March 19 through March 25, 2020

Whidbey Weekly

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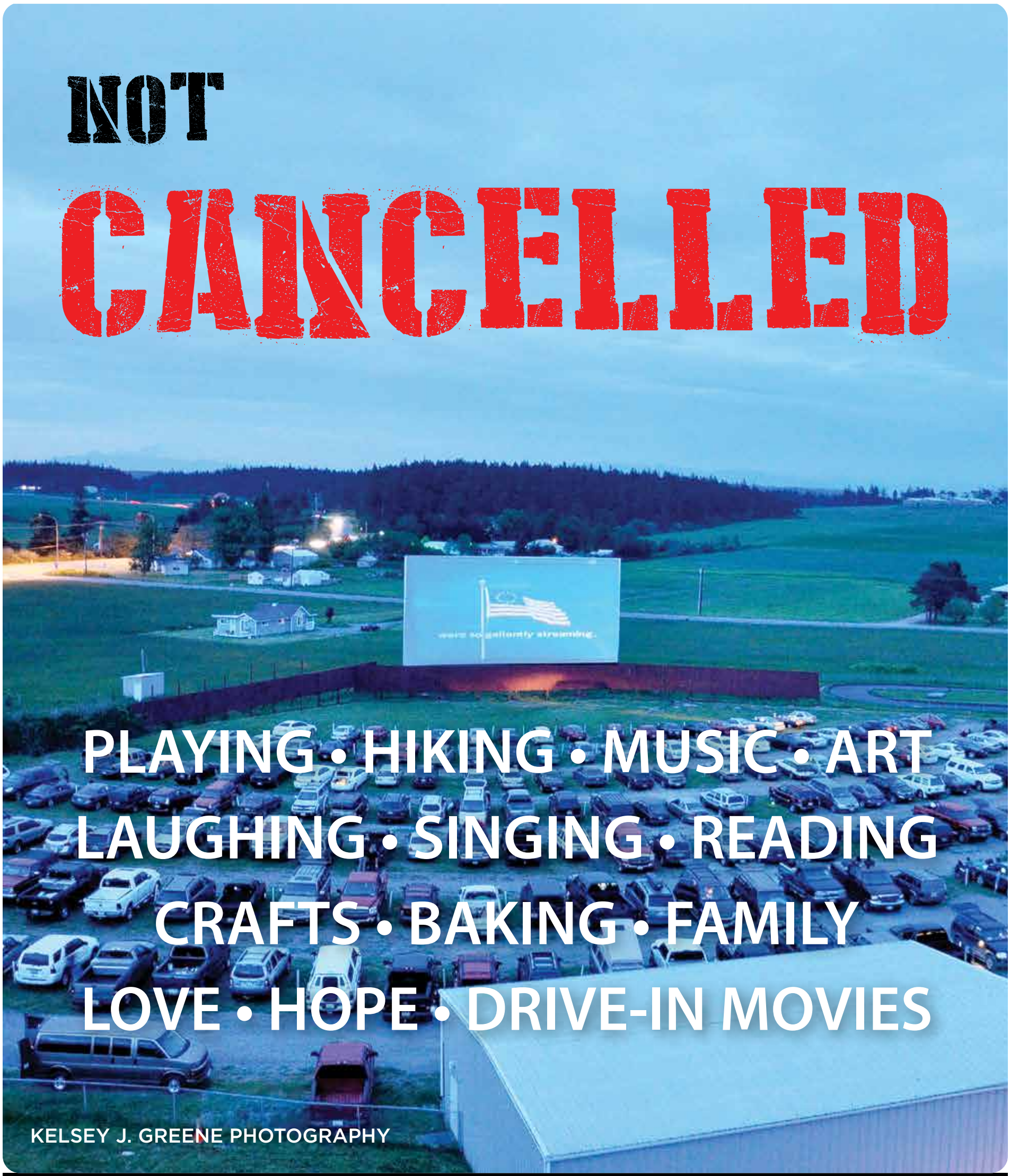

More Local Events *inside*

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Whidbey Weekly

Make a Difference

By Shannon Bly
Outreach Coordinator, Whidbey Island Conservation District

WATER CONSERVATION IN ACTION

It has been a wet year so far. So much water accumulating so quickly overwhelmed many of the systems we depend on for water management, including our soils, our ditches and our drains. You may have noticed pools of water collecting on your property where there hadn't been a problem before, or overflows to drainage ditches that had always worked in the past.

The flooding this winter was beneficial in showing us where we can improve our water systems. Coming up, too, are the dry months – the best time to do water management projects. What type of project do you need to do, and for what purpose?

Work with the Water

Understanding how water moves on your property and in your watershed can help you determine where to build structures, where to dig ditches, and how to best manage pastures.

Oak Harbor homeowners Jennifer and Bruce Roberts purchased a home on acreage in 2013 with the goal of keeping horses. A drainage ditch runs across their property, dividing the house and driveway from the pastures. They noticed in the winter months the pastures downslope from the drain would fill with water and stay wet well into the spring.

The Roberts dug sediment from the ditch and made sure it was deep enough to hold the water flowing onto their property during rain storms. Additionally, they replaced small culverts adjacent the ditch with larger, more appropriate-sized ones. They actively maintain the ditch by keeping it clear of vegetation and sediment and avoid mowing right up to the ditch edge, in order to reduce erosion. Due to these improvements, Jennifer said the ditch has only overflowed into the pasture twice, and one of those times was this year.

"Follow the water," Jennifer advised. "Know where the water is coming from."

The Roberts used Island County's publicly accessible, interactive online maps, as well as Google Maps, to find the source of the water in their ditch. They determined it started on top of the hill off Silverlake Road. From the hilltop, water travelled down, through a few ponds, through culverts and across roads, before flowing through their ditch, their neighbors' ditches, under Crescent Harbor Road, and out into Crescent Harbor Bay.

This information helped them understand how their property interacted with their larger watershed.

The Roberts follow water conservation management practices on their property. They now have two horses, an arena, and a shop. The horses have a sacrifice area in winter to keep them from damaging wet fields. Geotextile fabric and gravel under water troughs and in front of stalls reduces mud in heavily used paddock areas, keeping their horses healthy. And they have plans for more water management improvements, including gutters for their horse shelter which will direct water away from the sacrifice areas.

Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Impervious surfaces include any surface unable to absorb and filter water. These include roofs, patios, driveways, sidewalks, and roads, to name a few. We have a lot of impervious surfaces in our developed areas and on our properties, and those areas create stormwater runoff that wasn't present when the area was soil and vegetation.

One way to practice good water management and conservation is to reduce the impact your property has on stormwater systems. Coupeville resident Ruth Richards has a goal of keeping "all the water that falls on this lot on this lot." In order to do this, she had to start by looking at her impervious surfaces and decide what to do with the water running off them.

Her roof water is directed into two 500-gallon tanks, which she uses to water her large backyard garden - a catchment system that's very useful.

"I can water through the beginning of August," said Ruth. For her roof water catchment project, she contacted the Whidbey Island Conservation District, which helped her determine her roof's rainwater capacity and how many tanks she would need.

Last year, inspired by the website depave.org, she hired a landscaper to remove 400 square feet of driveway from her lot, and replaced it with soil - a "de-pave" project. She planted fruit trees and native shrubs in place of the pavement. Her front yard is noisy with a chorus of song birds, and we saw a native bumblebee, weighed down with pollen, pollinating a peiris japonica bush in bloom.

By removing impervious surfaces and replacing them with vegetation, not only is her property apt to absorb and filter stormwater, it creates wildlife habitat, both of great benefit to Ruth and her community.

Redirect Roof Water

One issue that can commonly bubble up for homeowners is rainwater accumulating around the foundation of a building. Years ago, staff at Greenbank Farm noticed this drainage issue surfacing around some of the outbuildings on the property. They contacted staff from WSU Extension Island County and the Whidbey Island Conservation District for consult. After receiving recommendations, Greenbank Farm staff decided it was appropriate to redirect the roof water of their outbuildings to a rain garden.

Rain gardens are landscaped areas that collect, absorb, and filter stormwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, patios, and other impervious surfaces that don't allow water to soak in. The location of a rain garden is carefully selected based on existing soil conditions and infrastructure such as wells, septic, and buildings. Ideal areas for rain gardens are in places that have a good capacity for drainage, not wet areas that naturally collect water.

For the Greenbank Farm, this location was next to the small playground on the west side of the property. In 2012, WSU Extension Master Gardeners installed the rain garden with assistance from the nonprofit organization 12,000 Rain Gardens.

By 2019, the rain garden needed rehabilitation. One Dwarf Blue Arctic Willow had grown so large it had outcompeted all the other rain garden plants, and the original sign explaining the purpose of the rain garden had faded away. In November, volunteers with WSU Extension Master Gardeners, Island County Marine Resources Committee, the Port of Coupeville, and members of the Whidbey community weeded and mulched the rain garden before planting new native plants. Over the winter, the newly restored rain garden has once again been busy collecting and filtering stormwater that would otherwise have been collecting around building foundations.

Seek Guidance When Planning a Project

Jennifer Roberts says she and her husband have a joke about their home improvement projects.

"If we'd known then what we know now," she said, "we probably would have done it differently."

Get your information and planning done ahead of time. Seek the guidance of a professional when planning most projects. Engineers and natural resource planners will be able to give you advice and resources that can make your plan a success. You can start with the free resources, advice, and referrals at Whidbey Island Conservation District, where staff can help you get started with your project.

Check with local town, city, and county, as well as state regulatory authorities, before you start a drainage project. Map out infrastructure, such as your septic system, location of water hook ups, and location of utilities, and always call before you dig! Bluffs, shorelines, steep slopes, and wetlands are particularly sensitive landscapes with possible additional rules to follow, so if your property has one of these features - as many of us do on Whidbey - find out by first contacting Island County Planning Department, and then consult a geotechnical engineer or environmental consultant to start your drainage project plan.

The best time to work on water management projects is May - October, when soils have dried out. Driving equipment on waterlogged soil can compact and damage it, potentially making drainage problems worse. Winter and spring are great times to observe your yard and plan your project. Most of us were able to observe water movement on our properties this winter! Now is the time to make a plan for your water management project.

The *Make a Difference* column is coordinated by Whidbey Island Conservation District.

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman

Is it just me or did someone in the world hit the pause button?

The events of the last few days and weeks have put my mind in freeze frame. Even with dirty windows in this 92-year young caboose, I find myself staring more.

Just staring.

Maybe we can stare together. Instead of social distancing, our minds can distance.

Where do we take them?

Where do they take us?

Yesterday, I watched so much negativity on the news, I felt like taking a sitz bath in hand sanitizer.

Instead, I had a Fanta orange soda pop and watched another episode of *The Lone Ranger*, from the fifth and final season of 1956, when the show was first broadcast in color.

The scenery in those episodes, many of them shot in Kanab, Utah, is filled with superb staring surroundings. "Hi-Yo, Scenery, Away!"

It also occurred to me while staring, an adult form of contemplation, there have been some benefits to our new world situation.

Time out

In the last 72 hours, for the first time ever, I filed my income taxes online using the www.irs.gov/freefile web site.

Doing so was like being in an episode of *Columbo* with Peter Falk, "One more thing."

In solving any mystery, patience is part of the process. Sherlock Holmes seldom said, "I've got it," in the first 30 pages of the book. Maybe after a couple hundred pages, Holmes and Watson started to get dialed in.

The IRS free file experience is worth attempting. Even if one uses a professional tax preparer, we, the taxpayers, have to do all the preparing for the preparer and filer so he or she knows which boxes to check and what numbers to put in those boxes.

For me, the interaction with the online IRS process was foolproof. I was the fool with the proof. Even when I tried to make a mistake, the IRS mystery helper caught it first, red sentences blaring.

Using this IRS free file was akin to having an open book test, but with a proctor who kept my answers between the lines.

Another nice feature: As one fills out the details of W-2s, 1099-Misc, SSA-1099, 1099-DIV, 1099-INT, and whatever else is in your bread basket, there is a running total in the upper right side of the computer screen which tells you how much you owe the Feds.

When I finally figured out what the number was, and why it kept changing, it was no different than the feeling I get at Midway Coin Op Laundry in Oak Harbor trying to determine how many more quarters I need to insert in the washer.

Upon completing my filing, I hit send with a smile.

Seconds later, I received an email with the subject line, Update: 2019 Federal Tax Return has been rejected.

So much for my first ever government grade card.

After being guided by the government in their rejection email, and after hitting all their blue links, I discovered I had used incorrect information in one square regarding my adjusted gross income from 2018.

Correcting this, I hit submit again.

Instead of watching and worrying, I left my computer chair, retreated to the caboose TV area, and turned up the volume on *Judge Judy*. Not much volume was needed. She was already yelling.

After engaging the mute button, I went back to check email. Eureka! Breaking news – 2019 Federal Tax Return has been accepted.

Thank you, Alexander Hamilton.

My $3 refund will be mailed within 7 to 21 days.

I decided to take the refund payment in one lump sum. Some lump, eh? There was an option to split it into two payments.

Why do that?

With a buck fifty, I can only get a half a cup of coffee.

Show me the money! Hold out for the whole.

Without the world being on pause, I may never have attempted doing my taxes online. I would have held out for Kate and Ed and our reliable friends at the AARP tax assistance program, like many of us do every year.

Yet, those great volunteers had to vacate their island locations at senior centers because of their safety and the safety of the people they serve.

