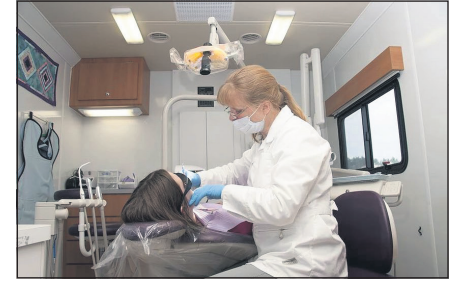


THE ISLANDS' WEEKLY

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VOLUME 45, NUMBER 12 • MARCH 12, 2024 • www.islandsweekly.com



Lopez Island's Quaniqua Williams chosen as writer-in-residence

Quaniqua Williams of Lopez Island was chosen to be the Writer-in-Residence for the North Sound Accountable Community of Health (ACH) for 2024. This is a year-long residency with a living wage. North Sound announced her residency on Jan 25 at the Tulalip Resort after she had performed two poems and did a workshop for 200+ people on the previous day. As part of her residency, she will offer her poetry, poetry workshops, and craft days as a tool for healing, reflection, and connection within the North Sound region.

Williams was raised sixty miles south of Savannah in Crescent, GA among her relatives, the Gullah Geechee people, and has family connections to Sapelo Island, GA. She moved to Albany, GA after graduating from McIntosh



Quianiqua Williams.

County Academy in 2010 and studied Communications at Darton State College in Albany, GA. Albany is where she gained her voice

and began her nightlife as a Spoken Word Artist. She was given the Stage (Artist) Name "Khemistry," because she wrote about love and could

captivate the audience with her energy.

In 2017, she was invited to attend the Thriving Communities Conference on Whidbey Island where she met Rhea Miller and Sandy Bishop. She was offered a part-time job at Lopez Community Land Trust and went to Lopez Island in the spring of 2017. After several months she found acclimating to the cultural differences difficult and returned home to her family in the Fall of 2017. She would return for summer employment opportunities from Vita's to Holly B's until 2020 when she finally found a stable

home at LCLT's Salish Way neighborhood.

Williams' poetry has been a companion, connector, and friend-in-need since her middle school days. Quaniqua's poetry has been featured in the Langley Film Festival and UK poetry groups. Since 2021, she has received funding from the Inatai Foundation to facilitate writing workshops and open mics in her community.

Sharing the special powers of poetry with her communities is as important to Williams as the poetry itself. Her writing workshops create spaces where writers from diverse intersections share

their writing, get to know each other better, and bridge the gap between professional and beginning writers. She currently works as a DEIB consultant, supporting organizations to take the steps necessary to create a culture of mutual respect, appreciation of differences, and shared belonging.

Remy Styrk, a filmmaker from Bellingham, WA, came to Lopez recently to begin the production of a 20-minute documentary about Williams and her work. She is currently enrolled as a Junior at Evergreen State College (Tacoma) where she is studying Sociology.

Lopez Island Community Scholarship Foundation Now Accepting Applications

The Lopez Island Community Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for 2024 graduates are now available on the LICSF website, www.licsf.org, in English and Spanish. The deadline for all application materials is April 22.

LICSF was created to provide scholarship opportunities for students who are residents of Lopez, Decatur,

and Center Islands—no matter which school they attend—to help them attain their post-secondary educational and career goals. LICSF offers two types of scholarships: one for two- or four-year academic institutions, and one for career and technical education/training.

LICSF is unique in supporting students to achieve success, no matter

what educational experience they choose, by providing financial support and matching the student with an advocate to offer an extra level of mentorship.

LICSF encourages the families of all students graduating from Lopez, Decatur, and Center Island in June of 2024 to visit www.licsf.org and see how LICSF might help your special student to open their life's next chapter.

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Facebook fix, taped theft, relative ruse | San Juan County Sheriff's Log

The San Juan County Sheriff's Office responded to the following calls.

Feb. 28

- A Lopez deputy responded when an elderly citizen needed assistance with their Facebook account.
- On San Juan, a traffic stop earned the driver a citation for not having a valid operator's license and a warning for speeding.
- On Feb. 26, a Friday Harbor man was seen shoplifting on camera. The Sheriff's Office received a statement as well as a copy of video footage, and a report was completed and forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for charges.

