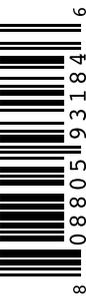


BAINBRIDGE ISLAND REVIEW

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INSIDE: Shooting for the top, A23



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LET THERE BE (A LOT OF) LIGHTS

Island man's house is bedecked in holiday trimmings for a good cause

BY LUCIANO MARANO
Kitsap News Group

Eat your heart out, Clark Griswold. Because Bainbridge Island's own Wiley Jones Irwin is not only matching Chevy Chase's most famous character's enthusiasm for elaborate holiday decorating, but he's doing it for a selfless cause as well.

The display outside his home on Hyla Avenue NE boasts, by his own conservative estimate, more than 100 figurines and roughly 40,000 total lights.

It took him about a year — “here and there,” Irwin said — to put it all together.

“I switched over from mainly incandescents to now maybe 85 [to] 90 percent LEDs,” he said. “It's definitely something that, in my opinion, Bainbridge hasn't seen before.”

“And that's why I like to do it. To see like a big, big display ... it's almost like a city block of lights, walking around our lot ... you can't get that around here. You have to either go to Bremerton, Port Orchard, Kingston Marina, step away from the island. And that's what I'm trying to do is bring something like that closer to the island for folks that are really busy



Luciano Marano | Bainbridge Island Review

More than 100 figurines and roughly 40,000 total lights adorn the yard outside Wiley Jones Irwin's home.

or don't have time, and also for anyone who wants to see it.”

Irwin has gone above and beyond with his decorating in seasons past, but said he never before attempted anything quite like this year's display.

And the response has been immediate and enthusiastic — already, folks are stopping by for a gander.

“My favorite thing is to have people when they come they're like, ‘Whoa!’” Irwin said. “That's

the thing, I love seeing people say, ‘Whoa, that's awesome!’”

“Every bulb, when my fingers were hurting, when I was putting lights on a wire frame and my back was hurting doing that, I was still thinking of that expression on

“That's the thing, I love seeing people say, ‘Whoa, that's awesome!’”

Wiley Jones Irwin

people's faces when they see this; that's why I do that.”

Irwin incorporates pieces found near and far into his display, some purchased and some donated, including a few hard-to-find antiques, and pays for his passion with money he earns doing odd jobs throughout the year, and by being both frugal and handy, with an eye always open for bargains or fixer-uppers.

“I'm savvy in terms of finding vintage things,” said Irwin, who also often fabricates or constructs original pieces.

In addition to a sudden influx of holiday spirit, visitors to Irwin's Christmastime wonderland will depart informed, if they choose to inquire, about the good works being done by Rescue Every Dog, a support group for animal shelter workers and animals currently in public shelters in need of special care.

TURN TO LIGHTS | A21

Whistleblower worried about retaliation after ‘bogus’ claims

BY BRIAN KELLY
Kitsap News Group

The city hall employee behind the code compliance complaint that ensnared City Councilwoman Rasham Nassar in legal trouble with the city of Bainbridge Island said she filed her complaint anonymously because she was concerned about “possible retaliation” from the councilwoman.

But that's exactly what hap-

pened after Nassar and her husband later discovered her identity, the city worker told the Review.

Lara Lant is a permit specialist for the city of Bainbridge Island and works in the city's planning department.

Lant told the Review in a recent interview that she is a lifelong islander and has lived since 1976, about a quarter mile from the property now owned by Nassar and her

husband, Trenton Riely-Gibbons.

She said when she saw “unlawful development” on the couple's property in January 2018, Lant felt a duty to report it via the “See Click Fix” portal on the city's website where residents can file online complaints.

In her online complaint, Lant wrote: “Unpermitted structure in a wetland buffer being used as living space. Structure has electricity and



Councilwoman Rasham Nassar

wood stove. Not sure what plumbing or electric if any...”

Scandal ensues

The complaint prompted a storm of controversy around Nassar, a first-term councilwoman who had been elected to office in 2017 after running a campaign that emphasized her environmentalism.

The complaint eventually led to a lawsuit in Kitsap County Superior County against the city over public

TURN TO WHISTLEBLOWER | A6

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TURN TO WHISTLEBLOWER | A6

HOLIDAY

CONTINUED FROM A1

Dog spokeswoman Meghan Lawson.

"Shelters do really great work, but a lot of times they're helping so many animals that they can't necessarily take a dog that needs a \$3,000 surgery or stuff like that. And they will reach out to our organization to see if we're able to help. We also will take in older dogs — or, actually, just animals in general. We do dogs, cats, bunnies and some livestock; horses, we have horses, sheep and goats, and then actually chickens and ducks as well."

Irwin is accepting donations for the nonprofit and handing out informational flyers during his display's official visiting hours: 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and 5 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Christmas.

The address is 11002 Hyla Ave. NE, and visitors are asked to follow the established traffic route: Enter Hyla Avenue NE from NE Valley Road, then follow the display around NE Albertson Road to Sunrise Drive NE to exit.

Minimal parking is available nearby, and further arrangements are being made with nearby facilities.

Search "Wiley Jones Irwin" on Facebook for more information.

"It's important to me because I love dogs," Irwin said. "I am actually working to be a full-time trainer. I do training on the side, but I'm working to be a full-time trainer and I hate to see dogs be brought into this world without their choice and then they get euthanized without their choice. It's unfair because they're brought into this concrete world without a say and that makes me cringe."

Lawson said that she, hav-

ing grown up near Irwin's house, where her parents still live, was familiar with his holiday displays and thankful he chose to use such a platform to tell people about Rescue Every Dog.

"I grew up down the street from where the lives," she said. "I live in Poulsbo now, but my parents still live down the street."

