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HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

May - June 2017 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized

Sound Transit Update: Station Naming

By Kris Brannon

There were plenty of people at the latest Sound Transit Open House at Stadium High School where naming of the new platform stops along the Tacoma Link light rail extension were being discussed. The new 2.5 mile extension will have stops about every 1/2 mile.

These platforms are designed to have elements distinctive to Tacoma with long overhangs and many places to hang art. In keeping with a Tacoma theme the artwork for the platforms will be created by Kenji Hamai Stoll a local hilltop artist. The Sound Transit extension is set to begin construction in Summer of 2018 with an estimated end date of 2022. Once completed it should take 20 minutes one way and 45 minutes round trip.



Sound Transit is continuing its design process for the Tacoma Link Expansion. The 2.4-mile project extends Tacoma's light rail line and features seven new stations between the Theater District and Hilltop. We are now at the 60 percent design stage. Sound Transit will continue to engage the community throughout conceptual design and environmental review. Construction begins in 2018.

Visit the project website to view the latest information, subscribe to their email listserv and more: soundtransit.org/tacomalinkexpansion.

Contact: Allison Gregg, 206-398-5063 or allison.gregg@soundtransit.org

Hilltop Action Coalition

Hilltop Action Coalition is a community-based coalition and 501(c)3 nonprofit that is working to mobilize and empower diverse individuals, families, businesses and other public and community organizations to build a safe, clean, healthy resilient and united community.

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Interested in Writing?

Contact William Towey - toweyw@uw.edu to learn how to submit articles for consideration?

Grit City Baking on MLK

By Jenny Miller

Opening Soon in Hilltop, the Center of Everything!



COURTESY OF GRIT CITY BAKING

Grit City Baking Company hopes to start filling the air in Hilltop with the smells of freshly boiled bagels on June 1st at 1316 Martin Luther King Jr Way. These won't just be your run-of-the-mill bagels you can pick up at any grocery store, these will be kettle boiled, New York style, fresh from the oven, traditionally made bagels.

Editor of the Hilltop Action Journal William Towey recently spoke with co-owners, Jessica and Peter DeVisser, to learn more about their vision for the bakery and for the Hilltop community.

Community Building

One of Grit City's main objectives is community building. Pastor Steel of Allen AME told Peter, "You focus on being a good business,

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HAC President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

It's a very exciting time in the Hilltop right now and I'm extremely grateful to be a part of this amazing work being done. The Hilltop Action has long been invested in building a strong community in partnership with many other organizations. We have been moving forward with keeping a nearly 30 year legacy of love and passion for the Hilltop alive and I would love for you to join us at our inaugural luncheon on May 19th at Peace Community Center as we celebrate being "rooted" in the community. This is a great event for us to come together and lift up the many successes that HAC has had over the years, and the strong coalitions being formed to continue moving our community into bigger and better things.

Community is a very powerful word and it becomes more powerful when we seek to include everyone and not just a select few. When all members of the community come together, the power becomes unlimited. The change, or transformation, that occurs from the entire community is something greater than just what a small group or an individual can achieve.

The Hilltop is becoming a more diverse community. We have people of all ages and backgrounds who are skilled in different areas. By working together, having our elders mentor our young people, young people inspiring our elders, and supporting those in need, we all give fully. Only together, as a community can we go beyond our individual means.



PHOTO CREDIT 2

Every person in this community has something to offer. One may be a small business owner. Another may be a community organizer. Some artists, and others teachers, but as we share what matters to us and work together on how to find common understanding and solutions to some of the challenging things coming our way, then we become a more unified community.

Usually we see communities come together when they stem from a cause or disaster. The Hilltop is a great example of a community coming together because we want to. We need these sorts of pure motives to nurture genuine

communities. What they will create will be something remarkable. How do I know this? Because if they didn't come together, nothing would happen.

Let us continue to lift each other up, hold each other accountable, ask those tough questions even when it may make us uncomfortable, for it is these very things that will help the Hilltop be a more unified, healthy and dynamic place to live, work and play.

In service,



Living Stones Prison Ministry

By Teresa Jackson

Living Stones Prison Ministry is a congregation within the walls of Washington Correction Center. The ministry proudly proclaims a gospel of grace and love to men in a place of bondage and solitude. Living Stones is a ministry of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA.

Below is a message from the ministries pastor, Norm Arnold.

Living Stones Fellowship exploration has been approved by Living Stones Board. This means that Living Stones ministry will be

looking to start a dinner and worship in the Fall of this year, but before this begins we need to listen to and hear your desires. My hope, as Pastor of Living Stones is to offer a dinner and worship service for those who can't attend or are uncomfortable with attending a more traditional service. My hope is that you might feel comfortable at a Sunday prayer and meal and service in the evening. Come to one or two or all (prayer, meal, worship). I see this as an "Agape" or love meal that was celebrated by the early Christian Church. In addition we are

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Hilltop Action Journal

Publisher

Corey Mosesly

Editor

William Towey

Photographer

Raimundo Jurado

Guest Writers

Kris "Sonics Guy" Brannon
Scott Hollis
Monica Cysensky
Hally Bert
Jenny Miller
Chelsea Lindquist
Teresa Jackson

Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Safety through Community Policing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Sustain and Value Existing Community Organizations
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Peoples Center as a Cultural Hub of Information & Programs
- Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library
- Community Journalism
- Keep Homes Affordable for Seniors and People with Fixed Incomes

Interested in Writing?

Contact William Towey - toweyw@uw.edu to learn how to submit articles for consideration?

Area Wide Meetings:

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William Towey
toweyw@uw.edu



Fighting Back: Against Senior Abuse and Fraud

By Monica Cysensky

Senior abuse, both financial and physical has been on the rise. Through education and a multifaceted approach Pierce County has taken a stance against Senior abuse, both financial and physical has been on the rise. Through education and a multifaceted approach Pierce County has taken a stance against these scams.

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), elder financial abuse and fraud cost Americans \$36.5 billion each year. Pierce County now takes an active stance.

Due to the nature of scams and financial abuse targeting the elderly, many people do not report the crime. The NCOA predicts that 1 in every 14 cases of elder abuse in any form go unreported. Either because they don't know a crime has been committed, because they are embarrassed or don't know who to go to.

In actuality someone could be giving away money very easily. For example, someone buys a "miracle vitamin or supplement" that scientifically doesn't work. However, the

person targeted is continuously emptying their pockets to get the benefits that don't actually exist.

One of the best ways to avoid these scams? Hang up! Mark Lindquist, Pierce County Prosecutor says that "the IRS is never going to call and demand immediate payment or threaten you with jail. Hang up."

When financial advisors or someone besides yourself deals with your money, it could be easy for a con person to continue padding their vacation fund with your hard earned dollars. This unfortunately happens in several different scamming situations. People of all ages can fall victim to those who don't want the best for you and your family.

Recently "Pierce County has been awarded \$370,985 from the Department of Justice to support a comprehensive approach to addressing elder abuse." Hopefully this will continue to cause a drastic drop in all forms of elder abuse in the 253.

