

BAY BREEZE RESTAURANT & BAR

*New Management
New Chef
New Menu*



MONDAY SPECIAL
All-U-Can-Eat Fish 'n Chips
(Regular or Cajun Style)
\$23

LUNCH SPECIAL
Noon - 4pm Every Day
Burger, Fries & Soft Drink
\$10

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MENU ONLINE AT:
www.BayBreezeRestaurant.com
Families Welcome!

Open 12-9 pm Every Day • 7829 Birch Bay Drive • 360-922-7902

Ballots ...

From page 1

in at one of 20 drop boxes around the county by 8 p.m. on November 3. Plan ahead to avoid lines, especially if you plan to drive to a drop box.

Local drop box locations are:

- The Blaine Library, at 610 3rd Street
- North Whatcom Fire and Rescue station 63 in Birch Bay, at 4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road
- Custer Elementary School, at 7660 Custer School Road
- The International Marketplace in Point Roberts, at 480 Tye Drive

Voters should already have their voters' pamphlet, which includes Whatcom County general election candidates. There's an online version at votewa.gov or at co.whatcom.wa.us/1732/current-election.

Still time to register

Though ballots are already out,

there's still time to register to vote or change registration information. Bradrick encourages all voters to check their voter registration at votewa.gov.

"People who only vote in presidential elections, they may have moved and their registration may have become inactive," she said.

Whatcom County residents must register to vote or change their address online or by mail by Monday, October 26. That can be done at votewa.gov. To register online you'll need a current Washington state driver's license or permit, or a state identification card. If you don't have state ID, you can still register to vote in person.

Those who miss that deadline can still register to vote or change their address in person at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office at 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, in Bellingham, until November 3. Anyone visiting the auditor's office is required to wear a mask, stay six feet from others and

should expect long lines during election week.

The auditor's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, to allow people to register to vote or change their registration information. The only other time the office is open outside of its normal 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. hours is evening on Election Day, when it's open until 8 p.m.

Election security

State law requires that two people be present any time ballot boxes are unlocked and emptied. In Whatcom County, that's a team from the auditor's office. Their activity is logged throughout the day so there's a record of who handled the ballots.

Tamper-evident seals are placed on drop boxes every time they're opened so that election workers know if someone accessed the ballots without permission. Workers put the ballots in a sealed transportation box and bring them back to the office, where the seal is verified before its opened to process ballots.

Ballot drop boxes are emptied at least once a day, Bradrick said. The auditor's office monitors those boxes and if they're getting a lot of use they'll empty them multiple times a day. Some of the busiest boxes get emptied four or five times on Election Day, she said.

In addition to daily checks by auditor's office staff, Bradrick said plain clothes security guards will monitor heavily used boxes and roving security will check others. Her office is also alerting law enforcement and asking them to keep an eye on the boxes.

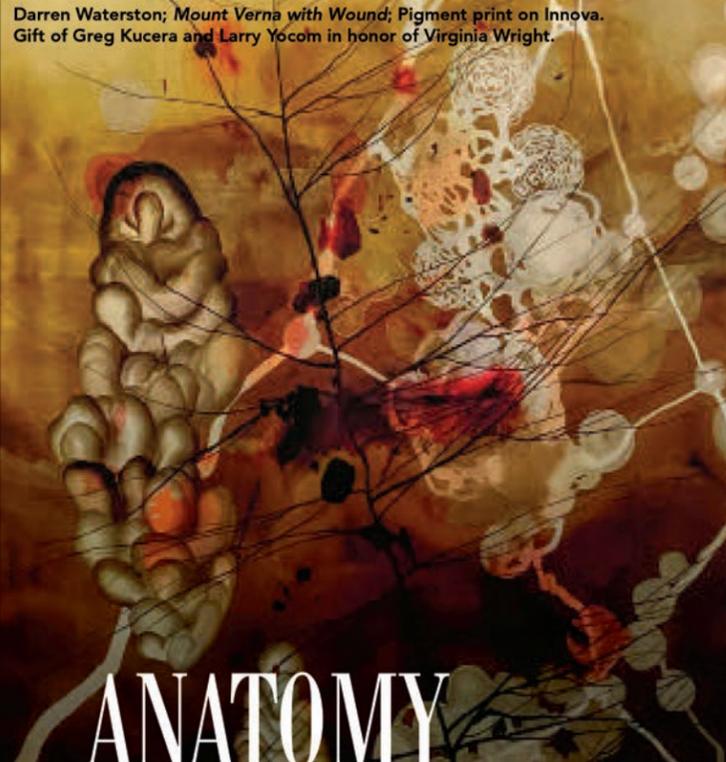
Tracking results

Preliminary results will be released online on election night, and both local and state auditor's offices will release updated preliminary results daily after that. Elections are certified (officially verified by election offices) on November 24, 2020.

