

November 26 through December 2, 2020

Whidbey Weekly

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GREEN TICKET CASH GIVEAWAY

DOUBLE GREEN TICKETS ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28!



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NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 18, 2020

Earn a GREEN TICKET for every \$20 purchase* at participating merchants between November 1 and December 18, 2020 and be entered to win \$1000 CASH, \$500 CASH OR A \$100 Main Street Gift Certificate!

* Drawing will be held at 4pm on Saturday, December 19.

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*1 ticket per \$20 purchase with a maximum of 50 tickets per individual transaction up to \$1000.

Think of it as essential.



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KnockOutFlu.org



Home for the Holidays

shop, eat, explore locally!

Join us downtown Langley for our annual tree lighting on Saturday, November 28 @ 4:30 p.m.

Four large trees, designed by local artists Melissa Koch, Tobey Nelson, Silvan Goette, and Sarah Santosa, will be strategically placed around town at Boy and Dog Park, Whale Bell Park, the grassy lot next to City Hall, and Langley Park.

Mayor Tim Callison will officiate at the lighting ceremony which will begin at City Hall and progress next to Boy & Dog Park, then on to Whale Bell Park, and finally end at Langley Park at Second and Anthes.

Thanks to a grant from Puget Sound Energy for lights, downtown Langley will be more festive than ever this year.

Stroll the streets, shop in your favorite shops and grab a bite at our restaurants' outdoor dining tents before the lighting. Then join us at the Langley City Hall at 4:30 as we progressively light the trees. We ask that everyone wear a mask and maintain social distancing.



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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



If you get a call from 509-639-3173, enjoy the chat. It is some guy named Carlos saying he is in the area and would like to buy your property.

I told Carlos my basset hound

Norton was buried in the yard and until I joined Norton, my property was not for sale. I added if Norton rose up to bark, I'd surely stay here on my magic parcel.

How did Carlos get my number?

"Public records," he said. This is vinyl I would toss. Thank you, Commander Transparency.

Never too old

Grandma just sent me the 14 step program to being more civil. Without taking it personally, I share the info with you readers for whom I am abundantly thankful on this day and every day.

The source of this wisdom is unknown to me, but I am sure Facebook is involved.

I asked one of my friends who has crossed 70 and is heading to 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself.

He sent me the following:

#1- After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, now I have started loving myself.

#2 - I just realized that I am not "Atlas." The world does not rest on my shoulders.

#3 - I stopped bargaining with vegetable and fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to burn a hole in my pocket but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's education.

#4 - I pay my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than me.

#5 - I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. Their story makes them walk down memory lane to relive the past.

#6 - I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

#7 - I give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment—never turn it down, just say "Thank You."

#8 - I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.

#9 - I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.

#10 - I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat and neither am I in any race.

#11 - I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.

#12 - I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.

#13 - I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be.

#14 - I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be.

Why do we have to wait to be 70 or 80? Why can't we practice this at any age?

Thank you Whidbey Weekly

Thanks ever so much to Eric Marshall and the Whidbey Weekly team for our island-wide free community paper. The folks who do the work to timely publish this effort are

not turkeys. They are angels, including our production manager TJ Pierzchala, our editor Kathy Reed, and our graphics guru Teresa Besaw. Noah Marshall does double duty as our circulation manager and marketing representative along with Glenda Cantrell, who is also our marketing rep.

Working with a team of pros makes this rookie feel very thankful.

Chow down

What an island this is. If you have not noticed, Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated again this year with the distribution of over 1,500 free Thanksgiving dinners cooked and delivered by the Oak Harbor community, the American Legion and the Mobile Turkey Unit.

We are certainly grateful to all these organizations who volunteer their skills to help feed the less fortunate during this difficult time.

Estate planning

During World War II, before Mom birthed our older brother, Dad helped out another soldier by purchasing a small unit of oil producing property in Pike County, Miss. The benefits of the property were nothing to speak of, so little was spoken.

Two days ago, Grandma called to tell me she had received a letter asking for my death certificate and copy of my will to transfer the unclaimed funds held "in suspense" before the state of Washington got the money.

Still breathing, and very curious, I put my law hat back on to investigate the whys and wherefores of my assumed death. According to the paperwork generated by the once bankrupt company with the drilling rights, said monies would go to Governor Inslee and his legislative posse within 48 hours.

Hi yo escheat, away.

For those of you who do not do crosswords, "Escheat is a common law doctrine that transfers the real property of a person who has died without heirs to the state. It serves to ensure that property is not left in limbo without recognized ownership. It originally applied to a number of situations where a legal interest in land was destroyed by operation of law, so that the ownership of the land reverted to the immediately superior feudal lord."

Like any good younger brother, I called my older brother to make sure he was okay.

"Hey, Lew, are you all right? According to this paperwork on Dad's property, you and I are not breathing. Have you received any communication from the driller in the last decade?"

"I have received a few checks in the amount of 97 cents, but I just tossed them."

Like any good middle kid, I called my sister to verify her breathing pattern.

"Hey, Linda, have you received any mail from the driller in the last decade?"

"I've received a few checks for 97 cents but I never bothered to cash them."

Apparently, I was the only family member to cash the 97 cent checks. Being the middle child without any festivals or fairs or auctions to emcee in 2020, I deposited my checks at night in the ATM. Nothing like a proud property owner with oil royalties.

So, after several phone calls to Mississippi and Texas, I discovered the company granted the interest in drilling had assumed we were all deceased.

Wrong, royalty breath.

Our "minimum dumps," the term for small oil patch checks, had accumulated. Here comes the biggie. Like James Dean in "Giant," I was ready for the big money.

Next April, having verified our existence, each of us will receive checks in the amount of \$1.16.

Nothing quite like the pride of petroleum oozing all over my checkbook.

How shall we invest?

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Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.



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Bits & Pieces



Letters to the Editor

Editor,

My wife and I were vacationing in Coupeville and read Mr. Coomer's diatribe. I feel compelled to respond, so please accept this Letter to the Editor.

Mr. Coomer,

We have different opinions: You consider President Trump to be the best President in history, while I consider him the worst.

You contend our nation is in peril because the Democrats have stolen the election to put in place our crooked, senile Joe Biden, while I contend that our nation is in peril because your amoral, narcissistic Donnie Trump is corrupting our democracy by spewing lies about election fraud so he can stay in power.

You seem to put great value in supporters of a candidate professing love, while I care more about him garnering respect.

You apparently consider me an enemy and our disagreement a war, while I consider you to be irrational and our disagreement a challenge.

What we do have in common: we are both American citizens, so we have a right to express our opinions. We don't have a right, however, to state that crimes have been committed as fact, without evidence.

Just saying something doesn't make it so. Luckily, in our country, we are innocent until proven guilty. Concerning the allegations you have made about illegal actions: where is the evidence? To say there is a sinister cover up so there is no evidence is not defensible. If the courts determine there was "massive fraud," then I agree the election results should be nullified; if not, then you and our soon to be ex-President owe the country an apology.

