

July 9 through July 15, 2020

FREE

# Whidbey Weekly

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## Summer Events Have A New Look



**Read about  
Sea, Trees & Pie  
Virtual Hoop Camp and  
Whidbey Island Triathlon**

More Local Events *inside*

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Langley Creates p. 6

## Groups find new ways to enjoy activities

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Amid seemingly endless event cancellations and postponements, some Whidbey Island organizations have found new ways to enjoy some familiar events safely:

### Whidbey Island Triathlon

The Whidbey Island Triathlon has been canceled for 2020. But the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District has figured out a way to hold a virtual triathlon for all those disappointed the real thing won't be happening.

The Whidbey Island Virtual Triathlon will take place from July 24 through Aug. 2. Because it's virtual, participants don't need to travel to Whidbey – the race can be completed wherever participants are.

"You choose your start and finish line," reads the web page for the triathlon. "You can use a treadmill, run outside on a neighborhood street or on a nearby track. You can cycle on a stationary bike or cycle outside on neighborhood streets. You can swim in a pool, a lake, or choose a swim alternative! Run your race, at your pace, anywhere in the world where it's safe to do so."

The virtual triathlon consists of a half-mile swim (or an approved alternative), a 19-mile bike portion and a 3.75-mile run. Because not everyone may have access to a "swim-able" body of water, that portion of the triathlon has been expanded to include other activities like kayaking, paddleboarding, rowing, burpees, etc. Participating athletes should complete all the elements within a 48-hour period and self-report times – with documentation such as photos or screenshots, for example - to triathlon organizers. There are no awards or official timing and it's all based on an honor system, so organizers encourage participants to be honest and have fun.

The 2021 Whidbey Island Triathlon is tentatively scheduled for July 31, 2021, so save the date.

### Sea, Trees, & Pie Bike Ride

Whidbey Camano Land Trust has put a new spin on its fifth annual Sea, Trees, & Pie Bike Ride. Normally a one-day event, this year's ride gives cyclists an extended opportunity to complete any of its three Central Whidbey courses. The good news is it will still end with pie!

"We've had to re-think the way we do our events this year," said Jennifer Hajny, Whidbey Camano Land Trust outreach manager. "We're excited to continue a bike ride that is going from a single-day event to an all-summer ride that takes place from July 10 through August 31. This has opened the door for many people who might not have been able to participate on a designated day. It allows riders to watch the weather and ride on a nice day. Another big bonus is, instead of a single slice of pie, registered riders will receive a voucher for a whole Whidbey Pie!"



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Camano Land Trust

The fifth annual Sea, Trees, and Pie Bike Ride might feel a little different this year, but it is one event that will still take place this summer. Riders can choose from three different courses, all of which feature Crockett Lake, the largest wetland system on Whidbey Island.

The three routes range from 5, 10 to 20-mile courses and all feature Crockett Lake, which is the largest wetland system on Whidbey Island. Cyclists will make their way through some of the most scenic parts of Whidbey.

"The three routes offer something for everyone to keep this a fun, non-competitive event," Hajny said. "The routes range from a shorter, easier route for the casual bicyclist to a longer, more difficult route for accomplished bikers. All three routes showcase many of the treasured places permanently protected by the Land Trust. This includes Crockett Lake Preserve, Whidbey Island's largest wetland system.

"The ride is set up to be a simple experience to enjoy the natural beauty around you as you ride," she continued. "The entire ride will be in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, a stunning place to take a bike ride and appreciate the area's incredible natural and pastoral settings. You will be able to enjoy some of Whidbey Island's most breathtaking landscapes, including farmlands, beaches, wetlands, and woods with great views of the Olympic Mountains and Puget Sound. You'll also be supporting a nonprofit organization that works to protect and care for the places you love most on the islands."

Cost to participate is \$25 for single riders or \$40 for families. Children 16 and under are free and must be accompanied by a registered adult. All riders must wear helmets. All proceeds benefit the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, a nonprofit nature conservation organization.

"We like to call our bike ride a 'friend-raiser,'" Hajny said. "The most important goal of the ride is to make people aware of what the Whidbey Camano Land Trust does and the amazing lands and waters our members help us protect. The hope is those who aren't donors to the Land Trust will be inspired to join and help protect the incredible quality of life on the islands."

This is a non-competitive ride, but Hajny said WCLT wants to recognize participants. Organizers are asking riders to send in selfies from scenic spots and they will be posted on WCLT's social media pages.

All routes begin and end at the State Parks birding platform near the Coupeville/Port Townsend ferry terminal. Be advised a Discover Pass is required for parking. Once registered, participants will receive a course map, information and a voucher for a free pie.

Hajny said there's much more one can gain from taking part.

"As an organizer, I love this bike ride because it showcases some of the amazing lands and waters that have been protected on Whidbey Island," she said. "As a participant, the coolest thing is seeing Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve from so many different perspectives. It's also not uncommon to see a variety of wildlife along the ride, especially a whole array of raptors."

For more information or to register, visit [www.wclt.org/bikeride](http://www.wclt.org/bikeride).

### Virtual Hoop Camps

If the kids are looking for a way to expend some energy and enjoy some basketball safely, Skagit Valley College has announced it will be offering virtual hoop camps.

Camps will take place July 21-22 from noon to 1:15 p.m. and will be held on Zoom. SVC men's basketball coach, Carl Howell, will lead the two-day virtual camp, which will focus on basketball fundamentals and skill-building. Cost to attend is \$70. The camps are made possible by the college's Continuing and Community Education Program.

Information and registration is available online at [www.capusce.net/skagit/course/course.aspx?catId=35](http://www.capusce.net/skagit/course/course.aspx?catId=35).

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# ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



How was your 4th?  
 How was your 3rd?  
 How was your fifth?  
 Probably empty by now.  
 It was so quiet here on the 4th, for a minute I thought I had duct taped my mouth.  
 Turns out it was just quiet because I had no

one to listen.

So, I called 844, the local weather and time people to give them a piece of my musings, after they were finished, of course.

Don't ever interrupt your time people, weather or not.

### Things learned

With another three day weekend, I decided to spend it like all the other three day weekends, one day on, two days off.

Since the last four months seem like a series of three day weekends, I haven't done much but putter, and I don't even play golf.

Whether one calls it "putter around" or Dad's term, "piddle around," not much gets done but fun while daydreaming.

While listening to three re-broadcasts of 4th of July Seattle Mariners' victories, I learned from Dave Niehaus both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams passed away on the 4th of July, 1826, within five hours of one another, 50 years after both had signed the Declaration of Independence.

Makes one wonder what those founding fathers were doing the night before.

All these segued three day weekends since March have given me time to go through unmarked files from unmarked file drawers.

The re-discovered sentiment slows me down, but, in the process, some of the files have some real laughs.

Like our Friday, March 20, 1964 issue of *Senior Hi News*, featuring the responses solicited by a band of roving journalists. In the hallowed halls of yesteryear, even then the youth of America were asking the tough questions.

In Oil City, we students were no different than any other cutting edge hard-driving investigators.

The *Pittsburgh Press* had nothing on us but a subscription rate.

### Fab four in '64

This issue's Barbara Walters/Hugh Downs type pressing inquiry was, "How do the Beatles rate at Senior High?"

Don't tell my parents I am talking this way or I'll have to get a haircut.

The answers from our anonymous school mates include, but are not limited to, these transparencies:

"They're fabulous."

"I think they look like they have fleas, but I like their music."

"They are very poor musicians."

"Yeah, Yeah, Yeah."

Of course, a school paper is not complete without the opinions of the esteemed faculty.

"I think they're good."

"I like their singing."

"They're clever showmen."

"Out of curiosity, I couldn't wait to see them. When I did, I laughed. I don't believe they have talent but they know a good time."

"To listen to, they're wonderful. To watch, it's terrible."

I remember seeing the Beatles, probably like you, for the first time on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, Feb. 9, 1964.

The only memories I have retained are two.

The first is Mom's remark after Paul McCartney sang "Til There Was You" from Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, Mom's favorite at that time vinyl record.

"He has a nice voice."

The other thing I recall is memory #2.

Dad left the room.

### Masked man

After using donated masks from polite postal workers, mailed masks from Indiana, and, my Mary Jones designer masks (pictured at left) from Oak Harbor, I have decided to just stay home until the vaccine is available, hopefully in gummy bear form.

I talk for a living.

Masks are not for talking.

While the Governor may be good at masked talking, no audience wants to watch a masked Conductor.

Who sprays what to clean microphones? With what, Purell Light?

I have tried to talk to myself in front of the mirror while wearing a mask. With both of me wearing a mask, there need only be three feet between me and my mirrored self.

As a sidebar, standing in front of the bathroom mirror, all I really want to do is brush my teeth.

While math was never my forte, I can subtract.

One minus zero is one. No mask needed. No social distancing required unless I count the three baby robins in the caboose gutter above the kitchen door.

### Bird brain

Hope the baby robins enjoy the smell of WD-40 as much as I do. The door beneath their nest probably squeaks their beaks.

Baby robins need not wear masks. Their beaks are already social distancing.

Seeing Mama Robin fly in and out to feed her trio makes me feel like the least productive guy in the woods.

No wonder Dad would say to our sister Linda, "You eat like a bird."

Of course she did. Linda was in Dad's nest.

Dad did well enough that we never had to eat worms, but we surely bought a few before going fishing with Grandpa or Uncle Johnny.

I always preferred plastic worms. My brother was in plastics. While plastic worms smelled of petroleum, at least they did not smell like real worms.

