How soldiers into farmers grow

Penny Dex

A new trade enterprise is offering local vets a shot at agricultural entrepreneurship using an innovative business model that its creators say will eventually be self-sustaining, able to cede land and graduate a new generation of farmers every five to seven years. Veterans are invited to apply for membership in the Veterans Ecological Trade Collective (VETC), a small business incubator that includes free lifetime access to campgrounds, a fishing pond, hiking trails, wildcrafting programs, community gardens, and more. Qualifications for membership are simply to be a veteran of military service or be sponsored by one, and to obtain a Permaculture Design Certificate from a course led by a PINA (or other approved) professional association of Permaculture instructors.

The essential prerequisite for the VETSCAFE incubator is a two-week, 80-hour intensive Permaculture Design course in Rochester, Washington, from August 16 to September 1.

“As climate change increases the severity of weather and alters microclimates and growing seasons in our region,” says Army veteran and VETC Board President Patricia Marienthal, “it becomes clear that a one-size-fits-all answer to farming reduces productivity. Permaculture accounts for the specific challenges and features of every piece of land and deals with each aspect in a way that optimizes production.”

Following the course, members can work with Enterprise for Equity’s Agripreneur and qualify to open a business at the equity site incubator. Applicants submit a business plan which is vetted by the stewardship committee. If approved, the applying member will receive up to $25,000 in startup funding. If accepted, the applicant becomes a site operator and member of the stewardship committee.

Plans for an incubator were sparked when Fremont Docks LLC donated 120 acres to VETC. Stewardship committee members Marienthal and Deston Denniston agreed that whatever they created would give veterans working the land a chance to eventually become landowners. In five to seven years VETC will, working with the Northwest Cooperative Development Center, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust, and other valued partners, have a mechanism of transferring most of the property (60 – 90 acres) to the Stewardship Committee Members. VETC will, by that time, have secured new property, and be engaged in repeating the process with a new cadre of farmers.

“Access to land is the primary obstacle to aspiring farmers. Despite local resolutions, codes, and ordinances, we are still losing farmland and farmers in the South Sound. Farm wages have been stagnant for 30 years,” says Deston Denniston, an Army veteran who holds a Masters in Agricultural Science from Washington State University. Denniston is a graduate of The Evergreen State College at Tacoma and is co-founder Executive Director of VETC.

“Thurston County farms are in trouble, and when farms are in trouble, every one is in trouble.” Denniston said, urging veterans to help reverse that trend with membership in the new collective.

Penny Dex served the US Army from 2004-2008. She is now a veterans advocate and VETC Board President. She can be reached at 503-422-7361. Register for VETSCAFE no later than August 9 at info@vetscafe.org. See more photos of projects from VETSCAFE on page 5.
Who’s running the show?

Port of Vancouver thriving under new Commissioner leadership

Last year, WIP reported that citizens of Vancouver, WA had elected a new Commissioner to the Port of Vancouver Authority. In a recent interview with WIP, Commissioner Robert Caro tells a story about a bridge being considered in New York State. Every elected official (including Rockefeller and Albany) thought this bridge was a very bad idea. Caro went and interviewed all these people as a reporter for Newsday in his early days. All of them thought it was a bad idea and so Caro wrote that in his piece.

Upcoming themes: September theme: What future are we creating? We hope for our experience, what else, and more, focused on areas where the future is at stake: education, healthcare, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the rewards to work, the resilience of families, microbes, antibiotics... Let us hear from you.

Deadline for submissions: August 18. Attach a word document and send it to olywip@gmail.com.

October: The rest of the world. Deadline: September 22. November: Winning and losing

WIP has several years invited artists from Washington and Oregon to loan sculptures for display for one year in the area of Percival Landing. At some point, the public is invited to cast votes for one of the sculptures which the city then will purchase with monies of City Hall. Just now, the pig shown in this photograph is on display. Although the pig is wearing a ruffle reminiscent of someone who might be in or serve government, surely that’s not the intent. Photo by Paul Peck

The Trump Administration: Regulating farm-workers, deregulating farm businesses

In the July WIP, we reported that the state of Washington had created and funded a new office to ensure that farm businesses lived up to federal laws prescribing protections for temporary agricultural workers (guest workers) hired under H-2A rules. Agricultural operators are allowed to bring in these temp workers only when there are not enough farmworkers available locally.

Ag businesses favor using guest workers because they are captive and lower the financial risk for one owner and subject to instant de- portation if that owner decides they are not needed.

In the same time, the new proposal would regulate our farmworkers’ ability to apply for jobs making it harder for Washington’s them to apply for and get jobs—especially skilled farm jobs—each summer. Other elements of the proposal also give agricultural businesses more power create other obstacles to employment for our local farmworkers.

To learn more or send comments, search for United Farm Workers Trump H-2A proposal.
Who’s running the show?

Men from the corporate sector running the show at NLRB

News sources

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was established by Congress in 1935 as an independent federal agency to protect the rights of private sector employees to join together, with or without a union, to improve their wages, benefits and working conditions. The NLRB oversees hundreds of union elections and investigates thousands of unfair labor practice charges each year.

In reality, the independence of the Board depends on who is selecting the board members. With Donald Trump’s administration choosing the nominees, the NLRB looks as a backer for a radical right wing, rather than a protector of private sector employees that the 1935 Act intended.

Trump has replaced Obama appointees with men from the corporate sector.

Chair John F. Ring, was a partner at the law firm Morgan, Lewis, Bockius. This firm served as tax counsel to President Donald Trump since 2005 and represents three-quarters of the Fortune 500 companies. William J. Emanuel was a shareholder in Littler Mendelson, a law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in employer li- gation. Maurice E. Kaplan started out with a business law firm in Missouri and served as counsel to Republican led congressional committees and OSHA. The remaining Obama board member is Lauren McFerran, who served as counsel to a Democrat-led Congressional after working as a me- dium-sized DC law firm whose focus was representing labor organizations. When her term expires in December 2019 there will likely be a fourth em- ployer-oriented appointee.

The new Trump board has quickly turned to reversing rulings that de- fended workers. They overturned a ruling that made it easier for a union to win a small grocery store to represent workers at a grocery store, for exam- ple. They’re reviewing a decision that made it a company was responsi- ble for the labor violations of its con- tractor or franchise operator. Another ruling that made it easier to bring the NLRB charged that graduate assistants working at private univer-
isities were covered by the National Labor Relations Act and are allowed to form unions. A third ruling opposed the National Labor Relations Board’s employer’s effort to force an employ- ee to mandatory arbitration and forbid them to join a class action challenging violations. (This decision has already been overturned by a Supreme Court ruling that corporations can force workers to waive their right to join a class action suit.)

Glen Anderson

This issue of Works in Progress asks who is in charge. Actually, the ques- tion is who is in charge. For several decades a destructive worldview has dominated the US and some parts of the world. We need to replace that with one that is more sustainable.

A “worldview” is the overall perspec- tive from which someone—or a group of persons or society as a whole—sees and interprets the world. A worldview reflects assumptions and be- liefs about what is real—and therefore about what we should do. The way you see the world will largely drive how you interact with the world. It will drive your efforts to reinforce or to change the status quo.

A person who believes the world is in- herently cruel and unjust will likely behave cruelly and unjustly in order to cope with it. But a person with a worldview based on the assumption that people are capable of goodness will work to solve problems and make the world a better place—more peace- ful, fair and sustainable. Therefore, in addition to working spe- cific issues, let’s confront the domi- nant worldview at the macro level. Our better worldview will provide per- sonal and social solutions to the major issues.

