

JUNE 2018

Felida Fine Living

A SOCIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE FELIDA/SALMON CREEK AREA.

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS,
THE HALKOS!**

*From left to right:
Dan, Savannah, Orren, and Tara*



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FRANCHISE OWNER/PUBLISHER/ADVERTISING INFO
Laura Miller
360-606-6168
laura.miller@n2pub.com

EDITOR
Nikki Schuchart
515-371-4388
nikki.schuchart@n2pub.com

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER
Vaqas Malik Photography

RESIDENT WRITERS
Marta Gray, Suzy Luker, Ericha Anderson, Jewell Straight, Hailey Parkison, Sam Thometz, Josh Bretzing, Annalise Selby, Olivia Gray, and Jude Helmes.

CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE
The residents of Felida/near Salmon Creek/S. Ridgefield in the following subdivisions: Fair Acres and north of Salmon Creek/ east and west of Seward Rd, Ashley Heights (all phases), Ashley Manor, Bella Ridge, Reserve at Bella Ridge, Cerrero Estates, Teal Pointe, Falcon Ridge, Teal Pointe Heights, Teal Pointe Ridge Horizon West, Sunset View, Moongate, Messner Estates, Westmoor, West of Westmoor, Lakeshore Ridge, Lakeview Estates and Erickson Farms.

WANT TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR?

We are always looking for residents of these areas to follow up on leads, find great stories and send us ideas, or you may be interested in becoming a regular resident writer. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email laura.miller@n2pub.com with your pictures, suggestions, or requests to write for the magazine.

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Felida Fine Living Resident Writers Team



NIKKI SCHUCHART -
Editor/Content Coordinator



MARTA GRAY -
Meet Your Neighbors



VAQAS MALIK -
Photographer, Meet Your
Neighbors and Events



HAILEY PARKISON -
Kids to Kids/Teens to Teens



JOSH BRETZING -
Athlete of the Month



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Want to Join the Fun?

We couldn't do it without each one of these wonderful residents. Please welcome our newest writer, Josh Bretzing, Athlete of the Month writer! Thanks to all of our writers for writing an article that tells the story of our neighborhood!

publisher's note

SAVE THESE
SUMMER FUN DATES!

When we get to this point in the year, we often begin planning more outings with the family. Whatever you are planning, remember to think about the chance to share it with this Felida community. We love the photos to put in this publication, as long as they are high-resolution, and nowadays, most newer phones take excellent resolution photos, so we don't have to worry about it like we did just a few years ago. We won't have a social event in June or July this summer, so we could share these on our Neighbors' Day or Night Out page.

We do have some great *Felida Fine Living* events coming up, beginning **August 9 from 6-8 p.m.** with **Felida Art Night**, which may become an annual event and will be held at The Backstairs. It is being organized by a resident and past writer/photographer for *FFL* Leslie Hansen of **Felida Business Services** and three of our sponsors, Ron Edwards of **The Backstairs**, Debbie Belden of **Farrar's Bistro**, and Sue Simon of **Lakeshore Design**. We will have about a dozen local artists who will be selling their art. If you are interested in participating, contact Leslie at (360) 607-5019. There will also be a fundraising aspect to benefit **Vancouver Schools Foundation**. More details to come.

On **September 8**, **FelidaRealEstate.com**, **Farrar's Bistro**, and **Felida Fine Living** will host the first annual **Felida Open**

Golf Tournament! The event will take place at **Pine Crest Golf Course**. The goal is to hold this fun Felida community event as well as to help an incredible charity. The tournament is proud to support **Dawn Strong - Shine a Light on Lung Cancer**, and the event will help fund innovative research for a lung cancer cure while also helping people across the country impacted by lung cancer. There will be many opportunities for the Felida community to get involved and sponsor various parts of the event. Once the tournament is over, we will all gather in one of our favorite watering holes to celebrate the day. If you would like to sponsor a hole in this tournament, reach out to **resident Joe Bjorklund** at FelidaGolf@gmail.com. To learn more about the event and the Dawn Strong charity, please visit the website at **FelidaGolf.com**. More information will be coming soon.



Laura Miller
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If you have an idea for a fun event, let us know!

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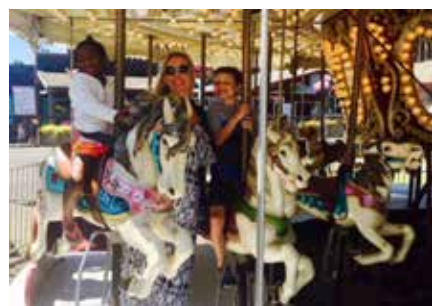
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meet your neighbors

By resident writer **Marta Gray**
Photography by **Vaqaq Malik**

The Halko Family



A collage of Halko family fun

The Halko family exudes a warm and inviting vibe, making you feel instantly at home. Humor abounds in this energetic crew with an amazing sense of playfulness that magnetically draws you into the fun when you are in their midst! Dan and Tara met during their college years. Tara, a Vancouver native, was home from Gonzaga, while Dan, a Montana Grizzly, was attending chiropractic college in Portland. Upon returning to Spokane, the two kept in touch through phone calls and emails, creating a deep connection based on shared philosophies, friendship, and religious beliefs. Both raised in large Catholic families, Tara and Dan value the importance of service to others. Tara explains that she became impressed by Dan's genuine selflessness and caring nature. Dan describes Tara similarly, adding that he proposed to her on the exact day she graduated from Gonzaga!