"He's been so amazing, not only setting up his display [which] is amazing, I have admired it every time I would go to my parents' — it's incredible and I know the amount of work that goes into that is just astronomical — but in reaching out to [others]," she said. "He has advertised on Facebook, he has gotten us signage, just all this stuff. He has been really incredible in helping us."

In lieu of a grand opening, Irwin has partnered with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department's beloved Holiday Music Truck for a special celebration, to be

held Saturday, Dec. 14.

The truck will be supplying the tunes — but that's not all that's on the menu.

Refreshments will be available — candy canes, hot chocolate and more — as well as a visit from the Man in Red himself.

"We're also having a Santa

Claus come that night and a Mrs. Claus," Irwin said. "I have a full Santa throne, a photographer."

For those looking for an excuse to see the lights, or hear the truck, it's a no-brainer.

"If they've missed the fire truck or their road isn't

designated for the fire truck to drive down, I know most are but there are some backroads that the fire truck just doesn't go down," Irwin said. "I think it's a really cool thing to invite those groups of people who can come here, experience it with all the lights around."

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I honestly do not know how this experience could have been made any better. Thank You! ~ Nelson, 2018

We cannot recommend Tony highly enough. We greatly valued his "no stone unturned" approach. ~ J.H. 2018

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AN ADDAMS FAMILY FAREWELL

BHS Students stage appropriately creepy, kooky finale for the LGI

BY LUCIANO MARANO
Kitsap News Group

It is perhaps fitting that the Bainbridge High School Theatre Club has chosen for what is to be the final performance in the storied LGI — soon slated for remodeling as part of a larger campus improvement project — a show featuring the family that puts the fun in funeral.

Da da da dum, snap snap. This musical portrayal of the infamous Addams Family, opening Friday, May 10, which debuted on Broadway in 2010 featuring Nathan Lane as Gomez and Bebe Neuwirth as Morticia, sees the creepy clan's annual graveyard visit to celebrate their heritage with ancestors (living, dead, and undecided alike) interrupted by Wednesday's having invited her new (ostensibly normal) fiancé Lucas and his parents over for dinner. And though she loves her family, everyone's favorite goth girl is worried about making the right impression because, well, you know.

Plus, Lucas' family is from — gasp — Ohio! (“A swing state!” Gomez decrees.)

The resulting evening sees even the unflappable Addams clan get a bit ruffled. But surely true love will prevail, right?

Right? It's a story about love, romantic and familial, learning to accept other people despite their differences and the ups and downs of being part of a family.

Then again, all that is nothing new for America's favorite ghoulish gang.

“It's [a show] we've talked about doing, but some of the kids knew it, some of them didn't ... and they were thinking [of something] more serious before, because they'd been doing more comedic [works], but now they're totally ready and the more they do it the more fun they have,” said D'Arcy Clements, the show's director.

“Especially after doing ‘Rent’ last time, which is more serious, more deep, this one is very macabre but at the same time it's quite funny, and also gave the tech person the opportunity to design these massive amazing set pieces. They really went all out.”

It's the kind of material that inspires adoration — no matter the medium.

Since their first appearances (single-panel cartoons, most often published in the *New Yorker*) between 1938 and creator Charles Addams' death in 1988, on through an iconic (though short-lived) television series, novelizations, an animated series, something like six video games, one pinball machine and three (soon to be four) feature films, Morticia, Gomez, Uncle Fester, Lurch, Wednesday, Pugsley, Grandmama, Thing, Cousin Itt and all the rest have been teaching audiences the joys of life, death and family — though not necessarily in that order.

“This has just kind of brought the fun out of a lot of different people,” Clements said. “On the back wall, we call it the gallery because it's pictures of all these different people,



Luciano Marano | Bainbridge Island Review

Members of the Addams Family, lead by Lexie Taylor, a senior set to portray Morticia (center left) and Libby Clements, a junior who plays Gomez (center right) work through a rehearsal session.



Luciano Marano | Bainbridge Island Review

The cast of Bainbridge High School's “The Addams Family,” the last show in the campus' storied LGI before renovations begin, during a recent rehearsal.

one of the teachers here at the high school had a couple of old ancestor portraits of her ancestors that creeped her out, that were staying in the closet — they are now the centerpiece of our backdrop.”

Embodying the story's iconic leading couple are returning school stage presences Libby Clements, a junior who plays Gomez, and Lexie Taylor, a senior set to portray Morticia.

“This is the third show we've done together ... so we know each other pretty well and we've been on stage together,” Lexie said.

“It feels like a fairly natural relationship,” Libby agreed, “because I put myself in the mindset of my character, since I'm more of a method actor than anything else, I really become Gomez and then I actually feel like she is my wife.”

Lexie said she is an Addams Family fan from way back, and a proponent of doing the show from the start.

“It's really, really fun,” she said. “I've liked the Addams Family since I was really small, the '90s movies especially. And, just in terms of my personality,

I really love Halloween and I love horror movies and stuff like that, so it was kind of a dream role, really.”

Libby said she admired the way the clan accept and support each other, the vivacious patriarch especially.

“Gomez is willing to accept people for who they are,” she said. “He doesn't really care that people are different than him, it doesn't faze him.”

Not all the students were so familiar with the source material, though.

“It's amazing to me how many of these guys hadn't

seen the Addams Family before this,” Clements said. “Having never been exposed to it, and some of them openly admit they had never seen it before, which is kind of fun because they've had a chance to explore all kind of stuff, they've really enjoyed developing these characters because they're dark but comedic and they're teenagers.”

With the LGI out of commission next year, Clements said the club would certainly be staging a traditional fall and spring show next year, but little else was certain just yet.