Our better worldview will provide in- stead of peace), punishment (instead of rehabilitation), govern- ments and economic systems that use the power of nature.

Ordinary people’s incomes peaked in 1976 or 1977. The right wing has hi- tness of rehabilitation). governments and economic systems that use the power of nature.

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Exempting the wealthy and raising the property tax burden while flooding, choking and closing

Dan Leahy

Council member Lisa Parishean made a motion at the November 27, 2018 City Council meeting Council member Jesscia Bateman seconded the motion. All the other Council members voted "aye"—Cooper, Gilman, Jones, Rollsins and Selby.

With this motion, the Council approved an eight-year property tax exemption for Pat Rants’ 28 unit luxury apartment complex in downtown Olympia with prices between $750,000 and $1.4 million dollars for each individual condo.

What did this mean for Pat Rants? It was not that he would not pay property taxes for eight years on the building’s estimated housing value of $26,574,305. As the present millage rate of 12.26, this means he would not pay $2,782,921 in taxes over the next eight years. What does this mean to those who pay property taxes on our homes or in our rents? It means we would pay the $2,782,921.

How does the Council approve something like this in the midst of a home- less crisis, with rising downtown rents for low income and moderate income people?

This is how. Leonard Bauer, Deputy Director of the City’s Community Planning and Development department, explained it to Pat Rants in an email just before the November 27th vote. “Please note this item is proposed for the Council’s consent calendar, which is a list of agenda items that are more routine and not expected to generate debate among the council members.”

Even though any Council member could have moved Mr. Rants request to the regular agenda for a public discussion, there was no discussion, no debate. Exempting wealth was just “routine.”

Olympia’s downtown core: Mayor and council’s property tax exemptions: explanations, requests, possibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Stories</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Retail sf</th>
<th>LLC &amp; Governor</th>
<th>8 yr. Property Tax Exempt</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Harbor Heights Columbia Place</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>259</td>
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<td>500 Columbia Pl LLC</td>
<td>J. Brent McKinley</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Columbia Place @Columbia Complete (vacant retail)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>Views on Fifth (vacant retail)</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>4,858</td>
<td>Views on 5th LLC</td>
<td>Brogan, Gorban, EmilyKhodorkosky</td>
</tr>
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<td>Complete @ 5th Avenue.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>SF</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Walker John</td>
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<td>Dockside Flats Complete</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>Urban Olympia 5 LLC</td>
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<td>Cap Riverfront Complete</td>
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In this manner, the Council approved eight year property tax exemptions for four of Walker John’s projects: Frank- lin Lofts at 600 Franklin, Campus Lofts on 12th Avenue, 321 Lofts on Leg- ion Way and Annie’s Lofts at 322 5th Avenue. Then, in addition to the Rants request, the Council approved eight year tax exemptions for Shou Lou’s 123 4th Avenue and Mike Auderer’s Campus Lofts on 12th Avenue E.

What does this mean to those who pay property taxes? With the approv- al of these seven exemptions, the City and County exempted $63,078,639. Using the present millage rate of 12.26, this means that we would pay $773,136/year or $8,186,600 over eight years. Now that the Rants Group has canceled their Percival Condos, it means we will pay $425,471/year or $3,403,768 over eight years.

Choosing to offer property tax exemptions

State law allows municipalities to adopt various tax exemption programs. The multifamily housing tax exemption (MFTE) program is authorized under RCW 84.14, which contains certain conditions that have to be met. City Council members first voted MFTE provisions into the Olympia Munici- pal Code in August of 1997 with a 10-year property tax exemption for down- town multifamily projects. Council members voted to amend provisions of the program in December 1997, to add new residential target areas: Eastside 4th State corridor between Bank and Fir and Westside (Harrison Avenue between Cushing and Poole).

The state legislature later revised the blanket 10-year authorization to per- mit cities to adopt exemptions for market-rate housing to last 8 years; and for affordable housing to last 12 years. The Olympia City Council added 8 and 12-year exemptions into its code in January 2009 — along with some additional changes to target areas where the exemptions would apply.

In April and December of last year (2018), the Council’s Land Use Commit- tee members (Gilman, Parishean, Jones) discussed potential additional areas that might be eligible for the exemptions.

However, more requests for tax dollars are on their way to the Council. The 144 unit Harbor Heights luxury residences near the Farmers market on Capitol Way have requested an eight year exemption. Walker John has four more that are not yet headed for the City Council’s table. Mills on 510 State Avenue NE, the 44 unit Market Flats at 321 Capitol Way, the 60 unit at 1201 5th Ave. and the 44 unit Laurana at 210 State Ave.

As we witness the gentrification of downtown Olympia, the City may suc- cessfully subsidized market-rate and luxury housing for the City’s high-end clientele, there is another “routine” that is facilitating all of this. It has to do with the term “significance.”

I think most of us would say something significant is happening when downtown: exacerbation of home- lessness in the midst of public investment in luxury market-rate housing complexes. But, in fact, according to the Mayor and City Coun- cil, nothing significant is going on. It is all “non-significant.” The State’s Environmental Policy Act (SEA) requires the City to make a “threshold determination” on de- velopment projects. The City could say a project will have a significant ef- fect on the environment and therefore order a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). But this is not the case here. The Mayor and City Council do not see it this way.

The City’s Community Planning and Develop- ment department, head- ed by Keith Stahley and Leonard Bauer, has ruled that these downtown market rate and luxury housing complexes total- ing 786 residential units with 743 on site spaces for cars and 90,000 plus square feet of associated new retail and commer- cial space in a downtown core have no environmental signifi- cance. What is truly amazing is that while the Mayor and Council say there is no environmental significance to any of this, they ask the Legislature for funds because. “Olym- pia’s downtown is vul- nerable to widespread flooding cruising vital transportation corridors

c- on-site parking ** Without Rants’ Condos, we pay $3,403,768
Did tax exemptions bring us Olympia’s downtown apartment boom?

Candidates answer:

The history of Olympia’s downtown property tax exemption indicates that this subsidy has little or nothing to do with the current construction downtown. The City of Olympia had a tax exemption available since 1997. No strings attached—the only requirement was to build housing in the downtown core.

An exemption that produced nothing for years

Even with the city’s offer of this tax subsidy, no market-rate housing developer was prompted to build downtown for 17 years. Only in 2015, almost 20 years later, did developers appear—because they had decided that the market was right new market-rate developments.

The notion that new market-rate housing will contribute to affordability in established neighborhoods is contradicted by the actual results of lifting zoning requirements

The new market-rate-eligible units allowed in neighborhoods would undermine neighborhood character and in the prospects for small businesses. It would add to homeowners’ income, and to the safety of neighborhood streets, turn people into walkers and bus riders, and

The notion that new market-rate housing will contribute to affordability in established neighborhoods is contradicted by the actual results of lifting zoning requirements

The notion that new market-rate housing will contribute to affordability in established neighborhoods is contradicted by the actual results of lifting zoning requirements on new development. New units produced under MM would clearly be rented and sold at market rates—rates that already burden Olympia buyers and renters. Recent studies make clear that market-rate new construction also contributes to higher prices for surrounding neighborhoods, further raising rents and property taxes.

Support based on misconceptions

The CP&D staff repeatedly acknowledged that nothing in the MM is mandatory. With few exceptions they fostered belief in the idea that the MM would make housing more affordable. One supporter of the MM’s adoption: “The city is taking care of supply and demand. More housing units would mean less expensive housing. One result is that a lot of people wrongly think that the MM ordinance is about affordability.

