

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #32
“Summer fun and Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation”
Sno-Isle Libraries, July 19, 2019



Ken Harvey: 00:00 In this episode, we're going to talk about some of the fun things happening in July and heading into August and maybe even September, in and around the library. But we also are going to feature a conversation we had with Paul Pitkin, who, my gosh, happens to be actually sitting across from me and host Jim Hills.

Paul Pitkin: 00:20 Yeah, you're about to hear the interview. I've got some tissues. These guys are not very nice. It was brutal.

Ken Harvey: 00:28 This is the interview to end all interviews.

Paul Pitkin: 00:30 Yeah, they really expunged the depths of my soul.

Jim Hills: 00:34 My knuckles are bloody.

Paul Pitkin: 00:36 Yeah, so I'm still in recovery.

Ken Harvey: 00:38 What does expunged mean?

Paul Pitkin: 00:40 I think it means literally just thrown out of your system. Expunged. Expunged records or whatever.

Ken Harvey: 00:47 Not like s-sponge?

Paul Pitkin: 00:50 S-sponge?

Ken Harvey: 00:51 Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 00:51 Don't know what that means. I'm not even sure I know what expunge means. I just did an interview.

Jim Hills: 00:59 My mind is a blank.

Paul Pitkin: 01:00 Exactly.

Jim Hills: 01:01 I'm drained.

(Continued)

Paul Pitkin: 01:03 I'm drained intellectually and emotionally.

Ken Harvey: 01:06 Well, we tried not to be too tough on Paul, but you get a chance to hear that conversation and some of the fun things happening around Sno-Isle Libraries. Coming up next.

Ken Harvey: 01:28 Welcome to Season two and Episode 32 of Check It Out the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.

Speaker 4: 01:35 The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle libraries.

Ken Harvey: 01:43 Well, hi, I'm Ken Harvey.

Paul Pitkin: 01:44 I'm Paul Pitkin.

Jim Hills: 01:45 And I'm Jim Hills.

Ken Harvey: 01:46 And we are delighted to be in the studio together. We are actually missing some of our other podcast hosts.

Jim Hills: 01:55 It did seem extra spacious in here.

Ken Harvey: 01:57 Yes.

Jim Hills: 01:57 Today.

Ken Harvey: 01:58 Sometimes there are a lot of people squeeze into the small space but we are not quite cheek to cheek, gel to gel. I think we're kind of spread out today but glad to have the, I would say the two of you at the table, but actually, there's always an extra person sitting at the table and we just want to do a shout out to Deborah Tahara.

Jim Hills: 02:23 Producer Deborah.

Ken Harvey: 02:24 Yeah, who is our technical producer and we were just saying right before... and she is waving at everyone. Hopefully, you saw that in podcast land... that we were just doing a shout out to her before she hit record that she makes us sound awfully good.

Jim Hills: 02:43 It's really due to Deborah's work and attention to the detail and we're just saying how frustrating it is to turn into something and you're really looking forward to the content. And then the sound is horrible. And Deborah's work makes us sound great.

Paul Pitkin: 03:01 Sound a lot better on the podcast than they do in real life.

Jim Hills: 03:04 That is the truth.

Ken Harvey: 03:05 And I look better on the podcast than I do in real life too. So thank you, Deborah. And Deborah gives a lot of the credit to the equipment that we were able to put into the studio here. And we just want to sound nice and sound intelligent and provide great content to our listeners.

Paul Pitkin: 03:25 Sounding intelligent, I don't know.

Ken Harvey: 03:27 Well, I'm working at it. And hopefully, I can pull up everyone else around the table too. Hey, this is July, of course, you know that and we are kind of moving through this month so fast. It seems like time is going by really quickly. But a lot of things that people are celebrating this month and want to just spend a few minutes kind of just sharing out some things this month is known for.

Jim Hills: 03:57 So I do want to get to that but can I just take a moment of confession?

Ken Harvey: 04:01 Okay.

Jim Hills: 04:02 They say how confession is good for the soul.

Ken Harvey: 04:04 Moment of silence.

Jim Hills: 04:04 We don't have to be silent about that. So last time we did this, we were talking about events in June and June 16 came up and I started talking about Bloomsday. And I done like 30 or 40 seconds worth of research on the whole thing. And I lumped the Bloomsday Run over in Spokane into the Bloomsday explanation that I said in that podcast that it had to do with a book and it had to do with Leopold Bloom and it had to do a James Joyce and all this other stuff. And I've been all literary about the whole thing.

Jim Hills: 04:38 Well, it turns out that there are a whole bunch of Bloomsday things that are exactly that, but the one in Spokane isn't one of them. And I said it with such conviction that in the post [crosstalk 00:04:50]

Ken Harvey: 04:50 That I almost believed you.

Jim Hills: 04:51 Yeah, people believed, right? And then I wrote that I was wrong, but hardly anybody ever reads a podcast. So I have to come out and say, "I screwed it up. I was wrong, I confess."

Paul Pitkin: 05:07 What did you say the Spokane Bloomsday was?

Jim Hills: 05:09 I said that it was based on this whole James Joyce book.

Paul Pitkin: 05:12 What was it an actuality?

Jim Hills: 05:14 It has to do with [crosstalk 00:05:16]

Ken Harvey: 05:16 It's with the lilacs are blooming.

Jim Hills: 05:18 It's the lilacs.

Paul Pitkin: 05:19 It's actual blooms.

Jim Hills: 05:21 Yes.

Ken Harvey: 05:21 Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 05:21 Okay.

Jim Hills: 05:22 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 05:22 It's when flowers are really blooming, especially lilacs.

Jim Hills: 05:26 Oh, boy, do I feel unburdened. I really do. Thanks, guys.

Paul Pitkin: 05:29 Well, Jim, I hate to tell you, but you're not forgiven. And I hope you're saddled with guilt for the rest [crosstalk 00:05:37]

Ken Harvey: 05:37 For the rest of your life.