Lindquist started a program to better protect seniors in Pierce County. He says a few years ago he partnered with "Crime Stoppers to raise awareness about elder abuse, both financial abuse and physical abuse." His office has teamed up with law enforcement and other local organizations to put this crime to rest.

The recently formed group is called The Elder Abuse Unit. It has gathered financial professionals, doctors and many others. Their aim is to create a group of individuals that can help with all aspects of senior abuse. This allows for a deeper level of investigation, and multifaceted support for someone who has been taken advantage of.

Lindquist says Elder abuse is under-reported, and the cases present unique challenges, thus the formation of the Elder Abuse Unit.

One of the many goals is to provide substantial evidence in cases where the defendant claims, that the person knowingly gave them the money. Financial experts can assess spending patterns and essentially prove that the person was not likely to spend the money they are being accused of.

According to the Washington State Attorney General, people over 50 account for over 50% of scamming victims. This is why it's important to be educated. The "Department of Justice has shown that consumer education can reduce an older person's likelihood of being victimized by more than 50 percent."

Luckily, several authorities in the Pierce County Prosecutor's office including Mark Lindquist, offer education. So far they have talked to "well over 100 groups, including assisted living facilities, senior centers, Rotaries, Kiwanis, service providers, bankers and others" says Lindquist. He urges those who are interested in a group education to contact the Pierce County Prosecutor's office.

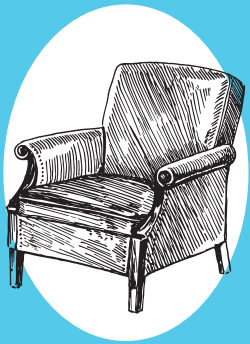
Other resources include Adult Protective Services as well as Pierce County Human Services. AARP also has a vast amount of literature and resources available.

Photo Stream Hilltop Carnival & Events

by Raimundo Jurado



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO **SELL?**



RETIRED
FURNISHINGS



OBJETS
D'ART



LIGHTLY USED OR
NEW CLOTHING



EARTHLY
DELIGHTS



MYSTERY
ITEMS?

Bring your goods to the

HILLTOP **STREET** **SALE**

Registration is free for all

Becoming a vendor is easy and FREE! If you or

someone you know is interested in having a booth at

the Hilltop Street Sale, contact Brittani Flowers at

bflowers@tacomahousing.org or 253.448.2773



**The Sale will happen
Saturday June 24th from
12PM to 4PM at the old
Key Bank, South 11th
and L Street.**



Speak Up! Hilltop Should Reflect You

By Hally Bert

Tacoma is changing quickly. Now, more than ever, it is time to stand up for what you value. It is exciting and sometimes frustrating to see new things popping up all around town. The how, when, and why involved in each project can be hard to find. With private projects, city projects, and regional transportation projects, it is time-consuming and daunting to find information related to each plan.

Downtown On the Go is your resource and advocate on issues related to livability, walking, biking, and transit. We are an independent nonprofit and we work with The City of Tacoma, Pierce Transit, and The Chamber of Commerce to bring you events and programs that make Tacoma a better place to be and to help you get around. We want to connect you to the decision makers leading the projects that are changing the shape of our downtown.

Neighbors are what make neighborhoods, community members fuel community, and it is the people in Tacoma that make this city worth living in. For that reason, the new development in Hilltop and in downtown should reflect YOU! Your City Council members are

direct representation and not only on City matters. Local elected officials sit on the boards of Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, and other regional development agencies.

Sharing the story of your neighborhood or Tacoma experience is the most powerful tool in creating change. Elected officials must act at the will of their constituents. It is through a collection of personal accounts that they build an agenda. What is your story? And how do you get your story in front of you elected official?

Speak up! When you tell your elected your story you can shape the future of your community.

1. Start small. Share your experience in Hilltop with friends, family, and coworkers. Practicing your message in a trusting community will lead to a clear message when you are in front of City Council. More importantly, when you connect a face, a life, and a story to a neighborhood, empathy and understanding grows.

2. Citizens' Forum is the second Tuesday of every month at City Council. People are able to comment on anything that City Council has



jurisdiction over. Just sign up at the start of the meeting (5 p.m.). When they call your name, you will have three minutes to address council. Council can also be contacted by phone, through email, and one on one meetings.

3. There are other ways to get involved with specific projects. Sound Transit will be hosting open houses in early April. Hilltop community members will have the opportunity to weigh in on station names and designs. They will be back in the summer to present and gather feedback about the final design for the Link expansion. There will be many opportunities to provide feedback on the Link and street-scape

design. There will opportunity to provide feedback on-line as well.

Whether it is with your friends, at work, at church, at a public meeting, or City Council, when we share stories about our neighborhood with more people we become a more connected Tacoma. The changes coming to our City can be great for everyone if we all work together in listening to and sharing stories.

Hally Bert is a coordinator at Downtown On the Go, the downtown transportation resource and advocate.

Join us May 19 for Bike to Work Day! Bike by Manifesto Coffee for a free cup of coffee and bike love from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Thank you to Site Crafting and Sprague Pest Solutions for sponsoring.

...Continued

Living Stones Prison Ministry

looking at ways to meet the needs of Hilltop community through job stability, housing, and other means. So let me tell you a little about myself and the ministry.

I am an ordained minister of word and sacrament through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and currently serve at a congregation made up of incarcerated men at Washington Corrections Center in Shelton. In my conversations with those I serve and through prayer, I understand greater opportunities need to be afforded to people who live in the Hilltop area. I desire to offer "Pathways of Hope" to the people of Hilltop, especially the youth, who see their current life trajectory having negative consequences and want a different future.

Far too often today's youth and families feel hopeless and struggle to meet basic needs. I hope, with your help, that we might improve our community through providing job skill training, stable employment, and affordable housing to those who desire a more secure future. I will be spending time in your neighborhood over the next weeks and months listening to your hopes and desires as well as your needs. I hope jointly we might produce a plan that makes our community more safe and secure by providing a hope and a future. This, from my understand, will only manifest with God's help and I will continue to ask God for direction.

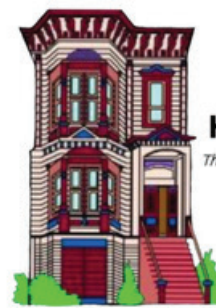
I am excited to begin this process with you and to see what God will do with those who are willing to "step into the void." I expect God will do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or even imagine.

If I don't have an opportunity to talk with you directly, then know that

you can contact me through Peace Lutheran Church and their pastor, The Reverend John Stroeh.

God Bless You,
Pastor Norm
Reverend Norm Arnold

In each issue of our Hilltop Journal an article will appear highlighting a faith community on Hilltop. A bit of their history, a description of the people involved in their ministry, and their ministry's outreach and/or impact on our community might be included. If you are connected to a faith community that you would like to let our community know about, please let us know. Contact the Hilltop Action Coalition office to learn more.