The staff also fostered other misconceptions. According to CP&D department Deputy Director Leonard Bauer, spearheading the effort, types of housing allowed in neighborhoods would change, but legal density limits would not. A member of the OSD group apprised the density-enhancing provisions and discovered that the changes allowed Levels of density will exist in established neighborhoods as well. Others said the zoning was changed to how reduction of off-street parking requirements would actually work, surmised that on-street availability and running MM scenarios that indicated streets would be overwhelmed with cars.

Why ask for public comment?

These findings and others challenged the promotion of the MM as bringing a bright future for Olympia’s older neighborhoods—a future of “livable and affordable neighborhoods, pedestrian oriented streetscapes, and a healthy natural environment and a thriving economy.”

Citizens presented their findings in “comments” to the City as part of the routine public process. The group also provided recommendations as to how the MM could be adopted with modifications that reflected how the City’s Comprehensive Plan identified ways to increase density and incorporate new residents into close-in areas of the city.

There must be a better way

Had the city staff chosen to take seriously the input by citizens who spent hours in analyzing the effects of the MM and providing their findings to the city, a lot of money would have been saved. Olympians for Smart Growth raised over $35,000 for Bethany Weidner who had an interest in removing zoning restrictions and in keeping the character of our neighborhoods intact.

While candidates running for office and elected officials at their post in City Hall continually tout their devotion to “partnership,” the applicants who actually believe that “partners make mistakes” – so do city planners and council members.

Bethany Weidner worked for elected and appointed officials IN Washington DC and in Washington state. She graduated from Burlington-Edison High School in 1964.

You can read the GMHB findings as well as the text of the letter from Olympia leaders producing a glowing future under the Missing Middle ordinance, at Works In Progress online at www.olywip.org

Missing middle

From page 1

exciting opportunity to accommodate 20,000 new residents in a “diversity of housing types” close to downtown. It was presented the same way in November at two open houses for the comprehensive Plan, failed to consider environmental impacts, promised to create new neighborhoods and would undermine neighborhood character altogether—without doing anything to make housing more affordable. Far from it! Instead, the results were likely to usher in a future of gentrification that would transform the residential neighborhoods where housing was still in reach of first-time buyers.

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Getting wise to the smartgrid, part two

Leslie Shankman

We the undersigned scientists, doctors, environmental organizations and citizens from 187 countries, urgently call for a halt to the deployment of the 5G (fifth generation) wireless network, including 5G from space satellites.

Local governments in a bind

Using the rationale that the “race to 5G” justifies removing costly regulatory obstacles, in 2018 the FCC adopted regulations limiting the ability of cities and states to regulate 5G considerations. The FCC deregulation and changes made to date effectively do not allow a city to say no to 5G. These regulations began to take effect on January 14, 2019, and include:

- Localities cannot block the use of small cell sites (e.g., pole attachments) needed for the deployment of 5G,
- Limits on the type and amount of fees cities and states can charge for permits,
- Limited time periods, known as “shock clocks,” as to how long cities can delay decisions,
- Limits on non-fee requirements cities and states may charge.

We would not be overstating the case to say that cities and states, among the differences, are fighting like bullies. Some cities, such as Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, San Jose and Bellevue (Wash.) have filed lawsuits against the FCC. The Port of Olympia, the city with its port and airport, has filed suit to block 5G competition. The FCC issued a cease and desist order.

In addition to various other state, city and county suits, a citizen’s suit was filed in Santa Fe, N.M., against the city of Santa Fe and PNM, the local energy provider, for violating due process and the U.S. Constitution. AT&T is suing the FCC for not adopting a remedy for instances.

What if Olympia owned its own electric utility?

Mike Pelly

Lower electric rates

Public utilities are able to use their power directly from the power provider to pass through rate increases. Lower rates allow public utilities to pass on lower rates to their customers. Public power residential customers pay about 10% less for their power compared to what private power users pay. About 20% less for their power under public power ownership.

Local ownership and control

Local ownership of a utility provides the opportunity to control over price spikes and inflation. It is more reliable, also, because emergency power providers are more familiar with the infrastructure and are quicker to react when the job is needed. The Port of Olympia is a consistent responder in natural disasters and emergencies. Current in these situations PSE is making repairs and crews are helping public-private utilities, many of them out of state. This slows down response times even further while waiting for these crews to arrive and begin repair work. Typically PUDs sustain far less damage and down time in storms as PSE because they take better care of their equipment and have more rigorous lines maintenance schedules.

Benefits are dependable

Employees of publicly owned utilities can access the Peers 2 and 3 retirement plans and insurance benefits that other state, municipal and school employees are entitled to.

Mutual aid agreements

Utilities line and maintenance crews of a public power provider can help to ensure that other public utilities have assistance when they are hit hard during times of ice and wind storms. Forming the Utilities Beyond Olympia Region (UBOR) was initiated by the Port of Olympia and is currently surrounded with other public utilities like Mason county PUD 1 and 3, Lewis county PUD, Lewis county PUD, Centralia Power, Tacoma Power and Light. Even the towns of Lake- wood and Steilacoom have public power utilities. PSE has never taken advantage of the opportunity to sign mutual aid agreements with local publicly owned utilities to protect the citizens of Olympia.

Financing savings

Transforming a city owned public power provider would save our school district, City government, state offices, The Port of Olympia and residential and businesses large amounts of money over the years. The race to 5G is on and America must win, it’s a race our great companies are now involved in.

Pai said that a secure 5G network will transform how everyone communicates and work remotely. As the new opportunities in America, and “We cannot allow any other country to dominate the 5G market.” Other references were made to the fierce competition between the US and China.

The press conference also announced the FCC’s plan to hold the largest spectrum auction in U.S. history, offering up new bandwidth to wireless carriers. The planned auction is set to commence on December 10, 2019. In addition, the FCC also proposed a $20 billion fund to expand broadband in rural America over the coming decades. The necessary placement of 5G cellular base at every 500 feet could be quite a challenge in rural areas.

Some cities, such as Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, San Jose and Bellevue (Wash.) have filed lawsuits against the FCC, primarily challenging Pai’s deregulation proposals. The FCC rules suit asks the 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals to review FCC rule changes.

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[Image]
Smartgrid
From previous page

es when a state or local government fails to act on a request for small cell installation within a reasonable time. The NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) has also challenged the FCC ruling in court.

Portland, Oregon Mayor Ted Wheeler and his city administration have gone further, saying no to 5G installation, citing health concerns as well as the overreach by the FCC. Articles outlining Portland’s stance explain that the franchise fees that cities can charge on each cellular installation are capped at $270 per year under the new FCC rules. Some cities currently charge as much as $3,000 to cover necessary costs.

For example, if multiple cell installations from different telecoms (Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, etc.) might each have a cellular base using phased array frequencies on every pole) require that a larger pole be installed, the city will incur costs of well over $270 per installation. Wheeler said the FCC caps could cost Portland $89 million a year in lost revenue and characterized the FCC rules as “something of a land grab in court. Portland’s stance explain that the franchise fees that cities can charge on each cellular installation are capped at $270 per year under the new FCC rules. Some cities currently charge as much as $3,000 to cover necessary costs.

Growing congressional concern
Some congressional action has been taken to try to counter the fast pace of the 5G rollout. In a letter of December 3, 2018, Senator Richard Blumenthal (Conn.) and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (Calif.) asked a letter to Ajit Pai asking the FCC to answer three specific questions regarding 5G safety and also requesting that the agency be transparent with the American public.