Paul Pitkin: 05:38 Yeah, for a long time. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 05:39 Well, actually, what's interesting about what Jim and I are both saddled with is one of the things that the month is known for but dedicated to women is alopecia month for women. And do you know what alopecia is?

Jim Hills: 05:56 Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 05:58 I don't.

Jim Hills: 05:59 I don't say that that's what I suffer from. I think it's more DNA.

Paul Pitkin: 06:04 Is it a mountain range ready?

Ken Harvey: 06:06 Yes, the Alopecia range. No, alopecia is baldness. So it's loss of hair.

Paul Pitkin: 06:15 Okay.

Ken Harvey: 06:16 In places where you don't want to lose your hair.

Jim Hills: 06:18 Follicly challenged.

Ken Harvey: 06:19 Follicly challenged and especially where it happens in the front part of your head and then kind of starts moving towards the crown and down the back but definitely a tough thing if you're a woman. And so July is alopecia month for women. It's also national baked beans month. And that just really-

Jim Hills: 06:45 Works for you.

Paul Pitkin: 06:47 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 06:47 That just fills me with such memory of eating really scrumptious beans.

Paul Pitkin: 06:54 As somebody who despises baked beans. I can't say I'm in full supportive of that holiday

Jim Hills: 07:02 It brings to mind hot dogs and potato salad and baked beans and it's July and it's BBQ time and yeah, sounds tasty.

Ken Harvey: 07:10 Well, then that goes along with national picnic month and national watermelon month.

Paul Pitkin: 07:15 I can go with that.

Ken Harvey: 07:17 Well, I really love watermelon when it's not one-year-old, out of the cave, watermelon.

Jim Hills: 07:26 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 07:27 When it's nice and fresh and just at peak sugar content. It's like a spiritual experience.

Jim Hills: 07:33 I hope I'm not... the ones I really love are the ones.

Ken Harvey: 07:36 And so are baked beans, sometimes.

Jim Hills: 07:39 Central Oregon harvest and area. Gosh, those are great. Yeah. When I see those advertised in the store, I make sure that I get those.

Ken Harvey: 07:49 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 07:51 I like thinking about picnic day because I think about four times in my life, my parents tried to put together a picnic and it never was successful.

Ken Harvey: 07:59 Oh, my God.

Paul Pitkin: 08:00 Yeah, so that's a good picnic day memory.

Ken Harvey: 08:05 That makes me sad for you.

Paul Pitkin: 08:07 Yeah, it was terrible. I'm still recovering.

Ken Harvey: 08:12 Well, on staying on that sad note, July is also known as bereaved parents Awareness Month.

Paul Pitkin: 08:20 Oh wow.

Ken Harvey: 08:21 And just a time for maybe all of us to think about individuals that we know, family members who've lost someone in their family, child in the family and those are terrible events, real tragic events and quite often it's very difficult to get past it. As you just always remember the loss of that special person. And as a number of people have said and that I know of it just seems wrong when the parents bury a child who's a child.

Paul Pitkin: 09:02 Yeah, well, my mother's going through that very thing. Shout out to mom.

Ken Harvey: 09:08 So thinking about all of you folks out there who may be in that situation.

Jim Hills: 09:14 There are things happening closer to the community, they're happening between now and the end of summer too.

Ken Harvey: 09:21 Let's talk about some.

Jim Hills: 09:22 Yeah, if you go on the Sno-Isle Libraries website.

Ken Harvey: 09:25 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 09:26 Off the homepage, there's a thing called summer adventure, takes you right to this list. Depending on when we get this thing posted, you might still have time to go see the Lake Stevens Aqua fest July 26 and 28th of the urban Aqua fest that is a really, really fun thing. And the other cool part is that Aqua fest of the voices has been centered at that downtown Park. That downtown Park has been changed.

Ken Harvey: 09:49 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 09:49 If you haven't been there in the last year's Aqua fest. It is really cool space now.

Ken Harvey: 09:55 They have done a great job reopening the lake up to the public.

Jim Hills: 09:58 Yeah, and the library is still there right next to that park and it's going to be great.

Ken Harvey: 10:02 A lot of kudos to city officials and to that community. It's a beautiful lake and you get a chance to get down there and enjoy.

Jim Hills: 10:10 On the other end of the spectrum, so August 22 through the September 2 is the Evergreen State Fair by Monroe. That's always a fun thing. Lots of fun stuff to do there. When I go there, I always like going through the animal barn thing, which always makes me sneeze. So I don't know why I like to go through there. Because I'm kind of allergic to all the hay and everything but still, it's fun. I love seeing the kids doing four h things and it's really fun.

Ken Harvey: 10:36 Well, lots of great rides at that fair and if you're on the right ride, you don't even notice if the ground is shaking.

Jim Hills: 10:41 Yeah right.

Ken Harvey: 10:42 Because you're being shaken up by the ride.

Paul Pitkin: 10:45 I went to the Palec fair last year, for the first time ever.

Jim Hills: 10:50 Wow.

Paul Pitkin: 10:50 Yeah, I'm not really a fair guy. So I'd never been to one and I was fascinated by some of the things that I heard were actual, like fair staples.

Jim Hills: 10:59 Did you have scones?

Paul Pitkin: 11:02 No, but there was a lot of places... No, but they had lots of place where they're selling [crosstalk 00:11:06]

Ken Harvey: 11:05 Burgers with all the onions.

Paul Pitkin: 11:08 Well, I saw those too.

Ken Harvey: 11:09 Okay.

Paul Pitkin: 11:09 There was also [crosstalk 00:11:10]

Ken Harvey: 11:10 Garlic fries.

Jim Hills: 11:11 What did you eat?

Paul Pitkin: 11:11 Well, I was a little frightened.

Ken Harvey: 11:14 Cotton candy. Come on, Paul.

Paul Pitkin: 11:15 Okay, well, there was they had blocks like bricks of french fries that people were eating. Is that like a fair thing?

Jim Hills: 11:23 I've seen those.

