College. Their love, anger and resolve are provocative and purposeful. In other words, they're kicking ass and taking names.

New thinking is also represented in this issue by the article on appropriate technology. Written by a collective of Evergreen students, the piece confronts some of our most cherished beliefs about which solutions to implement to mitigate climate change. The questions the article raises aren't so much about whether rocket mass heaters and micro-grids are better alternatives or not, but whether we can make room in our minds for ideas that challenge what we think we know.

A prime example of short-sighted thinking is the aesthetically-motivated decision that created Capitol Lake. It's been a slow path to its restoration as an estuary (and it's not time to celebrate yet) suggesting that youthful energy may initiate change toward a worthy goal but that it often takes a lifetime to achieve. Some of the Deschutes River's most ardent activists were much younger when they started advocating for restoration. It took too many salmon lifespans, but it appears we are poised to be witnesses to that change.

.....

Correction

In "Thoughts on the Theme" on page two of the March edition of *Works in Progress*, the writer references racial slurs at a North Thurston vs River Ridge basketball game. The slurs were actually at a Capital HS (in Olympia school district) vs River Ridge (in North Thurston school district).

As one generation comes up, another recedes, joining the world of the unseen. One of WIP's founding members, a contributor until just before his death, Dave Jette takes his final bow in this issue. Some of the most interesting facts about Dave's life didn't make it into our too-brief survey of his legacy but the overriding lesson remains: Dave spent his earthly time well and the fruits of his writing endure as whispers to new readers.

So even though WIP forgot to ask writers specifically for Earth Day content for the April issue, our readers—and through them the spirits of the land and water—remembered. In words and actions, they speak in this issue for the rivers, the sky, the swimmers, the creepers, the fliers, and the forests. Even so-called pond scum, actually a vital element in a healthy river, has a say in this issue. Happy Earth Day. —LL



About the cover

Youth climate strikers and their supporters marched from the Capitol to City Hall on Friday, March 25, where they placed an earth flag on the sidewalk sculpture and listened to speakers and local musicians. More images from the strike throughout this issue. Read a synopsis of the strike on next page.

All climate strike photos, including the cover, were taken by Lindsey Dalthorp.

Upcoming themes

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.**

June: What moves us. What moves us emotionally and does sentiment lead to change? What other ways are we moved? Is being moved always a good thing or only when we welcome it? What happens when we're forcibly moved, physically or into a different way of thinking or behaving? **Deadline: May 16**

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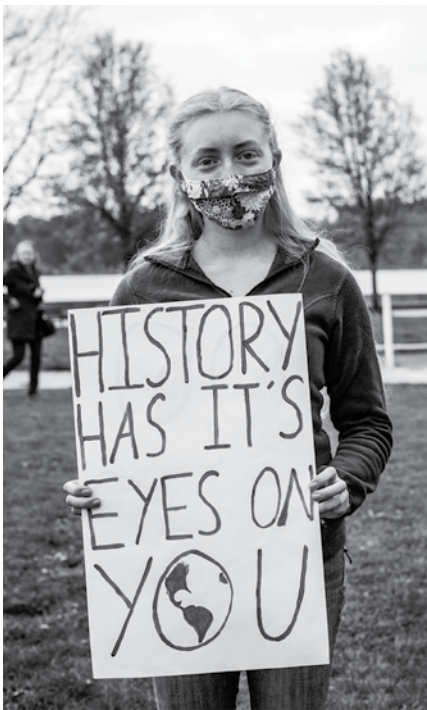
Youth Climate Strike!

Jaina Nehm

Students from area high schools and their supporters* staged a walkout/demonstration on Friday, March 25th in Olympia to draw attention to the urgency of addressing climate change.

Planned to coincide with Greta Thunberg's global "Fridays for Future," Climate Strike, students gathered to demand that Washington State legislators implement more of the Thurston County Mitigation Plan. They stood alongside parents, younger children, and elder community members, some of whom wore blue armbands over their jackets denoting their presence as peacekeepers. Between sporadic chanting, the students voiced their fears of food insecurity, housing disruption, and the economic frustrations that cloud the issue of climate change.

Beneath the awning at City Hall, organization leaders and student



activists listened to heartfelt musicians like Lindsey Rhodes and the band Luna Melt, as they shared

songs celebrating community and the gifts of nature.

Several students delivered impassioned speeches, notes of gratitude, and calls to action to the growing crowd. A cluster of tables offered pertinent information and a large

ways to make things brighter... I think that's a power we need to embrace."

Another speaker was a young climate activist known as Gus. Gus has held weekly gatherings since he was in first grade. They can still

"Climate action is not a choice; it is a necessity. It's a responsibility that every human must uphold... our devotion is charged by an urgency we were born with; climate angst comes naturally to us..."

banner which read "Green New Deal" faced cars driving past on 4th Avenue.

Eighteen-year old Ahna Rada said the action came from something far greater than personal intention. "Climate action is not a choice; it is a necessity. It's a responsibility that every human must uphold... our devotion is charged by an urgency we were born with; climate angst comes naturally to us," they said. After their speech, Rada referred to the joys of engaging with others to work for change. "I think that is another thing that is really inherent to youth, is that we find

be found every Friday from 4-6 pm by "the kissing statue" at Percival Landing downtown.

The Thurston Climate Action Team holds monthly Zoom meetings for youth climate activists to build community and maintain the communication that builds their movement. More information can be found at www.thurstonclimateactionteam.org.

* Climate Reality Project, Sierra Club, Restoring Earth Connection, Thurston Climate Action Team, Olympia Climate Action, Avanti Climate Action, and Capitol Climate Club had representatives at the strike.

YOU WRITE TO WIP Deals for developers, tax hikes for households

Dear WIP,

According to *The Olympian* of March 2, 2022: In 2016, the City of Olympia purchased the former vacated Griswold office supply store for \$300,000.

Recently, the City of Olympia awarded \$287,000 to Aberdeen-based Roglin's to demolish the building. The City of Olympia has since sold the site to Urban Olympia/John Walker for \$50,000.

Mr. Walker will "move forward" with a mixed-use apartment development. A "portion" [as yet undetermined] will remain "affordable" [rent as yet undetermined] for 20 years—according to the "city."

[\$300,000 + \$287,000]—\$50,000 = NEGATIVE \$537,000! This does not take into account inflation. Easy come, easy go. Who exactly comprises "The City of Olympia"?

Must be nice to have the "authority to spend taxpayers' money, support real estate developers with sweet deals—including incredible tax incentives [even when interest rates have been near 0% for many, many years].

I suggest that the Olympia City Council approve a budget that requires all public "servants" involved with budgeting and awarding contracts—to achieve, at least, a 90% score on an Economic 101 course. Optional to complete in classroom or online. Must be completed individually: no cheating. Bonus points for balancing a checkbook.