Dan grew up on the 6 Sons Ranch in Great Falls, Montana. A small town boy of modest means, he learned a strong work ethic and the importance of a wave and a smile. Tara, an empathetic and caring person motivated to support others, is willing to drop everything to talk for hours to a friend in need. She puts family first, including supporting Dan's demanding schedule. Dan owns the North Portland Chiropractic Clinic, where Tara is CFO. Both place a high priority on health and fitness. Dan sees people in pain daily and strives to be a healer of the body and soul. Tara says his patients adore him, showering him with cookies, brownies, gifts, and love! Tara loves to run and workout, citing Starcycle as her favorite stop these days! She also belongs to a book club and really enjoys the social aspect of sharing a good book with great friends.



Dan and his kiddos

ming at Lakeshore. Orren, a second-grader at Our Lady of Lourdes, loves math, recess, and PE. A kind and empathetic boy, Orren plays piano, shortstop for SC Little League, and soccer, which he has been playing for four years, with his mom as his previous coach. Orren also relishes building forts and racetracks on "Sunday Funday" with his dad and sister.

Tara and Dan debate their most cherished vacation. Tara says that the "best vaca eva" was when the couple spent time in Greece, but Dan is convinced that their road trip to Montana in the "luxury Astro van" was the family's real adventure! Both describe their dream travel destination as a trip to Croatia, hopefully sometime soon. In the meantime, this family loves time together golfing, going to Blazer games, and watching their favorite teams, the Zags, Grizzlies, and Steelers. Regardless of what they are doing, the Halko family lives life to the fullest!

If you'd like to see your family on the cover of Felida Fine Living, please contact us at laura.miller@n2pub.com.

“this family loves time together”




Orren and Savannah

The Halkos have two children, Orren, 8, and Savannah, 5. Both are an absolute delight! Savannah is a "spark of fun," full of exuberance and unbridled joy! She fancies gummy bears, kitties, and her puppy, Finn, but her favorite word is "shopping"! She describes Claire's as the best store in the world. Savannah is extremely athletic, attending gymnastics classes at Naydenov and swim-

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Crossovers Are SO 2017!

Time To Trade For A Hatch Or Sedan?



What vehicle does this interior belong to? You'll be surprised!

Traditional passenger cars (sedans, coupes, hatchbacks and convertibles) have lost market share to crossovers in recent years, but are fighting to gain back some of the buyers who may be tired of submitting to the societal conformity of driving a crossover. Hatches are gaining steam as a viable alternative to the small CUV with the promise of superior driving dynamics. Mainstream sedans have sought to shake their "ho-hum" reputations with angular design expressions and sports editions, and luxury sedan makers are also rethinking their positioning.

Hyundai underscores this line of thinking.

Hyundai's Elantra hatchback still comprises 27 percent of their sales; buyers cite the number one reason for buying it is that it is "fun to drive." The 2018 Euro-influenced Elantra GT is one of only a few hatchbacks classified by the EPA as a Large Car due to the total interior volume eclipsing 120 cubic feet. Manual transmission fans will like the more powerful Elantra GT Sport. Meanwhile,



Hyundai Elantra is a contender in the growing hatchback segment.



Hyundai Sonata is one of several all-new 2018 mid-size sedans seeking to entice a new type of buyer.

the all-new 2018 Sonata boasts, "dynamic lines, strong graphics and a new signature cascading grille with everything coming together in an athletic way".

A best-seller gets better.

The eighth-generation Camry sedan is a total evolution "from a proven, dependable and safe car to one that adds a more exciting and emotional character," says Toyota describing the three primary design goals behind it: a distinctive, low center of gravity that results in a firm, wide stance; a practical-yet-emotionally styled cabin profile and a sporty and upscale image both inside and out. The red leather seats? These belong to the Camry XSE.