Paul Pitkin: 11:23 Okay. And then I was with my nephew and he got this thing. It was like this huge doughnut, but it was more just the crispy part. And it had whipped cream and strawberry gunk.

Ken Harvey: 11:39 Inside?

Paul Pitkin: 11:39 All over it.

Ken Harvey: 11:40 Oh, wow.

Paul Pitkin: 11:41 And he gave me a bite and the first bite was just like, "Wow, that tastes great." And then I had another bite and then I wanted to throw up. But it was amazing. So there was that and then there was like corn dogs like weird corn dog looking stuff. But the brick of french fries was just like it was all stuck together and just the physics of it were kind of baffling along with people eating it.

Jim Hills: 12:04 It's been a while since I've been to the Palec fair. But speaking of fair food, there's Taste Edmonds coming up.

Paul Pitkin: 12:12 Oh, that's good.

Jim Hills: 12:13 August 16. I always like to go there and there's always one guy who does jambalaya which... I have no frame of reference for jambalaya. But I like whatever he's serving up. That's pretty tasty. And let me date myself a little bit because I'm excited about this thing that's coming up in Arlington called Festival of the River August 10 and 11th and on the entertainment schedule is Boz Scaggs. I have vinyl from Boz Scaggs at home. Not that I can play that anymore, but I totally remember Boz Scaggs.

Paul Pitkin: 12:48 Is Boz Scaggs the Ricky don't lose my number guy?

Jim Hills: 12:52 I don't know actually.

Paul Pitkin: 12:54 I think then name me a hit.

Jim Hills: 12:56 I can't.

Paul Pitkin: 12:57 You can't?

Jim Hills: 12:58 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 12:58 You can just hear the sound of his voice in your head, right?

Paul Pitkin: 13:02 I'm pretty sure he's Ricky that or would be it's... Yeah.

Jim Hills: 13:05 Okay.

Paul Pitkin: 13:05 Yeah, come on, you got a computer. We can't leave this hanging.

Jim Hills: 13:08 Okay, I'll figure that out. Keep talking. Talk amongst yourselves while I figure this thing out.

Paul Pitkin: 13:12 I was going to say real quick Taste of Edmonds would be great because there's a lot of fantastic restaurants in Edmonds, and a lot of times people can't go to the Bite of Seattle because it's just so packed.

Jim Hills: 13:23 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 13:24 So Taste of Edmonds is a great alternative. And like I said, there's so many great restaurants that are opening up in Edmonds all the time.

Jim Hills: 13:34 I'm shocked. You're a musician. And you said Boz Scaggs was Ricky don't lose my number.

Paul Pitkin: 13:39 Hey.

Jim Hills: 13:40 Steely Dan. Hallo?

Paul Pitkin: 13:41 Steely Dan. Okay, that's right. I think of that was kind of similar thing.

Ken Harvey: 13:45 Well, while we're talking about-

Paul Pitkin: 13:47 Boz Scaggs.

Ken Harvey: 13:50 Moving on from Boz.

Jim Hills: 13:52 Okay.

Ken Harvey: 13:53 Thinking about things that the library's involved in over the next or has been involved in is involved in will be involved in, this is a giant Harry Potter month.

Jim Hills: 14:03 Yes.

Ken Harvey: 14:03 Right? And so there's, I think a library connection to that.

Jim Hills: 14:06 So of course at a library, there are a ton of people who are very into Harry Potter and two of our libraries Granite Falls in Snohomish are going to put on like a day camp for Hogwarts, like so you can go to Hogwarts School for the day, at Snohomish.

Ken Harvey: 14:22 In Snohomish Library?

Jim Hills: 14:25 Snohomish Library and at Granite Falls library. And those are happening on July 31. And August 3, at Snohomish and Granite Falls. That's also on our website. We got a really fun page with a whole bunch of different Harry Potter stuff going on. It's not just those two items there. So we've got a bunch of different libraries are doing Harry Potter-themed events.

Jim Hills: 14:48 True Potter heads know that July 31 is Harry Potter's birthday. So you celebrate that on July 31. And it was very exciting, I think to... This is the second year at Snohomish, third year Granite Falls are doing these things. They're expecting big turnout.

Paul Pitkin: 15:07 What is that? Is it just for the... What are they going to be doing at the Hogwarts School? Are they going to be learning magic? Or is it going to be doing some other stuff too?

Jim Hills: 15:14 You bring your wands and you practice incantations and you learn... you play Quidditch? I don't think you actually fly around on your broomstick to play Quidditch, but they play an Earthbound form of Quidditch. Do you know there are Quidditch leagues? I went to a Comic-Con at the Oak Harbor library earlier this spring. And the Washington State University Quidditch team was there all dressed up in their Harry Potter stuff. There's a league of Quidditch stuff, and WSU has a team. There you go.

Ken Harvey: 15:47 Wow.

Jim Hills: 15:48 And when I say WSU I meant Washington University.

Paul Pitkin: 15:50 And they're all Earthbound?

Jim Hills: 15:52 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 15:52 Of this Quidditch?

Jim Hills: 15:52 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 15:53 Okay.

Jim Hills: 15:53 As far as I know. [inaudible 00:15:55] I'm guessing they don't fly.

Ken Harvey: 15:59 Well, we've also got some things happening I think for both young... other young people and like for Explore Summer.

Jim Hills: 16:07 Explore Summer is ongoing. That's a huge event for us. So it's a combination of things. It's really interesting. So summer reading as a core piece is very, very important for students. So if you're not actively involved in reading or learning something over the summer, you can expect to have a kind of a drop-off. They call it summer slide between the end of school in June and the start of school in September.

Jim Hills: 16:35 So libraries trying to fill in the gap. For Sno-Isle libraries, it's called Explore Summer. It's not just summer reading, although that's important. We do have Summer Reading log. Kids who get a log and fill that out, read 10 hours. All you do is read 10 hours over the summer, bringing that completed log to any of our libraries, and they'll give you a free book. You get to choose the book. So actually provided by [crosstalk 00:17:02]

Paul Pitkin: 17:02 The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Jim Hills: 17:03 Sno-Isle Foundation.