- A local towing company impounded a vehicle parked on Park Street in Friday Harbor.

Feb. 29

- San Juan deputies responded to the report of an overdose. The person received several doses of Narcan and was conscious when EMS transported them to Peace Island Medical Center for additional care.

March 1

- On Lopez, a deputy was dispatched to a report of trespassers on a property. The deputy arrived and determined that there was no one trespassing on the property. The call was cleared as unfounded,

and the caller referred to mental health professionals due to a high number of unfounded incidents.

- A Lopez resident reported the theft of a package left on their remote set of mailboxes.
- Staff at a Lopez school reported that a student was found to have a vape pen in violation of state law and school policy. The report was forwarded to juvenile court services.
- A Lopez deputy received a fraud complaint after an island resident was scammed out of a significant sum of money by someone claiming to be an incarcerated relative. The case was added to a federal database.
- A resident on Lopez received a phone call from an unknown suspect

claiming to represent a federal law enforcement agency.

- A deputy on San Juan took a report of a fraudulent phone call. The reporting party did provide information to the caller but had not sustained a monetary loss and began taking steps to monitor their accounts and sensitive information.
- A Lopez deputy took a report of a vehicle in the ditch. The driver was unharmed.
- A deputy took a call from a person on Lopez upset that he was refused service at a local bar and told there was a restraining order.

March 2

- Deputies on San Juan

responded to a report of an in-progress burglary in Friday Harbor. The suspect was located and booked into the San Juan County Jail for burglary in the second degree, malicious mischief in the second degree, and theft in the third degree.

- A Lopez deputy found a dog without tags roaming the ferry terminal. Community members assisted in locating the owner a short time later.
- A deputy on San Juan took a report of a hit-and-run with damage to a vehicle. The reporting party wasn't entirely sure what day it happened or exactly where it happened.

March 3

- A deputy on Orcas

conducted a traffic stop and cited the driver for speeding, 63 mph in a 35 mph zone.

- A San Juan deputy responded to an accident where the driver had driven onto the side of the road and hit a rock, popping their tire.

March 4

- A driver on Lopez received citations for speeding and for not having proof of motor vehicle insurance.

March 5

- Deputies on San Juan responded to a report of trespassing, and deputies trespassed two people from multiple properties in Friday Harbor.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Lopez AA meetings weekly via Zoom. Monday night mtg. 7:00 pm, Wed. Women's mtg. 5:30 pm and Sat. noon hybrid (in person at LIFRC and Zoom). Please contact aaonlopezisland@gmail.com or call (360) 468-4302 for more information.

Al-Anon

Lopez Al-Anon meets weekly on Saturday at the Gathering Place at The Hamlet Cottages at 9:30 a.m.

Upcoming workshops for waterfront property owners

Submitted by Friends of the San Juans

Weekly deadlines

Legal advertising:
Wednesday at noon
Press releases, letters and display advertising:
Thursday at noon
Classified advertising:
Friday at noon

Reminder! Upcoming workshops for shoreline property owners! Geology, engineering, and local habitat experts will guide you through shore-friendly property management options. Following the workshop, you'll head to a nearby beach to see real-world examples of shoreline ecosystems and

management techniques that protect and maintain healthy habitats. Join fellow island stewards like you for this opportunity to connect and explore the crucial ecosystems that encompass over 400 miles of shoreline in San Juan County. Leave with practical tips for managing your waterfront property for

future generations.
Visit sanjuans.org/shore-friendly to sign up!
• Thursday, March 14th: Lopez Island Grange, 12 to 3 p.m.
Friday, March 15th: San Juan Island Grange, 2 to 5 p.m. This workshop works best with interisland ferry timing

and is walkable for those coming from other islands.
• Saturday March 16th: Orcas Island Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
This workshop offering is funded wholly or in part by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program.

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Wizards of the Coast donates 75 Dungeons & Dragons box sets to Washington State Library

*Submitted by Washington
Secretary of State*

Through a partnership between Wizards of the Coast and the Office of the Secretary of State, a donation of 75 Dungeons & Dragons Library Kits will ensure that every library system and institutional library in Washington can obtain a free gaming kit for patron use.