The all-new 2018 Toyota Camry touts aggressive exterior character lines, low center of gravity, emotionally-charged design and performance experience



Powerful? Yes. Aggressive? Well maybe "passive aggressive". Lincoln goes an opposite direction, touting "quiet luxury" and "experience of ownership"

point where many recent model sedans are starting to look alike. So Lincoln's design philosophy takes an opposite direction. Sure, the vehicles are fast and capable but they don't have to wear a wrestling singlet to prove it. Designed to provide a serene experience, the all-new Continental's beautifully detailed interior is crafted

to be physically comforting, visually soothing and peacefully quiet. Perfect Position Seats – inspired by private jets and high-end office furniture – can be adjusted up to 30 ways. Rear passengers enjoy generous legroom and first-class travel amenities with such available features as audio and climate control, adjustable sunshades and reclining, heated, cooled and massaging seats. Ask your dealer about the Lincoln Black Label experience.

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Sky & Nia Baby Goats

felida pets By resident student writer, Sam Thometz

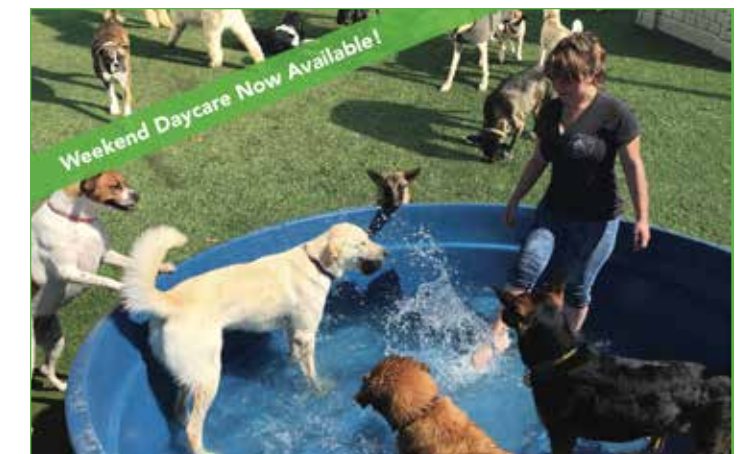


Sky and Nia

For the first time, we have an update on someone special who has a ton of pets/animals. His name is Gavin, and we featured him last year. He just so happened to breed two new baby goats. Gavin lives with his sister Erin, mom Tama, and dad Dave. The goats' names are Sky and Nia. Sky is a boy, and Nia is a girl. My goodness, are they adorable! Gavin bred them, and they were a whole four weeks old when I wrote this in April. They can escape from just about anything because, apparently, they were gifted with some special escaping brains. They have a big ball hung up in their barn, and according to Gavin, they will jump on it and ride it like a swing. They both tend to get stuck in a lot of things, from their toys to fences. Gavin thought that both of their names fit them, but they also work as "stage names" when they are shown in competitions. They're as spoiled as goats can be because they have tons of toys and space to play, which is a whole barn with a nice outside space. Sky and Nia get nice, quality food with a delicious treat most days. Baby goats make excellent pets for Gavin!



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Martin Campos

Highly Capable Differentiation Coach



Martin Campos

Mr. Martin Campos is a familiar face around Vancouver public schools, as he is lucky enough to be afforded the opportunity to work with teachers and students throughout the district. His eighteen years' worth of experience in education has led him to the position of highly capable differentiation coach. What does that job entail, you might ask? Mr. Campos works with elementary school teachers who have identified highly capable learners in their classrooms to differentiate lessons so

that they challenge their advanced learners. He also supports the Highly Capable Services Office and provides district professional development to teachers. It is clear that Mr. Campos is passionate about this work when he describes it in his own words, "Interacting with, encouraging, and supporting talented teachers to further develop their gifts to meet the needs of their students motivates me to be the best instructional coach I can be. The smiles on the faces of teachers and students warm my heart."

As an instructional coach, Mr. Campos is trained on a continual basis in best practices and effective classroom strategies. He partners with teachers in order to help them bring these strategies to the classroom and improve student learning. When asked what skills he thinks are the most important for students to learn today in order to prepare for their future, Mr. Campos responded, "To prepare for their future, students today need to learn how to collaborate and think critically. Simple problems involving facts and procedures can be completed by computers, phones, and even watches; however, solving problems that are complicated requires more than simply asking Siri, Alexa, or Google. Students must learn to work with others and use their knowledge of math, reading, writing, the arts, and sciences in ways that create and communicate innovative solutions to complex problems."

This amazing educator has an overall goal of identifying and meeting the unique needs of each student in our schools. It is easy to spot him talking with administrators, teachers, and even parents about guidance and instructional supports that will lead to academic success for our kids!



If you know a standout teacher in our area or a school program that deserves attention, please email us at laura.miller@n2pub.com.

John Schauer



is in session. John has been playing baseball for nine years and truly loves everything about the sport, especially the competition the game brings. In a perfect world, John tells me he would like to be a pitcher on a professional baseball team like Greg Maddux, but for now, he's still unsure about what the future will hold.

In his free time, John likes to watch The Lord of the Rings movies. He's always been fascinated by the fantasy and the impressive cinematics the movies display. John wishes he could travel more and wants to go to Hawaii and Europe. He's attracted to the warm weather, cultural experiences, and food in both places. Lastly, John tells me his favorite part about living in Felida is when someone donated a bottle of wine to his school baseball team's fundraiser!



