



Puppy pow wow: 6th annual Paws and Claws expo  
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Bellingham Roller Betties bare it all  
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# THE WESTERN FRONT

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## Casa Que Pasa raises money to support returning veterans

By Robert Krause II

Bellingham restaurant Casa Que Pasa held a fundraiser that raised approximately \$220 for Growing Veterans, a nonprofit that helps veterans return to society through farming.

Growing Veterans helps returning veterans get re-accli-

mated to civilian life by having them working alongside other veterans and community members on a sustainable farm, director of Growing Veterans and Western alum-nus Chris Brown said.

Gordon Kyle, Western student and intern for Growing Veterans, said the best part

about the organization is its goal to reduce veteran isolation.

"Veterans come home from Iraq, they come back from Afghanistan, they get out of the military and then they don't really have friends and family," Kyle said.

When Kyle started to go to school in Washington after

leaving the army, he didn't have any friends or family nearby. At times he felt isolated, he said.

"You just got back from war, and you have a lot of emotions running from that," Kyle said. "You have nobody, you have no outlet, you have nobody to talk to about it."

The Growing Veterans peer support model gives veterans a chance to talk to other veterans about experiences while working alongside them, Kyle said.

Casa Que Pasa has done this fundraiser for multiple

*see VETERANS, page 5*

## First Bellingham Leukemia Cup raises money for research



Like ducks in a row, sailing teams race into the bay at the start of the Bellingham Bay Leukemia Cup on Saturday, July 26, as part of a fundraiser for cancer research. // Photo by Daniella Beccaria

[see page 12 for full story](#)

## Fresh Bucks program gives SNAP users locally sourced alternative



Fresh Bucks are wooden tokens available each Saturday to EBT card users. // Photo by Tommy Calderon

By Ariana Rayment

The Bellingham Farmers Market has recently seen more food stamps used through Fresh Bucks, a new program that was marketed with assistance from Western students.

Fresh Bucks is an incentive program that allows consumers who receive benefits from food assistance programs to purchase more produce at farmers markets. The program launched July 1.

Roughly 60 percent more food stamps are used at the farmers market since the

campaign started, Bellingham Farmers Market Director Caprice Teske said.

People who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, also known as food stamps or EBT, can exchange their SNAP dollars for Fresh Bucks in the form of wooden tokens, which can be spent at the Bellingham Farmers Market.

Fresh Bucks can be used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, bread, cheese, meat and

*see FRESH BUCKS, page 5*

## James Street maintenance closes road

By Olivia Moon

A portion of James Street between Orchard Drive and Woodstock Way is currently closed for construction for the next six months, according to Bellingham Public Works.

This project, which began July 8, will replace two unsafe wooden bridges with one concrete bridge, as well as raising this portion to prevent future floods from covering the street, which has been a problem in the past.

"I usually bike to class and go down James Street every day in my commute. I will need to find an alternative route if I want to continue my education."

—Matt Amick  
Western senior

The street will also be widened, providing a center vehicle turn lane, bike lanes in both directions and sidewalks on the east side, said city project engineer Craig Mueller in an email interview.

It took six years to develop the funding to replace the bridge from federal, state and

*see RENOVATIONS, page 4*

## Online Content

**Beauty Blog:**  
Beauty stores in Bellingham

**Drink of the Week:**  
Using a French press

**The Coffee Brew:**  
The Wailing Goat Espresso

**Bellingham Scoop:**  
Menchie's Frozen Yogurt

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# President visits Seattle



President Obama waves goodbye at King County International Airport before leaving to the fundraisers being held today Tuesday, July 22. // Photo by Tommy Calderon

## The Western Front

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## Cops Box

July 21, 8:01 a.m.: Police reported that a person accidentally broke a business's window and left a note with their contact information.

July 21, 1:03 p.m.: Police responded to a woman in the 200 block of 36 Street who reported refusing to sell alcohol to a man after seeing him consume it while driving away from the parking lot. The woman reported that the man spit in her face before he left that store a second time.

July 24, 7:09 p.m.: Police reported that a male suspect passed out two counterfeit \$50 bills at the 4100 block of Meridian Street.

July 24, 4 p.m.: The United States Postal Service requested extra patrol on the 2400 block of Douglas Avenue because people have been going through mail boxes and throwing mail on the street.

// Compiled by Ariana Rayment

## Corrections

In an article from July 22 about Carly Roberts becoming Western's student trustee, the wrong person was credited for a quote. Bruce Shepard called Roberts "an exceptionally talented leader."

In an article from July 22 about a waterfront development tour, Sylvia Goodwin was referred to with the wrong pronoun after one of her quotes.

The Western Front strives for accuracy and will correct errors of fact promptly and courteously. Please notify us of any factual errors at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

# County works to prevent asbestos contamination

Asbestos in Swift Creek poses threat to salmon, environment in neighboring waters

By Paloma Pirotte

Whatcom County Public Works Department plans to invest approximately \$500,000 this fall in re-carving the path of Swift Creek to prevent asbestos-contaminated water from traveling into salmon habitat.

The project will involve dredging a path that directs Swift Creek between sediment areas, also reinforcing the stream with rock to prevent contaminating Breckenridge Creek, Roland Middleton, special projects manager at Whatcom County Public Works, said.

If the water were to go off the charted path, it could potentially destroy the habitat in Breckenridge Creek, which supports salmon, other fish and fauna, Middleton said.

"Right now, when the sediment gets into the stream most times it's deposited on the banks of the stream and it's just sitting there. If the stream comes up because of flooding, the sediment is re-suspended and it gets carried downstream."

— Scott Linneman  
Western geology and science education professor

Swift Creek carries asbestos-rich sediment from an old landslide on Sumas Mountain that gradually moves downhill, carrying asbestos-rich sediment. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the landslide was reactivated around the 1930s from excessive rainfall. The creek water flows into the Sumas River and eventually up to the Fraser River in Canada, said Scott

Linneman, professor of geology and science education at Western.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that can either grow or break into fiber shapes, Linneman said.

There have been no asbestos-related diseases recorded as a result of Swift Creek. As long as asbestos is packed down under other sediment it is not a problem, it becomes a problem is when it is inhaled, Linneman said.