Yep, it has been a staring out the window kind of time lately.

Maybe tomorrow I'll clean the windows.

Langley history

One-hundred years ago, Langley became the second municipality in the nation to elect an all woman council. It did not take these trailblazers long to take the lead after President Woodrow Wilson signed the 19th amendment weeks earlier, giving women the right to vote.

Fonts for thought

"We can't control life, but we can control how we respond to life's challenges. The answer lies in stabilizing the mind."
~Eknath Easwaran, *Strength in the Storm: Creating Calm in Difficult Times*

"Our memories are card indexes consulted and then returned in disorder by authorities whom we do not control."
~Cyril Connolly, British critic (1903-1974)

On getting older

Among the hundreds of books our Grandpa Freeman had, one entitled *100 Best Sermons for Special Days and Occasions* caught my eye many years ago. Published by Harper Brothers, and edited by G.B.F. Hallock, D.D. in 1923, this book offered a story on page 84 you may enjoy if you are over 40.

"When Longfellow was well along in years, he was asked how it was that he was able to keep so vigorous and write so beautifully.

"His reply was to point to a blooming apple tree nearby and say–'That apple tree is very old but I never saw prettier blossoms upon it than those which it now bears. The tree grows a little new wood each year, and I suppose it is out of that new wood that those blossoms come. Like the apple tree, I try to grow a little new wood each year.'"

Memory loss

The following info from Professor Rebecca Amariglio of Harvard Medical School are tips to identify one's degree of memory loss.

These five activities are considered by her as "probably normal aging."

Walking into a room and forgetting why you entered; having trouble recalling the names of unfamiliar people; a change in memory compared with when you were younger; memory changes similar to other people of the same age; and, misplacing items, but later recalling where you put them.

Feel better?

I sure do, particularly the first one. Fortunately, I only have three rooms, so forgetting and remembering why I entered the rooms does not take too long.

If I just stayed in one room, I would never have to go look for my memory.

These five signs are potential concerns for cognitive decline:

1. Getting lost in familiar surroundings.
2. Having difficulty remembering details of important events.
3. Difficulty following the plot of a television program or a book because of memory problems.
4. Memory changes that are worse than those of people your same age.
5. Misplacing items, and being unable to locate them later.

No wonder I look at the keyboard to type. Where did those letters go?

To read past columns of *On Track* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at *www.whidbeyweekly.com.*

GOOD CHEER LAST CHANCE GARAGE SALE
Saturday, March 28 • Rain or Shine
10AM-2PM – MASSIVE REDUCTIONS ON IN-STORE PRICES
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Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

We at the Coupeville Lions Club want to thank the Coupeville community for making our 15th Annual Scholarship Auction Dinner such a huge success. All the funds we raised at the auction and from donations from those who were unable to attend will go toward scholarships for Coupeville High School Seniors. This year we raised over $40,000.

For the high school seniors, one of the most important elements in being awarded a Coupeville Lions Scholarship is the understanding that over 130 Lions and friends have their backs. Coupeville Lions are in their 80+ years of service to the community.

A sellout crowd of 170 were entertained by auctioneer Dale Sherman and magician JR Russell, while enjoying a delicious dinner and appetizers at the Oak Harbor Elks Club. The Auction, our annual Garage Sale and over 20 ongoing service projects give our members many opportunities to serve the community. Learn more about our club at www.CoupevilleLions.org.

Lion Brian Pulk
President, Coupeville Lions Club

Editor,

Our community is seeing an impact unlike anything we have experienced before. As the days pass, our resources are being strained, creating even more barriers to our clients and our operations. The vulnerable community we serve will disproportionately feel the immense burden of an economic slowdown that appears inevitable from this unprecedented situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, Habitat for Humanity of Island County is taking action and taking precautions to protect our employees, our customers and our homeowners.

We are limiting social gatherings, utilizing teleconferencing, and cleaning our stores several times throughout the day. In the immediate future and for as long as possible, we plan to keep our stores open and continue to pick up donations and make deliveries with an abundance of caution. Our stores provide a service for families in our community and we in turn use the revenue to build affordable workforce housing and perform critical home repairs, two vital needs in our community.

In response to this emerging situation, Habitat for Humanity of Island County is developing an emergency assistance fund for homeowners in crisis.

Will you join us in contributing to ensure these hard-working families have a safe place to shelter and are able to maintain and withstand the inevitable economic hardship they may now face based on loss of income?

Your financial and in-kind support will help families in our community maintain the stability and security of their homes they have worked so hard to create.

Orin Kolaitis
CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Island County

Community,

It is with a heavy heart I announce the Holland Happening Parade and Festival will be cancelled for 2020.

Chamber staff will share factual information put out to us via state, county and local officials. We will maintain the Chamber of Commerce business hours as allowed and outlined by elected officials. We are committed to seeing everyone succeed through this difficult time and will be sharing marketing and creative ideas to membership as a way to help sustain business. If you have ideas you would like to share, please feel free to submit to us at info@oakharborchamber.com.

Through the support of our membership and our community we will prevail and champion through these unprecedented times. I reiterate, please stay calm and look to factual information not inaccuracies being spread on social media. If you have questions, we will do our best to answer them via phone or email.

Respectfully,

Miranda Hoppock
Executive Director, Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Valued Customers,

Thank you to all our customers for their support and patience, especially sharing "kindness" with our customer service representatives. As of Monday, March 23, five daily roundtrip shuttles between Whidbey Island and SeaTac will be offered (see schedule below).

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have implemented proactive measures for both customers and employees. For everyone's safety, we follow CDC and FAA protocols, including Safety Alert for Operators (SAFO) for air carriers in cleaning buses with high-grade disinfectants (as used in medical facilities), training drivers in social distancing, and making disinfectants available to our customers.

Since the initial outbreak in China, we have planned and implemented preparedness and prevention measures in coordination with the Washington State Department of Health, Island County Public Health and SeaTac International Airport, and are actively monitoring all transportation impacts.

Thank you again for being a valued customer and continuing to travel with us – "Yes!" we are open for business! If you should require additional information, please do not hesitate to email us at info@seatacshuttle.com or call 360-679-4003.

D'Arcy Morgan
Owner/Operator, Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle & Charter

Whidbey Island to Seatac Schedule

NAS Whidbey	Oak Harbor	Coupeville	Greenbank	Freeland	Bayview	Langley Clinton	SEATAC
3:45 AM	4:15 AM	4:30 AM	4:45AM	4:55AM	5:05AM	5:10AM	6:30AM
7:15AM	7:45AM	8:00AM	8:15AM	8:25AM	8:35AM	8:40AM	10:00AM
1045AM	11:15AM	11:30AM	11:45AM	11:55AM	12:05AM	12:10PM	1:30PM
1:45PM	2:15PM	2:30PM	2:45PM	2:55PM	3:05PM	3:10PM	5:00PM
5:15PM	5:45PM	6:00PM	6:15PM	6:25PM	6:35PM	6:40PM	8:00PM

Seatac to Whidbey Island Schedule

Depart SEATAC	Langley Clinton	Bayview	Freeland	Greenbank	Coupeville	Oak Harbor	NAS Whidbey
945AM	1120AM	1125AM	1135AM	1145AM	1200PM	1215PM	1230PM
12:45PM	2:20PM	2:25PM	2:35PM	2:45PM	3:00PM	3:15PM	3:30PM
3:45PM	5:20PM	5:25PM	5:35PM	5:45PM	6:00PM	6:15PM	6:30PM
6:45PM	8:20PM	8:25PM	8:35PM	8:45PM	9:00PM	9:15PM	9:30PM
9:45PM	11:20PM	11:25PM	11:35PM	11:45PM	12:00AM	12:15AM	12:30AM

All Sno-Isle Libraries Facilities Closed to the Public

All Sno-Isle Libraries buildings closed to the public last Friday.

"We will continually reassess to determine the length of the closure," Sno-Isle Libraries Executive Director Lois Langer Thompson said last week.

"This was a difficult decision and was made based on Snohomish Health District recommendations, the Governor's emergency declaration regarding social distancing, large groups, and closing schools," Langer Thompson said.

During the closure, library customers will be able to keep currently checked-out materials and their holds on new materials will be extended. Sno-Isle libraries does not have fines for overdue library materials. Langer Thompson said plans are being made now for library staff to continue to work and be paid during the closure period.

The library also has many online resources, services, and materials. In addition, library customers who register online for a library account will now have access to more digital materials.

"We want all customers to have access to digital materials during the current public health crisis," said Jessica Russell, assistant director of Technical Services-Collection Services for Sno-Isle Libraries.

Overdrive offers ebooks and audiobooks, online learning courses, digital magazines, and digital streaming of movies and TV shows with Kanopy and Hoopla. Customers can check out up to 30 items on Overdrive.

"We realize that the decisions around this quickly evolving public-health crisis are difficult for our customers and employees," Langer Thompson said. "Sno-Isle Libraries plays an important role in our communities. During this unprecedented time, we can best help those communities by doing what we can to help curb the growth of coronavirus transmission."

[Submitted by Jim Hills, Sno-Isle Libraries]

Skagit Valley College Announces Remote Operations and the Continuation of Remote Instruction Delivery

In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, all Skagit Valley College sites remain closed and have moved to remote operations until April 24 or until further notice. The college will continue to offer all courses via remote delivery only. With remote operations, access to services for students and prospective students such as instruction, enrollment services, counseling and advising, financial aid, workforce grants, and the Cardinal Bookstore, etc. will be available remotely. For complete information about these services, as well FAQs, please visit www.skagit.edu/remote

The health and safety of employees, students and the communities SVC serves are primary concerns. In moving to remote operations, SVC is implementing information and directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's Office, and the Skagit County Health Department.

In addition, the college is applying the following Principles for Service:

- The health and safety of employees, students and the communities we serve are our primary concern.
- The college must take proactive steps to limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Don't Let Fears Drive Your Investment Choices

First, the coronavirus rocked the financial markets. Then, oil prices dropped more than 20 percent after a breakdown in OPEC production discussions. Not surprisingly, the markets took another nosedive. Yet, despite these events, this recent market volatility may well be attributed more to fear than the forces that usually drive the markets. Ultimately, in the investment arena, as in all walks of life, facts matter. And right now, if you look beyond the headlines, the facts that matter to investors may be far less gloomy than you might have imagined.

So, here are some things to keep in mind over the next several weeks:

• This isn't 2008. If you were an investor in 2008, you well remember the market crash that resulted from the bursting of the housing bubble, which had severe ripple effects throughout the economy. The situation is different now. While it's quite likely that the U.S. economy will take a hit in the short term, the overall economic fundamentals were strong before the coronavirus came along and may indeed prove resilient enough to withstand the recent shocks. Specifically, the labor market conditions were the best in decades, housing activity was improving and interest rates remained low. And even the recent events may have a bright side: The drop in oil prices will likely reduce prices at the gas pumps, leading to more money in the pockets of consumers, which, in turn, can boost spending, a key driver of our economy. And the large decline in interest rates will make home purchases and mortgage refinancing even more attractive – again, positive moves for the economy.

• We've been here before. From the time the markets bottomed out in early 2009 until just a few weeks ago, stock prices climbed about 300 percent. Yet, during that time, we also saw three separate market drops of more than 15 percent, similar to what we're seeing now. These market corrections always feel unsettling, but it's important to recognize that they are actually a normal part of the long-term investing process.

So, given these factors, how should you respond to the current situation? Instead of simply selling your stocks in an attempt to cut your losses, review your portfolio to see if it is properly balanced between stocks, bonds and other investments in a way that reflects your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. Those investors with properly balanced portfolios are not seeing the same level of decline as those whose holdings are almost entirely in stocks. And while diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help reduce the impact of volatility.

Here's another suggestion: Look for good buying opportunities, because they are certainly out there. A well-managed company with a solid business plan that produces quality products and services is going to be that same company after the coronavirus and oil price panics subside – and right now, that company's stock shares may literally be "on sale."

While it's not easy for you to look at your investment statements today, remember that you're investing for goals that may be decades away. By keeping your eyes on this distant horizon, so to speak, you'll be less likely to over-react to the news of the day – and more likely to follow a long-term strategy that can work for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

- The college will follow the advice/directives of the appropriate governmental and health agencies.
- The teaching and learning functions are the core mission of the college.
- The college must support students and faculty to succeed in our core mission.

For additional information and webpage updates, visit www.skagit.edu/coronavirus

[Submitted by Arden Ainley, Chief Public Information Officer, SVC]

Island Transit Managing Through COVID-19

Island Transit has undertaken steps to maintain important bus and paratransit service throughout Island County despite the COVID-19 outbreak. The agency is currently running its full range of service, including vital paratransit trips and 15 bus routes serving Whidbey and Camano Islands.

"Even in this outbreak, people still need to go about their lives. Whether it's getting to the ferry, heading to their job on the island, traveling to the store to stock up on goods, or going to dialysis, it's important their transit system can take them there," said Island Transit board chair, Jackie Henderson from the Coupeville Town Council.

As more people are staying home, bus ridership is dropping. One day last week on Whidbey Island there were 313 fewer trips than the same day one year ago. This trend is happening throughout Washington State and across the nation.