With due respect,

Doug Dickerson
Spokane, Wash.

Editor,

Defend Today and Secure Tomorrow

Add the name of Chris Krebs, Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), to the list of public government servants (you saw several of them from the State Department who testified during Trump's impeachment), who retain their integrity, character, and will to call out lies, misinformation and wrong behavior at any level of our government. Trump fired him because, like Anthony Fauci, he pointed out facts that did not jibe with Trump's propaganda.

After the election was called, I woke up the next day wondering why the vote was so close. Is it possible that of the 74 million who voted for Trump, a large percentage of those voters were blind to his incompetence, lies, cheating and mangling of our norms, standards and behaviors? Was it because they voted party instead of sound judgment? Was it because they would rather believe the con than the truth? Did they never check media sources besides Fox News and Rush Limbaugh? Did they vote for him because one or two policy positions aligned with their thinking?

I know many Republicans who voted for Trump in 2016 because they loathed Hillary, didn't want a woman as president, and were sick of Democrats. I didn't agree with them, but that's how the 2016 election shook out. Trump's shenanigans were not fully under-

stood in 2016. Now his moral decay is obvious and constant.

One needs only to hear Republican state election officials who look you in the eye and tell you the truth about how their states handled the vote. Republican Kim Wyman, in our state, is an excellent example of the kind of integrity we expect from elected officials in positions of power.

In support of Chris Krebs, the U.S. Election Commission chairman and the presidents of the National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Association of State Election Directors, all signed a statement that said, "The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history."

If you want to hear it from Chris Krebs' mouth, go to: www.cisa.gov/rumorcontrol.

Team Biden would do well to hire Chris Krebs back as the Director of CISA.

Mike Diamanti
Coupeville, Wash.

Editor,

Our island is extremely fortunate to have the Greenbank Farm open and available for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy. There are marvelous walking trails that allow dogs, interesting gardens, agriculture projects, a community pea patch and this holiday season, three welcoming businesses open to the public for shopping locally. COVID-19 restrictions have created difficult living and social conditions for us all but the approximate 151 acre farm is providing a wonderful outdoor experience and shopping area for residents and visitors. It is disappointing that a Holiday Market cannot be held this year. However, the farm businesses provide required mask wearing experiences to purchase items to eat, drink and delightful local gifts to buy. These businesses are open the entire Thanksgiving week and into December for shopping plus the Port Office and Whidbey Camano Land Trust is open during the week. Please visit and support the Farm.

Greenbank Farm continually requires maintenance and many volunteers have come forth in giving hours and monies to its maintenance. I say a huge "Thank You" to those volunteer residents. I urge you during this holiday season and next year to visit our farm and also support it by buying a ticket for a holiday raffle basket full of great gifts and business certificates from the wine shop, cheese store and the new café. Tickets can be bought at the wine shop and from several volunteers also. A donation can also be made for the farm. We need to financially support our farm in order for continued maintenance and the assurance that its open spaces will always be available for our enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Judi Moore
Greenbank, Wash.

Check Schedules If You Must Ride a State Ferry Over Thanksgiving Weekend

People catching a state ferry for essential travel over Thanksgiving weekend should review sailing schedules in advance. Several routes are operating on modified timetables under Washington State Ferries' COVID-19 Response Service Plan that are different from years past:

Seattle/Bainbridge, Seattle/Bremerton and Mukilteo/Clinton: Final daily round trip suspended

Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth: Two-boat schedule instead of three; late-night sailings suspended

Edmonds/Kingston: Final round trip suspended on Fridays and Saturdays

Anacortes/San Juan Islands: Winter schedule (no Sidney, British Columbia service)

"With statewide restrictions in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19, this will not be a normal Thanksgiving for ferry travel," said Amy Scarton, head of WSF. "If you abso-

lutely must ride our ferries, please wear a mask anytime outside of your vehicle as one is required aboard our vessels and throughout our terminals in compliance with the state's health order to help keep people safe."

Holiday schedules

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, there will be a few schedule changes for the Edmonds/Kingston, Mukilteo/Clinton, Point Defiance/Tahlequah routes. The Seattle/Bainbridge Island route will operate on a weekend timetable Thanksgiving day. Holiday sailings are marked on the schedule page for each route.

Busy travel times

Lengthy wait times are possible for people driving a vehicle onto a vessel over the long holiday weekend. For people who must travel, the busiest sailings will likely be in the west-bound direction Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 25, through Thursday morning, Nov. 26, then eastbound Thursday afternoon through Friday, Nov. 27. To reduce or eliminate waiting, riders may consider taking an early morning or late evening sailing. To maintain physical distance standards, WSF will enforce reduced occupancy in terminals and on sailings for walk-on passengers.

Travel tips

Sign up for ferry email alerts.

Check terminal conditions and WSF's COVID-19 travel updates before leaving.

Make a vehicle reservation for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands or Port Townsend/Coupeville routes.

People using state highways to get to the ferry terminal should plan ahead for potential backups and delays with real-time traffic information on the WSDOT traffic app for mobile devices.

WSF, a division of the Washington State Department of Transportation, is the largest ferry system in the U.S. and safely and efficiently carries nearly 24 million people a year through some of the most majestic scenery in the world. For breaking news and the latest information, follow WSF on Twitter and Facebook.

[Submitted by Justin Fujioka, WSDOT]

Washington College Grant: Guarantees Funding to Attend Skagit Valley College for All Eligible Washington Residents

What's next in your life? Considering attending Skagit Valley College in Winter Quarter, but need financial assistance? Great news! Guaranteed college funding for all eligible residents in Washington is available through the Washington College Grant, www.skagit.edu/wa-college-grant.

Classes at SVC begin Jan. 4. The team at SVC is ready to help you reach your potential and help you every step of the way. Laptop, hotspot, and webcam loans are also available.

Check Skagit Valley College's Guide to Winter, www.skagit.edu/winter-2021. For more information or to speak with SVC staff, visit www.skagit.edu/uchat.

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

Island Transit Joins National Health & Safety Commitments Program

With concern over rising COVID-19 cases this winter and new state restrictions to stop the spread of the virus, Island Transit has joined the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) "Health & Safety Commitments Program," making a pledge to passengers that public transit is taking all the necessary measures to operate safely during the pandemic.

"We've taken the health and safety of our passengers and employees very seriously since the outbreak of COVID-19," says Todd Morrow, executive director of Island Transit. "By joining other public transit agencies

Ideas for Thanking Your Family

It's almost Thanksgiving. And although 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, as it has been for many people, you can probably still find things for which you can be thankful – such as your family. How can you show your appreciation for your loved ones?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Invest in your children's future. If you have young children – or even grandchildren – one of the greatest gifts you can give them is the gift of education. You may want to consider contributing to a higher education funding vehicle.