The department will begin working to redirect the flow of the creek when it begins to rain in September or October. The workers are waiting to begin the project because asbestos dust would be harmful if inhaled by the workers, Middleton said.

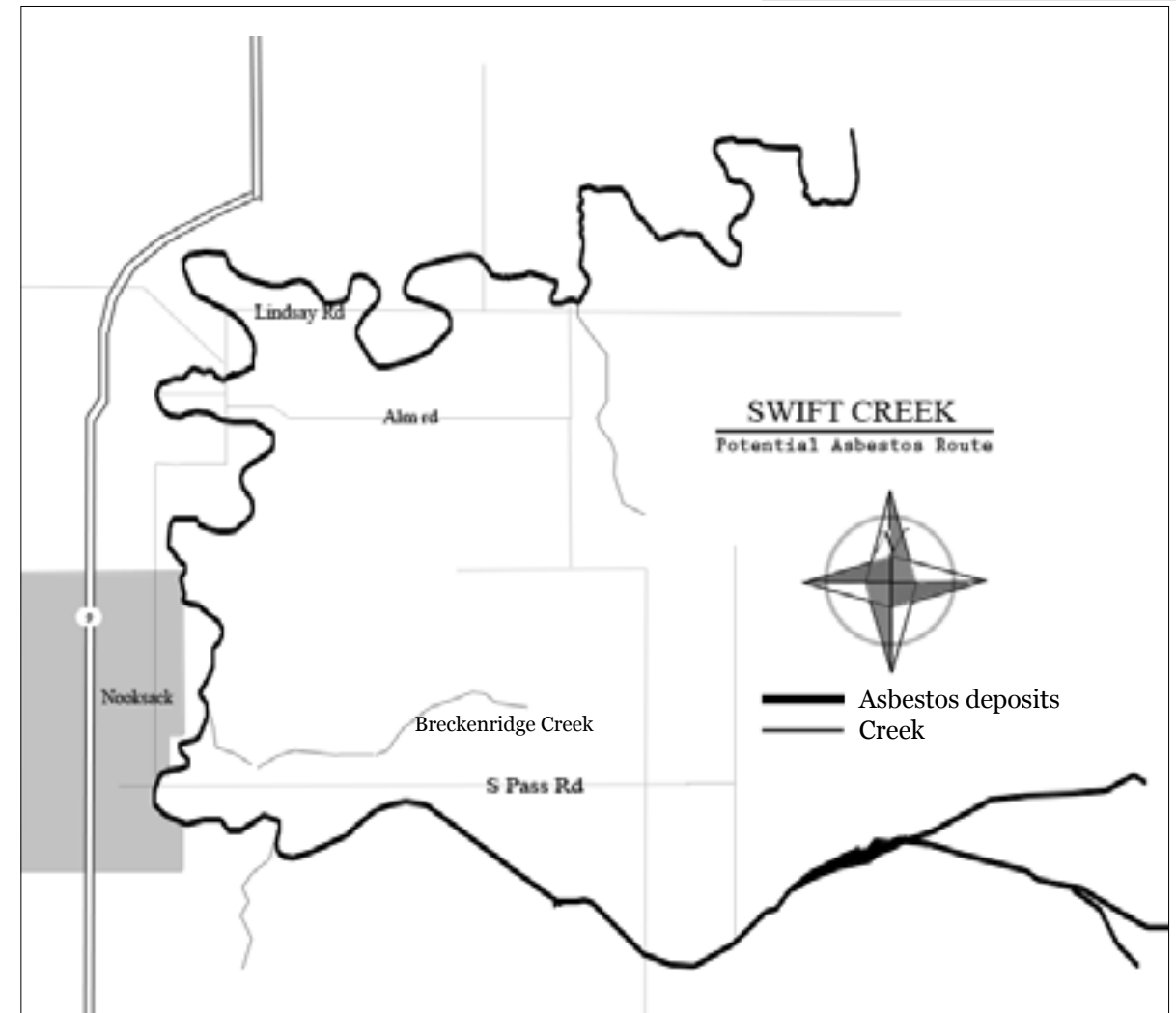
"Right now, when the sediment gets into the stream most times it's deposited on the banks of the stream and it's just sitting there," Linneman said. "If the stream comes up because of flooding, the sediment is re-suspended and it gets carried downstream."

Whatcom County Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, Whatcom County Flood Control District and the Department of Ecology created a joint agreement to form solutions

to the Swift Creek asbestos issue and provide maintenance, according to the Whatcom County council agenda bill for the joint agency agreement regarding Swift Creek.

Another project being considered involves creating large basins to collect the asbestos sediment, preventing it from traveling downstream, Middleton said.

Reforming Swift Creek's path is completely funded by Whatcom County, but the long-term investment will require funds from the state to support the future projects that will be necessary to contain the asbestos in Swift Creek, Middleton said.



Salmon in neighboring Breckenridge Creek could be contaminated by asbestos deposits along Swift Creek if its path is not re-carved. Swift Creek is in Whatcom County, 20 miles northeast of Western if taking highway 542 // Illustration by Truxtun McCoy

**Asbestos Facts:**

- Asbestos is a general name for naturally occurring silicate mineral fibers.
- Asbestos poses a health risk when inhaled or ingested.
- Exposure to asbestos can cause numerous lung diseases, including asbestosis and lung cancer.
- Asbestos was commonly used in building materials before the 1980s.

Information from ACT Government Asbestos Awareness

# Barking in the park

Gallery compiled by Chanel Retasket

Dogs of all shapes, sizes and levels of furriness accompanied their owners to the 6th annual Paws and Claws Expo on Sunday, July 27, at Bloedel Donovan Park. Visitors perused vendor and information booths in the picnic area of the park at the expo, held by the Alternative Humane Society.



ABOVE: Aurie, 3, takes a rest alongside her owner. The purebred golden retriever's owner, Evan Schwiter, describes her personality as "bomb-proof" when interacting with other dogs. "She's definitely an alpha."



LEFT: Cashew, 8 and a half weeks old, is a mix of lab, heeler, roitweiler, among other breeds. Her mother escaped, running onto Interstate 5, and her owner lured her back with one of her own puppies.

