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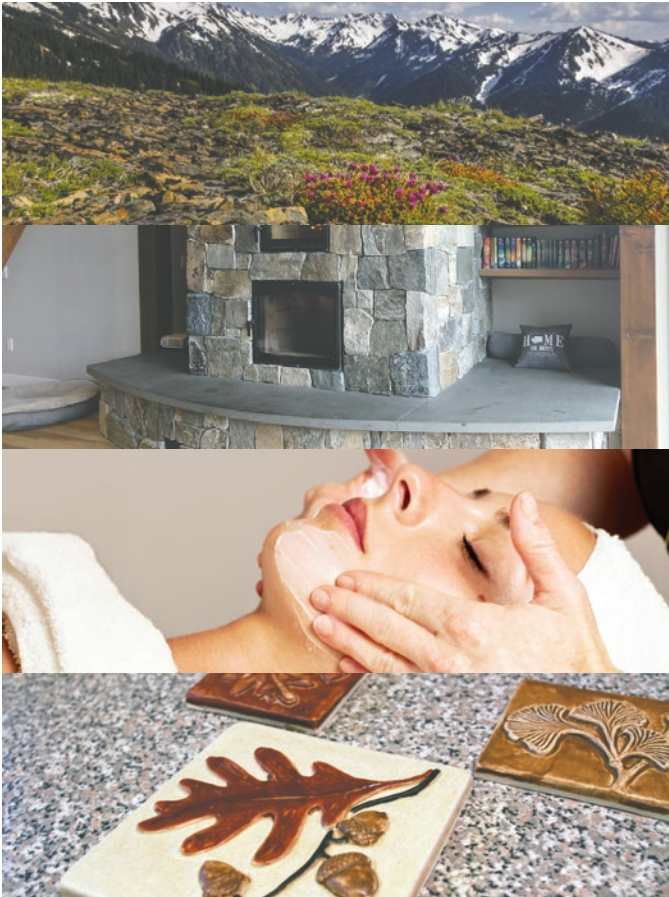
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Cover Photo

Hurricane Ridge

Courtesy of Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau



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UNINTIMIDATING by Nick Twietmeyer HIKES FOR WINTER WARRIORS

In the winter months it can be hard enough to find the motivation to get outdoors, never mind adding an arduous trek into mix. Here are a few hikes to help kick your winter blues that won't leave you exhausted and reaching for the aspirin.



Hoh Rainforest - Hall of Mosses Trail
Photo courtesy of Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau



Hurricane Ridge photo courtesy of Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau

The Hoh Rainforest

Located in Olympic National Park, the Hoh Rainforest is named for the Hoh River, which runs through the forest. You can get to the Hoh Rainforest via Upper Hoh Road, off of U.S. Highway 101.

The Hoh River Trail can be taken as far as one wishes, up to 18.5 miles out to the Blue Glacier moraine.

There are multiple camping opportunities along the way, with the last being Glacier Meadows, at 17.3 miles. Day hiking opportunities include First River (0.9 miles), Mineral Creek Falls (2.7 miles), Five Mile Island (5 miles) and Cedar Grove (4 miles).

Hurricane Ridge

Located in the Olympic National Park, Hurricane Ridge is full of opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities. Located just 17 miles south of Port Angeles along Hurricane Ridge Road, Hurricane Ridge is one of the national park's easiest to reach mountain areas.

Heart O' the Hills Campground is located just 12 miles north of Hurricane Ridge and its 105 campsites are open year-round. Ranger programs are offered June through September with snowshoe walks offered in the wintertime.

A number of trailheads can be found at Hurricane Ridge, ranging in length from 0.5 miles to 8 miles.

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◀ *Marymere Falls*

Located near Lake Crescent, Marymere Falls can be accessed via a one-mile trail off of the Olympic Highway at the Storm King Ranger Station.

Visitors will be treated to a very accessible route that crosses Barnes Creek and Falls Creek as it ascends about 200 feet.

Visitors can enjoy two viewpoints of the 90-foot-tall waterfall. A hillside viewpoint looks down the falls and a platform below gives a view opposite the falls.

Mount Walker

With spectacular views at over 2,800 feet above sea level, Mount Walker offers mountaineering-level views with drive-thru levels of commitment. Those who wish to hike the mountain's 4-mile round trip will be treated to about 2,000 feet of elevation gain along the way.

For the less-ambitious, a paved roadway offers visitors the opportunity to drive right up to the top to enjoy the commanding views of Mount Baker, the Cascades, eastern Olympics and Hood Canal.

Marymere Falls photo courtesy of Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau



The Spruce Railroad Trail was recently reopened following construction. Photo courtesy Federal Lands Highway Division

Spruce Railroad Trail ▲

Following a little sprucing up, the Spruce Railroad Trail was reopened in December. Located along the shores of Lake Crescent, the trail sees only about 250 feet of elevation gain over its 5 miles (one-way).

About a mile into the hike, visitors can find the main attraction with a bridge spanning a section of lake and arrives at a pool, known colloquially as “the Punchbowl.”

To get to the Spruce Railroad Trailhead take a right at East Beach Road after traveling west on U.S. Highway 101. After about 3 miles, turn left onto Boundary Creek Road and continue for just shy of a mile to arrive at the trailhead. Bathroom facilities are available at the trailhead.

Washington State Parks offers several free days when a Discover Pass is not required to visit a state park. So, mark your calendar for a day of visiting Washington State Parks for free:

Feb. 15 - Presidents Day Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service

March 19 - State Parks Birthday Washington State Parks

Apr. 17 - Start of National Parks Week, National Park Service

June 5 - National Trails Day, Washington State Parks

June 12 - National Get Outdoors Day, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Parks

June 13 - Free Fishing Day, Washington State Parks.