Island Transit is working with public health authorities to make sure these bus trips can be as safe as possible for its riders and employees. The agency is using the EPA-approved Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant as a deterrent against transmission of the COVID-19 virus. On a daily basis, the grab bars, pull cords, poles and other high-touch, hard surfaces on its buses, are disinfected. Passenger seats are being sprayed daily, and the floor cleaned with disinfectant daily, and windows and mirrors are scrubbed daily, as well.

"The safety of the traveling public and our employees is the number one priority of Island Transit," according to Island Transit Executive Director Todd Morrow.

While the agency is not in a position to screen who rides the bus, it can ask its riders to engage in safe personal hygiene etiquette when they are on the bus. To make it easy for riders, there are signs on the buses and in the shelters asking people to stay home if sick, cover their cough, and wash their hands frequently.

Social distancing – a practice of keeping at least six feet or more from others – is recommended by public health experts as another tactic to slow the spread of the virus.

"To help protect our coach operators, Island Transit is removing from use the bus seats immediately behind where the coach operator sits. This provides the distance of six feet for our drivers. Of course the most important social distancing practice is for those who are sick to stay home and not ride the bus," said Morrow.

The agency also provides protective kits for each of its drivers, including hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gloves, and masks.

The agency has a plan for a reduced number of bus trips should a large portion of its coach operators become ill. It also has emergency plans in place for operating out of a different location, should its buildings be temporarily closed for a deep cleaning. The public is advised to check Island Transit's website or sign-up for automated alerts so they can stay abreast of any changes in their bus service. Go to the agency's website to subscribe.

The mission of Island Transit is to provide safe, accessible, convenient, and friendly public transportation services which enhance our Island quality of life.

For more information, contact Todd Morrow at 360-678-9500 or Meg Heppner at 360-678-9501.

[Submitted by Meg Heppner, Island Transit]

Washington Court of Appeals Makes GMA Ruling

Last Monday, the Washington Court of Appeals affirmed in part and reversed in part a finding by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board that Island County's most recent legislative effort to protect certain "critical areas" through its development regulations was compliant with the Growth Management Act.

In a win for the county, the Court of Appeals ruled the county complied with the GMA when it designated "prairies, oak woodlands, and herbaceous bald" tree habitats and their vicinities (in part to protect the rare plant species that these habitats support), as "Habitats of Local Importance." The regulations require a professional biological site assessment prior to any development activity within 1,000 feet of these areas.

Although these areas were properly designated, the court took issue with the county's mapping of these areas, ruling the maps the county used to identify these areas should either have been more precise or accompanied with definitional criteria.

The Court of Appeals also found lacking the county's description of required buffers for "Natural Area Preserves." The court found that two sentences in the code conflicted with one another. The court overturned the Growth Management Hearings Board determination that this buffer provision was in compliance with the GMA.

Island County Planning Director Jessica Carpenter will present a plan to the Board of County Commissioners with identified fixes to comply with the ruling. After all the hard work put in by county staff and the public, the Board of Island County Commissioners is pleased the issues remanded to the Growth Board for resolution are relatively narrow and the Board's balanced policy approach was not disputed.

[Submitted by Virginia Shaddy, Deputy Clerk of the Board]

Local Business News

MaryElizabeth Himes Joins Safe Harbor Agency

Founders William Brown and his son, Garry, started Safe Harbor Agency in Oak Harbor over 50 years ago.

Now, MaryElizabeth Himes and her husband, Craig, have come on board to help continue the legacy of service and community at Safe Harbor Agency.

As the agency principal, Mary has over 20 years of experience in the insurance industry. She is an expert on personal insurance and is always focused on giving the highest level of customer service.

Craig is new to insurance and retired with a technology background, joining Safe Harbor Agency was in keeping with the family values already in place at the agency.

As a family owned business, MaryElizabeth Himes and Craig pride themselves on responsive, thoughtful and professional service for their clients.

As an independent insurance agency, they work with multiple insurance carriers, which enables them to provide their clients with policies that best fit their needs in addition to the best rates.

Call Safe Harbor Agency at 360-675-6663 for a no cost review of your existing policies and learn more about how they can serve you. For more information, visit www.safeharbor-whidbey.com.

WHAT'S GOING ON CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

What's Going On

All entries are listed chronologically, unless there are multiple entries for the same venue or are connected to a specific organization (such as Sno-Isle Libraries) in which case all entries for that venue or organization are listed collectively in chronological order under one heading. All events subject to change.

Lions Club Blood Drive

Thursday, March 19, 11:00AM-5:00PM
Coupeville United Methodist Church, 608 N Main St.

Sponsored by the Coupeville Lions Club. One pint of blood can save three lives and together we have helped save hundreds of lives in our community hospitals throughout Western Washington. To donate, just drop in or you may schedule an appointment: DonorSched@Bloodworksnw.org or call 1-800-398-7888. For more information, call Sue Hartin at 503-789-3595.

Island Herb Vendor Day

Thursday, March 19, 2:00-5:00PM
Island Herb, Freeland

Representatives from Sitka will be on site with product displays and information. Must be 21 or older. Island Herb is located at 5565 Vanbarr Pl, Unit F. For more information, call 360-331-0140 or visit whidbeyislandherb.com. *This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults 21 and older. Keep out of the reach of children.

Star Party

Friday, March 20, 6:30PM
Fort Nugent Park, Oak Harbor

Explore the night sky and view distant galaxies, planets and nebulas at this free public Star Party hosted by the Island County Astronomical Society (ICAS). No telescope is needed and people of all ages are welcome to attend. Be sure and dress warmly and note the event will be canceled if the weather is cloudy. For more information, contact Bob Scott at ICAS_President@outlook.com or visit www.icas-wa.org.

Good Cheer Last Chance Garage Sale

Saturday, March 28
Good Cheer, 2812 Grimm Rd., Langley
10:00AM-2:00PM – Massive Reductions on in-store prices
2:00-3:00PM – at least 50% off those low prices
3:00-3:30PM – Free, in return for helping to clean up

Rain or shine. Find slow-selling or slightly dinged goods ranging from clothes, housewares to furniture and outdoor equipment all at lower than in-store prices. Receive incredible bargains while helping Good Cheer keep still-usable items out of the landfill. For more information, call 360-221-6454 or visit www.goodcheer.org.

Garage of Blessings Semi-Annual Fundraiser Sale

Friday, April 3, 2:00-6:00PM
Saturday, April 4, 9:00AM-3:00PM
Sunday, April 5, 9:00AM-3:00PM
Oak Harbor Elks Lodge, 155 NE Ernst St.

All proceeds go toward operating expenses and support services. Volunteer opportunities for set-up April 1-3 or during the sale. Contact info@garageofblessings.com or call 360-679-1239 for more information.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below
Cost: Free

All events canceled through March.

Religious Services

South Whidbey Community Church

Sundays, 9:00-9:45AM Adult Bible Study
10:00-11:00AM Worship
Deer Lagoon Grange, 5142 Bayview Rd, Langley

Sunday, March 22 - Pastor Wenzek: Heaven is not for everyone. Services are followed by a light lunch. You are invited to join us for lunch and loving fellowship.

Prayer Group

Every Tuesday, 4:00-5:30PM
St. Hubert Catholic Church, Langley

Charismatic Prayer and Praise group. Everyone welcome. For more information, call B. Moore at 360-320-0937.

Filipino Christian Fellowship

Sundays, 2:00PM
Meets at Church on the Rock, 1780 SE 4th Ave., Oak Harbor.
www.ohcfellowship.com

Healing Rooms

Every Thursday, 6:30-8:30PM
5200 Honeymoon Bay Road, Freeland

The Healing Rooms are open to anyone desiring personal prayer for physical, emotional, or spiritual needs. There is a team of Christians from several local churches dedicated to praying for healing the sick in our community. All ministry is private, confidential, and free. Teams are available to pray for individuals who drop by on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information, contact Ann at 425-263-2704, email healingwhidbey.com, or visit the International Association of Healing Rooms at healingrooms.com.

Concordia Lutheran Church

Sunday service, 9:30AM
Bible Study & Sunday School, 10:45AM
590 N. Oak Harbor Street

For more information, visit www.concordiaoakharbor.org or call 360-675-2548.

Teaching Through God's Word

Sundays, 9:00 & 11:00AM
Calvary Chapel, 3821 French Road, Clinton

For more information, visit ccwhidbey.com.

Unitarian Universalist Sunday Service

Sundays, 10:00AM
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Freeland

All are welcome. Values-based children's religious exploration classes and childcare will be provided. Visit www.uucwi.org for more information. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation building is located at 20103 Highway 525, two miles north of Freeland.

Unity of Whidbey

Sundays, 10:00AM
5671 Crawford Road, Langley

If you're one of the "spiritual but not religious" people who questions your childhood faith or is looking for something more, Unity of Whidbey may feel like a homecoming. Visit their website: unityofwhidbey.org.

Whidbey Quakers

Sundays, 4:00-5:00PM
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Freeland

Whidbey Islands Friends Meeting (also known as Quakers) meet in silent worship and community, with occasional spoken messages, every Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist building. For more information, contact Tom Ewell at tewell@whidbey.com or go to www.whidbeyquakers.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Worship, 10:00AM
Sunday School to age 20, 10:00AM
Wednesday Testimony Meeting, 2:30PM
Christian Science Reading Room
Tuesday & Friday, 11:00AM-3:00PM

The church and Reading Room are located at 721 SW 20th Court at Scenic Heights Street, Oak Harbor. Call 360-675-0621 or visit christianscience.com.

Services and Sunday School are also held at 10:30AM on South Whidbey at 15910 Highway 525, just north of Bayview and across from Useless Bay Road; testimony meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.

Meetings & Organizations

Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting

Every Monday, 7:00-8:00PM
Carole's Barbershop, Freeland

A meeting dedicated to dealing with the problem and solution for recovering from the effects of growing up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family. For more information, contact Clayton at 360-989-4248 or visit www.adultchildren.org.

Al-Anon

Every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30AM
432 2nd St., Langley

If a friend or relative has a problem with alcohol, you can find solutions for yourself at Alanon.

Al-Anon Group

Oak Harbor

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon group can help. Call Laurie at 360-675-4430 for meeting information.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Day, 12:00 & 8:00PM
432 2nd Street, Langley

For more information, call 360-221-2070.

Divorce Care and DC4kids

Every Sunday, 5:00PM
Living Word Church, Oak Harbor

A support group for people dealing with separation and divorce. For more information, call Larry at 360-969-0552 or Lisa - DC4kids at 360-672-4239. Living Word Church is located at 490 NW Crosby Ave.

Free To Change Al-Anon Meeting

Every Friday, 7:00-8:00PM
Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

If you or a relative or friend has a problem with alcohol, you can find solutions for yourself at Al-Anon. As a Twelve-Step Program, we offer help by sharing our experience, strength & hope. Newcomers are always welcome!

Gam-Anon Meetings

Every Tuesday, 6:30PM
Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland St.

For the spouses and loved ones of a compulsive gambler.

Gamblers Anonymous

Every Tuesday, 6:30PM
Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland St.

All are welcome. Washington GA hotline: 855-222-5542

Gastric Surgery Support Group

Second Monday, 7:00PM
Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

Supporting anyone who's a pre-, post-, or possible weight loss surgery patient through the process and the recovery. We are not affiliated with any specific surgical technique or insurance program. For more information, call Pat Baldridge at 360-675-8871.

Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

Second Monday, 1:00PM
Trinity Lutheran Church, Community Bldg., Freeland

Visitors always welcome. For more information, call Ann Wright at 360-597-2352 or visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wagsswi.

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

First & Third Mondays, 7:00-8:30PM
Masonic Hall, Coupeville

The Coupeville assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls would like to invite all girls ages 11-20 to attend meetings. Rainbow Girls is a service organization that teaches girls leadership and life skills. For more information, contact Naomie Robinson at robinsonnaomie32@gmail.com or visit www.nwrainbow.org. The Mansonic Hall is located at 804 Main Street.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Whidbey Island

Fourth Thursday, 7:00PM-8:30PM
Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

NAMI is the largest grassroots organization dedicated to making life better for people with a mental illness and their friends and loved ones. The group is nonreligious but meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 18341 State Route 525. It isn't necessary to preregister. Please contact Kathy Chiles, 206-218-6449 or k.chiles22@live.com for more information.

For a list of continuous Meetings and Organizations, visit www.whidbeyweekly.com

Classes, Seminars and Workshops

NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course

Friday, March 20, 6:00-9:00PM
Saturday, March 21, 9:00AM-5:00PM
NWSA Range, 886 Gun Club Rd, Oak Harbor
Cost: $35

This course introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for owning and using a pistol safely. The pistol handling and shooting portion is completed at the NWSA range where students will learn about safe gun handling, pistol shooting fundamentals, and pistol shooting activities. The Basics of Pistol Course will also help prepare the student for participation in other NRA courses. Students can register online at nrainstructors.org. For questions or to register, call NRA instructor John Hellmann at 360-675-8397 or email NWSA.Training@gmail.com.

Boat Handling Class

Tuesdays, beginning March 24, 6:00-8:00PM
Oak Harbor Yacht Club

If you are new to boating, or want to refresh your skills, this is the class for you. Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron will teach you how to dock your boat, anchor, understand the Rules of the Road, and how to deal with unexpected circumstances. This course runs Tuesday evenings for six consecutive weeks. Cost for squadron//OHYC members is $60, for non-members, $110. To register, or for more information, contact Karen Nelson at 360-320-3803 or knelson2007@gmail.com.

