

September 17 through September 23, 2020

FREE

Whidbey Weekly

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VETERAN VARIETY SHOW AT THE BLUE FOX DRIVE-IN

Friday, September 25 2020

A night of fun benefitting veteran mental health & agricultural job training.

Read more on page 7.

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By Shannon Bly Outreach Coordinator at Whidbey Island Conservation District

PLAN A POLLINATOR GARDEN THIS FALL

Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, syrphid flies, beetles, ants, hummingbirds, and other insects, are responsible for one in three bites of food we eat! They are really essential to our natural ecosystem, and they need four things to be healthy and happy: food, water, shelter, and a place to raise their young, otherwise known as habitat.

Most of the pollinators around Whidbey are bumblebees, solitary native bees and syrphid flies. Bumblebees are social like honeybees, living together in nests they dig in the ground. Solitary native bees live alone, creating nests in abandoned rodent and bird nests, in sandy bluffs, or in the canes of native plants like salmonberry and thimbleberry. The solitary bees raise their young in these nests, rarely traveling more than a mile to forage for food for themselves and their young. Examples of solitary native bees include sweat bees, mason bees, leafcutter bees, and cuckoo bees.

Syrphid flies, also called hoverflies or flower flies, are among the most frequent visitors to flowers, providing up to half the pollination our plants need. There are over 6,000 species of syrphid flies in the world. Many of them have yellow and black stripes, and are often mistaken for bees or wasps. One species, Volucella Bombylans, even has a fat, furry body like a bumblebee, and lays its eggs in the nests of social wasps or bumblebees so the larvae can feed on the bees' pollen stores.

In the urban areas and housing developments we humans build, concrete parking lots and sidewalks, long stretches of lawn, and rows of buildings replace pollinator habitat, creating large areas where pollinators can't survive. Remember, most of our native bees don't travel very far for pollen and nectar. This means we need habitats for these bees every mile (or less). If every household plants a pollinator garden, either with flowers for forage, plants for nesting, or both, then we can provide our pollinators with the habitat they need to continue their important work.

This fall, Whidbey Island Conservation District and Endangered Species Coalition are working with three island schools to build pollinator gardens with the students. Planting the gardens with native plants and wildflowers will allow the students to learn about pollinators and pollination, growing plants, and the connections between plants, bees, and people. In the spring, as the flowers begin to bloom, the



students will be able to see the fruits of their labors and observe pollinators in the gardens. As a community, we invite you, Whidbey, to join us in adding more pollinator gardens and habitat to our island in the next few months!

Fall is the best time to plant a pollinator garden. Native plants, which provide both nesting places, shelter, and food for pollinators, need to be watered regularly to establish healthy root systems. Once these plants are established, they don't need much maintenance at all. The great thing about native plants is they have adapted to our climate and soils already, and can grow here with very little intervention. If native plants are put in the ground in the fall, they receive rain all winter long, allowing them to establish themselves faster with less watering from the gardener.

Wildflower seeds are also best planted in fall. Many of these seeds require a period of freezing in order to germinate. It makes sense - the flowers drop their seeds by fall, the seeds overwinter in the soil, and then germinate again in the spring when soil temperatures warm up. If nature sows wildflower seeds in the fall, we should too.

It's important to give pollinators flowering plants all season long. Some flowers are early bloomers, providing the first food for bees waking from hibernation or hummingbirds returning from their winter migration. Other flowers bloom late into the year, providing the last opportunities for food before winter. The longer the pollinators can forage and raise young, the more young they can raise.

When planning your pollinator garden, remember to include flowering plants for each season - spring, summer, and fall - and native plants for nesting and shelter. If possible, leave old flower stalks and leaves in the garden to overwinter, and try not to disturb the soil with garden forks and shovels. This garden debris and undisturbed soil provides native bees with nesting places to hibernate for the winter. And don't spray herbicides and pesticides on your pollinator garden, especially not on blooms, as these chemicals can negatively affect the nervous systems of the bees.

Visit www.whidbeycd.org/backyards-habitat for resources about planning pollinator gardens, creating bumblebee nesting habitat, buying native plants and wildflowers, learning and teaching about our many native bees, and more! If you'd like help in creating your garden, or just need someone to look over your plans before you get started, we provide free conservation assistance to everyone on Whidbey Island, so don't hesitate to contact us with your questions.



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



ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



Excuse me if these printed fonts seem to be vibrating. I am tapping my foot while typing.

There is an awkward rhythm associated with my two-fingered keyboard pecking, yet it lends itself to a toe tap now and

then, usually in the middle of a three syllable word.

I might consider going to the doc about this to see if it is a syndrome or an idiosyncrasy.

Either way, I am covered.

In fact, with all this smoke in the sky, I am so covered I am not leaving the caboose.

As the Vern turns

Vern Olsen, aka Sir Squeeze of the world renowned Shifty Sailors, just celebrated his 80th birthday in perfect fashion. The Shifty Sailors treated Martha and Vern to a Coupeville drive-by parade filled with Vern's birthday enthusiasts and aficionados.

The boys and girls of all ages did not just drive by and drive away. These drive by paraders were the cake for Vern and Martha's icing. They even shifted their sails and assembled with social distancing courtesies to begin singing. Sir Squeeze was at his accordion leading the way.

Congrats Vern on becoming an octogenarian. Your birthday celebration reminds me of the only octogenarian joke I know.

My subconscious just pulled it up from an old Weekly Reader filed in my Dewey Decimal infused card catalog.

Question: Where does one kiss a Shifty Sailor octogenarian?

Answer: On his Octo puss.

Exit, stage left.

Mind hugs

More and more I realize everybody, regardless of age, needs to be hugged and comforted in a brotherly or sisterly way now and then. Preferably now.

~Jane Howard.

Gratitude. More aware of what you have than what you don't. Recognizing the treasure in the simple—a child's hug, fertile soil, a golden sunset. Relishing in the comfort of the common—a warm bed, a hot meal, a clean shirt.

~Max Lucado

Good humor is a tonic for mind and body. It is the best antidote for anxiety and depression. It is a business asset. It attracts and keeps friends. It lightens human burdens. It is the direct route to serenity and contentment.

~Glenville Kleiser

Fake fraud

How can one have fake fraud when fraud by its nature is fake?

When a fake Amazon fraud rep calls with fraud questions, I call double fraud. Fraud in stereo. Here is how it all went down.

"Amazon customer service. This is Pascal. How may I help you?"

"Thanks Pascal, I just heard a message on my voice mail from some automated voice person telling me to push 1 or call some 866 number if I want to follow up on a fraudulent purchase made on my Amazon account."

"Well, sir, Amazon never does cold calls. If there were a problem with your account, you would receive an email from Amazon."

"Well, I always check when I hear the word fraud. At least I did not push #1 since it was a voice message, but had it been a live call, I bet I would have."

"Amazon never does cold calls."

"Does Amazon do cold cuts? By the way, Pascal, this is a really good connection. Where on the west coast are you located? Do you have smoke everywhere too?"

"No, sir, I am not on the west coast. I am in South Africa. It is spring here. The trees are blooming."

"South Africa? Pascal, how come there is no delay on our phone call? How come your response is not delayed like the folks on the news?"

"I am not sure, but just remember, if there ever is anything fishy with your Amazon account that Amazon does not make cold calls."

"Thank you, Pascal. You have been most helpful."

I wonder if it is ever cold enough for cold cuts in Johannesburg.

Scone alert

Last Friday's Seattle Times had a superb Food and Drink article by staff writers Amy Wong and Taylor Blatchford, two admitted fast food fans. Their article encouraged other fans of Washington State Fair food to head to the fairgrounds in Puyallup the remaining week-ends in September between 11 a.m. to 7 pm. for some fair grub. What a fun way to see the fairgrounds. A huge drive-in with a whole load of choices.

Since there is not enough time for me to get to Puyallup to squelch my desires for Krusty Pup corn dogs, Big Mama's Meat Shack 1/2-pound cheeseburger, and Fisher Scones, I decided to go to Jupiter Coffee in Freeland for the latter.

Located in the mini mall on highway 525 in Freeland, Laura and Bryce serve up great coffee, homemade baked goods, and Laura's scones of superiority.

Why drive to Puyallup? Scone bonus – There is a fresh stack of Whidbey Weeklys every Wednesday afternoon right outside the Jupiter Coffee door.

To be completely transparent, I am the columnist designated above, and further, I approved the next long sentence.

While I have not been bribed to support in print Laura's scones, I did enjoy a gifted one, delivered fresh to me by Laura's scone drone, Bryce, all the way from their door to the Chevron gas pump where I received my Bryce surprise.

Talk about being pumped.

No no's to know

Ever since learning to read, I have loved headlines. Two of my very favorites when I wrote for the paper formerly known as the South Whidbey Record were: Two cows killed in crash landing and Coke turns out to be lemon Jello.

Nothing like adolescent drug dealers at recess. And who said cows can't fly?

Now that I am old enough to receive the AARP Bulletin, I like to scan the headlines to see whether or not to get out my Dad's magnifying glass for details.

The following headline brought out the magnifying glass:

6 Things You Should Never Do Again.

My mind was hopping like a Presbyterian jumping bean. Had my parents contacted the publisher?

Actually, the six things have to do with flu season. In case you are not old enough and/or do not have a magnifying glass, here is the six pack of no-no's:

1. Do not pass a sink without washing your hands;
2. Do not leave home without a pen in your pocket;
3. Do not wake up to an alarm clock;
4. Do not drive when you can walk;
5. Do not smoke a cigarette;
6. Do not eat buffet-style.

For details about these AARP-approved caveats for flu season, check out www.aarp.org/bulletin at page 21.

The pen in the pocket suggestion confused me until I read that flu viruses can live on nonporous surfaces for a day or two. Given I have not been inside a bank since March, and I pay with cash, who needs a pen?

Reminds me of the Mark Twain story, The Pen and the Pauper.

Stay mentally safe. Avoid the news.

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



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Letters to the Editor

Editor,

I have known Carolyn Cliff for some 15 years both within the community and legal circles, and wholeheartedly recommend her for Superior Court Judge Pos. 2.

Carolyn possesses many qualities we need in a judge: She is thorough in her research and doesn't miss anything! She listens carefully and is extremely fair. Her empathy, especially toward persons not familiar with the court system, is admirable.

But with both Superior Court judges retiring, what especially distinguishes Carolyn is her decades-long experience within our court system. Every court system has its quirks, and Island County is no exception. Carolyn knows how this system works, its processes and players. Further, she knows our communities from having lived in Island County for some 30 years.

Carolyn Cliff, more than anyone else, will be capable of hitting the ground running on day one.

Marilyn Simmons
Freeland, Wash.

Editor,

Helen Price Johnson is the clear choice for your vote for State Senate in the 10th Legislative District. As a lifelong resident of the District, Helen truly and personally understands what makes this place we call home so special. Also, she knows how to solve the challenges we will face in this ever changing world. Helen will make our future better.

As three-term Island County Commissioner serving both in the majority and the minority parties, Helen is kind and respectful. She truly listens, which is a rare quality in today's times. She established a well-deserved reputation for working across the aisle and for treating her fellow commissioners and her constituents with respect and interest in their points of view.