Statewide election results can be tracked at the secretary of state's election results page: bit.ly/2GQ-1Qp9. Local results can be tracked at the county auditor's website, at co.whatcom.wa.us/199/auditor. Click on "Elections" and then "Current Election" in the bar on the left side of the page.

Learn more about local elections at the Whatcom County auditor's website, or votewa.gov.

Darren Waterston; *Mount Verna with Wound*; Pigment print on Innova. Gift of Greg Kucera and Larry Yocom in honor of Virginia Wright.



ANATOMY
OF A
COLLECTION

RECENT ACQUISITIONS & PROMISED GIFTS
Now showing at the Whatcom Museum's Lightcatcher building. Learn more online at whatcommuseum.org.

Lightcatcher, 250 Flora St., Bellingham
Wed. - Sun., Noon - 4:30pm




2020 CANDIDATE FORUMS
Presented by the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County

See and hear candidates respond, on the spot and unrehearsed, to questions on issues you care about. The League of Women Voters, Bellingham/Whatcom County hosted nine (9) election forums for candidates who will be on the ballot in the 2020 general election. Each forum was recorded and can be accessed at the following locations:

Lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org ★ Cob.org/services/education/btv
KGMI KMRE KAVZ

Washington State Senate
Charles Carrell / Elizabeth (Liz) Lovelett

40th Legislative District Representative Position 2
Russ Dzialo / Alex Ramel

Whatcom Superior Court Judge Position 2
James Erb / Evan Jones

Whatcom Superior Court Judge Position 4
David E. Freeman / Jim Nelson

Public Utility District 1 Commissioner
Christine Grant / Jeffrey McClure

U.S. Congress District 1
Jeffrey Beeler / Suzan DelBene

U.S. Congress District 2
Timothy Hazelo / Rick Larsen

42nd Legislative District Representative Position 1
Alicia Rule / Luanne Van Werven

42nd Legislative District Representative Position 2
Jennifer Sefzik / Sharon Shewmake



Get a \$15 Gift Card to The Market or Bob's

When you spend \$150 at Birch Bay Square

Redeem at The Market or Bob's. Simply show your receipts from participating retailers totaling \$150 or more to The Market or Bob's Burgers and get your gift card. While supplies last. Only receipts dated October 15th onward will be honored. \$150 pre-tax amount is required to be eligible; One gift card per person through promotion period.

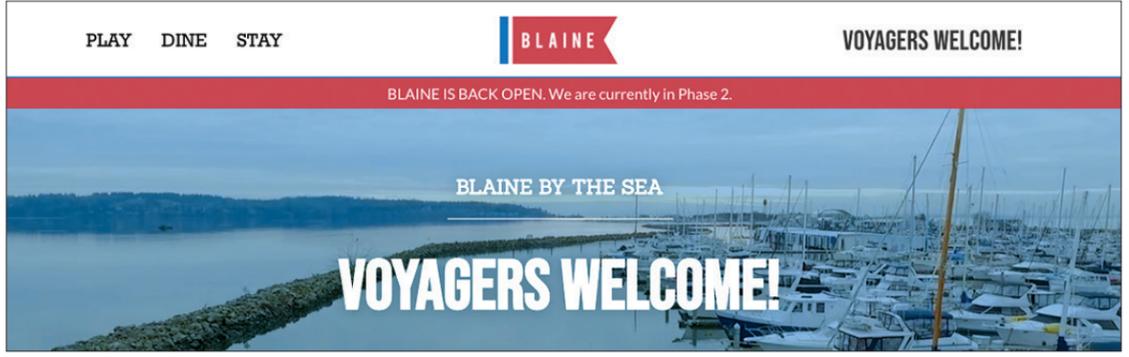



Anytime Fitness • Betty Be Good • Birch Bay Budz • Bow Wow & Woofs • Capstone Physical Therapy • Farmers Insurance • GH Bass & Co. • Jack in the Box
Leggs Hanes Bali Playtex • Mike's Dollar Plus • Nail Masters • Northwest Veterinary Clinic • Subway • Van Heusen • Windermere Real Estate • Woods Coffee



Just Married!
Alison Raine and Ben Bohson

Alison and Ben made their heartfelt vows on Lopez Island, Saturday, Oct. 17th. It was a tiny celebration, but beautiful in every way! Alison is the daughter of Sandy and Jeff Raine of Point Roberts. Ben is the son of Sue Dunstone and Mike Bohson, both of Blaine. Congratulations to the newlyweds!!



