

## Tacoma Now



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# THE NEWS TRIBUNE

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE SOUTH SOUND



CHEYENNE BOONE, Cheyenne Boone/The News Tribune

Museum of Glass hot shop director and lead gaffer Benjamin Cobb places a hot piece of glass in colored sand to make it pink while working in the hot shop at the museum in Tacoma on Nov. 10.

## Museum of Glass marks 20 years in Tacoma

BY CRAIG SAILOR  
[csailor@thenewstribune.com](mailto:csailor@thenewstribune.com)

The fires always burn at the Museum of Glass. For the past two decades, orange-hot molten glass has kept glass blowers busy and audiences enthralled inside the museum's tilted cone.

Twenty years have passed since that cone became an instant icon for Tacoma when

the museum opened. The Museum of Glass's (MOG) creation heralded a rebirth for the city's long-neglected waterfront and made the City of Destiny a center for glass art.

For a look back at MOG's first 20 years The News Tribune interviewed the museum's executive director along with two glass blowers who have been at the museum from its opening.

### BUILDING A MUSEUM

MOG's hot shop director Benjamin Cobb was living in New York state when he first heard about a museum being built on the West Coast. While blowing glass at Corning Glass Museum in 2001, Cobb ran into a friend who told him about the project going up in a town called Tacoma, somewhere south of Seattle.

"And she said they have the balls to call themselves the

Museum of Glass," Cobb recalled. Intrigued, he applied for a position and was hired while the hot shop was still under construction.

Hot shop gaffer Gabe Feenan was working in the Bay Area when he heard about MOG. He started work there a month after the museum opened in July 2002.

"So we showed up," Cobb said. The pair were hired by glass artist Charlie Parratt, who oversaw the design and construction of the hot shop.

"The three of us at the time, were all very different," Cobb said. "And I don't think we knew what the museum was. But we were told that the hot

SEE MUSEUM, 8A

## Walmart shooting raises need for violence prevention at work

BY ALEXANDRA OLSON  
AND ANNE D'INNOENZIO  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The mass shooting Wednesday at a Walmart in Virginia was only the latest example of a workplace shooting perpetrated by an employee.

But while many companies provide active shooter training, experts say there is much less focus on how to prevent workplace violence, particularly how

to identify and address worrisome behavior among employees.

Workers far too often don't know how to recognize warning signs, and even more crucially don't know how to report suspicious behavior or feel empowered to do so, according to workplace safety and human resources experts.

"We have built an industry around how to lock bad guys out. We have heavily invested in physical security measure

like metal detectors, cameras and armed security guards," said James Densley, professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota and co-founder of the nonprofit and nonpartisan research group The Violence Project. But too often in workplace shootings, he said, "this is someone who already has access to the building."

The Walmart shooting in particular raised questions of whether employees feel empo-

wered to speak up because it was a team leader who carried out the shooting.

Identified by Walmart as 31-year-old Andre Bing, he opened fire on fellow employees in the break room of the Chesapeake store, killing six people and leaving six others wounded. Police said he then apparently killed himself.

Employee Briana Tyler, who survived the shooting, said Bing appeared not to be aiming at anyone in particular. Tyler, who started at Walmart two months ago, said she never had a negative encounter with Bing, but others told her that he was "the manager to look out for." She

SEE WALMART, 3A

## Two victims in plane crash were from Gig Harbor, Roy

BY CRAIG SAILOR  
[csailor@thenewstribune.com](mailto:csailor@thenewstribune.com)

Two of the four occupants killed Nov. 18 when their plane lost a wing and crashed during a test flight in Snohomish County were Pierce County men.

Scott A. Brenneman, 52, of Roy, and Nate Lachendro, 49, of Gig Harbor, were killed in the accident, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office said Wednesday.

Also killed were Nathan W. Precup, 33, of Seattle and David W. Newton, 67, of Wichita, Kansas.

All four men died from blunt force injuries, the medical examiner ruled.

Lachendro is listed as the engineering program manager for Seattle aeronautical modification firm Raisbeck Engineering.