Hilltop Action Coalition
The Communications Anchor of the Hilltop Area

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and Journal Distribution**



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1814 S Martin Luther King Jr Way
Tacoma, WA 98405
(253) 383-7144



Southern Kitchen
Southern Restaurant
1716 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA
(253) 627-4282



Pho King
Thai Restaurant
1716 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA
(253) 272-6287



Le-Le
Thai Restaurant
1012 M.L.K. Jr Way, Tacoma
(253) 572-9491



Quickie Too
Vegetarian Restaurant
1324 Martin Luther King Jr Way,
Tacoma (253) 572-4549

POEMS & SHORT STORIES



WRITING CHALLENGE

The Hilltop Action Coalition is so pleased to publish the submissions for the 2025 Vision Writing Competition. Students from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades at McCarver, Stanley, & Bryant amazed us with their response and so we printed them all! Our Hilltop students are simply brilliant!! Special thanks to all those involved in this amazing project. Join us in community at the People's Park on June 17 from noon to 4pm for the Vision 2025 Literary Festival for funs, games, & awards ceremony for the contest winners.

The Zoo That Came True

It might look like a dump
Or a big lump
To you
No place to have a zoo
Or we could,
If we look past that old gym shoe
Or someone could do kung fu,
But it would be good to do a zoo for Sue
And two years later
The zoo came to life. It's true.
(Casey - Grade 5)

Beauty in Hilltop

Hilltop has beauty, you know
It just might be a little different from what you think
It has...
Brown crunchy grass
Darkish leaves to stomp in
Rain that pours on your head
Trees to climb on
And that's
The beauty of Hilltop
(Elise - Grade 3)

Finally Did it!

Once again, I strike out against my coach's pitches, not able to knock one to even the infield, the closest thing, a foul tip. As I'm playing catch with one of my teammates, the two pitchers on the team are practicing. Our coach wants to see one of them pitch against the kids. "Mmmm... Uhhh... you!" my coach stutters as he points at me. What? Me? Why did he choose me? I was the worst kid on my team, after being the best the previous year. I go up to the batter's box, ready to fail, yet again. The pitch. I don't swing. It's ball one outside. Next pitch. I swing and miss. It's a strike. Here we go again! I thought. The next pitch. I swing. I smack it out to deep left field! Yes! "That would probably be an infield homer!" Says my coach. So apparently I must just do badly against my coach... Weird... I never felt intimidated. Oh well... I hit it! And it's not gonna be my coach pitching! It will be some kid! Suddenly I felt more confident. And most of all excited. "Okay, game Saturday!" Says my coach when practice is finally over.
(Harlan - Grade 4)

Hilltop's Future History

2025. The future of Hilltop, nobody knows... what will happen? The beginning of the end, the end of the beginning. Like me, it will not stay the same.

My school, McCarver Elementary, is new, but also old. Renovated about six months ago, it is the daily education spot for many students and, of course, me, also growing up with Hilltop after stressful days and nights in the Park Place neighborhood.

I am in TLC and attend one hour daily regiments of general education, having gone through three schools that were not a fit: Fawcett, Roosevelt, Stanley. At last, McCarver.

Whatever happens, I know I can rely on Hilltop.

I feel, in 2025, Hilltop will be more loved, more like its intention. An incentive is what the readers think I'm hinting at, but it is not that. It is not about profit, but determination. The only incentive is Hilltop itself. I believe in a future foundation of support for Hilltop. Foundations of support are not plentiful, in fact there are very few compared to those only caring for and supporting themselves. Hilltop supported me and, no matter what, I will support Hilltop. The real money-maker is what is in the heart...
(Ellis - Grade 4)

Hilltop Beauty

Hilltop beauty is
Bright green trees
Blue skies
Cars buzzing by
Brown grass
Crunching under your bare feet
Red and yellow leaves
On the ground
A light layer of frost
Covering the rocks
And the wind whipping your face
And all the while
You are thinking
What is this place?
Hilltop
(Phineas - Grade 3)

Hilltop Litter

Hilltop. The Hilltop with crime and litter. It has been this way for a while, and nobody's done anything about it. People live in this neighborhood- they should have a clean neighborhood to live in!

I'm Luna, and I live in the Hilltop area. But I'm nine. I can't do anything about it! I go on walks every morning, and look at all the trash. But again, I can't do anything!

Two weeks later...

I'm starting to pick up trash. Every day on my walk I bring my wagon, and some gloves. I pick up all the garbage I see. I hung up flyers and said that meetings were at my address, on Sundays from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM. No body shows up, but I still pick up trash.

Three Days Later...

A 10 year old girl and her grandfather decided, since they live here, they should help clean up the area.

One Week Later...

Over 50 people have come! They help pick up trash and report crimes. I guess when I said I can't do anything, I was wrong. Anyone can do something. So this is what 2025 is like.
(Samiksha - Grade 4)

The Light in Hilltop

With one turn, and one light
You're in the neighborhood of
Cherry trees,
And book stores and other things like that
The colors I adore
The houses
Shops
And trees and more
Are what is beautiful in the light of hilltop.
(Solomon - Grade 3)

The Day the Ivy Invaded

Mason Miller was an average student at Poole Elementary School. Mason was in Mrs. Poole's class. No, it is not a coincidence that Mrs. Poole and the school have the same name. Mrs. Poole was the best teacher EVER. Mason loved his teacher, he loved his class room, and most of all he loved to draw the ivy that grew through the window. One day something unexpected happened. The ivy started growing really fast. It grew toward an unsuspecting student and swallowed him instantly! Every one screamed! Mrs. Poole got on the phone. Mason couldn't hear her over the yelling. By this time three students had been swallowed by the ivy. "Who was she calling?" "Ahhhhhhhh!" Another kid was swallowed. Suddenly the windows shattered. A giant pair of hedge clippers appeared. "Got your call!" said the hedge clippers to Mrs. Poole. The hedge clippers cut the ivy. The battle was won! "Hip-hip hooray!" yelled all the remaining kids.
(Evan - Grade 5)

The Girl Who Screamed the Truth

I was running faster. They were gaining on me. I could hear my breath, I could not go any faster. They were there, right behind me. A hand reached out.

"AAAH" I was in my bed, had that all been a dream? I got dressed. "Mom!" I yelled, "what's for breakfast?"

"Cereal," my mom replied. I ran downstairs.

"No," I said, "I don't want that."

"Too bad," she said.

Later when I was at school I was walking down the hall when someone screamed, "Loser!" She was talking to me.

I ran. A teacher stopped me. "What are you doing? Go to the principal's office!" she demanded.

The principal was not impressed. She told me I had detention and she was calling my mom. After school I sat in math class for detention. A teacher walked in. She was escorting a kid. "Sit," she said.

"But..." It was the girl who yelled loser.