“The only things I've heard have been rumors,” she said. “We will definitely continue the program next year, it's just a matter of figuring out where we're going to be — maybe in somebody's backyard, I don't even know at this point.”

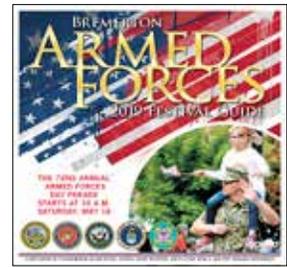
“The Addams Family” show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10; Saturday, May 11; and Friday, May 17; and 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$8 for students with proper identification, payable at the door.

Visit the “Theatre” page, found under the “Activities” tab, at www.bisd303.org to learn more.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



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BRING ON THE BROOM

Scotch broom parade returns to Winslow streets

BY LUCIANO MARANO
Kitsap News Group

Like the swallows to Capistrano, the monarch butterflies to Mexico, and the geeks to San Diego Comic-Con, so too did weed-obsessed revelers once more return to the streets of downtown Winslow Wednesday, May 15 for that legendary, elusive, much-whispered-about stunning annual display known as the Scotch Broom Festival.

The parade vehicles gathered, and were festooned with the iconic invasive plant in the Town & Country Market parking lot.

And a curious crowd gathered. The traditional tiddlywinks match between representatives of the Kiwanis Club of Bainbridge Island and the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce commenced (the Chamber won).

And the crowd grew, cell phone cameras busily documenting the strange goings-on.

Then, this year's Scotch broom queen was randomly selected.

And the festivities began in earnest.

This year's monarch was Jennifer Carrillo, a longtime employee at Chase Bank in Winslow and an island resident since 1997, who said she was, "just walking up the street" when members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County selected her.

"My friend ... saw a bunch of Scotch broom walking by, and I said, 'Oh my gosh, I wonder if it's the Scotch broom parade?'" Carrillo said. "And then one of our coworkers, he's new to the area, and he was like, 'What are you talking about?' And we were explaining it to him and I said we're going to go check it out."

Though she had no immediate idea as to her first royal decree, her highness was fortunately not allergic to her title's namesake plant.



Luciano Marano | Bainbridge Island Review

This year's Scotch broom queen, Jennifer Carrillo, rides shotgun in the quirky annual "impromptu" parade Wednesday, May 15, while prior queen Mickey Molnaire rides up top.

Her friend, however, was, and kept a respectable distance from the cart-turned-carriage as the parade got underway.

Though considerably better attended this year, including a substantial boost in young volunteers from the aforementioned Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, as well as the usual Kiwanis troops, the spirit of the holiday remains a roguish distance from the mainstream.

The "impromptu" festival is a quirky island tradition dating back to 1965, when Kiwanis member

John Rudolph began the event as a joke.

Legend has it, Rudolph was contacted by somebody who was doing a guide book for the state, they were looking into all the different festivals and fairs around Washington and in need of some additional material for the Bainbridge section.

Rudolph was happy to oblige. He spun for the eager rube a magical tale about a time-honored festival in which island residents observe a tiddlywinks match,

crown a queen and march through the downtown streets waving the region's most iconic weed.

Of course, no such festival existed, but that was of no concern to the prankster at the time.

"Some months later somebody showed up looking for the event," remembered Mickey Molnaire during a previous festival. "So, they decided they better do something [and] they threw together this parade."

TURN TO SCOTCH | A8



Anthony Oddo

Bainbridge newcomer announces council bid

BY BRIAN KELLY
Kitsap News Group

Anthony Oddo wasn't living on Bainbridge Island when Councilman Ron Peltier was elected to the at-large position on the Bainbridge Island City Council.

But Oddo is an islander now, and said the city needs a change in the District 1 position.

Currently the policy and programs coordinator for the nonprofit Housing Resources Bainbridge, Oddo is making his first run for elected office.

He said he was motivated to seek the at-large seat in part by the testy tone set by the council over the past 12 to 14 months.

"I was disappointed by the tone and, I think, the general lack of respect that was shown by members of council toward not only their fellow council members and the city staff, but also the public," Oddo said.

Oddo and his husband Dave moved to the island in 2017. Before that, the candidate lived in the Washington, D.C. area off and on since 2006.

TURN TO NEWCOMER | A8

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CLOSED SUNDAYS FOR FAMILY DAY

NEWCOMER

CONTINUED FROM A1

His husband is originally from Snohomish, and they had talked about moving to the Pacific Northwest for years.

It's the first time Oddo has lived in the Northwest. He grew up in the Chicago area, the eldest of two children. His sister is a nursing student in San Diego; his father, a financial advisor, and mother, who works in fitness/naturopathy, still call Chicago home.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Oddo also holds a master's degree in public policy from Duke University's Sanford School.

Public service has been a central part of his life, he said.

"I went to public policy school — not law school, not MBA — because I wanted to be in public service. My work has always been in the public sector. And running for office is always going to be one of those things where you have to — I just felt like — you have to see a time for yourself. And you have to be able to articulate your case."

Now is that time. "I want to add my voice to the council," Oddo said.

"The council has done an admirable job to date on protecting our natural environment. But my work at HRB and some of the things that I would like to accomplish on council involve the human

environment on Bainbridge Island," he explained.

Bainbridge is a high functioning city and is generally very well managed, he said.

"We should be able to balance both the needs of the human citizens that live here and the environment in which we live in," Oddo added.

Oddo, who currently serves as chairman of the city's Marine Access Committee, is one of two candidates in the race.

Peltier, the incumbent, has announced that he won't run for re-election.

Former Bainbridge councilwoman Kirsten Hytopoulos, a Bainbridge-based collaborative divorce attorney and mediator, is also campaigning for the at-large position.