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BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO AN ANCIENT COMFORT

Humankind's fascination with, and attraction to, fire has survived both evolution and innovation through the millennia.

Even today — about 1.7 million years since our ancestors first stared into the crackling flames and felt the warmth, comfort and security from the fire they built — humans still continue to bring fire into their homes, and in many cases will even design their houses with the hearth at the center.

Jason Temple, owner of TempleFire, has made it his mission to continue the long tradition of bringing fire inside for his clientele, and not in the fashion that most westerners are probably familiar.

“Russia, Austria and Finland; the traditions from those three regions are probably the most influential in my work,” Temple said. “If you look at places in central

— *by Nick Twietmeyer*
Photos courtesy of TempleFire

Europe, like Austria or Germany, houses used to have clay ovens inside them and that's what would heat the house.”

Masonry stoves have been a fairly commonplace fixture in European households for hundreds of years, Temple explained, but here in the U.S. they have been a bit slow to catch on. Despite the more commonplace steel or cast iron stoves, Temple said, their European counterparts offer an array of added bonuses.

“They don't have to deal with the rollercoaster of temperatures that one deals with an open fire or an iron wood stove,” Temple said. “When the fire's out, it's not making heat anymore. Whereas with a masonry stove, its heat output is continuous.”

Temple said that because masonry stoves transfer their heat to an insulator, by directing the hot air from the

“It’s the most important thing in someone’s house, artistically and architecturally, when they’re hanging out in the evening, usually it’s the center of attention, so it has to be beautiful.”



Jason Temple, owner of TempleFire

firebox through a series of stone channelways, the stoves continue to put out heat even long after the fire inside has burned out.

“You wake up in the morning, your house is still warm from the fire the afternoon before,” Temple said. “It doesn’t get overheated, it never gets cold, it always just stays the same temperature.”

Design efficiencies in masonry stoves, have other added benefits, as well.

“The firebox is designed for near-perfect combustion, so there’s no smoke, it just burns the wood perfectly,” Temple said. “You’re only exhausting carbon dioxide and steam.”

“There’s no smoke going into the air, no unburnt carbon, no pollutants,” he continued. “The temperature of the exhaust is hundreds of degrees cooler, so we’re keeping all the energy from the fire in the home rather than just

wasting it to the night sky.”

Temple’s educational background is in engineering and he said he finds a great deal of satisfaction in marrying aesthetics with efficiency.

On the technical level, Temple said he must assess and meet the energy needs of a given space, to ensure that a stove will adequately heat a home. A substructure is also sometimes needed to support the significant weight of a masonry stove. From a design perspective, Temple said he has many different aesthetic traditions to pull from.

“As an American it’s really interesting to look at these different traditions, technical and architectural and being able to adapt it to someone’s house,” Temple said. “It’s the most important thing in someone’s house, artistically and architecturally, when they’re hanging out in the evening, usually it’s the center of attention, so it has to be beautiful.”

For anyone considering making the investment in a masonry stove or oven, Temple advises to first examine the energy efficiency of the home in which it would be installed. A drafty old Victorian-style home may not be best served by a masonry stove because, for all of their efficiencies, they still cannot make up for an inefficient house.

Homeowners also need to consider the location of their stoves, given the weight. Temple said it’s not uncommon for him to do secondary foundation work to buttress up a solid slab upon which a masonry stove will be placed. Budget would also be something to examine before taking the plunge.

While they are far-and-away more efficient than steel or cast-iron wood-burning stoves, Temple said most of his installations range between \$15,000 and \$40,000. But what you get for that, he added, is a uniquely comforting form of heat that will ultimately require less maintenance than a more modestly-priced alternative.

“You have this sort of penetrating radiant heat, it’s very similar to a sunny day in fall. It might be only 45 degrees in the shade of a tree and it’s very cold, but you step into the sun and you have this deeply satisfying sense of warmth. That’s the kind of radiant heat that these stoves put out.”

For more information on how to get your own masonry stove installed, visit www.templefire.net or call 360-379-2877.

FACE OF GRACE

Winter skin care can include exfoliating, hyaluronic acid, and corrective treatments

by *Leslie Kelly*

Just about anyone knows that winter weather can be tough on skin, especially on your hands, feet and face. There are plenty of hand and foot lotions that will moisturize skin and keep them smooth.

Julie Hoffmann ▶



But when you think about your face, it may just take more.

“Some simple basics for winter skin care include a humidifier in your home, cleansing at night only for dry skin, and drinking half your body weight in ounces of water,” said Julie Hoffman, owner of Face of Grace Skin Care in Port Townsend. “And if you really want to up your game, consider a corrective skin care treatment. Winter is an ideal time for advanced skin care because of less time in the sun for any downtime needed post treatment.”

HydroFacials, needling (collagen induction therapy) and chemical peels are all advanced therapies offered at Face of Grace. Hoffman also has a medical directive which allows her to perform medical grade chemical peels and carry Jan Marini MD products.

As a skin care expert, Hoffman knows that not everybody takes care of their skin. But she said it’s never too late to start.

“I have clients in their 60s and 70s who have just begun to take their home-care routine to the next level with amazing results,” Hoffman said.

“At the bare minimum, everyone should be exfoliating on a regular basis. As we age, our skin turns over at a slower rate which causes a dull buildup of dead skin cells. It also helps to improve product absorption of serums and moisturizers, which is key for proper hydration,” she said.

“Good skin care can get ‘spendy,’” she said. “I always tell my clients to be frugal with the amount they use because they are very concentrated with superior ingredients. Over time, you will notice that they often begin to last longer because of the improved overall health of your skin.”