If you know of a standout child or teen, please email us at laura.miller@n2pub.com.



Meet John Schauer, a freshman at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. At the arts school, John sings in the choir as a bass and enjoys playing the piano. He's been learning these skills for a few years now and loves making music with his friends. However, music is not the only thing he's passionate about. John has been practicing the art of karate for seven years and is an accomplished black belt. He loves the adrenaline that comes with this age-old practice. On top of this, most of John's time is spent playing baseball. He plays practically year-round, practicing with a club team over the summer and with Skyview's team while school

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Your morning cup of coffee may deliver more than just caffeine. With every sip you take, you are drinking your way to better health. While coffee is known to boost energy, there are additional health benefits too.

Lowers Risk Of Alzheimer's Disease And Dementia

Coffee boosts cognitive function but that's not all it does. Coffee even lowers the risk of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. According to one study, drinking three to five cups of coffee at midlife had far-reaching benefits by decreasing the risk of Alzheimer's disease and dementia by a staggering 65 percent, later in life.

Prevents Parkinson's

Who would have guessed that coffee can keep the dreaded Parkinson's disease at bay? Research from Sweden has demonstrated that coffee reduces the risk of Parkinson's disease. However, even those who have Parkinson's can benefit from coffee to aid in movement.

Reduces Risk Of Type 2 Diabetes

Each daily cup of coffee decreases the risk of Type 2 Diabetes by 9 percent. If you're a decaf drinker, reduce your risk by 6 percent for each cup consumed. Studies confirm that the more coffee you drink, the risk of Type 2 Diabetes plummets. All the more reason to drink up!

Benefits Your Liver

Coffee can protect you from alcoholic cirrhosis. Drinking at least one cup of coffee a day reduces the risk of developing cirrhosis by 22 percent. Here is some more good news for your liver – even those who have fatty liver disease can benefit from coffee. Drinking four or more cups a day can help prevent the progression of this disease.

Loaded With Antioxidants

If you're looking to get your daily serving of antioxidants, look no further than your cup of coffee. One serving of coffee is loaded with more antioxidants than a serving of blueberries, raspberries or oranges. Antioxidants can help prevent inflammation, which can improve overall health and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Fights Depression

Coffee fights depression. Coffee acts as a mild antidepressant by aiding in the production of serotonin, dopamine and noradrenaline. Happiness may only be a cup of coffee away.

Drinking coffee today can benefit your health tomorrow. All the more reason to pour yourself a second cup!

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athlete of the month

By resident student writer **Josh Bretzing**

Bruce Erickson

Runner



Bruce, running his fastest 5K with a time of 15:55



Bruce at the Oregon relays

“Run, Forrest, run!” In *Forrest Gump*, Forrest never stops running. Obviously, he’s a fictional character, but I think I found someone who loves to run like him. Bruce Erickson is a senior at Skyview High School. He’s a team captain for both the cross-country and track and field teams. Bruce makes running look so easy. Like when he ran a 4:25-minute mile. He’s hoping to break 4:20 at districts this year!



Senior night at Skyview’s cross-country meet

Bruce and the rest of the cross-country team ended their season on a high note, beating Union at districts, which was a huge upset. But then, misfortune struck. Bruce had an injury, tendinitis, for ten weeks over the winter. “It was humbling, having to start from square one,” Bruce said. “It was a big reality check.” He decided to work harder than he ever had before. Bruce is determined to be the best runner he can possibly be.

It isn’t easy to become as good a runner as Bruce is. When training for cross-country, Bruce ran an average of 60 miles a week. He told me, the more miles you run, the better you’ll be. In track, Bruce mainly focused on mid-distance, running the 800 and 1600. Those who know track know that the 800 is a brutal race. Bruce put it like this: “You start off with a hard sprint your first lap, then finish it with an even harder sprint your second lap.”

Bruce is going to be attending BYU in the fall. He wants to be able to walk onto the track and cross-country teams there. That means running around 75 miles a week this summer to train! BYU has one of the best track teams in the nation. When I asked him why he chose BYU, he said he almost didn’t. He applied for many different schools, but it came down to either BYU or UW. Bruce said he ended up choosing BYU because he has family down there. Plus, his mom ran track at BYU when she attended school there. So, be on the lookout for a tall, thin, dark-haired young man running the streets of Felida this summer!



If you know a rockstar athlete, of any age, please let us know at laura.miller@n2pub.com.

artful living

Betsy Soifer



recycled mixed metals using nuts, bolts, scraps of metal, and screws. She also creates free-standing creatures from insects to life-size humans, animal heads honoring the tradition of taxidermy for your walls, and flying creatures to capture your imagination. Where most folks would see a collection of tins, silverware, and metal Christmas ornaments lying in piles and consider it presorting for recycling, Betsy sees small birds with attitudes.