According to a donation website, Scott Brenneman left behind a "loving family, adoring dog and numerous friends and colleagues in the aviation community."

Raisbeck was leasing the single-engine Cessna Grand Caravan 208B EX to collect "baseline aircraft performance data," according to a statement from the company's president, Hal Chrisman.

The plane crashed in an agricultural field near Harvey Field Airport, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The plane left from Renton around 9:30 a.m., the federal

SEE PLANE CRASH, 4A



### NATIVE AMERICANS HONORING NATIVE PEOPLES

National Native American Heritage Day is today. It recognizes Native peoples and their impact on this country.



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Morgan Palmer METEOROLOGIST

ALMANAC
Sea-Tac Airport through Wednesday
Temperature: High/Low 53/41, Normal high/low 50/40, Record high/low 59 (2017) / 10 (1985)
Precipitation: Record for date 2.49 (1986), Month to date (normal) 2.87 (4.83), Year to date (normal) 30.76 (32.14)
McChord Air Force Base through Wednesday
Temperature: High/Low 53/32, Normal high/low 51/39, Record high/low 61 (2017) / 9 (2010)
Precipitation: Record for date 1.70 (1985), Month to date (normal) 3.45 (4.89), Year to date (normal) 29.29 (33.16)

TIDES
NARROWS High/Low
Today 6:54 a.m. 13:17 ft. 12:05 p.m. 8.0 ft.
Sat. 7:46 a.m. 13.9 ft. 12:10 p.m. -3.5 ft.
5:39 p.m. 12.3 ft. 1:00 p.m. 8.2 ft.

COMMENCEMENT BAY High/Low
Today 6:27 a.m. 12:17 ft. 11:46 a.m. 7.8 ft.
4:31 p.m. 11.8 ft. 11:47 p.m. -3.6 ft.
Sat. 7:19 a.m. 12.9 ft. 12:41 p.m. 8.1 ft.
5:16 p.m. 11.4 ft.

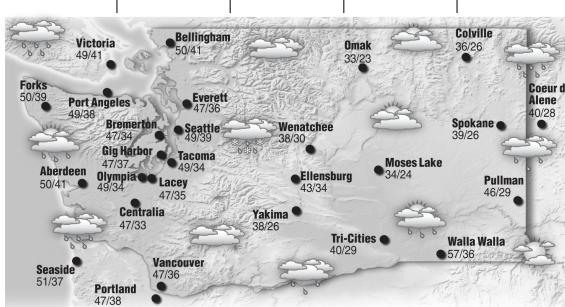
WIND AND SURF TODAY
Tacoma Narrows 4-8 knots/SSW 1 foot
Hood Canal 4-8 knots/E 1 foot
Port Angeles 10-20 knots/WSW 1 foot
Hood Bay 7-14 knots/WSW 2 feet
La Push 4-8 knots/NW 12 feet
Westport 10-20 knots/NW 4 feet

MOUNTAIN PASS TODAY
DOT 1-800-695-7623-www.wsdot.wa.gov
Site Hi/Lo/W
Blewett (U.S. 97) 42/25/1
Cayuse Pass (SR 123) 39/24/9
Chinook Pass (SR 410) 39/24/9
Crystal Mtn. Road 41/27/1
Mount Baker (SR 542) 41/33/9
Nisqually Rd/Paradise 38/23/9
Sherman Pass (SR 20) 27/17/7
Snowquinn Pass 42/31/9
Stevens Pass 39/28/9
White Pass 41/26/9

SUN AND MOON
The Sun Rise/Set
Today 7:27 a.m. 4:26 p.m.
Saturday 7:29 a.m. 4:25 p.m.
The Moon Rise/Set
Today 9:56 a.m. 5:45 p.m.
Saturday 11:03 a.m. 6:53 p.m.
First Full Last
Nov 30 Dec 7 Dec 16 Dec 23

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

AccuWeather | Get the NEW app
TODAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY
49 48 42 41 41
34 35 29 23 34
Periods of rain Areas of low clouds and fog Windy and chilly with rain Partly sunny and chilly Cloudy and chilly with rain