"You got caught as well," I said. She sneered. Detention felt like hours but it was 30 minutes. As I was walking home I heard someone say, "Lesbian." What? How did she know that?
(Elizabeth - Grade 5)

Super Powers Come and Go

There was a magical dandelion. I blew the dandelion. One day in the afternoon my mom told me to run some errands. The errands were go to the store and check the mail so I ran out the house and for some reason went really really fast. The time I went to the store and got candy for me. I got cooking things for baking and stuff for chicken, corn, burgers and other stuff for another day. When I went home I noticed I had super strength and was holding a bag.

The next day at school it was a science test and a math test and I was super smart. The next day I passed the test. My mom and teacher were surprised. "My teacher was excited". After school I went to the library and read six chapter books a day.

One day I was taking another test, and the first three questions were easy. Then my mind went blank! I didn't know any more questions so I guessed the rest. I went from 100% to 25%. I dropped 75%. I was ashamed of myself, so was everyone else, especially my mom. The end. (LaVhantae - Grade 5)

Monster

One time there was a monster. They both was a monster. They were driving truck and they were both mean. They love to steal stuff and the very bad monster. Then when go to the woods I saw the sign and it said, "Don't touch my stuff." Then when I touch it the hole open it up. Then I fall into. Then "Look" I herd something in the kitchen. Then peeked in. Then I herd them. I herd them talking. Then I said, "Why are you guys stealing stuff?" Then I saide, "You guys put that stuff back." Then that how the story ends. The end. Thank you for watching this on youtube. (Javayah)

Lollipop Princess. Ice Princess.

Once upon a time there was a Lollipop Princess and Ice Princess. They both have powers! Lollipop has long rainbow hair and orange eyes. Ice Princess has long blue hair and blue eyes and blue nails.

Once there was a girl Adya. She wishes she could be a Lollipop Princess. There was also a girl named Vy. She wanted to be an Ice Princess. And there wish came true! Lolli was short for Lollipop. The other princess Ice. People caller Elsa. Elsa super powers were freezing things, water, she can walk and breath under water, Lolli super power is turn thing in to candy, invisibility, and strong!

There was a bad girl named boo boo. She had no powers and she wanted Lolli and Elsa powers! Boo Boo has a friend named KiKi and Ki Ki helped Boo Boo try to take Elsa and Lollipopers, but Lolli and Elsa beat Boo Boo and Ki Ki. They lived happy ever after. THE END (Adya & Vy)

Epic Story

Once there was an epic story of 3 kids named Ozzi, Josh and Albert. Albert blew a wish and then he turn into a Superhero. His power is turn animals into teleportation. Teleportation is cool. My teammates are animals in the day and come out at night. There supper is stop crime then the world will be safe. (Ozzi, Albert & J.C.)

The Wish & the Sparkaly Pink Cat

Once upon a time their was a butiful majical princess. She had a majical Dandelion. It was pink. Once day she was staring at her Dandelion and she wished that she had a sparkaly pink cat. The next day she work up. A sparkaly pink cate was next to her bed. She go so exited she hugged the cat and told her mom and she said "The cate is your responsibility." The princess named the cat Fluffy. (Laloni & Alex)

Hawaii

Hawaii is my favorite. I have been to Hawaii. Hawaii is my favorite dance. I want to go back to Hawaii. The end. (Eslinda - Grade 2)



McCarver Submissions

Athletic, nice, gamer, smart
Brother of Kaylee
Lover of Colorado, history, and games
who feels excited when I play games, and sad when I cannot go outside
Who needs games, a laptop, and Rap music
Who gives food, toys to other people and hugs to my family
who fears bees, planes, and volcanoes
Who would like to go to South Korea, California, and heaven
Resident of Pueblo Colorado
Johnson Ferrier
(Syris - Grade 3)

My name is A'mya and I am on Fire
I have two siblings and they are all older, sometimes I am better and even more bolder.
I am the kid of my mom and we are both super calm
I am good in math
I am always good in school and so I take the right path.
(A'mya - Grade 4)

My name is Glean and I want to show my poem
I describe myself as a cool, funny, good looking, sweet kid
I have three brothers and two sisters
I am the son of LeRoy Booker Jr. and the son of Breondra Irvin Booker
I love my entire family because they do all these nice stuff for me
I feel love, compassion and careless
I need love a house and money
I share sweetness, careless, and books
I fear spiders and horror movies
I want to go to Legoland, Disney world and have a Harry Potter marathon
Resident of Torrance California
(Glean - Grade 4)

Amayia
Kind, fun, nice, and smart
Sister of Heaven
Lover of spaghetti, books, sister and brothers
Who feels happy when I read and cry from sad movies, happy to feel
Who needs books, food, and more books
Who gives, books, love, and care
who fears spiders, bugs
who likes to cook and read books
Resident of Tacoma Washington
(Amayia - Grade 5)

Jamine
Independent, kind, caring, curious
Daughter of Myrah, Eric, and Jade
Lover of McDonalds, money and Bacon
Who feels love for family, kindness for siblings, and smart with fractions
Who needs wifi, desserts, and money and gold
who gives money to donations, kisses to dogs , and love to parents
Who fears spiders, dark and clowns
who would like to go to Dubai, buy a bugatti and own a dirt bike
resident of Tacoma, Washington
(Jasmine - Grade 5)

James
kind, nice, safe
brother of three sisters
lover of McDonalds, tablets and phones
Who feels kind, nice, and honest
Who needs games and a phone
Who gives food, money, and books to those in need
Who fears spiders, monsters, and the dark
Who would like to play and read and search maps
resident of Tacoma, Washington
(James)

Eslinda
smart, nice, kind, pretty
sister of Lia, jayden, jason, emma, and emmet
lover of mom and dad
who feels happy
who needs love
who gives dollars to those in need
who fears spiders
Who would like to do math, read my books and do my homework
resident of Tacoma, Washington
(Eslinda - Grade 2)

Omari
smart and kind
brother of Andre
lover of video games, mom and dad and sports
who feels happy, calm and relaxed
who needs money, cable, and pets
who gives food to those in need
who fears spiders
who would like to do math, reading and play
resident of Tacoma, Washington
(Omari)

Laloni
weird, intelligent, silly and cool
sister of nikki and david
lover of long walks on the beach, pink roses and cats
who feels passionate about cats and my family, and especially passionate about kittens
who needs wifi, food, and pizza
who gives love, presents and hugs
who fears spiders, clowns and cob webs
who would like to see the Grand canyon and be a singer and a veterinarian
resident of Tacoma, Washington
(Laloni)

Spring
Spring makes me think of beauty
beauty makes me think of the globe
the globe makes me think of love
Love makes me think of helpfulness
Helpfulness makes me think of litter
Litter makes me think of policemen
Police men make me think of safety
Safety makes me think of my family
Family makes me think of the peoples center
and the peoples center makes me think of spring!
(Alyx)

Alexandria
funny, silly, and smart, and a little mean

sister of anna, and juan
lover of feeding my bunnies, playing with my brother, and drawing
Who feels sad when theres nothing to do, happy when I get to draw
who needs my family and my bunnies
who gives my snacks and shares my toys with others
Who fears chunky and heights
who would like to travel to New York City and go to my moms
Resident of Tacoma Washington
(Alexandria - Grade 2)

