

Seattle NHL broadcaster features Poulsbo in travelogue

1st Black play-by-play announcer a milestone

BY MARK KRULISH
Bainbridge Island Review

For many, the road to becoming a National Hockey League broadcaster is a long and winding one.

Most take the route through the minor leagues, which means long hours, long bus rides to and from small towns and juggling multiple roles to gain experience behind the microphone.

Everett Fitzhugh, the radio play-by-play voice of the new Seattle Kraken, is no exception. After years in the East Coast Hockey League, which despite its name has teams throughout the Southeast, Midwest, the prairies and Mountain West, Fitzhugh's dream of reaching the NHL came true, landing his job with Seattle last summer.

His travels didn't end in Washington's largest city as he went to Poulsbo for his new travelogue.

The Kraken released the first epi-



Photos courtesy Seattle Kraken

Above: Seattle Kraken radio voice Everett Fitzhugh takes a break at the Brass Kraken during a visit to Poulsbo. Right: A worker at Sluys Bakery in Poulsbo shows Seattle Kraken broadcaster Everett Fitzhugh a few of their tasty treats.

sode of "Sight SEAing with Fitz" that explored the Kraken name, its connection to Scandinavian folklore and the Seattle area's Nordic history, including a trip to the Viking City.

The seven-minute episode features highlights of Fitzhugh's time

filming in Poulsbo, which took place in November before the state imposed new COVID-19 restrictions.

After taking the first ferry he had ever been on in his life to Bainbridge Island, Fitzhugh said arriving in Poulsbo felt like he had been



dropped off in Norway. "It was like you were transported into another world right in your own back yard," he said.

Fitzhugh spent time talking to local folks on the street, and of course no trip to Poulsbo is com-

plete without heading in to Sluys Bakery, after which he quickly devoured a Viking Cup on camera. Naturally, a stop at the Brass Kraken also made the cut as did

TURN TO FITZHUGH | A16

Paula Weissinger State Farm Agency

Let Us Show You How To Save Money & Get Better Coverage By Bundling

Multiple Car Discount = 20% off each Car Premium
Home & Auto Discount = 30% off Home Premium
NOW OFFERING... Rocket Mortgages through Quicken Loans



- Boat Insurance
- Small Business Insurance
- Life & Disability Insurance
- Rental Coverage

Paula@PaulaMyAgent.com

PaulaMyAgent.com

175 Parfitt Way Suite 180
Bainbridge Island, WA

Serving Kitsap County
206.855.0855

ROCKET
Mortgage
by Quicken Loans
NMLS#1875429



On Your Corner.



And In Your Community Since 1936.

Friendly, professional service with all the products you need for your personal or business banking, plus a strong focus on your community.

Local Banking Matters.

Contact a local, community-engaged Banking Specialist at a branch on **your** corner:

GARY ZAMBOR
AVP, Branch Manager
POULSBO
(360) 779-4488



JENNIFER STRONG
VP, Sales
and Branch Manager
SILVERDALE
(360) 516-5600

1ST SECURITY BANK

fsbwa.com/locations

Member FDIC



Can I Buy Before I Sell?

- Get preapproved for a loan before you go house hunting
- Determine if you can make a non-contingent offer
- Working with a local mortgage broker makes you a stronger buyer
- Call, email or apply online and we will help you get prepared

- We are Kitsap County's only local mortgage broker.
- We work for YOU - not the banks!
- APPLY ONLINE



www.BLGloans.com
NMLS #42059

Tom Rees
Mortgage Broker
206-842-7175
Tom@BLGloans.com
NMLS #92718



#GiveBackBainbridge

Bainbridge Island REAL ESTATE LISTINGS.COM

FOR THE LATEST LISTINGS EVERYDAY

Fully Occupied Rental Complex

GREAT LOCATION!