When exfoliating, Hoffman suggests trying a leave-on exfoliant. The Jan Marini’s leave-on is called BioClear (\$78) and Eminence’s is Mangosteen Concentrate (\$62). Both are excellent examples of this type of resurfacing, she said. They are used daily and applied before serum, moisturizer and sunscreen.

The big buzz word in the skin care industry right now is hyaluronic acid, Hoffman said. According to estheticians, hyaluronic acid helps reduce the visibility of fine lines and wrinkles retaining moisture to the skin, creating a plumping effect. When the skin is protected and hydrated, increased skin cell production can take place, as the skin isn't busy fighting for hydration. This leads to smoother, plumper skin cells.

"It locks moisture in and addresses wrinkle depth," Hoffman said. "It's been a game-changer in my practice for anti-aging but also for its healing properties for acne and post peel and needling treatments."

Face of Grace carries Jan Marini pharmaceutical/MD and Eminence Organic skin care lines. Many hours of research went into her decision to carry these award winning lines.

"There are thousands and thousands of skin care lines out there," she said. "Jan Marini has won 10 consecutive years 'Best Skin Care System' by New Beauty Magazine. Eminence has also won numerous New Beauty awards and both lines are recognized as a leaders in the industry."

DeAndra Rollings has been a client of Face of Grace for the past eight years.

"I'd been living on a sailboat for several years," she said. "When we got to Port Townsend, I wanted to experience the real world again - you know getting my nails done and things like that. I met 'Jules' (Hoffman) and that led me to a whole network of women in the community."

Rollings said the quality of Hoffman's salon is "at the level of what you would see in a big town like New York City."

"To have something of this quality in this tiny town is a miracle," she said. "She knows what she's doing and she has the best products on the market."

Rollings incorporates both Eminence and Jan Marini in her home care regime with a heavier emphasis on the Jan Marini MD because it helps to extend the results of all her corrective treatments.

"She's converted me to it," Rollings said. "It is one of the finest in the world."

» *Continued on Page 14*



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And, Hoffman has made house calls to Rollings' home for a "needling" treatment, where small needles are inserted in her face to promote collagen growth, a protein that enriches the skin.

"I've also had HydroFacials," Rollings said. "They are a great thing for the skin."

From a young age, Hoffman thought she wanted to be a make-up artist. But once she got into esthetician school, she knew that wasn't for her.

"I quickly realized I had no interest in make-up," she said. "But I was very interested in skin care and was drawn to the nurturing aspect of it. People's skin affects how they feel about themselves and their self-confidence. When I can help someone who has acne, and in three to four months has clear skin and feels good about themselves, it's beyond rewarding."

Hoffman has been a licensed esthetician since 1992. She graduated from the Aveda Institute in Minneapolis and the renowned Euro Institute in Seattle. She came to the Pacific Northwest in 2000 after meeting her husband while on vacation in Mexico. "We liked living in Seattle," she said. "But when we decided to start a family, we wanted to move out of the big city and we chose Port Townsend to call home."



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“People’s skin affects how they feel about themselves and their self-confidence. When I can help someone who has acne, and in three to four months has clear skin and feels good about themselves, it’s beyond rewarding.”

They have two daughters, Gracie and Meg. Her husband helped to remodel the interior of the building where her business is located at 633 Water St. Like many historic buildings in downtown, it has exposed brick walls and lots of charm.

Right before COVID hit, Hoffman purchased a HydraFacial MD Elite Machine. HydraFacial is the only hydra-dermabrasion procedure that combines cleansing, exfoliation, extraction, hydration and antioxidant protection simultaneously, resulting in clearer, more beautiful skin. It’s suitable for most skin types and improves the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles, congested and enlarged pores, acne-prone skin and hyper pigmentation.

“When the shutdown happened, I think I panicked for about 30 minutes,” she said. “But then it hit me. I could adapt and change my practice to all corrective skin care, which had been my long-term goal and offer home delivery and free shipping for all products.”

Being a business owner in Port Townsend fits her lifestyle and she truly enjoys her customers.

“Wonderful people come through my doors and I’m incredibly grateful and blessed to be able to say that. There are amazing women in this community and it’s been a privilege to be part of it.”

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Laura Reutter tells tales with tiles at Ravenstone in Port Townsend

Story and photos by Luciano Marano

Laura Reutter came west looking for a change, which she found — though not exactly the one she'd expected.

It was 1999 — technically not so long ago, but in many ways a very different world — when she left the Midwest and her job as an art restoration expert and came to Port Townsend with visions of helms and mainsails dancing in her head.

“I heard about the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding and I thought: ‘Oh, this sounds really interesting because I could learn to restore wooden boats!’” Reutter recalled. “So that’s what brought me to this area.”

It was not, however, the reason she stayed.

“Although it was really amazing, I kind of realized I probably didn’t want to get into being a boatbuilder,” she said.

“For a while I thought it might be cool to work for a maritime museum and restore boats but that didn’t really happen. I just kind of moved into an alternate career here. I didn’t find enough work in the art conservation field in this area to really sustain me, so I realized I had to do

something else.”

And for inspiration Reutter, who owns and operates Ravenstone Tiles out of her Port Townsend home, reached further back in her life experience, all the way to her home state of Ohio.

“There were a lot of 19th to early 20th century ceramic companies because Ohio has a lot of clay,” she explained, “and both art pottery and art tile was a big thing around the turn of the century.

“So I had seen these amazing pieces in museums and pictures ... and that always sparked my interest in making pots and making tile and trying to capture that feel of the Arts and Crafts Movement.”

In the olden days, artisan companies would compete with each other and become known for distinctive styles.