Haiku for Spring
Spring is very warm
Spring is also very cold
Spring is awesome
(Natalia - Grade 5)

The Civil War
The civil war is the deadliest war in U.S. history.
Confederates versus the Union
Slaves were the main idea of the war
States like Texas, Arkansas, Florida were confederates
States like New York, New Jersey, California were Union
1861-1865
(Syris - Grade 3)

Harry Potter Haiku
Voldemort deep sleep
Harry Potter can't wake up
Potions, cool, sparkly
(Omari)

Spring
Flowers remind me of my mom
My mom makes me think of smiles
Smiles make me think of my friends
My friends make me think of spring
(Vy)
Adya
Funny, nice, smart, hardworking
daughter of mommy and daddy
lover of mom and dad, school and the Eiffel Tower, and food and toys
Who feels happy and sad
Who needs family, the earth and my friends
Who gives love to family and food to those in need
Who fears zombies, scary things and the dark
Who would like to do anything, go to Hawaii, and try every good in the world
Resident of Tacoma, Washington
(Adya)

Serenity
hurt, happy, and mad
Daughter of Malissa
lover of Ms. Ellingson and Vy
who feels hurt now and happy when someone is nice to me
Who needs my mom and dad and vy
who give smiles and love to my mom and Vy and smiles to Alexandria
Who fears snakes, monsters and alexandria
who would like to have fun and play forever and go to Hawaii
Resident of Tacoma Washington
(Serenity)

Albert
funny and crazy
lover of comedians, books, my mom, dad and brother
who feels every pain
who needs my mom and Marquan
who fears the dark, the hole and clowns
who would like to be a comedian, an FBI agent
Resident of Tacoma Washington
(Albert)

Nguyell
Happy, funny, nice, and smart
Cousin of red
Lover of my mom and dad and Harry Potter
Who feels good when I read, sad when theres nothing to do
who needs nothing
who gives hugs and smiles
who fears clowns and fire
who would like to be a Doctor
Resident of Tacoma Washington
(Nguyell)

Rainiers Opening Day

By Kris Brannon



There are no more hopeful words in all of sports than Opening Day. The anticipation for a new season and endless possibilities is one of the annual attractions of a new season for any sports fan. Well the Rainiers who are the Pacific Coast League, Pacific Northern Division Champions took it one step further and made it an opening homestand.

The season opener was amazing from the start as pitcher Christian Bergman threw for five scoreless innings, striking out seven batters in the process. Meanwhile, Tyler O'Neil and Gordon Beckham both homered helping to give the Rainiers a 7-2 win in game one of the homestand. Wednesday was postponed because of rain, which made Thursday a doubleheader during which they split the games with each team winning one. Interesting fact — in the PCL doubleheader games are only 7 inning games. The homestand saw the Rainiers win in some very close contests including the last game of the homestand that saw former World Series champion Jean Machi throw the heat to preserve the win and get the save (4-3). The Rainiers went 6-1 in their first home stand. Hopefully this is a sign of a strong future for the coming season — as hope springs eternal for Tacoma fans.



The Rainiers have a strong social media presence. For tickets or additional information they can be reached on their facebook page or at Tacomarainiers.com

Mr. Mac 90th birthday receives proclamation



The Hilltop Business Association took time out of its monthly meeting to celebrate Morris McCollum. Who everyone on the Hilltop affectionately calls Mr. Mac on his 90th birthday. Mr. Mac owns the longest standing business in the Hilltop. The event took place at Allen AME Church. There was a beautiful cake along with a proclamation from the Mayor and city council honoring Mr. Mac that was presented to him by Councilman Keith Blocker. Mr. Mac said "It's been a wonderful life. I wouldn't trade it for anything."



The World I Love

I walk through the world I live in where I see family's playing with newborns in there warm cozy houses and when I look in I see a beautiful world I live in. I see
(Blaine)

Time

"Finding Beauty Wherever You Are "
6:51
Happiness feels like a ton.
6:52
What do I want to do?
6:53
Who do I want to be?
6:54
I need to find my core.
6:55
I have a passion that thrives.
6:56
I have an idea that clicks.
6:57
My life is being driven.
6:58
I have a lot on my plate.
6:59
This life is mine.
7:00
Where will I go from here?
(Madelyn - Grade 3)

Wizard of Hilltop

Hi I'm Joe Hilltop. I'm 13 years old wizard and I live in Tacoma, Washington. I have dark blond hair and a Star Wars like robe and black shoes. Today I went on a walk to this cool chicken farm that I go to every weekend because I like to play with the chickens. Today wasn't like the other days. There was only one baby chicken there.

I didn't know what to do so I decided to take the chick home. Right before I left I saw a hole in the fence so I went to see if the chickens were there. They weren't. I went a little further until I found a trail.

I followed the trail for a little while until I found a place with no color. I went around to take a look. No one looked happy and no one would talk. I decided to try to cheer them up by singing. It didn't work so I made that land a happy

land. I put pink flowers, green trees, buzzing bees and colorful cars. I named it HILLTOP.
(Thomas - Grade 3)

The Magical Dandelion

If I had a magical dandelion I would wish for all the powers in the world, and would use these Superpowers for good. Like, for example, if somebody was getting robbed I would help them to not get robbed. Or if was in the forest, I would use my powers to make a fire, to cook food in the wild. I would cook camping food like hot dogs and marshmallows and steak or even chicken. I would also use my powers to get myself water if I was in the desert. I would save anyone who needed help and be the best superhero in the world.
(Omari - Grade 5)

I Can Fly!

I got a dandelion, blew it and my wish came true. Now I can fly, and flied everywhere and flew so high I touched an airplane. After that I made a lot of paper airplanes and threw them in the air and everyone around me started throwing the paper airplanes in the air. One even hit a bird and then feathers started to rain. Everybody started acting crazy, and someone even jumped in a pond.
(Nguyen)

When I Became a Superhero!