RIGHT: Throughout the afternoon, owners and dogs circled up for contests at Bloedel Donovan Park. Here, dogs are judged in a longest and shortest tail contest at the Paws and Claws Expo on Saturday, July 27. Other competitions included the best trick performance and the quickest at eating peanut butter.



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# RENOVATIONS: Construction estimated to last six months



Two unsafe wooden bridges are being replaced over the next six months on the section of James Street, between Woodstock Way and Orchard Drive in order to prevent future flooding of the road. // Photo by Melissa McDonough

continued from page 1

local sources with a construction cost of \$2,497,941.40, Mueller said.

Bridges have already been taken down and moved to a landfill for proper disposal, Mueller said.

These particular bridges were built in the 1920s, and were made of reinforced timbers. Road restrictions were implemented several years ago as a response to the bridges age.

With civil projects, you can generally anticipate a 50- to 100-year lifespan depending on material, Mueller said.

"The outer edges of the bridges have been slowly deteriorating over time and have scored lower and lower on annual bridge inspections by the county," Mueller said.

If this construction did not happen, James Street would be flooded and closed, Mueller said.

**"The outer edges of the bridges have been slowly deteriorating over time and have scored lower and lower on annual bridge inspections by the county."**

—Craig Mueller  
Bellingham project engineer

Drivers are currently rerouted to the Guide Meridian via Telegraph Road, or to Sunset via Bakerview Road and Hannegan Road, Mueller said.

"We will continue to provide access to the mini-storage area, the only

business in the direct project area," Heather Higgins, the communication coordinator for the city, said.

For Mueller, the west detour took six minutes and the east detour took nine.

Matt Amick, a Western senior who lives in Orchard Estates near James Street, must find a new route.

"I usually bike to class and go down James Street every day in my commute," Amick said. "I will need to find an alternative route if I want to continue my education."

While this is an inconvenience, Amick said he takes solace in the fact that the new bike lanes will make his commute to school much safer than before.

"I think it is unfortunate since the road will be closed, but from the information I have garnered about the project, I think it is a positive move in the right direction," Amick said in an email.

Sunset Pond Park, located on James Street, will gain a one-way paved parking area.

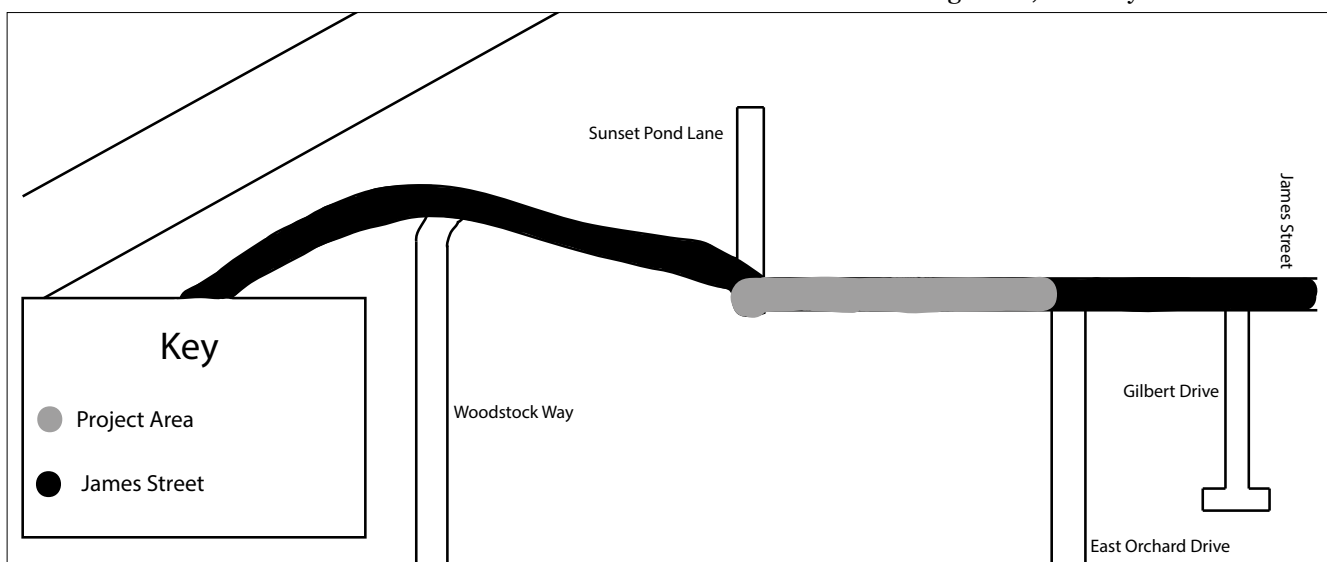
This construction will mean the park will have improved parking, Leslie Bryson, design and development manager for Bellingham Parks and Recreation, said.

The current parking area is informal and will be eliminated by widening the roadway.

Mueller said the parking area is unsafe because it requires vehicles to back into James Street traffic to leave.

"The new parking area to be built will provide the same amount of parking as before, while the one-way design eliminates the safety hazard of backing into heavy traffic," Mueller said.

Along with improved parking, the project will also accommodate the future rerouting of Squilicum Creek that is scheduled for 2015.



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# FRESH BUCKS: Program doubles SNAP dollars up to \$10

continued from page 1

vegetable starts, Zach Zink, site manager of the farmers market, said. When SNAP users make a deduction from their EBT account, the Fresh Bucks program matches up to \$10. However, shoppers are welcome to spend as much as they like at the farmers market.

Western student Oak Schuetz and her team collaborated with the Whatcom County Health Department and the Bellingham Farmers Market to create marketing material, such as posters, flyers and mail inserts for the Fresh Bucks program in their social marketing class last spring.

Schuetz and her team also sought input from people who receive benefits at the Opportunity Council, the Food Bank and Dorothy Place, which provides transitional housing for homeless women and children.

"It made me realize what I want to do," Schuetz said. "I don't want to be behind a desk, I want to be in the community."

