

The Northern Light

June 13 - 19, 2019

Community Newspaper of Blaine and Birch Bay

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Most Whatcom County beaches closed to shellfish harvest

BY JAMI MAKAN

The Washington state department of health has closed the recreational harvest of all species of molluscan shellfish on most Whatcom County beaches, after unsafe levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) biotoxin were detected in shellfish on county beaches.

Lummi Island, Hale Passage, Lummi Bay and all beaches from Sandy Point north to the Canadian border are closed. Point Roberts beaches are closed as a precaution until shellfish samples can be obtained to determine biotoxin levels.

According to a notice from the Whatcom County Health Department, Portage Bay, Samish Bay and Bellingham Bay south to the Skagit County border remain open. The department will be collecting additional samples each week to monitor biotoxin levels, and will notify the public when biotoxin levels have dropped below the closure limit.

Molluscan shellfish include clams, mussels, oysters and scallops. Mussels usually contain the highest toxin concentration. PSP and other naturally occurring biotoxins are not destroyed by cooking or freezing. Crab meat is not affected, but “crab butter” and crab entrails can harbor biotoxins so they should be discarded.

According to the release, shellfish sold in restaurants and markets have been tested before distribution and are safe to eat.

Mark Seymour, co-owner of Drayton Harbor Oyster Company, confirmed that shellfish sold at his restaurant is safe to eat. “If we’re selling oysters, customers can rest assured that we’re looking out for them and have had everything checked,” he said.

He said the process starts near the Semiahmoo marina with officials testing mussels, which are considered a “signal species” for PSP. “[Mussels] pick it up the first and the highest,” said Seymour. When officials detect high levels of PSP in their weekly mussel survey, they then reach out

(See *Shellfish*, page 2)



▲ The annual Hands Across the Border celebration took place on June 9, bringing nearly 2,000 scouts from the U.S. and Canada to the Peace Arch for a day of fun and fellowship. For more photos, see page 7.

Photo by Louise Mugar

CBP apprehensions rise at the U.S.-Canada border

BY ZOE DEAL

While the nation’s eyes are on the southern border, a steady increase of northern border apprehensions tells another story.

Apprehensions along the Blaine sector of the U.S.-Canada border from October 2018 to February 2019 totaled 177, more than double the 78 apprehensions reported during the same period a year earlier.

At this rate, it is likely that border apprehensions in 2019 will continue a trend of growth in apprehensions seen along the 5,545-mile-long U.S.-Canada

border since 2015.

The Blaine sector of the northern border stretches 252 miles – 163 miles of water and 89 miles of land ending in the North Cascades. It is one of eight sectors that secure the northern border. In 2018, the northern border saw a 42 percent increase in apprehensions from 2017, totaling 4,316 apprehensions. Meanwhile, there were 396,579 apprehensions along the 1,954 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border in 2018.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) spokesperson Jason Givens said

there are a variety of factors that could be influencing the increase in apprehensions along the northern border.

Givens said that one of the primary reasons is “a false perception that crossing the northern border is safer than crossing the southern border.”

This could be due to recent changes to Canada’s electronic travel authorization system, which has opened up visa waivers to people from more than 50 countries including Mexico and Romania. Visa exemption allows travelers to fly into Canada without a visa, though they must still go

(See *Border*, page 3)

Whatcom wages rising faster than national average

BY JAMI MAKAN

Data from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows that wages in Washington state and Whatcom County are increasing faster than the national average.

Recent BLS data from the fourth quarter of 2018 shows that average weekly wages in Washington state increased 6.3 percent compared to a year earlier. This is in contrast to wages for the United States as a whole, which increased by 3.2 percent.

In Whatcom County in particular, av-

erage weekly wages increased 4.7 percent from a year earlier, also outpacing the national average.

The average weekly wage in Washington state now stands at \$1,292, compared to the national average of \$1,144. However, Whatcom County wages are lower than the state and national averages, coming in at \$944 per week.

In addition to wages, the actual number of people employed has also gone up on all fronts. Nationally, employment rose by 1.5 percent in December compared to a year

earlier. At the state level, employment rose 2.4 percent, while in Whatcom County employment rose 2.3 percent.

A closer look at the data reveals that certain industries are driving wage growth in Whatcom County. The industry that saw the largest wage increase in Whatcom County in the fourth quarter of 2018 was the federal government, which saw average wage increases of 18.2 percent compared to a year earlier.

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Border ...

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through a screening process.

Instead of joining thousands of people waiting at the southern border, migrants may feel it's easier to travel to Canada first before attempting to enter the United States illegally, Givens said.

While the southern border is staffed by almost 17,000 border security agents, slightly more than 2,000 northern border patrol agents cover a great distance of open border, with the border sometimes consisting of just a line of flower pots.

But Givens said enhanced border security operations through improved information sharing and "domain awareness" have allowed CBP to function efficiently.

"As America's frontline border agency, CBP is responsible for securing America's borders against threats, while facilitating legitimate travel and trade," he said. "To do this, CBP has deployed a multi-layered, risk-based approach to enhance the security of our borders while facilitating the lawful flow of people and goods entering the United States."