Social media platforms are featuring up around the globe sharing information and news about 5G actions and struggles. To become more informed and connect with others, join the Facebook groups “Americans for Responsible Technology” and EMFactsConsultancy in 2018, the Bellingham City Council voted yes to granting the necessary franchise to telecoms for 5G installation. While 5G installation in Bellingham has not actively started, to date our elected officials have not expressed concern about installation going forward. Each telecom has a different schedule for installation in U.S. cities, and, while a number of cities have already been equipped with 5G cellular bases, the complete 5G rollout is expected to take until 2022 and possibly beyond.

Unfortunately, the conclusion of WSU Professor Emeritus Martin Pall, Ph.D., regarding the 5G roll out is all too relevant:

“There have been certain points in our history where people have stood up to strong destructive forces against what often appeared to be insurmountable odds. Those people are THE most honored people in our history. The people who failed to do so are among the most despised people in our history. I am not at all sure we will have historians to record us 100 years from now or even 30 years from now, given the direction in which we are heading. But if we do, rest assured that these are the standards by which we will all be judged.”

It is time for all of us, both citizens and elected officials, to come together as David facing Goliath. Locally, as we enter an election season, we must ask our candidates and our currently seated representatives — “Are you willing to be David with us?”

Leslie Shankman became aware of 5G in early 2019 when a friend in Taos, NM became debilitatingly ill from a 5G cell box placed on her property, forcing a move. Currently a writer and editor, Shankman has worked in business, lived and worked at a yoga institute, and assisted seniors with living and dying. She has lived in Bellingham since 1983.

This article first appeared in the June issue of Whatcom Watch and is supported by almost 30 references, all of which are available at olywip.org.

*A personal version of this petition, directed to the United Nations, World Health Organization, European Union, Council of Europe and governments of all nations, can be signed at Stop5Gappeal.org.

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The biggest loser

Esther Kronenberg

The Marine Terminal

One of the questions for our Port Report series is whether fees and charges that the Port collects from users of its business services go far enough to cover their cost. This month’s Report will try to shed some light on this question as it relates to the Port of Olympia’s biggest business enterprise—the Marine Terminal.

One dominant client

The Marine Terminal’s main activity is exporting logs—primarily for Weyerhaeuser, but also for Port Blakely Tree Farms. It handles wood products, and despite a recent contract to import materials for transport to mills in Asia, it sends cattle to Inlet. (They would like to exclude the purchase of log loaders for Weyerhaeuser, claiming that the equipment still wipes out the income that they would impute to the Marine Terminal to a hefty $2.13 million.)

Who makes up for the losses?

The Washington Public Ports Association describes ports as “a public entity with a profit motive.” Ports are not required to turn a profit, but their “primary goal is economic development for its community with the end result of job creation.” They are permitted to tax residents because their investments are supposed to benefit the larger community. The Port’s Marine Terminal losses of $2.13 million, in combination with losses in every other budget category, are covered by an annual contribution of $6.28 million in property taxes collected from the residents of Thurston County. The Port of Olympia’s tax levy accounts for more than 50% of its annual operating revenue of $11.4 million. This is far in excess of the usual 19% found at the top 15 Washington ports. So we ask, are there any benefits to the larger community commensurate with this subsidy?

It worked in the 1980s

Two Port Commissioners, McGregor and Downing, assert that Marine Terminal clients freely pay their way for Port services and provide enough revenue to turn a profit for the Port and Thurston County. “They would like to exclude depreciation from the calculation of operating revenue.” They defend the purchase of log loaders for Weyerhaeuser, claiming that the equipment will pay for itself over the next 20 years. They point to Port literature that describes a “multiplier effect” that produces business activity supporting “nearly 5,000 family-wage jobs +$100 million in revenue just in 2017.” But even if it were the Port’s job to generate acquisitions, the cash outlay for interest on Marine Terminal equipment still wipes out the income earned. And the prospect for log exports indicates that new loads are more likely to sit idle on the dock than “pay for themselves.”

A third Commissioner, EJ Zita, has questioned the expenses associated with the Marine Terminal. She believes that the Port has a fiduciary duty to ensure public assets benefit the common good above private interests and has advocated for reviewing rates and charges at the Marine Terminal. The accuracy of the “multiplier effect” on job creation also has been questioned, among other reasons, it includes employees of leased properties in its calculations.

Taking up tough challenges

Commissioner Davidson, who serves as an independent financial consultant to strategize how the Port could get a good return on investment to the public, including identifying new opportunities that would offer good wages while adding jobs through such opportunities as incinerator hubs, food hubs and light industrial activities, for example. Given the persistent steep losses on the Marine Terminal business and the uncertain future of log exports, the Port could benefit from such an analysis. The Port’s own Vision 2050 survey suggests possible new investments for the common good.

Environmental concerns topped the list with 84% of respondents wanting the Port to sustain legacy pollution clean-up projects in Budd Inlet. Other high priorities selected were 1) working with the City of Olympia to create a more welcoming downtown, 2) adding amenities and access along the waterfront, 3) pursuing green energy production alternatives, 4) supporting family wage jobs, 5) exploring ferry, water taxi service and regional access, and 6) providing transparency in budget planning.

Maintaining the Marine Terminal cargo functions and looking for ways to leverage more tax levies garnered the least support in the survey.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters of Thurston County.

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Port of Olympia Management Income Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Revenues</td>
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<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</td>
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<td>Depreciation ( 573)</td>
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<td>Operating Income (loss)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonoperating Revenue (expenses)</td>
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<td>Bond Interest Expense net of premium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonoperating Revenues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation on grant assets (387)</td>
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<td>Grant income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Settlements</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonoperating expenses</td>
<td>(387)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sustainable farming: climate support everybody can agree on

Kyle Murphy

Climate change in Washington State has long been a divisive issue cutting deeply across partisan lines. Debates rage over the cost of fuels, the growth of oil, and how we can divide the benefits of the ever-cleaner economy most equitably.

Emerging from this divide, however, is a robust business case for our state, and one that can benefit the bipartisans cooper- ation in envisioning a way forward through a key sector: agriculture.

Modern agriculture accounts for nine percent of nationwide emissions, and our farmers are directly impacted by climate-related events—such as heat waves, fires, and droughts. Thus, improving sustainable farming practices can only help our farmers become resilient in the face of a changing climate, they can also be an essential part of the solution.

SB 5947 would create a grant program for sustainable farms and field practices that so far are able to adopt carbon amino acid and sustainable practices. The grants created would re- duced on carbon emissions gen- erated by the farm, and pro- cesses from fertilizers to fuels; reward adopting regenerative farming prac- tices, like no-till, cover-cropping, ma- rine and compost, and biochar addi- tions; and reward agroforestry which is the addition of perennial trees and shrubs that increase carbon sequestra- tion on agricultural and rural settings.

Led by Senators Schoesler (R) and McCoy (D), SB 5947 is one of the first and only climate bills to be introduced with equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, 16 in total. But it isn’t only political leaders supporting the sustainable farm and field bill. Many organizations back it including: Cit- bon, Washington Association of Conservation Districts, American Farmland Trust, Tulalip Tribe, Community Markets, The Nature Conservancy and more. Despite bipartisan support, the bill failed last week, when Senate Chair Brian Blake declined to advance the bill, in part to objections from the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau’s opposition was surprising given the outpacing of support from actual farmers testifying in favor of the bill.

Although Sam Hunt from the 22nd legislative district did vote for the proposal, there are others in the 2nd, 20th and 22nd who did not. To help increase the likelihood of passage next year, calls from those of you who live in one of those districts can help push this over the line.