Though Oddo has lived on Bainbridge for just a short time, he's already immersed himself in the community. Beyond his volunteer work for the city, he is involved in Bainbridge Island Rowing and serves as the vice president of the Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association.

Four seats on the council are at stake in November. Running for the at-large position was a deliberate decision, Oddo said.

"I made a conscious choice to run for the at-large seat, in order to accomplish the things I would hope to accomplish, and to create the collegial and collaborative work environment that I would hope to see, that I think citizens should

expect of a city council," he explained.

His campaign will also press the issues of affordable housing and transportation.

"I believe there should be an opportunity for individuals who desire to be a part of our community to find a place to live or rent," Oddo said. "And also at the same time, people who have been here a long time, they should be able to see and envision a place to stay, age in place, remain."

"Things such as the availability of housing and the way the council makes decisions on where future development goes, that is really what has motivated me to run.

"I think that if done correctly, Bainbridge Island can be a leader in accommodating growth but at the same time, respecting the environment and sense of place that people find so appealing about the island. And things like affordable housing and design standards and green building, are things that I would be very much interested in," he said.

The council, Oddo said, "only has a finite number of policy levers to pull."

But concentrating housing near the city's core and the ferry, for example, also has connections to climate policy and reducing traffic gridlock.

First, however, comes improving the environment in council chambers.

"You need to be able to collaborate and work with people in a respectful way," Oddo said.

Bainbridge park board commissioner throws hat into Bainbridge council race

At least three seats on the seven-member Bainbridge Island City Council will be contested this fall.

Midway through Filing Week for candidates, and two candidates have filed for office in the District 1, District 2 and District 6 positions.

Michael Pollock, a member of the Bainbridge parks board, threw his hat in the ring Monday for the District 6, South Ward council seat.

The seat is currently held by Councilwoman Sarah Blossom, the council's longest-serving member. Blossom was elected to the council in November 2011.

Pollock is currently a commissioner for the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District.

He won election to the Position 5 seat in November 2017 by beating longtime incumbent Kirk Robinson. Pollock's term will expire in 2023.

Pollock has previously served on the Bainbridge city council. He was a councilman from 1999 to 2003.

"I am running for Bainbridge Island City Council to put climate change on our agenda and to address issues of growth, affordability and our ever-increasing tax burden," Pollock said in his campaign announcement.

"I believe that in cooperation with state and county government, we need to restructure our tax system, streamline permitting, and increase regulatory flexibility," he added.

Pollock's current term on the Bainbridge parks board has not been without controversy. During his first year on the board, he missed more commissioner meetings than he attended. Official records show that Pollock missed 11 of 21 park board meetings from January through November 2018, including meetings devoted to adopting the park district's budgets for 2019 as well as training on Washington state's public access laws.

Blossom is running for a third term in the South Ward. She filed as a candidate with the Kitsap County Elections Division Monday.

For the North Ward, District 2 position

on the council, incumbent Councilman Kol Medina is running for re-election.

Kevin Fetterly is also seeking the post. He filed as a candidate Wednesday.

Fetterly ran for a council seat in November 2017, but came up short against lost in Joe Deets in the race for the District 7, North Ward position.

Three other candidates also filed Monday as candidates for the Bainbridge council.

Anthony Oddo and Kirsten Hytopoulos are both seeking the District 1, at-large council position.

Councilwoman Leslie Schneider, who was appointed to the Central Ward, District 4 seat in April 2018, is running to retain the position.

As of Wednesday, Schneider was the only candidate for the seat.

In other candidate filings, only one of three positions for the Bainbridge Island School Board has two candidates.

Incumbent School Board Member Christina Hulet is running to retain the District 4 position, and is being challenged by Andrew Ewing.

Board Member Lynn Smith is the sole candidate so far for the District 1 position, and Mark D. Emerson is candidate for the District 5 post.

Bainbridge Island Fire Commissioner YongSuk Cho is seeking re-election to the fire department's board of commissioners, and is facing a challenge for Position 2 from Robert S. Peterson.

Incumbent Ernst "Fritz" von Ibsch will seek to retain his Position 4 seat on the Bainbridge fire department's board of commissioners.

Dawn Janow, who was appointed to the board of commissioners for the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District in March, is running to continue serving in Position 1.

For the park board's Position 3, incumbent Park Commissioner John "Tom" Swolgaard is running for another term.

Rachel Pritchett has also filed as a candidate in the race.

SCOTCH

CONTINUED FROM A1

Molnaire, a previous queen herself, who rode again in this year's parade, is also the wife of Ron Konzak

— one of the event's original co-creators.

The festival is traditionally an underground event, shrouded in secrecy, with minimal planning and supposedly no formal notification whatsoever. Yet, psychic

perhaps — or maybe just very, very lucky — islanders most in the know always find themselves downtown in front of Town & Country with bunches of Scotch broom on the same day, and so the legend lives.

CORNFIELD

CONTINUED FROM A7

approved parts of the rewritten state plan and rejected other parts. Federal officials chose to adopt tougher rules for dozens of chemicals.

Ecology Secretary Maia Bellon said then she was disappointed the state's approach wasn't accepted in its entirety.

Environmentalists and tribal leaders applauded. They preferred the EPA approach. It had more stringent limits on mercury and PCBs considered among the most-serious threats for getting into the food chain and affecting human health.

"The purpose of this rule is about protecting human health," Wilke said at the time. "The rule today will increase protection for fish consumers."

In February 2017, an alliance of farmers, paper mill operators and business groups petitioned the EPA to reconsider its decision. Alliance members could live

with standards drawn up by the ecology department but not those from EPA which they insisted would add billions of dollars in new costs without benefits.