Side Note: As the City Council approves sweet deals for developers: from 2020 to 2022, the assessed Land Value on 0.12 acres, where our 1,600 sq. ft. house is located, increased by \$33,300—resulting in a substantial increase of our total property tax. Wish we qualified for some hefty tax breaks!

The "City of Olympia" needs to stop milking the residents of Olympia. Work with what you have—balance your budget.

Joe Digranes
Olympia, WA
2021 value \$654,000, tax \$8442.35
2022 value \$797,500, tax \$9520.73

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Then this happened

Olympia residents turned out in force at a City Council work-session to argue in favor of a Habitat for Humanity proposal to develop 10 acres of new housing on Boulevard Road. The Habitat proposal was the only one of 12 under consideration that included opportunities for homeownership, and long-term sustainable rents affordable to lower income households. See Helen Wheatley's Sept 2021 WIP article about how City planners want to define the Boulevard project as another "multifamily, high-density, middle-income" rental development favored for investors.

Remember that "urban village" proposed for the edge of Budd Inlet? 478 residences, plus retail and restaurants; a two-story parking structure, stalls for 833 vehicles, an elevated plaza and much more. In short, "West Bay Yards," another exciting opportunity for investors. WBY developers just submitted responses to the City's first review of the project application. You can get a copy at www.olympiawa.gov/news_information/construction_in_olympia/west_bay_yards. In the meantime, the Dept. of Ecology has added the site of the project to its list of "Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites."

Looking at property taxes in a distorted and inequitable market

Mary Jo Dolis

The City of Olympia gets about 72% of its operating budget from property taxes paid by residents and sales taxes paid by everyone who buys things or pays for services here. Lately property taxes have loomed larger and larger in the budgets of residents. And as for sales tax, at 9.4% Thurston County ranks higher than 90% of other Washington counties.

Property tax

In Olympia, in August last year, the Thurston County Assessor released this statement to assuage howling homeowners who received 20% and 30% in the “value” of their homes: “Each property owner’s taxes are derived by dividing each taxing authority’s approved budget, and any voter approved measures, into the taxing authority’s total taxable value. As a result, a change in your assessed value generally has a minor effect on a given property’s taxes.”

Except when it doesn’t. Sometimes, the tax increase amounted to over a thousand dollars. Take just two examples from West Olympia:

These homes are within a mile of each other in the same neighborhood in SW Olympia. The newer home was purchased for \$670,000 in August of 2021—around the same time the Assessor’s “market valuation” jumped to \$797,000. The older home was purchased for \$62,500 in 1986—the equivalent of two public employee annual salaries at the time.

Contrary to the Assessor’s shrugging off the impacts of recent valuations, a 20 to 30% increase produced a major increase in tax liability. Even though the millage rate (fee per \$1000 of property value) may diminish, when valuations jump by thousands of dollars—the tax bill grows huge as well.

For these households and many others, when the Assessor incorporates radically distorted housing prices into his calculations, it can add another \$68-\$90/month to an existing property tax bill in the range of \$500—to as much as \$1000 each month, plus the mortgage, insurance and other fixed expenses. And this goes on year after year.

Are such increases widespread? Wouldn’t elected officials want this information to make policy? Some cities do provide this information and make policy decisions based on the answers. Here’s how one

city (Cambridge, MA) does it. Each year the City Manager sends all would serve everyone.

1992 home	2020	2021	% increase	Actual increase
Assessed value	\$654,000	\$797,500	22%	\$143,000
Property tax	\$8,442	\$9,521	13%	\$1,079
1950 home				
Assessed value	\$336,500	\$432,000	28%	\$95,500
Property tax	\$4,346	\$5,162	19%	\$ 816

residents and taxpayers a newsletter with information about the taxes they pay. This year the letter provided this summary:

“In FY21, 59% of residential taxpayers received a property tax bill that was lower, the same as, or only slightly higher (less than \$100) than the previous year, with an additional 18% of residential taxpayers only seeing an increase between \$100-\$250. Over the past 10 years, an average of 69.8% of residential taxpayers have seen an increase of \$100 or less over the prior year’s bill. For FY22, the City will continue to work to provide stability in homeowner tax bills.

Our local government jurisdictions are the beneficiaries when property valuations increase. The property tax rate is determined according to the approved budget of each taxing jurisdiction. More transparency

Sales and use taxes

Olympia’s operating budget for 2022 is \$177.7 million, an increase of \$10 million over last year. In addition to its share of the county-collected property tax, Olympia government gets its funds from taxes on our city utility bills (increased by 1% this year); from sales tax (29 cents from every \$10 we spend here); B&O tax on businesses, taxes on telephone usage—and others. There is no one place to discover a list of taxes collected by each city in Thurston County.

In recent years, Olympia voters have approved additions to the sales and use tax rate including .1% for “affordable” housing and new expenditures for public safety.

Now the Olympia City Council is asking voters to agree to another 0.1% increase with a Special Election on April 26 to fund “cultural access programs.” The details are outlined in a 3000-word resolution that offers something for everyone—all Olympia residents and generations. Free and reduced cost programs. Neighborhood or community-based programs. Economic development (!). Arts incubation on all levels. The resolution can be found under “Special Elections” on the Thurston County Auditor page.

Regressive taxation

All of these taxes are “regressive” in that they take no account of the amount of income a household has to spend on the goods needed to live. For instance, an electricity bill of \$63.78 for March includes a \$5.32 payment to the City of Olympia. Heating your home, paying the telephone bill, keeping the lights on—these are challenging expenses on a working class or service wage. Tax adds almost 10% to every one of those bills.

When there’s a discussion of the need for “affordable” housing—at least, when the topic is a home that a working person in Olympia can afford—it would make sense to recognize that endlessly increasing taxes may be contributing to, rather than resolving, our housing and social crises.

Mary Jo Dolis has lived in Olympia for a long time.



High school student at the March 25 Youth Climate Strike (page 3)

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.

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www.thurstonhousinglandtrust.org

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

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Reading Dave Jette, with gratitude

Emily Lardner

Dave Jette, one of the founders of WIP and longtime contributor, passed away in January 2022. The *Seattle Times* published an obituary that provides a contour of Dave's life, including his love for his family, his passion for organizing hiking trips, his accomplishments as a physicist researching radiation treatments for cancer, and his political involvement.

I met Dave once when he and his wife Cecile came to our house. Dave was completing his book, *A Reformulation of Dialectical Materialism*, and wanted to discuss a proposal to publish a series of columns in WIP called "Looking Forward." (These columns, written between 2018-2022, have been collected as a book called *Looking Forward*, available through <http://www.lulu.com>, as well as on Dave's website, Beyond Classical Marxism: Socialism, <https://bcmsocialism.org>.)

Dave explained his relationship with WIP in "The Political Origins of WIP", a column published in the October 2020 issue. Dave published around twenty columns in WIP's first two years, on topics including democracy, socialism, and Marxism. Dave's return to WIP as a regular columnist began in 2018. His last column was published in January 2022.