“Glaze recipes were super secret; everything was jealously guarded,” Reutter said. “That kind of just grabbed me. All of my life that’s kind of been an inspiration.”

In fact, Reutter defines her work as “decorative handmade tile in the arts and crafts tradition.” But in addition to historical aesthetics, the artist said she is inspired by the Northwest’s landscapes, seascapes, old-growth forests, and dramatic mountain ranges.

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“I’ve always loved trees and nature, so once I moved out here I was like, ‘Oh, there’s so much inspiration here!’” Reutter said.

One of her more iconic designs was actually based on a tree growing practically in her own yard.

Once she’s settled on an idea, carving is the first step, with Reutter working out an original design in clay. After, she makes a more permanent plaster mold.

“Then I can make repeated copies,” she said. “I roll out pieces of clay flat, like dough or something, then I just press them in and I use a rolling pin to push it down in really firmly.”

The wet tile is later separated from the mold and fired in Reutter’s kiln (the baking process takes eight to 10 hours). Then comes some of her own oh-so-secretive glazes or maybe a specific stain (she makes her own).

Reutter’s work ranges in size from single tiles to mosaic installations, and can be purely decorative or functional.

“A lot of people like some of my bigger art installations for putting behind kitchen sinks or stoves or even in the shower,” she said. “They’re durable and hold up to water, snow, ice heat — all of that; they’re very tough.

“Probably one of my best sellers is my ceramic house number tiles, because they can be totally customized in terms of color, size, and decorative accents. People love that, and they’re so much nicer than the cheap things you go to the hardware store and buy.”

Her work can also be framed and displayed, perhaps a preferable method for those who might someday move and want to take it with them.

Most of her business comes through her website (www.ravenstonetiles.com), Reutter said, though she’s also active on Etsy.com.

“I don’t really do much in terms of local sales at all,” she said. “I tried galleries for just a little while and the farmers market, but it just wasn’t my thing. I just decided I’d rather be here at home working on things than sitting somewhere at a craft show or downtown in a gallery trying to push stuff.”

To that end, she’s most often found in her basement studio. Like any job, Reutter said there are days when she’s less enthusiastic than others, but after finding her way to this, her artistic calling, she keeps things in perspective.



“There are times when I do get tired of doing maybe the 10th house number that week or something, but then I think, ‘Well, I could be maybe working in an office sitting at a computer all day,’” she laughed. “And this is a lot more fun.”

Of the appeal of art, and the reason to expend the effort to make something so potentially utilitarian as tile

into something artistic, Reutter said it’s a gut thing. If you have to ask, you won’t get it.

“It gives me happiness to have something lovely hanging in my house,” she said. “I really respond to color and design and so I hang art in my house that I like and I like to surround myself with things that are lovely or by an artist that I enjoy looking at.”

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WINTERTIME READS:

Leader culture writer picks books to match any mood and get you through the coolest time of the year

Story and photos by Luciano Marano

Even without the emphasis on social distancing and the occasional bout of quarantine, winter in the Pacific Northwest can be bleak.

Daylight hours are scant. Roads are treacherous. Your ability to enjoy the outdoors depends heavily on your interest in snow and/or tolerance for being cold — and often wet, too.

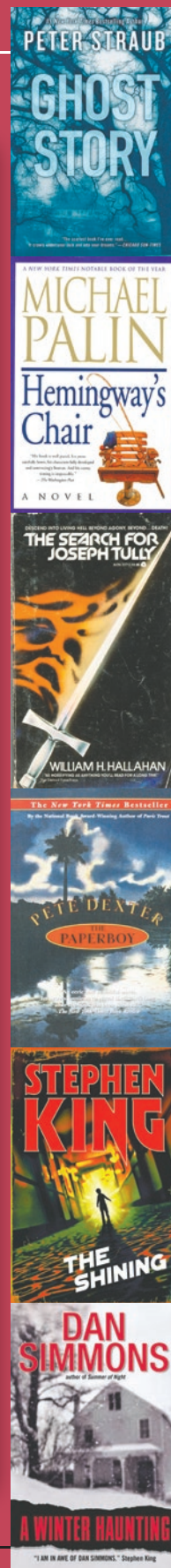
It's tempting to simply put your head down and trudge toward a sunnier time as quickly as possible.

But live for today, says I, and enjoy the moment while it lasts. There is something undeniably satisfying about sitting down in a favorite chair with a good book and your beverage of choice, safe and snug indoors with the harsh world of winter barred helplessly outside. Even the most frigid and sodden landscape looks pretty from the warm side of a window whilst clad in a cardigan. So slip into something comfortable and brew the tea, mix the cocoa, or decant the whiskey, as you like.

And for the perfect pairing check out these reading recommendations, choice titles for every mood and moment, weather be damned.

Some seasonal spooky stories

I suppose Stephen King's masterpiece "The Shining" still reigns somewhat supreme in the realm of wintery horror stories. There is something about horror that lends itself particularly well to snowy locales, though, and renowned as it is (and rightly so) King's tale of familial dysfunction in America's most iconic haunted hotel isn't the only option for those seeking seasonal spooks.



Peter Straub's "Ghost Story" is a personal favorite, the tale of five elderly men, all paragons of society in the picturesque town of Milburn, New York, who regularly gather to reminisce and share macabre tales. Then, one of their own dies a particularly nasty death and the rest are plagued by nightmarish visions. When a mysterious and oddly familiar young woman comes to town, followed by a devastating blizzard, the men must reckon with a dark secret they'd thought long dead and a horror older than humanity.