To ensure we pass the bill in 2020, we are launching a campaign focused on educating voters and increasing farm- ers and rural communities. We want to strengthen the bill and represent the citizens of Washington by putting our bills to organizations and communi- ties across the state for the 2020 leg- islative session. We must work together to be able to secure a sustainable future that our nation’s state.

Kyle Murphy is Executive Director of CarbonWx. He can be reached at kyle@ carbonwa.org or 360-764-0040.

An open letter to Patty Murray

Help!

I am not an economist. It should not be necessary for all of us in America to be “national debt economists.” This is why we have a--branch government. To oversee our budget--our tax dollars. Unfortunately one of the parts, the supposedly fascist conservative Republi- cans, with the help of lobbyists and con- cerns, and a big insurance industry, our indus- trial complex has literally drained the coffers (not the swamp) for their own wealth and wealth being. Pure greed.

Now, America, if you are paying atten- tion, is in a fiscal, environmental and consequently... health crisis. It is hard to ignore the time to analyze or see the light (or dark) at the end of the tunnel for those still working and paying taxes to support their families and an increas- ing heap of consuming dead wood.

As the 1% is excused from paying their fair share this makes it increasingly difficult for those paying more than their share. A system clearly not sus- tainable.

So although I am not an economist, I do know our economy has gone awry.

I feel it. When a pound of butter and a nutritious loaf of bread cost $10 (or more) and a median priced fix-up- per- square-foot house in America lists at $345,000, we have a problem.

It is not clear to me which people we are doing great in Donald Trump’s world but I am thinking probably it is the top 1%-flying high. Those top five big Oil Giants who make more money than the rest of us combined. Or possi- bly the top five billionaires, which comes in earning second place?

Certainly it is not the people I know and see each day. These people are for some “new age” Boston Tea Party, a resistance, or at the very least a 21st century Robin Hood to get our money back for us... the money we lost in the 2008 Freddie & Fannie Wall Street predatory thievery. Remember that? It’s coming ‘round, again. What are we to think? This time we have no more blood to give here in economically challenged America... no more houses to forfeit—that’s the truth!

Carol Summan, A displaced citizen

Six months ago, in Grays Harbor County

Six months ago, in the February 2019 issue of WIP, Linda Orgel reported on a meeting Congressman Derek Kilkm- er held to discuss economic develop- ment in Grays Harbor County. Orgel’s aim in writing was to question the dominant paradigm imposed on rural communities, and the economic develop- ment. She stated her concern, that, without critical reflection and organiz- ed opposition, Green New Deal for economic development in Grays Harbor County would be framed in opposition to good jobs and the health of our environment. She gel wrote, “rural areas, which are often depressed areas where people have fewer options for work also con- tain the last vestiges of an unspoiled natural environment. Thus rural com- munities come battlegrounds for “jobs vs. environment.”

As evidence for her position, Orgel cited state lawmakers’ willingness to blame their inability to properly fund public schools on a choice to put pro- tecting the endangered Marbled Murre- let over jobs, the same false dichot- omy employed with the Spotted Owl. New project begins in Grays Harbor County

This summer, a new non-profit orga- nization, Rising in the Wind, decided to engage in a dialogue about economic develop- ment not opposed to living-wage jobs or healthy ecosystems. Firelands Together (see column pg. 3 for more information) has designed a Cost of volleyball survey to determine what the key concerns are. Along with those concerns, the survey also asks Washingtonians how they would design a New Green Deal for our state. In addition to the survey., Firelands Together stuff are conducting listen-
This is Willem Van Spronsen’s statement

‘there’s wrong and there’s right. it’s time to take action against the forces of evil. evil says one life is worth less than another. evil says the flow of commerce is our purpose here. evil says concentration camps for folks deemed lesser are necessary. the handmaid of evil says the concentration camps should be more humane. beware the centrist. i have a father’s broken heart. i have a broken body and i have an unshakable abhorrence of injustice. that is what brings me here. this is my clear opportunity to try to make a difference, i’d be an ingrate to be waiting for a more obvious invitation. i follow three teachers: don pritts, my spiritual guide, “love without action is just a word.” john brown, my moral guide, “what is my trans comrades have transformed me, solidifying my conviction that we must answer the question. those who knew Van Spronsen, including friends, neighbors, and family members, disagree. They point out that Van Spronsen’s actions occurred about six hours after a peaceful demonstration against ICE had ended, at a time when few if any other people would be around. Van Spronsen’s actions on the one-year anniversary of a hunger strike conducted by people inside the Center and a parallel encampment of protestors outside of it. They also point out that Van Spronsen’s actions occurred in the context of Trump’s declaration that ICE officials would be rounding up and arresting immigrant families—women and children included. Friends and family stated that they believed Van Spronsen knew he would be killed for his actions. Van Spronsen alludes to this likelihood as well, through his reference to the Italian folksong Bella Ciao which was adopted as the anthem of the Italian Resistance in their struggle against Nazi German forces.

i am not affiliated with any organization. i have disaffiliated from any organizations who disagree with my choice of tactics.

Mi son alzato
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Una mattina mi son alzato
E ho trovato l’invasor
O partigiano, portami via
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao
O partigiano, portami via
Chi me sento di morir
Mi amava
Morir
Ciao, ciao
Morir
Ciao, ciao, ciao, ciao, ciao
O partigiano
O partigiano
Bella ciao, ciao, ciao
E se io muoio da partigiano
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
E se io muoio da partigiano
Tu mi devi seppellire
As the Abolish ICE movement erupts against private prison corporations that contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain undocumented migrants, a Werewolf heat has begun to rise, burning the Floyd-Paladin and faced foes. ICE techs were also organized against PNC and other banks of the West in recent months. Although much credit must be extended to longstanding divestment campaigners, the intervention of anti-authoritarian tactics advancing an explicit direct action strategy into the movement could have served as the last straw for some financial firms. Widespread and targeted disruption can also likely explain the failure of Trump’s promised mass ICE raids to materialize. Here, the sabotage of transportation infrastructure at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA by Willem Van Sprossen warrants specific mention, while the movement generally can be credited with producing a hostile environment for ICE and Border Patrol agents. The true tactical diversity - from blockades, sabotage, and divestment to popular education, mass mobilization, and material aid - of Abolish ICE has been its greatest strength. This fluid repertoire of actions permitted participation of various forms and allowed Abolish ICE to evade capture by NGOs or the Department of Homeland Security, but one crucial element of this movement. A list of sources, including links, can be found with the article at our website, www.olywip.org.

Ending the homeless cycle: one life at a time

Ara Morgenstern

Stand Up for Kids aims to help Thurston County’s vulnerable youth through a unique approach to support. This entails more than just handing out resources and saying, “God bless you” – not that this isn’t also productive. But much more is needed at this time to help the homeless population is under attack.

Stand Up for Kids is a national nonprofit organization with a local chapter here in Olympia existing since 2010. The Olympia chapter was awarded Program of the Year in 2018 by the Olympia City Council and serves all of Thurston County.

Stand Up for Kids works with youth 24 and under. Volunteers for the organization aim to make connections and form relationships with the youth. In this way, they can establish peer counselling with the youth. With these long-lasting relationships in place, resources and support can be provided. These conditions don’t have to be the straw for some financial firms.

Generally speaking, these dangers are exaggerated and applied to the homeless population exclusively even though the same dangers exist in the housed population. It is essential to address the problem, not the symptoms. To not hide the problem.