Finding worms in rich, dark soil is cool when you are seven years old, but, as an adult, buying night-crawlers for the daytime still confuses me.

### Worm on

The only friend I have ever had nicknamed Worm did not look like one. Worm moved like one, particularly when seen moving on a basketball court.

Worm was a Missouri star for Normandy High in the 60s.

Worm slithered, soared and scored between and among defenders like a young Pete Maravich.

If Pete's name does not ring a bell, think Gary Payton meets Ray Allen.

If Gary and Ray's names do not ring a bell, class is now on hold.

Time for recess.

### Virtual Fair

Without our annual county fair, the main reason I moved here in 1983, plus Langley Mayor Cobb's sausage gravy at Skipper's and Tina's bloody Mary's at Mindy's, I have decided to feature a four day virtual fair here at the caboose.

Like baseball, football, basketball, and lawn bowling, no fans are allowed.

Too bad, because this year I was thinking about free parking.

The line-up is based on the January 2004 article, *The 100 Greatest Country Songs of All Time*, authored and researched by David Hofstede in *Cowboys and Indians*.

I used to get that magazine for the men's cologne inserts, but Dave, who just retired after 25 years of delivering mail, did not like the cologne smell in his truck, even with the doors off.

Men may not be able to multi-task, but the multi-smells of magazines like *Esquire* and *GQ* can clear a kennel.

Here's the virtual fantasy lineup, without regard to budget concerns, or artist availability.

Thursday – Roy Acuff (*Wabash Cannonball*, #9, 1947) and Sammi Smith (*Help Me Make it Through the Night*, #8, 1970)

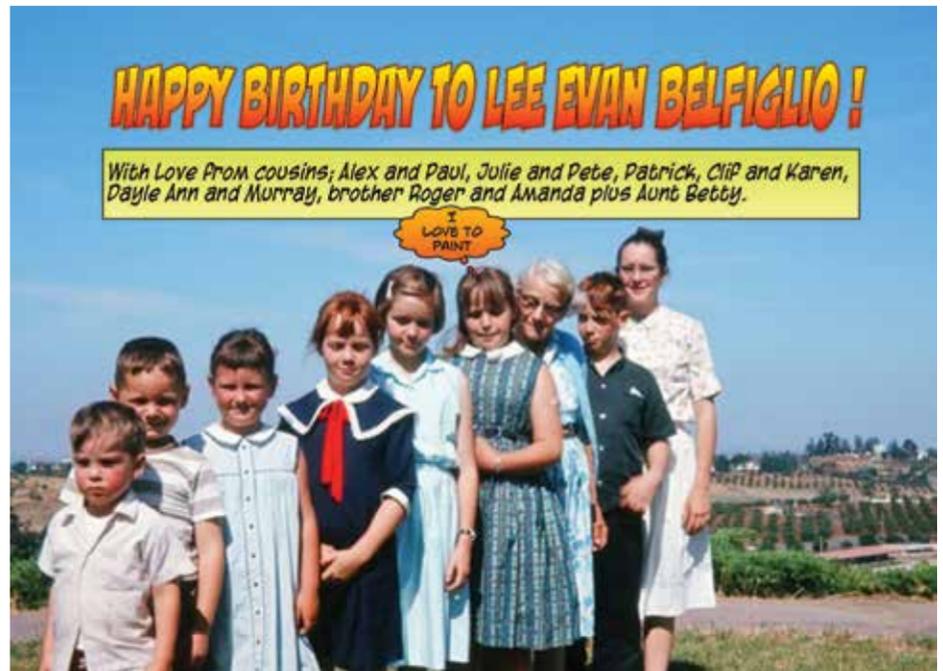
Friday – The Carter Family (*Can the Circle Be Unbroken*, #6, 1935), Marty Robbins (*El Paso*, #5, 1959), and Hank Williams (*Your Cheatin' Heart*, #1, 1953).

Saturday – George Jones (*He Stopped Loving Her Today*, #3, 1980) and Tammy Wynette (*Stand By Your Man*, #4, 1968)

Sunday – Patsy Cline (*Crazy*, #2, 1961; *Sweet Dreams*, #7, 1963) and Willie and Waylon (*Good Hearted Woman*, #10, 1978).

In a virtual setting, there will be no need for a green room filled with cold-cuts, fruit, and cheese, but, to be safe, I better get more beer.

To read past columns of *On Track* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at [www.whidbey-weekly.com](http://www.whidbey-weekly.com).



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**July 8 to July 24**

**CARES Grant Application**

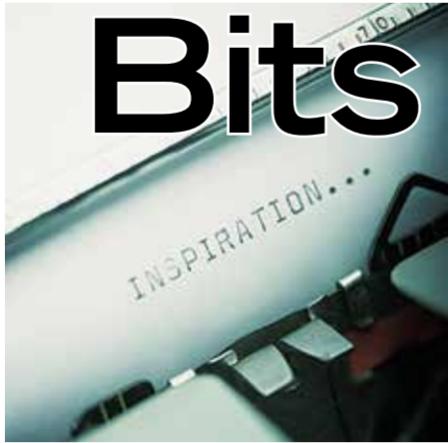
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- ✓ For small businesses within Langley city limits
- ✓ Application guide online @ [LangleyWA.org](http://LangleyWA.org)
- ✓ Funding available is \$2,000 per applicant max
- ✓ Applications accepted through July 24 @ 5pm

The City of Langley will be administering this program via interagency agreements with the Department of Commerce\* and Island County with the assistance of the Langley Chamber of Commerce and Langley Main Street Association.

\*Funds under the Contract are made available and are subject to Section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as amended by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), and Title V and VI of the CARES Act. The Contractor agrees that any publications (written, visual, or sound) but excluding press releases, newsletters, and issue analyses, issued by the Contractor describing programs or projects funded in whole or in part with federal funds under this Contract, shall contain the following statements: This project was supported by a grant awarded by US Department of the Treasury. Points of view in this document (Interagency Agreement) are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of the Treasury. Grant funds are administered by the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Fund thru the Washington State Department of Commerce



# Bits & Pieces

## Letters to the Editor

### Editor,

We have important decisions to make in November. It will be more difficult to obtain information about those running for office because of social distancing. The chances for open forums may not exist. Campaigns are conducted through social media and meetings on Zoom. We will need to work a little harder to get to know the candidates.

On the county level we have the opportunity to elect the Position 2 Superior Court Judge. I have had the privilege of getting to know Kathleen Petrich, one of the non-partisan candidates running for this position. She is working hard to reach out to people so we can make an informed decision.

In my discussions with Kathleen I have found her to be a good listener, introspective, highly ethical and willing to dig in to help find solutions. We need a judge who will do the fact finding, evaluate each problem and effectively reach a workable solution. Kathleen Petrich will do just that as the Position 2 Superior Court Judge.

Phyllis Alexander  
Langley, Wash.

### NAS Whidbey Island to Host US Coast Guard and San Diego Based Navy Units for Training at Seaplane Base

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit 11 Detachment Northwest will host U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 and EOD Mobile Units 1 and 5 for simultaneous training activities in the Seaplane Base Survival Training Area and in the Crescent Harbor Operations Area now through July 24.

The Coast Guard unit, PSU-313, based at Naval Station Everett, will conduct a Security Field Exercise as part of annual training and readiness qualification requirements while the EOD units, from Naval Station Coronado, Calif., will conduct Mine Countermeasure Certification qualifications to meet deployment eligibility.

Locals may hear gunfire and observe smoke during the day from the Seaplane Base Survival Training Area. All ordnance and ammunition used during training will be inert (non-firing, non-explosive or "blank"). On the water, within Crescent Harbor, military training activities will include diving operations and small boat tactics and maneuvering.

Notice to Mariners, diving flags and general safety precautions will be used to communicate activities during the training periods and to ensure ground and waterborne activities pose no danger to neighboring persons or property.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the Public Affairs Office at NAS Whidbey Island, 360-257-2286.

[Submitted by Mike Welding, Public Affairs Officer, NAS Whidbey Island]

### Board of Fire Commissioners to Meet on Fire Levy Lid Lift

The Board of Fire Commissioners for North Whidbey Fire and Rescue will meet to discuss a resolution asking voters to consider a 15 cent Fire Levy lid lift during the November General Election. Funding would be used to replace

two fire engines, emergency radios, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for firefighters.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30PM at Fire Station #25, 2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor. Please note the meeting could be changed to a virtual format depending on current COVID-19 guidelines. Visit the North Whidbey Fire and Rescue website at [www.nwfr.org](http://www.nwfr.org) for an update Saturday.

Those unable to participate in the meeting are encouraged to contact Chief John Clark with their questions or comments at 360-675-1131 or [chiefclark@nwfr.org](mailto:chiefclark@nwfr.org). Written correspondence also can be mailed to Chief Clark at the above address. All communication is welcome and will become part of the public record.

NWFR has the lowest fire levy rate in Island County, at 62 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The fire levy funds daily operations for NWFR, which serves 18,000 people over 55 square miles. Its service area includes the unincorporated area west of the City of Oak Harbor from Deception Pass Bridge (to the north) and Libbey Road in Coupeville (to the south). The agency is debt free, operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all its independent audits by the state.

Part-time paid and volunteer firefighters respond to an average of 2,400 calls per year. Call volumes have increased 45 percent in 10 years for the agency. More calls mean added wear and tear on emergency apparatus and equipment.