Ken Harvey: 17:05 Thank you, foundation.

Paul Pitkin: 17:06 Yeah, I just wrote a few checks just last week.

Jim Hills: 17:09 For books?

Paul Pitkin: 17:10 For books for summer reading.

Jim Hills: 17:12 And then a ton of other... of interesting programs. Many of them are STEM related. So we do terrific stuff.

Paul Pitkin: 17:22 I think there's been some trips to future flight. I believe for summer reading. And there was the eclipse a couple years ago, there was some great stuff that went along with that.

Jim Hills: 17:32 New for Explore Summer for Sno-Isle Libraries this year is a partnership with a Seattle Storm.

Ken Harvey: 17:38 The Seattle Storm is the women's [crosstalk 00:17:40]

Jim Hills: 17:39 Women's basketball team.

Ken Harvey: 17:40 Basketball.

Jim Hills: 17:41 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 17:41 The women's NBA.

Jim Hills: 17:42 Yep, exactly right. And which the Seattle Storms is playing some of their games this year at Angel of the Winds.

Ken Harvey: 17:50 Center.

Jim Hills: 17:51 Center.

Ken Harvey: 17:52 Yeah. In Everett.

Jim Hills: 17:53 In Everett.

Ken Harvey: 17:53 Down town Everett. So there're Everett home games.

Jim Hills: 17:55 Yes, Everett home games.

Ken Harvey: 17:56 Wow.

Jim Hills: 17:57 And so as part of that partnership our Explorer Summer launch events at all 23 of our libraries, there were vouchers for tickets. So if you attended one of those launch events, you could get a voucher for ticket and then all you do is take that voucher, go online, redeem it for tickets. And so there are two games where those tickets will be good at. One at East so either August 2 or August 8.

Ken Harvey: 18:25 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 18:26 Home games in Everett so totally excited about that.

Paul Pitkin: 18:31 Starting games are awesome.

Ken Harvey: 18:33 And then there's world-class athletes are just doing amazing things with the basketball.

Paul Pitkin: 18:38 And it's great basketball. It's the schemes are... I mean, I love watching basketball so they pass a lot and there's just a lot of ball movement and the Storm are, they're like the Boston Celtics of the WNBA like they've just been great for a long time.

Ken Harvey: 18:54 The dynasty.

Paul Pitkin: 18:55 Yes, the dynasty and the players are very accessible which is really cool that you can get close to them, they'll talk to you. It's a great night.

Jim Hills: 19:02 And that's a new deal for us. We've not done that kind of partnership, the library has not done that kind of partnership before. So we're very excited about that.

Ken Harvey: 19:09 Yeah. Well, we appreciate the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation for the things that you're doing to help children with Explore Summer. We glad to do the shout out for the Seattle Storm and they're working with us to help more children get excited about summer and be involved and continue to improve their reading skills and keeping themselves from sliding backwards.

Paul Pitkin: 19:34 Oh, sorry. Go ahead. I just was noticing something because you have a printout of these different days. Today is July 17, correct?

Ken Harvey: 19:42 That we're taping this?

Paul Pitkin: 19:44 Yes.

Ken Harvey: 19:44 Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 19:44 Today. It's Yellow Pig Day.

Ken Harvey: 19:46 Yeah. How about that?

Jim Hills: 19:49 Are there different colors of pigs?

Paul Pitkin: 19:50 I have no idea but it's Yellow Pig Day.

Ken Harvey: 19:54 I've seen different colors of pigs. Yes.

Jim Hills: 19:57 I don't know that I've ever actually seen a live pig.

Paul Pitkin: 20:00 Oh, you haven't, pigs are fantastic. Actually, almost got my mother a pot-bellied pig for her birthday once because they're supposed to be amazing pets.

Jim Hills: 20:09 Were you 12 when you did this?

Paul Pitkin: 20:11 I was in my 20s and I was thinking like... I thought it would be a great idea because my mom loves animals and the pot-bellied pig is like there was a period where a lot of people were keeping a pet.

Ken Harvey: 20:22 It was a thing.

Paul Pitkin: 20:22 It was a thing and I decided the last minute not to give my mom a pot-bellied pig. And she told me after a birthday, she said, "I'm really glad you didn't do that." Because apparently, a pot-bellied pig, they're kind of like, annoying like two-year-olds. So they're two-year-olds for their entire lives and they're really irritating. And they become very large and smelly.

Paul Pitkin: 20:47 So it's like one of those things that you want to be very careful of. But yeah, so I've seen potbelly pigs and I've seen real pigs but I didn't like you guys. I did not know that there were different colored pigs. But I just want to wish you both.

Ken Harvey: 20:59 Thank you.

Paul Pitkin: 20:59 And Deborah, you too. A happy yellow pig day.

Ken Harvey: 21:01 Thank you.

Paul Pitkin: 21:02 Yeah, you're welcome.

Ken Harvey: 21:03 Well, as we move towards the end of this section of the episode, just also want to just kind of throw out some other great celebration days to the end of the month that we got Stick Out Your Tongue Day and Space Exploration Day, the 19th and the 20th of the month. We have Cousins Day celebrating all of our cousins out there and Uncle and Aunt Day not to forget about our mothers and dads, brothers and sisters. And then Take Your Pants for a Walk Day. Doesn't that sounds like a great thing to do?

Jim Hills: 21:35 Sure.

Ken Harvey: 21:36 Yeah. I think we could all participate in that. And then Uncommon Musical Instruments Day the last day of the month.

Jim Hills: 21:43 Yeah, that's an interesting one.

Ken Harvey: 21:45 What's the most uncommon musical instrument that you've ever placed a sound with?

Paul Pitkin: 21:51 I play the didgeridoo, which is fairly uncommon for... I guess. I don't know if you guys know what it is.

Jim Hills: 21:58 Kind of.