- Be generous. Do you have older children, just starting out in life? If so, they could well use a financial gift to help pay off student loans, buy a car or even make a down payment on a home. You can give up to \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring gift taxes. Of course, you don't have to give cash – you might want to consider presenting your children with shares of stock in companies they like.

- Review your insurance coverage. If you weren't around, it would leave some gaping holes – financial and otherwise – in the lives of your family members. That's why it's essential you maintain adequate life insurance. Your employer might offer a group plan, but it may not be sufficient to meet your needs. There's no magic formula for determining the right amount of coverage, so you'll have to consider a variety of factors: your age, spouse's income, number of children and so on. Also, you may want to consider disability insurance – if you were unable to work for a while, it could cause a real problem for your family's finances.

- Preserve your financial independence. When your children are young, you take care of them. But you certainly don't want them to have to do the same for you – so it's essential you maintain your financial independence throughout your life. You can do this in at least a couple of ways. First, consider investing regularly in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. The greater your resources during your retirement years, the less you may ever need to count on your family. And second, you may want to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. A financial professional can suggest a strategy to help you cope with these expenses.

- Create an estate plan. To leave a legacy to your family, you don't have to be wealthy – but you do need a comprehensive estate plan. You'll have to think through a lot of questions, such as: Have I named beneficiaries for all my assets? How much do I want to leave to each person? Do I need to go beyond a simple will to establish an arrangement such as a living trust? For help in answering all these issues, you'll want to work with an attorney.

By making these moves, you can show your loved ones, in a tangible way, how much you value them – and that can help you keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

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

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nationwide in the Health & Safety Commitments Program, we're further cementing that pledge and asking others to join with us in honoring these commitments to help keep each other protected from this deadly virus. We are all in this together."

By signing on to the APTA Health & Safety Commitments Program with more than 100 public transit systems, Island Transit and the public transit industry are actively working to instill confidence in riders that it's committed to protecting their health and safety.

The program was developed after asking transit users from across the country what measures would make them feel more confident riding public transportation amid concerns about COVID-19. From this research, the industry identified four key areas transit systems need to address to earn riders' confidence:

- Following public health guidelines from official sources.
- Cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles frequently and requiring face coverings and other protections.
- Keeping passengers informed and empowered to choose the safest times and routes to ride.
- Putting health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill.

"Island Transit has pledged to meet these commitments by creating specific policies that are effective for our system, our riders, and our community," says Morrow, adding that a key component of the Health & Safety Commitments Program is the shared responsibility of the transit system and its riders to follow the guidelines.

"Riders rely on us to follow these commitments, and we rely on riders to protect themselves and other customers," says Morrow. "With another wave of cases expected this winter, these commitments to each other are critically important to the health of our community."

Island Transit is committed to continually addressing and implementing new health and safety measures as information evolves about how to best protect each other from the virus. Currently, the agency:

- Requires face covering of all passengers and operators on the bus and at our facilities.
- Provides face coverings for those who need them.
- Provides hand sanitizer on all two-door buses and is currently installing dispensers on other buses.
- Sanitizes buses daily using an electrostatic sprayer to thoroughly cover all surfaces of the bus interior with a bio-chemical disinfect proven to kill COVID-19.
- Requires employees to conduct daily temperature and health checks before they come to work.
- Limits the number of passengers on a bus to provide opportunity for social distancing.
- Installed MERV 8 air filters in all buses to trap COVID-19 droplets and prevent the virus from moving through the HVAC system.
- Advises customers follow health and safety guidelines and not to ride the bus if ill.

New bus decals and posters with the four commitments are going up on the buses to remind passengers of these shared responsibilities. For more information about Island Transit's Health & Safety Commitments Program, go to www.islandtransit.org/Commitment

Submitted by Meghan Heppner, Island Transit]

Ryan's House for Youth to Host Virtual Town Hall Meeting

The Directors of Ryan's House for Youth (RHFY) invite the public to participate in an upcoming town hall meeting via Zoom. RHFY is developing a strategic plan and its goal is to move forward with the input of the community.

This meeting is focused on gathering meaningful views for strategic planning for RHFY's young adult campus in Coupeville and its

school age drop-in center in Oak Harbor to better serve the youth and young adults of Whidbey Island. The directors of RHFY hope to gain the public's experience, insight, and wisdom before moving forward in the creation of a strong plan. If you would like to be part of helping Ryan's House for Youth create a plan to help the homeless and disenfranchised youth of Whidbey Island there are two meeting times from which to choose. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:00PM, the second will be Thursday, Dec. 10 at 2:00PM. You can register for this town hall by calling 360-682-2748 or emailing ryanshouseforyouth@gmail.com.

[Submitted by Amber Truex, Executive Director, Ryan's House for Youth]

Drive-thru Santa's Sleigh to Brighten the Holidays

A holiday tradition since 1995, the team at South Whidbey Fire/EMS has devised a safe and streamlined way for the South Whidbey community to experience Santa's Sleigh this year. Instead of visiting communities each evening over the course of a week, a drive-thru set up at Bayview Fire Station, 5579 Bayview Road is planned for Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 10-12.

Participants will simply drive up the hill to enjoy lights, music, decorations, goody bags and greetings from Santa. All visitors will remain in their vehicles and follow safety guidelines, including wearing masks and social distancing.

The plan is to spread the visits out over several hours. The time to visit Thursday and Friday, Dec. 10 and 11 is between 5:30 and 7:30PM. The time for Saturday, Dec. 12 is between 4:30 and 7:30PM.

Learn more about South Whidbey Fire/EMS on Facebook or at www.swfe.org.

[Submitted by Sherrye Wyatt]

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Curtis Shumate
Manager
(Inpatient Nursing)



SOME HEROES HUMBLY INSPIRE

"Curtis is one of the hardest working individuals that I know. He is committed to the patient experience and frequently refers to patients as "our patients". He understands, no matter where you work or what you do, we all play a part in delivering a great patient experience."

Curtis is a **real healthcare hero.**

Curtis inspires each of us, including myself, to do the best we can for each patient and for our community. He recognizes that each of us can impact our patients' experience. He continuously reminds me of the importance of putting our patients first. He is our humble hero.

Thank you, Curtis!

Ron Telles, CEO
WhidbeyHealth

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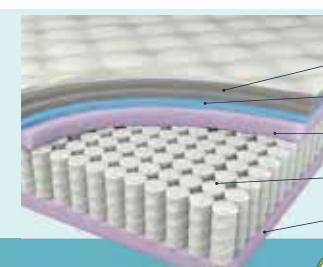
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Whidbey Weekly NEWS



Miss Oak Harbor returns in 2021 p. 10

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NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 2020

Regency seeks morale boost for staff following COVID cases

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Several residents at Regency on Whidbey's Memory Care Unit in Oak Harbor have tested positive for COVID-19, prompting a request that members of the community pitch in to provide small items to send encouragement to staff members at the facility.