Loss of a Spouse Seminar

Saturday, March 28, 10:00AM-12:00PM
Church of the Nazarene, Oak Harbor
Registration: $5

For more information or to register, visit www.griefshare.org or call 360-675-0705.

Humility that Overcomes the World

Saturday, March 28, 10:30-11:30AM
Live Webinar

A free talk about Christian Science by Mark McCurties, CS,Christian Science Practitioner and member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Call 253-215-8782 or visit join.zoom.us and enter ID #143-655-119.

Boating Safety for Kids

Saturday, March 28, 11:00AM-1:00PM
Oak Harbor Yacht Club, 1301 SE Catalina Dr.
FREE

Deception Pass Sail & Power Squadron and Oak Harbor Yacht Club is sponsoring this class for children ages 5 to 10. Learn by demonstrations and hands-on: how to select, adjust and wear a life jacket; boat sinking drill; knot tying to include Cleat Hitch, Clove Hitch, and Bowline; throw bag; how to rescue grandpa if he falls overboard; and small boat safety. Make reservations by contacting Chip White at 206-853-2669 or chipw1945@gmail.com.

Whidbey Weekly NEWS

School services during closure p. 10

www.whidbeyweekly.com LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED MARCH 19 - MARCH 25, 2020

Strict measures to fight Coronavirus will impact business

Photo Courtesy of the Office of the Governor

Gov. Jay Inslee has implemented new emergency measures aimed at slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus across the state, including closing down bars, restaurants and many other establishments.

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Gov. Jay Inslee has enacted strict new measures to help minimize, or at least slow, the spread of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19.

As many know, Monday Inslee announced all restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities will be closed until the end of the month and he imposed more limits on large gatherings, capping them at no more than 50 people and then only if strict public health and social distancing directives are met.

Grocery stores and pharmacies will remain open, and restaurants are allowed to provide take-out, delivery and drive-thru options. The closure includes theaters, bowling alleys, gyms and fitness centers, barbers, hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, museums and art galleries. Health officials also recommend those over age 60 home isolate and limit their exposure to public settings.

The impact of these closures affects everyone. Whidbey Island is no exception. Shortly after the governor's action Monday the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce announced the cancellation of the Holland Happening Parade and Festival – an event that has taken place for more than 50 years. In Langley, the annual Welcome the Whales Festival and Parade set for mid-April has been canceled; organizers are looking for alternative activities, depending upon the length of the restrictions on public gatherings, etc.

Restrictions on recreational activities aside, these measures could have a huge impact on local businesses and employees, and people are understandably concerned.

"I have heard a LOT of concern from business owners about how this will negatively impact their businesses across the board, not just lodging and restaurants," said Miranda Hoppock, Oak Harbor Chamber executive director. "Some businesses may not be able to financially survive the closure impacts that have been put forth by elected officials. We at the chamber are sharing any creative ideas to assist, serve and promote businesses in our area to try to minimize the impacts as much as possible."

"The COVID-19 spread is going to create a difficult situation for all small businesses everywhere," said Hayley Samford, executive director of the Oak Harbor Main Street Association. "Last week we began preparing a list of changes businesses are making to continue to serve the community. So far, we are noticing an increase of businesses offering curb-side pickup, delivery, or online ordering. There are several businesses that will be forced to limit their hours or close for the time being."

OHMSA has added a new page to its website which lists businesses operating with limited hours, closures or online options. Find it at www.oakharbormainstreet.org/supportlocal. Samford said the page will be updated daily.

One local business began feeling the effects of the virus crisis a few weeks ago. Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle and Charter owner D'Arcy Morgan said COVID-19 has had a devastating impact.

"We are part of the air travel industry, and with Department of Defense travel restrictions and travel guidance by public health entities, our ridership has been reduced by 45 percent within three weeks," he said.

Morgan said the company has planned and implemented prevention measures since the initial viral outbreak in China.

"Our response includes modifying our shuttle run schedule to best serve Whidbey Island communities and if more rigorous national travel or public health restrictions occur, we will adjust accordingly," he said. "For our employees, self-care and prevention has been our goal from the onset. We immediately instituted washing of hands often, avoiding touching the face, social distancing practices, covering coughs and sneezes and especially staying at home if you feel ill. In addition, working with public health, we've established contingencies for numerous scenarios including ill passengers, employees and/or heightened community outbreaks."

Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle carries an average of 68,000 passengers per year, which translates to 3,300 trips between Whidbey Island and SeaTac Airport. The company has adjusted its schedule from 24 hours a day, seven days a week to a modified daily schedule, going from 11 shuttle runs daily to just five. It has already begun working with WorkSource, in the event any of its 44 employees are displaced.

"First and foremost, we care about safety and maintaining the highest level of customer service for our passengers and their families," Morgan said. "This has been a company-wide response to the current situation and I am proud of each and every one of our employees and vendors stepping up to help."

According to Hoppock, a number of local businesses are coming forward with creative ideas to continue serving their customers and help preserve their business. While out of the norm for some, many restaurants in Coupeville, Langley and Oak Harbor are offering take-out and delivery options while dining rooms are closed, such as Useless Bay Coffee in Langley, which posted this update on Facebook:

"We are still roasting certified organic coffee and are keeping the Star Store fully stocked," the notice reads. "Our website will offer free home coffee bean deliveries to the following zip codes: 98260, 98236, 98249. Additionally, email us at uselessbaycoffee@gmail.com and we will call you back to arrange placing orders and home delivery."

Customers can also order from the company's website. The local coffee spot will also use its kitchen during this time to provide food production for local community service organizations. Island Chambers of Commerce and Main Street Organizations are posting lists of restaurants and businesses offering delivery and take-out services. Plus, other businesses are creating unique ways to keep things going during the COVID-19 restrictions.

See **BUSINESS** continued on page **12**

SBA Loans Available

The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced it will make low-interest loans available to businesses which have been harmed substantially by the COVID-19 crisis. Island County is included in this action.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call 800-877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Blue Fox still open!

Blue Fox Drive In has learned it does not have close due to COVID-19 restrictions. The arcade and go-karts will be closed, and the snack bar will be open for take-out purchases, but the movies will continue. Features will begin daily at dusk.

WhidbeyHealth opens drive-through COVID-19 testing site

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to rise in Island County – 16 cases confirmed as of press time Tuesday - WhidbeyHealth announced it has opened a drive-through site to collect specimens for Coronavirus, COVID-19 testing. The location opened at 8 a.m. Monday. Patients can call to determine whether they meet criteria to be sampled for Coronavirus, COVID-19. Patients who meet criteria will then be registered for drive-through testing at the WhidbeyHealth Medical Center, located at 101 North Main Street in Coupeville.

"As the Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic expands around the world, WhidbeyHealth is committed to the global containment effort while assuring the safety of our patients and staff" said WhidbeyHealth CEO Ron Telles. "Sampling patients without getting out of the car is one way to expedite the process while reducing risk to patients, staff and others who may have compromised immune systems."

Patients who wish to be tested must first register by calling the WhidbeyHealth Coronavirus Hotline at 360-240-4055 to speak with a nurse from the medical center and get further instructions. At the drive-up facility, the medical team will take a sample nasal swab which will then be sent to one of the approved off-island testing laboratories. Due to the shortage of sampling supplies at WhidbeyHealth and across the state, WhidbeyHealth will be sampling only those who meet specific criteria. Results are expected to be available within 7-10 days.

Registration is an essential and required part of the sampling process.

"This innovative approach to collecting samples has been introduced successfully in other U.S. cities," Telles said. "Coronavirus, COVID-19 is a dynamic, rapidly changing situation for everyone involved. Our ability to provide this service depends on supply limitations which are now experienced by hospitals nationwide. We appreciate the community's support as the WhidbeyHealth team meets these challenges and continues to provide exceptional care to our community."

Stay informed at:

- Island County Public Health: islandcountywa.gov/Health
- Washington State Department of Health: doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus
- Centers for Disease control: cdc.gov/
  WhidbeyHealth online: facebook.com/WhidbeyHealth/

Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.

MILITARY MUSTER

NAS Whidbey Island, Washington — March 19–25, 2020

Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group arrives in Vietnam

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) arrived in Da Nang, March 5, for a scheduled port visit commemorating 25 years of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic relations.

Mr. Hồ Kỳ Minh, Vice Chairman of the Da Nang People's Committee hosted the ceremony to welcome the U.S. Navy carrier group, which included representatives of Navy Zone 3, Military Region 5, Da Nang Border Guard, Department of Foreign Relations/Ministry of National Defense, Department of Military Medicine and General Department of Logistics, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Da Nang People's Committee, and other Vietnamese government agencies. The United States delegation was led by Adm. John C. Aquilino, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Daniel Kritenbrink, Rear Adm. Stu Baker, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9, U.S. Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City Marie Damour, and other officials from CSG 9 and the U.S. Mission in Vietnam.

"This visit follows on the historic 2018 visit of USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), the first U.S. aircraft carrier to visit Vietnam in more than 40 years," said U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Daniel Kritenbrink. "It also comes at an important time in our bilateral relationship. Just 25 years after the normalization of our diplomatic ties, our relationship is the strongest it has ever been."

"This visit demonstrates the strength of our bilateral relations and highlights our continued cooperation with partner countries and our strong support for the region, including institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Vietnam is this year's chair," said Baker. "It also serves as evidence of the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific where strong, independent nations respect one another's sovereignty, and uphold the rule of law."

Sailors will participate in cultural and professional exchanges, community service projects, sports competitions, and receptions during the port visit.

"This visit will not only serve to strengthen our bilateral defense relationship, but also help further advance our cultural and professional ties," said Capt. Brett Crozier, Theodore Roosevelt's commanding officer. "We are honored to take part in this important port visit and to receive such a warm welcome."

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Dylan Lavin/Released)
DA NANG, Vietnam (March 5, 2020) The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) arrives in Vietnam, March 5, 2020. The Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Groupis on a scheduled deployment to the Indo-Pacific.

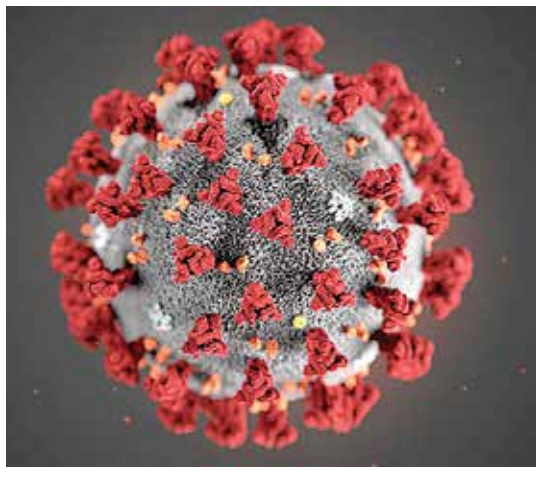
Theodore Roosevelt is America's fourth Nimitz-class aircraft carrier with a crew of 5,000 Sailors who support and conduct air operations at sea. The strike group is comprised of a total of 6,500 Sailors, an aircraft carrier, an air wing, a cruiser, and six destroyers.

U.S. 7th Fleet conducts forward-deployed naval operations in support of U.S. national interests in the Indo-Pacific area of operations. As the U.S. Navy's largest numbered fleet, 7th Fleet interacts with 35 other maritime nations to build partnerships that foster maritime security, promote stability, and prevent conflict.

Sailor assigned to USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) Tests Positive for COVID-19

A Sailor assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), March 16. Ralph Johnson is homeported in Everett, Wash.The Sailor is currently isolated at their home and restricted in movement in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Personnel who were immediately identified as having close contact with the Sailor have been notified, placed in a restriction of movement status at their residences off the ship and are being monitored.



U.S. Navy ships conduct routine, daily cleanliness procedures geared toward health, wellness and the prevention of communicable disease spread. Given this case, Ralph Johnson is conducting extensive cleaning to mitigate further spread to the crew.

Additionally, military health professionals are in the process of conducting a thorough contact investigation to determine whether any other personnel may have been in close contact and possibly exposed. Depending on the results of that investigation, additional precautionary measures may be taken.

The Navy is committed to taking every measure possible to protect the health of our force. We remain in close coordination with state and federal authorities, and public health authorities to ensure the well-being of our personnel and local population.

For questions, contact U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs at 808-471-3769.

NAS Whidbey SAR Conducts MEDEVAC from Lopez Island

A Search and Rescue (SAR) team from Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island conducted a medical evacuation from Lopez Island, Wash., Monday, March 2.

A SAR team responded to a call at about noon to pick up a female patient suffering from anaphylaxis on Lopez Island. By approximately 12:40 p.m. the SAR team landed at Lopez Island Airport where the patient was transferred from an ambulance to the helicopter. They transported the patient to PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center in Bellingham, Wash., landing just before 1:15 p.m. to transfer her to higher care.

NAS Whidbey Island SAR has conducted six total missions throughout Washington State this year, including one search and five medical evacuations.

The Navy SAR unit operates three MH-60S helicopters from NAS Whidbey Island as search and rescue/medical evacuation (SAR/MEDEVAC) platforms for the EA-18G aircraft as well as other squadrons and personnel assigned to the installation. Pursuant to the National SAR Plan of the United States, the unit may also be used for civil SAR/MEDEVAC needs to the fullest extent practicable on a non-interference basis with primary military duties according to applicable national directives, plans, guidelines and agreements; specifically, the unit may launch in response to tasking by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (based on a Washington State Memorandum of Understanding) for inland missions, and/or tasking by the United States Coast Guard for all other aeronautical and maritime regions, when other assets are unavailable.