I have known Helen for many years. She is always knowledgeable about the issues before her. Helen has built her career on seeking solutions that will best support the working families and rural communities she represents.

We already have too much angry noise permeating national and state politics. Let's elect a real leader who has the experience to bring people together to find opportunities to create more workforce housing, address the health-care and mental health crises laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic, and resolve the budget crisis facing our local and state governments. Vote for Helen Price Johnson for State Senate. She is the clear choice.

Bob Drewel
Former Snohomish County Executive
Clinton, Wash.

Editor,

I first met Carolyn Cliff, candidate for Superior Court Judge, Pos. 2, when she came into Whidbey Island Bank, and I worked with her to establish a trust account for one of her clients. That was 30 years ago, but I have never forgotten. I was struck then, as now, with how dedicated she was to her client's well being, and how ethical she is.

When I needed help to settle my family's estate matters, I immediately turned to Caro-

Bits & Pieces

lyn. I knew I could trust her unequivocally. When I saw she was running for judge, I knew without a doubt that she was the perfect candidate.

I am so proud to know Carolyn as a local businesswoman, and a friend. I encourage everyone to vote for Carolyn, whose experience in our local community and courts will be a real asset as our judge.

Kim Olmstead
Whidbey Equine Services
Greenbank, Wash.

Editor,

'Farmers Don't Trust Ron Muzzall.'

It's bizarre to see the proliferation of Ron Muzzall signs across the 10th LD, with their image of two hands nursing a young seedling to life. This conjures a spirit of stewardship and renewal, a seemingly perfect fit for our island ecology, which holds so much beauty yet remains vulnerable to the ongoing threats of development, pollution and climate change.

Unfortunately, a quick scrub of Muzzall's record and the green washes right off. Washington conservation voters gave him a score of ZERO, tied for last place of all 50 state senators. He voted against updating the state's emission standards in accordance with current health and climate science, against the reusable bags act, against limiting the aerial application of poisons in our forests, against testing our communities' drinking water for PFAS contamination, and so on.

He even voted against the Sustainable Farms Bill (championed by small farms statewide), only changing his vote when it became apparent the bill would pass.

While it seems a bit perplexing Muzzall, the owner of a small farm business in Oak Harbor, would try and thwart the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices, the contradiction comes into focus when you look at some of his biggest campaign contributors: Chevron and Monsanto. While his signage may say "local" and "homegrown," his loyalties clearly lie with Big Ag and Big Oil, the greatest threat to topsoil, small farms and local food systems in the U.S.

Farmers are on the front lines of the climate-related events unfolding today, such as rampant fires and flooding, and the proliferation of exotic pests and disease. Farmland is disappearing at alarming rates under the forces of development and consolidation.

We need leadership in Olympia that understands what policies will support farmers. Helen Price Johnson has repeatedly reached out to us local farmers to learn what issues matter. She understands the connections between a healthy local food system and a healthy community. Her campaign is supported by small farmers, teachers, nurses and average citizens, not destructive multinational corporations.

We farmers want to build a healthy food system for the communities we love while caring for our fragile environment. Please vote for Helen, the candidate who will have our backs.

Deep Harvest Farm, Foxtail Farm, Glendale Shepherd, Kettle's Edge Farm, SkyRoot Farm, Sweetwater Farm, 12 Birches Farm

Editor,

Of the two candidates running for Superior Court Judge, Position 2, only one offers two decades as an active Judge Pro Tem as well as 30 years as a practicing attorney in Island County. Carolyn Cliff's judicial experience is unmatched — and with both Superior Court judges retiring that experience is more important than ever.

I have been a practicing attorney in Island County for over 20 years. I began my legal career working as a staff lawyer for a federal court judge, where I learned how important it is for the person on the bench to have the

right judicial temperament. Effective service as a judge requires particular abilities, and it is a natural fit for Carolyn.

This is important because it means you can count on Carolyn to:

- Be fair and impartial — a judge's primary responsibility.
- Establish that her courtroom will be a place of courtesy, respect, and decorum.
- Do meticulous homework and come to court prepared.
- Use her admirable powers of concentration to truly focus and listen to what is being said in court.
- Render decisions based upon the record on that particular matter, not from any previous personal connections with either attorneys or litigants.
- Where appropriate, explain how rulings are based on the law, the facts, and the court record in a way both attorneys and parties in the case can understand.

As an attorney, Carolyn has a track record of independence. In the course of representing a client who had a trust established by his parents, she took on a partner in a prominent Oak Harbor law firm, uncovering his thefts of funds from the trust. Carolyn's work contributed to this attorney's ouster from the firm, disbarment, and a prison sentence. Not every attorney is willing to take on a fellow attorney in a case like this.

I can state emphatically that we can trust Carolyn with the responsibilities of a Superior Court judge. She's an outstanding member of our community and exactly the right person to sit on our county's Superior Court.

Alice L. Blanchard
Langley, Wash.

Editor,

The League of Women Voters of Whidbey Island is gearing up for the 2020 General Election! Attending a forum is now easier than ever, it is just a mouse click away!

The forums will be on Zoom and we have space for 500 attendees. The link is on the League website, [lwwwwhidbey.org](http://www.whidbey.org), and here is the lineup:

- Monday, Oct. 5, 5:00pm - Island County Commissioner, Positions 1 and 2
- Tuesday, Oct. 6, 5:00pm - Legislative District 10 - State Representative Positions 1 and 2, State Senate
- Thursday, Oct. 8, 5:00pm - Congressional Dist. 2 U.S. Representative, Superior Court Judge Positions 1 and 2

The Zoom link will be available two hours before the meeting on the website.

If you are unable to attend, the forums will be recorded and available for viewing on our website. Additional, nonpartisan information about the candidates and voting procedures can be found at the league-sponsored website vote411.org.

Washington State does all its voting by mail, so it is important to be sure your registration is up to date with your current mailing address. If you have moved, turned 18, changed your name, or are a new resident of the state, go to www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditors.aspx# to check your registration.

Remember, ballots do not require postage but must be postmarked on or before Nov. 3 to be counted. In addition, drop boxes are placed in many locations throughout the county however, they are locked after 8:00PM, Nov. 3. Mark and return your ballot promptly.

Finally, be sure you are counted! Make sure you, your family, and neighbors complete their 2020 Census.

Your vote is your voice. Speak up! Our democracy depends on it.

Mendy McLean-Stone
Board Member LWVWI

Lessons from Experienced Investors

Those who have lived a long time have done a lot, seen a lot — and can teach us a lot. And that's certainly true when it comes to investing. Consider some of the lessons you might learn from experienced investors:

• **Regulate your emotions.** In the investment world, there's always something coming at us that could sound scary: political flashpoints, economic news, and even those once-in-a-generation occurrences, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But older people may take these events in stride; in fact, baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation (born between 1925 and 1945) are coping better emotionally with the impacts of COVID-19 than younger age cohorts, according to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And by keeping control of your emotions, you may be less likely to make moves such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their prices have fallen in the midst of an overall market decline.

• **Learn from experience.** By definition, the older we get, the more experiences we will have. And most people do indeed learn from experience. Investors, too, benefit from having seen and done things before. Did you chase a "hot" stock only to have found it cooled off before you bought it? Did you buy too many of the same type of investments, only to see your portfolio take a bigger hit during a downturn than it would have if you had diversified? In the investment arena, as in most walks of life, patterns emerge, and once you learn to recognize them, you can learn from past mistakes.

• **Know yourself.** When we reach a certain age, most of us know ourselves pretty well. But you don't have to wait decades to gain this knowledge — at least not when it comes to investing. For example, you should quickly gain a good sense of your ability to withstand risk. How? Just consider how you react when the market declines sharply. If you find yourself losing sleep over your losses — even if they're just on paper — you might be taking on too much risk for your own comfort level. Conversely, if market downturns don't bother you as much as lack of growth in your portfolio, you might be investing too conservatively for your own risk tolerance.

• **Take a longer-term perspective.** When we're young, we sometimes are more inclined to desire instant gratification — we want results now. Translated into the investment world, this could mean we want to see big returns in a short period. However, despite the popular mythology, it's quite hard to turn enormous profits on investments overnight — or even over weeks or months. But as the years pass, we learn the value of thinking long-term — how investments we made years ago, and have added to steadily, are now yielding results that can help build the resources we need to reach our objectives.

• **Don't go it alone.** Some of us, when we're young, have a tendency to think we have all the answers and don't need much help in our endeavors. But age gives us the wisdom to recognize that, although we may have acquired much knowledge over the years, we can still use some help in specialized areas, such as creating a long-term investment strategy. These suggestions are appropriate for anyone — and they can help you on your journey toward your goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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Skagit Valley College's Worker Retraining Program Covers Tuition, Books, and School-Related Fees to Help Those Who are Unemployed

Skagit Valley College is pleased to announce new options for fall quarter, taught by its trained, experienced online instructors. Classes start Tuesday, Sept. 22 and registration is going on now.

Are you unemployed from aerospace, construction, logging, retail, or hospitality, or from another industry? Did you know you can continue receiving unemployment benefits while attending SVC and sometimes receive a benefits extension because you're attending?

Skagit Valley College's Worker Retraining program can help you! It covers tuition, books, and school-related fees, with the support you need to prepare for new employment.

Email Lisa Barnett at lisa.barnett@skagit.edu by Sept. 21 for fall enrollment.

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

National Voter Registration Day is September 22

Every year millions of Americans find themselves unable to vote because they miss a registration deadline, don't update their registration, or aren't sure how to register. National Voter Registration Day seeks to help eligible voters across the country in exercising their right to vote.

Are you registered to vote? Is the information on your registration up to date? Visit www.votewa.gov to be sure.

Are you in the military and need help registering to vote in another state? Federal Voting Assistance is available at www.fvap.gov.

Are you a snowbird or a student and need your ballot mailed to you at your temporary address? Send the Island County Elections Office an email at elections@islandcountywa.gov and we can send your ballot to your "other" address.

For more information about voter registration and elections, contact the Island County Elections Office at 360-679-7366 or visit the website www.islandcountywa.gov/auditor/elections.

National Voter Registration Day has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). It is further supported by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED). National Voter Registration Day is held the fourth Tuesday of September. In 2020, it will be observed Tuesday, Sept. 22. Visit NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org for more information.

[Submitted by Michele Reagan, Elections Supervisor, Island County Auditor's Office]

Planning Clinton's Future - Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard Virtual Community Meeting Sept. 22

The Clinton Community Council will be hosting a virtual community meeting Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6:00PM to discuss the Clinton Gateway Draft Plan. The items in this proposal will shape the growth of Clinton in the coming years. Public input is a vital part of the approval process. The goal of Island County Planners is that the final Gateway Plan become an amendment to the Economic Development Element of Island County's Comprehensive Plan in 2020.