The request came via an email from the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, asking for individually wrapped food items as well as notes of encouragement.

"The staff has been working 24/7," said Community Relations Director for Regency on Whidbey, Teri Mendiola. "It's been crazy and really, really stressful."

COVID-19 tests have been administered to all staff and residents at both the assisted living and memory care facilities. According to Island County Public Health, there are 18 cases at the facility, the first one being confirmed Nov. 9.

Mendiola said staff members are being screened daily at the beginning of each shift. She said so far the outbreak has impacted residents only - no staff members have tested positive.

Small, packaged treats would be a welcome boost to staff members who are working hard daily to care for residents and keep them safe, according to Mendiola.

"We're doing everything we can," she said. "It's stressful, it's tiring, but the staff is there for the residents and we're very thankful for them."

Suggested items for staff members include protein bars, cheese and cracker packs, peanuts, cheese sticks, water bottles, Gatorade. Any donated meals must be packaged individually, with disposable utensils. Letters and notes of encouragement or thinking of you cards are also welcome.

For residents, Mendiola said cards and notes are also welcome. The elderly and people with underlying health conditions are thought to be more susceptible to COVID-19, so many long term care facilities

have limited indoor contact with residents, which in turn can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Any donations can be dropped off at the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce or at Regency's assisted living facility at 1040 SW Kimball Drive, in Oak Harbor. Because there are three different shifts daily, Mendiola said they will do their best to distribute any items between all three.

Those with questions may contact Mendiola at tmendiola@regency-pacific.com or call 360-279-0933.



November 20, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

Unfortunately at this time I am writing to tell you that we have had four residents test positive in our Memory Care building. We are continuing to monitor residents in both Memory Care and Assisted Living each day. We have tested all our residents and staff in both buildings and will continue to do this until further notice.

This means that we continue what we have been doing and will not have visits at this time. We are also strongly encouraging residents in our Assisted Living building to stay inside and stay home.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

My number here is 360-279-0933.

This pandemic is not going away and I would ask each of you to help us by wearing masks, washing hands and social distancing. This is the only way we will be able to open at some distant date.

Sincerely,

Wilma Jo Flattery
Wilma Jo Flattery
Executive Director
Regency on Whidbey

1040 SW KIMBALL DR. OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98272
360-279-0933 FAX: 360-279-1433 REGENCYWHIDBEY.COM

Regency on Whidbey posted this letter to its Facebook page Friday, informing residents and families of four positive COVID-19 tests at its Oak Harbor memory care facility.

"This is a team effort and one way to tell them we care," said Mendiola. "It makes a big difference. It's motivational and inspirational. The staff is tired. Everybody's concerned. We're a small island, this is a small community. We love our residents and we're here to take care of them. That's our primary goal, to make sure everybody is safe and well taken care of."

Like the rest of the state, the number of people infected with the COVID-19 virus has continued to rise recently. According to Island County Public Health, there have been 583 cases of COVID-19 as of press time Tuesday. That figure is up from 501 on Nov. 16.

Gov. Jay Inslee issued an executive order last week which has closed bars and restaurants for indoor dining, and has also shut down gyms and fitness centers, indoor movie theaters, bowling alleys and more. The governor is also urging people to stay home this Thanksgiving, prohibiting indoor social gatherings with people from outside one's household and limiting outdoor gatherings to no more than five people from outside a household, to try to stop the spread of the virus.

As always, people are encouraged to wear a mask in public, keep at least six feet of distance from others and wash hands frequently.

Find more information at islandcountywa.gov or coronavirus.wa.gov.



Photo Courtesy of Randy Hudson
Whidbey Island sculptor Georgia Gerber presents her piece, "Three French Hens," for the 2020 sculpture sale through Whidbey Community Foundation. Proceeds from the annual sale are distributed among various nonprofit organizations on Whidbey.

Creative holiday collaboration benefits Whidbey nonprofits

By Alec Brown Whidbey Weekly

Whidbey Community Foundation has once again joined with Whidbey sculptor Georgia Gerber and her husband, Randy Hudson, to raise money through art.

WCF announced its fourth annual partnership at the beginning of the month. This year's sculpture, entitled "Three French Hens," joins sculptures from the previous three years and all are available for purchase. (Check out Dashing Turtle (2019), Sheepish Rabbit (2018) and Settling Owl (2017).) Proceeds from the sale will be donated to WCF, which then disperses the funds to Whidbey nonprofits. Those interested can go online at whidbeyfoundation.org to order their sculptures. Orders can be picked up at the Rob Schouten Gallery on the corner of Anthes Ave. and 1st Street in Langley.

Gerber and Hudson have traveled a long road to becoming the renowned sculpting duo they are now.

"I grew up in Pennsylvania, did my undergraduate work there, went out to University of Washington for my graduate work—where I met Randy," said Gerber. "We've been doing this together for over 35 years."

See SCULPTURE continued on page 14

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



What's Going On

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

Tilth Winter Market

Sunday, November 29, 11:00AM-2:00PM
Sunday, December 6, 11:00AM-2:00PM
Sunday, December 13, 11:00AM-2:00PM
2812 Thompson Road, Langley

Featuring hot food and beverages, produce, baked goods, swags, wreaths and garlands, soaps, gifts, and more. SNAP EBT customers and credit card payments welcome. COVID safety rules are in place, please wear a mask when attending. High wind, snow or ice cancels. For more information, visit www.southwhidbeytilth.org or on Facebook.

Live Nativity

Saturday, December 5, 5:30-8:00PM
Oak Harbor Christian School,
675 E Whidbey Ave.

Oak Harbor Christian School invites you to experience Christ's birth through the scenes being played out before you from your car. Step back in time and experience this joyous event. Drive through from the comfort of your car. Live animals and music. Popcorn and a craft for kids (while supplies last). Admission is free. Visit oakhborchristian.org.

Holiday Market

Through December 10
www.staugustinesholidaymarket.org
Online store featuring one-of-a-kind

crafts and gifts. Proceeds go to local charities. Orders can be picked up at 5217 Honeymoon Bay Road, Freeland. Visit www.staugustinesholidaymarket.org.

Shop Out For Kids

Thursday, December 10, 11:00AM-5:00PM
Aqua Gifts, 2 Front St, Coupeville

Aqua Gifts will donate a portion of its sales to the Coupeville Schools Foundation. The Foundation provides an extra measure of support through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund.

South Whidbey Fire/EMS Santa's Sleigh

Thursday, December 10, 5:30-7:30PM
Friday, December 11, 5:30-7:30PM
Saturday, December 12, 4:30-7:30PM
Bayview Fire Station, Langley

An annual tradition since 1995. Drive up the hill to enjoy lights, music, decorations, goody bags and greetings from Santa. Remain in your vehicle and follow safety guidelines. The Bayview Fire Station is located at 5579 Bayview Road. For more information, visit SWFE.org.