There was a perception that farmers markets were either too expensive or did not accept SNAP, making them unavailable to low income shoppers, which is not the case, Washington State Farmers Market Association partnership coordinator Sophie Kauffman said.

Roughly 70 markets out of the 160 in Washington state now accept food stamps, she said.

People who receive SNAP benefits can acquire Fresh Bucks at the information booth at the Bellingham Farmers Market on Saturdays at Depot Market Square.

The Bellingham Farmers Market also operates on Wednesdays at the Fairhaven Village Green.



Fresh Bucks are available for purchase via EBT cards at the information booth at the Bellingham Farmers Market to help make local produce and items more affordable. // Photo by Tommy Calderon

Both Bellingham markets accept Fresh Bucks, but shoppers can't exchange SNAP benefits for tokens at the Wednesday market.

The Fresh Bucks program provides low-income consumers with the opportunity to purchase more nutritious foods, Kauffman said.

"It really is about making fresh, healthy food easy to get," Kauffman said. "It's good for farmers because

it's more money in their pocket and it's good for the shoppers because they get an added bonus that makes healthy food more affordable."

People can double their SNAP benefits each week. They don't have to spend all of their tokens that week, but tokens will expire at the end of the season on Dec. 21, Teske said.

SNAP shoppers will not be allowed to receive change on Fresh

Bucks token purchases. It's a great incentive for people to come down to the farmers market if you've never been, Zink said.

Fresh Bucks funding comes from the Sustainable Whatcom Fund of the Whatcom Community Foundation. Once funds are depleted, the Bellingham Farmers Market will go back to accepting SNAP benefits without doubling shopper's money, Teske said.

# VETERANS: Money raised will go to farm's marketing and outreach

continued from page 1

organizations including some Western athletic teams, Kyle said.

The fundraiser was set up in spring quarter by two previous interns of Growing Veterans, Kyle said.

For every jumbo potato burrito sold during the restaurant's operating hours on Tuesday, July 22, \$1 was donated to Growing Veterans, co-owner of Casa Que Pasa Spencer Willows said.

Along with burrito sales, customers could donate directly to Growing Veterans via a donation jar, and at the end of the day Casa Que Pasa matched the donated amount, he said.

Willows estimates 50-100 jumbo potato burritos were sold, compared to their average of 10 to 15 burritos per day.

With the money raised by the fundraiser Growing Veterans expects to expand on its marketing and outreach by purchasing marketing materials such as additional shirts or promotional brochures, Brown said.

Support from the community and

its businesses is what keeps Growing Veterans running, Brown said.

"It means the world to us," he said. "If it wasn't for [the community] we wouldn't be able to do all the cool things that we are able to do for local veterans."

Kyle said that business owners' willingness to donate and the community's support is heartwarming.

Casa Que Pasa does not have another fundraiser planned for Growing Veterans but looks forward to future involvement, Willows said.

"I'm sure we will do other things with them," he said. "They're not going anywhere and they are really doing good work."

Growing Veterans has another fundraiser planned, Kyle said. On Aug. 14, from 3-7 p.m., Kulshan Brewing Company will be donating \$1 to Growing Veterans for every drink sold.

The main Growing Veterans farm is located between Bellingham and Lynden just off Guide Meridian Road, Brown said.



// Photo courtesy of Christopher Brown

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# BELLINGHAM BETTIES BARE IT ALL

By Robert Krause II  
Photographs courtesy of Amy Woodward and Kim Lincoln

Photographs line the otherwise creamy, plain walls of Casa Que Pasa, showing customers a softer side of the Bellingham Roller Betties away from the unruly rink. The gallery showcase, "Bare Betties," photographed by Amy Woodward and Kim Lincoln, a Western alumna, aims to show the Betties in a different setting than they are usually portrayed, displaying their bodies in a natural manner for the world to see.

The gallery is separated into two parts, Woodward said. In the front family seating room action shots from different bouts — the roller derby equivalent to a game in most team sports — are displayed, Woodward said. In the 21 and over bar area, tasteful nudes are displayed, she said.

helps young women struggling with alcohol and drug abuse.

Spencer Willows, co-owner of Casa Que Pasa, has been involved with the Roller Betties since the very start. Previously, he was the manager of the Nightlife Lounge, where the very first Betties parties were held.

The goal of the gallery is to educate the public about the Bellingham Roller Betties, which is a nonprofit organization empowering women of all kinds, Woodward said.

"For me it was a way to make myself feel vulnerable,"

—Chantell  
"Dixy DeathDealer"  
Bertollini  
Bellingham Roller Bettie

The idea to showcase the Roller Betties came to him through a conversation with one of the Bellingham Betties who happened to be cutting his hair, Willows said.

"We were looking for an artist to showcase in Casa Que Pasa," Willows said. "She mentioned that the photographers [of the Betties] were looking to do a benefit sale of the Betties' pictures," he said.

Willows then approached Woodward and Lincoln about appearing in an art walk show, Woodward said.

"We thought it would be great," Lincoln said. "We looked at the space and when we walked into the bar I think we both thought that [the photos needed] to be black and white nudes."

The shoot was meticulously planned for months, and research went into finding the best location to shoot and how to best portray each of the diverse body types, Woodward said.

Within the photos you can see the intensity of the sport, Lincoln said. You see the scars on their knees and all the bruises, she said.

People see the Betties for what they are, Lincoln said. Real women, not retouched, their bruises present, everything that makes them who they are is there. Everything that gives them character that makes them unique is present, she said.

After first proposing the idea, Woodward and Lincoln received such an overwhelming response from the Betties that they had to limit the number of women photographed to 10, Lincoln said.

When Chantell "Dixy DeathDealer" Bertollini, jammer for the Roller Betties, first heard about the idea she was immediately on-board.

"For me it was a way to make myself feel vulnerable," she said. "This is something I could say, 'This is how I am, this is what I look like without my gear on, without a bunch of makeup on, no airbrushing, no kind of editing.'"

The pictures helped her show that she was just like



"Ana Nasty #19"



anyone else; she has imperfections, she has insecurities and now everyone gets to see them, she said.

Bertollini hopes the photographs teach the younger women that being athletic is something to be proud of, no matter what body type they have, she said.