Betsy was born and raised as an artist’s daughter in suburban eastern Pennsylvania. She dabbled in drawing, pen and ink, painting, and sculpting using both clay and wood as her media. However, with her parents’ financial help, she earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and an M.D. After working over 25 years as either an anesthesiologist or intensive care physician, sculpting resurfaced in 2009 in the form of animal Christmas gifts to friends and family.

Betsy has been fortunate to participate in a great many shows, and she exhibits her work all over Washington and Oregon. Her creatures may be seen at Grizzly Ridge Upcycling in Sisters, OR, and at Healthline Nutrition in Vancouver, WA. Or they may be viewed on www.recyclewithsoifer.com or at her studio in Vancouver, where visitors are welcomed. You may reach Betsy at soiferb@hotmail.com.



If you are an artist or if you know of a local artist you’d like to read about, please send an email to laura.miller@n2pub.com.

Upcycled Artwork

By resident writer, **Jewell Straight**

Betsy Soifer’s goal is to recycle materials to make a creature that brings a smile. Designed for the home and garden, she makes whimsical creations mimicking nature that are constructed from



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sponsor spotlight

All-Clean SoftWash Jeff St. Mary's New Service

Hi, my name is Jeff St. Mary, and I grew up in Yakima, WA, working on the family farm until about age 29. I moved to Vancouver and built a small landscape business with one of my cousins, and we also did a little window cleaning. We ended up going our separate ways, and I chose the window cleaning direction. Over the years of building that company, I also added gutter cleaning, concrete cleaning, and holiday lights.

I am very excited to announce joining All-Clean SoftWash, now offering soft-wash services, which include roof cleaning with absolutely no pressure washing, siding soft-wash, and deck soft-wash. We use biodegradable clean-

ing solutions instead of damaging high pressure. Moss, mold, and algae are instantly put to death with our cleaning solutions, keeping your roof, siding, and/or decks clean much longer. We even offer a limited five-year warranty.

I have been offering home maintenance service for over a quarter century. One big mistake I see homeowners make is ignoring overflowing gutters. A gutter full of water can make water flow up the roof, causing water to sometimes leak inside the house. I refer to this as wicking. Think of taking a cup of water, holding the corner of a paper towel in the water, and see what happens. Similarly, the wood edge of the roof

soaking in a full gutter can also make water wick up the roof over time. The second mistake homeowners make is just letting mold, moss, and algae take over their roof, shortening the roof's life immensely. And the biggest mistake people make is risking their life and limbs climbing onto their roof, thinking they can save some money and do it themselves. Too many people fall off their roof or their ladder, suffering broken bones or worse. If you are over 50, you really should not be on your roof. Why risk it when you can let the professionals take care of that high work?

Please keep St. Mary Service and All-Clean SoftWash in mind to care for your home. Just text (360-772-5601) or email me jeff@stmservice.com. I am the territory manager for all of Clark County. Our website is www.allcleansoftwash.com to learn more. Estimates are always *free*.

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Kids and parents enjoy the 2018 fishing derby

making a difference

By resident student writer **Jude Helmes**



Klineline Fishing Derby

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The Klineline Fishing Derby is an annual event located at the popular fishing spot in Felida: Klineline. Visited by a number of kids from the Felida area, it is a fun, exciting way to get outside. The event consists of the people who run Klineline filling up the pond with fresh fish and then advertising the filling. On April 14 this year, kids from around Felida biked, walked, and drove to Klineline to fish.

Resident Robert Vlad, 13, went to this year's Klineline Fishing Derby by bike and had a great time spending the day fishing. He said that his favorite part of the derby was "being able to get out of the house and enjoy spending time with my friends doing something that we all enjoy." Robert explained that his time at the fishing derby was one of many fun moments and had plenty of joy! Robert also stated that he loved the feeling of being outside instead of being indoors. He also elaborated on how he felt the Klineline Fishing Derby impacts the youth of Felida. Robert explained that this derby, along with future ones, will "encourage younger generations to spend more time outside and not just stay indoors on their electronics."

All in all, the Klineline Fishing Derby was a great experience for kids in the area, and it encouraged them to get off their electronics and go outside!



Do you have a favorite nonprofit, organization, or volunteer you'd like to see applauded here? Please let us know at laura.miller@n2pub.com.

Grace McNinch

young achievers

By resident student writer, Olivia Gray



Grace

Grace McNinch is a kind and intelligent girl who excels at learning and always strives to do her best. She is a 4.0 honors student in sixth grade at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and loves the warm vibe she feels there. Grace challenges herself by taking advanced English, enjoying non-fiction and mystery books tremendously. Grace loves the book *Murder on the Orient Express*, and this is her favorite movie as well. In mathematics, Grace takes an advanced course and appreciates the rigor it provides. She is a dedicated orchestra student who plays the violin, recently performing pieces such as "Dragon Slayer" at the All-District Instrumental Music Festival. Grace is planning to attend Skyview High School and would like to attend Washington State. She plans to continue her studies by attending medical school, with the eventual goal of becoming an OB-GYN.