Some of the federal standards are "outright unattainable. We can't find the technology to meet them," said Chris McCabe, executive director of the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association.

EPA leaders spent the next 27 months in the replay booth, emerging May 10 to declare they got most of it wrong and now consider the state's 2016 standards based on sound science and protective of humans.

Regional Administrator Chris Hladick said in a letter to state officials the EPA has the "inherent authority" to reverse its own decisions. By doing so, the Department of Ecology will be rightfully in charge of setting water quality rules for the state.

The news drew cheers from petitioners and jeers from tribal leaders and environmentalists.

Bellon and Attorney

General Bob Ferguson sent separate letters to top EPA officials insisting no legal mechanism exists for reconsideration nor is there a legal basis to revise or repeal the rules. Ferguson's Trump Squad is readying its legal armament.

"I am prepared to defend Washington state and our residents against overreach by EPA," Ferguson wrote. "As you are likely aware, my office has filed 10 lawsuits against EPA since January 2017. We are 5-0 in these cases."

Trump's EPA is entering uncharted waters. This reconsideration process will take time, longer if there are lawsuits.

And if Trump doesn't win re-election, a Democratic president might be persuaded to not make any changes after all.

That would merit a pound of thanks from Inslee and Bellon.

Jerry Cornfield: 360-352-8623; jcornfield@herald.net. com. Twitter: @dosbuebls.

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OFF-THE-PAGE PERSPECTIVE

Expert talks 'Four-Color Reality' and the impact of comic books in America

BY LUCIANO MARANO
Kitsap News Group

The X-Men are actually just a symbolic representation of civil rights when you really think about it.

That is, if you're the kind of person who thinks about that kind of thing.

T. Andrew Wahl is the kind of person who thinks about that kind of thing a lot — and lately he has had a lot to think about.

These are strange times we're living in. "The Seduction of the Innocent" has become fun for the whole family; characters once passionately obsessed over by only the most awkward social outcasts and reality-ducking adolescents are cultural icons in this, the latest dramatic development in the ongoing saga that is the story of comic books and their effect on culture in America, the history of which Wahl, a reporter and journalism professor by trade, is a dedicated keeper.

Since the modern origin of the form way back in 1933 — and especially the debut of Superman in Action Comics in 1938 — the U.S. has had a storied and mercurial relationship with comic books. They've been beloved, despised, ignored, censored, and are now big blockbuster business in Tinseltown. Barely a season goes by in which we don't see a new offering from Marvel or DC (or, technically, from the Walt Disney Company or Warner Brothers) and at the same time creators are putting more heterogeneous visions on the page (or e-Reader screen) than ever before.

"You've definitely seen a growing sense of diversity," Wahl said. "When I was a kid, if you went to a comic book convention ... it was probably 95 percent white men in the room. If a woman walked in the room it was actually like a unicorn coming in, we'd all kind of stop and stare. And now if you go to Emerald City [Comic Con] in Seattle it's about 50-50 in terms of the gender mix; people from all walks of life, all different kinds of sexual identity backgrounds, race and ethnicity backgrounds. It's just a much more encompassing community now and all of that has been reflected in the stories themselves."

Wahl is a journalist, editor and comic book historian. He's a life-long aficionado of the medium, and actually studied comic books as a part of his master of arts degree in the humanities at Fort Hays State



Photo courtesy of Everett Community College

T. Andrew Wahl, reporter, journalism professor and comic book historian, will discuss "Four-Color Reality: How Comic Books and the Real World Shape Each Other" at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27.

University. He currently teaches journalism at Everett Community College, when he's not traveling as a Humanities Washington speaker to talk about his true love.

He is going to visit the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art as part of the ongoing Momentum Festival offerings at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27 to give an interactive presentation, "Four-Color Reality: How Comic Books and the Real World Shape Each Other," exploring how everything from social movements to business concerns to changing demographics have shaped the reality seen in the pages of comics — and how those seemingly simple superhero stories have changed the real world in turn.

Admission is free with RSVP; visit www.biartmuseum.org to learn more and reserve a ticket.

"When I pick up a comic book it is a gateway to being 10 years old again. But from the perspective of somebody who works in academia I also see comic books as a wonderful lens for exploring American history," Wahl said. "You can track anything from social movements to political uprisings to changes in social mores, all of that can be seen in any of pop culture — movies, science fiction, all of it — but it's only since the 1970s that we've really started to use comic books to do the same kind of work."

Superhero stories especially, Wahl said, are an excellent yardstick for measuring the concerns of a given time.

Captain America? Obviously.