▲ The city of Blaine's new Blaine by the Sea tourism website.

*Quimper Maison
 Hand Painted French Faience*



www.quimpermaison.com

Blaine launches new tourism website

BY OLIVER LAZENBY

The city of Blaine updated its tourism marketing plan last year and just unveiled a key part of the updated strategy for attracting out of town visitors, blainebythesea.com.

The new tourism website points the way toward things to see and do in Blaine, highlighting parks, trails, entertainment, restaurants, events and lodging options in Blaine. Blaine-based website and graphic design com-

(See Website, page 3)



SEMIAHMOO SIPS

Saturdays | 1 - 3pm
\$15 for four tastings

Join us every Saturday for rotating wine, beer, and spirits tastings at Semiahmoo.

SEMIAHMOO 9565 Semiahmoo Parkway
 RESORT • GOLF • SPA Blaine, WA

More details at Semiahmoo.com

Our Gift to You!

Shop Birch Bay Square and get a \$15 Gift Card!

Spend \$150 at participating Birch Bay Square retailers and get a \$15 gift card to The Market or Bob's.



Participating Retailers:

- Anytime Fitness
- Betty Be Good
- Birch Bay Budz
- Bow Wow & Woofs
- Capstone Physical Therapy
- Farmers Insurance
- GH Bass & Co.
- Jack in the Box
- L'eggs Hanes Bali Playtex
- Mike's Dollar Plus
- Nail Masters
- Northwest Veterinary Clinic
- Subway
- Van Heusen
- Windermere Real Estate
- Woods Coffee

To redeem, simply show your receipts totaling \$150 or more pretax to The Market or Bob's Burgers & Brew and get your gift card. Receipts must be dated 10/15/20 or later. While supplies last. One gift card per person through promotion period.

Boys and Girls clubhouse receives \$5,100



▲ Dick Campbell, l., and Dick Skeers, r., donated \$5,100 to the Blaine Boys and Girls Club. Courtesy photo

BY GRACE MCCARTHY

Two east Blaine construction companies donated over \$5,000 to the Blaine Boys and Girls Club.

Bellingham-based businesses Skeers Construction Inc. and Bellingham Millwork Supply Co. gave \$5,100 to the nonprofit that supports Blaine students supporting education development. Both companies are working on the Lincoln Park Place, a D Street housing development that will have 17 homes once complete, according to a November 23 press release on the donation.

“Without community part-

ners like Skeers Construction and Bellingham Millwork Supply Co., we could not fulfill our mission of bringing Great Futures to the youth of Whatcom County. Year after year, we have been thankful for their support,” said Heather Powell, CEO of Whatcom County Boys and Girls Clubs, in the press release.

Dick Skeers, president of Skeers Construction Inc., and Dick Campbell, president of Bellingham Millwork Supply Co., first pledged to donate \$200 and \$100, respectively, for each Lincoln Park Place home sold, according to a July 21 press release.



▲ A rainbow mirrored the arch at Peace Arch State Park November 24. Photo by Louise Mugar

BAY BREEZE

RESTAURANT & BAR

New Management
New Chef
New Menu

Outdoor Dining Available

Now Open!

NEW WALK-UP COFFEE BAR

Serving all your favorite espresso drinks & limited breakfast menu

Open Daily 8am - 1 pm

LUNCH SPECIAL

Noon - 4pm Wed-Sun

Burger, Fries & Soft Drink

\$10

FULL MENU

for Take Out, Delivery or Curbside Pick Up

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MENU ONLINE AT:
www.BayBreezeRestaurant.com
Families Welcome!