A hefty helping of historical horror, Dan Simmons' "The Terror," a fictionalized account of a real British expedition to the Arctic in 1845 to locate the Northwest Passage, perfectly blends the cruelties of nature, the worst aspects of humanity, and otherworldly threats when the ships are frozen in place and the crew plagued by starvation and illness even as they are hunted by what seems to be an impossibly intelligent bear. For a more intimate tale, consider Simmons' "A Winter Haunting," wherein a depressed professor takes refuge at the vacant home of a deceased childhood friend in the wake of a bitter divorce and is immediately beset by both hostile locals and supernatural occurrences.

For those looking to heat things up

Looking to nudge your inner thermostat a bit? Are you sick of shivering? Smarting from that nasty nip in the air?

Thomas McGuane's "Ninety-two in the Shade" is a tense, sweltering, fatalistic story of two men locked in a bitter, brutal rivalry in the semi-lawless world of charter fishing in Key West. A young would-be guide runs afoul a notoriously temperamental pro, after



Imprint Bookstore in Port Townsend has a fine selection of titles.

which tensions rise faster than the temperature as the two proceed to insult and instigate each other ever closer to a deadly confrontation. The '75 film adaptation, written and directed by McGuane himself, boasts an unbelievable cast led by Peter Fonda and Warren Oates and is also well worth your time.

"The Paperboy," by Pete Dexter, is the sweaty, sticky, seamy story of two hotshot reporters from Miami who trek to swampy, rural Florida and begin investigating the murder of a notoriously brutal sheriff at the insistence of the alluring, troubled woman in love with the man who has been convicted of the crime and slated for imminent execution. Called "eerie and beautiful" by The New York Times, the novel got a film adaptation in 2012 which, despite a solid cast and stellar performance by Nicole Kidman, didn't quite live up to the source material.

Frank Herbert's "Dune" is a rightfully lionized pillar of science fiction, and with the hotly anticipated new adaptation due out late next year now is the perfect time to discover (or rediscover) the secrets of the desert planet Arrakis. Though difficult to summarize, the story is perfect

for fans of "Star Wars" and "Game of Thrones" alike, dealing as it does with combat, mysticism, alien biology, futuristic technology, and interplanetary politics — though it predates (and very obviously inspired) both those universes. Herbert himself wrote five sequels and a hearty supply of follow-ups, including prequels and sequels, co-written by Kevin J. Anderson and the author's son Brian Herbert, have been regularly hitting shelves since 1999.

Authentic, atmospheric, affecting

A slightly retro offering from '90s crime queen Aphrodite Jones, "The Embrace: A True Vampire Story" recounts the tale of murderous teenage cult leader Rod Ferrell, messiah of the so-called "Vampire Clan," a group of Kentucky youths who Ferrell convinced he was a 500-year-old vampire after they all became obsessed with the role playing game "Vampire: The Masquerade." He promised to lead them to a coven of

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the undead in New Orleans after first stopping off in Florida to pick up his friend, whereupon he brutally murdered her parents. After his subsequent arrest and conviction, Ferrell briefly became the youngest person in the U.S. on death row. The story inspired at least one feature film and a bluegrass tune, and while this book lingers a bit on the unfortunate of-the-time panic surrounding role playing games it does an excellent job of recounting the cult dynamics and the inherent angst of rural adolescence with empathy.

“The Search for Joseph Tully” by William H. Hallahan focuses on two seemingly unrelated storylines. In one, a man living in a soon-to-be-demolished apartment building wakes nightly from horrible dream in which somebody is trying to kill him. The other follows a genealogist tracking the mysterious titular figure with increasing desperation. The writing is lean and tense with a lonesome and melancholic tone and much emphasis on the frigid snowbound city. It’s anything but dull, however, and when the two central tales come together the climax is too good to spoil.

A formerly forgotten title that’s having something of a moment thanks to the fine people at Valancourt Books putting it back into print, “The Auctioneer” by Joan Samson, is a starting-to-be-sung gem of American literature that deserves widespread attention. In it, the rural farming town of Harlowe begins a slow and insidious metamorphosis beneath the rule

of the salesman from the title. Warning the local sheriff about the horrors of the modern world which are, he swears, itching to enter the pastoral paradise, he organizes a weekly auction to raise money for deputies, an ambulance, small municipal improvements. The citizenry are happy to kick in unwanted stuff and even get a chuckle out of selling their junk to naive city folk for inflated prices. It all goes so well the Auctioneer does it again the following week. And then again. And again. Soon, the sheriff and his armed cronies are coming around regularly to take “donations.” And they don’t look too kindly on folks who refuse the call. Accidents happen. People go missing. As winter sets in things grow downright desperate. I cannot recommend it highly enough. That the author died so young, without writing another novel, is a true tragedy.

A cozy sweater for the spirit

A breed of crime fiction wherein all violence and adult relations take place unseen, cozy mysteries are a perennially popular sub-genre and lists of recommended titles both new and classic are readily available online (while not my cup of tea, I can say I have seen and enjoyed nearly every episode of “Murder, She Wrote,” which I understand spawned a line of tie-in novels that I intend eventually to seek out). That being said, these particular picks are meant more to provide uplifting and life-affirming entertainment than actual fireside feels.

“Hemingway’s Chair” was written by former Monty Python member Michael Palin and is every bit as hilarious and English

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The shelves at William James Bookseller in Port Townsend.

as you'd hope. Martin, a nebbish postal clerk obsessed with the American literary icon of the title, has a full plate between his clinging mother, pushy girlfriend and terrible new boss. Then he meets a visiting author (at last somebody to chat with who knows Hemingway as well as he does!) but is gobsmacked to find her in-the-works biography of his hero is less than flattering. A stormy intellectual affair, part flirtation and part persuasion, ensues. The chair in question was once sat upon by Papa himself, a one-of-a-kind trophy Martin is aching to buy if he can only scrape together the money — as if he didn't have enough problems already.

