



Iran says threatened U.S. sanctions will fail

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‘The Chick Fil Ain’t’



Kat Zapata, left, and her husband Chris stand inside the Wichcraft Food Co. truck, parked in Bremerton.

A chef’s journey to Bremerton’s streets, and a chicken sandwich rival

David Nelson
Kitsap Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Often in life, the outcome doesn’t look like the original plan. A career path, relationships, maybe where “home” turns out to be.

In this case, it’s a chicken sandwich that wasn’t originally created as a chicken sandwich. Even its name -- “The Chick Fil Ain’t” -- went from a literal description of a vegetarian option to a clever poke at the franchise that drew long lines after opening this August in Bremerton, just miles from where a much smaller-scale operation serves its version a few times each week.

Kat Zapata, who created the Chick Fil Ain’t, knows she isn’t a direct competitor to the Georgia-based corporation with hundreds of locations and fans so dedicated they dress up in costume for lunch or camp

overnight for the latest store opening. She’s doing her own thing, very locally and with a pretty small footprint in her newfound home, the latest chapter in a three-decade journey after leaving her native Hawaii and then, most recently, leaving the thing we’d all like to ditch -- a commute.

“I didn’t want to be in a car all the time,” Zapata said about finding Bremerton rather than a city along the I-5 corridor when she and her husband Chris, a programmer able to work remotely, decided to leave Seattle during the pandemic. Then she pauses to acknowledge the refurbished school bus, painted jet black and outfitted so she can stand inside for hours at a time running Wichcraft Food Co., parked maybe 10 yards behind her. “Yeah, the irony.”

The twists and turns of a career in restaurants was

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USS Lincoln may homeport at Kitsap base

Peiyu Lin
Kitsap Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Naval Base Kitsap will likely become home to the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier (CVN 72), the ship that’s made national news in recent weeks for an extended deployment in the Middle East and is now sailing for San Diego. And a new, large dry dock facility will be under construction at the Bremerton shipyard while many work for the Nimitz-class carrier is scheduled there.

In the fourth annual Kitsap Industrial Readiness Summit on Aug. 20, Navy leaders emphasized the importance of modernizing the aging Puget Sound Naval Shipyard facilities and equipments and said that building a new multimission dry dock that can accommodate the Ford-class carrier on time is essential for national security.

“Schedule is king,” Cmdr. John Daly, Resident Officer in Charge of Construction-Puget for NAVFAC Northwest, said several times at the conference. Daly was one of the keynote speakers who presented the ongoing shipyard modernization construction at PSNS & IMF to the attendees. Conference participants include contractors and other stakeholders in Washington and also from other states, who look forward to being involved in the Navy’s once-in-a-century investment in Bremerton. The conference was launched by the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton.

The Navy plans to build a new dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard that can handle the maintenance and repair work of its newest Ford-class aircraft carrier. This work, known as a major part of the Navy’s Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP) at PSNS & IMF, is scheduled to take 12 years to complete and could involve billions of investment opportunities in Washington. The Navy has already started demolition work to make space for the preparation of the new dry dock construction.

But planned work to take care of the existing Nimitz-class carriers at PSNS & IMF won’t stop because of that.

“We are literally renovating our house while we live in it. That’s a painful process. Restroom, kitchen, and all. We’re doing it all, right? So the mission of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard is not going to slow down. It’s not going to stop,” Daly said.

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Bremerton and Poulsbo authors nominated for state book awards

Neisha Gaskins
Kitsap Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Two Kitsap authors have been nominated for the 2026 Washington State Book Awards, celebrating its 60th anniversary, with an announcement of winners selected by 2026 WSBA judges expected on Sept. 15.

Julian Brave NoiseCat of Bremerton and Donna Barba Higuera of Poulsbo are among the 41 Washington-based finalists -- from Vashon to Vancouver and Spo-

kane to San Juan Island -- with seven categories for outstanding literary works published in 2025, presented by the Washington Center for the Book. This year, judges evaluated 308 submissions based on the strength of the novel’s literary merit, lasting importance and overall quality.

NoiseCat’s novel “We Survived the Night” is a finalist in the Creative Nonfiction/Memoir category, and

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