Thousands of sensors along the border are equipped with motion detectors and cameras which alert nearby border agents of illegal crossings. In the Blaine sector, the number of staff has stayed around 300 for nearly a decade.

Givens also said CBP utilizes technology and partnerships to detect cross-border incursions. When needed, ATVs, snowmo-

biles, marine vessels and aircraft may be used to apprehend illegal entrants, he said.

It's possible that attempting entry into the U.S. is a last ditch effort as Canada begins to reject claims for many asylum seekers.

"The [Canadian] government has deemed that their claim is not valid and is in proceedings to remove them from the country," CBP division chief Dennis Harmon said to CBC. "We then have some of those people trying to effect their illegal entry into the U.S."

For those apprehended trying to cross the U.S.-Canada border, deportation is the likely result. "It varies on a case-by-case basis; however, individuals who illegally enter the U.S. are typically processed for removal to their country of origin," Givens said.

Wages ...

From page 1

Whatcom County's information industry also saw a double-digit increase in wages from a year earlier. According to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), the information industry includes telecommunications; data pro-

cessing, hosting and related services; and publishing industries, including software and internet publishing.

All industries in Whatcom County saw at least a small wage increase, except for financial activities, which saw no increase in wages whatsoever. According to NAICS, financial investment activities include portfolio management and investment advice.

In terms of overall employment, the leisure and hospitality industry in Whatcom County saw the largest gain with an employment increase of 5.4 percent in December compared to a year earlier. Meanwhile, the natural resources and mining industry saw a 7.8 percent decrease in employment in Whatcom County in December compared to a year earlier.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 • 7-9 pm - Open Mic w/Chuck Dingee
FRIDAY, JUNE 21 • 7-9 pm - Roy Kanaak
SATURDAY, JUNE 22 • 7-9 pm - Havilah Rand & Phil Sottile

Are You Living With, Or Worried About, A Child Struggling In Reading?
By Leading Washington Vision Specialist


PETER CHARRON, OD, FCOVD
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225.

Have YOU ever been told that a child's reading problem is just something they'll have to live with? Have you been told that the child is dyslexic or learning disabled and that they'll have to deal with it for their entire lives? If you answered "YES" to either question, and you've witnessed a child having trouble keeping up in school for longer than six months, please pay special attention to what I'm about to tell you... It could help save the child's future and prevent years of frustration for the child, not to mention for you as a parent.

It's a shame that so many people think the only options for learning problems are to go to an expensive learning center, or worse, take a potentially dangerous drug to help them focus. ...Because as you may be experiencing, if you've seen a child suffer for longer than six months, something is wrong and there is a problem. I want to help you by simply showing you all of the different options that are currently available to you!

Get this: I reveal over 7 different ways that could possibly make a significant and positive difference to the frustration and torment that a child is currently experiencing with school work, in a new report titled:

"7 Quick Tips Boost Reading Performance!"

Inside is simple, actionable advice, that is easy to follow and proven to work... the kind which can often make the difference between those who struggle for a few months, and those who's reading difficulty can last a **lifetime!**

And the good news is this... Today, I'm giving away a completely FREE copy of this 11 page report (Value \$18!).

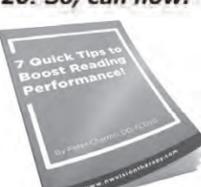
My name is Dr. Peter Charron and I'm a neuro optometrist who specializes in helping people age 5 and older find quick, natural and long-lasting solutions for vision problems that interfere with learning and reading.

My reasons for writing this special report are clear and simple: to help people in this area make a better, more educated and informed decision about their child's future.

Inside, could well be the solution that your child needs to blossom in school and to live free from feeling "not as smart" as the other kids, or worse, having to take medications. For example:

- Discover the real secret why some kids look at a page of print and then want to run away... and how you might fix it fast.
- A simple 4-minute exercise that costs nothing, requires no equipment and you can do anywhere to help fatigue.
- The single biggest mistake that most parents and teachers make when trying to help a struggling reader.
- The change you can make with a common household item to prevent stress while reading.
- MORE: Knowing what I reveal on page 4 could help your child right away because it takes so much releases so much tension on the eyes - tension that causes slow, labored reading in the first place.
- Ultimately, the report shows one of the most crucial things that a lot of kids need to find success in reading. The thing that I've seen take hundreds of people from hating reading to loving reading: including myself.
- Trouble with reading will hold any child back from reaching their potential in life. Many kids will have poor self-worth, or start acting out. When older, many will resort to even more risky behavior, or even turn to crime.
- If you are worried about your child falling behind and you've tried "just about everything" already but still won't give up searching, then this quick-reading report titled: "7 Quick Tips To Boost Reading Performance" will help...

Warning: Limited FREE Copies are available - just 20! So, call now.



Request a free copy today by calling this special number now: (360) 393 4479 or visit this website www.nwvisiontherapy.com/boost-reading where you can download the guide instantly.

To Your Child's Future! Dr. Peter Charron

- The author of this report, Dr. Peter Charron is one of the Washington's leading optometrists - an expert on finding ways to treat vision disorders that cause trouble in school.

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