Join Zoom meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82421861661>

Meeting ID: 824 2186 1661

[Submitted by Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner, Dist. 1]

Bob Fraser to be Presented with Lifetime Achievement Award

As part of the annual PBY Memorial Foundation dinner this past May, the featured individual to be recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award was Bob Fraser, a significant contributor to the A-3 Skywarrior community. COVID-19 restrictions prevented this from happening. Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 1:00PM, a presentation will be made at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum in Oak Harbor. A special plaque has been prepared

and all friends of Bob and, particularly A-3 crewmen, are invited to attend. For more information, call 360-240-9500.

Masks and other sanitation protections will be observed.

[Submitted by Sonny Starks, Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum]

Community Impact Grants Available to Nonprofits and Public Agencies

The Island County Board of Commissioners is releasing an additional \$400,000 of the federal CARES grant funds. These funds will target organizations who are helping community members going through hardship brought on by COVID-19 throughout Island County. These funds will be available to nonprofit and public agencies to help sustain services and programs for those in need because of COVID-19.

Ranking Criteria being considered:

- Positive benefit to our community
- Wide regional impacts within Island County
- Clear alignment with COVID-19

Applications for Community Impact Grant Requests will be available upon request from Petite Bryant-Hunt via email at: p.bryant-hunt@islandcountywa.gov.

Applications will be accepted until close of business Monday, Sept. 21.

The Economic Recovery Task Force Staff will present the requests to the Island County Commissioners for consideration Tuesday, Sept. 22.

[Submitted by Virginia Shaddy, Clerk of the Board]

Library Foundation Helping Families Address Back-to-School Needs

Families with school-age children facing the uncertainties of the coming school year are getting help from the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

The foundation is funding books, computers and Wi-Fi hotspots to support families through a new initiative called the Opportunity Fund.

"We developed this fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued impact on Sno-Isle communities across Snohomish and Island counties," Foundation Executive Director Paul Pitkin said. "With our funding, we are partnering with professionals at Sno-Isle Libraries and community-based service agencies to address literacy and technology needs for families and students."

The Opportunity Fund is helping bridge the widening digital divide by providing funding for laptop computers for students, as well as individual Wi-Fi hotspots to provide internet access. The foundation is also funding the Home Library Project, which delivers book bags containing up to 10 books aimed at developing and improving early literacy. The books are selected by Sno-Isle Libraries staff members.

To identify recipients and distribute the laptops and hotspots, Sno-Isle Libraries staff members connected with local school districts. So far, participating districts include Darrington, Granite Falls, Lakewood, Marysville, Monroe, Oak Harbor, Snohomish, South Whidbey, Stanwood and Sultan.

In addition to helping students and families participate in online school work, the laptops and hotspots provide access to all of the educational support resources available through Sno-Isle Libraries. Besides books and digital materials, a free library card account opens up assistance such as homework help, many databases and reference services, Book-a-Librarian, online tutoring, and online study groups.

To identify Home Library Project recipients, Sno-Isle Libraries is working with Stanwood Camano Food Bank, Making Life Work, Whidbey Island Nourishes, ChildStrive, Growing Together, Cocoon House North, All Families are Ready, and Early Head Start. The book bags are distributed through the partner agencies.

Books for families are included to encourage parents to read with their children. Studies have shown just having books available in the home dramatically improves a child's literacy,

and that lifelong literacy and a love of learning begins at an early age.

More than 1,000 books have been distributed through Home Library Project so far with more to be delivered in the coming months.

Pitkin said the foundation is contacting additional Opportunity Fund partners to support outreach and funding.

"The pandemic is really highlighting the importance of equity of access for all the communities Sno-Isle Libraries serves," Pitkin said. "It was a priority before the pandemic, but now it's especially urgent. Students don't know how many classes they'll be attending in person this coming school year, and library parking lots are full of people in their cars accessing free Wi-Fi service from the building."

Pitkin said library staff are seeing online library use increase since pandemic-related restrictions were imposed, making internet access all the more important.

"At the same time, children need actual books to learn to read and keep up their literacy skills and the Home Library Project is doing just that," Pitkin said. "I'm so grateful to our community partners for helping us make that happen. These are difficult times, but it's so inspiring to see our communities come together."

The Opportunity Fund

The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation Opportunity Fund goal is \$250,000. For more information about the fund and contribution opportunities, go to www.sno-islefoundation.org or contact Paul Pitkin, 206-618-3761, ppitkin@sno-isle.org.

[Submitted by Jim Hills, Sno-Isle Libraries]

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Citizens Advisory Committee

New North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (NWFR) Chief, John Clark, brought with him the useful concept of a citizens advisory committee. As such, Chief Clark advertised and implemented NWFR's first citizens advisory committee (CAC) for the fire district (which is separate from the Oak Harbor fire department which does not service Island County). The CAC consists of seven volunteers, who were all interviewed before being accepted, to help advise NWFR on near- and long-term fire and rescue issues.

The current CAC members volunteered to serve for at least one year. The committee consists of four men and three women. Four of the members have fire department experience, ranging from 5 to 32 years, serving from volunteer to chief. The members include (in alphabetical order): Patty Cole, Chris Geiger, Cathy Lemon, Teri Jo Summer-Reiger, Richard Rivers, Steve Schwalbe, and Richard Svendsen.

The committee meets once a week to discuss issues assigned by Chief Clark. His top priority now is the upcoming vote on the Fire Levy Lid Lift (an increase in Island County property taxes to fund critical fire district equipment). Given the annual fire storms, such as the current ones in East Washington, ensuring we have a robust fire department in north Whidbey Island County is critical, especially given the amount of forest area involved.

The citizens advisory committee will brief Chief Clark monthly on near-term issues, such as the needed Levy Lid Lift, and longer-term issues, such as fire station locations. Any insights or questions for the CAC, please email Steve Schwalbe at: ColSchwalbe@gmail.com. As well, please visit the NWFR/CAC website on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Citizen-Advisory-Committee-for-North-Whidbey-Fire-Rescue-103886318129295/

[Submitted by Steve Schwalbe]

Local Business News

Apply Now for New Emergency Grants Available to Local Small Businesses

Up to \$10,000 is available for Island County businesses with up to 20 employees

The Economic Development Council for Island County (EDCIC) is accepting applications for emergency grants up to \$10,000 each for businesses with up to 20 employees in Island County. Grant money can be used to assist with a variety of expenses related to the impact from COVID-19.

A pool of \$146,693 is available only to businesses in Island County until funds are exhausted. The application period is Sept. 14 - 22.

To learn more and apply, visit www.iscoedc.com/working-washington-grant-2-0/.

Funding for the program is from the state's Working Washington Small Business 2.0 program, including federal Coronavirus Assistance, Recovery and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to help with COVID-19 response and recovery efforts across Washington State.

"We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to administer another round of funding to our small businesses that are suffering the effects of this pandemic," said Sharon Sappington, executive director of EDCIC. "These last six months have been incredibly difficult for our business communities and hopefully these funds will offer some financial relief to those businesses that are suffering the most."

"Funding is intended to support local businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic."

"The length and depth of the pandemic have hit small, main street businesses hard," said Washington State Department of Commerce Director Lisa Brown. "In particular, restaurants, hotels and other service industries have not seen the expected number of customers. Small businesses need these resources to stay open as we respond to the public health crisis and help get people back to work."

Commerce partnered with the EDCIC and the 34 other local economic development organizations statewide to make a new tranche of \$10 million in Working Washington Small Business Emergency grants available. Applications and administration of the new funds are run by the local organizations that serve all 39 counties. The Washington State Department of Commerce is not accepting or reviewing applications; this will be done by the local economic development organizations.

Experience Italian Food Artistry at the new Ciao Food and Wine

Ciao Food and Wine is bringing Italian food artistry to Whidbey Island! This week, the beloved Italian restaurant debuted an updated menu, alfresco dining on the patio, and a new experience with a large selection of shoppable artisan Italian food and wine.

Already well known for its authentic and delicious Italian cuisine, Ciao now features a market of uniquely fantastic Italian food products including house-made fresh mozzarella and burrata; high-quality Italian meats and cheeses; fresh-baked bread and Italian pastries. Guests can also get a treat at the gelateria - featuring nine rotating flavors - and sample exquisite wines from family-owned, small-production, organically-grown vintners throughout Italy.

"We want to bring the best of Italy right here to Whidbey Island with a better menu and the best selection of Italian foods you won't be able to find anywhere else," said Mark Laska, owner of Ciao.

Laska apprenticed under the greatest living pizzaiolo (master chef specializing in pizza) and one of the founders of the slow food movement. He immersed himself in the food culture of southern Italy and learned to mill flour with Caputo, mozzarella production in Paestum, olive oil and curing near Tuscany, pasta making in Gregano, and tomato production in the fields and canneries of San Marzano. When he opened Ciao 10 years ago, Laska brought those unique flavors and techniques to Washington.

To create the safest experience for its customers and team members, Ciao implemented critical health and safety practices and designed a beautiful alfresco dining area - adding to the restaurant's authentic Italian ambiance.

Visit Ciao at 701 N Main Street in Coupeville from 12:00 to 7:00PM Tuesday through Saturday for takeaway meals, alfresco dining, and a selection of artisan Italian foods and wines.





Best wishes to this year's students and parents as you embark on an exciting new school year!

We know how much planning and effort has gone into keeping students safe, and we appreciate the effort and dedication of Oak Harbor School District to our community's kids. Thank you, teachers and school staff!



**Wishing our Students & Teachers
A Safe & Successful School Year!**



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STUDENTS & TEACHERS

**A SAFE &
SUCCESSFUL
SCHOOL YEAR**



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Students & Teachers A Safe,
Happy & Successful School Year!**

Whidbey Weekly



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Angels on Whidbey p. 10

BLM banner draws support and concern on South Whidbey

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

A Black Lives Matter (BLM) banner hanging on the tennis courts at South Whidbey High School has sparked a conversation in the community. The banner, which was placed with the approval of South Whidbey School District officials July 28, has drawn both support and concern from area residents.

Jo Moccia, superintendent for the South Whidbey School District, said the banner was placed in line with the district's vision of equity and inclusion for all students. The school board also approved an equity and inclusion policy Aug. 26.

"The school board prioritized challenging the current educational system as it relates to how each and every student engages in our comprehensive program," she said in an email. "Through listening to students, families, and staff members it became glaringly apparent that we have challenges associated with how our students, more than 18 percent of whom identify as non-white, experience school on our campuses. This led the board to adopt a strong focus on equity and prioritizing dismantling barriers for our students."

Rufus Rose, a Clinton resident, said he and other community members were concerned the banner may be divisive and not acknowledge factors outside of race impacting students.

"My concern about the BLM banner is that it is a one-sided approach to an education issue promoted by the school district without balance," he said. "Visuals work, without balance they can easily mislead. This visual is extremely political and out of place on public property, especially on public school property."

Moccia said the Federal Office of Special Counsel had determined BLM to be neither partisan nor political and the banner was placed to support inclusion.

"The Black Lives Matter banner is not a political statement, rather a public declaration to our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) students and families that we see them, we hear them, and we value them just as we value all our students," she said.