Two fire engines are at the end of their usable lives, and at risk of being unreliable to respond to calls. Likewise, the Fire District needs to replace emergency radios and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the safety of the community and its firefighters. The Fire District plans to pay cash for these capital items instead of financing the purchases, which would cost taxpayers more due to interest payments.

The proposed 15 cent/\$1,000 lid lift would cost the owner of a \$370,000 home (an average for the area) approximately \$4.63 per month (\$55.50 per year). Replacing these items also will maintain the community's insurance rating, which is linked to the amount some home and business owners pay in premiums.

[Submitted by North Whidbey Fire and Rescue]

### NRA Personal Protection In The Home Class Offered

The North Whidbey Sportsmen's Association is offering a series of monthly safety classes to the general public.

The next class – NRA Personal Protection In The Home Class – will be held Friday, July 17 from 6:00 to 9:00PM and continue Saturday, July 18 from 8:00AM to 6:00PM at the NWSA range located at 886 Gun Club Road in Oak Harbor. This class builds on skills already gained in other shooting classes and shooting styles, which the student must be able to show documentation or competency. The class also gives a thorough legal brief, presented by an attorney, on the provisions of law pertaining to the ownership and use of a firearm. Defensive shooting skills are emphasized in this class. This class includes shooting on the NWSA Pistol Range. The cost of the class is \$35 and includes a book.

For questions or to register call NRA instructor John Hellmann at 360-675-8397 or email [NWSA.Training@gmail.com](mailto:NWSA.Training@gmail.com). Additional information can be found at [www.northwhidbeysportsmen.org](http://www.northwhidbeysportsmen.org).

[Submitted by John Hellmann, North Whidbey Sportsmen's Association]

### Membership Drive and New Management

The Holmes Harbor Rod and Gun Club, Inc. (HHRGC) is pleased to announce its 2020 annual membership drive Saturday, July 18 from noon until 7:00PM. Those interested in club membership are invited to stop in, tour

the facilities and speak with other members. The club will have fishing discussions, shooting and archery demonstrations and social activities throughout the day.

Holmes Harbor Rod and Gun Club, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the safe and responsible participation in hunting and fishing, providing a safe environment for shooting sports, spreading the interest and enthusiasm for each of the shooting disciplines and developing, amongst its members and in the community, a true spirit of wildlife conservation. Additionally, it offers its members various and numerous shooting, fishing and social activities throughout the year.

The HHRGC board of directors is pleased to welcome Pamela Kratzke as the new manager for the club's Pine Tree Room restaurant and Bullwinkle bar. Pamela – a local South Whidbey resident – is also a club member and was recently elected to the club's board of directors. The club is very pleased to have Pamela managing the day to day activities and caring for its members and their guests.

The club has been an active part of the South Whidbey community since 1937, providing many social, educational, and charitable opportunities for its members and the community. The HHRGC is a non-partisan, non-political, non-sectarian organization. It does not support any political candidate nor does it endorse any religious organization. The club is here to share its devotion to, its pride in, and support for the Whidbey Island community through education, training, scholarships, and fellowship.

Any person over the age of 21 may be eligible for membership.

[Submitted by Clint Hatton, Holmes Harbor Rod and Gun Club]

### Skagit Valley College Continuing and Community Education to Offer Virtual Hoop Camp for Youth

This summer, area youth can improve their basketball fundamentals and skills with virtual Hoop Camps taught via Zoom by Skagit Valley College Men's Basketball Head Coach, Carl Howell.

The camp will be offered via Zoom July 21 and 22 from noon to 1:15PM. Cost is \$70 for the two-day camp. For registration and information, visit [www.campusce.net/skagit/course/course.aspx?catId=35](http://www.campusce.net/skagit/course/course.aspx?catId=35)

The virtual Hoop Camps are made possible by SVC's Continuing and Community Education program.

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

### South Whidbey Fire/EMS Continues to Report on Staffing and Apparatus Challenges Lid Lift Proposed for August Primary Election Ballot

South Whidbey Fire/EMS is asking voters to approve a Fire Levy lid lift of 30 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the August Primary Election. Of this amount, 7 cents/\$1,000 would replace aging apparatus. The remaining 23 cents/\$1,000 would hire up to eight full-time firefighters to respond to higher call volumes.

Prior to COVID-19, the Fire District had been sharing the challenges it is facing to provide an adequate emergency response. Apparatus and staffing deficiencies led to a downgrade in the Fire District's community insurance rating last year. This rating is linked to how much property owners pay in home and business insurance premiums.

Funding to replace apparatus is pretty straightforward. The agency must replace fire engines and other pieces of equipment once they are past their usable lives and become unreliable to respond to calls. It has maintained some of its fire engines for longer, and now they need to be replaced.

## Protect Yourself Against Financial Scammers

It's unfortunate, but true: During this period of economic uncertainty, one of the busiest "industries" has been financial scamming. But it goes on even during normal times, too, so you'll want to know what to look for, and how to defend yourself.

For starters, just how widespread is financial fraud? Consider this: In 2019, more than 3.2 million fraud cases were reported to the Federal Trade Commission, with identity theft being the most common type of fraud, accounting for about one-fifth of the overall cases. And fraudulent new accounts (mortgages, student loans, car loans and credit cards) amounted to about \$3.4 billion in 2018, according to a study by Javelin Strategy & Research.

To help yourself from being victimized, consider the following suggestions. They are certainly not an exhaustive list, but they should prove useful.

- **Watch out for unsecure websites.** Make sure a website is secure before entering any payment or personal information. Look for sites that start with HTTPS, rather than those with just HTTP, which are not secure and can be hacked. But even a site with HTTPS can still be used by scammers, so, if you don't recognize the name of the company or group that's requesting your information, do some research to make sure it's legitimate.

- **Review your credit reports.** As mentioned above, the fraudulent opening of new accounts is a big source of financial scams. To be sure nobody has opened new accounts under your name, try to review your credit reports at least once a year. You can get them for free at [AnnualCreditReport.com](http://AnnualCreditReport.com). Follow up on fraud. If you've already been victimized by having new accounts opened in your name, contact one of the three major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax or TransUnion) and place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit file. You might also want to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, print it out and file it with your local law enforcement agency. And it's also a good idea to contact the fraud department of the financial companies where the thief has opened a fraudulent account in your name.

- **Be alert for suspicious links.** "Phishers" have gotten quite good at sending out messages that look like they're from reputable businesses. But if you examine these messages carefully, you can usually determine if there's something off about them. For example, no legitimate business will tell you, via this type of message, that you have to "correct your account" by providing additional information. And if you do hit the link provided, and it takes you to a third-party site, you can be pretty sure it's bogus.

- **Resist "act now" offers.** If you get an offer, via phone or online, urging you to "act immediately" on an investment opportunity, discontinue the communication. No reputable financial advisor will ever try to force you to take such swift action, and if an investment is legitimate, it will be available tomorrow, next week and next year.

- **Use your shredder.** You probably have the option to "go paperless" with all your banks and financial services providers, but, if you still do receive paper documents, be sure to shred them when they're no longer needed. You save and invest for years to help achieve your long-term goals. Don't let any of your efforts be undone by financial fraudsters.

*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



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A more critical priority is the agency's need for full-time firefighter/EMTs. The Fire District primarily relies on volunteers to respond to calls with some part-time paid personnel. Call volumes have increased 12 percent for the Fire District since 2014. It lost 30 percent of its volunteers during the recession, and now six also are unavailable because they or a family member are considered a high-risk population due to COVID-19. This can cause the Fire District to scramble for responders when an emergency call comes in.

For a fire department relying on volunteers, the National Fire Protection Association requires six firefighters on scene of a fire within 14 minutes. This standard should be met 80 percent of the time. South Whidbey Fire/EMS meets this standard approximately half the time.

The Fire District has four part-time paid personnel during the daytime (7:00AM to 7:00PM) when call volumes are highest and most volunteers are unavailable. It supplements part-time paid personnel with volunteers, but this number continues to decline. In 2015, the average number of firefighters responding was 4.78 compared to 4.37 in 2019.

During evenings (from 7:00PM to 7:00AM) and weekends, the agency relies on one duty officer and volunteers. This number, too, has fallen from an average of 4.6 firefighters responding in 2015 to 4.44 in 2019.

"Most fire districts have paid firefighters on call 24/7, but we don't," said Fire Chief Rusty Palmer. "We want our community to understand that call volumes have increased to such a point where we need full-time staffing."

Chief Palmer says full-time firefighters would guarantee a 24/7 emergency response for the South Whidbey community and meet the NFPA standard. It also would improve response times.

For example, volunteers often have to go from home to a fire station to collect apparatus before deploying to an emergency call. Full-time firefighters would respond directly from a station, which would save time during an emergency.

Providing flexibility for volunteers also is important. Chief Rusty Palmer says adding full-time personnel would help the volunteer program thrive.

"Volunteers are the backbone of our organization," he explained. "The issue is that call volumes are increasing, and we need more of their time than they are able to give. We're burning them out, and we want to keep them involved."

If the lid lift is approved by voters, the Fire Levy rate would change from 65 cents to 95 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. (By way of comparison, the Fire Levy rate for the Fire District was \$1 in 1990.) The additional cost would be approximately \$10 per month for the owner of a \$400,000 home. If passed in 2020, the lid lift would start being collected in the spring of 2021.

More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found on the website at [www.swfe.org](http://www.swfe.org) under "Public Information." Community members with questions also are encouraged to contact Chief Rusty Palmer at 360-321-1533 or [chief@swfe.org](mailto:chief@swfe.org).