Dave's purpose in writing was, as he put it on his blog, "to further the transformation of U.S. society to socialism, a lifelong endeavor for me since I was radicalized by the Vietnam War."

His reason for supporting WIP specifically was based on his belief in WIP's political significance, its "unabashedly progressive content" and its ability to survive for three decades from, as he put it, "the ashes of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition."

Dave's staunch advocacy for WIP has helped the paper survive.

Dave served as a trustee for Tom Warner's Worker Defense Fund



from 2011-2022. In that role, Dave supported WIP's annual request for funding through a grant-like process. Each summer, WIP submitted a request for funds. Sometime in fall, we learned the results of our application. Support from the Worker Defense Fund has kept WIP on solid financial ground for ten years.

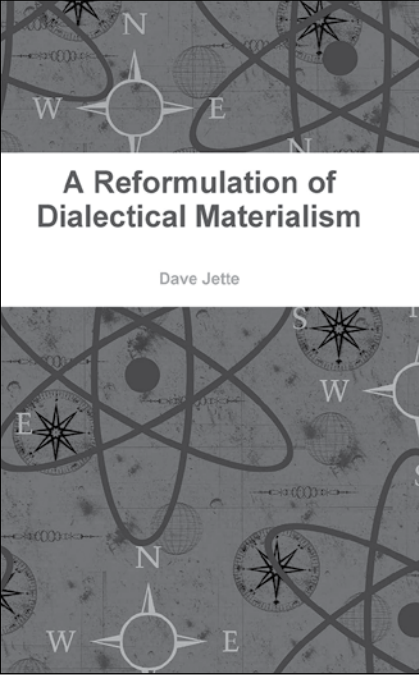
In the last two years, much of Dave's writing has focused on the rising threat of Trumpism, aka fascism, and how to combat it. After being active in the Green Party for more than 20 years at the local, state, and national level, Dave's approach to electoral politics changed. Dave was at one time a critic of the "lesser of two evils" argument for supporting the Democratic Party and was fully conscious of that party's historical service as a political tool of the 1% to absorb struggles that threaten to challenge the status quo. Dave more recently began to call for supporting progressive Democrats in primaries, and ceasing political attacks on the Democratic winners of those primaries.

This seeming about-face in electoral politics was based on Dave's analysis of this historical moment. In an essay called "An Anti-Right

Front" published at Convergencemag.org in January 2021, Dave argued this:

"But what will happen as capitalist neoliberalism unrelentingly sinks the living conditions of the masses of Americans? The groundwork has been laid for the advent of a highly authoritarian society, even for fascism: the campaign to discredit the election and build a fascist tendency has put in place key pieces for a demagogue far more skilled than Trump to ride this current to power in 2024.

And the depth of racism in our country is driving this frenzy on the right. It is not possible to understand the irrationality of the Trumpists without taking this racism into account, just as the idea of Aryan supremacy ("the master race") taking hold in Germany undergirded so much of what seems today to have been so irra-



tional as well as murderous. The Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol by a mob displaying Confederate and neo-Nazi regalia should strip away any lingering denial on this point."

Dave described the need to develop a united anti-right movement—a movement against what fellow Convergence writer Whitney Maxey calls the New Confederacy, "the predominantly white, cross-class united front that is made up of the most reactionary organizations, individuals, and capitalists and uses the Republican Party, as their political instrument." In a column published in WIP in January 2022, Dave argued that we must "use the Democratic Party to propagate a new society."

We do well to listen to Dave. A recent *Washington Post* article by Hannah Allam describes this new amalgamation of forces on the Right in a story about the "Government Resistance Impeded Tyranny" (GRIT) demonstration held in Olympia in early March. Organizers described it as a networking event. Three Percenter logos, Confederate flags, and Proud Boys t-shirts were visible along with MAGA, anti-Biden, and red, white and blue attire.

Dave concluded his article on developing a united anti-right movement by arguing that "socialists are simply going to have to give up their rigorous antipathy to having anything to do with the Democratic Party, if we are to survive." It appears his advice applies to more than just socialists.

¡Hasta la victoria, siempre!

Emily Lardner is a member of the WIP Publishing Committee.

To read more of this remarkable person's writings, go to Dave's webpage, *Beyond Classical Marxism: Socialism*, <https://bcmsocialism.org>

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The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association offers its 11th annual plant sale and scholarship fundraiser **April 29, 30 and May 1**. Online sales will open through the TSTSCA square site at noon on April 28. Curbside pick up on Olympia's Westside will begin the next afternoon! If you're not on the email list, send us a request at tstsca@gmail.com to be added. Or find the link on the TSTSCA Facebook page later in April. Visit the TSTSCA webpage to read interviews with Nicaraguan students to see what a difference scholarships are making in their lives, families and community.

<https://oly-wa.us/tstsca>



Residents of West Olympia, mostly from the SW neighborhood, gathered for dinner and a photo at the Mediterranean Breeze restaurant to celebrate delivery of a set of principles to guide changes to a “Capital Mall Triangle Subarea” selected by City Planners for new “transit-oriented” investment. Olympia’s Comprehensive Plan defines “Subarea Planning” as a collaboration between neighborhood communities and the City.

Learning that this Subarea Triangle encompassed Capital Mall and surrounding streets, neighbors on the westside met throughout January 2022 in zoom sessions to “identify the priorities, assets and challenges of the designated subarea” as stated in the Comp Plan. They also provided information to increase the planners’ understanding of the needs and goals of the community.

These included the following elements: 1) Prioritizing public space and community-oriented activity; 2) preserving existing housing and adding new housing affordable at below rising market rates; 3) recognizing the climate crisis with more trees and green design; 4) supporting public transportation, biking, walking and electric vehicles; 5) preserving and expanding locally owned businesses. The group created an interactive map showing the location of the Triangle Subarea and adding it to other information shared with households and businesses across the area. [You can request a copy of the principles and obtain a map of the Triangle Subarea by emailing TriangleAssetGeneration@gmail.com.]

City planners, for their part, have identified their goal for the subarea as a “mixed-use, high-density urban center... that will address environmental impacts of development and community issues while reducing developer uncertainty.” The Planning Department has obtained a \$350,000 grant to hire a new Senior Planner and to contract with an outside consultant.

The word “neighborhood” appears three times in the Comp Plan description of Subarea Planning—it appears nowhere in the planners’ Westside Subarea Planning Summary.

The work already done by the neighborhood community members (now known as the Triangle Asset Generation group or TAG) will be important for achieving the collaboration called for by Olympia’s Comprehensive Plan. There is an engaged community ready to work with the City and its consultant.