Rose also said he felt the banner did not accurately reflect all of the factors affecting today's students, and said the banner may only reflect the racial component of challenges students might face. Rose said he believes the banner does not invite discussion of what he referred to as the "multivariate analysis" of all the various factors impacting young lives, and without acknowledging other factors, such as home life, he feels young people may not be receiving the best education possible.

"If there is only a Black Lives Matter Banner up there, I am concerned that it is not balanced," he said. "I think they (the SWSD officials) are sincere. I think they want to make things better, but I think they are missing

See BANNER continued on page 12



Photo Courtesy of Wren and Della

Bellingham-based performers Wren and Della will be one of the acts featured Sept. 25 in the Veteran Variety Show at Blue Fox Drive-In, a fundraising event for the Growing Veterans organization.

Variety show supports Growing Veterans

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Organizers of an upcoming show at the Blue Fox Drive-In near Oak Harbor hope their unique spin on an evening of entertainment will help grow support for the Growing Veterans organization and help end the stigma of veteran isolation and suicide.

The Veteran Variety Show begins Friday, Sept. 25 with an open-air, pop-up market from 4 to 7 p.m., featuring veteran-owned businesses, followed by the variety show at 7 p.m. A showing of the comedy classic "Tropic Thunder" will begin at approximately 8:45 p.m.

The variety show is a new take on Growing Veterans' traditional fundraiser.

"With COVID happening, we realized our usual fundraiser just wasn't practical; circumstances have changed and a lot of businesses can't give at the levels they may have in the past," said Tonneli Gruetter, manager of growth and outreach for Growing Veterans and part of the team putting the show together.

"Our donations are down 50 percent over last year, yet the need for services has skyrocketed," she said. "It's sort of a sad secret to have."



Photo Courtesy of Ronnie Nix

Singer/songwriter Ronnie Nix, who is on active duty with the U.S. Navy, will also be a featured performer in the Veteran Variety Show to benefit Growing Veterans.

Located in Lynden, Growing Veterans has been around since 2012. The organization opened an outpost at Greenbank Farm at the beginning of the year. Its mission is to help prevent veteran suicide by ending the isolation often felt by so many. Whidbey Island seemed like a perfect location for an outpost, given its high veteran population.

Because September is Suicide Awareness Month, Gruetter said they wanted to come up with an idea that would help raise awareness of veteran suicide and provide a fun evening out. It really took off when Blue Fox owner, Darrell Bratt, offered to donate the drive-in for the night.

"That was kind of our launch point and from there it sort of snowballed. We ended up with a couple of local singer/songwriters, a band, jugglers, comedy – all kinds of talent."

Because of the current ban on live performances, organizers enlisted the aid of filmmaker Chris Laxamana to help put it all together.

"He donated his time at the farm filming the acts, and it is being edited into one big film," Gruetter explained. "Hopefully some of the performers will be able to be there so the audience can give them a round of applause at the end."

Performers include the Dalgarn Family Band, Ronnie Nix, Wren and Della, and comedian Vanessa Dawn, who will also serve as emcee, along with Grace Therese, Miss Washington 2019.

"This is going to be a great variety show AND the proceeds go to helping an awesome charity," said Dawn. "Plus, I'll be there!"

Performing without a live audience is something that proved challenging for the entertainers.

"Filming a comedy set without an audience was VERY difficult," said Dawn. "When I'm at a comedy club I can feel the crowd's energy and I'm able to read the room. More importantly, I can hear people laugh. Plus, I haven't been able to do a live show since June, so I felt super rusty. It felt like when you try to work out for the first time in a few years and quickly realize you're not as in-shape as you used to be."

"That's been the hardest part of the pandemic for me," said local musician Ronnie Nix, who is currently on active duty with the U.S. Navy. "Personal interaction means so much to me as a performer. I miss seeing my friends who come out to see me play and being able to look at people's faces as I'm playing. I can't put into words the feeling that gives me. I play shows online but it's not the same."

Bellingham-based performers Wren and Della will be presenting two juggling acts and a humorous vignette.

See VARIETY continued on page 10



PAID ADVERTISING

Changing from a Ground Operation to an Air Operation

Written and paid for by Joseph C. Coomer, phone 360-929-2397

In fighting forest fires, the proposal is to change from a ground operation assisted from the air by a few small fixed wing tanker aircraft and a few helicopters to using only large aircraft and fighting it totally from the air. (A minor exception is there may be a need to transport a few firefighters to the site after the fire is over 99% extinguished with the mission to extinguish any smoldering embers and to make certain that the fire does not re-ignite.)

For this concept consider:

- There is no requirement to only fight forest fires from the ground assisted from the air by a few small aircraft like the S-2s that can carry **1200 gallons** of retardant and a few helicopters, that can carry **320 gallons** of the same stuff.
- To fight forest fires with aircraft and to be effective, **they need to transport the maximum amount of water to the fire as quickly as possible and dump this water directly on that fire.**
- To transport the maximum amount of water will require securing the largest aircraft possible.
- If they have enough of these large birds, they should be able to do much more than just fight the fire, but **they should be able to actually extinguish it all from the air and in a single pass.**
- If this is achieved where every fire is extinguished in its infancy, **then there will be no more “major” forest fires.**
- In selecting aircraft, the person in charge of aviation should do a critical cost-per-gallon capability analysis of the competing aircraft. (This is dividing the cost of the aircraft by its payload in gallons.) **The analysis will show that as the aircraft grows in size, the cost of the aircraft also increases, but the cost-per-gallon capability goes down, often dramatically.**
- To consider the aircraft involved there is one problem. The person, Curtis Brown, responsible for the cost data for CALFIRE aircraft has ignored this writer's two request for this data leaving him no choice but to estimate their cost. He estimates the small 4-engine tanker aircraft at \$20 million and the UH-1H helicopters at \$10 million. The C-5s can be secured from the Arizona boneyard at no cost to the Forest Service (FS) with the only cost is the conversion to tanker one and that is estimated at \$5 million. The C-5's payload is estimated at 40,000 gallons. (As conjecture is used in the aircraft cost, the results are not accurate as they can be much more or possible a little less.)
- For comparison purposes, the C-5 carries $40,000/1200 = 33.3$ times and the UH-1H, it is $40,000/320 = 125$ times more water. What is shocking is the cost-per-gallon payload, which is for the S-2, $\$20 \text{ million} / 1200 = \$16,667$ per gallon and the UH-1H is $\$10 \text{ million} / 320 = \$31,250$ cost per gallon. The C-5 cost $\$5 \text{ million} / 40,000 = \125 per gallon. On a cost-per-gallon comparison bases, the S-2 cost $\$16,667 / 125 = 133.3$ times and the UH-1H is $\$31,250 / 125 = 250$ times more than the C-5. **Small aircraft are extremely expensive on a cost-per-gallon comparison.** (Unless their VTOL capability is critical, helicopters should not be considered for this mission as their purchase and operating cost are roughly 10 time that of a fixed wing aircraft for the same payload.)
- The performance of the person in charge of aviation, a Shawna Legarza, of the FS is disturbing. He considered no large aircraft like used 747s or the C-5s and that should have been his first choice. He did no cost-per-gallon comparison of any aircraft. One must believe that he blindly and only considering cheap aircraft, purchased these 22 S-2s and 12 helicopters.
- **One must conclude that Mr. Legarza wasted over \$500 million of the taxpayers' money by buying the wrong aircraft. He is also indirectly responsible for \$ billions more in burnt forest, homes, structures, and some lives past and present as he purchased aircraft that have so little capability.**
- **This illustrates how just one employee in a key position can stain the reputation of an otherwise proud establishment.**
- If they can actually achieve the ability to consistently being able to extinguish all fires from the air, **then that army of firefighters will find that their services are no longer needed, so most will be discharged and much of their ground equipment liquidated.**
- With the drastic reduction of its manpower requirements and even with the added cost of the air operations (excluding the one-time cost of securing and converting a number of aircraft to tankers and other one-time cost) their fire-fighting budgets should be reduced substantially.

- With its huge reduction in its firefighters and other staff will see CALFIRE be changed from the world's largest fire departments to one of the smaller ones.
- **It makes much logical and economic sense to transfer the responsibility of all air operations to the US Air Force.** They already have almost everything needed, the trained crews, the maintenance stall and other staff, and the aircraft that will need to be converted to tankers. About all that is needed is the critical approval of Congress and the President for this **change in responsibility and the funding** to convert a number of C-5s to tankers, for some training and testing, for some minor infrastructure of loading bays, etc.
- As the C-5 can fly about 450 mph they may need about 15 to 20 aircraft stationed at Travis AFB. (This many would give them the ability to fight multiple fires simultaneously as lightning storms sometimes produce.) They would be responsible for extinguishing all fires in California, Colorado, and much of Oregon. Other bases with TBD numbers of aircraft, another base is needed in Washington State that would be responsible for much of that State, part of Oregon and part of BC in Canada. Another base is needed farther east in Canada and would be responsible for that part of Canada, Montana, Idaho, and part of eastern Washington. Another base is needed in Alaska and be responsible for that State and part of Canada. (Recognize, if the need arises, these aircraft can be flown from one of these bases to other parts of the US, Canada, or even to Mexico.)
- These aircraft could become the foundation of an international unit. As the north and south hemispheres have opposite seasons, this allows a number of these aircraft can be flown in our winter and their summer south to Australia, countries in South America and Africa and then returned to their normal base in the spring.
- The maximum water payload is a major TBD item. On delivery it had a payload as 281,000 lbs. (33,000 gallons). Applying “tricks” like limiting the fuel load to the mission requirements and/or increasing the required runway length to 10,000 or more feet, both can increase the payload substantially. The delivered aircraft had 42,000 lb.-thrust engines, but completed in 2018 was an improvement package that included new engines with 51,000 lb.-thrust engines installed on 52 aircraft to the C-5M model. The balance of the fleet was retired. Increasing the payload will require engineering approval. Considering the “tricks,” it is logical to increase it to 40,000 gallons. The extra power may allow the payload to be increased to 50,000 gallons and possible to 60,000 gallons, but the limiting factor may be the structural strength of the aircraft.
- This writer/engineer has designed a concept to custom dump the payload over a distance from 400 feet to 3,000 feet or more depending on the size and shape of the fire. The system would have three rows of solenoid operated valves installed in the bottom of the aircraft. The dumping rate is determined by the number of valves activated.
- To judge the amount of water needed to extinguish a fire, they may believe that $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of water will do major damage to the fire but will not extinguish it. A $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water should extinguish over 90% of the fire, but to be confident, a full inch may be necessary. Experience may show that they should attack it with about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water on the first pass and then 10 minutes later have follow-up aircraft to hit any lingering hot spots.
- To estimate the gallons needed, calculations show that it requires 271.54 gallons to wet an acre with .01 inches of water. As both the water depth and the area are proportional and to calculate gallons needed for example for 15 acres with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water, the calculation is $271.54 \times 50 \times 15 = 203,655$ gallons. The number of aircraft loads is $203,655 / 40,000 = 5.09$ loads. (The mission commander may also add extra loads to be dumped just for “insurance” to make sure the fire is extinguished. Experience is the best teacher.)
- It may also be desirable to soak the unburnt combustible areas on the edges of the fire so the dump master may include this area in his dumping plans. (Science says it takes 1100 BTUs to evaporate a pound of water, which is exchanged for heat from the fire. With many pounds of water being evaporated results in a significant cooling of the area.)