[Submitted by Sherrye Wyatt]

### Skagit Valley College Celebrates Student Achievement at 63rd Annual Honors Reception

Skagit Valley College (SVC) celebrated student success at the College's 63rd Annual Honors Reception held virtually June 17 this year.

Among the highlights, Gavel Awards were presented to Gus Kidane (Mount Vernon) and Christian King (Oak Harbor), in recognition of their service with the Associated Students of SVC (ASSVC).

Gus served as ASSVC President for the Mount Vernon Campus and is a graduate of Mount Vernon High School. Gus served as ASSVC representative in 2018-19 and worked as a member of the student Program Board and as the Multicultural Student Programmer. Gus was also recognized for seeking societal change and pushing for social justice for

historically marginalized groups. Gus plans to attend the University of Washington to study Economics with a minor in American Ethnic Studies and intends to work with political campaigns to design inclusive economic platforms that value intersectional identities and historically under-represented people.

Christian served as ASSVC President for the Whidbey Island Campus and is a graduate of Coupeville High School. Christian joined ASSVC during the 2018-2019 academic year as a representative. Christian was also part of the Program Board and was integral at bringing students, staff, and faculty together. Christian plans to continue his education in nursing with a goal of becoming a Certified RN Anesthetist.

The prestigious Charles H. Lewis Memorial Award was presented to Eber Rivera (Mount Vernon). Eber is a first-generation college student who graduated from Mount Vernon High School. Born in Mexico and raised in the Skagit Valley, Eber says he has lived in two worlds and has been influenced by both. A constant learner and seeker of knowledge, Eber is grateful for all the different mentors he has had, who have inspired him to be a mentor for others. His goal is to become someone who paves a road for others. Eber looks forward to sharing his life in a book he is writing while he continues to pursue a Bachelor of Art degree.

The other Lewis Award nominees were: Gus Kidane (Mount Vernon), Anna Nakashima (Komatsu City, Ishikawa, Japan), Juan Zintzun (Mount Vernon), Sameer Shorab (Anacortes).

The 1956 sophomore class of Skagit Valley Junior College established the annual Charles H. Lewis Memorial Award as tribute to Lewis, the first Dean of the College and a revered faculty member at SVC for 28 years. The award is bestowed to a graduating sophomore who has been in attendance at SVC a minimum of one full school year and who best among their classmates exemplifies the qualities of Charles H. Lewis:

1. The student must be the possessor of high ethical and moral standards.
2. The student's consistent daily effort in fulfilling assignments and consistent attendance in class must be evidenced as indication of the ability to persevere in the attainment of a reputable scholastic standing.
3. The student must possess those qualities of good citizenship made manifest by a willingness to help and understand others and projection in daily contacts of a warm, personal feeling toward others.
4. The student must exhibit intellectual curiosity.
5. The student's association with other people must demonstrate a genial regard for others.
6. The student must possess a subtle sense of humor.

This year, the prestigious Yates Award was presented to a Whidbey Island Campus graduating student, Vanessa Batalla (Coupeville). Vanessa was recognized for her friendly and welcoming nature on the Whidbey Island Campus and in the Student Life Office. As a member of the Program Board, Vanessa was instrumental in making things happen on campus, a true gift to plan and execute what she wanted to see done. She was all about the students and leaving a legacy of hard work, persistence, and humor. Vanessa will be transferring to Northern Arizona University to pursue nursing.

The other Yates Award nominees were Geneva Ross (Oak Harbor) and Christian King (Oak Harbor).

The Yates Award is a time-honored tradition given to an outstanding Whidbey Island Campus graduating student who shows excellence in academics, community service, and leadership skills.

The award is given in honor of Admiral Yates, who was the commanding officer at NAS Whidbey in the mid-to-late 1950s. Admiral Yates was instrumental in establishing SVC on base for enlisted service personnel and their dependents.

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

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# Langley becomes Certified Creative District

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Langley has a long history of being an artistic community and earlier this year it became the fourth Certified Creative District in Washington.

Mary Ann Mansfield, chair of the steering committee for Langley Creates, said after a year-long certification process, Langley Creates is excited to bring together people and resources to support the creative economy and celebrate and continue Langley's artistic traditions. As a Certified Creative District, Langley will now be featured in statewide advertisements, she said.

"Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane catch a lot of the focus when it comes to the arts, so this was an opportunity to bring an arts focus to a small town," she said. "Langley has a huge history of art that goes back to the 1930s, when there was the Brackenwood Art Colony just outside of Langley."

Joann Quintana, a member of the steering committee for Langley Creates and chair of the Langley Arts Commission, said Langley Creates looks forward to bringing together artists, makers and resources to further expand the district's creative economy.

"I think one of the most important reasons to have a Creative District is that Langley has many artistic and creative people and we

have many wonderful organizations in the community that support the creative people we have," she said. "A Creative District is really a way of bringing all of that together."

Mansfield said the Creative District encompasses areas including the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds and Events Center (Port of South Whidbey), the South Whidbey Community Center/Readiness to Learn, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, the Children's Theatre, Island Dance and Whidbey Island Dance Theatre, Island Shakespeare Festival, First and Second Streets in downtown Langley, and South Whidbey Harbor. Mansfield said Langley has long been known as a community where the arts have flourished and been supported.

"In addition to Langley Creates, Langley has been chosen again by the state to participate in a study of communities that have thriving creative economies – at least they were thriving before the virus, and those three communities are Spokane, Tacoma, and Langley," she said. "That speaks to Langley's reputation as a community that supports creative economies and being a Certified Creative District is just going to build on that reputation and help us expand into new areas."

Quintana said the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) has focused on helping creative economies grow and thrive throughout the state.

"The state of Washington, they are really serious about helping Creative Districts and they have gone to the legislature to help us get grants," Quintana said. "In fact, they have some funding that we are going to be able to apply for that is coming from the state going to support local economies through the Creative Districts."

Mansfield said Langley Creates plans to use a recently announced capital improvement matching grant from the state for Creative Districts to start a new community project focused around the South Whidbey Community Center. In addition, the group is already working on repainting the South Whidbey School District Bus Barn to refresh the building and help its color scheme coordinate with the neighboring Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA).

"We had to submit a capital improvement proposal and budget, which is going to be removing the Cougars sign from the old middle school, which is now the community center, and putting up a mural of some sort, a community-focused mural," she said.

Quintana said the South Whidbey Commu-



Photo Courtesy of Langley Creates

The creative district encompasses important artistic areas in Langley, including Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, pictured here.

nity Center embodies the spirit of a Creative District by providing a place where artists and makers can teach, learn new skills and find ways to collaborate.

"We feel that the heart of the community is the South Whidbey Community Center and it is just this amazing collection of social service programs, artistic endeavors, maker's spaces, music, art, on and on and on," she said. "It is just an amazing collection that the director, Gail Lavassar, has brought together. That to us is the heart of what Langley is about."

Mansfield said Langley Creates will support the mission of the center and help identify places in the building for additional maker's spaces and expanding what people can learn to include everything from sewing to 3D printing projects. She said plans for safely starting programs again are beginning to be considered by the team at the center.

"It is under the umbrella of Langley Creates," she said. "Langley Creates does not want to be the doer, we want to be the facilitator of the doing. We do not want the credit for it, we want the people who are doing the work to get the credit and get the experience and all of that. We want to be the facilitator for all of that."

Quintana said the hope is to provide a creative outlet as well as teach people skills with the potential to be translated into a service or product which could grow the creative economy.

"Maybe the skills you learn there become a business and you end up being employed yourself and finding others who you can

employ," she said. "You see where this is leading: you start with a space and you take it where you are teaching and giving people space to do creative things that ultimately can turn into employment opportunities."

In the wake of COVID-19, Quintana said Langley Creates' mission of supporting creative economies and fostering growth increased in urgency. Langley Creates also co-sponsored the New Friday Street Market in Langley, which provides an outdoor venue where makers can come together and sell their goods and creations.

"I think it is some of the same issues that have been affecting artists; those have intensified because of COVID and it does not change what we need to do in terms of supporting artists and supporting the creative economy, it just in our mind makes it more urgent," she said. "I do not think it changes everything we are trying to do, we are just trying to hit the ground running here and move as quickly as we can."

Mansfield said there will be opportunities for community members who want to get involved, including ways to stay updated, donate and volunteer with the organization.

"If people want to volunteer, they can email us and let us know what they like to do or if they have any particular strengths," she said. "Once we get our maker's spaces going, we are going to need a lot of volunteers."

For more information and to sign up for upcoming Langley Creates newsletters, visit [langleycreates.org](http://langleycreates.org).



Photo Courtesy of David Welton

Langley Creates aims to support creative endeavors of all kinds in Langley. Here, Langley blacksmith Brendan McHugh works at Banshee Forge.

## Safe Start plan on hold for all phases

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

An increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across the state has led Gov. Jay Inslee and Wash. Secretary of Health, John Wiesman, to halt any advancement to new phases of the Safe Start plan.

While an indefinite pause on allowing any counties to advance to Phase IV of the plan had been announced previously, now no counties will be permitted to advance to Phases II or III for at least two weeks.

"Counties will remain in their current Phase for at least the next two weeks," Wiesman said in a press conference last Friday. "Any applications under review by the department are paused until July 16."

Furthermore, those counties that have progressed to Phase III, such as Island County, must now prohibit bar and counter service at restaurants and taverns.