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs and Wizards of the Coast Head of Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) Dan Rawson announced the donation Thursday. The games will be available to library systems statewide from the Washington State Library. Secretary Hobbs will deliver the program's first D&D kit March 21 to Yakima's Richard E. Ostrander West Valley Community Library as part of a scheduled community visit.

"I have always valued libraries as places of learning and community

enrichment," Secretary Hobbs said. "Dungeons & Dragons is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to come together in a role-playing setting to strategize and build relationships."

Dungeons & Dragons is a tabletop game where players can immerse themselves in the world and character of their creation, problem-solve, collaborate with others, and direct the story themselves. The Library Kits donated by Wizards of the Coast include the D&D Starter Set, ready-to-play character sheets, a demo adventure, organizer instructions, a learn-to-play guide for Dungeon Masters, and promotional materials including a library poster and flyers for players. More free resources such as rules, maps, introductory adventures, and character creation tools for teachers, librarians, educators, and all fans can be found online at D&D Beyond. Wizards

of the Coast, a division of Hasbro, is a Renton-based company best-known for Dungeons & Dragons, Magic: The Gathering, and Duel Masters.

"D&D has been inspiring imaginations and friendships for 50 years," said Rawson, the Wizards of the Coast Senior Vice President of D&D and Role-Playing Games. "We're excited to support D&D play everywhere and hope this donation inspires more adventurers to join the party."

The Washington State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services will provide the kits free to public, tribal, and community college libraries that apply for a non-competitive "Tabletop Role-Playing Games For All" Mini-Grant and Innovation Grant program. Applications are due Monday, April 1.

"The library is a place where anyone can learn, explore, and connect," said

Yakima Valley Libraries Community Library Supervisor Rebekah Sopher. "D&D allows people to express their creativity, connect with people of diverse backgrounds, and improve their social and critical thinking skills, all while going on adventures and fighting dragons."

Washington's Office of the Secretary of State oversees areas within state government including managing state elections, registering corporations and charities, and governing the use of the state flag and state seal. The office also operates the State Archives and the State Library, documents extraordinary stories in Washington's history through Legacy Washington, and administers the Combined Fund Drive for charitable giving by state employees and the Productivity Board state employee suggestion program to provide incentives for efficiency improvements. The

Secretary of State also oversees the state's Address Confidentiality Program to help protect survivors of crime.

About DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS has enchanted fans for 50 years with innovative gameplay, allowing friends and family to adventure in fantasy worlds together. The World's Greatest Role-playing Game™ boasts more than 50 million fans to date who have enjoyed the franchise through video games, novels, comics, roleplaying games, and accessories. In 2023, the major feature film produced by Paramount Pictures and eOne, Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves, captivated audiences and critics alike. Fans can experience D&D through wide-ranging formats right now, including online, through easy-to-use tools on D&D Beyond (<https://www.dndbeyond.com/>) and much more.

About Wizards of the Coast

Wizards of the Coast, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hasbro (NASDAQ: HAS), develops legendary games that inspire creativity, spark passions, forge friendships and foster communities around a lifetime love of games. Wizards delivers compelling experiences for gamers across tabletop and digital gaming through its best-known franchises MAGIC: THE GATHERING and DUNGEONS & DRAGONS and Hasbro's unparalleled portfolio of approximately 1,500 brands.

With headquarters in Renton, Washington and studios in Austin, Montreal, Raleigh and Renton; Wizards is dedicated to fostering world-class talent to create unforgettable play experiences on all platforms. To learn more about Wizards, please visit our company website and social channels (@Wizards on Twitter and LinkedIn).

Tour de Lopez on the way

Lopez Island Chamber of Commerce is pleased to sponsor the 18th Annual Tour de Lopez on Saturday, April 27. This very popular non-competitive bicycle tour kicks off cycling in the beautiful San Juan Islands. A family-friendly event, the ride offers four routes (5, 12, 17 & 31 miles), through the scenic landscapes of Lopez. Registration

includes a picnic lunch with live music, and four designated rest areas with great local bakery treats and fresh fruit, water, and other assistance if needed. Laine Nichols, a beloved artist and Lopez resident, has created original artwork for this event.