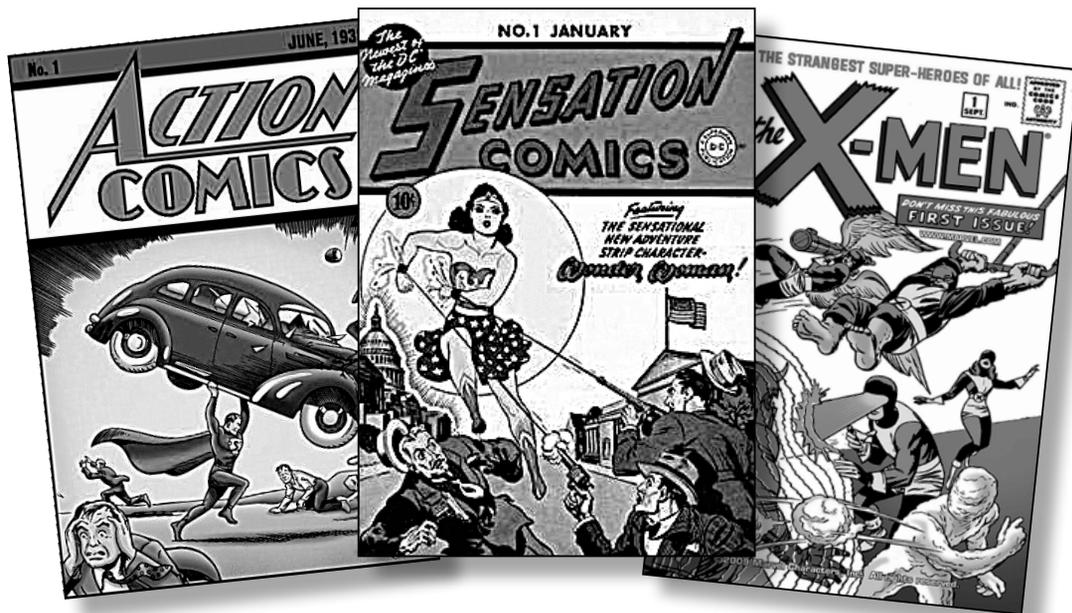


Image courtesy of DC Comics

The first issue of "Action Comics," the debut appearance of Superman, published in 1938.

"Look at the creation of Captain America: Jack Kirby, co-creator of the Marvel Universe, was the child of Jewish immigrants. And Captain America, in his first issue you've got Captain America punching Adolf Hitler in the nose. There's no subtlety in the message he was sending."

Wonder Woman? Duh.

"Wonder Woman was created by ... a radical feminist, a whole level of feminism that you see in today's society back in the 1940s. So Wonder Woman was intentionally started as a character to promote a different ideology of peace, love, adjustment, that you weren't seeing in pop culture at the time."

Even the X-Men? Please, especially the X-Men.

"The X-Men have been around since the early '60s and were initially created as a metaphor for the civil rights movement, but you look at the original membership and there could not be black members of the team because that would have been way too risky from a sales perspective," Wahl said. "Then, when the new X-Men were launched in the 1970s you had characters from all over the world. Storm was there, she was actually from Africa. Now, if you look at the X-Men, every type of creature on the planet is a member of the X-Men at this point because the climate has changed."

Wahl believes it is the immediacy of comic books — that they are written, drawn and printed so quickly and so often — that makes them especially valuable as cultural time capsules.

"The thing about comic books and pop culture is because they are a business item first — companies aren't publishing them because they're trying to make artistic statements, they're trying to sell product — they've got to tap into the zeitgeist,

Image courtesy of DC Comics

The first issue of "Sensation Comics," the first time Wonder Woman appeared on a cover, published in 1942.

they've got to tap into that spirit of the time in order to sell product," he said. "That's what makes them such fascinating relics to explore a particular time in history, how a particular time in history is looking at the world around them."

What does the superhero guru make of our current infatuation with costumed saviors on screen? Are we a nation that feels we need to be rescued?

Maybe. Or maybe it's a more familiar response.

"The last time superheroes were this popular in American culture was in the 1940s and we were at war," Wahl said. "As we were in this period of war, superheroes became a huge part of our pop cultural landscape. We've been at war now for nearly two decades. Incoming students in my college classes, we've been at war for their entire lives ... I can't draw a direct correlation there, but it seems that kind of culture, of being at war, definitely could be part of the rebirth of superheroes in popular culture."

Perhaps even as a common enemy can make petty differences quickly irrelevant, so too can a common fandom?

"It's a very divisive time in the United States; every year we think we've kind of hit the bottom in terms of divisiveness, but we seem to find new lows to get to," Wahl said.

"So having superheroes, having this common thing we can rally around, seems to be awfully appealing. Even moving comic books out of the individual reading experience, where we're alone, and moving it into the movie theaters where we have this communal space where we can come together, I think that's part of it, too."

It's not so far fetched. According to Wahl, once upon a time comic books

Image courtesy of Marvel Comics

The first issue of "The X-Men," published in 1963, the debut of the now-iconic mutant superhero team.

were the great pop culture unifier in America.

"During the 1940s, up until the '50s when you had the backlash with the Comics Code [Authority] coming in and the book 'Seduction of the Innocent' being published, which made the accusation that comic books were causing juvenile delinquency, prior to that — in the 1940s — 70 million Americans read comic books," Wahl said. "More than 80 percent of all Americans read comic books. One of the most popular demographics for comic book readers was military men on the front line. So in the 1940s nobody was thinking comic books were anything but wholesome entertainment."

That all changed in the years after Victory over Japan Day. In the peace that followed the second war to end all wars, America seemingly just couldn't stand having no enemy — so we turned inward: the Hollywood Blacklist, the Red Scare and McCarthyism, and the censorship of the Comics Code Authority.

"It always cracks me up when you look at the Comics Code [Authority] period," Wahl said. "The United States created this art form that actually engaged young people in reading, they were willing to spend their own money to buy things to read, and what did we try to do? We tried to immediately put comic books out of business."

"Meanwhile, at that time period, we were exporting comic books around the world and in Japan manga is taking off, in Europe in the 1950s comics are starting to be published in hardcover library edition albums, but here in the United States we're trying to crush that fledgling industry in its crib."

Mission, obviously, not accomplished.

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INSIDE: Creepy, kooky famiy fun, A16



DOG DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

BIPD's new K-9 set for swearing in ceremony

BY LUCIANO MARANO
Kitsap News Group

Among the ranks of the Bainbridge Island Police Department, there is now a new top dog.

She's about a year old, weighs 80 pounds, and has a nose for crime.

The job can be ruff, but Whitney doesn't mind if things get a little hairy.

Or drooly.