Homelessness is a complex issue involving available housing, job security, wages, abuse, and many other factors. Many people attempt to simplify the issue to laziness or unwillingness to work within society, but this is inaccurate. Many homeless people have jobs. Others are refused jobs due to a criminal record or other reasons.

Whatever the case, it’s essential to recognize that Olympia’s economy doesn’t support the State’s minimum wage as a living wage. Expensive housing cuts off their homes regardless of their employment status. Other times, the person never learns from anywhere to properly take care of their space, and they get evicted. It’s additionally difficult to secure housing where you don’t have references and a solid credit history, something generally lacking in the homeless population.

The conditions that homeless people face aren’t friendly. While on the streets, people face exposure to diseases and physical assault and more. Many privileged people with homes would claim that those conditions exist because of the climate the homeless population made for themselves. This might be partly true, but blaming the victim never solved anything. Many homeless people report harassment from housed people on the grounds that they’re homeless.

These conditions don’t have to be the reality people face. Many organizations in downtown Olympia provide temporary or long-term support and assist in the process of getting homeless people into homes. Mama Dee’s and Crazy Faith provide street meals, Rosie’s Place and the Purple House provide shelter overnight, Interfaith Welfare offers support, and many more.

This might be partly true, but blaming the victim never solved anything. Many homeless people report harassment from housed people on the grounds that they’re homeless.

These conditions don’t have to be the reality people face. Many organizations in downtown Olympia provide temporary or long-term support and assist in the process of getting homeless people into homes. Mama Dee’s and Crazy Faith provide street meals, Rosie’s Place and the Purple House provide shelter overnight, Interfaith Welfare offers support, and many more.

What happens to people that don’t know how to access these resources or are too embarrassed to accept help? They often find themselves far worse off. Homelessness is the most vulnerable people face. Youth are the least likely to seek these available resources and are one of the most vulnerable positions than most of the homeless population.

However, there is hope for even the most vulnerable. Nina is one of the youths Stand Up for Kids consistently works with. She connected with Stand Up for Kids in August of last year. She was attracted to the idea of peer counselling, and Stand Up regularly works with her, checking in regularly and offering services.

Nina fled to the streets with a history of abusive situations in foster care and later with her abusive biological mother. Although Nina goes through many ups and downs in her life journey, she remains hopeful for what her future holds. Stand Up for Kids is standing right beside her every step of the way. If you or any youth you know may be struggling, you may call Stand Up for Kids at 253-331-3490 or message the Olympia chapter’s Facebook page. If you wish to help the homeless population you may donate to Stand Up for Kids online and choose your local chapter.

Ara Morgenstern is a white, queer, and non-binary student at The Evergreen State College studying writing. They live in Olympia with their cat.
Students rally on climate resolution before vote leads to ratification

An urgency to address climate change by a group of tenacious middle and high schoolers was on display July 13 when about 50 people gathered for a rally at the state capitol to share their hopes and fears about life during climate uncertainty, calling listeners to stay engaged in the struggle despite battle fatigue.

Eight student members of Climate Conscious Youth of Olympia (CCYO) and two city council members addressed Olympia’s unfinished readiness plan known as the Climate Inheritance Resolution, an item on the city’s agenda which was slated for vote ten days after the rally on July 23.

In a nightmare scenario echoed by other speakers, Hollen Foster Grahler, a senior at Olympia High School, spoke of staying up late at night, “frantically searching for a solution to the climate crisis,” noting the universal feeling of overwhelm is better served with action.

Riona Kornan-DeVargas agreed, cautioning “we can’t just kick the can down the street and hope someone else deals with it. We are the ones who need to shake the industries, the politicians, the world—awake. We now have the choice to create a planet that we can all crowd into, with clean soil, air, and water, our planet, the perfect home for all life on earth.”

Although the earth’s “case of the humans” is definitely getting worse, Daniel Sherfinsky challenged, we can transform our fear and depression about environmental collapse by re-membering our part in “the beautiful worldwide movement” to save it.

The time for debate has passed, said Kaylee Shin. It’s time to pick an issue and “dive deep.”

Voicing her appreciation for their young colleagues, city council members Lisa Parksley and Nathaniel Jones praised CCYO students for keeping pressure on them the last two years in order to ratify the climate resolution agenda item. After the rally, Parksley recalled meeting with Kaylee Shin and Leah Major (a Reeve’s eighth grader at the time) this spring to modify the resolution to work with existing regional agreements for Lacey and Tumwater.

“Olympia is up there with top cities in what’s already being implemented for climate change. For the most part we do a great job. But we hadn’t moved on the climate resolution. The kids pushed us on it. They took the lead. I mean it when I say these guys inspired me. It took two years but they never gave up and I don’t think it would be coming to a vote if they had.”

Updated at presstime: On July 23, 2019, the Olympia City Council made history by voting to pass the Climate Inheritance Resolution as drafted and proposed by the Olympia High School Climate Action Club. This resolution calls for net zero carbon emissions by 2040, as opposed to the region’s current plan, which calls for an 85% reduction of 2015 levels by 2050. The 85% plan doesn’t offer what has been deemed scientifically necessary to address climate change.

Other student viewpoints expressed at the CCYO rally:

- The New Green Deal is the best idea anyone has had so far. Beat it or step aside.
- Research a company’s ethics before you patronize them.
- Give vegetarianism a try. Put down the beef.
- Imagine it’s you and your relatives who are in danger, not just polar bears on ice floes.
- When you lose heart don’t give up. Focus on the earth’s beauty. But also, don’t ignore the decimation that’s all around you.

Lesson #3: Rethinking Everything

Before we can think about “sustaining” the world for the future, we must actively repair the environmental and social damages inflicted by our precursors, from which we have benefitted comprehensively. As designers, planners, and clients of the built environment, we need a more integrated, accountable and proactive approach, one that strives for the understanding, restoration and enrichment of the natural systems within which human society is integrally embedded and upon which our survival is wholly dependent.

—Sarah Ichioka, environmental and social impact consultant

Up close and personal with whale Baleen and vertebrae and more at the Estuarium Sound Cruise

This September 15, the Estuarium is celebrating 11 years of its SSEA, the Sound Cruise! Join them for an amazing day on the water, discussing large marine mammals and enjoying tasty treats and a no host bar. Enjoy a day aboard My Girl celebrating our unique and beautiful estuary ecosystem. Expand your knowledge of Puget Sound’s majestic marine mammals with guest speaker Casey McLean, Executive Director of SR3 (Sealife Response, Rehabilitation and Research), and Veterinary Nurse.

When: September 15, 2019, 1–5 pm Where: Port Plaza Dock, Olympia Tickets and information available on the Estuarium website at www.sseacenter.org/sseathesound/$85 non-members ($100 after September 8)–$75 members ($90 after September 8)

The Puget Sound Estuarium’s mission is to foster learning opportunities that inspire people of all ages to connect with, protect and enjoy the unique estuary environment of south Puget Sound. Their motto is “Explore —Connect—Inspire!” Their programs include Estuarium, Meet the Beach, K-12 Education, Pier Peer and Connecting the Community. They create opportunities for the public to learn about estuaries, geology natural and cultural history, marine life and the human impacts on Puget Sound.
Who's running the foreign policy show? Will the B-Team achieve its goal of war with Iran?

JAKE JOHNSON

With the United Kingdom and Iran in the midst of a tense and dangerous standoff after the tit-for-tat seizure of oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, international observers are warning that the British government has fallen into a trap set by hawkish US national security adviser John Bolton that could lead to a devastating military conflict.