Grace is quite athletic, playing soccer for the Salmon Creek Soccer Club, along with running track and cross-country for TJMS. She is a fantastic swimmer who enjoys time at Lakeshore Athletic Club as well as time at the river. Her family appreciates the outdoors, especially Bend, OR, where they vacation often. Grace adores camping, kayaking, and whitewater rafting with her family. Her favorite outdoor trip was a rafting trip on the White Salmon River.

During her free time, Grace luxuriates in creative pursuits! She received a sewing machine for Christmas (her favorite holiday) and uses it to make pillowcases, blankets, and even stuffed animals. Grace is a talented artist who loves to draw and paint. Lately, she is experimenting with the art of henna tattooing. Grace also likes to cook and bake, especially with her best friend, Lena. They love to make cakes, lasagna, and other tasty delicacies. Grace dreams of visiting Italy because she loves Italian food,

and she thinks riding around Venice in a gondola would be an amazing adventure.

The McNinch family has two cats that Grace cherishes. She likes monkeys and orangutans and is extremely excited about the yellow lab puppy her family is adopting in June. Although, her personal favorite would be a pug!



If you know a student of any age who is an asset to our community, please let us know at laura.miller@n2pub.com.


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By resident student writer **Annalise Selby**

S'mores Bars

This delicious recipe is a new take on a classic dessert that everyone loves. It features marshmallows and chocolate combined with a delicious homemade graham cracker crust that is to die for!

Ingredients

- 1 stick of butter, room temperature
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 king-sized Hershey's milk chocolate bars
- 1 large egg
- 1 ½ cups of marshmallow creme
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup graham cracker crumbs (about 7 graham crackers)
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8-inch square baking pan. Use an electric mixer to cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Set aside. Meanwhile, whisk together flour, graham cracker crumbs, baking powder, and salt. Slowly add flour mixture to the creamed butter mixture until combined. Divide dough in half and press half of dough into an even layer on the bottom of the prepared pan. Place chocolate bars over dough. Two king-sized Hershey's bars should fit perfectly side by side. Spread chocolate with marshmallow creme or fluff. Place remaining dough in a single layer on top of the fluff (most easily achieved by flattening the dough into small shingles and laying them together). Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until lightly browned. Be sure to cool completely before cutting into bars.

Makes 16 squares.



If you have an awesome recipe you'd like to share with readers, please email us at laura.miller@n2pub.com.

tour & travel

By N2 Staff Writer, **Tracy Lafon**

THE Seychelles ISLANDS

THE COLOR OF PARADISE



Be prepared to have your breath taken away by the surreal colors and boundless beauty of the Seychelles Islands. Nestled just off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean, a 115-island paradise awaits. From topaz seas that lap on powder white beaches to jade rainforests and sunsets of crimson fire, summer beckons visitors here with balmy temperatures softened by favorable trade winds.

These exclusive islands are small but are not overrun by tourists. Book your flight to Seychelles International Airport (SEZ) and bring a valid passport, return ticket and hotel voucher – these are required. Booking with one of the luxury resorts will ease your journey as most provide transportation to and from the airport, as well as between the islands.

Many of the beaches are sparsely populated and are free of the usual tourist traps hawking tacky trinkets and fruity drinks. Instead, they offer sand as fine and white as sugar, crystal sapphire tropical seas and the music of the breaking surf and the distant songs of parrots.

While tempting, try not to spend all your time just sunning on the beach. The 22-mile-long coral Aldabra Atoll surrounds huge tidal lagoons where you can find a plethora of exotic sea life. The inviting Indian Ocean provides endless water activities. On top of the water, enjoy time on a catamaran or try your hand at windsurfing. If you want to relax a bit, there are plenty of excursions by sailboat, yacht and even glass-bottomed boats available. After taking in topside waters, head underneath with snorkel gear to get up close and personal with fish so vibrant and beautiful it is hard to believe they are real. Add a little mystery to your trip by visiting at least one shipwreck, too!

Away from the beaches, the islands still shine colorfully as you explore by foot, bike and horseback. There are several companies that offer tours, and the Seychelles Island Tourism office provides maps for self-guided adventures.

Any visit to paradise also requires pampering, shopping and nightlife; don't worry, the Seychelles offer their share of it all.

The best shopping can be found in the capital of Victoria, which is also home to many upscale spas. Most of the nightlife can also be found in Victoria, as well seaside nightclubs, for an added touch of excitement.

Everyone should visit paradise at least once in their lifetime but, be forewarned, once you have experienced the colors of The Seychelles Islands, you may never see anything as bright and beautiful again.