I found a dandelion, blew it and I wished that was a superhero and I had super strength!!
(Omari - Grade 2)

The Legend of the Dandelion

Once upon a time, there was a dandelion. The dandelion was so big and strong, it had a nice green strong stem, and a beautiful grey hairs upon the top. You could not guess what it was like unless you were living it. It was a blue skied, sunny day. As I woke up hopped out of bed and walked across my wooden floor. My feet were so cold, it felt like I had stepped on an iceberg. Brrr, as I was walking I saw my most beautiful shirt. It said "Smile dandelion, and keep on movin'" It had a picture of the most beautiful dandelion on it, before I could I quickly grabbed the shirt off my yellowish hanger and smiled in-

nocently. I brushed my shaggy bangs out of my face and blinked fastly, Once I was done putting on my shirt I looked for some black pants. As I was looking I saw some yellow sparkly pants and put them striaght on. It was so nice outside and I wanted to hurry and get there. So, I ran out the door and into the wet glossy green grass. As I was about to jog in the grass I saw the most awesomest thing ever it was the strongest dandelion, I was thinking of picking it, but it will die if I do. But, it looked so good, so I just had to. Once I picked it on the count of 3 I blew and made my wish. I wished to have the nicest house in the world, and kapposh there it was, my purple house, as big as the white house. My house had 2 pantries, 3 staircases, 5 bathrooms, and 9 bedrooms. I plan to let my friends live at my new home. Our house will be super great! and there you have it; the legend of the dandelion!
(A'maya - Grade 4)

The Battle of Fort Sumter

One day I was thinking about the Civil War. My friend told me to blow a dandelion for a wish. I found one and took it. I said "I wish to go back to Fort Sumter." There was a moment of silence..."Huh?" A union soldier appeared."hello" said the soldier. "Hi" I said. Darkness appeared, two lines were walking through. Two soldiers from each line brought cannons to the sideline. "Fire" said a rebel, I ran through the grass, cannons boomed everywhere. I ran out a union soldier and went to the underground railroad. "Back to the north" I said. The war is still going on but I am safe. The End
(Syris - Grade 3)

The Prince and the Dandelion

Once upon a time there was a prince. This prince was super rich. But, he did not like his life. So, he ran away and found a place to rest. He saw a dandelion and wished for the love of his life and to not live like such a prince, although he was. He woke up, he was in an apartment building. He woke up again, he was back in the dandelion field. He got up and walked back to his castle. When he walked in, his little sister ran to him crying she said, "Where have you been?" and the prince said, "I was just out taking a breath of fresh air." His parents ran in and screamed, "IT DOES NOT TAKE THAT LONG TO GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR RONALDO, YOU ARE GROUNDED!" But deep, deep, down in-

side the prince new that his wish would come true, and it did!

TO BE CONTINUED...
(Jasmine - Grade 5)

Magical

Once upon a time there was a magical land. Far far away from where we are now. It was a secret land that nobody new about except for the pepol who lived there. They were really nice pepol. But they had to ern their magical powers. Pepol worked really hard to get their magical powers. Some pepol worked their whole lives trying to earn their magical powers but never got them. The end.
(Leana - Grade 3)

Blue Ringed Octopus

There was a guy named Ira. He was a homeschooled boy. His dad's dream was to find a blue ringed octopus. But one day his dad had died. And he never got to follow his dream.

So Ira said, "I need to make his dream come true". So Ira went and got his dad's boat and got some supplies and set out to sea. He was at sea for a few days and the first day he got a little sea sick and accidently vomited in the sea. The next day he realized he forgot about how he's gonna go to the bathroom. But luckily there was a bathroom in the bottom of the boat. And at the end of the day Ira goes to the bottom of the boat and falls asleep. He wakes up the next and eats all his rations and was crying because he didn't make his dad's dream come true. And then he goes to bed.

The next morning he wakes up and finds a little bit of rations in his bag and eats it and goes throughout his day and it became dark out and stormy and he starts crying cause he knows he has to make his way back home in the morning. But he suddenly looks out in a distance. He sees a dandelion and blows it saying he wants his dad's dream to come true.

A few seconds later he sees a blue ringed octopus coming towards him. He starts crying but happy cries and got his disposable camera and took pictures and we went home the next morning. He goes home happy that he fulfilled his dad's dream. The end.
(Natalia - Grade 5)

Tiny Homes for the Homeless

By Chelsea Lindquist



Bates Technical College Carpentry program gives back to community, builds tiny home for homeless

The tiny home trend is not just for those who want to downsize their living space. These homes are also shelters for those experiencing homelessness. This year, Washington's Workforce Board put together a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Showcase of Skills Homeless Shelter Project competition to help build tiny homes for those in need, while providing a valuable learning opportunity for CTE students across the state.

Bates Technical College's Carpentry program was one of 25

teams from high schools and colleges across the state who built a portable, energy efficient homeless shelter for the showcase, which was held in March at the Capitol Campus.

"Students spent eight weeks building our tiny home, which features four beds for a family or a single parent with children looking for work," said Dan Smith, Carpentry program instructor. "Our Electrical Construction program installed wiring for a light and two outlets in case the occupants need to charge their phone or laptop, which would be useful for someone who needed to type up a resume," he said.

The project was truly a group effort. "The students enrolled in the Architectural Woodworking



and Cabinetmaking program handcrafted a folding desk and a dresser so they can have storage space for clothes and a nice place for kids to do homework, if needed," he said.

In addition to solar panels, the house featured a three-foot-wide deck with a railing, a flower box, and a mailbox.

"The students had fun with this project! We purchased cushions,

sheets and window treatments to make the home more inviting," said Smith, who added that funding for the house came from the CTE event coordinators and the college's Foundation.

"We're honored to have been a part of this project," said Smith. "Our main goal was to create a welcoming home that was warm and inviting, rather than a shed-like. We built a tiny home that was as

open as possible, without being too confining. I am proud of our students who accomplished that," he said.

The tiny homes were transported to Seattle's North 88th Street Tiny Home Village for use as transitional housing for homeless people.

More information on the event is available at www.wtb.wa.gov/CTEHomelessHouseProject.asp and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTEShowcaseofSkills/.



"When I found out about the Technical High School at Bates, I knew this was the perfect opportunity to do something that spoke to me."

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Bates Technical College is an equal opportunity and non-discriminatory employer and educational institution.

More Affordable Housing Planned for the Hilltop

By Scott Hollis

It's been said that Tacoma is the housing bargain of the West Coast—and the Hilltop is the housing bargain of Tacoma. The statistics back this up, too. According to Zillow.com, the median price per square foot of a Tacoma home is a whopping 25 percent less than that in Seattle. And on the Hilltop, median home prices per square foot are 8 percent less expensive than the rest of Tacoma.

Yet that is all expected to change. The Hilltop is on the verge of a development surge that is both exciting and worrisome. It is getting a light rail line down its main thoroughfare, MLK Avenue. Notable private investment is arriving – finally – and as a result, rents are rising quickly. Judging from the gentrifying experiences of other West Coast neighborhoods, the Hilltop is



on track to lose its affordable housing and retail space -- and its racial and economic diversity.

To push back on these market trends, Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) is investing heavily in the Hilltop for four main purposes:

Spur Development and Investment: THA seeks by its real estate development to invest in neighborhoods that need the investment, do a good job, and embolden other responsible developers to invest. In that way, we seek to promote the Hilltop's prosperity.

Equitable Development: While we very much favor the Hilltop's development, we also seek to make the development equitable. By our investments, we seek to preserve the Hilltop's affordable housing, retail space and its racial and economic diversity. We seek to give low-income families close access to the Hilltop's 20,000 jobs, to the new light rail line and to the wider job market the light rail will pull within easier reach.

Appropriate Densities As Directed by the City's Comprehensive Plan:

THA's job is to help the City fulfill its comprehensive plan that calls for appropriate densities along the designated arterials.