PS. As this needs all the publicity that it can get, send it to your friends and the president.

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The views and opinions expressed in this ad are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.



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RAIN WILL HELP THE SALMON FISHING

I know rain is something we on the island do not rush, because once it starts it can be nine months before it stops. This time of year is what I would call our hot and dry season; the hot days are good for the tomatoes and cucumbers but the lack of rain can stall the incoming Coho salmon to the point we start to wonder if there are any fish coming at all. Over the years, I've had more than one old timer fisherman tell me "we need a good rain to bring 'em in." The old timers' statement holds true - if a good rain comes through, the fish can detect the small increases in fresh water and will put them on the move toward their home rivers.

This movement is what we have been waiting for. The fish will hit all of the navigation points they use to get home and one of the great things about these navigation points is the fish are still feeding heavily and fattening up for the rivers, which gives us a chance to catch a limit. I make periodic phone calls to my friends in Sekiu, Wash., to get an idea how that area is doing, how many fish are being caught on a daily basis, when the west end of the Straits of Juan de Fuca is reporting a good bite and the fish are stacking up and holding; the rain is just what is needed to bust them loose and send them swimming to us.

One indicator I use to decide whether or not Coho salmon have been hanging in the saltwater near the river systems an extended period of time is their kype (the shape of their nose). Their upper and lower jaws will begin to curl towards each other slightly. I use the word "Gonzo," like the Muppet character, to describe the look. Once Coho have committed to fresh water, their kype will curl completely in on each other. When the jaws are this far out of shape, I get a picture and let them loose to spawn out. Their flesh is very soft - even for smoking - and it's best to just let them go.

Even when we do get the fish-driving rains, there is still a chance the fish can slip by us

while shore fishing. Each run or season of fish, I believe, do not always use the same path to get home. For example, Coho headed for the Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers travel down the Straits and shoot straight across through Deception Pass, or turn south at Point Wilson and do one of two things: They continue south until they are adjacent to Possession Point then cross over and travel up the west side of Camano Island; or they cross over prior to the bottom of Whidbey and travel up the west side of the island and then travel through the pass. This is why I never count on finding large numbers of fish from the same beaches year after year.

Rain also plays a huge factor once the fish have entered the rivers. If the water is shallow, the fish will hold in the deeper holes until enough rain arrives to raise the river to a level where they feel they can safely navigate up-river avoiding predators. One thing we don't want is too much rain when the fish get into the rivers; it "blows the river out." The water gets muddy, there is enough timber floating to build a house and it simply makes the rivers unsafe and unfishable, so I like solid rain to get the fish moving in the salt, however, a gentle, light, steady rain is perfect for the rivers.

For all of us fishermen out there, let's hope for rain to get the fish coming our way but not so much it destroys the river fishing. Reports of Coho catches have been spotty; some fish are being taken out in the salt, at places like Salmon Bank and Eagle Point, from trollers and have had some reports of fish coming from some of the southern beaches, like Admiralty Bay and Bush Point. I believe the fish are coming and the Coho catches will increase, so stay focused, keep your hooks sharp, always brush up on the regulations and don't forget to check the emergency rule changes. GOOD LUCK and be safe out there!



Here is a good example of a Coho with a heavy Kype (Gonzo)

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Whidbey's Angels bestow blessings

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Everyone needs a helping hand now and then and one Freeland woman has made it her mission to make sure no one falls through the cracks.

Cindy Buchanan created "Island Angels" within a social media group to help residents up and down Whidbey Island, whether they're in need of food, clothing, furniture, appliances or even car repairs.

It all started with a simple post on the Whidbey Island Community Facebook group.

"In the beginning, a lady put out on Facebook 'We have a box of food we're giving away;' then it got taken," Buchanan described. "Another lady wrote below it, 'If anybody else has some, keep me in mind.' I messaged her privately and it ended up she had COPD, her husband had fourth stage

kidney cancer, so I gathered up some things and took food to her. We filled her fridge. Then people started messaging me and it just kept growing and growing."

Buchanan, who possesses a delightful laugh and a positive attitude to boot, began her efforts just before the COVID crisis hit. She started gathering up food donations but the requests for assistance grew to include other needs.

"Someone needed help paying their phone bill and things just kept going," she said. "One lady needed new tires, another lady needed brakes, someone else needed a new refrigerator. It doesn't surprise me because I know a lot of people won't ask for help."

For the past month alone, Buchanan said she has given out 20 to 30 boxes of food per week. She said some people don't qualify for



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Buchanan

Cindy Buchanan is the creator of Island Angels, a grassroots movement to fill food and other requests for Whidbey Island residents in need.



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Buchanan

Food and pantry items are taking over every spare inch of Cindy Buchanan's Freeland home.



assistance from the island's food banks, can't afford increasing prices, or simply don't get enough to feed their families. In the short time since Island Angels began, she has seen the needs increase.

"I think the needs have always been there, but they have grown," she said. "There's a new group of people who have never had to do this before – they've lost their jobs and entered this new realm of 'Hello, this is serious.'"

So far, Buchanan has been doing much of the actual work packing boxes and making deliveries herself, although she said she would not be able to do it if not for the generosity of friends, neighbors, businesses and nonprofits on the island. People donate food, requested items or their skills to make repairs. Many people simply donate money. Buchanan has collected many overflow items,

so she is holding a fundraising garage sale this Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Buchanan said she loves everything about what she is doing with Island Angels, and said she is noticing a trend – people who have received help are now doing what they can to give back.

"I lost my job in April," said a woman who asked not to use her name. We'll call her 'Jane.'

"I saw Cindy's message on Facebook and she came and brought wonderful stuff; I was without anything," described Jane, saying she had been surviving on eggs from her chickens and moldy bread. "I was too proud to say anything. I'd never had this problem before."

See ANGELS continued on page 12

VARIETY continued from page 7

"They always say performers feed off the energy from the crowd and that is definitely true," said Wren Schultz. "But on the other hand, when juggling, especially when juggling complicated patterns or props, it is nice to have a re-take if things start to get out of hand (literally). Overall, we'll take connecting real-time with a live audience any day, but filming has its advantages, too."

All the performers *Whidbey Weekly* contacted said they were excited to be part of the show and even more pleased to help support a worthy cause.

"I wanted to be a part of the show because I feel it is important to support veterans causes," Nix shared. "I feel that as veterans, we sometimes hide struggles because we feel that it would show weakness if we seek help. Growing Veterans seems to be a place where you can realize there are others who have struggles and that you are not alone."

"Being able to be a part of an event that helps an organization that is focused on community and positivity is really an honor," said Shultz. "And with both of our dads being veterans, it is a cause that bears special significance. Having the chance to be on the big screen at Blue Fox Drive-In (one of our favorite local spots) just added to the draw."

"I was excited Growing Veterans reached out to me about this event," said Dawn. "I've been volunteering at their farms for about two years and it's always fun to go out there and learn something new. I never thought I would be interested in farming, but Growing Veterans proved me wrong."

Gruetter, who has been a volunteer with Growing Veterans for five years, said support for this event will make a huge difference.

"Our goal is to reach \$30,000, which will help buy seed stock for next year and help fund our veteran internship options," she said, explaining they hope to add two internships at the Whidbey farm next year. "The world is hurting and in such a sad place right now with so many crazy things going on. Every dollar you give will go to support Growing Veterans. A dollar can make an actual difference."

Tickets for the event are \$15 per vehicle. Advance tickets and information are available online at growingveterans.org. Gates will open at 4 p.m. for the veteran vendor market, go karts and concessions, as well as the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets (\$25 each) to win a classic, 1964 Ford Falcon. Only 500 raffle tickets will be sold – see details on the website.

"We all feel isolated right now and this is a safe, fun way to get out of house," said Gruetter. "Everyone has worked so hard to keep Whidbey safe, they've earned a night out."

"It's going to be a great event: combine the fun of a drive-in movie with a great variety show including music, comedy, juggling, and more, all with the chance to learn about and support an amazing local organization – how could you miss it?" asked Schultz.

"I've seen the lineup and I feel this show will be phenomenal," said Nix. "Also, this is an opportunity to support those who have served our country and continue to serve the local communities. Let's actually use our pockets to thank people for their service."



Photo Courtesy of Vanessa Dawn

Comedian Vanessa Dawn will be performing and serving as co-host for the Veteran Variety Show at the Blue Fox Drive-in Friday, Sept. 25.



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



Apocalypse Now

Lean into it

By Carey Ross



First came COVID-19. I'd never lived during a time of global pandemic before—some goes for pretty much everyone else except a tiny group of centenarians who survived the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. However, like most people I know, I followed the science, listened to the CDC recommendations, adjusted to employment changes and generally tried to adapt in a way that kept me not only physically healthy, but also mentally and emotionally stable.

Then came an outbreak of a different kind: Widespread social unrest and a prolonged protest movement sparked by a series of violent incidents—many of them ending in death—by police against Black people. While the vast majority of the still-ongoing marches, protests and other actions have been well-organized and peaceful, this country's long history of systemic racism has caused more than just tempers to flare, and when coupled with extreme dispersal measures used by police, rioting was the inevitable result. As that happened, I educated myself further about the ways in which I'm complicit and complacent in our broken system, made donations to organizations on the ground and tried to believe a more hopeful future would be the result of so much previously pent-up societal pain.

But then the world—at least broad swaths of our part of it anyway—caught fire. Millions of acres have already burned in just a few short days and a thick blanket of smoke rolled in. While we are lucky enough—so lucky—to not be in the path of the flames, hazardous air quality has made lives already constrained by COVID-19 even more so. I haven't left my house in days. Nor have I opened a window because there's no fresh air to be found. I've managed to handle everything 2020 has thrown at us so far, but my well of healthy coping mechanisms is beginning to run dry.

Throughout this strange, hard, bad time in which we all find ourselves, staring at a screen—and not the computer or phone variety—has proven to be an excellent escape and means of distracting my anxious brain. Of late, I've mostly sought out entertainment fare—I watched *Bill and Ted Face the Music* despite never having seen the previous two movies in the trilogy (I didn't really get the hype, which is what happens when you decide to pick up a story after two-thirds of it has already taken place), I've binged episodes of the *Simpsons* (evergreen cartoon content), I've repeatedly watched a super cut of all of Peter Capaldi as Malcom Tucker's scenes in *In the Loop*, and I'm currently working my way through all of Danny McBride's shows.

Then the smoke descended and instead of soothing myself with cheery fare, I've made the possibly dubious decision to lean into the End Times vibe outside my window. No, it doesn't mean I'm headed outside to breathe particulate matter deep into my lungs—I'm an entertainment masochist, not an actual one—but I will be watching movies of the apocalypse until I can see blue sky again.