The women involved knew that the intent of the photo shoot was not sexual, Woodward said. They knew that going in — that was the key, she said.

"They deserve so much better than to be considered that way," Woodward said. "They are so much better than that; they are so much more than that."

Bertollini hopes that through the Roller Betties fundraiser they will create a bridge to the young women who are getting out of Sea Mar.

Even just volunteering for the bouts is a good way to keep the girls busy and acts as a good step out for these girls, she said.

The public's response to the gallery has been overwhelmingly positive, Woodward said.

The gallery has gone viral online, getting up to 600,000 hits on the photography website, along with hundreds of shares on Facebook, she said.

Not only locals have been buying pictures — people from Colorado and as far as Australia have purchased pictures, Bertollini said.

"It gets me emotional, because people have been brought to tears about it,"

Woodward said. "Every real person can identify, and that's exciting."

Woodward said one of the best comments that she has received was from a woman who said, "Thank you for reminding me to love myself."

People enjoy the pictures especially having so many of them in the same room, Willows said. It creates a great mix of feeling sexy but empowered at the same time. People have been very positive about it, he said.

Customers will make a round throughout the whole restaurant, Willows said. He said he doesn't see people stopping at a single picture very long, as it's more impressive as a whole.

To see such a great organization get that much attention makes the Betties' day, Willows said.

"Our focus was to boost them up and they got a bigger boost than anyone thought possible," he said.

A lot of people before seeing the pictures think of it as a gimmicky rinky-dink seat of their pants operation, Willows said.

"Then you see these pictures and see the huge crowds and the professionalism and athleticism and the dedication of everybody involved and it really lets people know how serious and life changing it is," Willows said.

However, when people look at the pictures being displayed and see the athleticism and dedication that is involved, it really lets people know how serious and life changing it is for people, he said.

"They deserve so much better than to be considered that way. They are so much better than that; they are so much more than that."

—Amy Woodward,  
photographer

As customers wander through Casa Que Pasa and pass through the gallery, they get to see the Bellingham Roller Betties in an entirely new light. The 90-picture gallery displays the Betties as being more than just skating powerhouses. Each picture tells a story about the athletes — showing every scar, every bruise and every drop of sweat on their bodies while they tirelessly pursue their passion.



"Sugar Bomb #5"



# Fighting Fire with Fire

By Alyssa Pfitcher

**The weekend after Cameron Coronado graduated this spring from Western with a degree in environmental science from Huxley College of the Environment, he began training to fight wild land fires. Coronado always wanted to fight fires, but never thought he would have the chance. He fought the Mills Canyon Fire, as well as the Chiwaukum Fire near Leavenworth and is now fighting the Carlton Complex wildfire, all located in Washington state.**



**Cameron Coronado fighting the Carlton Complex wild fire, the largest wild fire in Washington state history, covering over 250,000 acres and destroying over 300 homes.**

// Photo courtesy of Cameron Coronado

**Q: How has Western influenced who you are?**

A: I think being in Bellingham and at Western really got me into outdoorsy and environmental things. It got me really geared toward conservation and restoration, and making natural places healthy again. We've been degrading so many of these habitats. So I think being at Western and in Bellingham, and just the outdoors community, has really influenced what I'm doing now.

**Q: What is fighting fires at night like?**

A: It can change; fire duty is a lot less at nighttime because the temperatures drop. It's a good time to do burn outs. We did some large and small field burn outs while we were there. A lot of it is patrolling the fire line that had already been dug. [A fire line is a strip of land that is used to keep fire contained.]

We are an engine crew, so we have water on our engine. We support a lot of burn outs and make sure nothing bad happens. We also transport water to anyone who needs it. We were sent one night - on water - up and down a mountain to fill up tanks at the top of the hill.

**Q: What is a burn out?**

A: A burn out is when you fight fire with fire. What you're doing is moving the fuels - fuel just means stuff that burns. In Eastern Washington there's a lot of grass, shrubs and stuff like that.

If we have a fire backing down a slope and we have up-slope winds, then the fire that's backing down is going to be going pretty slow because the winds are pushing it up. But it's still coming down because there is fuel there. If we start at the bottom of the hill, dig our fire line and then burn out from there, the wind will carry our fire that we are putting down. It will carry it up the slope so that the big fire that we're actually worried about, when those two meet, the other has already burnt [the fuel]. It's a pretty fun job.

Fighting fire with fire is pretty fun.

**Q: Can you tell me a story about something specific that you did on the job?**

A: One thing that I've noticed is that you always have to be ready for something different. Someone had their cattle in the straw that we were later going to burn out. We wanted to get the cattle out of there so we didn't burn them up - that was pretty interesting. It took probably a half dozen of us about two hours to get six cows out of the straw and into the pen. None of us knew what the hell we were doing, but we figured it out and by the end got them in and saved some cattle. That was that homeowner's livelihood, she was super grateful and we were happy to do it.

**Q: How are the fires affecting the communities that are living around them?**

A: Where we were, there were all different levels of evacuation (There are three levels: Type III means evacuate immediately, Type II means to be prepared to evacuate, Type I is a warning.) There are a lot of Type III evacuations. My dad just moved right outside of Chelan, and wasn't even in his house a week before he had to evacuate. His whole community burned down. His house was spared but there's so much smoke damage to it. It really does affect the community a lot - I mean having to leave their homes and just wonder if it's going to be OK.

The community is super awesome to us. We're always getting waved at, people are honking [at us] and they all appreciate what we're doing.

**Q: What times do your shifts begin and end?**

A: We wake up at about 4 [p.m.] have chow at 5 and then we have briefing at 6. That's when you get clocked on; that's when you start working. From there, you go out and do whatever you're told to do. We work until about 8 in the morning and then we come back to camp and we eat between 8 and 9. Then we go to our sleeping spots and hit-the-hay around 9 or 10 in the morning. It's kind of weird because we're just backwards the whole time. One night we had to sleep outside and that was super-hot so we didn't get much sleep.