—BW

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High school students at the March 25 Youth Climate Strike (page 3)

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BOOK REVIEW

Rise of the Warrior Cop by Radley Balko

Trent Kelly

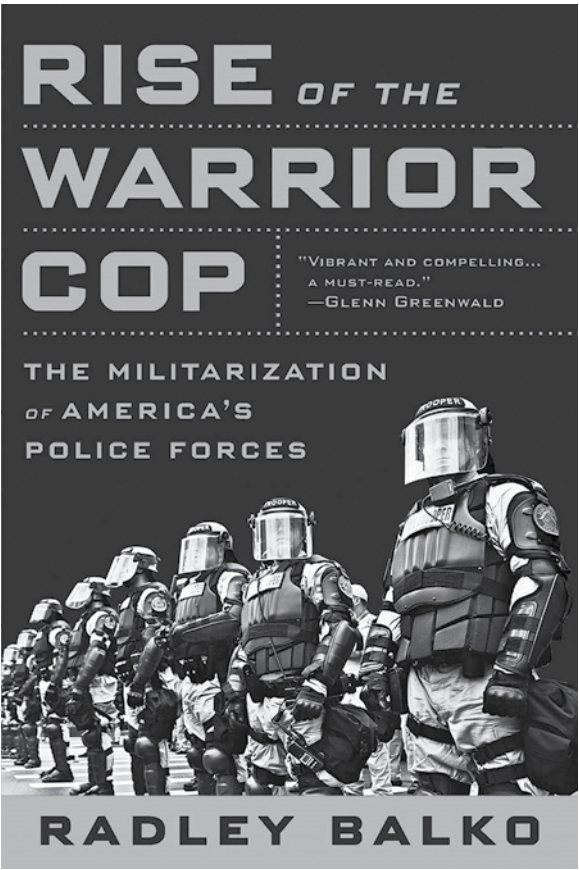
A friend who grew up in Ballard in the 1950s told me of a time when as a kid he was caught letting the air out of the tires of a patrol car, while his buddies chatted with the local police officers who sat inside. Upon discovering the prank, the good-natured cops had the kids pile into the black and white cruiser and headed to a nearby gas station where they taught them all the basics of auto maintenance.

The idea of police being that positively engaged with the community seems Rockwellian and made me want to read Radley Balko's new book, *Rise of the Warrior Cop*, to better understand whatever happened to "officer friendly". How society addresses the creeping militarization of our local police is both timely as well as critical to advancing past what ails our country at the moment.

Balko reports on criminal justice and civil liberties for the *Washington Post* and he knows his stuff on this front. His writing is in depth, comprehensive, and yet quite readable, as he provides an exhaustive review of the slow but steady transformation of our local law enforcement from constable to commando.

Balko states at the outset that his book is not anti-cop and lays the blame firmly on our lead-

ers who have over time moved our police in this dangerous direction to garner favor with voters. Politicians of all stripes have made a habit of whipping up fear about crime, only to smooth the way for more police state tactics to score political points and stay in power.



The courts have not helped by abdicating their role as a check on police power and sanctioning ever-more questionable tactics. SWAT teams; "No knock" forced-entry raids; stop & frisk; asset forfeiture and Homeland Security's sale of military grade gear to small town America regard-

less of any real threat of terrorism, all make for a heavily armed force in every Mayberry in America, with a 'Rambo' world view.

Ever wonder why so many cops appear to be shooting defenseless citizens? For Balko, the answer lies in their training. He asserts such training has devolved over the years to an 'us vs. them' mentality akin to that of a soldier in a war zone, with a simple message that cops must be prepared to kill more readily to meet an ever-growing threat from the community. It's no wonder that such inculcating, approved by law enforcement leadership, has led to even 'good cops' tending to shoot first and deescalate later.

Balko fails at times to highlight the institutional racism behind the policies that militarized the police. 'Get tough on crime' initiatives and the never-ending war on drugs mainly targeted the disadvantaged and mostly people of color. Add to this the inordinate use of traffic stops to cite poor folks for low level offenses that lead to stiff fines, fees and warrants when they can't be paid, and the police have become an effective tool for one class tormenting the other.

Balko's work is a thoughtful description of a long and tragic descent, starting with the social upheaval of the 1960's and ending with the sorry situation we have today: misguided policies leading to an ever-increasingly imbalanced and over-reactive approach to policing that ignores civil rights and serves to victimize the underclass.

All branches of government have contributed to the problem, so we're left with protests in the streets to try to address the obvious growing cop cancer. Sadly, and ironically, this has only been used to further raise the specter of lawlessness and harden partisan lines.

Trent is a freelance writer who grew up in Olympia. He can be reached at trentkelly57@gmail.com.

"Keeping Americans hyped up" But there is no military solution to the war in Ukraine

Robert C. Koehler

Peace, in the deepest sense—in the midst of war—requires a clarity and courage well beyond the boundaries of linear understanding. The warning lights flash. World War III has entered the red zone.

Can we stare into hell and refuse to see . . . an enemy?

This is the deep, haunting need that is now required, as we clutch tomorrow, hold it tight, vow to protect it with our lives. But it's far too easy, instead, to surrender to a certainty that the other guy—Russia, with the smirking face of Vladimir Putin—is 100 percent wrong, acting solely out of greed and delusional grandeur. "This is something we would never do (and have never done). And it goes without saying we are blameless in all this. On with the show!"

"Twenty-four-hour cable news coverage of the ugly war in Ukraine is keeping Americans hyped up and dumbed down," writes Gerry Condon of Veterans for Peace. "The very real horror of war is on the screen for all to see. The bombed-out buildings, the mounting civilian casualties and the frightened refugees speak their own truth."

None of this horror should be minimized, bandaged over, for the sake of "peace," as cynics assume. But, as Condon notes, "we rarely see the victims, the grieving families and the terrified refugees when the invader is the US.

The 'shock and awe' US. terror bombing campaign on Baghdad was described by one network TV anchor as a 'beautiful thing to see.'" We also fail to notice three decades of Western minimization of Russian concerns—of Russian existence.

"The decision to spurn the possibility of peaceful coexistence with Russia at the end of the Cold War is one of the most egregious crimes of the late 20th century," writes Chris Hedges.

Instead, he notes, we spiraled into "a furious frenzy of the Russia-hating that has been central to US culture ever since World War II."

This is not about blame, but it is about accountability—in all directions. Peace! It's an ongoing, collective process, a crucial force needed especially in the midst of conflict. It's about bridging gaps, listening to everyone, creating the future.

A conflict isn't simply "solved," but understood and transcended. In this context, meet Yuri Sheliazhenko, executive secretary of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement, a board member of the European Bureau of Conscientious Objection and a member of the board of directors at World BEYOND War.

Speaking from Kyiv with Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez of *Democracy Now!*, Sheliazhenko—in an incredible interview—tells the world that there is no military solution to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

More than that, he describes how peace as a force is confronting the invasion: ". . . brave Ukrainian civilians are . . . blocking streets and blocking tanks, just staying in their way without weapons. . . . to stop the war. In Berdyansk city and Kulykivka village, people organized peace rallies and convinced the Russian military to get out."