"We are trying to eliminate prolonged mingling at restaurants and taverns to ensure people remain safe," Inslee said. "We can't have people mingling shoulder to shoulder, it's just too dangerous."

The actions follow a sharp increase in the number of con-

firmed COVID-19 cases across the state. Island County has also seen an increase in cases. The total cases stood at 198 as of Monday, an increase of seven from last week and an overall increase of 17 in the past three weeks. This is a trend statewide.

"Cases are increasing statewide," Inslee said. "The virus is at the same level it was at the peak of the infection rate we were experiencing in April. This is obviously great cause for concern."

Wiesman said the rise in cases is not the result of increased testing. He said the percentage of positive test results is rising, as is the number of people reporting to hospitals with COVID-like illnesses and the number of people being admitted to hospitals has also increased.

Now, rather than shutting things down like the state did before – although it proved effective in controlling the virus – Gov. Inslee said he will beef up mandatory masking requirements put in place last week.

"We'd like to continue to open our economy, but that can only happen if we drive down the rate of infection, and that involves wearing masks," he said.

As of Tuesday, anyone entering a business must wear a mask.

"The new process will require businesses to refuse service to those not wearing a face covering," Wiesman explained, adding the reasons to wear a mask have become obvious.

"We know 20 to 40 percent of cases are asymptomatic – people don't show any symptoms but can still pass the virus on," he said. "We also know people can spread the virus two days before they begin showing any symptoms."

Inslee said he hopes pressing the pause button now and using simple tools like wearing masks and continuing social distancing will allow the state to keep moving forward in the weeks ahead.

"This is an extremely troublesome spike in the number of cases we are experiencing," said Inslee. "But because we know how to better protect ourselves from this virus, we can better avoid repeating the painful shutdown we've experienced over the last several months."

Find more information at [coronavirus.wa.gov](http://coronavirus.wa.gov) or go to [island-countywa.gov](http://island-countywa.gov).



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**SUMMER SALMON!**

So far this year we have dealt with our fair share of changes to our normal routines and practices, but there is one thing that has not changed: You guessed it, we continue to get less and less opportunities to fish for summer salmon. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the tribal co-managers have pinched us, the recreational license and tackle-buying public, down to only hatchery salmon retention in Marine Areas 5 through 13 this summer, and if that wasn't enough, they managed to shave off yet another slice of our salmon fishing - NO winter Blackmouth (Chinook) season at this point. This makes no sense to me. The winter Blackmouth are hatchery fish our licenses, sales taxes, and donations paid to raise, release, and grow to adults naturally in the Puget Sound.

I have no problem using a single barbless hook to catch and enjoy eating a pan-seared or barbequed hatchery-born fish; if the adipose fin was not clipped, nine out of 10 anglers would not know the difference between a hatchery and wild salmon on the end of their line. The problem is this state will not stop dragging its feet; it needs to increase the numbers of healthy hatchery fish but continues to listen to one-sided anti-hatchery groups about how they don't want hatchery fish. I'll let you in on a little secret anti-hatchery groups - it is not hatchery fish keeping the wild fish from recovering, it's year after year of over harvest and under reporting of catch numbers by Puget Sound commercial netters and the non-selective harvest methods used by tribal gill-netters in our surrounding rivers. If it were not for our national, state, and tribal hatchery fish programs, we would not be salmon fishing in nearby waters at all this summer. Please forgive me; I try not to get negatively wrapped around the axle when it comes to salmon fishing, I just love to fish for salmon so much and when I see us recreational anglers get the short end of the stick year after year, it weighs heavily on my thoughts.

Being restricted to only hatchery fish retention is nothing new. We anglers have been successfully catching these marked fish each summer simply because they are genetically no different. They originated from wild stock and therefore use the same sensitive lateral lines, sense of smell and deep-water eyesight to track down and attack prey. Their trigger factor is the same as a wild fish. If the bait or artificial lure looks good to them, they will strike at it. As of July 1, Marine Areas 6 and 7 are open with the same couple of small area restrictions; most of the San Juan Islands are open and the biggest part of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Underwater humps or banks located throughout the straits can be a gathering place for migrating fish. It's believed the fish use the straits' banks as navigation aids, plus the sandy, gravelly bottoms are the perfect habitat for the salmon's natural prey of candlefish and herring.

Most anglers troll and search for the summer king salmon at depths between 90 and 120 feet, very near the bottom, using downriggers; others will mooch up and down through the water column with a 4- to 6-ounce lead banana weight and herring rig. However, king salmon will move

shallow or deep in search of food. Coho are generally shallower, but they too will move to where the food is, so don't get scope-locked on fishing one depth. Maximize your electronics, watch for fish marking on the display screen, watch for circling and diving sea birds. I have even seen coho break the surface. You don't get a better indicator of their location than that.

Many salmon fishermen swear by bait. They rig/attach a whole herring or herring fillet/strip to a couple of single hooks so when the bait is pulled through the water it rotates at just the right speed (about one full roll per second). This crucial rotating speed fools the salmon into striking what it thinks is a wounded baitfish. The salmon fishermen who master the rolling bait definitely catch their share of fish. Trolling herring is a skill every salmon fisherman should try to achieve to some level; it only adds to the arsenal of things that get the salmon to bite.

When I troll bait I use a "herring helmet." These preformed plastic devices have a researched curve that induces a wounded fish roll, plus the helmet helps the soft tissues of the herring stay together longer. The plastic helmet is the leading edge and the surface cutting through the water. Over many years and many salmon fishermen, artificial baits have come a long way. Artificial can produce just as many fish in the cooler as bait, and with the addition of ultra violet UV coatings and paint, they continue to improve on their catch ratios. I troll 3.5-inch Coyote, and Gold Star-style salmon spoons a lot, and have brought dinner home many times using spoons, I also keep a mixed-bag of other lures on hand, like Ace-Hi flies, Brads Baits, Apex lures, rubber Hoochies, and some homemade stuff I throw out to experiment with when the bite is on. When I first started fishing salmon in the Sound, the rule was "you can fish with any color you want as long as it is green." To a certain extent, this rule still holds true. Different shades of green and spatter patterns on green will no doubt catch fish. Here are other colors I rely on: Black and silver, purple and silver, and mother-of-pearl and silver. I start out trolling at least two colors and if one color significantly out fishes the others, I will switch to the hot color.

Remember, color fades fast with depth, so red, orange, yellow, and most pinks lose most of their color past 45 to 50 feet; black, green, purple, white, and glow-in-the-dark hold their color in deep water so keep this in mind when searching for deep water Chinook. Another thing to consider is scent. I use herring scent on my spoons and I believe it makes a positive difference. Don't use jellies and oils on your flies and use very little with rubber Hoochies - it tends to make them gummy and can make them unusable. Always take time to wash your salmon tackle with warm, soapy water at the end of the day. If left on long enough, the oils and jellies will take the paint off of that \$7 spoon.

Be sure to brush up on the new 2020-2021 fishing regulations. Summer is here, so be safe and get out and fish. A fresh pan seared hatchery salmon fillet with a side of tender asparagus smothered with a light lemony hollandaise sauce will surely put a smile on your family's face! GOOD LUCK out there!

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 11**

**2:01 am, SR 20**

Reporting party advising wants nephew to leave residence for being disrespectful; not fighting verbally or physically now.

**5:09 am, SR 525**

Reporting party advising subject broke through fence and stole items out of backyard of business.

**8:24 am, West Beach Rd.**

Reporting party advising 55 year old female walked up to reporting party and said "I think I am having a stroke." Last seen on foot towards Ft. Nugent Rd.

**12:38 pm, Tidewater Rd.**

Caller states his German shepherd puppy got out, female neighbor got belligerent with caller; he found his dog. Reporting for information in case female neighbor called on him.

**7:03 pm, Pinewood Cir.**

Neighbor told reporting party the person reporting party's late mother feared would come to the residence and cause problems; was there yesterday.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12**

**12:32 pm, SW Terry Rd.**

Northbound Main St., white state trooper vehicle with "k9 unit" on it doesn't appear to be a true state trooper vehicle. Vehicle turning into gas station on corner.

**1:32 pm, Main St.**

Male subject in store is refusing to wear mask.

**2:27 pm, East Harbor Rd.**

Requesting call to know if he can legally drive unlicensed vehicle to get it licensed.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18**

**9:13 am, Paradise Pl.**

Reporting party advising blue pickup is blocking reporting party's garbage cans from being picked up.

**10:46 am, San Juan Ave.**

Requesting phone call regarding landlord/tenant issue. Landlord has not brought lease for reporting party to sign; not answering reporting party's phone calls. Reporting party wants to pay rent.

**6:49 pm, Taylor Rd.**

Caller has raccoon that was killing his chickens trapped. Requesting assistance.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19**

**12:44 pm, NE 16th Ave.**

Female is upset because reporting party boxed up items left on husband's grave. Upon leaving, threatened to have organized protest at location.

**7:12 pm, S Main St.**

Reporting party advising female subject is crawling down road.

**9:28 pm, SR 525**

Caller is northbound on SR 525; following stolen vehicle, driving erratically; 15-foot moving truck. Reported stolen in Bend, Ore.; missing for two-and-a-half months.

**10:33 pm, West Beach Rd.**

Motorcycle crashed in reporting party's front drive. Reporting party not directly with rider but feels rider is injured.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20**

**9:02 am, Scenic Heights Rd.**

Reporting neighbor's house being broken into, items being loaded up into vehicle; subjects left, last seen northbound on Scenic Heights.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

**10:17 am, Wilson Pl.**

Requesting call regarding Port Commissioner for Port of South Whidbey has broken numerous RCWs.