**Q: How will this affect you in the future?**

A: It's given me great experience. I want to work outside - that's why I got my degree - and this has given me more experience doing that. It's making me ready to just be up and on the move at any time. You have to be ready to go on a dispatch or get called to the fire. It's helping me become more physically fit for working outside. If I go down to California for Conservation Corps, if I do get that job, then there are a lot of fires down there. I will be qualified to fight fires there, that sets me up for some jobs in the future as well.

## FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

With the 2013-2014 Western Front coming to a close until September, the staff would like to thank all of our readers and contributors for the continued support. Looking back at this past year of stories, from riot coverage to Super Bowl winning excitement to diversity rallies, this has been an exceptional year for our newsroom. Supported by dozens of editors and hundreds of reporters, this has been a collaborative effort, through and through.

We would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our coverage over this year.

We could not be more proud to represent this university. Western students work hard to better the Bellingham community and this has been evident in our coverage. In adversity, students have surfaced as leaders and enacted lasting change.

When the Oso landslide occurred, Western students and alum stepped up and began fundraising to support the victims and their families. First-time reporter, Chantel Retasket represented Western as one of the few news organizations who went on site of the landslide and contributed a beautiful photo gallery to our archives.

When questions about President Shepard's legitimacy made national news because of his blog comment, groups all over campus stood up to say they also care about equal opportunity education.

Western athletes have received national recognition for their hard work and team commitment. Bethany Drake has not only set school records, but is now the only Western athlete to ever win the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II Outdoor Field Women's scholar-athlete of the year.

As we move forward into the 2014-2015 year, this editorial board would like to stress one additional point: ownership. The Western Front is more than a group of stressed out editors closed off in the newsroom until the sun rises, more than our reporters - however excellent their work may be - no, The Western Front is you students and faculty, avid readers and casual readers. Without you, we could not exist. For that, you have our deepest thanks and gratitude.

*This editorial board is comprised of Editor-In-Chief Haley Cross, Managing Editor John Boone and Opinion Editor Jennifer Seifried.*



### Submission Policy

Submissions are published based on space availability. Send letters and columns with your name, title (such as "Western sophomore") and major to westernfront.opinion@gmail.com. Letters should be no more than 250 words, columns no more than 400. Anonymous letters or hate speech will not be published. The Western Front reserves the right to edit for length, spelling and grammar.

### Front Funnies

How do they do it? - Truxtun McCoy



## Viking Voices

How have you been reacting to the construction on campus and around town?



"The construction on High Street is annoying as far as biking to school goes."

- Lacey Walker  
senior, molecular cellular biology



"I no longer use the library because I only like the entrance by Zoe's."

- Miles Meyer  
junior, environmental science



"I like walking by the large spools of cable by the library. It's like a giant is sewing."

- Abby Hegge  
junior, fairhaven



"I've been walking more than taking a bike because I've realized it's easier to avoid construction."

- Shira Rose-Levy  
junior, human services

// Compiled by the Opinion's desk

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## Track star is first Western athlete to win national award



Bethany Drake. // Photo by Bailey Barnard

By Paloma Pirotte

Javelin thrower Bethany Drake, 20, is the first Western athlete to win the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II Outdoor Field Women's scholar-athlete of the year.

The award recognizes those who excel academically and in athletics, Drake said. Scholars must earn more than a 3.25 GPA to qualify academically.

Drake won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II National Championship with a mark of

165 feet and 3 inches. She went on to compete in the U.S. Outdoor Championship where she took 15th place with a mark of 155 feet. Her record mark, and a school-wide Western record, is 169 feet and 6 inches.

"I am totally mind blown," Drake said. "It's such an honor and so cool to be able to receive that. It's just been a lot of hard work."

Drake said she first heard vague messages from her coaches and then received a call explaining that she won the award.

"I was in this panic of, 'Oh my gosh, did I do something wrong,' and then right after that my head coach called me and explained to me the award I received," Drake said. "It all was put into context."

Drake was about 4 feet under the qualifying mark for championships but was still in the top 18 female javelin throwers, which qualified her to compete.

While she made it to the U.S. Outdoor Championships, she said she still had to overcome challenges.

Javelin consists of a lot of technical details, which means there is a lot of room to improve but also a lot of room for error, Drake said.

Sometimes, when you are having a bad day and the competition is having a good day, it can be hard to stay positive, Drake said.

Drake said it is her faith that has motivated her throughout the years to pursue her athletic career.

"For me it's the fact that God is giving me this gift," she said. "I can't imagine not working my hardest to do the most that I can with it."

Bethany began throwing javelin five years ago when she was a sophomore at Sandy High School in Oregon.

"When I started in high school, I wanted to keep doing sports and I thought it'd be fun," Drake said. "So, it was something that I just kind of tried."

Drake is a junior at Western, working toward a studio art major, also hoping to receive her masters degree in education, she said.

"One thing about being a high school teacher is that there would be the opportunity to potentially coach," Drake said.

Drake said her goal is to make the U.S. championships again next year and continue to improve her marks.

## Bellingham hosts sailing race for leukemia research

Twenty-three boats turned out for the first Leukemia Cup Regatta held in Bellingham



Jim Gibson and his crew calmly race in the Bellingham Bay Leukemia Cup on Saturday, July 26. Gibson's team, Geschwind, along with the rest of the teams were unable to finish after the race was called off due to a lack of wind. // Photo by Daniella Beccaria

By Sayaka Iida

The first Bellingham Leukemia Cup Regatta took place Saturday, July 26, out of the Squalicum Harbor marina.

The 23-boat sailing race was a participant-sponsored event to raise money for blood cancer research.

Daniel Lehfeldt, director of the event, said the collected money would go toward the Washington and Alaska Chapter of Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Daniel Lehfeldt worked to bring this event to Bellingham after his oldest son was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) at age 27,

he said. His son was able to beat the cancer, but since then Lehfeldt has supported the Leukemia Cup in Seattle. It was his goal to bring it to his hometown of Bellingham, he said.

"Our family has been dedicated to giving back to the society that gave my son back," Daniel Lehfeldt said.

Eighty-six cents of every dollar is used for research and the goal was to have 40 boats participate and raise \$50,000, he said.

"The focus is on raising money, more so than going fast in your boat," Daniel Lehfeldt said. "But it is a race regatta, so we have a category for the serious racers who want to go fast and

get all excited about it."