Annual Holiday Food Drive

Through December 16
South Whidbey K-4 Campus, Langley
Bins located at main entrance. Accepting packaged non-perishable food items.
Suggested items needed: peanut butter, jam, chili, soups, biscuit mix, tomato products, fruit juice, beans, rice, flour, sugar, canned fruits and vegetables etc. The school is located at 5380 Maxwelton Rd.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below

Cost: Free

Craft and Chat: Wool Handwarmers

Friday, December 11, 11:00AM

Craft and Chat is an online social event that offers you the opportunity to skill share, learn about library resources and make connections with fellow crafters. In this Craft and Chat session we will create wool handwarmers. This meeting takes place on Zoom. To get a Zoom invitation, please register. Email address is required.

Meetings & Organizations

Ryan's House for Youth Virtual Town Hall

Tuesday, December 8, 7:00PM
Thursday, December 10, 2:00PM
Zoom meeting

Ryan's House for Youth (RHFY) is developing a strategic plan and its goal is to move forward with the input of the community. This meeting is focused on gathering meaningful views for strategic planning for RHFY's young adult campus in Coupeville, and its school age drop-in center in Oak Harbor to better serve the youth and young adults of Whidbey Island. If you would like to be a part of helping Ryan's House for Youth create a plan to help the homeless and disenfranchised youth of Whidbey Island there are two meeting times to choose from. You can register by calling 360-682-2748 or emailing ryanshouseforyouth@gmail.com.

Classes, Seminars and Workshops

Medicare Prescription Coverage, Supplies & Services

Tuesday, December 1, 11:00AM

The right Medicare Part D prescription drug plan or Medicare Advantage plan, one that best meets your specific healthcare needs, can save you hundreds of dollars in co-pays. Major changes for 2021 include plans that cap insulin at \$35 per month and Medicare Advantage for people with End Stage Renal Disease. Medicare Part B covers medically necessary equipment and supplies, including test strips, monitors, and glucose pumps. Join the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) to learn about covered screenings, self-management training and therapies. Medicare open enrollment ends Dec. 7 - the time is now!

This free Medicare presentation, offered by Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), a program of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, is available online using your computer or laptop. Or you can listen in using your telephone. Call Island Senior Resources at 360-321-1600, ext. 0 for information.

Final Open Enrollment Clinic - Island County Medicare

Wednesday, December 2, 10:00AM

Join Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) to learn Medicare options for 2021. You will discuss new Medicare Advantage Plans available to Island County residents, and how to select the least expensive Part D plan for your prescriptions. Medicare Open Enrollment ends Dec. 7.

This free Medicare presentation, offered by Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), a program of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, is available online using your computer or laptop. Or you can listen in using your telephone. Call Island Senior Resources at 360-321-1600, ext. 0 for information.

Coupeville & Central Whidbey Curbside To Go & Take Out

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Callen's Restaurant
360-499-2306



CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Ciao
360-678-0800
www.ciaocoupeville.com



CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Coffee On The Cove
360-632-0922



Take Out

Currents Bistro
Closed Until December 14
360-678-5480



Front Street Grill
360-682-2551



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360-222-3623
www.greenbankstore.com/pantry

Take Out

Greenbank Farm Wine Shop
360-222-3797
greenbankfarmwineshop.com

Take Out

Lavender Wind Bakery
360-544-4132
www.lavenderwind.com

Take Out

Little Red Hen Bakery
360-682-5809
www.littleredhenbakerywhidbey.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Old Spots Bistro
360-678-1288
www.oldspotsbistro.com

Take Out Thursday-Sunday

Phad Thai
360-678-6963
www.phadthaicoupeville.com

Take Out

Pizza Factory
360-678-3200
coupeville.pizzafactory.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Prairie Perks
prairie-perks.square.site



Sunshine Drip
360-682-6201
www.sunshinedrip.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

The Cove Coupeville
360-678-3621

Take Out



The Oystercatcher
360-678-0683



www.oystercatcherwhidbey.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Toby's Tavern
360-678-4222



www.tobysuds.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Tyee Restaurant
360-678-6616



www.tyee4u.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP **Take Out**

Vail Wine Shop
360-632-2227



www.vailwineshop.com

Take Out



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Insurance and You

By Mary Elizabeth Himes

Homeowners Claims

Insurance is an agreement between parties to transfer risk, meaning one party pays another party to provide financial compensation in the event of loss of assets, property or life. Americans are most familiar with personal insurance which protects their homes and cars; the problem is most Americans do not understand what they are paying for. We want to help you have a better understanding and, over time, use this platform to educate you about personal insurance and its benefits.

The importance of understanding coverages cannot be ignored. Our last column discussed some areas of maintenance to be aware of around your home to avoid damage and claims issues. Sometimes, even though you have done your best to make your home safe and free of hazards, a loss can still occur.

Prior to filing a claim, you should contact your insurance agent to advise you. If you call the carrier directly, your policy may be documented with a claims inquiry even if you decide not to file a claim. In the state of Washington, a homeowner's claim will result in additional premiums for up to five years and will follow the home and insured when looking at new insurance. Wind, water and fire are the claims which result in the most severe damage to the home and in most cases, the insured has no control over stopping the damage because these are the results to nature or sudden accidents.

Here on Whidbey Island, the wind has picked up, trees are falling and branches are flying. There is also an increase of house fires due to issues with fireplaces and malfunctions with heating elements. Some homeowners have had tree branches fall and pierce the roof of the home, or had large branches or trees fall through the roof. During windstorms rain is not far behind and water can come through the broken roof, resulting in water damage to insulation, drywall and personal property. In this instance, call your agent right away as they will have access to companies that can assist with immediate repairs, board ups and tarps. Small house fires can also create additional problems with smoke damage and soot in the house and require the inhabitants to move for a short time to clear the soot and smoke from the home.

Fire claims can be the most complicated because the damage can affect the dwelling, personal property and loss of use coverages. An insured will need to deal with being displaced from their home, losing personal possessions and the trauma of the devastation of the fire to the structure of the home. Some tips to help stay organized in the event of a fire loss would be:

- Review your policy every two years with your agent or carrier to make certain you have enough coverage.
- Keep a copy of important documents in a fireproof container and create digital copies and email to yourself (emails are accessible when computer files can be damaged).
- Take photos of each room of your home and email them to yourself, to document items.
- Insure, if possible, irreplaceable valuables and collectibles as standard policies have a limit on what will be paid under a certain category.
- Keep all receipts, no matter what for.

Renters insurance also provides coverage for personal belongings and living expenses due to being displaced under a covered loss. Renters must seriously consider insurance of their belongings and living expenses in the event of a loss. The cost can be a low as \$12 per month to protect peace of mind and property.

If a claim is filed, the insured must work with the carrier and provide all documentation and information requested to adjusters and investigators. An investigation into a claim can take up to 30 days to complete and it is important to keep communication open with the adjusters and ask questions. Utilize your agent if you have concerns about the claims process, payments and requirements of all parties.