“An Arsonist’s Guide to Writer’s Homes in New England” by Brock Clarke begins with an accidental double murder. Still, it’s a quirky and heartfelt story of the man responsible. As a teen, Sam Pulsifer unintentionally burned down the famed Emily Dickinson house in Amherst, Massachusetts, killing two docents in the process. Now he’s free and an adult, married with children, and living a nondescript life in a distant town until the son of the couple he killed comes calling, threatening to expose his true identity.

Meanwhile, he’s being stalked by a group of financial criminals he met in prison, all keen to write their autobiographies, and besieged by letters from angry people around the region begging him to burn down more writers’ homes. When, inevitably, a fresh fire does occur, claiming yet another literary landmark, who else would the police suspect?

“I Was Told There’d Be Cake” by Sloane Crosley is a collection of hilarious essays touted by the likes of no less an authority than David Sedaris. Chosen as one of the “100 Favorite Funny Books” by participants in the 2019 NPR Reader Poll, the author has released subsequent work but this, her debut, remains a surefire hit. Her voice is relatable but distinct, her experiences almost unbelievable and yet completely authentic. Anecdotes include the author’s despoiling of an exhibit at the Natural History Museum, provoking the fury of her first boss, and accidentally calling the cops on her neighbor. Begin reading “The Pony Problem,” the first essay in the book, and then try to put it down. ***I dare you.***



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RINGS ARE ONE OF A KIND

For some, wedding rings are just bands of gold and don't have to be personalized. But for others, they want bands that are "theirs" — something that no one else has. That's where "With These Rings" comes in.

With These Rings is a local Port Townsend business where couples who are planning to be married can schedule a two-on-one workshop with jewelry artist Stephanie Selle, who will lead them in creating their own wedding bands — unlike anyone else's.

Selle opened her business in 2012 and has been at her current location at 211 Taylor St., for the past five years.

In most cases, couples make each others rings and they become "rich with love and memories," Selle said.

"These are something that will be with you for many years — hopefully the rest of your lives."

The process begins by looking for ideas of what you want your rings to be like. Simple bands can be meaningful, as well as others that have more flair. Looking online at the website for inspiration to see what other couples have created is an option. Consider the width you want, the shape — half-round or flat, and the type of metal.

Then couples schedule a workshop with Selle. During the workshop, Selle will help the couple fabricate the rings using the metal of choice. Metals are all recycled and include yellow gold, rose and peach, palladium white gold and palladium silver.

Many couples fabricate their rings in four hours or less and take their rings home with them at the end of the session.

Some rings require custom work which Selle does herself, such as adding family stones or engraving, and then the rings are delivered several weeks later.

The cost of the rings will depend on the design and metal choice, Selle said. The workshop costs \$620, and rings can range between \$980 to \$1,700. Adding stones can add to the cost, too.

Selle suggests that couples plan doing their workshop three to four months prior to when they want to have the rings ready.

Selle began her career in jewelry by apprenticing with a jeweler in her hometown of Wilmington, Delaware.

"I always knew I would grow up to be an artist," she said. "At 17 or 18, I took my first jewelry class and fell in love with it."

She said she pestered a local jeweler until he allowed her to apprentice and then she got her bachelor's of arts degree in metals from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. After college, she moved to Seattle and started a jewelry line of her own. In 2010 she became a jewelry instructor at North Seattle College.

"I fell in love with teaching," Selle said. "And then I found a way to combine teaching and creating."

When Selle was married, she knew she wanted their rings to be handmade and meaningful.

"My partner suggested that we make each other's rings," she said. "It became such a special experience and memory that after we were married I thought about offering the opportunity to others."

She has worked with couples from every continent. Her first clients were from Antarctica. Her business is one of very few places in existence where couples can make their own rings.

Juri and Roarke Jennings, of Port Townsend, worked with Selle in February of 2017 to create their wedding rings.



Stephanie Selle, owner | Photos by MJ Photography

“My husband and I loved the idea of wearing a ring that we made for each other,” Juri said. “It has more meaning when one crafts it themselves and experiences the process.”

Juri learned of Selle’s “amazing work” through Weddings Across the Sound, a Jefferson County wedding vendor group that she was a part of as the wedding coordinator for Fort Worden.

“We are also big advocates of green businesses and Stephanie’s

business model and responsible personality, and the fact that she uses 100 percent recycled metal was also a deciding factor.”

Making their rings took Juri and Roarke about two to three hours.

“It was full of cutting, bending, heating, dipping and hammering,” she said. “And after we crafted the rings, Stephanie did her magic and put the stones that were dear to us in the rings.”

The couple was married in April 2017. He works at the Food Co-op and she now has her own business “Peddler PT,” a bicycle powered grocery delivery service. Juri said she would recommend making your own wedding rings to anyone.

“And working with Stephanie — 120 percent,” she said.

While Selle has remained open for business, the pandemic has affected her work.

“With COVID, it’s been different because people are not traveling much,” she said. “In the past I’ve been like a travel agent. When couples make their workshop appointment, I work with them on where to stay and what other things there are to do here in Port Townsend and on the Olympic Peninsula. I love helping them explore this beautiful, romantic area.”

More recently, her business has been couples from Seattle and the local area.

“I’ve gotten to know more local people and that’s allowed me to make new friends,” she said. “We’ve been here six years, but before now I haven’t really gotten out to meet people here.”

Once the pandemic subsides, she is thinking about doing jewelry workshops for small groups.

Getting to be a part of the ring-making experience with so many couples is very meaningful to Selle.