The bloodhound puppy, BIPD's latest K9, is set to be sworn in at an upcoming city council meeting. She was brought home from advanced training in Minnesota last month by her human partner, Officer Kurt Enget, and the dynamic duo have been working together throughout the past weeks, with Enget showing Whitney around Bainbridge and further testing her tracking prowess here on her new home turf.

"She's pretty mellow," Enget said of his new partner.

"When we get on a track, though, she gets excited. She knows it's time to work and she'll start whining and getting excited. It's all fun for her. When she gets going after someone or she sniffs her scent article and she knows she's going — it's a big game for them and they get super excited.

"And then when they find the person, instead of a patrol dog who goes after them she's like, 'Hey I found the person I'm looking for!' She'll come up and kiss you and then she'll want a treat."

Tracking dogs, unlike the more common police patrol dogs, don't hunt for drugs or explosives and they don't attack, Enget said.

Whitney's primary duties will be to track fleeing suspects and missing people, especially lost children or



Luciano Marano | Bainbridge Island Review

Whitney, the Bainbridge Island Police Department's new K9, stands with her human partner, Officer Kurt Enget.

elderly folks, possibly suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's.

Right now, she can follow a trail that's eight hours old without issue, regardless of the location or surroundings, and with more experience and training that timeline will stretch considerably. Multi-story buildings, shopping malls, dense forests — it's all the same to Whitney.

"It is phenomenal to watch them track," Enget said. "They sniff a scent article ... and they literally go whoop and that's it. Then,

"It is phenomenal to watch them track. They sniff a scent article ... and they literally go whoop and that's it. Then, they're gone."

Officer Kurt Enget
Bainbridge Island Police Department

they're gone."

Another way she differs from patrol dogs is her motive. German shepherds, Enget said, are rewarded with a special toy when they do a good job. But for Whitney, it's all about the snacks.

"I had to tell everyone don't give her treats, because everybody

wants to give your dogs treats," Enget said. "Even at home I have to be careful not to give her any kind of snacks unless we're doing other training."

Whitney was discovered and initially trained by the Florida-based nonprofit 832 K-9's Deputy Dogs, which specifically trains bloodhounds for police use. She will be the island force's first K9 since Rusty, reportedly their first ever, who retired in early 2013.

TURN TO K-9 | A7

Few Bainbridge teachers will get layoff notices this month

BY BRIAN KELLY
Kitsap News Group

Layoffs in the Bainbridge Island School District due to a budget gap of \$2.6 million to \$3.4 million in the coming school year may be lessened dramatically by upcoming staff retirements, resignations and reassignments, district officials said.

Though the school board has authorized cutting teacher staff by 17.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs), only one or two teachers are expected to be notified by the May deadline that they are losing their jobs.

Staff cuts have been anticipated for months.

In March, the Bainbridge Island School Board declared a fiscal emergency and warned that "funds available for the 2019/2020 school year will be insufficient to maintain the same staffing levels, programs and services as provided for the 2018/2019 fiscal year."

At the time, District Superintendent Peter Bang-Knudsen said spending cuts would need to be made due to lower enrollment in district schools, diminished state funding for staff salaries, and a reduction in the Educational Programs & Operations levy.

At the school board's last meeting, the board passed a resolution calling for a "reduction in force" for the 2019-2020 school year because of lower enrollment and increased expenditures in the district.

TURN TO TEACHERS | A7

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TEACHERS

CONTINUED FROM A1

The board, on a 3-0 vote, adopted a reduced educational program for the coming school year.

That resolution set out 20 teacher positions where hours would be cut or the entire position would be eliminated.

In total, the district reduced its teacher staffing by 17.5 FTEs.

District officials said, however, that only one or two teachers will actually receive a reduction-in-force notice, given the expected amount of teachers leaving the school district through retirement or resignations, or taking a different position within the school district.

State law requires school districts to notify teachers

who may be laid off with a reduction-in-force notice by May 15 for the following school year.

More layoffs outside the teacher ranks are expected.

District officials said the number of non-teacher staffing positions that will be cut entirely, or reduced in hours, will be finalized in the coming weeks.

A recommendation on non-teacher, classified staff reductions will be presented to the school board in June.

In its adopted program for staffing cuts for certificated employees, the board cut the teacher ranks by 17.5 FTEs:

- 3.25 FTE elementary teacher;
- .35 FTE secondary teacher;
- 4 FTE art teacher;
- .1 FTE CTE family and consumer sciences teacher;

- .4 FTE elementary music teacher;
- 1.0 FTE language arts/social studies teacher;
- .6 FTE math teacher;
- .4 FTE science teacher;
- .6 FTE secondary music teacher;
- .2 FTE Spanish teacher;
- 1.3 FTE special education teacher;
- .7 FTE athletic director;
- 1.0 FTE behavior health specialist;
- .8 FTE counselor;
- 3.0 FTE differentiation specialist/instructional coach;
- 4 FTE New teacher induction support;
- .2 FTE occupational therapist;
- 1.0 FTE school psychologist;
- 1.0 FTE building administrator; and
- .8 FTE director of student services and assessment.

Christensen to step down as head of Bainbridge planning department

BY BRIAN KELLY
Kitsap News Group

Bainbridge Island is losing its planning director.

Gary Christensen, currently the head of the Planning and Community Development Department, announced Wednesday that he is stepping down later this month to retire.

City officials said his resignation is effective May 24.

“It has been gratifying and a privilege to serve the community of Bainbridge Island,” Christensen said. “I sincerely wish the city all the best going forward after I leave to begin my welcomed retirement life.”

Christensen, who will turn 62 in August, has led the



Gary Christensen

planning department since 2016 and has a long history in city and county planning, community, and development services departments. Prior to his position with Bainbridge Island, he previously worked with Skagit County for 28 years in various roles.