Proceeds from the Tour are used to maintain the grounds of Village Park and its donation-based

shower and restroom facility throughout the year. Registration is limited to approximately 900 riders, so register early! Routes open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration is open now. Forms and Online registration are available on the chamber website, www.lopezisland.com



Steve Nevey to head Washington State Ferries

Submitted by WSF

Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar announced today that Steve Nevey (JPG 2.5MB) will serve as assistant secretary for the Washington State Ferries Division. A career mariner, Nevey progressed directly from high school to a maritime academy in the United Kingdom. For the past two years he has served as director of marine operations for WSF and has been instrumental in the development of programs that address ongoing staff shortages in the industry.

Nevey will succeed Patty Rubstello, who is stepping down as head of WSF to spend more time with family after more than 33 years of service with the Washington State

Department of Transportation. Rubstello will remain assistant secretary to ensure a smooth transition until Nevey begins his new role on March 16.

"This is a pivotal time for our ferry system, and I appreciate WSF conducting a highly competitive nationwide search for this role," said Gov. Jay Inslee. "With the Legislature's support, we're making progress on staffing, vessel builds and electrification. Patty has been a calm voice in stabilizing and operating our iconic ferry system through many difficult challenges. I look forward to working with Steve to continue our progress and ensuring customers are well served, and I thank Patty for her dedicated service to our state."

"Nevey brings a wealth of experience to Washington State Ferries from a maritime career spanning more than two decades aboard large tankers, ferries and private craft to shoreside operations for Holland America," Millar said. "Since day one joining Washington State Ferries in 2021, he has worked tirelessly with his team and WSF leadership to find workable solutions to our staffing shortages and vessel-related maintenance and preservation challenges to ensure better service and reliability in the long term for the users of our WSF system. I look forward to working with him in the future and also want to thank Patty Rubstello for her service to all Washingtonians across a career in public service with WSDOT

for over 30 years. She was never one to shy away from a challenge and for that she has my utmost respect and appreciation."

Nevey will chart the course of the biggest ferry system in North America. His experience spans on the water working for a ferry system in Scotland, major seagoing corporations and the cruise industry. Nevey moved to Seattle in 2008 and held senior positions with Holland America Group, where he gained experience in ship retrofits and vessel maintenance, crew scheduling, human resources and career tracking for deck officers. During the pandemic, Nevey helped lead 24/7 worldwide operations management and emergency response. In his role as director of marine

operations for WSF, he has proven himself pivotal in addressing staff shortages by overseeing the creation of several new programs, including a scholarship partnership designed to train new deck officers and captains. In a short period of time, Nevey's innovative thinking around these challenging issues resulted in him receiving the Governor's Award for Leadership in Management in 2023.

WSF, a division of the Washington State Department of Transportation, is the largest ferry system in the U.S. and safely and efficiently carries tens of millions of people a year through some of the most majestic scenery in the world. For the latest service updates, sign up for rider alerts and track



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A career mariner, Steve progressed directly from high school to a maritime academy in the United Kingdom. At WSF, he has been instrumental in the development of programs that address ongoing staff shortages in the industry.

each ferry using the real-time map online.

Invasive Northern Pike caught by angler at Limekiln Preserve

Submitted by San Juan County

As if to cap off Washington's Invasive Species Awareness Week, San Juan County Conservation Land Bank (SJCCLB) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have confirmed the detection of a northern pike caught in the pond at the Land Bank's Limekiln Preserve on western San Juan Island.