Despite what we may learn from media coverage, there are ways to confront war, to confront hell, without participating in it. Sheliazhenko does not speak abstractly. What is necessary right now is not the cancellation of Russia but a unification of the world.

"War profiteers of the West are the same threat to democracy as the authoritarian rulers of the East," he said.

"Instead of breaking the last bonds of humanity out of rage, we need more than ever to preserve and strengthen venues of communication and cooperation between all people on Earth, and each individual effort of that sort has a value."

Every last soul on this planet is a participant in the peace process! This is a message emerging from Ukraine. What's needed in this moment, of course, is a negotiated ceasefire, a Russian pullout. To that end, here's part of the text of a letter Code Pink has written to President Biden and Congress. You can sign onto it at the Code Pink website if you wish:

"There is no military solution to the conflict over Ukraine, a country caught in the crossfire between the U.S. and Russia, the world's two most heavily armed nuclear nations. While the U.S. and the world are rightfully denouncing Putin's invasion of a sovereign country, the shelling of civilians, the destruction of homes and hospitals, and threats of nuclear attacks, the major role the U.S. has played in exacerbating the conflict that led up to Russia's invasion must also be acknowledged and addressed.

"By breaking promises not to expand NATO into Eastern Europe, by placing offensive missiles in Romania and Poland that could reach Russia in minutes, by arming Ukrainian forces, by continuing to 'modernize' the U.S. nuclear arsenal and by withdrawing from key nonproliferation treaties, the U.S. exacerbated the conflict that led up to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We know that Russia must withdraw its troops and commit to respecting the sovereignty of Ukraine, but the United States must be ready to make compromises and support negotiations between Ukraine and Russia . . ."

The letter concludes with a list of commitments the US needs to make to help a negotiated ceasefire. Here's what I would add, in solidarity with Yuri Sheliazhenko: Sign—and honor—the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Noting that the European Union is considering opening its doors to Ukraine, Sheliazhenko expressed joy at the possibility of such a uniting, but added that a "consolidation of the West should not be a consolidation against a so-called enemy, against the East. East and West should find peaceful reconciliation and should pursue global governance, unity of all people in the world without armies and borders."

Robert Koehler (koehlerc@gmail.com), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of *Courage Grows Strong at the Wound*.

Why Black Lake should be allowed to keep its name

Bob Vadas, Jr.

A stable pH level is vital for healthy lake ecosystems. Moderately high pH provides the best productivity (for fish and other organisms) in both freshwater and marine habitats, but acids eliminate aquatic buffering by reducing alkalinity. Black Lake gets its name from humic (and other) acids that naturally occur from surrounding coniferous trees. As organic acids, they provide pH buffering which inorganic acids cannot offer.

Remember “acid rain” in the 70s that plagued northeastern North America? Scientists discovered that industrial emissions of sulfate and NOx (nitrate/nitrite) were creating acid precipitation. When such compounds reach water, they combine with hydrogen to form strong, corrosive acids – sulfuric and nitric acids.

Crystal clear lake water is convenient but not healthy

The lowering of pH in Blake Lake due to the application of aluminum sulfate (vs. algal blooms) is similar to past acid rain events by forming sulfuric acid. Strong acids mobilize (dissolve) heavy metals like aluminum, which are toxic to fishes. In an award-winning essay I wrote at Ohio Wesleyan University, I emphasized how acid precipitation causes waters to become overly clear. Such sterile conditions aren't good for lake productivity, often causing fish kills from the combined effects of strong acids and aluminum, the latter of which clogs fish gills, leading to asphyxiation.

A healthy lake should have both plankton and aquatic macrophytes, in balance, at the base of the food chain. Phytoplankton feed zooplankton that feed young fishes. Likewise, aquatic macrophytes provide detritus and habitat cover for fish prey - benthic invertebrates

that live at the bottom of a river or in its sediment. Ideally, native macrophytes are better than exotic plants for this, though the latter have unfortunately invaded Black Lake.



Black Lake is the headwater for the Black River, which flows through Mima Mounds past Rochester into the Chehalis River and on to Grays Harbor.

Integrated solutions can save Black Lake and protect aquifers, fish and plant life

Rather than continued use of alum for algal control, which would eventually cause the lake ecosystem to collapse, I suggest integrated-weed management for the future. This would include mechanical weed control (via rakes), simple glyphosate application for exotic weeds (using neither herbicides nor Roundup, proven to produce byproducts worse than glyphosate itself), and watershed management via stormwater control, cleaning/repair of leaky septic tanks, etc. Stormwater management often involves structural devices like filters that engineers build, but should also include

riparian restoration. The latter should include upland conifers to help restore organic acids, as well as hardwood shrubs (e.g., willow and alder) near shore to help filter out pollutants - too many nutrients (e.g., lawn fertilization that is

excessive or precedes rainstorms). High nutrients often benefit exotic plants, which lowers the availability of oxygen when they die, impacting lake salmonids.

The Black Lake Flood Control District has succeeded in reducing the exotic-weed and phytoplankton-bloom problems that once plagued the lake. Indeed, it looked like pea soup when I did a snorkeling-safety refresher course there in the fall of 2012. But native macrophytes actually help keep such overgrown algae at bay through shading, as do riparian trees, and provide good fish habitat and prey resources (as does large-woody debris).

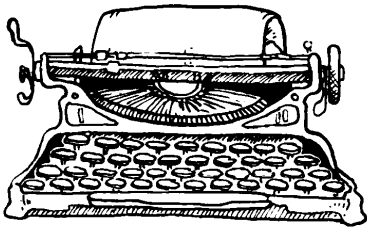
In the future, adaptive management could better keep the lake's water chemistry and plants in balance. Since BLFCD lacks the expertise to do so itself, I recommend that the flood-control district be suspended, if not dissolved, to improve lake-ecosystem management. Stormwater isn't really a flood problem for Black Lake homes, but rather a land-use issue that brings nutrients into the lake to augment weeds and algae, especially toxic species that bother swimmers and dogs. And we must look beyond boating recreation if Black Lake is to remain valuable for multiple uses, including future fishing and safe well water for local residents.

Black Lake is the headwater for the Black River, which flows through Mima Mounds past Rochester into the Chehalis River, and on to Grays Harbor, which provides valuable fin and shellfishery resources for the Quinault Indian Nation and others. It is connected naturally to the Chehalis River and artificially to Percival Creek (and thus Capitol Like and Budd Inlet) through the Black Lake Ditch. Imperiled-aquatic vertebrates like Olympic mudminnows and Oregon spotted frogs grace the Black Lake/River watershed, and a white sturgeon was once found in the lake. Below the lake, Chinook and other native salmonids spawn and rear in the Black River, which provide critical prey for federally endangered Southern Resident orcas. Given the state's efforts to restore fish habitat and migrations in the Chehalis Basin, it's antiquated to treat Black Lake like an aquatic playground.