Built as Condominiums for Additional Value
2 Fourplexes and 1 Freestanding Unit
LP = \$2,973,000 | MLS # = 1543712

Bill Barrow
CRS, SRES
206.780.6125



380 Winslow Way E., #103
Bainbridge Island, WA

Chris Miller
GRI, CNE
206.780.6146



www.bainbridgeislandrealestatelistings.com



State plays Robin Hood: Tax rich, give to poor

BY PATRIC HAERLE
WNPA

House Democrats are rallying around a proposal to tax the state's billionaires. House Bill 1406 would impose a 1 percent tax on intangible assets, such as money or stocks, on people whose wealth exceeds \$1 billion.

The state Department of Revenue estimates the tax would raise close to \$5 billion from 2023-25 and affect fewer than 100 residents. Revenue raised would fund tax relief for low-income individuals and contribute to the state general fund.

The department also notes the lion's share of the revenue would come from the state's most wealthy individuals—such as Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, who are both worth more than \$100 billion. The department analysis said the projected revenue would fall significantly if one or more of the wealthier individuals targeted by the bill left the state.

Rep. Noel Frame, D-Seattle, primary sponsor of the bill, said at a hearing Feb. 2 the aim was to shift the tax burden from Washington's struggling working class.

"Who should be funding economic recovery?" Frame asked her colleagues. "The families that have lost their jobs and their healthcare...or perhaps should we ask the wealthiest Washingtonians—many of whom happen to be the wealthiest people in the world—to share equitably in the responsibility to recover, rebuild and reimagine our economy."

The bill drew little opposition, although Republicans suggested the bill could have unintended consequences, including pushing the state's billionaires to move. "My concern is that we won't raise any revenue from this because people will just leave the state if they have to pay a billion dollars in taxes every year," said Rep. Jeremie Dufault, R-Selah. "Is there any mechanism in this bill that precludes people from moving out of the state?"

Frame dismissed the idea. "I think it's a really pessimistic view of the world to just assume somebody would leave," she said. "These are folks who are deeply invested in our community, some of whom have been outspoken advocates for progressive tax reform for many years."

Frame explained that Washington's billionaires have increased their wealth

by an estimated \$151 billion in the past 10 months during the pandemic while many of the rest of the state's population struggled to pay bills.

Twenty-six lawmakers have signed on as cosponsors, including Majority Leader Pat Sullivan, D-Covington, and several committee chairs. All of the sponsors are Democrats.

Among the 1,326 members of the public who took positions at the bill hearing, 1,317 testified in favor of the proposal. As lawmakers arguing in favor of the bill are quick to point out, Washington's tax system is one of the most regressive in the nation. The state's lowest income earners pay six times more as a share of their income than do the state's wealthiest residents. Those making close to \$70,000 pay approximately four times their share.

Frame believes that, whatever happens with her bill, the state tax system requires reform.

"I absolutely do not think that this is the end-all-be-all solution to the tax code... There is much work to be done, and this is not the answer to that process by any stretch of the imagination," Frame said. "It is me as your colleague putting forward a possible tool in the toolbox for consideration."

AROUND

CONTINUED FROM A12

drainage work farther east on Wyatt.

Once that work is completed, the contractor will begin the remaining concrete curb and sidewalk work.

The existing detours will remain in place through the remainder of the major construction work, which is expected to be wrapping up in March.

Theft arrest

Taylor Musolf was extradited from San Francisco, CA and booked into Kitsap County jail Feb. 8.

Bainbridge Island police were seeking the Tacoma woman for mail and identity theft. Detectives investigated her for six such crimes, but she's been charged with two counts of ID theft in the 2nd degree.

In one case, she reportedly used a stolen credit

card from BI to make \$3,800 in charges. Court papers say she spent more than \$100 at a Cheesecake Factory and took out cash for an iPhone. She even used a stolen card to put more than \$100 each on jail commissary accounts for two male acquaintances.

"She's defrauded people who are self-employed, on social security, fixed incomes," BI police detective Erik Peffer said.