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kids' book review

By editor, Nikki Schuchart



Mo Willems

A few years back, my children became acquainted with Mo Willems' "Pigeon" books, the most popular one being *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. My three children all got a kick out of those silly books.

In more recent years, my youngest has found another Mo Willems series to often check out from the school library. The Elephant and Piggie series is sometimes silly but often sweet. The unique friendship between the two title characters teaches readers lots of lessons necessary for youngsters.

I've been volunteering in our school library the last few weeks, trying to help inventory and correctly place all the books as the school year winds down. I'd already decided to write about Mo Willems for this article when I found the bulletin board shown here in the library. As you can see from the titles on the board, he has many other books besides the two series I mentioned. Everyone loves an author who can make our children smile and want to keep reading!

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financial fitness

By N2 Staff Writer, Elizabeth McCabe

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While people like direct flights (preferably non-stop), you can save a chunk of change by taking a more "scenic" route to your destination. Connecting flights often come with savings. Another option is to change your airport. While it may result in a longer drive, it might be worth up to a few hundred dollars. Be a bargain hunter and determine what is best for you!

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What: Vancouver America Marathon and Half-June 3
 Where: Esther Short Park; 301 W 8th Street, Vancouver
 When: 6:30 a.m.



vancouver
area local events

June

What: CYT presents Aladdin Jr.-June 1, 2, 8, and 9

Where: Firmly Planted Family Resource Center; 11100 NE 34th Circle, Vancouver

When: Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Admission: \$15 standard, \$18 at door, \$12 group rate (ticket minimum 10)

Live theater and a musical to boot! This updated version of *Aladdin* is based on the classic Disney movie and the 2014 hit Broadway show about the “diamond in the rough” street rat who learns his true worth lies deep within! CYT Portland Vancouver is the first to perform this newly released version in the greater Portland Vancouver area!

What: Vancouver America Marathon and Half-June 3

Where: Esther Short Park; 301 W 8th Street, Vancouver

When: 6:30 a.m.

Admission: free to watch; \$69-\$89 to register

Join us for a beautiful run through the streets of Vancouver. The Vancouver America Marathon and Half will cater to new and seasoned long-distance runners looking to finish their first marathon or qualify for the Boston Marathon.

What: Recycled Arts Festival-June 23-24

Where: Esther Short Park; 301 W 8th Street, Vancouver

When: Sat-9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun-10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: Free

With more than 35,000 visitors, the two-day Recycled Arts Festival is the largest event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Each year, thousands of local residents and tourists flock to this popular, free community event where more than 120 vendors display their artwork made from at least 75% recycled and repurposed materials. Always entertaining, the festival is packed with art, music, food, and activities designed to make learning about reducing waste and recycling fun.

What: Buddy Guy at Ilani-June 24

Where: Ilani Resort; 1 Cowlitz Way, Ridgefield

When: 7 p.m.

Admission: \$69

At age 81, Buddy Guy is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a major influence on rock titans like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, a pioneer of Chicago’s fabled West Side sound, and a living link to the city’s halcyon days of electric blues. Buddy Guy has received seven Grammy Awards, a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award, 37 Blues Music Awards (the most any artist has received), the Billboard Magazine Century Award for distinguished artistic achievement, a Kennedy Center Honor, and the Presidential National Medal of Arts. *Rolling Stone Magazine* ranked him #23 in its “100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time.”

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Tips from Terrie

putting your home on the market?



When you're selling your home, first impressions are everything. Before the digital age, the first impression of a home was known as "curb appeal." These days, first impressions are usually formed online. As more homebuyers start their house hunting on the internet now, achieving that "online curb appeal" is a crucial part of selling your home.

Things you can do:

Pruning And Planting

Hire a professional landscape designer (not just a landscaper). Nothing defeats the curb appeal of a home like overgrown trees, shrubs, or vines. Landscape designers know how to trim trees the right way to get the ideal shape. Every year, stand back and look at your house. Have you chosen the right shrubs? Are they getting too big? If you can't see the house, they're not going to buy it. Using your own furniture could be a mistake! Talk to Terrie. She will help you decide what stays and what goes. This mistake could cost you \$50,000 - \$100,000 from your home sales price. This takes experience in design, which Terrie has from paint colors to lighting to furniture placement. And you thought the only thing a broker did was sell a house? Not all brokers are created equally.

Clean, Polish, And Declutter

Get a good pressure wash. A pressure wash is a cost-effective way to get an all-over "clean appeal" that will give your home the appearance of impeccable clean right down to the house numbers. Fresh paint on the door and trim, a new porch light fixture, and colorful but tidy landscaping are other easy exterior enhancements that may appeal to potential buyers at first glance. Also, make sure gardening supplies and all outdoor clutter is stored away out of sight.

Once you're confident your home has achieved its best curb appeal, both online and in person, try putting your home in its best light with well-placed walkway and landscaping lighting for a final, finishing touch for that great first impression.