Paul Pitkin: 22:00 It's actually was originated in Australia a bunch of Aborigines. And it makes that... it's a tube and it makes this sort of sound so when you see it replicates a lot of sounds in nature so it sounds like bugs in the middle of the night, it can make an elephant sound but it also uses circular breathing and it's very meditative. So you can actually [crosstalk 00:22:25]

Ken Harvey: 22:24 Just keep going and going and going with that sound.

Paul Pitkin: 22:27 And it's got this really trippy tone to it. So yeah, that's the weirdest instrument.

Jim Hills: 22:32 Trippy?

Paul Pitkin: 22:33 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 22:33 So you knew all about Boz Scaggs?

Paul Pitkin: 22:36 Oh, yeah, man.

Ken Harvey: 22:39 Well, I'm not going to try and beat your didgeridoo.

Paul Pitkin: 22:42 Okay.

Ken Harvey: 22:43 Yeah, love that.

Paul Pitkin: 22:44 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 22:45 And you're right. Very interesting sound.

Paul Pitkin: 22:47 Yeah, it's highly unusual, which is why I wanted to play it.

Ken Harvey: 22:52 So was it used in Crocodile Dundee's series?

Paul Pitkin: 22:56 I'm pretty sure but there's also... there's really great didgeridoo players and they've made actual albums with these guys using these didgeridoos and it's a really cool instrument.

Ken Harvey: 23:07 So hey, just want to encourage each one of you, our listeners, to check out the library you can learn more about didgeridoos and other uncommon musical instruments. There's lots of resources around informational resources around uncommon days to celebrate if you're looking for reasons to celebrate one and want to know more about the history of some of those things. And also lots of great events still playing out through the libraries as we move from July into the dog days of summer. August and then September. Just, hey, remember the library.

Paul Pitkin: 23:46 Can I throw something out real quick?

Ken Harvey: 23:48 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 23:48 This is going to be old news for people who hear this but it does also it's the 17th, along with Yellow Pig Day, it is Emoji Day and I would encourage everybody to take a look at all of our, the library's social media stream. So I've got our Facebook page, Instagram, LinkedIn.

Jim Hills: 24:04 Pinterest.

Paul Pitkin: 24:07 Pinterest, Twitter, but today it's pretty cool they're posting emojis and then based on those emojis, the people have to guess the title of a book based on the emojis that go around it. Actually, there's been a lot of people responding. So that's pretty awesome. So they're doing stuff like that a lot on our social media streams. So take a look out for those different things if you're a Pinterest user or Instagram or Twitter. I know Ken's a big tweeter.

Ken Harvey: 24:40 Yeah, be careful how you say that.

Paul Pitkin: 24:44 Twitter.

Ken Harvey: 24:45 Yeah. So continue to just check out and we try and be active where you may be active. So find us there in that space.

Paul Pitkin: 24:54 Great.

Ken Harvey: 24:54 Alright. We'll be back in a minute with a more in depth interview of our guest, Paul Pitkin from the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Paul Pitkin: 25:04 Oh, no.

Ken Harvey: 25:05 Back in a minute.

Speaker 5: 25:07 Your donation to the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation reaches across generation lines helping prepare children for their first year of school and bringing reading materials to the elderly and homebound. A foundation gift provides seed funding for innovative library programs for potential entrepreneurs and small business owners, teenagers, new immigrants, and lifelong learners. Please consider a one time gift, becoming a monthly donor or establishing a memorial gift to the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Ken Harvey: 25:38 We love hearing from our listeners and subscribers, especially if you enjoyed a guest or have a suggestion for a future topic. Drop us a line at checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org. Again, that's checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org and let us know what you're thinking. Don't be surprised if we read your comment or answer your question on a future podcast episode.

Ken Harvey: 26:11 So we're back in the studio and I have had the pleasure of working with Paul Pitkin for several years now. Came on board, Sno-Isle Libraries as the executive director for the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. That was what? Four years ago.

Paul Pitkin: 26:28 About five years ago.

Ken Harvey: 26:30 Five years ago and came to us I believe, from the Easter Seals.

Paul Pitkin: 26:35 Easter Seals, Washington.

Ken Harvey: 26:36 Washington.

Paul Pitkin: 26:36 Yes.

Ken Harvey: 26:36 Yeah. So, Paul, you've helped interview others on this program. So you know what it's like.

Paul Pitkin: 26:47 This side of the microphone, really, I don't like.

Ken Harvey: 26:50 And as I told you, we're getting ready for the expose.

Paul Pitkin: 26:53 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 26:54 Not really, but there's a lot of probably about you that most people don't know.

Jim Hills: 27:03 And things about the Foundation.

Ken Harvey: 27:04 And things about the Foundation that we wanted to essentially give the listeners an opportunity to be more aware of and appreciate. So tell us a little bit about yourself. Kind of where you're born and where you've lived different places if... unless it's just the same place.

Paul Pitkin: 27:22 I was born on a farm

Ken Harvey: 27:26 Really?

Paul Pitkin: 27:26 No.

Jim Hills: 27:28 With pigs.

Paul Pitkin: 27:29 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 27:30 With pot-bellied pigs.

Paul Pitkin: 27:31 I was raised by a pack of wolves. No, I was actually born in Bellingham. And I guess my growing up we kind of followed where my dad was going. So my dad was a... he ran for... What was it in Bellingham? He was like the county prosecutor or something. And actually, he won I think so. We were there, in Bellingham, for a while. So I was born there, lived.

Ken Harvey: 28:01 And running for something it's much better than running from something.

Paul Pitkin: 28:03 Yeah. Well, as far as I know.

Jim Hills: 28:06 We'll get to that point.