“It’s an intimate process,” she said. “Being able to share in their love and their joy is so rewarding. There’s so many great love stories that I’ve been able to be a part of.”

Her business motto is: “You can’t buy love, but you can make it.” To learn more go to www.withtheseringshandmade.com, or call Selle at 206-724-8673.

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WATERCOLOR ARTIST RETURNS HOME TO CREATE

by Leslie Kelly

Artwork and photos courtesy of Roger Whitlock



When Edmonds watercolor artist Roger Whitlock decided to leave the sunny islands of Hawaii and return home to the Pacific Northwest to paint, Hawaiians asked him, “What are you going to paint there?”

“I jokingly told them ‘50 Shades of Gray Skies,’ ” Whitlock said. “But I really like (to paint with) the grays and the neutrals. And this area is just so beautiful.”

As an award-winning artist who spent 46 years living, teaching and painting in Hawaii, Whitlock grew up in

Ballard. He received his bachelor's degree from Whitman College in Walla Walla, a master's degree in Chicago, and then taught in Ohio. He returned to the University of Washington to complete his doctorate degree, after which he taught English in Hawaii for 31 years.

It was during that time teaching that he also wrote book manuscripts, none of them ever accepted to be published. Discouraged, Whitlock signed up for a beginning painting class in 1985 at the Honolulu Academy of the Arts.

"I painted in high school and had a great art teacher (Grace Henning) at Ballard High School," he said. "I was part of a special class of students who were talented in art and mostly I painted with oils."

But Whitlock hadn't picked up a paint brush in 25 years.

"I chose to rediscover painting at age 40," he said. "It came very naturally to me, not like writing manuscripts. With my writing I would edit myself forever. But with painting, you know if you have something within the first half-hour."

He described his painting style as "definitely realistic and impressionistic."

"I like the watercolor medium because it captures light," he said. "Most my paintings are in neutral colors. Where I put color in it is very special. Watercolor is all about its freshness, transparency and quickness. It's more about design and composition, than it is about color."

Much of his work is landscapes, but he also paints streetscapes. Following his move back to Edmonds four years ago, he completed a series of more than 100 paintings of the Skagit Delta.

"All seasons are different there," he said. "I'd go back each season and see more than I wanted to paint."

» *Continued on Page 28*



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» *Continued from Page 29*

Generally, he takes photographs and uses them to feed his imagination.

“I use them as a departure point,” he said. “I take them on my phone and sometimes wait weeks, months, even years before I use them. I think about them and look at them in black-and-white and color to study the light.”

A challenge came two years ago in winter when Edmonds and the area was hit with a big snowstorm.

“We were marooned, and couldn’t go anywhere,” he said. “So I took long walks and photographed the snow. I was stunned at the beauty.”

Having not painted snowscapes, Whitlock said the challenge was to learn how to use the white paper he was painting on as the snow. One of his Edmonds snowscape earned him special



He considers himself a studio painter, but this past summer he painted with a group of painters from the Northwest Watercolor Society, who met in parks where they could social distance, wear masks and paint on location.

“We met every Wednesday morning, June to October,” he said. “I really enjoyed that.”

Whitlock has taught art classes in Honolulu and Makawao, Maui, and completed teaching a five-session class on Mercer Island in early 2020. But plans to teach a second session were postponed due to the current pandemic.

He has considered teaching via Zoom, but what he likes most about teaching is the personal interaction with his students.

Painting the Pacific Northwest landscapes is far different from painting the sites in Hawaii.

“Here it’s about seeing the clouds,” he said. “It’s very different than the landscape of Hawaii.”

recognition at the Northwest Watercolor Society’s 2019 Signature Exhibition.

He also is proud of being selected to be part of the prestigious State of Hawaii Program for the Arts. The state secures art for public display from selected artists who live in Hawaii. He has seven paintings in that collection.

His favorite painting of all that he’s done “is the last one I’ve painted.”

“I do have some that I think are really good that I’ve kept for the ‘Whitman Family Collection,’” he added.

Whitlock admits that he goes through phases, sometimes wanting to paint landscapes and sometimes streetscapes. He feels lucky that he’s been able to travel and has painted scenes from many countries. Among those are England, Italy and Mexico.

Locally, he has painted collections of Edmonds, including local homes and architecture, Gas Works Park, Downtown Seattle,

Green Lake and other Seattle Neighborhoods. They can be viewed on his website.

Whitlock and his wife have a daughter and granddaughter who live in Edmonds but, as of yet, neither have shown a desire to paint.

“That’s the one advice I would give to anyone,” Whitlock said. “People often wait to begin taking on something new until they retire. They come into their passion so late. Get started before that and you’ll have a leg up.”

Many of his paintings are available for sale on his website, www.rogerwitlock.com, and he does show his works in coffee shops in the Edmonds area. He will paint commissions and his work varies in price but average \$350 for an 11-by-15-inch painting.

Most recently he has been spending time at Maxwellton Beach on Whidbey Island where he’s finding new scenes to paint.

“It’s just so quiet and beautiful there,” he said. “I feel so lucky to have this second career.”



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MAN, OH MAN

Creature comforts for the man cave

Story and photos by Brian Kelly

It's where the last frontier meets the call of the wild.

It's the safe space for the whiskered set.

It's the no-fly zone for throw pillows, crocheted doilies, and color-coordinated anything.

Yes, it's the man cave: that last bastion of Bro'dom.

Whether it's a garage, basement, den or spare bedroom, the manuary is a fortress of solitude that's, well, super, man.

The most difficult hurdle in the creation of any man cave — beyond, ahem, getting permission to have one — is how to outfit the male box. (Notice we said “outfit” and not “decorate.”)