If you still have questions about your home's curb appeal, you can always talk to Terrie. If you are thinking of selling and would like a competitive market analysis of your home, contact Terrie Cox. Get listed, get sold. Visit www.USA-Relocate.com or call her at 360-607-4100.

Link to article that ran in *The Columbian* on the Real Estate front page on 04/22/18: http://realestate.columbian.com/wp-content/sunday_section/The-Columbian-Sunday-Real-Estate-Section-2018-04-22.pdf

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Swimming In Possibilities

Finding The PERFECT Pool For Your Family

If you're looking for a way to maximize your summer fun, consider spending it beside the pool in your very own backyard. With options to suit every climate and budget, there's sure to be a right fit for your family.

In-Ground

There are several types of in-ground swimming pools that allow for various degrees of customization. Gunite swimming pools can be customized to any shape or size. They are built with a rebar frame and the form – a mixture of sand and concrete – is sprayed on. Fiberglass swimming pools are preformed and come in various shapes and sizes. They are quickly installed in one piece. Vinyl swimming pools, the least expensive in-ground option, consist of a vinyl sheet installed over a steel frame. While durable and flexible, you may eventually have to replace the vinyl liner in order to maintain its aesthetic.

Above-Ground

If you're looking for all the fun of a swimming pool without a huge structural and financial commitment, an above-ground pool might be the best option for you. Above-ground pools come in various sizes and are typically made of either steel or resin. They sit above grade and offer many of the same add-ons, such as ladders and slides, that in-ground pools offer. If you're hesitant to install an above-ground pool from an aesthetic standpoint, reconsider. Above-ground pools can be incorporated into decks and other landscaping for a more streamlined look.

Other Options

- If you are looking for something beyond a typical above-ground or in-ground pool, consider some of these more customized options.
- Heated or covered pool: For cooler climates, installing a heated or covered pool will ensure that you get maximum use out of your pool year-round.
- Lap pool: If you plan to primarily use your swimming pool for fitness, consider a lap pool. Typically, the width of a lap lane, these pools take up less space than a standard swimming pool and offer water resistance for a more thorough workout.
- Saltwater pool: If swimming in pool chemicals makes you uncomfortable, a saltwater pool may be a great option for you. These pools use a salt chlorine generator, giving the water a softer feel and eliminating the bleach odor that chlorine usually leaves behind.

Whatever your preferences, there's a pool that can be customized to you. Happy swimming!

home matters

By N2 Staff Writer, Megan Weatherly Lynn

Real Estate RESOURCE



The information contained herein has been obtained through sources deemed reliable by Neighborhood Networks Publishing, Inc., but cannot be guaranteed for its accuracy. Any information of special interest should be obtained through independent verification.

Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Sold Date	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Status
3304 NW 116th Way	Westmoor	\$474,000	\$474,000	03/30/18	4	2.5	2,976	SOLD
1215 NW Lakeview Road	Lakeview Estates	\$534,999	\$523,500	04/19/18	4	2.5	2,763	SOLD
8304 NW 17th Ave	Lakeview Estates	\$748,600	\$740,000	04/19/18	3	3.5	3,759	SOLD
2617 NW 129th Circle	Teal Pointe	\$689,900	\$689,900	03/30/18	3	2.5	4,025	SOLD
4909 NW 126th St	West Park	\$749,500	\$760,000	04/13/18	4	3	3,693	SOLD
3113 NW 114th Circle	Westmoor	\$359,900			4	2.5	2,198	PENDING
8005 NW 15th Court	Lakeview Estates	\$589,950			3	2.5	2,500	PENDING
3309 NW 112th Street	Westmoor	\$410,000			3	2	1,766	PENDING
3307 NW 115th Street	Westmoor	\$438,900			4	2.5	2,512	PENDING
4704 NW 139th Street	Ashley Heights	\$479,000			4	2.5	3,078	PENDING
13901 NW 52nd Ave	Ashley Heights	\$625,000			4	3.5	3,482	PENDING
12400 NW 50th Drive	West Park	\$699,000			4	2.5	2,954	PENDING
14600 NW 52nd Court	Ashley Heights	\$999,999			6	3.5	5,096	PENDING
1510 NW 80th Street	Lakeview Estates	\$634,000			4	2.5	5,168	ACTIVE
12909 NW 49th Ave	Bella Ridge	\$750,000			3	3.5	3,487	ACTIVE
5014 NW 141st Street	Ashley Heights	\$784,900			5	3.5	5,052	ACTIVE
13521 NW 49th Avenue	Ashley Heights	\$829,900			5	3.5	5,071	ACTIVE
14512 NW 51st Court	Ashley Heights	\$849,900			4	3.5	4,455	ACTIVE
5109 NW 143rd Street	Ashley Heights	\$1,600,000			4	4.5	5,384	ACTIVE

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