Choosing a general contractor will not be something an agent will do for an insured. The relationship between the insured, contractor and carrier will require constant communication and the agent will be able to support the insured with information only. There are standard processes during the filing of the claim; however, claim resolution may vary amongst carriers and so it is extremely important your agent stays informed during the claims process until it closes. It is important to have a consistent exchange with the adjusters and understand who, what where when and why during the process.

The information below is from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner website.

You are entitled to:

- A clear explanation of what's covered
- An itemized statement outlining how the company will pay your claim
- A prompt response from the company
- Timely payments and a claim decision
- An appraisal if you disagree with the amount of your loss
- You can work with the adjuster your insurance company sends or you can hire a public adjuster (a licensed person who works on your behalf to appraise and negotiate your property-insurance claim)



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BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Coupeville Arts and Crafts Festival Announces 2021 Dates

The Coupeville Festival Association announced the dates for the 2021 Coupeville Arts and Crafts Festival as Aug. 14 and 15. This will mark the 57th year of the festival providing art, entertainment and family friendly activities to the Town of Coupeville and the whole of Whidbey Island.

The festival has traditionally brought upwards of 18,000 visitors to the charming Coupeville waterfront over a two day period.

Proceeds from the festival are returned each year in the form of community grants and student scholarships. To date the festival has returned over \$1 million in direct and indirect funding to a wide variety of art and historic projects and will continue to do so.

If you have questions about the festival or would like to volunteer, please visit CoupevilleFestival.com or email CFAPresident@gmail.com.

[Submitted by Deborah OBrien]

Whidbey Island Conservation District Seeks Supervisor Candidates for Upcoming Election and Appointment Cycle

The terms of two Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) supervisors, one elected and one appointed, are due to expire in 2021. Both positions have three-year terms beginning in May 2021. The elected incumbent, Sarah Richards, is not planning to run for re-election. The appointed incumbent, Dave Edwards, will be seeking re-appointment.

Any registered Island County voter who resides on Whidbey Island and is also a land-owner or farm operator may be eligible to run for the elected position and/or apply for the appointed position.

To run for the upcoming elected position and have their name printed on the ballot, individuals must submit a PF-A Candidate Information form by 4:00PM, Dec. 11. The PF-A form is available for download at www.whidbeycd.org/elections under Candidate Information. Interested candidates may file their completed form by mailing it to WICD, P.O. Box 490, Coupeville, WA 98239, or scanning and emailing it to wicd@whidbeycd.org.

To be considered for the appointed position, candidates must submit an online AF1 application form to the Washington State Conservation Commission by March 31. A link to the AF1 form is available at www.whidbeycd.org/elections under Candidate Information.

WICD will hold its annual Board of Supervisors election Feb. 2. To vote, one must be a registered voter in Island County and reside on Whidbey Island.

The election will be done entirely by mail-in ballot this year, due to COVID-19 considerations. Ballots are available only by request, and the deadline to request is 4:00PM Jan. 19. Ballot requests can be made by submitting an online request via www.whidbeycd.org/elections under Voter Information, by emailing wicd@whidbeycd.org, or by calling 360-678-4708.

WICD will begin to mail ballots Dec. 30 to those who request one. Completed ballots must be received by WICD no later than 4:00PM Feb. 2. Visit www.whidbeycd.org/elections for more information.

The WICD Board of Supervisors consists of five volunteer members, three elected by local voters and two appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), each serving a three-year term without compensation. District supervisors identify local conservation needs and priorities, oversee district financial operations, set district policies, and guide district services to protect soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources.

Past board member Anza Muenchow, "I appreciate the opportunity to have served Whidbey Island on the Conservation District board of supervisors these last few years. The management and staff at WICD have been a pleasure to work with. They are a committed, smart, hardworking crew. I especially appreciate learning about the struggles and goals

www.whidbeyweekly.com

LOCALLY OPERATED

of all the property owners we have assisted these years. I can relate. It is a big responsibility to care for our land. Since my husband and I bought property and began Maha Farm and Forest, understanding and managing our island's natural resources has been a passion for us. I enjoyed the conferences and loads of information about how we can do a better job preserving and embracing our island environment. Thanks for having me represent the south end of the island and good luck with all your projects in the future."

Past board president Ed Adams, "I enjoyed my five years serving as a board member for WICD. It was very rewarding to work with a dedicated board to help guide the district in its mission. The district employees are a talented team of professionals providing excellent conservation solutions to Whidbey Island land managers. It was satisfying to see conservation applied on the island helping to protect our natural resources."

For more information, contact Matt Zupich, manager, Whidbey Island Conservation District, at 360-678-4708 or matt@whidbeycd.org.

[Submitted by Shannon Bly, Outreach Coordinator, WICD]

Local Business News

Penn Cove Brewing Taprooms are Open and Ready to Serve

With Governor Inslee announcing new statewide restrictions on restaurants, bars and social gatherings this past week, Penn Cove Brewing Company, like many local businesses on Whidbey Island, has stayed nimble, rolling with the punches, committed to its founding principles of craft, community and collaboration. While these new mandates bring several changes to its day-to-day operations, both its Coupeville and Oak Harbor Taprooms remain open for business, committed to the safety of its patrons and the health and livelihood of its employees.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of these new restrictions to navigate was the elimination of indoor service. Owners Marc and Mitch Aparicio were game for the challenge, and over the past week, with the help of their staff, have taken several steps to make the outdoor areas at both taprooms as cozy and inviting as possible. A recent visit to their Coupeville Taproom revealed their entire patio area covered with a new large tent, complete with five fire pits, patio heaters and outdoor lighting. The patio at their Oak Harbor taproom received a similar treatment, with three new fire pits on display. Food service remains available on both patios throughout the restricted period, and customers looking to enjoy Penn Cove products to go, including growler fills, hot food, merchandise, and gift certificates will enjoy the ease and convenience of the new online ordering portal located on its website.

For those concerned about the beer, fear not, the malt masters at Whidbey Island's largest brewery are staying as busy as ever. The past few months have seen some unique new offerings come out of the tanks at Penn Cove, from their high-octane Madrona Imperial IPA, to Farmer Dale's Pumpkin Stout, to their new line of hard seltzers. Seasonal beer lovers will also be thrilled to learn Assistant Brewer Erick Adam has not one, not two, but three special brews on deck for the holidays: a Christmas Witbier, a Chocolate-Covered-Cherry Stout and a Fireside Ale. Those keen on enjoying their beer at home will be excited to hear that in addition to making keg sales public, Penn Cove will also be offering canned beer starting at the end of the month thanks to the recent acquisition of a Crowler machine!

The new online ordering portal can be found at: <https://penncovebrewing.com/online-ordering-locations>.