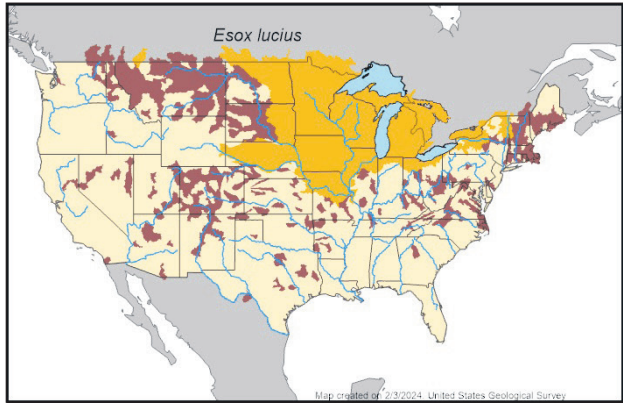
This highly invasive and aggressive fish is native to the Midwest, Canada, and eastern Alaska but has been introduced across the U.S., including the upper Columbia River in northeast Washington and sporadic detections in Lake Washington.

The fish at Limekiln was discovered last week by a teenage islander—Evan Hiatt—who shared

photos with his parents. His parents passed on the photos to Beth Tate, a biologist with WDFW based on San Juan Island, who reported it to her colleagues and the Land Bank.

"Local naturalists and anglers are asked to keep a sharp lookout in other ponds and lakes across San Juan County," said Doug McCutchen, SJCCLB's Preserve Steward.

"We're grateful that Evan had the keen eye to photograph and report this invasive fish," said Justin Bush, WDFW's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) policy coordinator. "WDFW is working with the Land Bank, County, and other partners to deploy a rapid response to assess how many pike are in the area, and to remove them as soon as possible before they can spread to other



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Map of areas of concern

waterways."

Drivers on Westside Road or visiting the Limekiln Preserve may see a small skiff on the pond and WDFW biologists and AIS unit staff setting gillnets as early as March 6.

Northern pike represent a serious threat to native fish and other wildlife including amphibians, birds, mammals,

and invertebrates, and are classified as a prohibited invasive species in Washington. The San Juan Islands have several small, isolated endemic populations of coastal cutthroat trout, coho, and other members of the salmon family. The introduction of pike to their habitats could devastate these small, genetically distinct



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Map key

populations.

The fish was almost certainly introduced in violation of state laws concerning prohibited species which ban their transport, sale, or introduction into state waters. Violators face a maximum penalty of one year in jail and \$5,000 in fines.

Tips regarding how the pike got to San Juan Island may be provided to WDFW Police at: wdfw.wa.gov/about/enforcement/report or by calling 877-933-9847, or by anonymously texting 847411 (TIP411) by entering WDFWTIP, followed by a space, and then entering your report.

WDFW is currently in the process of developing a statewide northern pike response and management plan.

USGS has a great animated map that shows the spread of Northern Pike over time: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/SpeciesAnimatedMap.aspx?speciesID=676>

More information on northern pike is available on WDFW's webpage: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/esox-lucius> and on the agency's Aquatic Invasive Species unit webpage: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive>.

Call for vendors and entertainment at 2024 San Juan County Fair

The San Juan County Parks & Fair Department is pleased to accept both vendor applications and entertainment inquiries for the 2024 San Juan County Fair. As the county's largest community event, reaching over 2,000 people over four days, the Fair provides a great platform and exposure for vendors and

entertainers alike.

Whether you are a new business hoping to introduce your products or services, a non-profit looking to connect with community members, or a performer ready to showcase your talents, the San Juan County Fair is the perfect opportunity for you! For more information about how to

apply, visit our website at www.sjcfair.org.

Relevant URLs:

<https://www.sjcfair.org/p/thefair/vendor-information>

<https://www.sjcfair.org/p/thefair/performer-app>

Media Contact: Amanda Smith, Events Coordinator at San Juan County Parks & Fair; amandas@sanjuancountywa.gov, (360) 370-7457

About San Juan County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Fair

San Juan County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Fair oversees public parks on all four ferry-served islands, manages camping, and hosts the San Juan County Fair. The department offices are located at 849 Argyle Avenue, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. For more information about San Juan County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Fair, visit <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/1949/Parks-Recreation-Fair>.

Naturalist Training Gear Up this April

The Whale Museum's Virtual Gear Up Workshop for Marine Naturalists

Register now for The Whale Museum's Virtual Gear Up Workshop on April 5 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This year's theme is: Toxins in killer whales and other local marine life: Emerging and legacy issues. The workshop will be entirely virtual through Zoom.