Hearing Health Services

WHIDBEY'S PREMIER AUDIOLOGY CLINIC

Proudly serving our military families and all of the TriCare Network

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"FLATFISH," THE TRUE BOTTOM FISH

When we hear the term "bottom fish," most of us think of lingcod, copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, black seabass, and kelp greenling. But true bottom fish are the flatfishes and for us Island Anglers, the Puget Sound has at least three true flatfish we can fish for; Sole, flounder, and halibut. Halibut are a flatfish in a class of their own and unfortunately the State of Washington gives us very few scattered and chopped up days to fish for them each year, so I'm concentrating my thoughts on the other two flatties in the area: Sole, which we know as Sanddabs, and their cousin, the Flounder, are open to retention year round, and the 10-fish combined daily limit is generally easy to catch once we have located the flounder or sole beds.

Let's start with tackle gear which will not only land the fish, but will let us enjoy the fight of these tasty fish. A 6-1/2 to 7-1/2-foot spinning style trout rod is perfect; most trout rods have enough backbone to lift the fish off the bottom and at the same time allow the angler to feel and play the fish like the biggest crappie you've ever caught. A 3500- or 4000-size spinning reel will hold enough line to get you to the catch zone and will handle all of the one to four pound flatties you can catch, plus in the event a spiny dogfish happens to latch onto the bait, you will most likely be able to bring him to the surface as well - as long as he doesn't chew through the leader. I can't express enough how much more efficient braided line is when it comes to bottom fishing, so fill your reels with 30-pound test braided line. The line is a bit more expensive but it's well worth it. Any style 1- to 3-ounce sinker combined with size 1, 2, or 3 hooks is all you need to catch the fish. It's also important a 24- to 30-inch piece of 20-pound monofilament leader is used at the end of the braided line; attach the leader to the braid with a basic barrel swivel, this way if you get snagged on the bottom and you must break off the line, you will avoid losing the more expensive braid.

Okay, let's talk bait. These guys will take a bite at whatever we send down to them, so spending a ton of money on specialized baits is not necessary. Here is a list of easy to find and effective baits:

- Pile or Sand worms: These greenish-brown centipede look-a-likes are a natural food for most bottom fish; some people I've talked to claim there is no better bait for bottom fish than the pile worm. The worms can be found by digging in the wet beach sand, or at low tide searching closely between barnacles and mussels attached to medium- to large-size boulders, or pilings and docks.
- Clams and mussels: Any legally harvested clam makes excellent bottom fish bait; the tougher neck sections of cockles, horse, and large butter clams are the best because they stay on the hook longer. Mussels can be used whole or broken; even a small attached piece of shell can make the bait look more natural.
- Shrimp: Store-bought bait shrimp or even a pound of cleaned shrimp will work wonders on the bottom fish; ghost or sand shrimp can be gathered at low tide 6 to 10 feet up from the water's edge by digging into the sand with a shovel or clam-gun. Keep in mind shrimp are tender and can be easily stolen by the fish.
- Squid and Herring: A package of frozen squid or herring will go a long way. You only need a small chunk or strip of the bait on the hook to get the bottom fishes' attention.
- Scraps and things: Leftover lingcod skin cut into little strips makes good bait. The skin is tough as leather and it's two-tone in color. Pork rind that we use for crappie fishing is also good; they come in different colors and stand-up well to the biting fish.
- Artificial lures: A 3/8 to 3/4 ounce jig head with a 2- to 3-inch rubber curly tail will get bit, and a 2- to 3-ounce lead or metal dart jigged vertically will also get the flatfish moving in for a look.

Where do we find the flatfish? The flatfish use the bottom to hide from predators and stalk prey. Sand is one of their favorite habitats - they can wiggle down into the sand and basically disappear, and crushed shells are another bottom type these fish will use to their advantage. If you're not having any luck catching fish in the sand and shell, contrary to what we think about sand, mud is number one. Yes mud. More tiny food organisms feed on the nutrients found in mud than in more sterile sand. These tiny organisms are eaten by larger organisms, starting the food chain which supports fish life. Mud is the best place to find a sand dab or flounder bed. Study bottom couture charts; the different seabed types will be indicated by these symbols: M-mud; G-gravel; S-sand; P-pebbles; SH-shell; and ST-stone. Depth for finding flatfish is wide open from 15 to 125 feet, and slack tide will be the most productive because the fish are not hunkered down to avoid the current and will freely move around in search of food.

Because these fish are bottom dwellers and can be exposed to parasites, please take the time to inspect the flesh of all the fish for worm-like parasites before you enjoy them as a meal. I have spoken to doctors in the past about parasites found in fish here in the Puget Sound and they all agreed that if the fish is cooked well the danger is very low; they did advise not eating the fish raw, however.

If salmon fishing is slow or you've caught your limit and are not quite ready to head back to the dock, take time to do a little flatfish scouting. It could turn out to be more fun than you think. Spring is here, and summers fishing opportunities are just around the corner so get your gear ready and consider renewing your fishing license before the rush. BE SAFE and GOOD LUCK out there!

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Schools work to provide food to students during closures

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Before the announcement of the closure of restaurants and many other businesses, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced schools across the state are to be closed through April 24, in hopes of containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The mandated closure has parents scrambling to make arrangements for their children's care and districts are scrambling to figure things out, too. One of the most important issues is making sure students who rely on getting meals at school to help meet their nutritional requirements can continue to do so.

"Our first priority is meeting the basic needs of students and families," said Conor Laffey, communication officer for Oak Harbor Public Schools. "Starting Tuesday, March 17, we will be serving free 'grab and go' breakfasts and lunches for any and all students at the following locations:

Broad View Elementary
473 SW Fairhaven Drive, Oak Harbor

Crescent Harbor Elementary
350 E Crescent Harbor Road, Oak Harbor

Olympic View Elementary
380 NE Regatta Drive, Oak Harbor

"Families may pick up both meals Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., along with additional learning resources for pickup throughout the closure at each of these sites," Laffey continued. "At this time, students must be visible to pick up breakfast and lunch, but we're awaiting further guidance. By next week, we plan to have buses delivering food and curriculum to additional areas in our community for families with transportation issues. We are committed to making sure students are fed during these trying times."

The Coupeville School District began a similar 'Grab n' Go' free lunch program Tuesday as well. All kids 18 years and younger can pick up food between 10 and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday at the Coupeville High School Commons. Students do not need to be enrolled in Coupeville Schools to participate, but they must be present to pick up a meal.

South Whidbey School District will have a meal program in place Monday. More information will be available online at sw.wednet.edu.

Childcare is another pressing issue for working families. There are agencies on Whidbey Island that will be helping with this, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oak Harbor and Coupeville, which are offering reduced rates during the school closures. OHPS will offer limited childcare services for healthcare workers and first responders.

"Per the governor's order, we will offer limited child care for families who are considered essential employees in the healthcare industry and first responders," said Laffey. "To minimize the spread of disease, we strongly encourage families to find alternative methods and only use this resource if absolutely necessary. If you need this service, please call our dedicated hotline at 360-279-5040. For families who do not fall in this category, we urge you to offer support to family, friends and neighbors to make sure those who need childcare receive it. We know that at this time the Boys and Girls Club, Their Place, and several other childcare providers plan to remain open."

According to Laffey, all regular OHPS employees and long term subs will continue to be paid throughout the closure. In addition, state lawmakers are helping ensure seniors will still be able to graduate.

"The legislature took action to give the State Board of Education the flexibility to waive graduation requirements as needed," he said. "We have been told that there will be flexibility and accommodations to allow our students in the Class of 2020 to graduate on time. But, we don't have all of the details yet. Graduation is still scheduled for Saturday, June 13."

OHPS is also working to provide learning options for students, although any work completed during the closure will not be graded.

Finally, Laffey said the school district is also hoping to give parents the tools to handle some of the emotional stresses that may accompany the closures.

See **SCHOOLS** continued on page **12**

COVID-19's cost to the arts

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The arts community is one of the earliest economic casualties of the Coronavirus pandemic. As stringent new guidelines were issued last week to restrict the size of gatherings, concerts, plays and stage productions around the country were forced to close.

Now, in the wake of Gov. Jay Inslee's newest restrictions, even museums and art galleries have been told to close temporarily as the country wages battle on a scale most have never encountered. As in any battle, there are victims…and survivors.

The Whidbey Island Arts community had to start announcing cancellations last week – Saratoga Orchestra, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, OutCast Productions, Whidbey Children's Theatre and Whidbey Playhouse all postponed or cancelled concerts and productions. Monday, the Island County Historical Museum and the Pacific NorthWest Art School in Coupeville announced their closings.

These closings will be costly, but already the arts community is coming together to support one another and to encourage the community at large to do the same.

"Under normal circumstances, our purpose is to produce, present, and support works and events that entertain, educate, and bring our community together," said Verna Everitt, WICA's executive director. "From the moment we made the decision to postpone or cancel programming, our focus shifted to: preparing for reopening later this season; decision-making that ensures we are good stewards of the resources we have at hand; supporting our staff and community partners; and exploring new ways to keep the community engaged in the arts as opportunities to do so in person become more limited."

"This current disruption in our concert season has certainly had an impact not only for the organization but for the musicians individually," said Larry Heidel, executive director of Whidbey's Saratoga Orchestra. "Our musicians are contract workers and therefore patchwork their livelihood together with performing in several ensembles as well as teaching. With performance halls shut down and 'social distancing' being the norm these days, most of these performance and teaching jobs have vanished overnight.

"However, these challenges give us opportunities to think of creative solutions to bridge us until we can once again get on stage," Heidel continued. "Luckily, Saratoga Orchestra has a few things going for us. We are a small and nimble arts organization with relatively little overhead, we have a wonderful patron base and a very committed board of directors."

Saratoga Orchestra has set up a virtual concert hall on its website, sowhidbey.com, to share pieces from past performances. The organization is asking all those who can donate to its Emergency Musician Fund that has been set up to help musicians who have lost jobs because of the Coronavirus restrictions.

Although the Island Shakespeare Festival has not been affected so far (rehearsals begin in June, with the season running from July to September), Artistic Director Olena Hodges said it is hard to know where to begin when considering all the economic impacts the closures from the COVID-19 pandemic could have.

"Cancelling even a single event in a season can have an impact on an arts organization," she said. "Right now, we're seeing an entire industry cancelling an entire month or more, unable to compensate the artists they employ, who now have nowhere to seek alternative employment in their profession because everything else is also shut down.

"For many organizations, ticket sales from one event provide a financial foundation to produce the next," continued Hodges. "Many production costs have been incurred before an event takes place, and recouping those costs isn't possible, even though refunding ticket sales is required."

Hodges said there is an emotional toll on artists and audiences, as the shared experience "nourishes the soul." Therefore, limiting access to these gatherings, while necessary, is still painful.

"We can't predict when this pandemic will peak, and therefore can't predict when we will be safe to gather again," she said. "That unknown makes it very hard to plan how we will sustain through and after this crisis. We are all making day-to-day decisions and are doing our best to act responsibly and with care for our community. We also know many of the businesses who support the arts through sponsorship are hurting. This will impact future fundraising."

"Roughly 45 percent of our budget comes from earned income that includes ticket, concessions, and bar sales," said Everitt. "The rest of our income is generated through individual giving, grants, and contributions made by local businesses that are also beginning to feel the effects of the pandemic. We're learning daily about the effects that arts and entertainment closures are having on local economies. WICA is the largest arts employer and organization in Island County, and our community understands a suspension of programming will have a big impact on the center's - and county's - financial health."

Lisa Bernhardt, director of the Pacific NorthWest Art School, said even though the nonprofit has had to close its doors for now, the school can survive for the short term.

"If this continues, it could be a whole different story," she said. "This would potentially impact a faculty of over 35 and hundreds of students. We are a staff of two and potentially, I would have to lay off my one employee and myself as well. Worst case scenario, the school could close if we have to cancel our entire workshop season. We are working with our faculty, students, our local banker and our board of directors to weather this the best we can, to put contingencies in place."

And this, say members of the arts community, is where the Whidbey Island community can help.

"We are encouraging the public to continue supporting our work," said Rick Castellano, director of the Island County Historical Museum, in a statement released Monday. "Donations have never been more important. While we are not a publicly-owned business, we provide a service for the public benefit. Please know that our work continues, your support is greatly appreciated, and it makes a difference."

"We operate mainly on donations and grants," said Heidel. "Of course, with the uncertainty of how long we will be on hiatus, we do have operational bills every month that will begin to rack up, so donations of any size are most welcome."

Theaters across the country have had to go dark as officials limit the size of social gatherings in an effort to curtail the spread of Coronavirus, COVID-19.

"In spite of our closure, and significant reductions in spending, there are expenses that will need to be paid," Everitt said. "Donating tickets or making other gifts now will help us to come back from this hiatus wiser, stronger, and better than ever."

"Please, if you have means, donate," said Hodges. "Donate to any and/or all arts organizations you love. And when we can come together to celebrate humanity through art, please come. Funnel as much money as you can back into our local economy. Shop local. Order takeout."