Honor rolls

Gonzaga: Bainbridge Island, Skye Clark, Julia Jakubik, Ian Matthews, Alisa Ndoci, Sofia Trail, Russell Whealdon
Whitworth: Bainbridge Island, Ethan Schulte
Northeastern University: Bainbridge Island, Dylan Quinn, Hannah Brubeck, Elisabeth Leung.
Elon University: Rolling Bay, Julia Edwards
University of Minnesota Crookston: Bainbridge Island, Grace Filek

FITZHUGH

CONTINUED FROM A14

admiration of the local Norwegian flavor of the architecture and scene. "Once the weather changes, I'll definitely be going back on my own," Fitzhugh said.

From Detroit to Seattle

Landing in Seattle is a dream come true for Fitzhugh, who grew up in hockey-mad Detroit, home of the Red Wings, one of the NHL's oldest and most successful American franchises. Fitzhugh said he always wanted to work in sports. He got into broadcasting at Bowling Green State University but never realized play-by-play would be an option.

Because basketball and football were the most popular sports there, he found himself calling a few hockey games his freshman year. After his first broadcast, he

was bitten by the bug. He called his mother and told her that he was "putting all [his] eggs into the hockey basket."

The grind of the minor league hockey broadcaster is not for the faint of heart. A typical job includes far more than calling the action of each game. The broadcaster is usually also the head of media relations, and thus responsible for writing press releases, producing video and audio for the team's website and social media. They may even have some marketing and/or public relations duties and often serve as one of the lead representatives of the franchise in the local community.

Game days typically began at 9 a.m. and, in the words of Fitzhugh himself, "If I left at midnight, it was a good day."

"What continued to push me was the fact that I was committed to getting to the NHL," he added. "This was the very first goal that I ever

set for myself professionally."

Fitzhugh most recently spent five years as the voice of the Cincinnati Cyclones in the ECHL after a stint in Youngstown, Ohio. He also spent time working as the manager of communications for the United States Hockey League.

When the Kraken came calling, he made history as the first full-time Black play-by-play broadcaster in the National Hockey League.

Fitzhugh admits he noticed as a kid that there were few players who looked like him. Though he was already a fan of the game, one night he turned on the TV and watched the Red Wings take on Edmonton. The Oilers had Mike Grier, a fellow Detroit native, and Georges Laraque on their roster, who were two of the league's few Black players at the time.

"For me to see that as a kid growing up was huge for me," Fitzhugh said.

Fitzhugh said he has never let his skin color hold him back from following his dream, nor does he believe it has ever been an issue. He said he has always been treated with respect at all levels he's worked.

Although hockey has grown more diverse, Fitzhugh's hiring is still a milestone, and he takes seriously the responsibility of being a role model.

"I don't think anyone ever intends to be a trailblazer," he said, "but if you do find yourself in that position you owe to it to yourself to be that person you never had."

"The Pacific Northwest is ready"

Whether he's calling a game, hosting a Q&A video, or just talking about the game he loves, it's easy to see why the Kraken plucked Fitzhugh out of the minor leagues to help build the frenzy, the freedom and the excitement for

the team's debut as the 32nd NHL franchise in the fall.

That job has kept him plenty busy. Aside from his visit to Kitsap, he's hosted a livestream on YouTube during the most recent NHL draft, interviewed Seattle's TV play-by-play voice John Forslund and created a number of other media projects for the team.

And he'll be front-and-center as the Kraken take their next steps — they still have to hire a head coach, take part in the expansion draft and the regular NHL entry draft as they put together their inaugural roster.

"The Pacific Northwest is ready," Fitzhugh said. "You're starting a team from the ground up, and the excitement and the interest that we've seen from the community has been awesome."

His infectious personality is a constant in everything he does. And when he steps into the broadcast booth for

the team's first game, his goal is to make that special connection with the audience. He wants listeners to feel like they're sitting in a bar in Seattle talking about the game.

"There are two things I don't lack — passion and volume," Fitzhugh said. "I've always been a very outgoing, optimistic, glass-half-full person."

"If I'm excited about this game, I'm excited about what I'm doing, you're going to be excited about this game."

Although Fitzhugh's schedule has been hectic even without games, he still takes time to remember how fortunate he is to have achieved his dream.

"It's really cool to be able to say that," Fitzhugh said. "I've been on the job now four months, and I still have 'pinch me' moments, and I don't think that's ever going to go away."