- Paul Pitkin: 28:07 Yeah, exactly. Yeah. So as an infant, I was in Bellingham. And then we moved back to... we moved to Seattle. My dad became the US Attorney for Western Washington. He was actually appointed by Richard Nixon. And so we were living in Seattle. I was still a little kid, well, baby. And then we moved to Bellevue when I was like four and then I grew up there and then I've been living and I moved to Seattle. I lived in LA for like a year. But then I lived in Seattle and I've lived there for a really long time.
- Ken Harvey: 28:51 So why the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation? What brought you to the work that you're currently doing?
- Paul Pitkin: 28:57 I think the big thing is just the scope of what the library does, is to me, I've always wanted to do something in my life that had an impact. So when I was, after college, I thought about becoming an academic and writing articles about other people's articles and that kind of thing. And I thought to myself... Jim's laughing. But I thought to myself... One of the professors I worked with said, "If you are going to be an academic, you have to have a butt of lead." He actually said that because you're just sitting all the time reading and typing up articles and stuff.
- Ken Harvey: 29:41 About other people's articles.
- Paul Pitkin: 29:41 About other people's articles or about other people's critiques of other people's articles. And I just really came to this conclusion, I wanted to make an impact, I wanted to do something. And so that's how I got into non-profit work and one of the ways that you can really make an impact just by raising money.
- Paul Pitkin: 30:00 So I started doing that. And with Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation, I just looked at everything that the library does. And we talk about it every day here, every time we do a podcast, we're talking about these things. And what the library does is just so, to me, instrumental and we always forget... I forget, at least that libraries have been around since the dawn of civilization.
- Paul Pitkin: 30:22 People have always wanted to save their knowledge, save what's going... save what they're talking about, what they're thinking about in every era. And so they have this historical background, but then, now these days, they do so much more and they're so important to our intellectual lives, to our social lives, to the lives of our communities, to the lives of our economies.

Paul Pitkin: 30:46 And having the opportunity, the Foundation obviously, we support what the library does, we raise money to invigorate the library and expand its capacity. To be part of that was just something that I've always wanted to do, I've always wanted to have work that impacts the community in a variety of ways and has a big impact. And that's exactly what Sno-Isle does. So for me, it was the perfect fit.

Jim Hills: 31:14 So I'm really curious about something you said at the beginning of that rant. Sorry. So you're looking for something to... a way to make an impact and raising money makes an impact.

Paul Pitkin: 31:31 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 31:33 I'm really curious. Could you expand on that a little bit? Because I think a lot of times we think of raising money as I don't know, not exactly [crosstalk 00:31:41]

Paul Pitkin: 31:41 Filthy, grubby, greedy.

Jim Hills: 31:42 Yeah, there you go. Didn't want to say that.

Paul Pitkin: 31:44 Yeah, no, I actually embrace it. I've never shy about being just a absolute money fiend. Because everything that happens in your community costs something. Nothing's free. And if there's any service provided, it costs something and people always... a lot of times people think that, "Oh, if I just volunteer then everything can be taken care of." And volunteering is great. Don't get me wrong. It's a wonderful thing that people do.

Paul Pitkin: 32:16 But everything costs something. You go to the park, it costs something, you go to the library, it costs something, you go to get your driver's license, it costs something. So everything costs something. So when you're raising money, you are paying for that stuff. So when you're raising money to support an organization that does valuable work, nothing to me feels better.

Ken Harvey: 32:43 So let me just jump in for a second because there may be some listeners who are saying, "Well, wait a minute, I thought I was already paying taxes, library levy out of my property taxes for library services. So why isn't that enough?"

Paul Pitkin: 32:57 Because the library wants to do things that your tax dollars do not go to. And I think, first and foremost, the Sno-Isle Libraries is a very responsible, transparent, well-run organization and they steward your tax dollars very, very carefully. There are going to

use it for what it's intended for and they're going to use it for what is appropriate for that. But that is just a part of what the library is capable of doing.

- Paul Pitkin: 33:26 There's all sorts of other things that the library can do that they don't feel it's appropriate to put tax dollars toward, at least not at the time. And that's where the Foundation comes in. So we can pay... There are certain things that tax dollars cannot pay for that can be a big part of library services. That's one of the things that the Foundation pays for.
- Ken Harvey: 33:49 And when you say pay for it, you mean like you provide grants to the library?
- Paul Pitkin: 33:56 I wouldn't call them.
- Ken Harvey: 33:57 You say pay for, what do you mean?
- Paul Pitkin: 34:00 I would say they're funding initiatives. So we don't demand that a library program write us a formal grant requests for different things. Now, they need to give us a budget and talk about what they're going to... what that funding is going to do. And then they present it to our board of directors, we are 501 c3 non-profit organization with a board of directors.
- Paul Pitkin: 34:24 And they submit that to the board and then the board decides if it's going to be funded. So that's what happens. But what we end up funding are things that in some cases, the libraries is not allowed to fund by law, which is the stuff like prizes and things like that. But then there's also things.
- Ken Harvey: 34:42 Like prizes for children, I think we were talking about earlier.
- Paul Pitkin: 34:44 For summer. For example, like we're buying books to encourage kids to read, that's something that the library cannot provide. But we can. The other thing that we can do is, and I think this is in many ways, some of our most important things is that we can fund seed programs that the library is not ready to fund yet.
- Ken Harvey: 35:06 As part of its regular budget.
- Paul Pitkin: 35:07 Yeah, as part of its regular budget but we can go and fund it to see if it's something that might become part of the library's regular budget. Now, the library wouldn't want to try to fund a new program like this with taxpayer dollars, because they don't know if it's going to work. And they want to know if it's going to

work first. So that's where the Foundation can come in and provide that seed money.