Bob Vadas, Jr. is a longtime aquatic ecologist and Olympia resident with a zoology/botany major and chemistry minor. References for assertions in this article are available at olywip.org. To learn more about efforts to clean up Black Lake, go to www.facebook.com/Citizens-for-a-Clean-Black-Lake-105495505020648, www.saveblacklake.org, and <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/chehalis-basin-strategy>.

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RICHIE AND PAM STARTING TO WONDER IF INSTEAD OF SITTING BACK AND LETTING THE BEST MINDS IN GOVERNMENT, SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, AND ENGINEERING BE THE ARCHITECTS OF MODERN CIVILIZATION, THEY SHOULD HAVE WORKED HARDER TO MAKE SURE IT WAS THE BEST HEARTS IN ART, POETRY, MUSIC, INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM, AND COMMUNITY-LED ACTIVISM THAT GAVE US ALL A LIFE WORTH LIVING.

Cartoon by Mr. Fish, aka Dwayne Booth. See more at downtocrack.com.

In March, Thurston County commissioners convened a public hearing on whether the Black Lake Flood Control Board should continue as the decision-making body for the lake's ecosystem. Members of Citizens for a Clean Black Lake say water quality at Black Lake, which sits atop city wells in Olympia and Tumwater and is part of the Strategic Groundwater Reserve for the State Capitol, has degraded due to alum treatments and the annual use of toxic herbicides used to rid the lake of toxic-algal versus weed overgrowth. Over 40 public citizens spoke at the hearing, both in favor of and against dissolving the BLFCB.

Many of the testimonials referred to the December 2021 finding by a Federal court that the Washington Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency had failed to protect aquatic life in Washington State waters from toxins, in following outdated guidelines for protecting waterways which have declined in part by agency understaffing. No decision on the fate of the board has been made public by TC commissioners.

PERSPECTIVE

An important milestone that could lead to a free-flowing Deschutes River

Charlotte Persons

The Washington Department of Enterprise Services has announced the “Estuary Alternative” will likely be the preferred option for the Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) team expects that alternative to be confirmed in their final EIS next fall. Technical and funding work will happen over the summer.

In this scenario, the 5th Avenue Dam would be removed and the artificial fresh water of Capitol Lake would be replaced by a river with tidal flats which would be covered with water most of the time. For the first time in many people's lifetimes, the Deschutes River will run freely from Tumwater Falls to the Puget Sound.

Situated at the foot of the hill below Capitol Campus, the finished Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary Project would signal Washington State's commitment to restoring Puget Sound. In about 20 years, the free-running river could be fully restored, allowing people to stroll, fish and boat along a riverbank vibrant with native plants and wildlife.

Over the next thirty years, the Estuary Alternative will cost half as much as either of the other two options in the Draft EIS published in July 2021 – the Managed Lake and Hybrid Alternatives. If carried out carefully, the Estuary Alternative has the best chance of reducing pollution, algae blooms, and invasive non-native species, and of creating habitat for wildlife, especially fish such as juvenile salmon.

Thurston County and the cities of Tumwater, Olympia, Lacey and LOTT supported the Estuary Alternative in their comments on the Draft EIS. Many residents, environmental organizations, and state and federal agencies did so as well. The strong support came in spite of perceived inconveniences Olympia residents might face as the project commences, who will encounter construction noise, restricted access to Capitol Lake and Marathon Parks, and temporary road and bridge closures.

Because the Draft EIS's construction timeline calls for removing the dam fifteen to seventeen

years after building permits are issued, the Estuary Alternative's completion date is projected to be more than twenty years into the future. Due to the unique nature of an estuary restoration project, however, such projections may change.

Dam removal will take place only after a number of projects are completed: dredging the current lake bed and East Bay of Budd Inlet;



While we agree with the EIS that the estuary alternative would significantly improve habitat and water quality conditions, is the most cost effective alternative, and would greatly reduce or eradicate the invasive species that have plagued the lower Deschutes River basin for decades, we have numerous concerns with the Draft EIS document and the evaluation process and criteria. Our concerns are detailed in the document on our website. We would like to emphasize that the Executive Summary of the Draft EIS is misleading—Indeed, there is a frequent disconnect between statements made in the Executive Summary and the actual content of the substantive chapters in the DEIS. These are errors of both omission and emphasis. Sadly, most people will only have the time and energy to review the Executive Summary. Therefore, the final DEIS Executive Summary should be more accurate and unbiased in its statements. —*Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team statement*

preparation of new shorelines and midstream islands; replacement of the current 5th Avenue bridge; moving part of Deschutes Parkway; creating new street connections to the Olympia Way roundabout; replacing many of the current park trails; and constructing a fishing dock and boat launch.

Partial correction of a long-standing problem

In 1951, a dam under the 5th Avenue bridge created the current Capitol Lake. Creating a park and decorative freshwater lake to reflect the Legislative Building's dome were popular among most citizens of Olympia, although some sports fishermen predicted that the project would destroy fishing. The dam construction also meant tearing down Little Hollywood, housing long occupied by Asian immigrants and their families, who provided the labor to complete the project.

Negative predictions about the long-term health of the lake began to come true in the 1970s as it filled with sediment and pollution. From the 1980s to the present, swimming, fishing, and boating were banned on the lake due to shallow water, pollution, and algae blooms. The water quality and temperature violated the standards of the federal Clean Water Act.

The State applied for dredging permits to remove sediment from the lake in the 1990s, but those attempts were rejected with strong objections from the Squaxin Island Tribe. Various cleanup plans for the Deschutes River were explored by the State since then, but the plans, or portions of them, were not approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. It appears

the current Draft EIS for this small part of the river, Capitol Lake, will meet the EPA's requirements.

The Alternative is just the first step in restoring the Deschutes River Estuary and Puget Sound.

According to a 2012 report from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Deschutes Estuary is a highly degraded, urbanized estuary. Removing the dam to restore the estuary is of primary importance in restoring Budd Inlet's water quality. A restored estuary will filter out sediments and pollutants from the Deschutes River before it flows into Puget Sound, providing cleaner water for humans and marine life.

But removing the dam is just one of many steps to restore the Deschutes Estuary. Much of the dissolved nitrogen pollution in Capitol Lake comes from more than 40 stormwater outfalls. During heavy rain events, excess nutrients from fertilizers, pet waste and other sources are pushed through unmonitored outfalls into lakes,

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streams, and rivers. As outlined in the Draft EIS, the Estuary Alternative will not include plans or funding to combine and/or clean up the stormwater outfalls. Residents will have to continue to push for cleaning up stormwater and leaky septic tanks through other programs, not just for Capitol Lake, but throughout our region.