Invited Presenters include:

- Dr. Dawn P. Noren, Research Fish Biologist, NOAA on the transfer of contaminants from female killer whales and other odontocetes to their calves, with updates on on-going research.
- Greg Merrill Jr., Graduate Student, Duke University on microplastic impacts on whales and other marine mammals.
- Dr. Anaïs Remili, Post-doctoral Researcher, McGill University on contaminants in North Atlantic killer whales and a comparison to North Pacific killer whales.
- Dr. Peter Ross, Senior Scientist and Healthy Waters Program Director, Raincoast Conservation Foundation on contaminants present in killer whales in the Salish Sea.
- Caitlin Anne Lawrence and Garrett M. Foster,

Graduate Students, WSU on tire chemicals and their impact on salmon.

• Puget Soundkeeper Staff on cleaning up priority bays and urban waters in Puget Sound and preventing contamination.

And potentially other

presenter(s), TBD.

The registration fee is \$35 for non-members; \$25 for current TWM or SSAMN members. Questions can be directed to Tracie Merrill at tracie@whalemuseum.org. Zoom link and workshop agenda will be sent

to registrants at email provided at registration closer to start of workshop. For more information and/or to register, please visit: https://whalemuseum.org/products/gear-up-virtual-workshop2024?_pos=1&_sid=10e8cebc6&_ss=r

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Worship Services in the Islands

LOPEZ ISLAND

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Please join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour. The service is also streamed on our YouTube channel. Find more information at gracelopezisland.org. Email: gracechurchlopez@gmail.com and Office: (360) 468-3477.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 6:00 p.m. Sunday

Call 360-378-2910 for Mass times on San Juan and Orcas Islands.

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We meet in person at Sunnyfield Farm, 6363 Fisherman Bay Rd. We also meet virtually at the same time on Zoom. For more information, emailopezfriends@gmail.com.

Fish for Teeth to change structure in providing quality dental care to those who need it

BY ISABEL ASHLEY
isabel.ashley@sanjuanjournal.com

Fish for Teeth, the Friday Harbor-based non-profit that provides dental care for those who could otherwise not afford it, has provided dental services not only to members of the San Juan Island community but has reached residents of San Juan County for the last few years. Since 2021, Fish for Teeth has treated over 1,200 patients over the course of more than 100 clinic days that were spread between San Juan Island, Orcas, and Lopez,

according to the Fish for Teeth website. Due to changes in its funding structure, this year the non-profit will return to its original model of providing quality dental service to San Juan Island community members through a fully local volunteer base and new funding sources.

Fish for Teeth has long been serving the community before it grew to provide county-wide coverage. San Juan Island resident and commercial fisherman Matt Marinkovich founded the organization in 2007 after witnessing in person the need for accessible dental care. Marinkovich

was at Friday Harbor Elementary School where his children were attending school and was approached by a nine-year-old girl who wanted to show him her mouth full of cavities.

"It was kind of shocking. I went home and talked about it with [my wife] and well, it was something that kind of stuck in my head," said Marinkovich. "We were like, 'What's up with that?' So we started Fish for Teeth."

The organization assembled a five-member board of commercial fishermen, dental professionals and community members,

including Matt and his wife, Maureen Markinkovich. Matt's original vision was to utilize any excess fish harvest from his work to make and sell a product that would fund the non-profit. They began selling fish tacos a few times throughout the year to raise money for the cause, relying on local volunteers and organizations to provide support and assistance with the taco sales.

During this period of fund-raising, the board of Fish for Teeth learned of Medical Teams International, a 501 c3 charitable organization

that operates a mobile dental van throughout major cities in Washington and Oregon. The board saw this as a great opportunity to bring dental care to Friday Harbor, and in January 2012, the Medical Teams International Mobile Dental Van made its first visit to the island, and continued to visit the island a few times a year for three to four-day long clinics. Up until 2020, would use the funds raised from fish taco fundraisers and donations to bring the mobile dental van to the island, and relied on local dental professionals and community

volunteers to provide the dental services and coordinate scheduling and intake.