Sailors in the race were given two hours to finish or motor in. Before time was up, the wind died down and all the boats had to power their way to the finish line.

Teams of two to eight sailors competed to collect the most fundraising dollars. In total, about \$22,000 was raised. Team Moonlight, the Lehfeldts, raised the most with more than \$8,000. In the last three years, the Lehfeldts' team has raised over \$30,000 in similar regattas.

Jim Gibson, Western alumnus, said the Leukemia Cup is important because it raises awareness about the cancer while also bringing together people who have personal connections to leukemia.

The race itself was not as important as the cause the money was being raised for, said Gibson whose father died of leukemia.

Gibson raised \$3,155, putting his team in second place for the fundraiser. He asked Sanitary Service Company (SCC), HUB International and Lions Club to donate, so he put their logos on his yacht.

Tyler Lehfeldt, Daniel's son and a member of Moonlight, contributed to fundraising by using social media. He sent out

requests and information about the regatta to a video game community that he belongs to and received support from them, he said.

Daniel Lehfeldt said he collected money by asking local vendors to sponsor the event. Then, he made a regatta logo including vendors' logos.

Companies are already committing to support Bellingham's second Leukemia Cup Regatta for next year, Daniel Lehfeldt said.



After rounding the second buoy, the boats sail toward the third and last buoy of the race during the Bellingham Bay Leukemia Cup on Saturday, July 26.

// Photo by Daniella Beccaria

## Western football player now coach

Andy Olsen, 2005 Western graduate, finishes third regular season as coach of Arena Football League team the Spokane Shock

By Jeffrey Giuliani

Andy Olson, alumnus and record setter on Western's now-defunct football team, is The Spokane Shock head coach.

The Shock, a member of the Arena Football League, closed out their regular season on Saturday, July 26, with a 45-40 win over the Portland Thunder. The team has secured a spot in the National Conference playoffs.

This is Olson's third year as a head coach in the AFL and it has been packed with adversity. Injuries to key players, including his star quarterback Erik Meyer, left Olson scrambling for answers. Cycling through a number of quarterbacks, the Shock lost five of six games without Meyer at the helm.

"It has been tough," Olson said. "We have stuck through it. We have stayed together. Everyone has given everything they have got from start to finish."

Despite the team's struggles, Olson has the Shock at 11-7 on the season and locked into the third seed in their conference. This pits them against one of their rivals, the San Jose SaberCats.

Before becoming head coach of The Shock, Olson played wide receiver at Western. From 2002 to 2005, Olson rewrote Western's record book. In his four seasons, he finished as the all-time leader in the three major receiving categories with 183 receptions for 2,990 yards and 31 touchdowns.

After spending 2008 and 2009 playing for The Shock and 2011 as the offensive coordinator, Olson was named head coach of the 2012 season at just 29 years old. He has coached a number of players who were older in age.

Ryan Eucker, who has served in the Shock front office in a variety of roles since 2010, believes that Olson has done well despite the age gap.

"Olson does a fantastic job relating to players," Eucker said in an email. "He's a natural teacher and coach with first-hand experience in the arena game so players really buy into the way he leads them on a day-to-day basis."

On July 12, the Shock was engaged in a bitter contest with their archrivals, the Arizona Rattlers. The Rattlers entered with a near flawless 14-1 record, but the score was dead even at 66 with 15.5 seconds remaining on the clock.

Olson whispered the play call into the ear of his quarterback Erik Meyer and sent him into the huddle. With the ball on his own 23-yard line, Meyer took the snap from the center. He dropped back five steps and lofted the ball into the end zone. The perfectly thrown pass nestled into the hands of his receiver, Rashaad Carter, for the game-winning touchdown. Olson celebrated on the field, savoring the much-needed victory that comes during a tumultuous season.

"I'm excited for it," Olson said about their upcoming playoff game in San Jose. "I plan on going down there and talking to them. They are a heck of a football team and we'll have a hard time beating them, but we will go down there and give it everything we have got."

Eucker noted that Olson has a calming presence as a head coach. But Olson wasn't shy in stating that he is willing to rip his players when warranted. A lackluster first half effort against the Tampa Bay Storm on



Andy Olson celebrates a Shock touchdown in the third quarter of his team's 55-52 victory over the Tampa Bay Storm. // Photo by Jeffrey Giuliani

Monday, July 21, had Olson upset.

"I walked in at halftime and I cussed them out and fired them up," he said following a close win. "I hate losing more than I love winning."

It worked. The Shock played significantly better in the second half. Olson said he called out one player in particular, defensive back and kick returner Terrance Sanders.

"I called him out at halftime. It's the second time I've done it this season and it's the second time he responded."

Sanders scored twice in the game, returning a kickoff and interception for touchdowns in the second half.

"Blocking was great once again," he said. "I told them once they do that I can do the rest."

Olson said that if Western still had their football team, he would want to come back and be involved but otherwise finds it difficult to maintain a relationship with his alma mater.

## Lake Padden opens course to FootGolf

Washington state has repurposed 13 golf courses to combine soccer and golf

By Amanda Raschkow

This month Lake Padden has opened Bellingham's first FootGolf course. The course follows the route of the pre-existing golf course but rather than using clubs and golf balls, players tee off with a soccer ball, needing no other equipment.

FootGolf was introduced to the U.S. in 2011, said Josh Fish, head of the Professional Gold Association at Lake Padden Golf Course.

The ease of the sport, compared to traditional golf, is meant to invite families, students and members of the community to come out and try something new, he said.

"We want to show them how beautiful it is out there," Fish said.

Playing soccer since she was 5, Taylor Storey, 20, junior at Western said FootGolf is a fun way to be active with friends.

Storey played FootGolf at Semiahmoo Golf & County Club with some of her teammates from her intramural soccer team at Western.

FootGolf is really easy, Storey said. Someone doesn't have to get par in order to have a good time, she said.

"I would do it all the time if I had the time and money," Storey said.

The only equipment needed to play FootGolf is a soccer ball, which can be rented at the pro shop for about \$3, Fish said. Players can also bring their own ball as well, he said.