When it comes to big-budget disaster flicks, no one in Hollywood—or anywhere else, for that matter—does it like Roland Emmerich. Film might be his chosen medium, but the catastrophic end of the world is his art. After teasing us with extraterrestrial exploration in such films as *Stargate* and *Independence Day*, and giant lizards in his

retooling of *Godzilla*, Emmerich discovered his disaster niche with 2004's *The Day After Tomorrow* and hasn't looked back. Incidentally, this movie is about how climate change leads to catastrophic worldwide weather shifts (Roland was really ahead of his time here) that wreak complete destruction on the planet, so if this sounds like it hits a little too close to home, perhaps you will be comforted to know it's ice, not fire, which brings about the end of the world. It stars my former movie star boyfriend Jake Gyllenhaal, so it's got more than just special effects going for it.

The Day After Tomorrow is good and all, but for me, the classic Emmerich End Times flick will always and forever be **2012**, a movie I have watched several times, often goaded into doing so by my friend Brent Cole, whose affection for it far outpaces mine. Is this movie what most people would consider "good?" No. It is not. However, it is a big-budget effects spectacular—and I do mean spectacular—that uses some very dubious science involving a giant solar flare and the Earth's destabilized crust—with some Mayans thrown in for good measure—to give Roland an excuse to, among other things, collapse Los Angeles into the Pacific Ocean, take out Yellowstone and the surrounding area with a super volcano eruption, flood various parts of the globe with mega tsunamis—you get the picture. All the while, John Cusack, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Danny Glover, and others try and act their way through a truly terrible script. The apocalypse never seemed less scary.

If the unintentional ridiculousness of the end of the world seen through Emmerich's lens still hits a little too close to home, perhaps what you really need is a little apocalyptic comedy. *Shaun of the Dead* is an excellent go-to for that—although technically it's a zombie movie. And a pub-crawl movie, which isn't a real genre except in Simon Pegg's world. For a decent dose of apocalypse humor, press play on *This is the End*, the 2013 movie that unleashes earthquakes, fires, Biblical plagues and other horrors, presumably on the unsuspecting masses, but specifically on a party at James Franco's house. The film stars a host of celebrities such as Seth Rogan, Jonah Hill, Danny McBride, Emma Watson, and some truly inspired cameos, as themselves—but only sort of. Things get truly out of hand before it's all over—and then the Backstreet Boys sing. It's one wild ride, as the end of the world probably should be.

Lastly, if you truly want to bum yourself out with apocalyptic movies, all roads lead to *The Road*. Technically, it takes place post-apocalypse, but Cormac McCarthy's artfully spare novel is depressing in that gorgeously hard way that has made him one of the world's greatest living authors. The movie, starring Viggo Mortensen, is an excellent adaptation of a difficult novel—which is my way of saying it is hands down the bleakest film I have ever seen. And I have spent two decades working at an arthouse movie theater so I have seen some brutally sad films.

But no matter whether you choose Emmerich or McCarthy or something in between, there's a little Armageddon out there for everyone.



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Sept. 18-Sept. 24, 2020

TENET (PG-13)
DAILY 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

THE NEW MUTANTS (PG-13)
DAILY 2:15, 5:15, 8:15

UNHINGED (R)
DAILY 2:30, 5:30, 8:30

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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 15

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

Now Showing!

Friday, September 11 thru
Tuesday, September 15

TENET (PG-13)

LETHAL WEAPON (R)

**TICKETS ON SALE THURSDAY AT NOON
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DRIVE-IN THEATER



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BANNER continued from page 7

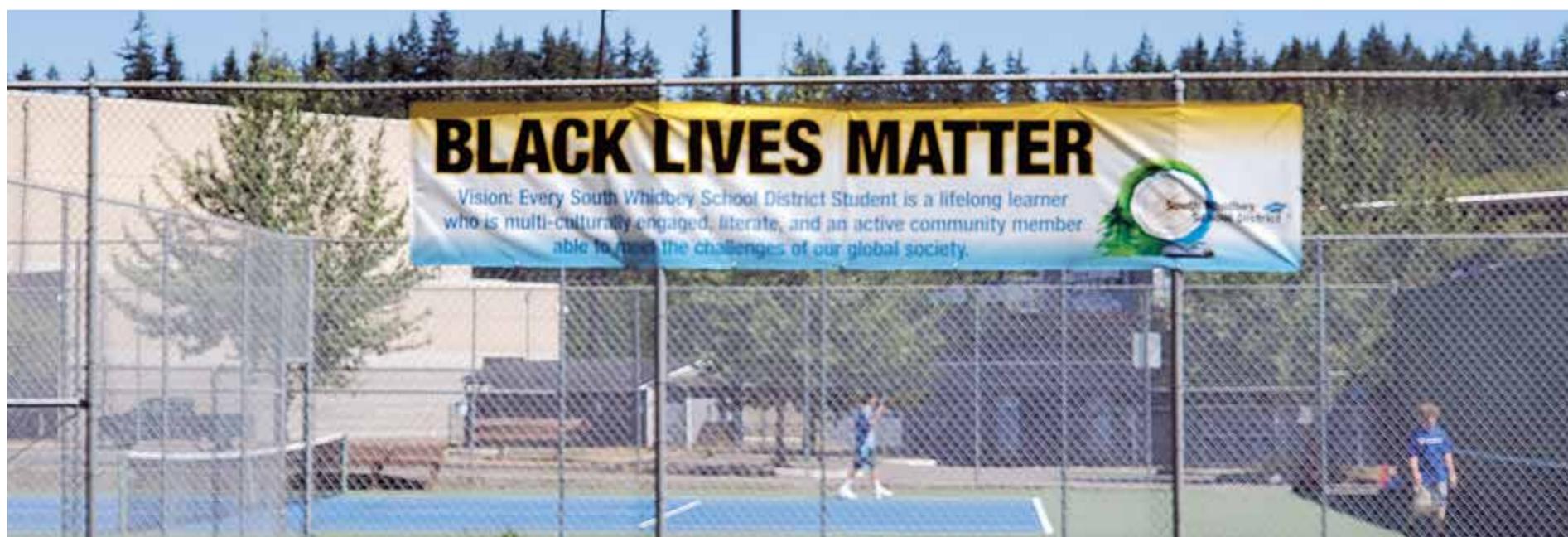


Photo Courtesy of Rufus Rose

A Black Lives Matter banner, displayed on the fence at the tennis courts of South Whidbey High School with the approval of district officials since July 28, has drawn comments from local community members.

an opportunity to demonstrate there are other elements that need to go into the study of what education needs to be. You have to talk about the bad parts as well as the good parts.”

Moccia said she has received many positive emails in regard to the banner, in addition to some negative responses. She said the district remains committed to the goal of promoting equity and inclusion for all students.

“Our goal is to provide students enriching environments that respect who they are, value their individual stories and histories, and through thoughtful and engaging instruction and materials, help them to reach their full potential,” she said.

Rose said he felt having a discussion about current and past issues was important, and he would like to see debates involving teachers, students and community speakers happen. Rose said he was also concerned about communication between the community and the school district in the wake of COVID-19 and the challenges presented by having communication moved online, such as having board meetings via Zoom.

“I think the virtual school board meetings that they (the district) are having now make it very difficult for the community to get involved,” he said. “I think our social structure has changed.”

Moccia said the district welcomes feedback and parent involvement and is working to put together teams to discuss various issues.

“We are moving forward from a district level team to building level teams that will include students at the upper grades,” Moccia said. “It is important that we improve our own knowledge and become antiracist and lead by example. We are working within our school community to dismantle the barriers and systemic racism that our institutions across our nation have, perhaps unwittingly, perpetuated. We always welcome parent input and I am happy to have folks email me directly. They may also email the school board, come to board meetings, follow us on Facebook and check our web page.”

Rose said he was concerned displaying just the BLM banner

would not be effective in creating the best learning environment for students. He said he believes an education reflecting and acknowledging a wide range of ideas will help lead to better-prepared students.

“Biased performance by officials displayed when trying to improve equity allows and encourages confused behavior in our communities and lower-quality education of our youth,” he said.

Moccia said the school district aims to support all students in their educational journey.

“As individuals, we do not exist in a bubble,” she said. “The events unfolding in the world impact us all in different ways. They impact our students. Students need to have the ability to process their world in safe environments where they can learn how to question, fact find, seek knowledge and understanding, make mistakes, and grow into citizens that will be able to move all of us forward as a community by innovating, creating, and leading.”

ANGELS continued from page 10

“I didn’t want to take without giving back,” she continued. “I’ve been giving her my eggs; I feel like I’m trading for things I need. I’m trying to give back. Everybody needs to start doing that.”

Beverly and Bob Pearce, of Freeland, saw Buchanan’s posts and went through their cupboards and freezers to donate what they could.

“We are both on social security with a very tight income, but we could share to help feed others,” Beverly said in an email to *Whidbey Weekly*. “As Cindy began having more and more people reach out and the lists became larger, we went through everything again and have actually had some items to give most every week. Not much, but it all helps.”

Beverly said her husband is undergoing medical treatment that requires frequent travel to Mount Vernon, and Buchanan surprised them with a welcome gift, though they hadn’t asked for anything.

“[We are making] countless round trips off the north end of the island and on to Mount Vernon. It is beyond breaking the bank,” she said. “When Cindy showed up [to pick] up our weekly items, she handed us a gas card. WOW! She has sprinkled us with weeks of meat before and now this. We are blessed to have Island Angels. We are proud to be a part of Island Angels; both as helpers and as receivers.”

“What Cindy does is quite special, she embodies the spirit of the community, and draws it towards her to bless everybody else,” said Jo Fick, who lives in Michigan

but has visited her son on Whidbey Island and hopes to someday call the island home. She connected with Island Angels through Buchanan’s posts.

“She is a superspreader of love,” Fick continued. “I haven’t met the other helpers yet, but I know there are lots of them, and they all have that selfless, generous attitude. And it’s interesting to see the give and take. The more the group does, the more other people hear about it, because it literally happens every day. And the more people hear about it, the more they become engaged, connected and committed.”

There is no official vetting process for the requests. Buchanan said she has a large enough network established to be able to distinguish genuine requests. There are also no requirements for anyone asking for assistance - well, maybe there’s one.

“I don’t want to help someone who’s not gonna help themselves,” she said. “You see people moving forward, doing better, then they start producing and give back whatever they can. They get a more positive attitude. I just like them to know there are good people out there and they’re helping, with no limitations, no questions asked. We’re just trying to help people. People don’t plan this stuff, it just happens.”

Another woman, who asked not to be identified, said she recently gave a donation after watching things unfold on social media for a bit.

“We are fortunate to be retired and have our same income through this time of the pandemic,” she said. “So many people are dramatically affected, and I admire and support the network of help that Cindy Buchanan has created. The skeptical side of me observed for a while, wondering if she was totally on the up and up and if the people seeking help really needed it, but I got a sense of basic goodness and honesty all the way around. I know that Cindy is reaching people who really appreciate the kindness and help.”



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Buchanan

There are “angels” all over Whidbey Island who are helping Cindy Buchanan and her Island Angels provide food and other necessary items for island residents in need.