**2:57 pm, Sunrise Park Way**

Requesting assistance with his daughter. Advising she is being non-compliant when given instructions at home and is threatening to run away.

**3:23 pm, Hill Valley Dr.**

Reporting party advising she was walking her dog at location 30 minutes ago. Her dog attacked another female, the female shot and killed reporting party's dog. Female who was attacked was also injured and is going to seek medical.

**9:38 pm, Kenney Way**

Requesting subjects at location be told to stop large fireworks.

**10:29 pm, Libbey Rd.**

Industrial type pickup at Libbey Park has been there most of the day; has very large antenna sweeping back and forth. Reporting party feels it is definitely doing some kind of surveillance.

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

**Update:** Island County is now in Phase III of the "Safe Start" reopening plan. Legally, IDIPIC could host impact panels with less than 50 attendees, but we have two concerns. Neither the Oak Harbor Library nor the Freeland Trinity Lutheran Church are allowing use of their public spaces where we hold our impact panels. Second, as of June 26, Washington State is requiring everyone in a public place to wear a mask and practice social distancing. The risk of spreading the virus is still high, especially indoors.

Until our board, Director, and Facilitator feel it is safe to conduct impact panels, we will continue to hold off. We will keep all of our Partners in Prevention, stakeholders, donors, volunteers and supporters notified when we can safely resume our panels and outreach, with all precautions observed.

**Safe Ride Home**

Our Partner in Prevention, Safe Ride Home ([www.saferidehomewhidbeyisland.com](http://www.saferidehomewhidbeyisland.com)), provides a free service to those who live on the south end of Whidbey Island. Its mission is to provide a pre-funded safe ride home for members of South Whidbey, Clinton to Coupeville, when they find themselves in an unsafe situation. This service is for emergency rides only!

Safe Ride Home is looking to establish a chapter serving Oak Harbor and the surrounding area. If you are interested in this activity, please contact Safe Ride Home President, Brian Grimm, at 360 929-3277 or [bjgrimm@gmail.com](mailto:bjgrimm@gmail.com).

**Community Outreach**

The most important and key element during our impact panels is when our volunteer speakers tell our audience how impaired driving has affected them, their family, relatives and friends. These are Island County residents who not only give their time freely, but they give the gift of an open heart to a room of complete strangers. It's emotional testimony, and the point of it is for audience members to understand, to some degree, what it is like to be part of the ripple effect created by an impaired driver. Because our impact panels are on hold, we asked one of our volunteer speakers to share her story.

At 4 a.m., Kim noticed she had a phone message from her boyfriend's Dad. She called him and found out her boyfriend, Mike, had died. His Honda left the road, hit a tree, and rolled over. This was in late March of 2005. Mike was 21 and Kim was 19. Sometimes your life comes to a complete stop out of the blue.

"I occasionally think about the what ifs," says Kim. "I was pregnant at the time, and suddenly I was facing being a first time Mom without my child's father." Kim had grown up in Oak Harbor and knew a lot of people across North and Central Whidbey. Mike had graduated from Coupeville High School, was popular, and his death hit everyone hard.

Since October of 2009, Kim has served the Impaired Driving Impact Panel of Island County (IDIPIC), as a volunteer speaker. Kim has spoken to teens, their parents, court-ordered offenders, and impact panel attendees a staggering 22 times. Her sense of community and caring for those who have been altered by impaired driving is backed up by her commitment.

"Every action affects so many people. Family, relatives, friends, acquaintances. I will always carry the pain of Mike's passing, and I choose to reach out to others so they understand the effects when anyone drives impaired."

In speaking to me recently, Kim mentioned that every time she goes to an IDIPIC panel and speaks, her emotional pain rises up again. It hurts, but she keeps doing it because she wants to get her message out to teens and parents. "Talk to each other. My dad spoke to me lots of times, letting me know he wanted me to call him rather than drive impaired or get in a vehicle with an impaired driver." Kim's son is 16 now and preparing to get his driver's license. What does Kim tell him?

"We have discussed what happened to his father, what choices he made, and the importance of making the right choices. And besides that, we've talked about how both of us have been affected - he grew up without his biological father, and I lost someone I loved very much."

When asked about how teens respond to her words at impact panels, Kim said, "When I engage with them, I get the impression they think of impaired driving as being like a video game - they believe they can make it to the next level." Kim knows firsthand that driving impaired is not an obstacle course to overcome. Driving impaired can have life-altering repercussions for dozens and hundreds of people.

(A very special thank you to Kim Robinett for so graciously sharing her story with me, our impact panels, and *Whidbey Weekly* readers.)

**Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)** <https://wtsc.wa.gov/>

Submitted by Doug Dahl, Target Zero Manager for WTSC.

We're one month in to what is often referred to as the "100 deadliest days," the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The summer months get this grim moniker because of the increase in fatal crashes involving teen drivers during this time frame and, true to its name, this summer we have reason to be concerned. Since Memorial Day, eight teen drivers have been involved in fatal crashes in Washington, the most (tying 2018 and 2016) in the last seven years.

The problem with a phrase like "100 deadliest days" is, it can seem hopeless. We might start assuming that's the way it's been and how it'll always be. That's just not the case. We know there are ways to keep our young drivers safer, and if you have a teen driver in your life, you're part of the solution. Driving is the number one cause of death for teenagers in the United States, but it doesn't mean the risk is evenly spread to all teens. Parents play a big role in the safety of their new drivers by reinforcing intermediate driver's license requirements, having family rules about car use, and following through on consequences if the rules are broken.

In closing, our IDIPIC funding just covers our expenses and the cost of two part-time contractors. Even though we are not able to activate our community outreach and involvement in person, Nichol and I continue to maintain our community connections via email and phone from home. Our annual fundraising efforts which begin this time of year, have been postponed. However, any donation to IDIPIC, and any donations on behalf of our co-sponsor, Safe Ride Home, can be mailed to: IDIPIC, PO Box 358, Oak Harbor, WA 98277. Every monetary donation will receive a thank you letter as proof of your generosity, and acknowledgment on our website (if requested). Both IDIPIC and Safe Ride Home are 501c3 nonprofits, registered in the State of Washington. On behalf of myself and Nichol Rayne, thank you for caring about our community on Whidbey island and your support for safer roads.

Mike Diamanti, IDIPIC Director • Nichol Rayne, Facilitator/Educator

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE**



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Panel of Island County  
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# Summer Blockbusters

By Carey Ross

'Tis the season – sort of



Independence Day is usually a holiday in which we celebrate our freedom by trying to burn the entire country down with explosives—if ever there was an example of America doing America in the most American way possible, the Fourth of July is definitely it.

Since everything is different these days, so was how we marked the day that marks our freedom. Large municipal displays were out, but it seems the citizenry around these parts more than made up for it, laying in and lighting off a store of amateur fireworks the likes of which I have never seen before.

I'm sure Uncle Sam was very pleased by the show of explosive fealty and freedom shall be assured for some for another year.

But the holiday is more than just the day the fireworks industry makes its yearly sales goal and your brother's friend almost loses a finger to an errant Lady Finger, it's also the weekend Hollywood unleashes its biggest summer blockbusters.

Mind you, these are not the slightly smarter, slicker and, in many cases, more expensive movies that mark the beginning of blockbuster season, which happens months earlier, sometime around Memorial Day. Instead, with July 4th comes a deluge of pure popcorn fare, the kind of movies never referred to as "films," the ones we seek out when what we need is sheer escapism in a dark, air-conditioned room.

Needless to say, the movies scheduled to make their debut this July 4th weekend—"Minions: The Rise of Gru" (aka the latest "Despicable Me" installment) and "Free Guy" (a videogame comedy-action flick starring Ryan Reynolds)—are on hold until we enter a phase of diet pandemic instead of the full-flavored version that is our current reality.

However, Hollywood did have a trick or two up its sleeve, with the release of July 4th cinema that was actually... wait for it... good. Not just a good way to occupy the kids while getting out of the heat for a couple of hours. But good movies in the sense we generally understand things to be good.

The first of those was, of course, "Hamilton." Disney acquired the rights to show Lin Manuel-Miranda's record-smashing Broadway hit for an equally record-smashing \$75 million, initially scheduling it for an Oct. 15, 2021 release to theaters. COVID changed all that, and now it's available for home viewing via Disney+. This is not a remade-for-the-big-screen version of the zeitgeist-capturing musical about Alexander Hamilton; rather it's a filmed version of the live show with the original cast. Reviews say it does an excellent job capturing the "Hamilton" experience in all its transcendent glory.

Another timely July 4th release for the times in which we currently find ourselves is "John Lewis: Good Trouble." Before he became a 17-term

member of the House of Representatives, before he was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the 80-year-old civil rights leader and son of sharecroppers was one of the original 13 Freedom Riders, helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, and was one of the leaders of the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama which ended in an attack by police so violent, it is now forever known as "Bloody Sunday." Along the way, he's been beaten and arrested dozens of times, and still unwavering in his belief that if we all make enough "good trouble," racial justice can and will be achieved. It's impossible to fit 80 years of a truly extraordinary life into one 96-minute film, but this documentary gives it an admirable try.

Now that you've seen some theater of the stage variety and watched a documentary, you might be wanting something that falls more into the realm of the popcorn movies of yore. As ever, I have suggestions.