- Paul Pitkin: 35:27 And also we fund a lot of the more... Everything that we fund is system-wide. So, well, most of what we fund the system wide, I take that back. But we fund things that are system wide, so that... A lot of times libraries have... they'll maybe fun stuff in their own library. We provide funding for system-wide programming.
- Ken Harvey: 35:47 So everywhere that the Sno-Isle Libraries have service.
- Paul Pitkin: 35:50 Exactly. So something like the third-grade reading challenge, which we've funded for several years since it started is a system-wide program that serves thousands of kids and serves hundreds of schools and is a very important program and that is system-wide. And that's something we always fund. That's a very good example of things we funded.
- Paul Pitkin: 36:08 We've also funded the TEDxSnoIsleLibraries, we were and we will again be the founding sponsor. And that is a program that is a very public program that is part of the library's priority of civic engagement. And that is something that we are very much involved with. It's part of our mission as well. So we can bring something like that and be the catalyst for other partners coming in.
- Paul Pitkin: 36:34 So we come into the TEDxSnoIsleLibraries is a lead sponsor. That's the beginning of funding for that program and then it attracts other funders. So that's some of the things. And we also do innovative funding like for the... where we started Demonstration Libraries and Lakewood/Smokey Point and in Mariner, we've supported those as well.
- Ken Harvey: 36:53 Gosh, and it seems and sounds in many ways that the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation is almost like an investment group.
- Paul Pitkin: 37:03 That's a great way to put it.
- Ken Harvey: 37:05 Your donors are investing in others through innovative library services.
- Jim Hills: 37:12 In their communities, in their people.
- Paul Pitkin: 37:13 They're investing ...
- Jim Hills: 37:15 Investing in people.

Paul Pitkin: 37:16 Yeah, they're investing in their own communities. I mean, these are things when you see your library is in your own community. And when we are funding programming that hits those libraries, you're investing in your community. And I strongly believe that Sno-Isle Libraries is integral to the quality of our communities and the economic viability of our communities and the health of our communities.

Paul Pitkin: 37:39 So when you make an investment in the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation, you're making an investment in making your community the very best it can be. And that I think, is a mission that is incredibly attractive, and I'm very proud of, and I'm very proud to support.

Jim Hills: 37:57 So listening to you say that with such passion, I get to see you deliver that with passion.

Ken Harvey: 38:04 And he looked passionate.

Jim Hills: 38:05 He did.

Ken Harvey: 38:06 Yeah, he sounded and looked it.

Jim Hills: 38:07 Yeah. I'm imagining that that makes it... So you're not actually asking people, I mean, you are asking them for money. But what you're offering them is this opportunity.

Paul Pitkin: 38:19 It's a total opportunity. You're not giving your money away.

Jim Hills: 38:22 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 38:22 You are making an investment, you are trusting us with your dollars to, like I said, strengthen your community to empower Sno-Isle Libraries to expand its capacity, to allow it to provide as much service and reach as many people as possible. One of the things that we funded was the bookmobiles and the new bookmobiles.

Ken Harvey: 38:49 The vehicles themselves.

Paul Pitkin: 38:50 The vehicles themselves. And in doing that, we've talked before about... We spoke with Sherri Stevens, I don't know if that one has come up yet, but we learned about Library on Wheels and about the cart hauler and about the expanded routes. So by creating, by funding those vehicles, we expanded the capacity of the library to serve more people. So that is the kind of when you are making a donation, you're not just taking dollar bills and

throwing them into a bucket. You are making an investment in your community, and you are affecting people's lives by doing that.

- Ken Harvey: 39:26 Changing people's lives for the better.
- Paul Pitkin: 39:28 Yeah, absolutely. And we take that very seriously at the Foundation. Myself, Jennifer, who's part of my staff and the Board of Directors, we take that very, very seriously.
- Jim Hills: 39:39 So who does this? Who participates with the Foundation? Who donates? I mean, who is that person? That you approach or comes to the Foundation say, "I love this idea." What does that person look like?
- Paul Pitkin: 39:57 Well, first and foremost, there are people that love their... Well, I would say first and foremost, they are community minded people. But then they love their libraries. And they see every day how their library is enhancing the lives of people they know, enhancing their own lives and enhancing their communities. And so they see the library as a way to... There's different ways to impact the community, but they see the library is the best way. And they come to us very excited about the programs that we support, and they see the impact. Donors want to see impact, they want to see that something is happening.
- Ken Harvey: 40:37 That it makes a difference.
- Paul Pitkin: 40:38 That it makes a difference. And people who go to the library, who use the library, see the impact of the library and therefore see the impact of the Foundation. So those individual donors, they come to us all the time, and that's kind of a background for an individual donor, but we also have corporate sponsors, who sponsor our events and they also understand. They want their investment to have an impact. And they want their investment to show their community that they are responsible community members. And they think that the Foundation is a good way to express that.
- Paul Pitkin: 41:12 We've also received grants and grant tours want to see impact as well. They want to see a well-run program and they want to see transparency and effectiveness. And Sno-Isle Libraries definitely does that, and so they're willing to give us grants to support those programs as well. So I would say, any non-profit you want to have a good... you want to have a diversified portfolio of donors, to a certain degree, but really our lifeblood, our base is from individuals, from people who care about their

communities and care about libraries. Those are the folks that really make it work.

- Jim Hills: 41:52 When I asked that question, I wasn't necessarily thinking about this. But as you were talking, I was thinking the diversified portfolio of donors. We're working on a story of a diversified representative of your portfolio right now. So out of the Sultan Library, a young woman, maybe age eight-ish.
- Paul Pitkin: 42:17 A young woman. That is a young woman.
- Jim Hills: 42:21 Came in with some cash and wanted to donate it to the library. So the librarian thought this was unusual and started asking some questions. Knew the person, knew the family. So what's going on there? So she'd run a lemonade stand outside of their house and the money that she raised from the lemonade stand, she was bringing to the library and donating to the Foundation.
- Jim Hills: 42:47 So one of our staff members and communications Kurt Batdorf has an appointment to go out there to Sultan in the next couple of days meet with the family, meet with the librarian and so that's all I really know about it yet. I don't fully understand all of the details of the story. But I think, speaking of diversified portfolio, you're going to have a diverse portfolio this year.
- Paul Pitkin: 43:08 I have respect for child labor laws. Otherwise, I might hire this young lady to work for the Foundation as a fundraiser. Because she's already got the gift.
- Jim Hills: 43:19 Yeah.
- Paul Pitkin: 43:20 That's impressive.
- Jim Hills: 43:22 Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 43:22 Well, I just wanted to mention, and repeat something that I had said to your board of directors few weeks ago, where, I think number of years ago, we had a TEDxSnoIsleLibraries event. And after the event, I had stepped outside to just get a breath of fresh air and to exhale from all the work of the event and a couple that had walked up to me and said, they recognize me from being up on the stage at the event or hearing my name somewhere, but wanted to thank me for the experience and said that they had no idea that Sno-Isle Libraries was involved in kind of promoting and exchanging ideas, the way that that effort represented.