Open 12-9 pm Tue-Sun • 7829 Birch Bay Drive • 360-922-7902

WHITE-HOT Winter Wonders

SATURDAYS
NOV 7 - DEC 19

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS

1 PM - 10 PM | 10 WINNERS PER HOUR | PRIZES INCLUDE:

PLUS MINI PROJECTOR | COOKWARE
STAND MIXER | PRESSURE COOKER

OR WIN UP TO

\$5,000

25 YEARS

THE SKAGIT CASINO • RESORT

theskagit.com • On I-5 at Exit 236

Let's not give Christmas to Amazon...

Keep The Holidays Local

Bow Wow & Woofs

Fluff & Tuff plush toys
(your purchase supports pet pantries)

NAIL MASTERS

Gift Cards

Betty Be Good

liberty in style.

Betty Be Good
Toggle Closure
Blanket Scarf
\$24.90 (various colors)

BIRCH•BAY SQUARE

Restaurant ...

From page 1

it would take 90 days to obtain a liquor license, the pair decided on a three-month construction schedule to open the restaurant by November 6, which was delayed after discovering tree roots blocking sewer lines.

Although the restaurant won't be able to start with indoor seating, due to current Covid-19 restrictions until January 4, they look forward to utilizing the back patio, fitted with a fireplace and three 10-foot industrial heaters.

"It's one of those things where you can't let life stop," Slavin said. "I think we want to get it going; pray for the best, hope for the best coming in the new and see where we can end up with it."

Once indoor dining is permitted, Slavin said about 40 customers will be allowed to dine inside under previous Covid-19 occupancy guidelines. The covered patio, decorated by hanging photos of American mobster Al Capone, allows for 34 seats, he said.

"We've dubbed it 'Capone's Hideaway,'" Slavin said. "Back in the day or in the movies when you see restaurants and the mobsters all go through the secret door into the back where they're counting money, etc., that's what we did. It's a hideaway from the street."

Design was a key element for the restaurant, said Slavin, who previously worked as a graphic designer for Glacier Media in



▲ From l., Kristen Freeman, HR for the Rustic Fork; Jon Freeman, head chef; and owner Gary Slavin.

Photo by Grace McCarthy

B.C. before moving to Blaine with his wife, Kristen Freeman.

With the help of friends and family, Slavin said he was able to decorate the restaurant with special aspects of the community. The restaurant is filled with elements like a bookshelf that acts as a secret entrance to the back patio, lined with books donated by mayor Bonnie Onyon, and a countertop that is made from Mulder's father's cherry tree.

The restaurant will have "10 percent Tuesdays" every week, where customers will get 5 percent off their meal and the other 5 percent will go to a Blaine High School sports team. Two sports groups will be selected every six

months and at the end of that time, a check will be given to each of those sports, Slavin said.

"As we get going, I want to give back to the community as much as we can and I thought we'd start with sports," Slavin said. "I've always been in sports, and I know what it takes for kids to be in sports, what it takes for organizations to run sporting programs."

The Rustic Fork won't be the last of Slavin and Mulder's ventures. Slavin said he is already planning Gateway 1890, a tap house named after Blaine, the

gateway to the Pacific Northwest that was incorporated as a city in 1890. Slavin said he hopes Gateway 1890 could get going as soon as this spring.

"I think 2021 is going to be exciting here in Blaine with a number of different things," he said. "When the border opens, the Canadians are going to be surprised by what's new here in Blaine."

To make reservations, email info@therusticforkeatery.com. The restaurant will designate half of its patio to reservations during the closure of indoor dining.



▲ Bruschetta on focaccia.



▲ From l., clockwise: Pazookie, cannoli, Italian cream filled donuts with chocolate, tiramisu ladyfingers and bombolini.



▲ Sicilian pizza.

Food photos courtesy Gary Slavin



▲ The Rustic Fork patio can seat 34 people and has three 10-foot industrial heaters.

Photo courtesy Gary Slavin

Curbside Christmas

...with Santa!

Join us for a **COVID-Safe Drive-Thru Christmas Experience!**

Friday Dec 18th
from 6:30-8:00PM
at CTK North Bay
4895 Birch Bay Lynden Rd

More info at www.ctlk.church

Ho-ho-ho!
Free Christmas
Cookies & Candy!

Let's not give Christmas to Amazon...

Keep The Holidays Local

BIRCH BAY SQUARE

Mike's Dollar\$Plus

Support Our Veterans

Your Mask Headquarters!