"Our businesses are transitioning to curbside, takeout and concierge services," said Kay Parsons, executive director of Whidbey Island Arts Council. "Many of our children are receiving online classes. We ourselves are exploring ways we can continue a selection of free art classes online for children. Beth Herrild of Out of the Box Creations is creating basic art lessons online for children. Christine Maifeld is working on an idea for virtual tours of our closed galleries. We are exploring how to help our mail order arts businesses."

"We need beauty at this time of turmoil and art is healing…it's a powerful tool," Bernhardt said. "I anticipate, and it is my sincere wish, that once the social gathering ban is lifted, more folks will realize the need for art and beauty and buy art from local artists, sign up for classes and get out and visit galleries."

"We as a community are working together," Parsons said. "We will be impacted but we will work through this. I believe in all of us."

For information, visit: wicaonline.org; islandshakespearefest.org; sowhidbey.com; pacificnorthwestartschool.org; islandartscouncil.org; islandhistory.org; wctmagic.org; outcastproductions.net; and whidbeyplayhouse.com.

Film Shorts

Courtesy of Cascadia Weekly

By Carey Ross

EASY WATCHING: MOVIES TO SURVIVE THE PLAGUE

I've often joked my personal life motto is "Outside bad, inside good." This is owing to my aversion to activities like hiking and skiing and anything requiring me to purchase expensive equipment in order to suffer.

It might be time for a mea culpa.

What I've discovered is, while I might like to opt out of outdoor activities, I do enjoy leaving the house whenever I please. Sure, the first couple of days of pandemic-induced isolation were pretty all right. I read three books, wore my pajamas 24 hours a day and did everything on my own schedule with no one there to judge me or expect anything of me – except two very needy cats, that is. I had food, fizzy water and all the toilet paper a girl could need (for now).

But the steady stream of bad news combined with my natural inclination for self-critical introspection started to get me down. And without being able to socialize my way out of it – social media is good and all, but no match for face-to-face conversation – I stewed. And fretted. And worried. As the news got more dire, and I began to comprehend how far the effects of COVID-19 will spread, even among people who never fall ill, my small world became more dark.

I have a feeling a fair number of you know exactly what I'm talking about here.

Luckily, options for home entertainment abound.

What I have to offer is a totally random, completely personal list of movies I believe can get you out of your head and help get you out of the dumps when you can't leave your house.

I feel it behooves me to begin with a movie that was a flop when it was released, but has become a bona fide cult classic. I'm talking about "Clue," the movie based on the popular board game. When it was released in 1985, anticipation was high. It had an excellent cast (Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd, Michael McKean, etc.), the trappings of a drawing-room mystery and one helluva gimmick: three separate endings that would be shown in different theaters. There was no telling which theater would get which ending, and to see them all, you had to do some sleuthing, which in the pre-internet era, was not as simple as it sounded. The concept was good on paper and a flop in real life. Turns out, no one wanted to see the movie three times just for the final five minutes. The prospect of having to do so made audiences so mad they stayed away in droves. However, when the movie began to show – and show, and show – on television with all three endings attached in madcap succession, "Clue" finally found its audience. It's wacky, whip-smart and features both some incredible physical comedy as well as one of the best ad-libs of all time, courtesy of Kahn.

I know they can be polarizing, but I've always had a soft spot for musicals. Other than "Grease," there's no musical I've watched more times than "Singin' in the Rain," which falls into a second category of films I love: movies about the movies. The 1952 musical comedy covers the not-so-graceful time when films transitioned from silent pictures to "talkies." Glamorous onscreen couple Lina Lamont and Don Lockwood (played by Jean Hagen and Gene Kelly) has to convert their already-in-production silent movie to one with sound. There's just one hurdle: Lamont has a voice that can peel paint. Enter ingénue Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds), who is tapped to dub her voice. A whole lot of hijinks – and tap-dancing – ensue, a little romance is had and Kelly sings and dances in the rain. Kelly and Reynolds are supposedly the stars to watch in the movie, but I'm in it for Lamont's stellar comedic performance and Donald O'Connor's (as Lockwood's best friend and collaborator Cosmo Brown) fancy and decidedly acrobatic footwork during his big "Make 'Em Laugh" number. And we could all use a laugh right now.

In the more modern cinematic era, another movie that never fails to amuse me – even though it is the darkest of comedies – is "Election." It's early-era Alexander Payne, prior to "Sideways, The Descendants, About Schmidt" and his brilliant and Oscar-winning labor of cinematic love, "Nebraska." Reese Witherspoon plays one of the most indelible heroines ever committed to the big screen, Tracy Flick, a type A overachieving high-schooler. Her nemesis is none other than Ferris Bueller himself, Matthew Broderick, in this case an embittered and dissatisfied teacher. The battleground: a school election. Somehow the stakes grow to be sky-high, and when you add a variety of wholly inappropriate short-lived and ill-conceived romances to the mix, everything gets hilariously dicey long before the votes are counted. If you've watched "Big Little Lies," just think of Tracy Flick as the less-polished precursor to Madeline Mackenzie and it will make the whole thing that much more entertaining.

Given some of you have children you're desperately attempting to keep occupied (I've seen your social media posts, and while I can't empathize, you do have my sympathies), it seems only proper to throw out a suggestion that will satisfy the little ones – and the adults. My touchstone for entertainment that crosses all age boundaries will forever and always be Pixar. The natural choice of the animation powerhouse's catalog is "Finding Nemo," but odds are decent you've already watched this one eleventy bajillion times and may not want to be trapped in the house for weeks on end with you, your offspring and "Nemo" on repeat. In that case, might I suggest you take another gander at "Toy Story?" Despite all of the movies that have come since, and in light of Pixar's long dominance of Oscar's Best Animated Film category, it can be easy to forget "Toy Story" was the movie that started it all – and it remains nearly perfect even now. Pixar brings a family of toys to life as only it can, and this one won't make you cry nearly as hard as, say, "Wall-E."

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THURSDAY, FEB. 20
3:01 am, West Beach Rd.
Caller states a couple of guys came over three hours ago to try and "take her away." Caller talking over call-taker, not providing female's name. States "she's out in the trailer."

9:33 am, E Squire Rd.
Abandoned wireless; on recall, female on line, advising was trying to get into locked phone. Was watching YouTube video that said to press 9-1-1.

9:46 am, E Squire Rd.
Reporting party advising male is "being violent with vehicle," advising swerved at reporting party with his tractor while he was walking; unknown name of male.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21
1:39 pm, SE Barrington Dr.
In lobby, requesting breathalyzer; was eating oranges and when blew in interlock, it locked.

2:29 pm, SE Barrington Dr.
In lobby, just got a new car and wants law enforcement to talk to her about it because people are following her.

3:25 pm, SE Pioneer Way
Advising two subjects in parking lot threw papers at reporting party and said "You have been served." In gray SUV, no weapons.

4:41 pm, SE Pioneer Way
Advising subject in green Honda made throat cutting sign at reporting party.

9:51 pm, SW Erie St.
Caller advising male subject was refused alcohol; subject now outside trying to fight customers.

11:16 pm, SE Midway Blvd.
Reporting party states neighbor is banging on reporting party's door; refusing to provide her address; states it's not safe to give further information as her phone is tapped. Refusing phone number.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22
1:38 am, SE Midway Blvd.
Caller states "I get no help from the Island County Sheriffs Office;" states there are people driving up and down the road screaming. Caller states "You don't protect me."

12:55 pm, NE 11th Ave.
Car vs. house, man trapped; reporting party is witness.

4:43 pm, SR 20
Reporting party advising black male with bat is in middle of highway swinging at vehicles as they pass by.

5:03 pm, NE Ronhaar St.
Reporting party advising garden shears missing from yard for last day.

5:36 pm, SR 20
Second-hand report referencing male urinating outside location.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23
11:56 am, SE 4th Ave.
Reporting party advising received scam phone call but did not fall for it; reporting party requesting contact at location for law enforcement to look at phone.

3:22 pm, SE O'Leary St.
Caller advising roommate smashed her hand through glass fish tank.

5:37 NE Ronhaar St.
Reporting party states strange things have been happening around his home, such as: yesterday found scissors in his yard, neighbor told reporting party they were stolen from her residence. This morning, someone cut up cardboard with the scissors and threw garbage all over his yard.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28
9:13 am, SR 20
Advising transient female in bushes by drive through urinating in the bushes.

2:24 pm, S Beeksma Dr.
Advising subject sitting in crosswalk; sign is hung over the crosswalk button.

SATURDAY, FEB. 29
3:13 pm, SW Erie St.
Reporting party advising customer in parking lot screaming , swearing and scaring customer.

3:25 pm, SR 20
Advising vehicle hit another vehicle intentionally near location; subject still driving northbound.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
4:17 pm, SR 20
Subject talking about a creamery and getting his sugar, now talking about Tom Petty band and Jimmy Hendrix experience.

MONDAY, MARCH 2
12:32 pm, NW 7th Ct.
Advising two vehicles have been parked at the stop sign for a year, blocking the sign. Ongoing issue. Reporting party has reported several times over the years. Requesting phone call.

6:30 pm, SR 20
Advising subject came into location, lifted shirt and showed a revolver.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
1:42 pm, SR 20
Reporting party advising male was defecating at intersection, in the bush area.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
9:18 am, NW Columbia Dr.
Reporting party advising people are shooting potatoes at workers.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6
8:36 am, NW 2nd Ave.
Caller advising arrived at location to see a red Kia stuck on a median.

6 pm, NE Izett St.
Reporting party advising her neighbor down the street stares and yells at her; ongoing issue.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
10:01 am, SE Barrington Dr.
Reporting party advising of ongoing history of harassment towards her from the homeless about her weight and for her money.

11:35 pm, SW Barrington Dr.
Caller states people want to shoot him and states keep threatening to walk by and shoot him.

11:44 pm, SE Regatta Dr.
Reporting party advising subject was walking near apartment complex on SE Regatta and someone threw a cup of yogurt at the driver's vehicle.

Report provided by OHPD & Island County Sheriff's Dept.

Photo Courtesy of Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle and Charter
Locally owned and operated Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle and Charter has been hit hard by the Coronavirus crisis, seeing its business drop 45 percent in three weeks.

BUSINESS continued from page 7

"Candlewood Inn & Suites has put out a 'Staycation' special, where if you are feeling some cabin fever you can have an overnight stay there for a reduced price," Hoppock said. "And Paint Your World [while closed], will offer pick up paint and go and deliveries to paint at home.

"I would recommend purchasing as much as you can locally through small business owners," she continued. "Now that you are spending a lot of time at home and need to be finding something to do at home with your children, look to our local businesses for creative ideas and materials to keep kids entertained."

For those who are out shopping for necessary goods and services, business owners are doing all they can to ensure their own health and safety as well as their customers'.

"Our retail environments are being kept scrupulously clean," Inge Morascini, executive director of the Langley Chamber of Commerce, wrote on Facebook. "If your favorite retailer is closed, please email or call – most live nearby and can arrange to provide product via delivery or mail…check to see if their hours have changed."

"There are many ways that the community can support small businesses without leaving the comfort of their cars or homes," Samford said. "We would like to encourage readers to buy gift cards to their favorite stores, order via phone for a curbside pickup (at retail and restaurants), order delivery, ask for items to be shipped to homes, or ask your favorite stores how you can support them."

"As we navigate through the COVID-19 crisis, our goals are simple – keep everyone safe and through smart business practices, weather the economic storm our country is going through," said Morgan.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Island County stood at 16 as of press time Tuesday. For the latest information on the pandemic locally, visit www.islandcounty.wa.gov; find more information on the situation in Washington state at www.doh.wa.gov.

To keep track of what's going on in the local business community, visit oakharborchamber.com, coupevillechamber.com, visitlangley.com, oakharbormainstreet.org, langleymainstreet.org or coupevillehistoricwaterfront.com.

SCHOOLS continued from page 10

"This time will be hard on our students' social and emotional wellbeing," he said. "As more information is learned and shared about the spread of COVID-19 (novel Coronavirus), you may notice your child experiencing a wider range of emotions such as worry and fear. Some children might also experience sadness and frustration at not being able to interact with their friends and school staff regularly. There are many steps you can take to support your child during these uncertain times."

Laffey provided the following list of recommendations and resources for parents:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Reassure your child that what they are feeling is normal.
- Make time to talk with your child about their feelings and questions.
- Take children on hikes, bike rides, walks on the beach and other healthy activities to keep them physically active and outdoors when possible.
- Play board games, listen to music, dance, play musical instruments, do art projects, garden and engage socially as a family.
- Limit screen time and access to social media.
- Pay attention to how long and what your child is watching and reading.
- Model positive self-care strategies; your child is learning how to manage their emotions from the caring adults in their life.
- Provide honest, age-appropriate information and avoid sharing assumptions about who is sick with COVID-19.
- Work with your child to develop a consistent "new" daily routine; samples will be provided early next week.

RESOURCES:

- Public Health's Guidelines for gatherings of children and youth while schools are closed: www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus/schools/closures.aspx
- Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html
- Tips for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers During Infectious Disease Outbreaks: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html
- Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus: https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus
- Talking to Kids About COVID-19: https://medium.com/wadepthealth/talking-to-kids-about-covid-19-a909585b93bf

Remember to check your child's district website for updates, and practice patience.

"Most of us have never experienced this level of life disruption," said Laffey. "Small moments of grace and support will go a long way as we navigate our collective response to COVID-19."

CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The hounds of fortune are baying. Don't make them track you down. Give yourself an edge, a tool not available in stores. This useful tool can't be bought off TV. It may be found at yard sales, although it's never sold there. A hint? It's often seen in winner's circles. Give up? It's the ability to beguile with a smile. Think of the Mona Lisa. Practice the Lisa's famous self composure, her aura of calm, and give a wave to those hounds.

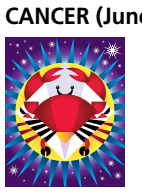
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

A little privacy is a good thing. Your bank PIN, your SSN, and where you choose to place your tattoo are no one's business but yours. Privacy has its other uses, not all of them officially sanctioned. Regardless of your reasons, privacy is a big deal. How you guard it is up to you, but precautions of some kind are essential this week. Shredders, encryption, VPN's, you get the idea. The more, the merrier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

A circus dog of a week. Everyone has them. Off the flipboard, through the flaming hoop and onto the trotting horse's back. All before morning coffee. Some people thrive on it. Others wouldn't get out of bed if they knew what was coming. Since we don't know which type you are, we make no predictions, other than to say, it's sure to be interesting. You might brush up on your backflips.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Everything you need to know about this week, you probably learned in kindergarten. The Golden Rule, clean up your mess, and so on. Well, almost everything. Some white-water kayaking basics might help. Can you paddle your boat upside down? If not, no worries. Pick it up along the way. It's not a beginner friendly rapid ahead, but then, you're no beginner. Just stay in line and don't speak out of turn. Like kindergarten.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Top headline again this week? THE END IS NEAR! Frustrated? We know. We've faced the end so many times before. Yet here we are, facing it again. Fear is just the way of things. Don't let it blunt your desire for truth. Stay informed. Truth is the antidote to fear. It lies somewhere east of, "The sky is falling!" and west of, "What, me worry?" You'll know Truth when you see it. It's a well-lighted pub where the like-minded hang out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

A word about coccinellidaephobia. Symptoms include rapid pulse, hyperventilation, dry mouth, shaking, cold sweats, nausea and vomiting. Yikes! What the heck is it? FEAR OF LADYBUGS. It's true. But isn't the official name more intimidating? Be alert this week for other examples of someone overcomplicating the very simple. Manipulating your behavior begins with manipulating your emotions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The most brilliant strategists of business and war agree: "Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer." Regardless of your playing field, the business of marriage, perhaps, or the war between the sexes, we urge you to heed that sage advice. Friends close, enemies closer. One or the other is significant to your week. Be gracious to the one who's a game-changer. Champagne is optional. Thank you notes a must.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Another day in the casino of life, another roll of the dice. Whether you're hot on a winning streak or a stone cold loser, know this: Life is a game of probabilities, and probability is like a river. You move easier when rowing with it. But character building may demand you row against it. The gambler's edge comes from knowing which way to row, and when. So name your game and ante up. Are you just along for the ride? Or building character?

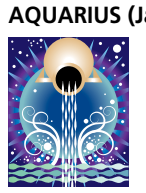
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

To make an omelette, it is said, you must crack a few eggs. Alas, not all who crack eggs are good cooks. Many have destructive ways and seek only to excuse them. If your week resembles a messy cooking show, courtesy of those who crack eggs that ought not to be cracked, don't hurl blame. No good will come of it. Instead, be the adult in the room and preheat a skillet. Nothing's tastier than an ad libbed omelette.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The art of a good week is to treat it like pancake batter. A good batter begins with consistency. Be fussy about consistency. If your enemies find you too easily predictable, consistency kills you. Lack of consistency can be just as bad. Ever say one thing and promptly do another? Nobody trusts you. Ladle your affairs with an eye to consistency and you'll have a good week. We did say it's an art. Maple syrup with that?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Every culture had its version of the legendary character we moderns call the Trickster. The Trickster playfully disrupts life by breaking taboos and violating societal rules. Healthy growth results. This week, you may play the role of trickster. By choice or by chance, you may violate the rules in a way that jolts a dozing someone to a fuller awareness of themselves. Also legendary is the grumpy sleepy head. Forewarned is forearmed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Nature likes an even fight. Take the cobra and its enemy, the mongoose. Pluses for the cobra, lightning fast reflexes and venomous bite. For the mongoose, lightning fast reflexes and immunity to cobra's bite. It's lightning reflexes versus lightning reflexes, an even test of endurance that the mongoose often wins. No less a battle of endurance is the one between you and a hidden blind spot of yours. Can you see it?

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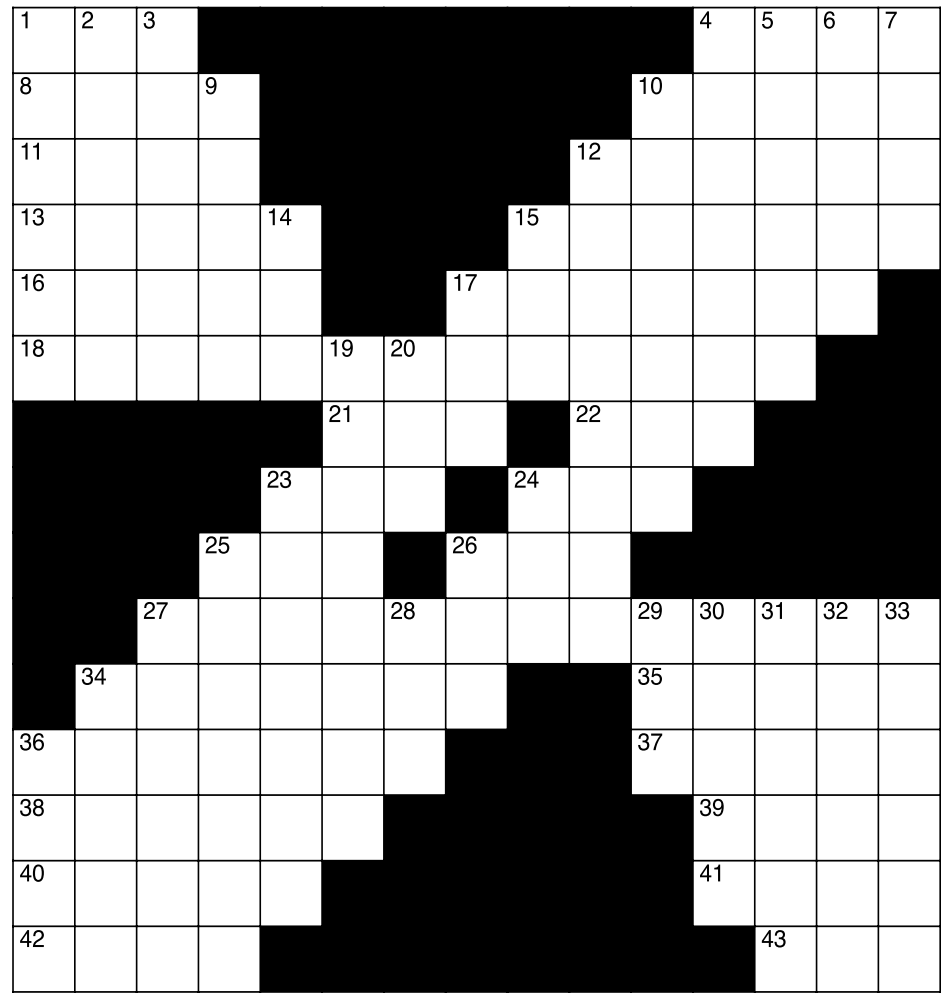
Chicken Little's knock on the head meant to him that the sky was falling, silly bird. His horoscope showed other possibilities. Don't wait for a knock on the head to ask what's up in your life. Wesley Hallock, as Whidbey Weekly's professional astrologer and horoscope writer, keeps one eye on the sky and alerts us to the prospects each week. To read past columns of Chicken Little and the Astrologer in the Whidbey Weekly, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. A team's best pitcher
4. Designer Jacobs
8. Hip joint
10. A dialect of English
11. Portrays
12. Panic
13. The head of a team
15. High priest
16. League of Legends locale
17. Protective folds
18. Treats allergies
21. Voodoo spirits
22. Single unit
23. Unit of measurement
24. Brew
25. Burundian franc
26. Self
27. Bengals great
34. Making letters overlap
35. Piece of pizza
36. Illegal drug
37. Card game
38. The highest point in the development
39. Oh, God!
40. Wives (law)
41. Monetary unit of Samoa
42. Supplements with difficulty
43. Valentine's Day color

CLUES DOWN

1. Warm climate tree or shrub
2. Silky case spun by larvae
3. Still in existence
4. Light, two-stranded rope
5. Wear away
6. Beginnings
7. Essence
9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
10. Path
12. Repeated tones
14. Expresses surprise
15. Monetary unit of Burma
17. When you hope to get there
19. Brighten
20. Fifth note of a major scale
23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
24. We all do it
25. Scrounges
26. Unit of energy
27. Begin to be
28. Midway between northeast and east
29. Distinctive practice
30. Succulent plants
31. Performer
32. Gas station term
33. Required
34. Soviet monetary unit
36. Eating house

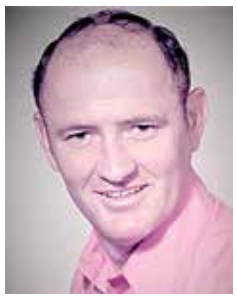
Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

	Thurs, March 19	Fri, March 20	Sat, March 21	Sun, March 22	Mon, March 23	Tues, March 24	Wed, March 25
North Isle	H-56°/L-41° Mostly Cloudy	H-55°/L-39° Sunny	H-54°/L-39° Plenty of Sunshine	H-53°/L-39° Rain and Drizzle Possible	H-53°/L-39° Rain and Drizzle Possible	H-52°/L-40° Rain and Drizzle Possible	H-51°/L-41° Rain Possible
South Isle	H-54°/L-40° Cloudy	H-56°/L-39° Plenty of Sunshine	H-56°/L-39° Sunny	H-54°/L-39° Rain and Drizzle Possible	H-55°/L-30° Rain and Drizzle Possible	H-54°/L-39° Rain and Drizzle Possible	H-53°/L-40° Rain Possible

Life Tributes

Birder (Bird) Coffey



Birder (Bird) Coffey, a passionate golfer, family man, tomato grower and active community member, passed away at 83 years old, peacefully and surrounded by his family at home in Oak Harbor, Wash., Tuesday, March 3, 2020, after losing a hard fought battle with an aggressive cancer.

Bird was born in Brasstown, N.C., May 18, 1936 to Hamilton (Ham) and Molly Coffey, née Hyatt . He has a surviving sister, Maryjane; two surviving brothers, June Lee and Fred; and other siblings who have passed, Zebadiah, James, Dexter, Austin and twins who died at birth. His youth was filled with fond memories of hunting for squirrels and rabbits with his brothers in the woods, picking blackberries by the gallon, and as a teenager, cooking chicken dinner for his family on Sundays. He was a natural athlete and excelled at playing basketball at Murphy High School, in N.C.

After high school, Bird enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, with a career serving 22 years. While stationed at Travis AFB, he met his wife and love of his life, Airman 2nd, MaryAnne Coffey. They were married March 4, 1961, and made the world their home as they followed Bird's career and built their family. Their 59th anniversary was March 4 2020, one day after his passing. Bird and MaryAnne have three children: Selena (born at Travis AFB, Fairfield, Calif.); Craig (born at Ismir Air Base, Turkey); and Brian (born at Walker AFB, Roswell, N.M.).

Bird loved his 22-year career with the Air Force; his main role was serving as a medical technician with flight surgeons. An avid lover of sports, Bird was a competitive athlete while in the military as a boxer, bowler and golfer (collecting many trophies and awards along the way). He was also a coach for little league baseball, basketball and football with his sons.

After retiring from the military in 1977, the family moved to MaryAnne's hometown of Missoula, Mont. His second career of 13 years was spent working for two car dealerships (Flannigan's and the Ford dealership), and over a span of 20 years in Montana, he was also a rancher. As a rancher he tended to many animals – first at the 20-acre home they built in Stevensville, and then at their 10-acre home in Big Flat (cattle, llamas, sheep, turkeys, chickens, pheasants – just to name a few critters). Bird continued his passion for golfing in Missoula, as well as being an active hunter and fisherman.

In 1999 they moved to his current home in Oak Harbor near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Over the 20 years of living in this home, Bird planted many varieties of trees on their property, provided a beautiful environment for birds (and humans) to thrive, and growing apples, plums, pears, tomatoes, blackberries, raspberries, onions, garlic and assorted veggies. Bird loved to give the surplus tomato plants and produce away to his many friends. Bird continued to golf at least 3-4 times a week (during good weather), work out at the gym 3-4 times a week and was president of the water board for many years for the well system their home and community gets water from (where he got to know every single family on the system).

If you have an eagle sighting or encounter over the next few weeks that gives you a calm and peaceful feeling, you may have had a visit from the Bird man.

Bird's family and friends will miss him terribly. In keeping with Bird's wishes, we will not be holding funeral services, and instead of sending flowers, donations can be made to Whidbey Animals Improvement Foundation at https://waifanimals.org/donate/. If you would like to visit and add to our online Book of Memories for his family and community to enjoy and reminisce – you can visit https://whidbeymemorial.com.

Michael (Mike) Lee Mosbrooker

Michael (Mike) Lee Mosbrooker, 81, of Oak Harbor, Wash., passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at home, surrounded by his family after a brief battle with metastatic melanoma.