Ken Harvey: 44:18 And that because they had seen that the small libraries Foundation was associated with that event that they were going to be seeking out the Foundation to invest and for the future. And it just seems to me that, as you said, many of the donors are people who love libraries. And yet that experience reminded me that sometimes they're just individuals who, number one, want to make a difference, they want to see where their some of their resources can make an impact on others and others who really believe in the power of ideas.

Paul Pitkin: 44:58 Very much so and I think that [crosstalk 00:45:01]

Ken Harvey: 45:00 And the opportunity to talk about issues that matter.

Paul Pitkin: 45:03 Well, and you just said... I was just about to bring up Issues That Matter, which is another program that we fund that the two of you know very well, because you put on a lot of these programs. But this idea of civic engagement and having a celebration of ideas and having discussions within communities, it's important to Sno-Isle Libraries. And it's very important to the Foundation as well.

Paul Pitkin: 45:25 Again, it's part of our mission. But that idea of, you're right, somebody who might not know much about the library in a traditional sense. But because of the library, this person who maybe they don't even know where their library is, all of a sudden they're exposed to all these different ideas. What a great service? What an amazing thing?

Paul Pitkin: 45:45 And I've said this before, there's no better curators for a TEDx event than librarians, but similarly with our Issues That Matter which is people coming together to talk about issues, in a civil way, in a way that actually gets something done and comes to some sort of agreement and is effective. That's kind of the same thing.

Paul Pitkin: 46:08 What if somebody doesn't use their library, but they really have an issue that's important to them? When we had an Issues That Matter on teen suicide, well, I know that there's a lot of people that that's important to that might not use their library, and to know that we can be an outlet for them to talk about that as an issue. And that the Foundation can fund that is just so important. That's why I say it's not just your library, it's the community.

Paul Pitkin: 46:31 When you invest in the Foundation, you're investing in your community because of the different things that the library does

that so far beyond just checking out materials. It's enhancing your communities, and that's what's so important. And so that your example is great. It can be somebody who has never even been to their library who is impacted by what the library does.

- Ken Harvey: 46:54 Well, we've run out of time for this segment. And there are ton of other questions I'd love to ask you.
- Jim Hills: 47:00 We didn't even get to the musicians.
- Ken Harvey: 47:01 We didn't even get to the musician side of you.
- Paul Pitkin: 47:04 Well, I'm glad we ran out of time. There's all these personal anecdotes that I want to give you. Deep down into my soul, I'm really, really upset that we ran out of time.
- Ken Harvey: 47:16 Sounds like we'll need to have you back.
- Paul Pitkin: 47:19 Talk to my agent.
- Ken Harvey: 47:20 Where we can put you out of the spotlight and sweat it out of you this next [crosstalk 00:47:24]
- Paul Pitkin: 47:24 Yeah, you have to contact my people.
- Ken Harvey: 47:27 We can do that. Hey, I just really don't want the time though to get away from this without saying that we really appreciate all of those who either in the past or are currently investing through the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.
- Paul Pitkin: 47:44 Yeah, I can't second that loud enough. The people that support the Foundation are generous, thoughtful, committed people to their communities, and they are the very best people, and I'm grateful every day for their generosity, and they come back again and again. And they make donations again and again. And they come to our events and they come out to support the library. And I just want to thank them so much. And I also want to say that if you want to learn more about what we've talked about today, we have a revamped website at the Foundation, go to www.sno-islefoundation.org. And we will have a link to it in the show notes, I assume.
- Ken Harvey: 48:27 Yes, absolutely.
- Paul Pitkin: 48:28 But also if you just go to Google and search Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation, it will come up. It's a beautiful new website, and I think the both of you, Ken Harvey and Jim Hills for helping to

make that happen. It's a great website. I'm really proud and pleased at how it really tells the story of the Foundation, I think, in a compelling way. And I encourage anybody who's been interested in what they've heard about to please go there, you can learn more. And again, thank you to everybody who supported the Foundation. It's a great place to invest your money.

- Ken Harvey: 49:02 Well, speaking on behalf of those who really deserve the credit for the website, Jim and I will pass that on.
- Jim Hills: 49:10 Absolutely.
- Ken Harvey: 49:10 And say thank you for recognizing their work. That their work was in recognition of the work of the Foundation to help get the word out.
- Jim Hills: 49:17 Yeah, I was going to say it's easy to tell a good story when you've got a good story to tell. And the Foundation has a great story to tell.
- Paul Pitkin: 49:24 Couldn't agree more.
- Ken Harvey: 49:24 Yeah. So thank you, Paul.
- Paul Pitkin: 49:26 Thank you guys for taking it easy on me. This could be a very difficult situation. So I'll make sure that I'm not nearly as nice to you guys when we interview you.
- Jim Hills: 49:36 We'll [inaudible 00:49:36] turns off the mic.
- Paul Pitkin: 49:37 Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 49:38 And thanks to your Board of Directors for their incredible work.
- Paul Pitkin: 49:41 They are the best board you could ask for. They work very, very hard. And they're so into the mission, the mission that they helped devise.
- Ken Harvey: 49:50 Yeah.
- Paul Pitkin: 49:50 So yeah, they're wonderful people.
- Ken Harvey: 49:57 If you enjoyed this podcast, please subscribe so you can receive every episode automatically. And until next time, remember your library has a lot to offer you. So what are you waiting for? Check it out.