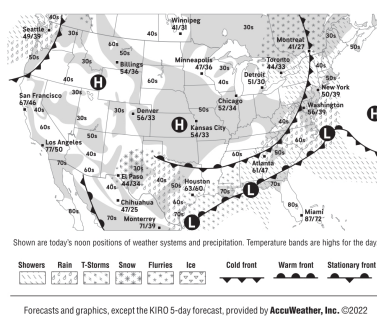
State Extremes Wednesday
High 53 at Puyallup
Low 14 at Omak

National Extremes (48 contiguous states)
High 51 at Miraflores, FL
Low 52 at Volochanka, Russia

World Extremes (excluding Antarctica)
High 105 at Juba Creek, Australia
Low 52 at Volochanka, Russia

NATIONAL WEATHER

Table with columns for City, Hi/Lo/W, and Today/Sat. Includes cities like Albany, Anchorage, Atlanta, and others.



STATE AND REGIONAL

Table with columns for STATE, Hi/Lo/W, and Hi/Lo/W. Lists various locations like Auburn, Bellevue, and Spokane.

REGIONAL

Table with columns for REGIONAL, Hi/Lo/W, and Hi/Lo/W. Lists locations like Astoria, Bend, and Vancouver.

WORLD WEATHER

Table with columns for City, Hi/Lo/W, and Hi/Lo/W. Lists international cities like Athens, Bangkok, Beijing, and others.

FROM PAGE 1A MUSEUM

shop was a glimpse into the working artists studio. Cobb wasn't used to working in a public hot shop with an audience hanging on every move, but he quickly became accustomed to the 'fish bowl' like setting.

EVOLVING GLASS

As techniques have been refined since the 1960s when art glass began to take off so has the resulting work. The breadth and sophistication in glass art has only increased since MOG opened.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

During the year, the museum's robust visiting artist program keeps the hot shop occupied more than half the time. Cobb, Feenan and the other permanent workers help artists realize their vision. Feenan learns new skills from each visiting artist he works with.

Anything was working in the hot shop. 'If somebody can draw it on paper, then we can figure out a way to make it,' Cobb said. 'But I feel like I'm learning this week. (Moran is) doing things I've never seen do.'



CHEYENNE BOONE Cheyenne Boone/The News Tribune

Museum of Glass hot shop gaffer Gabe Feenan molts a hot piece of glass with a piece of cloth while working in the hot shop at the museum in Tacoma Nov. 10.

something they'd like to see turned into glass. Cobb and Feenan say it's one of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of their roles.

'Just seeing the kids, how excited they get, and then seeing the family, how excited they get,' Feenan said. Those early participants are now in their 20s and sometimes return to the hot shop. 'They say to us, 'That was a game changer,' Feenan said. 'It was still a big deal to them, and that feels good. I love making things, but when you actually touch somebody's life, it makes it that much more special.'

BREAKING GLASS

With so many artists and other projects over the years, Cobb and Feenan don't always remember, when visiting a gallery or museum, if they had a hand in its making. The pair work on 20 to 40 pieces a week.

MOG's surroundings. Linked to the waterfront via the Chihuly Bridge of Glass, the museum has witnessed the revitalization of Tacoma's polluted waterfront — once a Superfund site. Today, the museum is flanked by condos, apartments, businesses, parks and promenades.

CHANGING FOCUS

MOG was envisioned and began as museum dedicated to glass art but soon changed its focus to contemporary art. In 2007, it swung its focus back to exclusively showcasing glass art, mixing media that incorporates glass. Today, it's the only one of its kind in the western United States.

program to schools and takes its traveling hot shop to the community.

FINANCES AND FUTURE

After some lean years in its history, Lenk said, MOG today is financially healthy. Half of its income comes from contributions (donations, grants, members) and the other half is earned from admissions, commissions and store sales.

MOG BY THE NUMBERS

- Exhibitions since 2002: 140
- Temperature of liquid glass: 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Annual visitors: Over 100,000
- Percent of visitors attending free of charge: 40
- Annual hot shop visiting artist residencies: 35
- Children reached through educational programs: 200,000