



Volume 10, Issue 5  
May, 2017



### Feature Stories

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- Scholarships Awarded
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### 2017 STATISTICS

April 1 — April 30

### District Average Response Time:

min. 7 sec. 44

### Responses by Type:

Fire: 7

EMS: 207

Other: 73

**Total: 287**



*Proudly serving the communities of Blaine, Birch Bay, Custer, Laurel and the unincorporated areas of Lynden & Bellingham*

*“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”*

## NWFR Member Bio



*by Volunteer Jonathan Kirk*

I grew up all the way down south in Orange County CA; not the idyllic coastal cities of Laguna beach or Costa Mesa, but Anaheim, what some of the locals lovingly refer to as Ana-crime. I was the third born into a family of four, but before I was able to turn two, my parents had another daughter. Then before I turned three they had another daughter. And by the time I turned ten my parents had

three more daughters on top of that. Suffice to say my childhood was cacophonous.

I spent my school years absorbed in the natural sciences, science fiction, and video games. Years of water polo taught me to love physically demanding work, while exploring Dungeon’s & Dragons with friends, instilled a love for critical thinking and seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Through my church at the time I twice had the opportunity to travel to Tijuana to build houses for the disadvantaged. The intimacy of living with a family you can

only communicate non-verbally with, while playing soccer with their kids and going to the local Costena, grew within me a deep compassion and want to help others.

Though my father worked sixty plus hour weeks to support us, we always found time to travel to different parks, from boulder scrambling in Joshua Tree to cave diving in Carlsbad Caverns. Wide-eyed I knew I had to see more than the desert of southern CA had to offer.

Working as a barista at Starbucks I met this quirky gal, Eileen, my future wife.

*continued on pg. 2*

## My Fire Service



*by Hosemonkey*

*“We are a small group of firefighters dedicated to our profession. We provide training for all those who ask, we believe in the thought of leaving the fire service better than we found it. We have an inner desire to learn more, and do better.”*

My Brothers.... I try to give you something every shift I work. This week I’ve been thinking about MY fire service.... Yeah, it’s mine. I’ve given 15 years of blood, sweat and tears to this great service. It isn’t a job; it isn’t a career. It is who you are; it’s what you think about on your days off. I spend my four days waiting to get back to the station with my friends.

This field is so much more than any other job. There is

a place for all of us. You can find your path in any of the multiple services we provide. We provide help. That is the simplest breakdown of what we do. Hazmat, fire, rescue, and EMS; someone has called 911 because the situation is out of their control. You don’t have to love it all, just show me the passion for it.

My fire service is passionate. We don’t have to be dedicated to the same specialty areas, however, as a group, *continued on pg. 2*

Please remember to keep  
the district up to date  
with any changes  
including your contact  
information.

All changes should be  
directed to Jennie. These  
changes may include:

Phone

Address

Email

Banking

Family Additions

Name changes

## My Fire Service cont.

*continued from pg. 1*

we can answer any call. We speak with excitement about the fire service. We immerse ourselves into our craft. If you are here just to take selfies and tell the girls you're a fireman, you have failed.

My fire service is prepared. A wise man once said, "We save a life every shift." Does that mean I am the baddest firefighter you've met, and I happen to work at the busiest station known to man?... No. But every training I perform is what I will fall back on to the day that I need to make that save. We pull lines; we throw ladders; we search. If you don't care about training, you have failed.

My fire service is strong. Do I work with powerlifting record holders?... Well yes, but our strength is simpler than that. It's a simple fact that if I go down inside, I have no question that my guys have the physical ability to get me out. If this isn't the case either, you're too fat or your crew is too weak. If so, you have failed.

My fire service is a brotherhood. We spend time together. We are defined not as individuals but as a group. On duty, we eat together, train together, spend downtime together. Off duty, we are in constant contact. We know what is going on in each other's personal lives. If you only are a "shift" when you are at work and don't have con-

tact with your crew until you come back to the station, you have failed.

If you haven't failed, thank you. YOU are MY fire service. I hope to meet you sometime in the future. I call you my brothers and sisters.

If you have failed, leave. You are a poser in my fire service. These things can't be taught, and honestly, we will find you sooner than you think. It is unfair that you are filling a position without passion. As you leave, I will give you a plastic helmet, a temporary tattoo, and sticker badge so that you can still take those selfies.



## Member Bio cont.

*continued from pg. 1*

During a visit to WA for her brother's birthday, I knew I had found where I needed to be. Once back in CA, we scrounged what money we could, packed our car with our two cats and drove to the evergreen state.

The next year we were engaged. The year after that we were married by my sister at the Northern State Hospital Recreation Area, the remains of the old Asylum in Sedro Woolley. Settling in Bellingham, I found work as a bartender at the Horseshoe Café. Spending so long in the service industry left me wanting something more fulfilling. As it so happened, a buddy of mine dragged me along to an orientation North Whatcom had

put together for prospective volunteers.

To be honest I never gave much thought into the fire service before then, I was always more of a park ranger nerd; yet I decided academy might be fun and challenging. But when I entered that first small room with neon orange fire banking off the ceiling, heat pressing us to the floor, I was transfixed. Crawling through confined spaces, dragging out your brother or sister in near blindness, there wasn't anything else like it.