Cloth • Disposable
KN95 • Face Shields
Kids & Toddler • & More!

capstone
physical therapy

Gift Cards

FARMERS INSURANCE

Ryan Hayes
360-318-7575

Try the all-new
Candy Cane
Cold Brew with
Cold Foam

Woods COFFEE

BOB'S

the market AT BIRCH BAY

Jack in the box

VAN HEUSEN

ANYTIME FITNESS

Betty Be Good
liberty in style.

Windermere REAL ESTATE

Leggs HANS BALI Playtex

Border mailbox stores resilient to this year's quiet holiday season

BY GRACE MCCARTHY

Blaine mailbox stores are facing their busiest season of the year – the holidays – without their largest customers as the U.S./Canada border enters its ninth month closed to nonessential travel.

Scott Dodd, who owns At the Border Mail, said he makes 50 percent of his yearly profits between November and December during a normal year.

“It’s chaos,” he said. “Packages everywhere, people everywhere and boxes all over the place.”

But this year, the store has cut its hours from six days per week to only being open for four hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The company normally increases its employees’ hours by 30 percent for the holiday rush, Dodd said.

Package pickups accounted for 11 percent of border crossings in 2018, Laurie Trautman, director

of Western Washington University’s Border Policy Research Institute, previously told *The Northern Light*. According to a 2020 study published by the institute, Canadians were estimated to spend at least \$24,597,461 at Blaine retail locations in 2018. This is the second highest in the county after Bellingham.

“I really don’t understand. We’re allowing Canadians to pile onto an airplane and visit the U.S. but we’re not allowing Canadians to be in their car by themselves to pick up their parcels,” Dodd said. “It’s obviously a political game.”

Dodd, who grew up in Blaine, said he saw a business opportunity after seeing Canadians repeatedly cross the border to pick up packages and decided to start his company in 2011. At the Border Mail, which overlooks the 543 truck route border crossing from its front door on 12th Street, now only has about 1 percent of its



▲ At the Border Mail owner Scott Dodd said his store is filled with as many packages as a normal holiday season, except this year the items are backlogged from March.

Photo by Grace McCarthy

normal holiday customers. Most of these customers, Dodd said, are Canadians with essential jobs in the U.S.

Meanwhile, Dennis Wilson, co-owner of Edge Logistics and Transportation, has used the

transportation aspect of his business to get goods across the border to Surrey, B.C., and Point Roberts.

Wilson said his company is transporting parcels at least four times per week to their ware-

house in Surrey. He said Canadians have slowed sending packages to Blaine but the company is still receiving Canadian business.

“Of course it’s down from previous years but we’re starting to see an uptick in packages,” Wilson said of the holiday season. “We haven’t seen the true amount of packages coming in.”

Once the border opens, both Wilson and Border Mailbox and Parcel owner Doug Hornsby said they’re anticipating an influx of Canadians coming for their packages.

“We’ll be here when the border finally opens,” Hornsby said.

Hornsby said his volume normally doubles with Black Friday and Christmas sales, but this year he’s running at 10 percent of normal business.

There’s not much community members can do to help mailbox stores when 98 percent of their clientele are unable to pick up their packages, he said.

Despite business being a fraction of its normal pace, Dodd said his store resembles what it would look like during a normal holiday season.

“Our packages are everywhere,” Dodd said. “This looks like Christmas but it’s a backlog of packages from March.”

SHOP ART, NATURE, AND NW HISTORY AT THE MUSEUM STORE

Open to the public Wed. - Sun., noon - 4pm. Shop in-person, or online for curbside pickup or shipping.

Lightcatcher, 250 Flora St., Bellingham
www.whatcommuseum.org/visit/museum-store/

Counseling and Personal Coaching
 Transformational Hypnotherapy
co-creating rapid change for personal growth

Evelyne L. Hendricks BA, LHT
 360.739.5606
evelynehendricks@gmail.com

Whole Pilates of Birch Bay

Authentic Classical Pilates
 Private training in studio or online
 Contact colleen@wholepilates.com

Let's not give Christmas to Amazon...

Keep The Holidays Local

BIRCH BAY SQUARE

BIRCH BAY BUDZ
LOCAL CRAFT CANNABIS

Happy Hour 15% OFF!
9 pm - close Every Day!
Open 9am-8pm Christmas Eve,
Closed on Christmas

SUBWAY

Get a **FREE 6" Sub** when you buy a gift card of \$25 or more

Leggs Hanes

BALI

Planex