SPORTSVIEW

CONTINUED FROM A13

the only sport allowed to have competitions.

Perhaps there will be more. By the time this column publishes Friday, the state will have announced which regions, if any, move on to Phase 2 of Washington's latest reopening plan. If the Northwest region gets there, the rest of the traditional fall sports can

resume playing games.

I certainly hope that turns out to be the case. The state has already allowed the counties with the highest, second-highest, and fourth-highest rates of COVID-19 to resume activities such as indoor dining and, to make matters worse for places such as Kitsap, will only reassess the metrics every two weeks instead of every week as initially announced.

It seems silly at best to allow restaurants to open at

25 percent capacity indoors all across Seattle, but the Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap girls soccer teams can't play a match outdoors on Tuesday evening. If there was no opportunity for a "season" of fall sports to occur in some form over the next few weeks for those interested in participating, I believe that would be a shame.

I wouldn't know how to explain that to the kids. I wouldn't know how to tell

them that Napavine and Onalaska will be able to play football this weekend, but they can't. I wouldn't be able to explain the math behind allowing King County to start reopening while Garfield County, which has had just 85 confirmed cases since the pandemic began, cannot.

Hopefully, that won't be the case. Sure, the normalcy is good for me, but it's much, much more important for our student-athletes.

XCOUNTRY

CONTINUED FROM A13

Nick Grant (12:38.08, fifth) and Peter Mace Korytko (12:46.28, sixth), were the rest of the scoring runners.

Collins-Winn, a South Kitsap senior, recorded the top girls time among the six schools that competed in three dual meets Saturday.

The University of Portland commit spent a lot of her time running long distances at fast paces with some of her college friends, and the resulting high level of fitness helped her find good form as she finished the course in 12:49.05, about eight seconds faster than Michael.

"I wasn't sure how my speed would be," Collins-Winn said, "but we did a mile workout a few days ago, and I was doing six minutes per mile."

In the final head-to-head meet of the day, a pair of

North Kitsap freshmen finished first in their races.

Matthew Fee took home top honors in his team's race against Bremerton and posted a solid time of 12:38.23. Like a lot of runners, Fee spent time away from structured team practices to get stronger and faster, but finds it better to be in a competitive environment with friends and teammates.

"I have this family of runners, and that just carries me," Fee said.

The North Kitsap girls raced among themselves as Bremerton does not have a girls cross country team. Five freshmen ran for the Vikings, led by Ingrid Burchill, who finished first with a time of 17:03.68.

Daniel Lizon, a Central Kitsap senior, recorded the top time among all runners, with a mark of 10:54.16 during the rainy first race of the morning.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
888-674-7053

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



American Standard
150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

SAVE \$1000⁰⁰
EXCLUSIONS APPLY

ENJOYING A NEW SHOWER IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

CALL TODAY

newshowerdeal.com/wanews | 844-430-0118



Please Join Us!
Public Participation Meeting
Remote Meeting

CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Wintergreen Townhomes is a proposal for a 74-townhome long subdivision of 2.94 acres that incorporates affordable housing (as defined in the Municipal Code). The site is on Wintergreen Lane.

6:30 pm, Thursday, February 25, 2021
Online Zoom Meeting Platform
See Planning Commission Agenda for meeting link

This is a mandatory meeting per BIMC 2.16.020/Ord 2018-20. For more information, contact Kelly Tayara, Department of Planning and Community Development at ktayara@bainbridgewa.gov.



Please Join Us!
AT&T Telecom Facility
Public Participation Meeting
Remote Meeting

CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

The AT&T Telecommunications Facility project proposes to install an unmanned telecom facility on a KPUD water tower. The project is located on NE Baker Hill Rd (parcel#: 042402-1-054-2005).

Thursday, February 25th, 2021 at 6:00pm
Online Meeting via Zoom
Meeting login info & instructions at
www.bainbridgewa.gov

This is a mandatory meeting pursuant to BIMC 2.16.110. For more information, please contact Ellen Fairleigh, Planner efairleigh@bainbridgewa.gov or (206) 780-3767.