Design: THA tries to set a high design bar to encourage other developers to consider design carefully. We think both ugly and lovely are contagious. This also helps the City fulfill the higher densities its comprehensive plan directs by showing that higher densities can look very nice. We also try to model innovative environmental design.

To date, THA has three major projects in the works for the Hilltop neighborhood – one of which will be finished in late spring/early summer. All will provide high-quality housing for a range of incomes and are located within one to eight blocks of the new light rail line. They were designed to show that higher-density housing can look lovely, too.

Intererested in Mountain?

Are you a youth aged 14 to 17?

The Liz Rocks campaign has a great opportunity for you. The Liz Rocks campaign is dedicated to honoring the memory of Liz Daley a professional mountaineer and Tacoma local. Who tragically passed in a snowboarding accident while living out her dream. The Liz Rocks campaign started out by \$150,000 in the last 2 years to build a rock wall and to it at Point Defiance Park, that will tentatively will be constructed later this year. This wall will be able to give people from all walks of life the opportunity to experience rock climbing, who otherwise might not have the chance.



Executive Director Krystle Edwards who was a long time friend of Liz Daily says " This is a great opportunity promote diversity and help at risk youth a chance get outdoors."

After having accomplished their initial goal of the rock wall they are expanding their community outreach by teaming up with the American Alpine Institute to offer scholarships as it launches it's first annual Liz Rocks Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship. As Liz Rocks

The scholarship has a value of over \$2,000 and over 9 days they will teach the students with a focus on situational judgement and decision making in a mountain setting. Along with teaching a general outdoor and rock climbing skills also glacier te-

chincs and crevasse rescue. It will also include an to summit Mt. Baker which is 10,781 feet. Apply ASAP as the scholarship winner will be decided by June 1st.

You can nominate yourself or you can also nominate a well deserving youth who has demonstrated an I retest in rock climbing or mountaineering aspirations.

This scholarship is open to students who are

- Ages 14 to 17
- Have an interest in outdoor adventure and exhibit mental toughness.
- Who have come from a diverse background and/or have faced significant hardships

If interested please visit www.liz-rocks.com full details good luck and happy climbing!

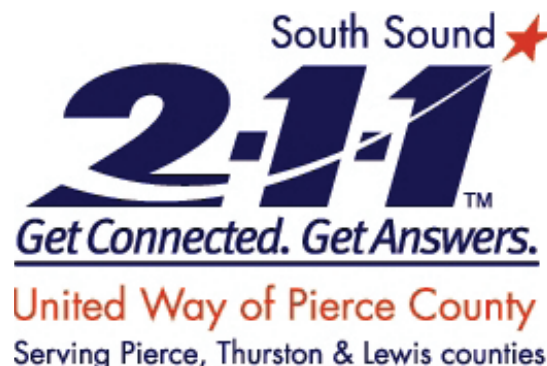
CALL 2-1-1 FOR HELP



By simply dialing 2-1-1, callers can access a live Information and Referral Specialist between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday through Friday. Specialists can guide the caller to programs that meet their unique needs.

- Rent and Utility Assistance
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Food and Clothing
- Shelter and Affordable Housing
- Employment and Education Services
- Military/Veteran Resources
- Transportation

South Sound 2-1-1 is a comprehensive information and referral line that connects people with essential health and human resources.





**Tacoma
Urban League**

***Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.***

Young Adult Employment Program

Learn job readiness and skills training in construction, aerospace, and tech! Upon graduation receive a brand new Tablet!

Call 253-383-2006

Program Information:

- 8-week employment program
- Open-door application
- Space is Limited
- Contact us for upcoming classes

Requirements:

- Can be a student or "out of school"
- Ages 16-24
- Can commit to 8-week training program
- Desire gainful employment

Gain Certificates:

- OSHA 10
- Hazardous Materials
- First Aid/CPR
- Flagger
- Forklift

Location:
Tacoma Urban League
2550 Yakima Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98405

HIGH DEMAND JOBS

Review some of the hottest in-demand jobs and check the ones you're interested in learning more about.

By Corey Mosesly



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

OCCUPATION	HOURLY	ANNUAL	EDU	
Assembler & Fabricator	\$20.20	\$42,016		<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical Assembler	\$22.03	\$45,822		<input type="checkbox"/>
First-Line Supervisor	\$31.42	\$65,354		<input type="checkbox"/>
Team Assemblers	\$16.81	\$34,965		<input type="checkbox"/>
Machinist	\$27.29	\$56,763		<input type="checkbox"/>



TRADE/DEEP SEA, TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING LOGISTICS

OCCUPATION	HOURLY	ANNUAL	EDU	
Laborers & Freight Movers	\$17.91	\$37,253		<input type="checkbox"/>
Heavy & Trailer Drivers	\$23.24	\$48,339		<input type="checkbox"/>
Hand Packers & Packages	\$12.94	\$26,915		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus Drivers, School	\$17.75	\$36,920		<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial Truck Operator	\$22.14	\$46,051		<input type="checkbox"/>



CONSTRUCTION

Carpenters	\$25.08	\$52,166		<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction Labor	\$20.69	\$43,035		<input type="checkbox"/>
Electricians	\$28.07	\$54,385		<input type="checkbox"/>
Painters, Construction	\$20.29	\$42,203		<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction Managers	\$48.61	\$101,108		<input type="checkbox"/>



IT/CYBER SECURITY

Software Developers	\$44.26	\$92,061		<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer User Support	\$24.60	\$51,168		<input type="checkbox"/>
Web Developers	\$32.04	\$66,643		<input type="checkbox"/>
Information Security	\$47.29	\$98,363		<input type="checkbox"/>
Systems Analyst	\$40.14	\$83,491		<input type="checkbox"/>



HEALTHCARE

Medical Assistant	\$17.53	\$36,462		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental Assistant	\$18.40	\$38,272		<input type="checkbox"/>
Registered Nurse	\$38.42	\$79,914		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nursing Assistant	\$14.28	\$29,702		<input type="checkbox"/>
License Practical Nurses	\$24.11	\$50,149		<input type="checkbox"/>



EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND LIBRARY

Elementary Teacher	\$30.02	\$62,442		<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher Assistants	\$15.85	\$32,968		<input type="checkbox"/>
Substitute Teachers	\$18.67	\$38,834		<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Enrichment Teachers	\$21.09	\$43,876		<input type="checkbox"/>
Secondary School Teachers	\$30.38	\$63,190		<input type="checkbox"/>



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service Reps	\$16.47	\$34,258		<input type="checkbox"/>
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	\$16.17	\$33,634		<input type="checkbox"/>
Office Clerks, General	\$16.63	\$34,590		<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretaries and Assistants	\$19.60	\$40,769		<input type="checkbox"/>
Receptionists	\$14.89	\$30,971		<input type="checkbox"/>



FINANCIAL SERVICES

Accountants and Auditors	\$34.89	\$72,571		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bookkeeping Clerks	\$19.87	\$41,142		<input type="checkbox"/>
Market Research Analysts	\$28.44	\$59,155		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Estimator	\$35.22	\$73,258		<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal Financial Advisors	\$68.99	\$143,499		<input type="checkbox"/>



MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND INSTALLATION

Automotive Service Tech	\$22.77	\$46,114		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus & Truck Mechanics	\$24.65	\$51,272		<input type="checkbox"/>
Supervisors Mechanics	\$35.85	\$74,568		<input type="checkbox"/>
HVAC Repair/Install	\$31.33	\$65,166		<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance & Repair	\$21.77	\$45,282		<input type="checkbox"/>

- High School/GED
- Certificate
- Some College/AA
- Bachelor Degree or Higher
- Training & Apprenticeship



...Continued

Grit City Baking on MLK

focus on being successful. If you can be successful the community will be successful.”