Fundraising Garage Sale

To benefit Island Angels
Friday and Saturday,
Sept. 18-19
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

1409 Coachman Court, Freeland

Buchanan said she plans to continue Island Angels’ work as long as it’s necessary. Her home is nearly overflowing with food and other items that go out almost as quickly as they come in. She said her dream is to one day give Island Angels its own, permanent home. In the meantime, she’ll continue making “Blessing Bags” and offering her own special brand of care and compassion up and down Whidbey Island.

“If only communities everywhere could come together in such a way,” said Fick. “The needs aren’t going away - if anything, there are more than ever. [Cindy] has such integrity, compassion, energy and love; I don’t know how she does it.”

“We’re in this together, one day at a time. Island Strong,” Beverly said. “Cindy Buchanan embraces all that is described in the word ‘Angel.’”

“I want people to know there is something out there besides fear,” Jane said. We can thrive, we can work together and make it. I’m so thankful I live on Whidbey Island; I have community support, people around me who are like family, and they’ll help others. It’s really beautiful.”

Anyone interested in contacting Buchanan can search for her on the Whidbey Island Community group page on Facebook.

“Doing this makes you grateful,” said Buchanan. “It’s a paycheck nobody else can give you – a whole different kind of paycheck.”



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





CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



On the road to satisfaction, it's not what you say that matters, it's how you say it. How many ways can you say hustle? Hurry, please? Shake a leg? Put some git-along in your giddy-up? Get the lead out? Get your buns in gear? Move it, move it, move it? When time is of the essence, personally tailored motivators aren't always practical. The standard parting shot when passing slowpokes on the dirt? Pardon my dust. . . .

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Artifice and indirection. Stock tools of the trade among the shifty. Is a fraudster relieved of moral responsibility for their crime by obliquely revealing it before committing it? The fraudsters seem to think so. Their line of reasoning? "If you're too stupid to see . . ." And onward goes the double-dealing, chicanery and corruption. Sound like mud from an election-year campaign ad? Imagine that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



So you're out on a limb. Just you and the fruits. Pursuing crazy ideas isn't your normal thing, but what the heck, now that you're here, no harm in poking around, right? See what you can find. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, right? Out on a limb is where the fruit is. Jimmy Carter and Mark Twain both said it. What do you suppose they meant by that? Sometimes words have two meanings. . . .

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Sometimes it's easier to ask forgiveness than to get permission. Many believe that. When a deed can be done in less time than it takes to talk about it, the impatient just do it. Someone objects. (Someone always objects.) A stock, "Sorry," follows, and life goes on. Except that such tactics build a residue of distrust. For that reason, we like the Greek proverb: "One minute of patience, ten years of peace."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Time is the soil in which profits grow. With that in mind, check your quiver and think back. Which of your arrows that left the bow long ago has yet to strike its target? Is there one you've forgotten entirely? No arrow sails on forever. Each must eventually find impact, even the arrow you've forgotten. Where will you find it? Is it waiting up ahead, richly lodged in pay dirt, its mission complete but for your discovery and retrieval?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



The more you give, the more you get. That's the paradox of generosity. The more you get, the more you have to give. That's the cup that runneth over. Alas. For the average person living paycheck to paycheck, a cup is not a wallet. That's reality. Where does the system break down? In the proverbs and scriptures that go back thousands of years? Or

in our system of money that dates back barely a century?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Are you feeling pushed? Like your hands are on the wheel, but you're not the one doing the driving? What is the agenda of those people who so busily coach you? A quick check of their backseat driver's license would likely show there's something they hope to gain by telling you what to think. Who profits most from your actions? Is it you, or someone else? In an election year, that's the key question. Who profits most?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Today's fun fact: You can't learn from your mistakes while you're busy denying them. Today's sad fact: Unowned mistakes are handy things to pin on others. A shortlist of popular pincushions for unowned mistakes? In no particular order: Orange man, the devil, the dog who ate my homework. A fun corollary: The universal second mistake, after failing to own one's first mistake, is to concoct a silly alibi.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Shoebboxes in dark closets. Old diaries in dusty attics. Family histories, in pictures and words. A memory book's treasure trove. But wait. The caring and the daring in government, browsing through federal shoe boxes, are piecing together their own memory book. More than a family history, it's a living road map. It's the good, the bad and the ugly of our country; where we've been, where we're going. Care to look?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



A better future. Where does it begin? With the belief that something better is possible? Since your beliefs are one of the few things you truly control, let's begin with that. An unshakeable belief in a better future is all you really need to make it so. Ideally, you will have someone who shares that belief, but don't fret if you don't. A desire, plus a belief that it can be so, and you're set. Isn't that how the world began?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Dale Carnegie taught that most of us are motivated, not by logic, but by pride and vanity. Really? That means people are only waiting for you to make them feel good. Can life be that simple? Do smoother relations really begin with a bag of doughnuts? In more dignified terms, if you would have people take an interest in you, first take an interest in them. That's not as manipulative as it sounds. It's only logical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



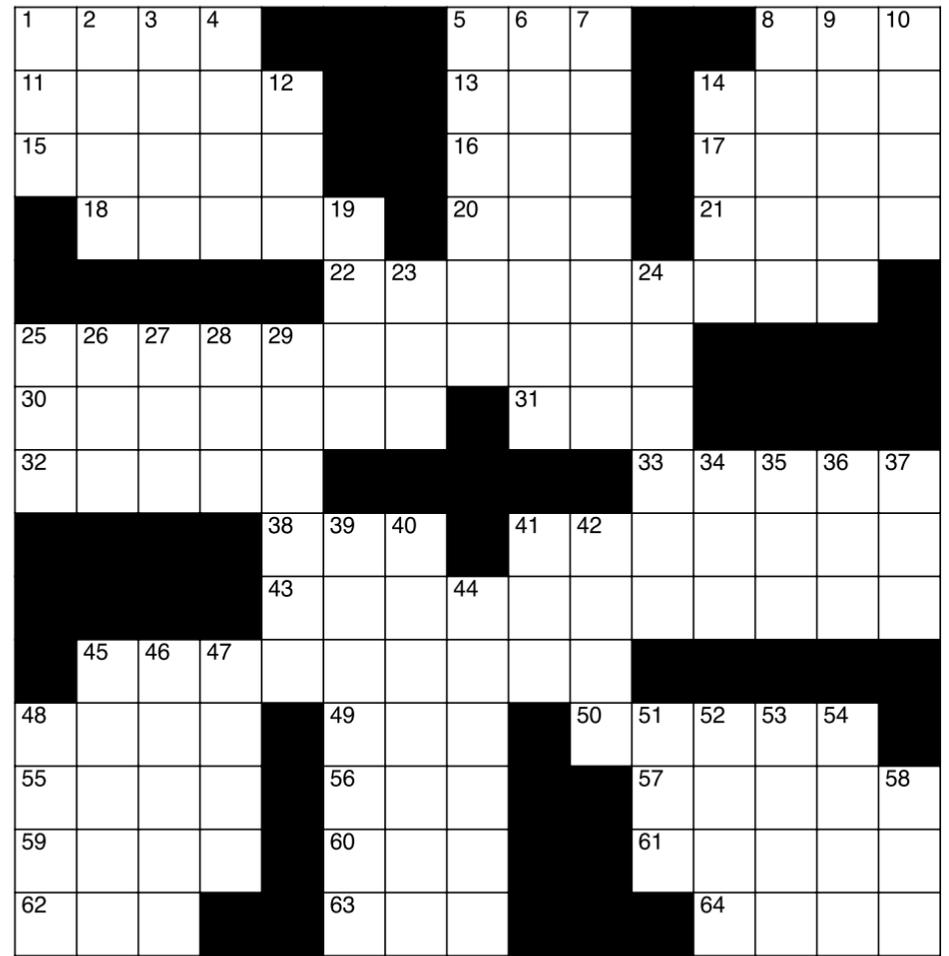
Morning tea from Lao Tzu: "He who knows, does not speak. He who speaks, does not know." For Western minds, a crumpet from Plato: "An empty vessel makes the loudest sound, so they who have the least wit are the greatest babblers." You see where this is going. In good company, tea time is quiet time. A few words, well-delivered, speak loudly at any time. One lump or two?

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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. Greasy powder (abbr.)
- 5. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
- 8. Amount of time
- 11. Greeting
- 13. Form of "to be"
- 14. Israeli diplomat
- 15. Outfit
- 16. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 17. Deceptive movement
- 18. Anxious
- 20. Popular Letterman guest
- 21. Saints' signal caller
- 22. Intoxicate
- 25. Relationship
- 30. Ask for one's hand in marriage
- 31. Popular Will Ferrell film
- 32. Gargle
- 33. Warning sensation before migraine
- 38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 41. Erases
- 43. At ease
- 45. Small branch of an artery

CLUES DOWN

- 48. Mother of Hermes
- 49. Body part
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Wellness chants
- 56. Helps little firms
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Peep
- 60. Nellie __, journalist
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Affirmative
- 64. Cheek

- 24. Newborn
- 25. Credit term
- 26. Nonprofit research group in CA
- 27. Male offspring
- 28. Important baseball stat
- 29. A way to compel
- 34. Fiddler crab
- 35. Jewish equivalent of "Sir"
- 36. Every
- 37. Midway between east and southeast
- 39. Anti-slavery treaty
- 40. A friendly manner
- 41. Military figure (abbr.)
- 42. Area units
- 44. Sudden incursions
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Covered with hoarfrost
- 47. Job
- 48. Donkey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)
- 58. Criticize

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Sept. 17	Fri, Sept. 18	Sat, Sept. 19	Sun, Sept. 20	Mon, Sept. 21	Tues, Sept. 22	Wed, Sept. 23
North Isle H-68°/L-58° Thick Cloud Cover	North Isle H-64°/L-44° Cloudy with Showers	North Isle H-65°/L-52° Clouds and Sun	North Isle H-66°/L-48° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-62°/L-46° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-65°/L-46° Cloudy	North Isle H-68°/L-49° Cloudy with Showers Possible
South Isle H-68°/L-58° Cloudy	South Isle H-69°/L-47° Cloudy with Showers	South Isle H-66°/L-52° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-66°/L-51° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-65°/L-48° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-69°/L-49° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-71°/L-51° Cloudy with Showers Possible



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Life Tributes



LARRY ALLEN MORSE



Larry Allen Morse passed away peacefully at home Sept. 2, 2020 in Oak Harbor, Wash., at the age of 75. Born in Wenatchee, Wash., in 1944, he was the third of Ivan and Velma Morse's four children. He grew up on the family homestead in Manson, Wash., where they raised cattle and apples. But his real pleasure when he had a day off from work was to clear brush from a little canyon he loved. He spent many hours there.

At his mother's urging, Larry pursued studies at Central Washington State College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business. Prior to starting his career in banking, Larry served with the Washington National Guard. He retired as chief appraiser from Pacific Northwest Bank.

Larry spent much of his life as a firefighter, beginning with the U.S. Forest Service in the 1960s, serving as a smoke watcher and fighting forest fires, and continuing with the North Whidbey Fire and Rescue, where he started as a volunteer firefighter for 31 years, rising to the rank of Battalion Chief. He also served his community as Fire Commissioner for six years.