**Will Smith to the Rescue:** It might surprise you to know Fourth of July blockbusters have an undisputed king, and that ruler is Will Smith. Sure, you could go with the movie that shares its name with the national holiday, "Independence Day," but there is so much more to choose from in Smith's occasionally ignominious July 4th filmography. For instance, you could easily go with "Men in Black" or its sequel, "Men in Black II" ("MIB 3", Smith's last with the franchise, had a Memorial Day weekend release, but go ahead and watch this one too—there are no rules here). Or you could queue up one of Smith's lesser 4th of July blockbusters such as "Hancock; I, Robot", or even "Wild Wild West."

**Take an Animated Adventure:** Summer is the season for animated fare, what with kids being out of school and all. Although you still can't go to a movie theater, this might be the year to hang a white bed sheet on the side of your house, buy or borrow a digital projector and invite the neighborhood over for a socially distant viewing of one of July 4th's animated blockbusters. We first met Felonious Gru and his army of adorably evil Minions when "Despicable Me" was released the weekend following July 4th a decade ago, and in keeping with tradition, its sequels, "Despicable Me 2" and "3," as well as offshoot "Minions" have all followed in its Independence Day footsteps. Pixar is also in on the Independence Day action, and two of its most well-regarded movies, "Finding Nemo" and "Inside Out," were released prior to July 4th, but it was the weekend they went from slow burn to explosively decimating everything else in their box-office path. Add to that, both "Ratatouille" and "WALL-E" are proper July 4th releases, and only one of them is guaranteed to make you cry and be glad all of the people you invited over for outdoor movie night are sitting far enough away they can't see your tears.

## CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.3

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 on page 11

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

## Now Showing!

Thursday, July 9 thru Sunday, July 12

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON** (PG)

**GREMLINS** (PG)

Monday, July 13 & Tuesday, July 14

**SIXTEEN CANDLES** (PG)

**THE BREAKFAST CLUB** (R)



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## Pam's Prayer Corner

In honor of my late mother-in-law, Pamela Kaye Young, this column is a place where believers can share their prayer requests for others to help lift them up in faith. The prayers can be for you, a family member, or anything weighing on your soul. Email info@whidbeyweekly.com or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.

Our family would like to ask you for your prayers for our brother, Mike Catanio. He is battling stage 4 small cell lung cancer. We pray for his comfort, a miracle, and comfort and support for his family. God Bless all of you.

~Auntie Jackie

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10



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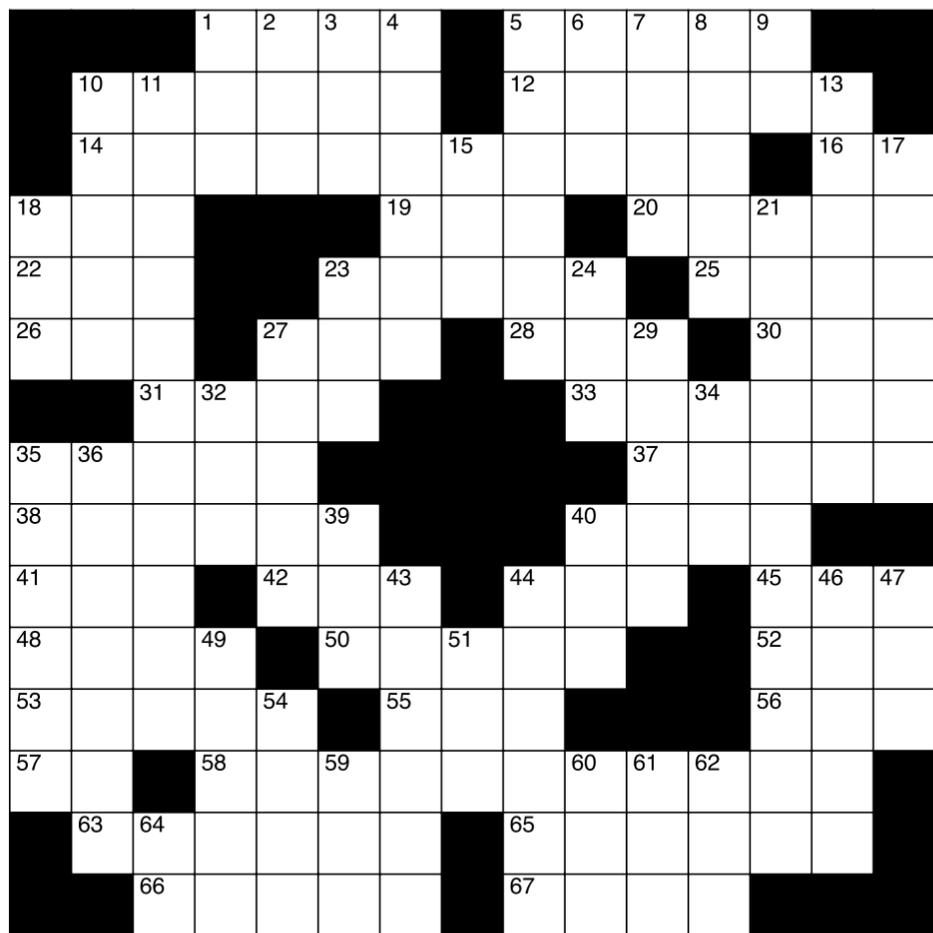
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# Crossword Puzzle



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One-time world power
- 5. Central Florida city
- 10. Winged nut
- 12. Elevate spiritually
- 14. Creative
- 16. It cools your home
- 18. Woman (French)
- 19. "60 Minutes" network
- 20. Old World lizard
- 22. Swiss river
- 23. Ethnic group of Cambodians
- 25. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 26. Tire measurement
- 27. Affirmative
- 28. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 30. One point north of due east
- 31. A type of "pet"
- 33. Tech giant
- 35. European nation
- 37. Fencing swords
- 38. Acquired
- 40. Origin
- 41. Cashless payment interface (abbr.)
- 42. Pouch
- 44. Peter's last name
- 45. Inclined

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
- 2. Actors' organization
- 3. Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)
- 4. Ranch (Spanish)
- 5. Beginning
- 6. Index
- 7. Portuguese wine
- 8. A feudal superior
- 9. Military brach (abbr.)
- 10. Lithuanian given name
- 11. A way to become different
- 13. Able to be domesticated
- 15. Defensive nuclear weapon

- 17. Hosts film festival
- 18. Shows you how to get there
- 21. Arranged alphabetically
- 23. S. Thai isthmus
- 24. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Woods
- 29. Make yourself attractive
- 32. Concealed
- 34. Large primate
- 35. A favorite saying of a sect or political group
- 36. Tropical fruits
- 39. Obstruct
- 40. Car mechanics group
- 43. Stroke gently
- 44. They're in your toolbox
- 46. Throngs
- 47. One and only
- 49. In a way, bent
- 51. "Downton Abbey" broadcaster
- 54. Herring-like fish
- 59. A major division of geological time
- 60. Vast body of water
- 61. Cannister
- 62. Encourage
- 64. The man

Answers on page 11

## YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, July 9	Fri, July 10	Sat, July 11	Sun, July 12	Mon, July 13	Tues, July 14	Wed, July 15
North Isle H-64°/L-56° Showers	North Isle H-66°/L-54° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-64°/L-54° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-64°/L-53° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-63°/L-50° Mixed Clouds and Sun	North Isle H-63°/L-53° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-65°/L-54° Mostly Cloudy
South Isle H-66°/L-53° Showers	South Isle H-68°/L-53° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-67°/L-52° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-65°/L-53° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-68°/L-53° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-68°/L-55° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-71°/L-56° Cloudy



## CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)



Graduation day. Only rarely is it about caps and gowns. When you've learned all you can from a job, a relationship, and eventually, a lifetime, the day arrives when it's time to move on. That's graduation day, and seldom for the student to decide. Too often, an unceremonious boot is our clue it's time to go. Go where? Do what? Eternal questions that all graduates ask. But always, it's a new school, one with more interesting teachers, that awaits.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Keeping abreast of the talk? Lots of it is about reinventing ourselves. They don't mean reinventing the wheel. We're allowed that basic, plus a few other miracles that can't be improved on--fire, the bikini, sliced bread--and using those, we're expected to create new wonders. Don't laugh. The reinventors are already hard at work. So, hang on to your Bic. No telling what these trendsetters will declare non-essential.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



In matters of persuasion, it's hard to argue with pink. In one study, donations to charity increased three-fold when workers donned pink shirts. In another, school students became more attentive when the walls were painted pink. And finally, pink walls were found to make prisoners better behaved. Since persuasion plays a big role in your week, you might want to think pink. The exception? Burly lumberjacks. Fully persuasive, as is.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)



In the legendary quest for the Fountain of Youth, good news! The antidote to old age? It's not about magical waters, as once thought. It's about CHALLENGES. Confronting us humans with unexpected new challenges stimulates our physiology. We strengthen and grow. Our senses sharpen. Our reflexes quicken. Aging slows. Is this our way of dooming you to a challenging week? Sorry. No. At week's end, you'll be another week older.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Everything you need to know about how to have a great week, you knew when you were five. Consider. Beholding a muddy puddle at age five, what did you do? Of course. You brightened at the miracle of rubber boots and stomped right in, brown water flying. Today, life is more complicated. Confronting a puddle, now, you might need a puddle attorney. You may want puddle insurance. After that, be five, again. Laugh and make the water fly.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