In 2020, Fish for Teeth received three years' worth of funding from its first grant from the Acora Foundation, which has gone towards funding a significant portion of the mobile dental van, as well as outsourcing dental professionals to provide care. Because the grant was secured through the county, the non-profit's coverage expanded to cover Orcas and Lopez residents as well,

See **TEETH**, Page 7

Lopez Business Directory

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Samish Nation removes 1M pounds of debris from the Salish Sea, San Juan Islands

The Samish Indian Nation through its Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has cleaned up 1,095,534 pounds of marine debris from the shoreline and waters of Skagit County, Island County, Whatcom County, and the San Juan Islands. Each pound represents the removal of manmade toxins and objects, including creosote-treated wood, waterborne plastics, tires, derelict boats, and more.

"Our culture is directly tied to the environment around us, and preserving the land and water of the Salish Sea honors our ancestors and future generations alike," said Tom Wooten, Chairman of the Samish Indian Nation. "The work the Samish DNR is doing preserves our cultural identity. Without the water and life within it, we have nothing."

Since 2004, the removal of debris from Puget Sound has been a significant focus of WADNR's Restoration

Program. The effort began in the North Sound and has since expanded to areas around Puget Sound. The marine cleanup work was done in partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR), Washington Conservation Corps, Veterans Conservation Corps, and EarthCorps. Samish DNR began a partnership with WADNR in 2014 to help clean the Salish Sea, contributing both the use of landing crafts and crew hours yearly.

"Samish DNR focuses on preserving, protecting, and restoring natural resources important to Samish Tribal Citizens for now and future generations," said Matt Castle, Manager of Samish Department of Natural Resources. "The Samish DNR remains committed to the ongoing removal of debris from Samish Traditional Territory to ensure the Samish people and neighboring communities will

be able to utilize the natural resources of the Salish Sea for years to come."

"While the world around the Samish people has changed dramatically over millennia, one thing has stayed the same: our commitment to preserving and protecting our land and waters, making it better for millennia to come," said Wooten.

Samish DNR, the Washington Conservation Corps, and WADNR will resume cleanup this June through August, utilizing the MyCoast app to log all marine debris gathered. The public is invited to download the app and share any sightings of marine debris, and any information gathered will be shared with the Samish and Washington State DNRs. The project is ongoing and will continue annually, funding permitting.

For more information, visit www.samishtribe.nsn.us/departments/environment.

San Juan County residents invited to two JW events in March

SUBMITTED BY JOHN BECKMAN

While the date Sunday, March 24, may pass imperceptibly for many, millions around the world will gather at sundown to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ.

Considered the most important day of the year for Jehovah's Witnesses, the Memorial is observed annually on Nisan 14 of the Jewish calendar in adherence to Jesus' statement found in Luke 22:19, "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." Though there are over 8.6 million Jehovah's Witnesses around the world, almost 20 million people attended the

event last year.

"We hope that islanders will join us in showing gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and learn how his death benefits us all," said John Beckman, spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "This is a solemn occasion, but it is also a very joyous one when we learn what it means for us. It is completely free and open to all."

The one-hour event will feature a talk highlighting the significance of Jesus' death and what it means for all of mankind.

Throughout San Juan County, a special campaign will be launched during

March 2024 to invite local residents to attend the annual observance of the Lord's Evening Meal as well as a special public talk that will be delivered the week before.

Titled "The Resurrection—Victory Over Death!" the special talk will be delivered at local Kingdom Halls on March 17, 2024.

Lopez Island resident Jim Birdsall said: "I always look forward to the special talk and the Memorial, and I try to invite as many people as I can. Both events show what a beautiful hope we can have for our future and help us to focus on what's really important in life."

Teeth

From Page 6

increasing their clinic days from around 9-12 days a year on just San Juan Island to 36 days a year, split amongst the three islands. In addition, different organizations including the San Juan Community Foundation, the San Juan Rotary Club, the Honeywell Foundation, the Orcas Island Community Foundation and the Lopez Island Family Resource Center have contributed additional resources, support and donations to Fish for Teeth.