They know that they won’t become millionaires running a bakery, but the whole idea is to “provide something that the community needs, but keep within the community with things like local hiring. It’s your neighbors, it’s everyone around you, so if you live here and what things to be nice, you give opportunity where opportunity is around you. If you build them up, they build you up.”

They are to hire twenty-five full-time employees, with benefits, from the immediate community. They’re talking to the Washington Hospitality Association to get better medical benefits. The starting wage for retail is \$13.50 an hour that can go up to \$15 an hour if certain goals are met. These goals include CPR and business training. “We want people with many talents.

They are looking to hire people with many talents. “Shawn, our barista, also does graphics so he is doing our marketing. Katie does baking, but she also does catering. I do accounting, but I’m also good at customer service. We just recruited a baker who does carpentry. We don’t want to hire you just to hash out bagels. We are trying to grow this business and we want you to be part of it.”

Part of this is paying their employees properly, providing benefits, and giving them the ability to learn and grow. “There’s no point in hiring if we can’t pay a living wage.

That’s why we started. We want to have an impact on the economy, we wanted to do our part to bring jobs. Whoever works for us we want them to enjoy life and extract what you need and get benefits. How many of us have worked without benefits so you work sick? It’s awful.”

Bakers in the Tacoma area make \$9-\$10 an hour for an artisan craft. “It is important to Katie that the bakers are paid well so that they’ll stay, but also so that they can grow their craft and become the true artist they are.”

If employees leave, “we want them to believe that Grit City was a good employer and that that they enhanced their knowledge base. So if they came in making sandwiches and they left a baker or social media manage, awesome!”

The Center of Everything

They chose Hilltop after conducting extensive research they discovered that Hilltop was the center to everything. “We have residential, we have business, the hospitals, government, major arteries, and the Link. This was the stop that has everything.”

Staying local is important. “We want to be the bread company Tacoma needs. Most of our bread comes from Seattle and Portland. A lot of restaurants here get their bread shipped in, which is a huge carbon footprint. The bread may not or may not be fresh, and you have pass producers who crunch their variables, and one of this quality ingredients. If we had a centralized Tacoma bread bakery, Tacoma restaurants wouldn’t have to go outside. We’re here, we can deliver fresh hot deliveries of bread to you.”

The Building

The 7500 square-foot building is owned by Fred Roberson who calls it the King Building. “Mr Roberson was the first person who took a chance on us.”

The exterior of the building will boast a living green wall and will say “King Building.” On the front their sign will be back-lit with LED lighting, keeping their promise of keeping more lights on in Hilltop.

There will be a retail space, a coffee bar, and a lounge. The ambiance will be focused on highlighting the bread using warm copper tones, masculine wood, and lots of greenery. “The bread is golden, it’s beautiful, it’s warm. Everything will play off the bread. Since bread is so wonderful, we didn’t want to minimize things.”

Back to the Bread

Along with eighteen types of bagels, with flavors from around the world, Grit City will have a variety traditional rustic bread as well. They also are sourcing local and healthy ingredients as much as possible.

They found a local farm called Bluebird Grain Farm which grows grain the old way and is full of nutrients. “Which is one of our thing, we’re going to be feeding you sugar, right, so we should at least put a little extra into it to compensate.”

“I get tired of the usual; I want to be tantalized,” says Jessica. They are pulling in ingredients, like Zaatar, that aren’t cheap, but make customers think “I’ve not had that before, that’s kind of neat.” While maintaining true to the art of traditional bread baking. Here in the West, we steam bake the bagels “which doesn’t give you the same squeeze and chew factor,” Jessica said.

The head baker, Katie, is researching the use of coffee flour, a new product that is derived

from the coffee process as a gluten free option. While Grit City plans on offering gluten free options, this is not their focus. For specialty items like gluten-free products and vegan cakes, they plan on doing cross-promotion with other bakeries in town.

“There’s enough business to go around. There are a lot of collaborative and cross-promotion things we want to do for other bakers in town. We’re not a vegan bakery, but Corina’s down the street are and they are amazing,” Peter said.

Katie created the Sweet Heat Bagel. “You bite into this bagel and you’re like “it tastes like cinnamon” and as you’re chewing the heat is building and it’s this blend of sweetened heat.

She is also looking for the best croissant. “We want to blow Starbucks’ croissant out of the water. We want to educate the public on how bread is supposed to be made. Many people think brown is burnt, it’s not. It’s supposed to be brown.”

There will also be coffee bar ran by barista Shawn McManis. Jessica was impressed by Shawn’s work in the past. “Whenever he would serve me coffee, it was kind of like a bartender. You come in, and you talk to them, which I love, especially since we’re all about coffee in this city.”

The Name

We want to preserve the Tacoma culture. Which is why we picked Grit City Baking Company. For us, grit is reliance. Sticking to the plan and pushing through the pain of starting a business. Now we grew into our name. We’ve had so many setbacks and some days it was ‘I just want to quit,’ but everybody just keeps pushing forward. Finally, it’s all come to fruition.”

PEOPLE’S COMMUNITY CENTER

Youth Late Night Summer Program

YOUTH LATE NIGHT SUMMER PROGRAM

The current Late Night Program is FREE to Tacoma Middle School students with a Student ID on Friday Nights from 8-11pm. The funding for this program runs out May 19th. The People’s Community Center Steering Committee is working closely with Metro Parks to extend this program throughout the summer months. We have a plan and we are building a team. However...

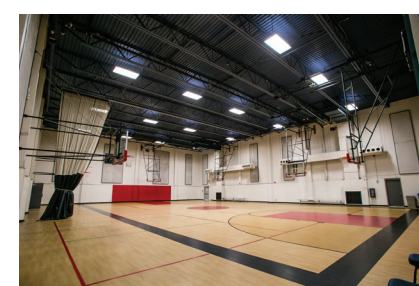
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The People’s Community Center Steering Committee is looking for Sponsors to help us fund this program for the entire summer.

ARE YOU WILLING TO SPONSOR THIS PROGRAM?

If you are interested in sponsoring this program, please contact the PCSC’s Community Outreach Coordinator, J. Preston Childs at jprestonchilds53@gmail.com

People’s Community Center Steering Committee



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