Penn Cove Brewing Company's new hours of operation:

Coupeville Taproom
Sunday-Thursday 12:00-8:00PM
Friday-Saturday 12:00-10:00PM

Oak Harbor Taproom
Tuesday-Thursday 3:00-8:00PM
Friday-Saturday 3:00-10:00PM



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





1/4 Page \$150, 1/8-Page \$75, 1/16-Page \$40
ALL ADS FULL COLOR

This section will publish every Thursday through December 10.
Deadline is the Thursday prior to publication.

Whidbey Weekly

To learn more about advertising in Whidbey Weekly
Call: 360-682-2341 or email:
publisher@whidbeyweekly.com

DRIVE-THRU

Santa

ANNUAL TRADITION SINCE 1995

SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE/EMS SANTA'S SLEIGH

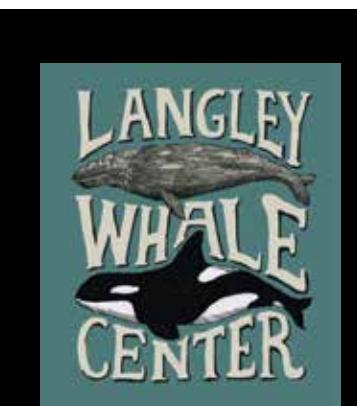
Drive up the hill to enjoy lights, music, decorations, goody bags and greetings from Santa. Remain in your vehicle and follow safety guidelines.

Location: Bayview Fire Station, 5579 Bayview Road

Dates: Thursday, December 10, Friday, December 11 & Saturday, December 12

Times: Thursday & Friday 5:30pm-7:30pm • Saturday 4:30pm-7:30pm

SWFE.org **f t** INTEGRITY SERVICE TRUST



**Black & White Sale
ONLINE ONLY!**

Friday, Nov 27th,
Sat Nov 28th, Sun Nov 29th

www.waifanimals.org/gol to sponsor a luminaria today."/>

**GIVE THE
GIFT OF LIGHT**

This holiday season sponsor a luminaria for only **\$25** to pay tribute to that special person or pet in your life. Your luminaria will light our main lobby at WAIF's Coupeville shelter and help fund vital programs that help light the way to forever homes for Whidbey Island's homeless pets.

Visit www.waifanimals.org/gol to sponsor a luminaria today.

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The Langley Whale Center is closed through Dec. 14th



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Annual
Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association Red Ticket Drawing

\$2,300 Cash

Shop, Dine and Stay

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WIN BIG!

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Rain Puddles Kids Boutique
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Little Red Hen Bakery
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Coffee On The Cove
Callen's Restaurant
Front Street Realty
The Crow's Roost
A Touch of Dutch
Front Street Grill
Currents Bistro
Sunshine Drip
Toby's Tavern
Salon Blue
Aqua Gifts

WIN **BIG!**

Red Ticket **2020** **Ticket** **Shop Locally**

Each \$20 Purchase = 1 Red Ticket

\$1500, \$500 & 3 \$100 PRIZES!

Weekly Drawings for Gift Baskets!

The kick-off for this year's event is Sunday, Nov. 15th
Win cash prizes by participating in our Facebook Live Event at 1pm on Sunday, Dec. 20th.
Tune in to the Live Event through the CHWA or Coupeville Chamber website, or through the CHWA Facebook page in order to win. Must be 18 years or older.

CoupevilleHistoricWaterfront.com • CoupevilleChamber.com

www.southwhidbeytilth.org or Facebook: #SouthWhidbeyTilthFarmersMarket"/>

Tilth Winter Market

Sundays, 11 am to 2 pm
November 29, December 6 & 13

Hot Food & Beverages • Produce
Baked Goods • Swags, Wreaths &
Garlands • Soaps • Gifts & More!

SNAP EBT Customers & Credit Card Payments Welcome
COVID Safety Rules Are in Place. Wear a Mask Please

2812 Thompson Road on SR 525, Langley

High wind, Snow or Ice Cancels: www.southwhidbeytilth.org or Facebook: #SouthWhidbeyTilthFarmersMarket



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



Miss Oak Harbor to reign once more in 2021

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

After a three year hiatus, there will be a Miss Oak Harbor crowned again in 2021.

Board president and Pageant Director River Powers has taken up the mantle of Miss Oak Harbor, bringing the scholarship pageant back for a new round of competition, albeit virtually in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An online organizational meeting is planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2 for all those interested in learning more. Details are available at www.misoakharbor.com. The original Miss Oak Harbor, which held its first competition in 2015 and ran through 2018, came to an end following the departure of founder Jes Walker Wyse and the Pageant-Wyse organization.

The loss of the program, which awarded tens of thousands of dollars over its four year run, left a void.

"We decided to disband PageantWyse and not produce the pageant when Jes left," said Powers, who worked with Walker Wyse to begin the original program. "We had a small board of directors at the time and it was just too much. So we did disband. It was a sad time."

"But over the past two-and-a-half years, so many parents, past contestants and potential contestants have asked me to do it again," Powers continued. "So I decided last year to put out some feelers to gauge whether if I



Kathy Reed/File Photo

The Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant is making a comeback in 2021. An informational meeting will be held online next week for those contestants and parents who would like more information. Shown above: Baelee Whitinger is crowned Miss Oak Harbor 2017.

started a new nonprofit, people would be interested in joining the board. The response was wonderful and we have a nice, strong board of directors."

Powers said the new Miss Oak Harbor organization has been able to build upon the

foundation laid by PageantWyse. Of course, a global pandemic has forced the new board to reinvent how to hold such an event in times of COVID-19.

Powers said they have been fortunate in that the program was already well established so

the competition will be able to pick up where it left off.

"I would say this will be a comparable product because by 2018, we had really perfected our model," she said. "So by tweaking it for a virtual environment we are able to offer different components that will appeal to different contestants. I'm not saying it's better, it will just be different."

The Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant's mission remains providing scholarships for young women who are interested in advancing their education. In its first four years, Miss Oak Harbor awarded more than \$51,000 in scholarships. That kind of money can be life changing, according to Powers.

"It is a lot of money," she said. "We gave out \$17,089 in our last year. That could be life changing. One of our contestants paid for her entire first year of college with the scholarships she earned."

The Miss Oak Harbor organization seeks to offer a competition that embodies the "four points of the crown – scholarship, service, success and style," according to its website. It is not a competition based on looks, Powers said.

"Miss Oak Harbor is not a beauty pageant," she said. "It's an amazing opportunity for

See MISS OH continued on page 12

Island County provides support for pandemic, upcoming holidays

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

The holiday season of 2020 has coincided with a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, leading to calls for smaller or virtual holiday celebrations and staying close to home. Washington Governor Jay Inslee has called for mitigation measures to help curb the spread of the virus. Throughout the pandemic, Island County Human Services has offered help to the community ranging from rent assistance to connection with counseling services.