SECRETARY BOLTON ACTS SURPRISED

After British commandos early in July swarmed and detained Iran’s Grace 1 oil supertanker in waters east of Gibraltar, Bolton applauded the move as “an excellent news” and said “America and our allies will continue to prevent regimes in Tehran and Damascus from profiting off this ill-equipped trade.”

Simon Tisdall, foreign affairs editor and commentator for The Guardian, wrote that: “Bolton’s delighted reaction suggested the seizure was a surprise. But accumulating evidence suggests the opposite is true, and that Bolton’s national security team was directly involved in manufacturing the Gibraltar incident. The suspicion is that Conservative politicians, distracted by picking a new prime minister, were picking power, and preoccupied with Brexit, stumbled into an American trap.”

US surveillance and tip off for the UK

Shortly after British forces seized Grace 1, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said the UK’s capture of the tanker was carried out under or with US surveillance and tip off for the UK.

The perilous standoff is precisely the outcome Bolton was seeking. “The Bolton gambit succeeded,” Tisdall wrote. “Despite its misgivings, Britain has been co-opted on to the front line of Washington’s confrontation with Iran. The process of polarization, on both sides, is accelerating. The nuclear deal is closer to total collapse. And by threatening Iran with ‘serious consequences’, without knowing what that may entail, Britain blindly dances to the beat of Bolton’s war drums.”

Bolton was among the officials urgently urging Trump to retaliate with airstrikes.

On 4 July, after Grace 1 entered British-Gibraltar territorial waters, the fate of the oil tanker issued in London – it is not known by whom – and 30 marines stormed aboard.

A PREDICTABLE REACTION WITH UNKNOW CONSEQUENCES

The UK’s seizure of Grace 1 was denounced by the Iranian government as an act of ‘maritime piracy’ - led Iran to counter on July 19 by capturing a British tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, a position in the Persian Gulf and prompting the British government to warn of ‘serious consequences’ if the tanker was not released.

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Bolton and his B Team

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif offered a similar assessment in tweets on Sunday. Having failed to lure Donald Trump into War of the Century, and fearing collapse of his B Team, Ambassador John Bolton is turning his venom against the UK in hopes of dragging it into a quagmire.


Bolton in particular has been at the center of escalating military tensions between the US and Iran, which were sparked by Trump’s decision last year to violate the Iran nuclear accord.

A PATTERN OF PROVOCATION

The US had already tipped off Britain. “Although Spanish officials said they were not involved in manufacturing the Gibraltar incident, the UK is repeating the mistakes it made in the lead-up to the US-led invasion of Iraq. In 2003, the UK broke with the EU and foolishly sided with Bush over Iraq. London not only destabilized the Middle East, it also undermined the EU,” Parsi tweeted. “Now, the UK is doing Bolton’s bidding and allowing him to make the UK-EU collateral damage in his war plans with Iran.”

This article was adapted from “The Bolton Gambit Succeeded”, by Jake Johnson, staff writer at Common Dreams, published on July 22, 2019. It appears here under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License. You can read the original at https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/07/22/bolton-gambit-succeeded.

Nominations open for 2019 YWCA Olympia womxn* & business of achievement

(YMPH, Wash.) – YWCA Olympia is pleased to announce that nominations for their Annual Women & Business of Achievement awards will be accepted from now to Friday, August 23, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

Established in 1994, the YWCA Olympia Women of Achievement award recognizes those women who embody outstanding leadership qualities who are exceptionally committed to their community and/or profession, and live or work in the greater South Sound area. Our Honorees are working to eliminate racism and sexism to empower women, and have advanced the political, social/or economic status of women and girls, and embody the YWCAs vision of a world where all people are valued, live free from oppression, and thrive in a just society.

YWCA is also seeking nominations for employers who are actively working to create a more equitable workplace. We encourage nominations for both private and public employers as well as large and small companies in the South Sound (Thurston, Mason & Lewis counties).

This year’s special guest is Ijeoma Oluo, a Seattle-based writer, speaker, and Internet Yeller. She’s the author of The Root’s 100 Most Influential African Americans in 2017, one of the most influential people in Seattle by Seattle Magazine, one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Seattle by Seattle Met, and winner of the of the 2018 Feminist Humanist Award by the American Humanist Society, Oluo’s work focuses primarily on issues of race and identity, feminism, social and mental health, social justice, the arts, and personal essay. Her writing has been featured in The Washington Post, NBC News, Elle Magazine, TIME, The Stranger, and the Guardian, among other outlets.

When is the event? The Annual Women of Achievement Celebration will be held on Saturday, November 2 at South Puget Sound Community College.

When can I nominate someone? The nominations portal will open on July 25 and will consist of three questions which can be completed on the agent or the website (www.ywcaofolympia.org) or in a Word document.

When will tickets go on sale? When will I get them? Ticket information will be available online at www.ywcaofolympia.org. Tickets will be available online at www.showtix365.com or at the YWCA office.

For more information Contact Cherie Reeves Sperr, Development Director at (360) 688-1234 or cheriesperr@ywcaofolympia.org

YWCA is using the “womxn” term to emphasize the broad range of identities and is based on self-identity.
Earth might have a future if we summon one trillion trees and build climate-resilient cities

Brian Oaster

In decades past, we were taught to save the trees. As it turns out, it is we who need the trees to save us.

The most current report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommends adding a billion hectares of additional forests to the earth’s surface to help slow the runaway train of atmospheric degradation.

Now, new research conducted by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich finds that we have enough space to plant a trillion trees, or 0.9 billion hectares of forests, an area roughly the size of the United States, without even infringing upon existing urban centers or farmland.

“I suggest you take a look at the parks that Evergreen has completed in the past few years and your concerns will be no more. They train the volunteers well and there are no issues mentioned in the article. Like Evonne, I am one of the park stewards Evonne mentioned in the article. Like Evonne, I will continue to fight to free out about the extensive planning already occurring to arrive by 2030. Releasing a billion hectares of forest could help postpone that until 2050. It’s not a substitute for reducing fossil fuel emissions, but it will buy us some time. “None of this works without emissions cuts.”

Cautious voices remind us there’s no substitute for halting emissions:

“Restoration of trees may be ‘among the most effective strategies’, but it is very far indeed from the ‘best climate change solution available’, and a long way behind reducing fossil fuel emissions to net-zero,” says Oxford Professor of Geosystem Science Myles Allen, who was not involved in the study.

“Yes, hermic reforestation can help, but it is time to stop suggesting there is a ‘nature-based solution’ to ongoing fossil fuel use. There isn’t. Sorry.”

Laura Duncanson, a carbon storage researcher at NASA and the University of Maryland in College Park, who was also not involved in the research, agreed. “Forests represent one of our biggest natural allies against climate change,” she said, but called the analysis “admittedly simplified” and cautioning that “we shouldn’t take it as gospel.”

New forests will regenerate biodiversity

New forests and reforestation will have positive ecological consequences beyond just creating widespread carbon sinks. They will also increase biodiversity.

Right now, 80 percent of the earth’s biodiversity is protected by indigenous communities who make up only 5 percent of the human population. Reforesting and protecting bio-

diversity will also mean protecting in-
digenous people.

But even if reforestation is successful, that doesn’t mean there won’t still be fallout for human populations.

World leaders prepare for a ‘climate apartheid’

The United Nations has warned of a coming ‘climate apartheid’, wherein the wealthy have access to protection from the consequences of climate change, while the rest of the world suffers for it.