Many other projects will be necessary to restore the 52-mile long Deschutes River and its estuary. The Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan for WRIA 13, Deschutes Watershed (March 1, 2022), identifies habitat projects that will help filter out pollutants and projects that will stabilize groundwater levels as more private wells are drilled for residential development.

All of the projects are within Thurston County because the parts of the Deschutes River near its headwaters in Lewis County do not face the same urban development pressure. Part of the plan's implementation will be the formation of the Deschutes Watershed Council, which will include citizens' groups such as Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT). While the plan was voted down by the Building Industry Association of Washington, other members of the planning team are moving forward with the council's formation.

For more information, go to <https://capitollakedeschutesestuaryeis.org/>, https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02182/wdfw02182_0.pdf or <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2211015.pdf>.

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.

PERSPECTIVE

Think local and appropriate

Re-evaluating solar, hydro and wind power as the climate solution

G.t. Press

Current analyses assume that renewable energy technologies like electric vehicles, wind power and solar power are the answer to limited oil reserves. Those assumptions should be re-examined before we commit more resources to their development.

For instance, we know fossil fuels, combustion engines, and environmental toxins created by industrial pollution are the greatest perpetrators of climate change. Therefore, increasing reliance on renewable energies, converting combustion engines to electric, and reversing pollution through stricter regulations are an obvious solution to climate change and disaster resilience, right?

Not necessarily.

Re-evaluating solar, hydro-electric and wind power

A prevailing belief is that modern life is dependent on securing a large and constant source of energy that is distributed over a vast energy infrastructure grid. When the source of that power is intermittent, like wind and solar, the power grid requires a method of generating, storing, and distributing energy for nighttime, cloud cover, and windless days.

Weather patterns routinely interrupt both solar and wind power generation, making them unreliable for large-scale implementation. Solar power tends to take up large amounts of space, which is great for deserts, but not so great elsewhere.

Roughly 66% of Washington State's electricity comes from hydro-electric power. Dams are a stable source of energy, but their environmental costs are high. The proposed removal of the Snake River dams may help salmon but could cripple energy production.

Other potential solutions, like improved battery and capacitor technology, are as yet unable to

provide the long-term stable power storage capacity needed to keep large power grids stable for 24/7 energy consumption. Because it is unclear when these technological innovations will emerge, it is



unwise to create energy policy around them. Other emerging technologies, smaller in scale, are a better way to increase energy autonomy. Geothermal plants that use water and heat seem to offer a solution yet are strangely omitted from most conversations about renewable energy

Are electric vehicles reliable and efficient?

Another widely held assumption is that electric vehicles are the only solution to combustion engines, but their mass implementation has several drawbacks. The primary issue is that if the energy grid is weakened or offline people can't charge their vehicle.

Another drawback is simply the cost to convert our current gasoline-centric system. Converting to

an electrical vehicle infrastructure would already be quite expensive, before factoring in the need for the government to subsidize the exchange of combustion vehicles for electric alternatives. Despite what Jen Psaki and Pete Buttigieg claim, most people simply cannot afford to purchase electric vehicles without massive government subsidies.

Electric cars are also susceptible to being hacked. Modern electric vehicles, many hybrids, and even common combustible vehicles have proven vulnerabilities that can be exploited to stop or even remotely drive those vehicles. This represents a major security risk should rogue states or others decide they want to halt the economy.

The click of a button or a software vulnerability or other glitch could halt all traffic. This scenario is not science fiction—hackers at DefCon, an annual hacking conference, regularly hold competitions to see if they can remotely hack into electric vehicles and control them.

In any case, the multi-year failure of the global climate accords and regulatory capture by the energy industry and their lobbyists continues to stall progress on all fronts. Enforcement of existing laws and fines for breaking them are routinely evaded or minimized by multinational corporations.

Determining appropriate energy production methods

While energy analysts and policy makers work for change nationally, others are working to create sustainable systems at local and even personal levels. The guidelines for generating clean, sustainable energy always begin with: is this technology appropriate to the context?

Microgrids, microhydro, water wheels, rocket mass heaters, rocket stoves, geothermal, microsolar, microwind, windmills, biodiesel, regenerative agriculture, victory gardens, aquaculture, hydroponics, natural building, and permaculture are all examples of appropriate technology.

Energy independence is a worthy goal for nations, and it may prove futile to try to shift focus away from wind, hydroelectric, and solar power. Alternatively, individuals and groups can strive for energy autonomy on a local scale. Can you produce energy without reliance on “the grid?”

Do you have a long-term plan if the electricity is out for months or

becomes intermittent due to rolling blackouts? If you rent or live in an urban setting, can you help build a living economy with interdependent food and energy sharing? What are your contingency plans for transportation should oil and gas become unobtainable?

Working cooperatively to achieve climate change resilience

Alongside off-grid technologies and local food sovereignty, biodiesel-electric hybrid cooperatives may offer an alternative to current oil and gas dependence. Without our modern electricity grids, fossil-fuel reliant transportation and food distribution systems, most grocery stores would run out of food within three days.

By increasing bioregional food sovereignty and energy independence through off-grid technologies and small-scale regenerative agriculture we can decrease reliance on foreign energy imports and reduce the impact climate change and geopolitics have on our daily lives.

Alternative fuels like biodiesel were ruled out years ago because growing biofuel is considered environmentally disruptive due to the unimaginative monocropping practices of industrialized agriculture. Reimagining our fuel systems as biodiesel cooperatives, like the Baltimore Biodiesel Cooperative (BBC), can enable people to localize production and distribution, which can then power fleets of converted vehicles

BBC is a non-profit organization in Maryland dedicated to the promotion and sale of environmentally sustainable biodiesel fuel. Bioregional biodiesel fuel cooperatives could rapidly reduce local dependence on gasoline and replace it with a renewable fuel that is appropriate to our existing infrastructures. Combined with reforestation efforts, decentralized biofuel production cooperatives could alleviate dependence on foreign oil.

Addressing the housing crisis that helped create the energy crisis

We shouldn't rely on fossil fuels burned hundreds of miles away to heat our homes when microhydro, microsolar, good insulation and rocket mass heaters are able to be integrated into initial designs for affordable housing.

As the conversation around the lack of affordable housing continues, local activists can integrate “appropriate technology” into their advocacy or choose to start a biodiesel cooperative. Such an approach would enable Olympia to address rising fuel costs over the long term.

The building and transportation industries have much to learn from the art of appropriate technology and innovation is desperately needed. At the root of the current energy crisis is the housing and city design crisis. The growing number of unhoused people in Olympia and beyond urgently points to providing more affordable housing that integrates the permaculture principles listed here.

This was written as a paper for the Winter 2022 Program “Art, Culture, and Social Entrepreneurship on the Silk Roads,” at The Evergreen State College by @GuerrillaThink, a distributed identity composed of eleven individuals who identify as Greeners, changemakers, and cooperatives.

Thurston County Food Bank

Food Distribution at the Downtown, Client Service Center.