Active wear such as tennis shoes, turf shoes, athletic shorts and shirts are recommended but not required, Fish said. Cleats are not allowed on the course.

FootGolf is a great way to bond with family, Greg Waston said as he prepared to kick his ball to the green at Lake Padden during a day at the park with his children.

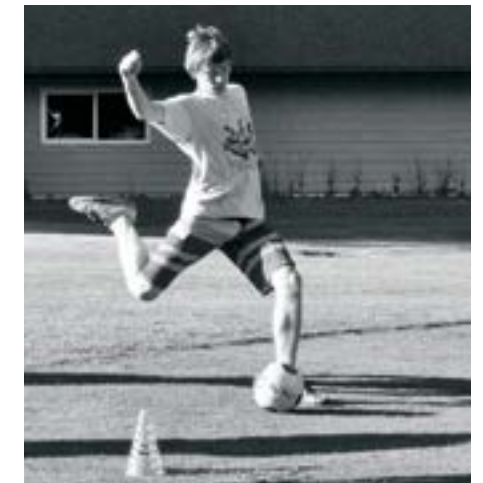
As long as you understand the basic concept of golf, FootGolf is pretty easy to pick up, said Emily Waston, daughter of Greg Waston.

Emily said she and her brothers all play soccer regularly, for fun and competition. In comparison, FootGolf is a silly game but she enjoyed playing it, she said.

"Putting is surprisingly hard," Greg Waston said.

Oliver Waston, who plays soccer on a competitive team, said the most difficult part of FootGolf was how the ball rolls on the edge of the hole and makes scoring less simple.

The object of the game is similar to golf but instead of hitting a golf ball



Warren Zinns, 16, kicks the soccer ball to the green at Lake Padden Golf Course. Getting the ball to the flag is pretty easy, Zinns said. Putting is the hardest part, he said.

// Photo by Amanda Raschkow

with a club into a 4.5-inch diameter hole, the participant kicks a soccer ball into a hole about 20 inches in diameter, according to the American FootGolf League Rule Book.

Lake Padden Golf Course saw the potential for FootGolf to fit into the community because of the popularity of soccer, Fish said.

The normal pace of play is 1 hour 15 minutes for nine holes.

Semiahmoo Golf & County Club, Loomis Trail Golf Club and Lake Padden Golf Course are the three places to have introduced FootGolf in Whatcom County.

There are more than 180 FootGolf courses over 36 states in the U.S. according to the American FootGolf League.

Thirteen FootGolf courses have been introduced to Washington state since 2011. All 13 courses have FootGolf on their traditional golf course.

FootGolf doesn't take a lot of skill and it is a quick game, he said.

"Golf is hard," Fish said. "FootGolf is easy."

Lake Padden opens the green to FootGolf every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. when the courses do not usually see much golf play, Fish said.

Adult rates vary from \$11.04-\$16.56, depending on the number of holes played.

FootGolf will be offered this summer through Saturday, Sept. 27, at Semiahmoo Golf & County Club and Loomis Trail Golf Club from 6 p.m. to dusk, said Brett Eaton PGA Direction of Golf at Semiahmoo Golf & County Club and Loomis Trail Golf Club.



# Tour de Whatcom raises money for nonprofit

*The 9th Annual non-competitive race combines natural beauty of Whatcom County with love of biking; funds raised go toward local trail maintenance*

By Genevieve Carrillo

The 9th annual Tour de Whatcom, a non-competitive bike race, brought 940 people out to ride on Saturday, July 26.

With the youngest participant this year being 4 years old, and the oldest 113, anyone can ride the tour at their own pace.

With three available course lengths of 22, 44 and 105 miles, the ride appeals to both competitive bikers and families, said Tour de Whatcom coordinator and Western senior Grace McDonough.

This year, the start and finish lines were moved from the Fairhaven Village Green to the Railroad Avenue farmers market to encourage more of a celebration around the finish.

Other changes, such as a redirection of the 105-mile route, were to ensure safety and make the ride more enjoyable for participants, McDonough said.

The bike ride gives riders a chance to take in the sights of Whatcom County while giving back to the community, McDonough said.

"Everyone really has their heart in this event," McDonough said. "It's not just something people do, they really want to be a part of it."

Plans for the 2014 donations include using the money for trail development and training instructors to

increase education in biking in Whatcom County, said Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition board member and Western alumna Barbara Karabin.

After expenses, the rest of the ride fee paid by bikers is donated to charity, according to Whatcom Events. In the past two years, \$30,000 has been given to nonprofits. The primary beneficiary for both 2013 and 2014 is the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition.

The mission of the WMBC is to preserve and enhance non-motorized trail access in Whatcom County through stewardship, education and advocacy, according to their website, wmbcmtb.org.

The Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition also provides educational programs, group bike rides and community events and activities.

Entry fees for the Tour de Whatcom ranged from \$55 to \$75, depending on distance.

"Our money is going into advocacy," Karabin said. "We are using it to grow and to do more for the community."

The new 105-mile route runs clockwise through Bellingham, rather than counterclockwise to allow for more gradual turns.

The 22-mile ride takes participants to Ferndale and back.

In the 44-mile ride, riders go to Birch Bay and back.

The longer 105-mile ride lets bikers explore the valleys and mountains

of Bellingham in a large loop through Whatcom County.

"We have one of the most beautiful rides," McDonough said. "We have everything from oceans to the mountains to farmlands."

In long distance rides like the Tour de Whatcom, riders need to watch out for parts coming lose and flat tires, Schlenker said.

"A bicycle is a really complex machine," said bike technician Casey Schlenker. "There are a lot

of things that can go out of adjustment on it."

Bikesport is this year's bike technician for the Tour de Whatcom.

Bikesport is a locally owned, family run, full service bike shop located in both Bellingham and Seattle's Ballard neighborhood.

Schlenker, Bikesport employe, said they want to be a resource to the Bellingham biking community.



Cyclists begin the 44-mile ride at the 9th annual Dewey Griffin Subaru Tour de Whatcom, in which the riders travel to Birch Bay and back. These riders are among the 940 that participated on Saturday.

// Photo by Genevieve Carrillo



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