You've already got the essentials: large-screen TV, air-hockey table, dart board, and battered-but-broken-in leather recliner, with split seams and tears held together by duct tape, the one your significant other says would look much better next to the curb with a "FREE" sign sitting in the seat.

But what about the rest; the doodads that dude-dads need to hang on the walls or scatter about the cave?

Sure, you could take the easy route to Amazon.com. But where's the spirit of adventure there, or the thrill of the hunt?

Instead, we galloped over to the Port Townsend Antique Mall for ideas and manly inspiration. It's at 802 Washington St., with two floors spanning 15,000 square

feet filled by what owner Frank Paoli says are 40 of the Olympic Peninsula's best dealers.

Wandering through the place, the man cave possibilities were man-mind boggling.

Consider, for the walls:

A stuffed antelope head. Mounted bull horns. Moose antlers. The port hole to a ship, glass included. Vintage car license plates, some dating back to the 1930s.

Other things to hang:

An authentic Sonics No. 42 Vin Baker sports jersey. Old-timey Coke signs. A neon Coors beer sign. A 19th century Mongolian/China animal-hide bronze decorated fighting/battle shield.

There's posters, too. Man-cave etiquette, however, requires posters to be limited to sports, rock bands, and manly movies.

In that last category, "manly" is key. No movie posters for "Enchanted," "Twilight," "Dirty Dancing," or "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" allowed on these hallowed walls.

At the Port Townsend Antique Mall, a quick search found a few worthy ones: "King of the Wild" (a poster from a 1931 movie where a prison escapee heads to Africa and meets Sheik Mustapha, aka Boris Karloff); a Porno for Pyros concert poster at the Olympic Velodrome from 1993 signed by TAZ (aka famed rock artist Jim Evans).

» *Continued on Page 32*

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Just to hang:

Large model airplanes, including a Nieuport 28 World War I biplane. The life ring from the vessel Oriol (Seattle). Railroad X-crossing signs from the 1920s.

For the mantel:

Beer steins, the real deal ones from breweries in Germany, including commemorative Maßkrugs from 1980s-era Oktoberfests in Munich. A Blatz beer tray from the 1950s. Wooden duck decoys. Tin soldiers and steel toy trucks. Boat propellers. A Detex Patrol watchclock. A brass port light from the ferry Defiance.

All on the floor:

A three-container gum-ball machine. A 1950s-era metal speaker stand (with two speakers that hang from a car window) from a drive-in movie theater.

For those ready to man-up their man caves, Port Townsend Antique Mall is currently open 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday. The mall can be reached at 360-379-8069.



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HOT TODDYS



By Jane Stebbins

Whomever came up with the idea of adding whiskey to their tea might have been intoxicated already, but they invented a beverage that has made hot toddys among the most popular wintertime drinks the world over.

Some iteration of it has been around for so many centuries, its origins are a little murky. Some say it was created in India during the 1600s and known as a tari, made with fermented palm sap and served cold. In the 1700s, while India was under British rule, the tari was officially recorded as a “beverage made of alcoholic liquor with hot water, sugar and spices.”

» *Continued on Page 34*

BASIC

¾ cup water
1½ ounces whiskey
2 to 3 teaspoons honey, to taste
2 to 3 teaspoons lemon juice, to taste
1 lemon round
1 cinnamon stick (optional, for garnish)

Bring the water to a simmer. Pour the hot water into a mug. Add the whiskey, honey and lemon juice. Stir until the honey has disappeared into the hot water. Taste; add honey for more sweetness or lemon juice for more zing. Garnish with a lemon round and cinnamon stick.

NEW YORK

2 ounces scotch or bourbon, rye, Irish whiskey, dark rum, cognac or amaro
¾ ounce light honey, such as acacia, or maple syrup (or 1 teaspoon Demerara sugar)
1 (3-inch) lemon peel
Cinnamon stick and whole star anise, to garnish (optional)

Boil water; set aside one minute. Pour out the water, add the spirit and honey to the warmed glass. Top with boiling water and stir until the honey is dissolved. Garnish with the lemon peel and cinnamon stick or star anise.

NEW ZEALAND

Juice of 1 lemon, plus a little zest
½ teaspoon grated fresh ginger
½ teaspoon grated fresh turmeric
Pinch cinnamon powder
Juice of half an orange
1 teaspoon manuka honey
Splash of whiskey

Put all ingredients in a large mug and top with boiling water. Stir well. Taste and adjust as necessary.



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» *Continued from Page 33*

As British trade routes expanded, the drink became popular in the United Kingdom and was subsequently used as a cure-all against the harsh rigors of winter.

It might have been refined in Scotland in the 1700s for women who didn't like the harsh, smoky flavor of Scotch. Some Scots believe it's not a real hot toddy unless it's made with water from Tod's Well in Edinburgh.

Others say an Irish doctor named Robert Bently Todd invented

the beverage to ward off illness. By the 19th century, the concoction was served throughout Europe and Colonial America, even though it doesn't have medicinal effects.

The Irish used hot whiskey, honey, herbs, tea and spices. In Ireland, Irish whiskey was the alcohol of choice. In Scotland, Scotch. In the U.S., the drink was served up with whatever was on hand, often brandy or rum. Today, it's usually whiskey.

Locally, most bars are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but each whip up a concoction of their

own for patrons who are dashing in out of the cold or rain for a quick respite.

Because it's so easy to make, the iterations are endless.

Nutmeg, cinnamon and ginger are used most often, but over the centuries, ingredients have included demerara or brown sugar, Angostura bitters, apple cider, vanilla — even egg.

You can either really mess this up or come up with the perfect concoction.

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