This past year, after graduating Academy and then EMT school, has been a whirlwind; pulling shifts, sleeping (or trying to) at the station, and learning all I can from every-

one around me. Plus, I now work at Intalco as an EMT and security officer with fellow NWFR volunteer Tommy McAuliffe. On top of all that my wife and I recently became foster parents to a teenage girl! She brought with her a dog and a rat, adding to our two cats. I guess I can't not have a big family.

*"Volunteering with North Whatcom has lead me on such an amazing journey I never imagined myself to be on."*





# NWFR Hosts Mock DUI Held at Blaine High School



On Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at Blaine High School, NWFR conducted a mock DUI crash to illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving. The event was held at the football field located behind the Blaine High School. The scenario consisted of a two car motor vehicle accident (MVA) with a group of kids, with one driver who was suspected of driving under the influence, causing the accident. One student is laying on the hood of the car after going through the windshield, while others have varying degrees of injuries as indicated by moulage, courtesy of NWFR Lt. Leslee Smith.

Brandon Lee from the Washington State Patrol narrated the scene. Additional State Troopers were on hand to perform DUI testing, ultimately arresting the driver. Blaine Police Department, Ferndale Fire Department-Medic 45 also participated. Vehicles for the event were provided by Berk's Towing.

The event began as a senior project for Blaine High School student Kaylee McPhail, daughter of NWFR Lt Burr McPhail. She organized the participants and was the logistics person for the event.

Students involved as "patients" were- Lauren Kordas, Sophia Lavert, Isaac Avenna, Michael

Baldwin, Logan Nelson and Haden Anthony.



## Events to Celebrate

### May Birthdays

- 25—Melissa Van Cleve
- 29—Commissioner Neal
- 31—Commissioner Ness

### Mother's Day—14

### Memorial Day—29



### Fire Commissioner Meetings

#### NWFR

Thurs. May 18  
9408 Odell St 61 Blaine —  
7:00 p.m.

#### District 4

Wed. May 10  
4142 Britton Loop St 12  
Bellingham —12:00 p.m.



# NWFR Commissioner Competes in Fun with the Fuzz



NWFR Fire Commissioner Larry McPhail competed in the Bellingham Police Department Fun With the Fuzz 5K on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Larry took first place in his age bracket with a time of twenty-eight minutes, forty-three seconds. Congratulations!

One hundred percent of the proceeds from this race go directly to the Behind the

Badge Foundation which is responsible for taking care of the families of fallen officers as well as maintaining the

Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial located in Olympia.





4142 Britton Loop Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Providing quality service for  
a safe community



**Free Heartsaver CPR  
Classes  
2017**

- January 17
- February 17
- March 28
- April 18
- May 23
- June 17
- June 27
- July 26
- August 22
- September 25
- October 23
- November 15
- December 20



## Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship

Five students were awarded \$500 scholarships during the Thursday, April 13, 2017, IAFF Local 106 union meeting.

The scholarship program, Bellingham-Whatcom County Professional Firefighters IAFF Local-106 Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship originally began in 1996 by the Blaine Volunteer Firefighters Association. It was renamed in Jason's honor in 2015.

Jason worked for Bellingham Fire and was with the Tukwila Fire Department as a firefighter paramedic until 2014, when he died tragically in a motorcycle accident.

If anyone is interested in making a donation to the fund

(501c 3) via payroll deduction, one time gift, or as a memorial gift please contact Leslee Smith.

Scholarship Committee with 2017 recipients:

L > R Leslee Smith , Logan Nelson, Blaine HS; Jordan Sims, Squalicum HS; Katie Ford, Squalicum HS; Jedely Velsaquez-Chanchavac, Blaine HS; Brooke Giffen, Blaine HS; Robert Glorioso; Dan McDemmot



## Strawberry-Basil Shortcakes



*Recipe courtesy of bon appetit*

### Ingredients

#### Shortcakes

- 1/4 c. sugar
- 1 TBS baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 2 cup all-purpose flour, plus more for surface
- 6 TBS (3/4 stick) chilled unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 large egg, beaten to blend

#### Berries and Assembly

- 1 1/2 p fresh strawberries, hulled, quartered, (about 3 cups)
- 4 TBS sugar, divided
- 2 sprigs basil
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 TBS crème fraiche

Servings: 8

### Preparation

#### Shortcakes

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk sugar, baking powder, salt and 2 cups flour in a large bowl. Using your fingers or a pastry cutter, work in butter until the texture of coarse meal with a few pea-size pieces of butter remaining. Add cream and mix until dough just comes together (it will be sticky).

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface and pat into a 12"x4" rectangle about 3/4" thick. Cut out rounds with a 2 1/2" biscuit cutter, re-rolling scraps as needed to make 8 rounds. Whisk egg with 1 TBS water in a small bowl. Transfer rounds to a parchment-lined baking sheet and brush tops with egg wash. Bake until tops are golden brown and shortcakes are cooked through, 15-20 minutes.

**DO AHEAD:** Shortcakes can be made 2 days ahead. Store tightly wrapped at room temperature.

#### Berries and Assembly

Coarsely chop 2 cups strawberries (use any bruised or less perfect ones) and cook with 2 TBS sugar in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until berries are softened and mixture is slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Let berry compote cool.

Meanwhile, toss basil, 1 TBS sugar and remaining 1 cup strawberries in a medium bowl and let sit until fruit begins to release juices, 10-15 minutes. Discard basil.

Using an electric mixer, beat cream, crème fraiche and remaining 1 TBS sugar to soft peaks, about 4 minutes. Split shortcakes and fill with berry compote, whipped cream mixture and macerated strawberries.