Plein air artist finds inspiration outside

BY LINNEA HOOVER

Northwest stewards

Overlooking the iconic Pacific Northwest view of Deception Pass stands a painter, ready with brushes, acrylics and her phone, to begin a new piece of artwork. She has tapped into a way to show her work to a growing audience with a painting presence on Facebook, TikTok and Instagram.

Kylie Fair Anderson isn’t just a skilled plein air painter, an artist who makes her paintings outdoors in ever-shifting light and weather conditions. She’s also a rising star online due to her savvy social media skills. Anderson brings her art to the masses with humor and catchy sound bites.

Community scientists monitor area marshes

BY LINNEA HOOVER

Community Science Wetlands Monitoring project.

The ground is still quaking from a downpour earlier in the week as a team of community scientists hike along Big Beaver Pond and Little Cranberry Lake to get water samples. The day is unexpectedly sunny at Anacortes Community Forest Lands as a part of their ongoing water monitoring project.

The Community Science Wetlands Monitoring project, run by Friends of the Forest, meets the second Friday of each month. Its objective is to keep an eye on oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the wetlands as well as to survey amphibian mating calls of native frogs and salamanders.

“We hope we don’t see bullfrogs,” Deane said. “They are super invaders. The audience seemed to approve waving giant cutouts of gradutes’ faces, plus holding banners, signs and balloons. Applause filled Brumfield Hall several times during the short ceremony.

During her speech, Stamper wrote a story for the audience, outlining what qualifies the graduates for the title. “This was one of the first 17 this year” for their quarter.

They earned high school diplomas, which many others have done, but they did so after they “traveled through the tunnel of COVID,” Stamper said. These students went through a year or remote learning and many others have done, but they did so after they “traveled through the tunnel of COVID,” Stamper said. These students went through a year or remote learning and then into a hybrid classroom, which was hard on some of them.

By the time they had returned to a regular classroom, many of the students had fallen behind.Staff worked with each of them to plan make up credit requirements, look at all the options and set timelines.

Nearly a quarter of all Cap Sante grad this year are a part of a group that earns each quarter to make it to the stage for graduation. Stamper said to a tremendous amount of applause from the assembled crowd.

At the same time they did that, these students also held down jobs, cared for ailing relatives and siblings, managed households, put food on the table and battled through bouts of COVID, anxiety, depression and stress.

“They leap a tall hurdle,”

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Seniors find support, friends in AVID program

BY LINNEA HOOVER

Some AVID students at Anacortes High School will be the first in their families to go to college. For others, they discovered college isn’t for them, but they are keeping their options open.

AVID is about connecting with resources. Ryann Wilson said. She applied to colleges this year and then deferred her admission, choosing to work instead while taking time to figure out what’s next.

She’s not sure if she’s going to go to college, but she has telling her friends, if she decided to go back and take part in AVID, she wouldn’t have even applied, because her family members didn’t attend college and didn’t know how to go through the application process.

Lilitha Pena-Rangel and Zoe Roberson both found opportunities due to being in the AVID program.

Pena-Rangel’s AVID teacher gave her a list of available scholarships, which led to her being awarded the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship. Roberson, the first in her family to go to college...

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