Regular distribution 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Mon, Wed, Fri
All food is prepacked and distributed through either the Drive-Up or Walk-Up distribution model.

Follow the signs for the vehicle line—please stay in your car—and friendly staff and volunteers will bring your food out and load it into your vehicle.

If you are on foot, line up along the Thurston Ave wall where there are marked spots to help with safe, social distancing. Your food will be brought out to you once you check in.

Office & donation hours

8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

For more information go to our website:

https://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/80-2/grocery-distribution/

Working to end hunger in our community

220 Thurston Ave. NE • downtown Olympia WA

Community Spotlight

A Length of Rope

**April 8-10• shows beginning at 8pm.
312 Columbia St. NW, Olympia Airbound Arts**

Ariel Schmidtke performs contemporary circus art in collaboration with String & Shadow. Information and tickets at www.alengthofrope.com.

The Paper Moon

**Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays thru April 24
String & Shadow Puppet Theater,
612 - 4th Ave**

A magical, original story created by a troupe of performance artists with giant puppets, masks, elaborate costumes and fantastical pop-up sets, music, and narration. Recommended for age 5 and up.

STRING &
SHADOW
PUPPET THEATER

Sign Language on 4/9. Spanish Night 4/23.

Sliding scale fee at every performance from 5\$ to \$35.

Information and tickets at <https://olyft.org/the-paper-moon>.

Koresh Dance Company

**Presented by The Center
Saturday April 16th at 7:30 pm**

Hailed internationally, is a production of tender, joyful, passionate, and humorous interpretation of the paintings of Henri Matisse. Dancers are described as “technically superb”.



Ticket pricing: **PR** \$57 **A** \$45 **B** \$35 **C** \$25

Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Plant Sale

2022 11th Annual Plant Sale and Scholarship Fundraiser; Online sale begins April 28. Pick up plants April 29, 30, May 1

Organic produce, flowers, trees and more!



Donate or read testimonials of past Nicaraguan university students: <http://oly-wa.us/tstsc>. Visit the TSTSCA Facebook page or email tst-sca@gmail.com to be added to the sale mailing list. Recurring donations of 50 dollars a month are also an option. Donations also accepted by mailing checks to TSTSCA, PO Box 561 Olympia WA 98507.

Winter Bicycle Challenge

All-weather riders in Thurston County surpassed all previous records for participation in the Winter Bicycle Challenge! 362 riders covered nearly 29,000 miles riding on a total of 2800 days during the shortest month of the year. Intercity Transit awarded 30 prizes in weekly random drawings. Stay tuned for exciting news about the Bicycle Commuter Challenge coming up in May!

Wild Grief Summer Programs

Applications open through April 30

Introducing this year, *the Family Journey Campout*, a program for families suffering a loss with children under 13. This three-day weekend campout is all costs included. If accepted, families will hike, play and connect with other grieving families at the Lewis & Clark State Park Group Camp. Other programs such as Teen Backpack and Day Hikes are open to teens of all ages.

<https://wildgrief.org/2022-program-calendar> or <https://wildgrief.org/programs-overview>



Ongoing

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT)

Volunteer Opportunities

DERT is a community which intends to share their passion of environmental restoration and protection, building ways for cities to coexist with thriving ecosystems. DERT offers volunteer programs, community forums, education of the benefit of estuaries, as well as accepting financial contributions. Detailed information about their outreach event, kayak patrol training, sedimentary sample collection, lab work and volunteer application at <http://deschutesestuary.org/>.



Join The Mycology Club!

Mushroom, botany, and long walks through nature are all offered through this community group.

<https://discord.gg/3MrdGDbTcJ>

Sharing Time with Elders Project (STEP)

Talk to Elders on Zoom: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 11-12pm

STEP is bridging generations through powerful conversations and sharing stories that connect family, community and culture. Learn to talk, listen, and lead while volunteering and sharing meaningful moments with elders and other young people. Welcoming all races, genders, and abilities, join over zoom, create art projects/ cards at home, or participate in events like The Elders Project: Native Elder storytelling and writing. Volunteer, listen and share your stories documenting them into booklets. or invite the Grandparent Panel to your group or classroom.

More information at ThisIsStep.org, on Instagram [@Projects](https://www.instagram.com/Projects) or at (360) 480-1894.



Thousand of Free Chestnut Trees

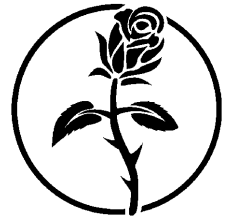
In an effort to create resilient local food networks, sequester carbon, promote healthy watersheds, and increase biodiversity the Many Trees Project, Build Soil, and the Olympia Vangardens is donating to neighborhoods, schools, community gardens, reservations, churches, parks, individuals, and more. Sign up at tinyurl.com/olychesnuts or visit <https://manytreesproject.org>.

Black Rose Anarchist Federation

No work without protection! Demand It!

The Black Rose Anarchists Association provides information and resources which provide agency to workers who seek proper COVID-19 protections.

<https://blackrosefed.org>.



Presented by Olympia Lamplighters

211 4th Ave E Olympia

**Free Night
Every Tuesday from
5-8pm**

Throughout the month four themed nights proceed in order, Game Night, Artist Hangout, Darn it All and Stitch, and Writers Tea (bring a mug). Donations are encouraged to support the activities but not required to participate.



Queer Dance

1st Saturdays 8:30pm until Midnight.

Dance the night away and celebrate the queer experience with changing DJs and within the community.

<https://olylamplighters.com>

Women of Color in Leadership Movement

**Monthly Potluck Brunch
Second Saturday of Every Month from
11am-1pm**

816 Adams St. SE, Olympia



WCLM's intention is to build a safe place to share and discuss experiences, issues, and events

which uniquely affect black women. Including topics of sexual, emotional, and physical health and happiness, reproductive rights, and other issues concerning these life choices.

(360) 352-8526



Help us expand our community networks

Click “follow” on our Facebook page so you never miss our posts! www.facebook.com/OlyWIP  Hit “follow” on our Instagram page [@olywip](https://www.instagram.com/olywip) 

Free, take one!


¡Gratis, toma uno!

WELCOME TO YOUR

Cooper Point Village


STARBUCKS®

UNION
STRONG



Sign petition here. Tell Starbucks

NO UNION BUSTING!



“Isn’t it crazy that Starbucks will spend thousands upon thousands on lawyers to stop the process of unionization but can’t even pay us a living wage? Isn’t it crazy they can put hours into stopping our efforts but also cut our hours in half? We won’t put up with it anymore. We are humans, and deserve basic human rights. Today we went on strike and shut our store down. We will not stand for the unfair labor practices Starbucks has. We will not stand for the disrespect of partners. We will be the first store in Olympia to unionize, I promise you that.”

~ Skylar Paige Becker, Cooper Point Starbucks employee

Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

