

Lecture: [Learning about Pacific Northwest Moths](#), Dec 3rd, free. Apparently, somebody's paying attention to the leps flying around the lamppost at night. A retired state biologist discusses all things moths, shows off his photos of our state's winged inhabitants, and provides photographic tips for your own work.

Shopping: If you're headed north, the new [Tulalip Resort Casino](#) has a Holiday Shopping Madness getaway, which has just about all of the goodies you could need for a couple of shopping days up there, all in luxury of course. Also, most people overlook the out-of-view restaurants inside the casino, which is a shame, because they also stand out on their own. * Also, [Pacific Place](#) is doing it's Winter Wonderland festival again. The snow shows start nightly at 6 PM, Nov 28th - Dec 31st, along with other show elements along the way. The good thing about this place, besides the upper-end stores, is the cheap parking below.

Dining: [Kaspars](#), this private dining facility opens to the public for holiday occasions, so get in while you can. They have special events planned from Thanksgiving to New Year's. Kaspar's is one of those places where, when other Seattle chefs want to go out to eat, they go here. * Also, [Pearl Restaurant](#) opens in Bellevue, adding +5 to the neighborhood swank factor. This restaurant hits the chic and urban vibe, emphasizing local and organic ingredients. This is also the first Bellevue restaurant to offer valet parking. * Finally, [Shell Creek](#) in Edmonds has an intriguing, priceless menu - pay what you can afford. Of course, this doesn't mean you can stiff them, but that you let your conscience be the guide into your checkbook for their wonderful food.

Nutcracker: Thank god for this holiday classic; for American ballet companies, the Nutcracker brings in 40% of their annual revenue. Of course, [PNB](#) has the [Nutcracker](#) refined to a glorious performance, \$24+. Even if you've seen it before, you still go 'Wow!' * Also, the [Arc School of Ballet](#) puts on its [Nutcracker](#), Dec 12-14th, \$12. Besides putting you in the holiday mood, the Nutcracker is an excellent way to introduce children to the ballet.

Beer: [Washington Beer Festival](#), Dec 5-6th, \$23. Instead of the regular wine and chocolate tasting, this event is beer and chocolate tasting. Local breweries trot out their winter blends, something a bit stronger and darker. Then, the folks from the [Chocolate Box](#) provide samples paired to beer's flavorings. * Also, [Samuel Adams Beers](#), Dec 3rd, \$1, so you get to taste some of that fancy sipping beer from Boston.

Renton Rocks:

Who'da think this town is actually kinda



cool?

Theater: Renton is grand enough to support three theaters, the [Carco Theater](#), [Ikea Performing Arts Center](#), and [Renton Civic Theater](#). The good things about these smaller theaters are, first, the ticket prices are reasonable, and second, the experience is a lot more intimate, so it's easier to see the expressions on the actors faces and the details of their costumes.

Ice Skating, at the [Castle Ice Arena](#). The open skate is always the big draw, where a newbie can still learn to propel herself on the ice confidentially within a couple of minutes. Of course, there's regular hockey and a couple of pickup games as well, but our fun time is spent playing Broomball instead.

Cedar River Trail: This trail hugs the river along an old railroad right-of-way, so it's long, flat, and mostly paved. Come out here on a Saturday, and you'll get your share of roller bladers and joggers with baby strollers.

Cool Video: Our *Girl About Town* reports from the [Goodwill Glitter Sale](#):