“The irony of this is that those who are primarily responsible for causing climate change will be those who won’t have to suffer for it. “Per-

versely, while people in poverty are responsible for just a fraction of the global emissions, they will bear the brunt of climate change, and have the least capacity to protect themselves,” Alston said. “We risk a ‘climate apartheid’ sce-

nario, in which the wealthy pay to es-

cape overheating, hunger, and conf-

ict while the rest of the world is left to suffer.”

Many residents of Bangladesh, for example, a country under pressure from an influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, will likely move from dangerously low lying areas to towns farther inland where the impact of cli-

mate change is less immediate.

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCD) in Dhaka is developing a plan for “cli-

mate-resilient, migrant-friendly cities, and towns” to address the intersecting crises of climate change and refugee migration. The ICCD has identified inland towns that could triple in size and support the traditional cultural practices of migrants and refugees.

The green elephant in the room

Climate-friendly cities and vast refor-

estation could help soften the impact of climate change. But the elephant in the room is still that the responsibil-

ity for emissions, ecological destruc-

tion, and climate change falls largely on the US military and a handful of private companies. If we’re going to stop them, we’re going to have to do more than just plant a trillion trees.

But widespread reforestation, com-

bined with intelligent urban planning to support migration and adapt to the future, will usher us into a more sustainable future. We spent the last two hundred years cut-

ting down the trees. We need them to come back now.

Brian Oaster is a tribal member of the Chocotaw Nation, Brian grew up in the Silicon Valley under the technological mentorship of Steve Wozniak. He’s lived, worked and traveled all over the world, and now writes and makes films in the Pacific Northwest.

Reprinted from Indian County Today. The article originally appeared in Ena media.
Any organization can be thought of as a pyramid, the base, the largest area, is made up of low to mid-level employees who go about their jobs, doing whatever the level of managers above them dictates. It is only at the very top of each pyramid, the capstone, where CEOs and board chairs sit, that the deepest truths of that organization’s agenda could be known.

Now imagine a cluster of pyramids representing banking, insurance, military, real estate, finance, government, etc. Atop each pyramid sit a few people – the same people on each capstone? The CEO of one corporation is on the board of three others. In other words, power is made up of low to mid-level employees who go about their jobs, doing things run in a similar fashion at the local municipal level? Below is a agenda could be known.

The August 2019 episode of "Glen’s This could be your $30 ad! Insights for effective grassroots organizing

None of the positive changes that have improved our nation’s political or social lives were gifts from Congress or big business. Women’s right to vote, labor unions, advances for many kinds of people, and other accomplishments were won only because of smart, courageous, nonviolent grassroots organizing. The August 2019 episode of ‘Glen’s Parallax Perspectives’ will help you become more effective in working for the political, economic and social changes you want to see.

This month’s interview features three experienced grassroots organizers—Holly Gwinn Graham, Bob Zeigler, and Glen Anderson—sharing insights that will strengthen your ability to organize. Glen summarizes a profoundly democratic model of public life, “We the People” on top, as Jefferson and our nation’s founders had intended.

This validates the strategy of using grassroots organizing to build movements to solve social, economic and political problems on an ongoing basis, rather than assume that occasional voting can suffice. All three briefly discuss nonviolence as a crucial method as well as our goal for society. We emphasize and share examples of bringing new kinds of people into movements, using arts and music, being proactive and creative, devising smart outreach strategies and communicating with the public.

Watch on your computer or on TV: Everyone can watch this interview or see a summary of what we said (plus get a list of links to further information) through Glen’s blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Call to watch submissions at TCTV (TCTV) Mondays at 5 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and Thursdays at 9:00 pm. Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, at (360) 458-0004 and glenandersson@integraco.net.
Works In Progress
August 2019
Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

Works In Progress — August 2019

Free, take one! Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

Special Events

Sasquatch revealed! Aug 1-31. 10 am to 4 pm. Lacey Museum and Lacey City Hall. For thousands of years, Sasquatch has been an important part of Native culture. In the last two centuries, it has become a part of the wider cultural phenomenon as non-Natives also reported its existence. Be prepared! There may be a sasquatch in your future.

Night out for Safety and Liberation Tues, Aug 6, 6 - 8 pm. YWCA Friendship Hall, 220 Union Ave SE. a response to the traditional National Night Out, which centers its definition of safety around policing. We will share dinner and conversation, discuss what "safety + liberation" means for our communities. RSVP to Tomya at twimbish@ywcaofolympia.org. FREE. To learn more, please visit nosl.us

Economic Investment Initiative Tues, Aug 6 to Thurs Aug 8. South Puget Sound Community College, Mottman Road. Help for veterans transitioning back to civilian life. Town Hall to raise concerns; Claims Clinic; Benefits Fair; Jobs Fair; workshops and presentations. Go to https://spscc.edu/events-calendar and search for the initiative. FREE


It takes a farm to throw a party! Sat, Aug 10, 5 pm, The Farm, 2406 Delphi Rd SW. Music and signature cocktails, a catered farm to table dinner, live auction, comedy and farm tours. Tickets $35 - $100; google for "It takes a farm to throw a party" and select "GiveLively," Fundraiser by Nature Nurtures Farm.

Stories in the Dark Sat, Aug 10, 7 pm, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2415 5th Ave SE. Family stories at 7:00 pm followed by a more spooky and dramatic stories for older kids and adults. South Sound Story Guild. FREE

Sierra Club picnic Wednesday, August 14, 5-7 pm, at Priest Point Park, Kitchen 1. The Club provides the basics, and side dishes are welcome. Endorsed candidates will be allowed to make brief (1-2 minute) remarks. Other "green groups" may also bring campaign literature and materials. Family Movie Night Wed. Aug 14, 6 pm at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia Street. Trolls, an animated musical adventure. Bring pillows & sleeping bags. $5 individual, $10 family. Pizza available for extra $. Benefit for the Pizza Klatch.

Ice Cream Social Sat, Aug 17, 2 pm, Decatur Woods Park in West Olympia. Join us for ice cream/sorbet and lawn games, and learn a little about Slow Food. Hosted by Slow Foods Olympia. FREE.

Olympia Indivisible picnic Sun, Aug 18, 4-8 pm. Priest Point Park, 2600 East Bay Drive NE, Shelter #1. Save the date — bring yourself, family, and friends to the Second Annual Olympia Indivisible Picnic! Old-fashioned and family-friendly. Meet your fellow Indivisiblers!!


Stonewall YouthGlitter Camp Mon, Aug 26, 4 pm to Thurs, Aug 29, Starts at 1 pm Sound View Camp and Retreat Center, 8515 Key Peninsula Hwy SW, Longbranch, WA. Youth-led workshops, open mic, nature walks, storytelling, and sitting by a cozy fire; anti-oppression and self-care centered activities. $170 per person, or pay what you can. Sign up at the Stonewall Youth Center.

Waking up to this life Fri, Aug 30, 6 pm to Augt 31, 5 pm. Friends Meeting House, 3201 Boston Harbor Road NE. Explore Buddhist principles and practices for healing the Heart-Mind in everyday life. Free. Register by googling "Waking Up to This Life."

Inaugural Letter writing meet-up Sat, Sept 7, 10 am to 1 pm. The EcoHouse, 211 Adams Street, SE. Check in at 10.00. Opening ceremony at 11. Cut the Inaugural Ribbon, coffee, raffles at 11:15-12.00. Prizes — stationery sets, pencil holders, shirts and ???. 12-1:00 letter writing! Use vintage typewriters, unique paper and envelopes! And the Mail Art Lover will lead you to create beauty out of junk mail! South Sound Letter Writing Society