Larry was an avid photographer and outdoorsman. He loved hiking and travel, and had a special fondness for Alaska, Whistler, Mexico and North Central Washington.

In 1967, Larry married Cheryl Meyer, they had one son, Robert, and relocated to Oak Harbor. In December of 1984, Larry married Kathy Johnson, and inherited three more children – Kim, Melissa and Kevin.

The family will remember Larry as a loving and generous husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. He enjoyed spending time with his seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A private family graveside service will be at Maple Leaf Cemetery. Memorial donations are suggested to Samaritan's Purse, www.samaritanpurse.org. Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at www.whidbeymemorial.com.

Hilton Hunter Hines



Hilton Hunter Hines, age 92, longtime Coupeville resident, passed away Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020.

Mr. Hines was born in Traverse City, Mich., Dec. 1, 1927, to Harry Elmer and Ethel May (Hunter) Hines, the youngest of four brothers.

His father died when he was 5 years old and the family eventually moved to Novi, Mich. With the encouragement of his oldest brother, the family became devout Jehovah's Witnesses.

In 1938 at the age of 11, he proudly submitted to water baptism dedicating his life to serving Jehovah God for the next 81 years.

In October of 1947, at the age of 19, he married Carolyn Lee Willoughby. They made their home in Plymouth, Mich., and in 1949 they had their first child, a daughter, Linda Faye. Over the next 10 and-a-half years, they added two more children to the family, Stephen Brent and Rebecca Jo.

He supported his family by becoming a carpenter and remained in the field of construction until his retirement.

When his eldest daughter's family decided to move from Plymouth, he and his wife and youngest daughter decided to join them, and the family left for Whidbey Island in February of 1978, in the middle of the worst blizzard in the history of Michigan. The beauty of the island, with its temperate weather patterns, delighted him.

In March of 1995 he lost his beloved wife, Carolyn, to complications of Parkinson's Disease.

In September of 2003, he married Janet Marie Brotten Bettinger. They made their home in Admirals Cove.

August 25, 2018, his only son, Stephen Brent, a longtime resident of Wisconsin, was removed from life support after suffering a traumatic brain injury 11 days previously.

He is survived by his wife, Janet, two daughters, Linda and Rebecca (Don), residents of Coupeville; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

His 17 years of marriage to Janet were filled with travel, joy and love. He spoke often of how he had been blessed with two wonderful marriages and of his deep gratitude for Janet's love and companionship and the tender care she gave him during his final difficult days.

He remained a dedicated and active member of the local Coupeville Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

A private burial took place at Sunnyside Cemetery Friday, Sept. 4. Arrangements were under the direction of Whidbey Memorial Funeral Home. Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at www.whidbeymemorial.com.

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



Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

1:44 pm, Deer Lake Rd.

Reporting party advising he was in fender bender and now he and other driver are arguing. Reporting party is driving U.S. mail truck, other driver is in FedEx truck.

2:59 pm, Bush Point Rd.

Reporting party advising subjects refusing to leave. Advising "it's too much drama."

4:04 pm, Cultus Bay Rd.

Advising someone sabotaged his truck; all lights went off and there is dirt by gas tank. Told from insurance company to report to Sheriff's Department.

5:13 pm, Degraff Rd.

Reporting party advising subject is harassing reporting party on Degraff. Unknown who male is; being confrontational.

5:52 pm, Cemetery Rd.

Requesting extra patrol checks for subjects defecating at block house, and drug use. Busted beer bottle on grave marker. States Sunnyside is a county cemetery and county deputies have authority.

6:44 pm, W Sleeper Rd.

Reporting party advising cow is heading down Moonstone Place. Cow appears to be black and white.

11:18 pm, W Sleeper Rd.

Reporting party advising his two cows are loose heading toward SR 20, requesting assistance.

11:56 pm, Mobius Loop

Male requesting call to report "everything." Upset no one called back, began to yell "shut up" over and over at the call-taker. Disconnected. Reporting party recalling, requesting to speak to supervisor, states needs law enforcement assistance.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28

2:22 am, W Sleeper Rd.

Reporting party advising black bulls in road close to highway.

3:50 pm, W Sleeper Rd.

Reporting party advising loose cow in the road on Sleeper.

8:40 am, W Sleeper Rd.

Reporting party searching for two black cows, wonders if anyone has called in about them.

1:29 pm, Hill Rd.

On Hill Road; female backed out and hit reporting party's parked car. Female cursing reporting party out.

1:37 pm, NE Lovejoy St.

Female wanting ambulance for bloody nose and hair falling out. Lungs feel like they are on fire.

2:34 pm, Jones Rd.

Caller wants to kill contractors who painted his house. Dumped paint all over Harley and patio furniture. ICOM told caller not to hurt contractors.

3:29 pm, Saratoga Rd.

Reporting party advising was blackberry picking and noticed three cell phones and gun in bushes. Reporting party put political sign in front of location in bushes.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

8:46 am, W Sleeper Rd.

Reporting party advising two loose black cows close to highway.

12:51 pm, Hastings Rd.

Reporting party advising neighbor violated court order again. Spread chips on driveway; trespassing.

8:54 pm, Cabrini Ct.

Advising watching neighbors' dog for them; has been leaving door unlocked because she was not given key. Deadbolt is now locked. Not sure how it happened.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30

2:05 am, SR 20

Reporting party advising having confrontation with campers across from them; have been loud and partying. Wife went to confront them and now sounds aggressive. No known weapons.

MONDAY, AUG. 31

5:59 am, Cedar View Dr.

Reporting party advising ongoing issue with two subjects doing harassment campaign against him; get on his roof and harass him all night.

1:21 pm, Lake Forest Dr.

Child on line advising they are in George Washington, advising no emergency; immediately after 911 was announced asked if call-taker wanted to come over and play; not answering any questions.

3:03 pm, SR 20

Reporting male out of control on road.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

3:49 am, Hastings Rd.

Ongoing issue with neighbor. Noise since 2 am.

6:42 am, Hastings Rd.

Reporting party hearing awful noise coming from neighbor's house since 2 am., sounds like industrial machines.

11:28 am, NE Haller St.

Requesting call, thinks her water main is broken and wants to know if it needs to be fixed so she can replace her shower.

12:14 pm, Deception Pass Bridge

States female stopped in middle of road and backed into reporting party. All parties have moved into south parking lot for contact.

1:17 pm, Douglas St.

Someone hit reporting party's mailbox and drove away. Occurred 40 ago.

4:37 pm, SR 525

Reporting party states persons are messaging her to camp on her land. States is male who she hired to do a lock. States is just such a strange request. Concerning. Requesting call.

4:49 pm, Craw Rd.

Advising blue Pontiac Sunbird with removed plates and bullet holes left on vacant plot of land for several years now.

4:51 pm, Conniston Way

Reporting junk vehicles at location at back of property. Location is neighbor's. States doesn't have a good relationship with subjects. Advising male is also pushing dirt into other neighbors' yards and has dug up county easement.

5:05 pm, Harbor Hills Dr.

Advising deer is dragging pole; has window pieces stuck to its body. Reporting party states deer is walking up hill. Is traveling with another deer.

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



Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

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

Island Shakespeare Festival is seeking new members to join our Board of Directors. We're looking for people who are passionate about high-quality live classical theater and can devote time and energy to support the work of Island Shakespeare Festival's important cultural, social, and fiscal position on Whidbey Island. Our current needs include individuals with backgrounds in the following areas: human resources, donor relations, finance, as well as other skills related to overseeing a performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF, attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women

and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact jeff.natter@islandshake-spearefest.org.

Volunteer with Habitat - Make Lasting Change. Do you believe everyone deserves a decent, affordable place to call home? Do you have some time to donate to help Island County families fulfill their dream of home ownership? We are now accepting applications to join our Resource Development Committee. No experience necessary, just a desire to make Island County a better place to live. <http://bit.ly/HabitatCommittee>.

Big Brother Big Sisters of Island County (BBBSIC) is actively seeking new member(s) for its Board of Directors. Join the board's exciting array of professionals! BBBSIC is seeking individuals who are committed to defending the potential of youth in our community through their time, skill sets, and influence in the community. To complement the existing board, candidates with expertise in accounting, law, nonprofit management, networking, or fundraising are of particular interest. Committed to diversifying its board to better represent our community, BBBSIC encourages BIPOC and LGBTQIA community members to inquire. Please contact admin@bbbsislandcounty.org for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Island. Volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members with no prior healthcare background. ICMRC utilizes volunteers to strengthen community health, enhance emergency response capabilities, and boost community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters such as winter storms, flooding, earthquakes, as well as public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks. If you are interested in volunteer-

How'd you do?

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

ing please go to the Island County MRC website for more information or contact s.zierner@islandcountywa.gov

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat for Humanity of Island County stores, you are helping local families attain decent, affordable housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they pick up donated items using our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pnwnam.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

Local Non-Profit SEEKING VIDEOGRAPHER for Virtual Event. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County is preparing for the 2020 Festival of Trees with some distinct creativity. Due to COVID-19 and necessary safety precautions, Festival of Trees will look a bit different this year but will be full of the same holiday cheer! We need a local VIDEOGRAPHER to make several recordings for our online event and work with our planning team and tech support group. Festival of Trees will host a LIVE virtual event Dec. 4, including the live auction of decorated trees. A week-long silent auction will showcase a variety of local treasures and wreaths. This annual event raises over half of the annual budget for BBBSIC. In order to continue changing the lives of youth on Whidbey Island, BBBSIC and Festival of Trees need your support. Local businesses are encouraged to donate auction items to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County. For more information, please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County at development@bbbsislandcounty.org, or call 360-279-0644 (3)

Regency on Whidbey is now hiring Caregivers and LPNs.

No Cheating!

T	A	L	C				R	F	D			E	R	A								
A	L	O	H	A			A	R	E			E	B	A	N							
G	E	T	U	P			M	E	M			D	E	K	E							
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E	D	D					Y	E	S					S	A	S	S					

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Richard Voit



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rvoit@farmersagent.com

Visit www.regency-pacific.com to review the job description and to apply online. (1)

Island Transit is Hiring! If you are looking for a solid career with great pay and benefits including two retirement plans, we are hiring for the following positions: Marketing and Communications Officer, Safety and Training Supervisor, Fleet Vehicle Journeyman Mechanic, Transit Bus Operators. Visit www.islandtransit.org/ employment to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer. (3)

MISCELLANEOUS

Sports Cards collection for sale. Mostly baseball sets and singles; all brands, 1950s to 1995. Some football, basketball and hockey singles too. Also many foreign stamps. 360-675-1061 (1)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

Excellent grass hay, no rain, good for horses, \$7 per bale. 20 bale minimum. Good quality round bales available also. 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

WANTED Running or Not: We buy cars, trucks, travel trailers, motorhomes, boats, tractors, & much more! If you want to sell or get rid of anything, call TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363. We will haul junk vehicles away.

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

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 360-969-1948.

FREE

Two downed trees: U-cut, U-haul. Oak Harbor, 425-308-1675

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail

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PO Box 1098
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Email.....classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
Telephone.....(360)682-2341
Fax(360)682-2344

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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