A memorial service was held Thursday, March 5, 2020, at Wallin Funeral Home in Oak Harbor, with Chaplain David G. Lura officiating.

Mike was born Friday, June 17, 1938 in Valley City, N.D., to Alvin and Elvira Mosbrooker. Mike's family moved to Los Angeles when Mike was 5. Mike worked alongside his dad and grandfather as a carpenter, finishing his apprenticeship at age 19. He was also an auto enthusiast, working as a body and fender specialist and drag racing in his spare time. Mike earned a degree in applied mathematics from California Polytechnic State University, where he also participated in Glee Club, ROTC, and the National Society of Scabbard and Blade. He later earned a master's degree in nuclear physics from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Mike served for 20 years in the United States Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a Senior Army Parachutist and Ranger and served with the 75th Artillery, 10th Special Forces, 1st Infantry Division, 46th Artillery, 173rd Airborne Brigade, 76th Artillery and the 3rd Infantry Division in addition to multiple staff positions. Mike earned multiple decorations including the Legion of Merit, six Bronze Star Medals for Valor and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

After retiring from the military, Mike held multiple positions as an engineer and program manager. He later built and managed apartment buildings with his good friend, Robert Rathe.

Mike met and married Judith (Judie) Ruth Ginsberg while he was stationed in Bad Tölz, Germany with Special Forces. Mike and Judie had three children: Patti, Mike and Eric. Judie died in 1991 after a short battle with breast cancer. Mike married Helen Swanner in 1992 and they have resided together in Oak Harbor since 1994.

Mike had many loves in his life in addition to his family: beagles, model airplanes, traveling, golfing, boating, sports, piloting airplanes and spending time in his workshop. Mike started flying model airplanes at age 5 with his mother's help and flew his final flight New Year's Day 2020. Mike held many leadership positions with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and was awarded the AMA Fellowship Award in 2020 for his distinguished service. Mike and Helen traveled in their trailer (with beagles) to numerous model airplane events and also traveled (without beagles) to Europe, Asia, Australasia and South America.

Mike's greatest joy were his three grandchildren: Jesse (18), Caroline (16), and Zachary (11 months). Mike also had two stepchildren: Tammy and David; and six step-grandchildren. In addition to his children and grandchildren, Mike is survived by his wife, Helen; brother, Harold; numerous nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews; his son-in-law, Jon; and daughters-in-law, Lisa and Karyn.

Mike lived a full life and he was admired, respected and loved by those he touched. In lieu of flowers, Mike requested memorials be made to the AMA Foundation at www.modelaircraft.org/donate or the Toddler Learning Center at www.tlcwhidbey.org/ways-you-can-help. The family of Mike Mosbrooker wishes to extend sincere thanks to Dr. Hall and his care team at the Seattle Cancer Center Alliance and the compassionate team from WhidbeyHealth Hospice Care.

Helen Frances Stimple

There was much rejoicing in Heaven March 4, 2020 over the arrival of Helen Frances Stimple of Oak Harbor, Wash.

A sweet baby girl was born with many dreams in her heart. And after a long, wondrous life of 100 years, Helen made a beautiful difference in our world and in the lives of those she touched with her love, faith, and music.

Helen was born Jan. 31, 1920, in Santa Ana, Calif., to Burr and Nellie Talbert. The Talberts had come from Iowa before the Depression era to Orange County, Calif., where Burr was a gentle, kind orange orchardist. Helen graduated from Orange High, where she shared her joy of music in being a soloist at graduation. Later, Helen would receive her bachelor's and master's degrees from Boise State University.

Music always brought much joy to Helen – singing in choirs, directing children's and youth choirs – bringing the delight of music to others by playing the piano in schools, churches, retirement and nursing homes.

Helen is now enjoying the blessings of Heaven after a lifetime of serving the Lord in many ways in Presbyterian churches in California, Idaho and Washington. Often at the end of church services, she would find a quiet, shy newcomer to invite for lunch.

Helen married her best friend, Sam Stimple, in Orange just before the World War II era. They were married June 25, 1939. Sam worked at Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, Calif. They were blessed with a son, Sam, Jr. (Carol) Stimple and with daughters, Diane (Jim) Cheshire and Kathy (David) Larsen, 11 grandchildren and many great and great-great grandchildren to fill their lives with love and laughter.

Summer cross-country vacations to historical sights were treasured by our family, as well as picnics, fishing, gardening, square dancing, and Camp Sawtooth near Ketchum, Idaho.

After their move from California to Boise, Idaho in 1947, Helen and Sam found much delight in becoming dedicated educators at heart. There are hundreds of students during their nearly 40 years of teaching, who were blessed to be in their classrooms in several Boise schools, where Helen enjoyed teaching and being an encouraging mentor to several student teachers, and where Sam was a much-admired school principal. Helen also served on Idaho Board of Education committees.

Traveling to Reader's Theater conferences throughout Europe and our country was inspiring...and Helen brought back this wondrous activity to her students.

Helen was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Sam, in 1992, and by many family members and friends. In 2004, Helen moved to beautiful Whidbey Island in Washington to live in Oak Harbor, where she so enjoyed being near to the home of her daughter, Kathy.

Helen will be cherished and remembered as a bright, shining light in the various communities, schools, and churches she so graciously served and in the hearts of those she touched so compassionately throughout her life. Private services will be held at a later date. Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at www.whidbeymemorial.com.

Virginia May (Freeman) Sundberg

Virginia May (Freeman) Sundberg, 94 beautiful years old, went peacefully home into the presence of God March 11, 2020 at her home in Regency on Whidbey (Assisted Living Facility) in Oak Harbor, Wash.

Virginia (Ginny) was born in Mount Vernon, Wash., Oct. 16, 1925, to Edward Maurice Freeman and Stella Marguerite (Jenkins) Freeman. Her early years were spent in Mount Vernon where she attended Ridgeway Grade School and later graduated from Mount Vernon High School.

After high school, Ginny moved to Seattle, where she attended Wilson's Modern Business College and went to work for Seattle Transit. During this time, she worked as a maid/housekeeper to earn her room and board. At a point in her life Ginny considered absolutely critical, she moved into the home of a fellow transit worker, Sylvia (Berg) Severiede.

The Bergs attended the Norwegian Danish Methodist Episcopal Church (Central Methodist) at Boren and Stewart in Seattle. On her very first Sunday attending church with the Bergs, Ginny met Roy Sundberg, another pivotal event in her life. Virginia gave her life to Christ at a Youth for Christ meeting in Anacortes, Wash., in 1945, where she played piano for the trio Roy sang in. This lifelong commitment to Jesus shaped Virginia's entire life. Roy and Virginia were married Oct. 18, 1946, and they spent the next 67 years together, raising their family and enjoying God's many blessings.

Ginny thoroughly enjoyed and thrived being a stay-at-home mom. Her life was centered on her home, family, and church.

Ginny (Virginia) was preceded in death by her loving husband, Roy. She is survived by her son, Gary Sundberg (Kerry Heavey) of Bend, Ore.; son, Terry Sundberg (Kathy Olund) of Winlock, Wash.; and daughter, Merrie Burley (Mark Burley) of Coupeville, Wash. She enjoyed and treasured every one of her seven grandchildren and their spouses, as well as her 15 great-grandchildren and her large extended family.

Services were held for Virginia Monday, March 16, at Wallin Funeral Home in Oak Harbor. Her family is so grateful for the loving care "Miss Ginny" received from her Regency on Whidbey (Assisted Living Facility) "family," and the exceptional care provided by Hospice of Island County, as well as her care at WhidbeyHealth. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Funeral arrangements made through Wallin Funeral Home.

Life Tributes can now be found online at www.whidbeyweekly.com

Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

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Life • Business
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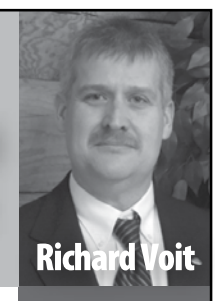
Se Habla Español



FARMERS INSURANCE

Richard Voit Agency
390 NE Midway Blvd
A102, Oak Harbor
rvoit@farmersagent.com

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.4

Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Answers below

				3			6	
			2	8		3		1
6			5			8		7
	1					7		2
	5		9		7		8	
4		7					1	
3		9			8			6
8		5		4	2			
	4			7				

No Cheating!

A	C	E								M	A	R	C	
C	O	X	A						B	A	B	O	O	
A	C	T	S					T	E	R	R	O	R	
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F	E	M	E	S							S	E	N	E
E	K	E	S									R	E	D

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pregnant? Need baby clothes? We have them and the price is right–FREE. Pregnancy Care Clinic, open most Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 4pm. Call 360-221-2909 or stop by 6th and Cascade in Langley.

Be the difference in a child's life and become a foster parent today! Service Alternatives is looking for caring, loving, and supportive families to support foster children. 425-923-0451 or mostermick@servalt-cfs.com

The Whidbey Island community is encouraged to try out the paddling sport of dragon boating with the Stayin' Alive team. Our team's mission is to promote the physical, social, and emotional benefits of dragon boating. It has been shown to be especially beneficial to cancer survivors. Practice with us for up to 3 times for free. Life-jackets and paddles provided. Saturdays at the Oak Harbor Marina, 8:45am. Contact njlish@gmail.com. More info at our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSound-DragonBoatClub?ref=hl

Medical Marijuana patients unite; If you need assistance, advice, etc. please contact at 420patientnetworking@gmail.com. Local Whidbey Island help.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, identity theft, fraud, human trafficking, home invasion and other crimes not listed. Victim Support Services has advocates ready to help. Please call the 24-hr Crisis Line 888-388-9221. Free service. Visit our web site at http://victimsupportservices.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Habitat Stores depend on enthusiastic volunteers to help carry out our mission. We are looking for volunteers to help us with customer service, merchandise intake, store up-keep, organization and pick-ups of donated items. If you have two (2) hours or more per week to donate, please join us in our mission to create affordable housing in our community by volunteering at our Oak Harbor Store. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm and Sun, 11am-4pm. Please contact Tony Persson if you are interested in volunteering at our Oak Harbor store (290 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277): 360-675-8733, tony@islandcountyhabitat.org. For our Freeland store (1592 Main Street, Freeland WA 98249), please contact John Schmidt: 360-331-6272, john@islandcountyhabitat.com. Habitat for Humanity of Island County, www.islandcountyhabitat.org, 360-679-9444.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the PBY-Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pbymf.org and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself.

Imagine Oak Harbor's first Food Forest, Saturdays 11am-3pm, at 526 Bayshore Drive. Each week, we have volunteer opportunities available to help care for our community garden, share organic gardening tips, and learn Permaculture principles. All ages and skill levels welcome. Schedule can change due to adverse weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact us at: imagineapermacultureworld.gmail.com

Mother Mentors needs volunteers! Oak Harbor families with young children need your help! Volunteer just a couple of hours a week to make a difference in someone's life! To volunteer or get more info, email wamothermentors@gmail.com or call 360-321-1484.

Looking for board members to join the dynamic board of Island Senior Resources and serve the needs of Island County Seniors. Of particular interest are representatives from North Whidbey. For more information please contact: reception@islandseniorservices.org

JOB MARKET

RETAIL CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITION: Part-time, flexible, 3-4 days per week. Must have exceptional customer service and organizational skills and be self-motivated. Minimum 18-years old. Knowledge of art supplies and design a plus. Apply in person at Gene's Art & Frame, 250 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor. No phone calls please (0)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

Excellent grass hay, good for horses, $7 per bale. 20 bale minimum. 360-321-1624

If you or someone you know needs help in feeding pet(s), WAIF Pet Food Banks may be able to help. Pet Food Banks are located at WAIF thrift stores in Oak Harbor (465 NE Midway Blvd) and Freeland (1660 Roberta Ave) and are generously stocked by donations from the community. If you need assistance, please stop by.

WANTED

New great-grandmother on fixed income seeking a cheap, well loved, plain stitch sewing machine. Please call 360-544-2299, voicemail only, speak slowly (1)

Always buying antiques, collectibles, sporting goods, tools, garden equipment, furniture, vehicles, tractors and boats. Cash paid at loading out. 45 years experience. 360-678-5888 or text 360-9691948 (1)

Lead/Rhythm Guitarist/Vocalist wanted by professional bassist and drummer. Hard rock trio. Need 20+ years experience. Practice weekly in fully equipped recording studio. Covers and originals. Leave message, 360-675-5470 (0)

Art, Antiques & Collectibles. Cash paid for quality items. Call or text 360-661-7298

Was your Dad or Gramps in Japan or Germany? I collect old 35 mm cameras and lenses. Oak Harbor, call 970-823-0002

FREE

Downed trees, you cut and haul. 360-675-2872 (1)

Approximately 114 good condition used Allan blocks. You pick up, 360-914-0152 (0)

How'd you do?

5	8	1	7	3	4	2	6	9
7	9	4	2	8	6	3	5	1
6	3	2	5	9	1	8	4	7
9	1	8	4	6	5	7	3	2
2	5	3	9	1	7	6	8	4
4	6	7	8	2	3	9	1	5
3	2	9	1	5	8	4	7	6
8	7	5	6	4	2	1	9	3
1	4	6	3	7	9	5	2	8

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

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Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Email.....classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
Telephone.....(360)682-2341
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PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD. Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge $10/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling $1,000 and above. We do charge $25 to include a photo. The FREE classified space is not for business use. No classified is accepted without phone number. We reserve the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be published twice consecutively. If you would like your ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it. Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.

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