People will act in their own best interests this week. You will do the same. Is that bad? Selfish, self-centered? Not necessarily. Most of us realize that it's in our best interest to help one another, where possible. That's the hallmark of

maturity. Where it's desirable to compete, a sense of morality and fairplay guide us. But some haven't reached that level. The best way to help them? Keep your guard up and don't enable them.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Can you get peace by disturbing the peace? Some people think so. Call them squeaky wheels. Who's the squeaky wheel in your life? Do you find their agitation upsetting? Know this: The right grease, at the right time, works wonders for everyone's tranquility. A highly effective lubricant? One with universal applications? Inner Equilibrium. Stock up. Carry it with you everywhere. Apply liberally as needed.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Word salad. What is it? A bland bunch of words tossed carelessly together like leafy greens. No anchovy. No hard-boiled egg. No dressing of the day. You'll leave the table hungry. A tip: Change your diet, change your life. We suggest the Orator's Special. That's a triple-decker elocution sandwich. Wit, wisdom and humor, layered together on hearty whole wheat. Mama mia! Check your local deli.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Leave your footprint on the world, or the world will leave its footprint on you. Such are your choices. What's it mean to leave your footprint? How do you get to Carnegie Hall? To reach the Hall, says the old joke, practice, practice, practice! And that's how you imprint the world: Practice, practice, practice at making the world a better place. But slip on your mud boots. It's messy out there.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



The number one cause of kinked necks? Trying to move forward while looking over your shoulder at the past. The solution? Face the past squarely. Look it in the eye. And tell it what you think of it. Clear the air between you. In doing so, we're betting both you and the past will learn something about what it means to be you. Then, you will truly be ready to move forward. Your neck will thank you.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



As the king of beasts, a well-fed lion in the wild will sleep 20 hours a day. It's what the lion does in the other four hours that makes him king. The takeaway? You don't have to always be on your feet to stay in the game. When you think you've earned it, do as the lion does. Stop. Put your feet up, and don't feel guilty about it. Watch through a half-slit eye as the game comes to you. Rawwwrr!

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



You have the power. The big question is, when do you use it? When does an avalanche slide? Avalanches are funny things. They slide when conditions are right. But sometimes, we impatient humans get tired of waiting and hurry things up with an avalanche gun, a small explosive that triggers a slide. Who is the avalanche gun in your life? And why their impatience? Maybe you need a gentle prod? Just asking.

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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.



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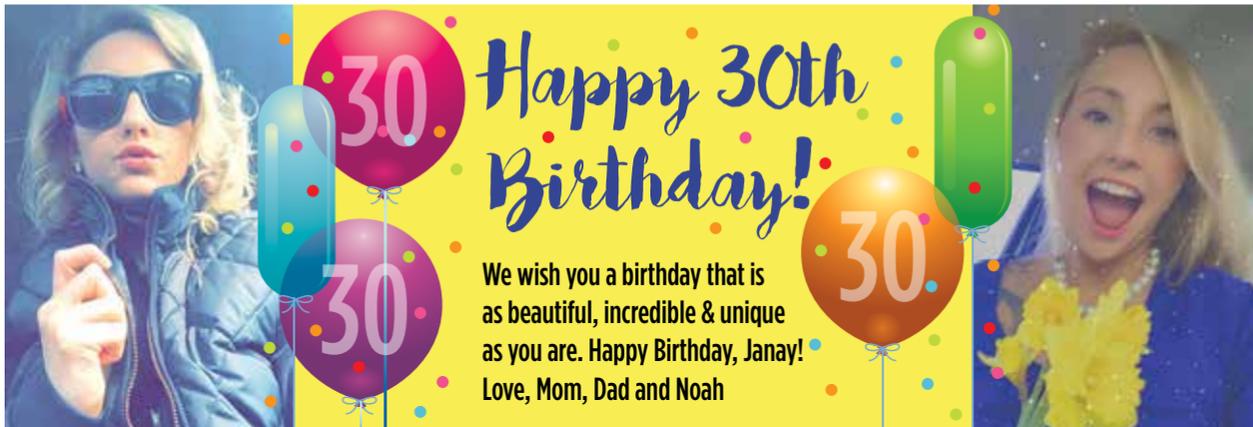
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The Whidbey Island community is encouraged to try out the paddling sport of dragon boating with the Stayin' Alive team. Our team's mission is to promote the physical, social, and emotional benefits of dragon boating. It has been shown to be especially 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](mailto:njlish@gmail.com). More info at our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSound-DragonBoatClub?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSound-DragonBoatClub?ref=hl)

Medical Marijuana patients unite; If you need assistance, advice, etc. please contact at [420patientnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:420patientnetworking@gmail.com)

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**How'd you do?**

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

org. For our Freeland store (1592 Main Street, Freeland WA 98249), please contact John Schmidt: 360-331-6272, [john@islandcountyhabitat.com](mailto:john@islandcountyhabitat.com). Habitat for Humanity of Island County, [www.islandcountyhabitat.org](http://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](http://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: [imaginepermacultureworld@gmail.com](mailto:imaginepermacultureworld@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](mailto: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](mailto:reception@islandseniorservices.org)

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**\$38<sup>95</sup>** Includes 4X4 & SUV

- ✓FREE Anti-Freeze & Fill
- ✓FREE Transmission & Fill
- ✓FREE Power Steering & Fill
- ✓FREE Brake Fluid & Fill
- ✓FREE Differential & Fill
- ✓FREE Transfer Case & Fill
- ✓FREE Windshield Washer Fluid & Fill
- ✓FREE Battery Fluid & Fill
- ✓NEW Oil & Oil Filter
- ✓LUBE Chassis
- ✓INFLATE Tires
- ✓VACUUM Interior
- ✓WASH Front & Rear Windows
- ✓Wiper Blade
- ✓Air Filter
- ✓Belts & Hoses
- ✓Headlights & Signal Lights

Most cars up to 5 qts. 5W20, 5W30, 10W30. Other grades extra. Some filters cost extra. Vehicles with Skid Plates may be extra. Plus \$1 Environmental Disposal Fee.

**HILLTOP AUTO SERVICE**

675-7011 • 826 S.E. Midway

Serving Whidbey Island since 1957

**\$1\***

Per gallon of Unleaded  
Limited Time Only  
\*Ask for details



**WE CAN SAVE YOU UP TO \$250 ON BRAKE SERVICE VERSUS OUR COMPETITORS. WARRANTIED AT 30K LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE.**

**TOYO TIRES - PASSENGER, LIGHT TRUCKS AND SUVS**

**STARTERS  
ALTERNATORS  
TIMING BELTS  
SERPENTINE BELTS**

**BRAKES  
TIRES  
TUNE-UPS  
EXHAUST**

Flat Rate Auto Repair  
only \$89<sup>95</sup> per hour  
always  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**

At Hilltop Service Center we only repair and replace parts that are needed. We will not oversell or install unnecessary parts. We are highly trained brake technicians, not high pressure sales people.

**Diagnostic Scope & Scan**

**\$89<sup>95</sup>**

- Retrieving Codes
- Reset Check Engine Light
- Up to 1 Hour Diagnostic
- 12 month/12,000 mile warranty

**Safety Inspection**

**\$89<sup>95</sup>**

- Labor Includes**
- Scope & Scan (Retrieving Codes, Reset Check Engine Light)
  - Brake Inspection
  - Tire Rotation
  - Inspect Belts & Hoses
  - Inspect Exhaust System
  - Check Charging System
  - Test Ignition Cables
  - Tire Rotation & Balance
  - Inspect Suspension
  - Check all Fluids
  - Test Anti-Freeze

**Radiator Flush & Fill**

**\$85<sup>95</sup>**

starting at  
Flushes Radiator, Engine Block, Heater Core & Hoses to -35° below

**Computerized TUNE-UP Special**

**\$79<sup>95</sup>\***  
4 cyl

**\$89<sup>95</sup>\***  
6 cyl

**\$99<sup>95</sup>\***  
8 cyl

- Check Compression
- Clean/Replace Spark Plugs & Air Cleaner
- Inspect/Replace Distributor Cap & Rotor
- Check Charging System
- Inspect Ignition Cables
- Scope & Scan
- Adjust Timing & Idle Speed
- Safety & Brake Inspection

\*Plus Parts

**Brake Reline Special** **FREE Brake Inspections**

2-Wheel Front Brake Reline or 2-Wheel Rear Brake Reline starting at **\$119<sup>95</sup>**

- DRUMS**
  - H Raybestos Brake Shoes
  - Machine Drums
  - Rebuild Wheel Cylinders
  - Adjust Parking Brake
  - Bleed & Adjust System
  - Road Test Vehicle
  - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty
- DISCS**
  - Install Raybestos Disc Pads
  - Machine Front Rotors
  - Repack Wheel Bearings
  - Clean-Lube Sleeve & Bushings
  - New Seals
  - Bleed & Adjust System
  - Road Test Vehicle
  - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty

**Raybestos**  
The Best in Brakes

**LIFETIME BRAKE PARTS AVAILABLE**  
Most Cars - HD Shoes Semi-Metallic Extra

**We can save you up to \$100 on select tire sizes & brands vs. our competitors!**

- Factory/Dealer Trained Certified Technicians
- Best Extended Warranty on Parts & Labor
- Genuine Factory Replacement Parts

**Purchase Tires & Auto Repairs** using your Exxon/Mobil Card to make time payments.

**FREE REBALANCE  
FREE TIRE ROTATION  
FREE ROAD HAZARD  
FREE FLAT REPAIR** with any Tire purchase

**HILLTOP AUTO SERVICE 675-7011**

826 S.E. Midway, Oak Harbor Serving Whidbey Island since 1957