As the funding from the original Acora Foundation grant reached its three-year expiration, Fish for Teeth will transition into a new model for providing dental care to island residents. Kristen Reza-bek, Health and Nutrition Program Coordinator for San Juan County, explained that the non-profit will receive one more additional year of funding from the Acora Foundation grant to assist in this transition.

"We will be working with community partners and

local dental providers to hold a community dental clinic four times a year," said Reza-bek. "The additional year of funding [from the Acora Foundation] will help start up and support the community dental clinic, as we work towards establishing an oral health care clinic."

According to Marinkovich, these dental clinics will take the form of leasing a dental facility on island for the day, with local dental professionals providing care instead of outsourced dentists. Additionally, the non-profit will be utilizing new revenue sources outside of the fish tacos fundraiser, donations, and community partnerships. These new sources of income include a penny press machine which will be located in front of Friday Harbor Drug, and will also be collecting Kings receipts, which will donate 1% of each receipt's total.

"We're trying to get some streamlined, steady revenue to help us with what we're doing. We are definitely in a transitional period...but I think [the new plan] is going to work pretty good," said Marinkovich.

The first dental clinic under this new structure is set for April 20 and is already fully scheduled with patients who were backlogged from previous clinics. The remaining clinics for this year are already scheduled for June 1, Sept. 20, and Nov. 8, and residents can apply to receive care by visiting <https://www.fishforteeeth.com/application-c6rs>.

Although there is no income requirement, the organization aims to help those who are without dental insurance or those whose insurance is not widely accepted on island, and otherwise struggle to afford dental care and the expenses accrued from off-island travel for dental appointments.

As the Fish for Teeth team begins the transition to a more locally-sourced organization, the Marinkovichs are excited to return to a similar structure of community volunteers and support.

"We are always looking for more volunteers. Having new volunteers brings fresh awareness about what we're doing and [brings] more people in, there's more talk on the street and more community involvement," said Matt.

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Employment General

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The San Juan Island Library is seeking a **FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATE** to plan and conduct fundraising activities to support operations and maintenance of the current library, and for a new library building project. This is a part-time \$35/hour position for 15 hours per week with some flexibility as to schedule. Complete job description available at <http://www.sjlib.org/employment>



General Pets

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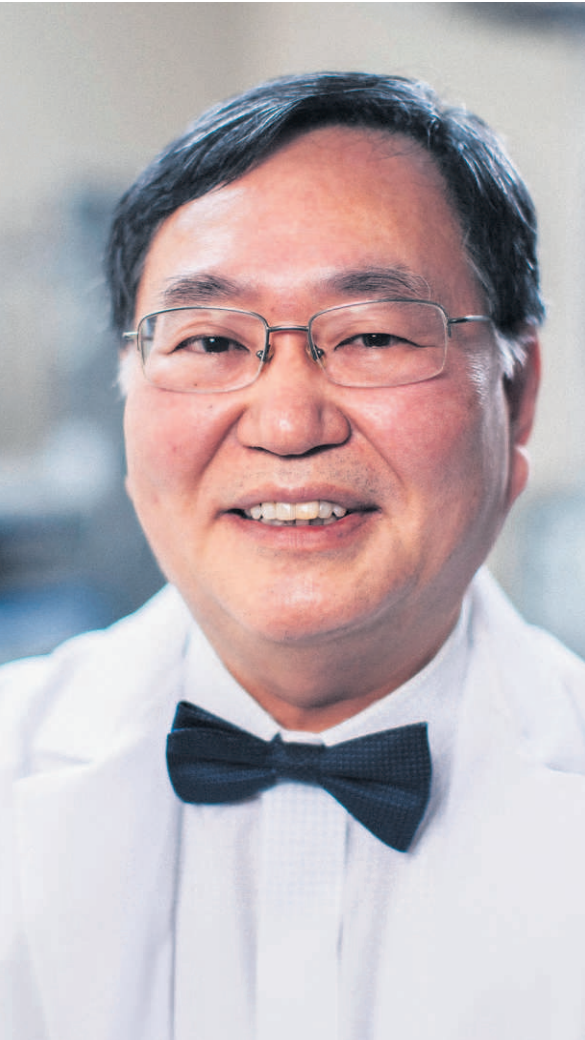
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