“Gary is a knowledgeable and skilled leader whose perspective and experience will be missed,” said City

“I sincerely wish the city all the best going forward after I leave to begin my welcomed retirement life.”

Gary Christensen
City Planning and Community
Development Department

Manager Morgan Smith.

“I appreciate his service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island and wish him an enjoyable, prosperous and healthy retirement,” she said.

City officials said Bainbridge will begin the process to transition leadership of the department later this month.

CORNFIELD

CONTINUED FROM A6

In February, the Senate passed a bill eliminating it.

But the House never acted though supporters insist they had the votes to pass it. House Speaker Frank Chopp reportedly bottled it up. A political pragmatist, Chopp may have calculated it could cause more harm than help to Democratic candidates. But Chopp won't be speaker in 2020 and this bill will still be around. It may be worth placing another bet.

Plastic Bags: Another head-scratcher. Cities like Edmonds, Everett and Snohomish are banning single-use plastic bags. QFC is phasing them out too. The trend is toward their extinction yet the majority party could not get a policy to this effect passed. Again, a bill passed the Senate and lapsed in the House.

The Legislature did enact bills aimed at improving recycling and finding a market for products China will no longer buy. But a statewide prohibition on plastic bags, which seemed to be low-hanging fruit in January, proved unreachable in April.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard: This is the most notable piece of climate policy left undone in 2019. Not for lack of trying. House Democrats squeezed through legislation requiring gasoline be produced with a little less concentration of carbon molecules so when it burns it will produce a little less pollution.

Too few Democratic senators backed it. A couple of ones who did support it valiantly cobbled together

a last-ditch proposal. It received a hearing on Day 103. Environmentalists and oil industry representatives opposed it. Look for LCFS policy to be a big deal in 2020.

Car Tabs: On the final day of the 2018 session, Democrats in the House and Senate feuded on how to provide vehicle owners some relief to surging costs of car tabs in the Sound Transit taxing district. They failed out of concern of derailing a voter-approved expansion plan for light rail service. Democrats vowed to do something in 2019.

They didn't succeed this year either. They didn't come close. Republicans introduced bills to lower the costs or put the expansion plan back on the ballot. But they gained no traction. A Democrat offering for rebates fared no better. Though the cost of car tabs could emerge as an election issue in the future — if enough affected voters have long memories — it is unlikely to be on the top of the Democrats' agenda anytime soon.

They enjoyed a lot of winning this year without it.

Jerry Cornfield: 360-352-8623; jcornfield@herald.net.com. Twitter: @dos pueblos.

K-9

CONTINUED FROM A1

During his career, Rusty conducted 219 searches — with 547 finds for drugs, cash or other items. His searches led to 181 arrests, 12 vehicle impounds and the seizure of \$130,000 in cash, BIPD officials said upon the dog's death in October 2015.

The process of acquiring a new dog began under BIPD's previous chief, Matthew Hamner, prior to his departure, but at least two potential candidates washed out of the intense program before Whitney came along.

Enget, who never had a K9 partner before, said they're learning the ropes together.

“There's a ton that goes into it as far as doing lead control and watching her and trying to watch where I'm going — because she's fast,” he said.

German shepherds are trained to pace themselves so as to not exhaust the human cops following, Enget explained. If the suspect has it in mind to resist, it does them no good to catch up exhausted. Bloodhounds, though, are not so easily tamed.

“With bloodhounds, it's kind of a fine line because they want to run and if you slow them down too much it takes their drive away,” Enget said. “So you kind of have to have a happy medium with them, so I'm still trying to figure out her speed. It's a little faster than a jog.”

Enget, who has been with the island department for nearly five years, and worked with the Suquamish Police Department before that, said he and his wife are longtime dog lovers. He'd always been interested in having a K9 partner, and though he passed up the chance to work with a patrol dog elsewhere, he

quickly volunteered when the chance came around to work with a tracking dog here.

Whitney goes with Enget to work every day and lives with him, his wife and grown son — and their three other dogs — in Gig Harbor.

“My wife loves her,” Enget said. “We're big dog people.”

It is in some ways a bit of a blast from the past, he said.

“I just became a grandparent,” he said. “That's great, but when your kids are done and grown and you don't have to do any of that stuff anymore, it's kind of nice.”

“It's like literally having another kid,” he laughed. “When I first got her she was up at all different hours because her world was turned upside down. Totally different hours, new environment, new people ... and then she was peeing in her kennel at first, I had to

get her out every couple of hours.”

The cop's kid is a bit old to be jealous of the new baby, but that doesn't mean there isn't a little friction there anyway.

“The only time I hear her [bark] is at my son,” Enget said. “She doesn't bark at anything else except him.”

Still, the experience has thus far been rewarding and Enget said he's looking forward to utilizing Whitney's talents to aid the people of Bainbridge Island.

“It's been good,” he said. “I really, really enjoy it. It's very gratifying.”

Whitney will be “sworn in,” along with recently promoted corporals Joe Fastaia, Gary Koon, Cameron Lewis and Bill Shields, at the city council meeting at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 at city hall.

A tasty treat, a custom-made Whitney cookie, will be handed out to all in attendance, according to BIPD Resource Officer Carla Sias.

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The 'Fairyland' proposal includes construction of eight residences in the SE area of the Pleasant Beach Village Master Plan site. The project is located at 4746 Lynwood Center Drive NE (parcel# 042402-1-104-2005)

Thursday, May 23, 2019
6:00 PM- 7:00 PM

Bainbridge Island City Hall Council Chamber
280 Madison Avenue North

This is a mandatory meeting pursuant to BIMC 2.16.020. For more information, please contact:
David Greetham, Senior Planner
dgreetham@bainbridgewa.gov or (206) 780-3765