Jackie Henderson, director of Island County Human Services, said while holiday seasons tend to be difficult for those who are more isolated, she predicts this year more people may be impacted and the effects of the pandemic may be exacerbated by the holiday season. Henderson said the exact effects and toll on mental health may not be known until later, or after the holidays.

"Holidays are always tough for people that are alone, and I think that will just be compounded this year," she said. "I think the more we can get the word out about alternatives and some of the things on how to take care of yourself, the better."

Betsy Griffith, behavioral health lead for Island County Human Services, said although this year may present difficulties during the holiday season, following guidelines will help to keep the community safe.

"While many people are saddened by the loss of holiday traditions, everyone's commitment to maintaining fewer contacts will help to curb the number of people infected," she said.

"There is a great image out there comparing what we feel is our risk contacts (our family, coworkers, etc.) with our actual risk contacts (the people our contacts have contact with). Our bubbles are actually larger than we think and may include people who aren't taking the precautions we are."

The team at Island County Human Services suggests combatting isolation through the use of technology and coming up with safe ways to stay in contact with people, whether it is hosting a group get-together via Zoom or sending a card or letter in the mail to a friend or relative.

"Connect with others safely as much as possible," they said. "Utilize opportunities for connection through the resources that you have. Many people are trying to maintain group meetings or activities that used to be in person over Zoom or the phone."

The team at Island County Human Services also recommends practicing gratitude as a way to boost happiness.

"Keep a journal or notebook by your bedside and as soon as you wake up write down three people/things you are grateful for," they said. "When you go to bed, review what you wrote in the morning and write three things you are grateful for that happened that day. These things do not have to be monumental – they can be simple. Studies have shown doing gratitude lists like this has a positive impact on mood."

Kathryn Clancy, behavioral health supervisor for Island County Human Services, said in order to provide support to the community, ICHS launched a help line in March and an online referral help line in June. She said as of the start of November,



Photo Courtesy of the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association
Island County Human Services staff help to distribute toiletries and other necessary items collected by the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association to residents in need.

the organization has fielded more than 1,100 service referrals addressing needs from helping islanders cope with stress and anxiety to navigating unemployment.

"In the month of October, the majority of referrals, 24 percent, indicated a need for support with job loss or reduction in hours, followed closely by requests for support with anxiety, stress, or depression, with 21 percent of individuals requesting this service," she said. "Considered together, the data suggest that Island County residents are currently strug-

See SUPPORT continued on page 14

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Island Angler

By Tracy Loescher

THE LORE OF SPORTFISHING

ELECTRONIC GRAPHS AND RELIABLE TACKLE

When it's barely light at 7 a.m. and dark at 4:30 p.m., it can only signal one thing – the start of winter Blackmouth Chinook fishing season in Marine Areas 6, 7, 8-1, 8-2, and 9... Hold on, not-so-fast, eager fishermen! The co-managed tribal and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recreational fishing representatives decided we wouldn't get a chance to fish for these wonderful winter salmon this upcoming year which is unfortunate, because you and I as taxpayers paid for these fish and I can't find a solid scientific fact that answers the question, why?

Since I was raised to be patient and not cause a fuss, what are we Island Anglers to do during the short days and long nights of winter? There is hope; this is a great opportunity to get more tech savvy and tackle ready for the time when we can get back out on the water and hunt for fish. Since 95 percent of our salmon and bottom fishing success relies on some form of electronic sounding device due to water depth, it only makes sense to learn how to operate, manipulate and maximize all of the built-in options available to the user. The modern GPS/fish-finder graph combinations on the market today are fairly user friendly and are getting more affordable each year; the simple ability to see the contour of the sea floor and money saved on potentially lost down-rigger balls and tackle that could be snagged up while trolling or drifting will pay for the unit in a very short time.

A GPS/fish finder is almost a must while fishing off-shore in deep water banks or searching the San Juan Islands for under-water structure, bait, marking keeper fish locations and the added peace of mind with safer navigation; plus, if you remember to mark the spot, it will ensure we can return to the same limit-out hotspot. In addition to the provided owner/operators manual, there are instructional videos, informative fishing forum discussions and still photos found on the internet which can help clarify and answer many of the questions we might have, especially if you are a first time operator or if you have upgraded to a newer model. As an efficient graph operator, you can/will put more fish in the boat, guaranteed. When they can't sight fish I've seen pro bass fishermen win tournaments in 20 to 30 feet of water using only their

fishfinder to hunt for and locate schools of bass, especially brownies (smallmouth). Bottom line, get comfortable operating your electronics.

I have touched on taking care of our tackle in the past and I'll say it again, when you're fighting a green 18-pound Chinook or pulling a 36-inch lingcod out of the rocks is not the time for tackle failure. For those of us who fish saltwater, taking care of your rods and reels is paramount and means more than hanging them on the wall or standing them up in the corner of the garage. Plain and simple, saltwater is brutal! Left unattended, saltwater will eat up an aluminum reel inside and out; saltwater will eat the chrome plating off of a nice, level wind reel, leaving you with exposed brass, just to name a couple of situations. Saltwater is also deadly to fishing rods, if it's a two-piece rod with metal ferrules, it will soon be a one-piece rod, the saltwater will fuse the ferrules together as if they have been welded and the line guides will turn fuzzy turquoise green in no time. Here is the easiest thing you can do to extend the life of your rods and reels: Rinse your gear each and every time you use it in saltwater with a saltwater neutralizer. There are a couple of well-known ones on the market, such as "Saltaway" and "Salt terminator;" both of these products are biodegradable and have proven themselves over the years, that's why I use this soapy solution to help protect my tackle.

These neutralizers are a little expensive but are worth the money for the long term results they give; the liquid solutions are concentrated so I mix it 50/50 with water in a good quality squirt bottle to spray down my fishing gear. After a thorough freshwater rinse, I give each rod and reel a quick covering of the solution. I also spray down my flashers, spoons, and especially terminal tackle like barrel swivels and snap swivels (remember, if your swivels are not spinning your line is twisting and eventually will twist to the breaking point). Keep in mind spin casting-style reels can hold water under the spools so be sure to tip them up far enough to let any trapped water drain out. The neutralizer also works well on tools; I keep a Tupperware container onboard the boat and toss my pliers and small knives in.

The rinse and spray routine is good for everyday protection but more in-depth care of our tackle is required to keep it in top condition. Now is the time to change out the old line if needed and take the reels down to parade-rest and really inspect, clean and oil the parts. I use "Corrosion Block" (in the small, one ounce bottle) to lightly oil my reels; it's great stuff and a little goes a long way. We can't stop all of the damage caused by saltwater but we can certainly slow it down. You will thank yourself next summer when that reel feels as smooth as it did out of the box.

Cranberry Lake got a nice batch of rainbow trout released into it earlier this month so if the rain lets up, try your luck! Here is my email – tlfishmonger@gmail.com; drop me a note or a fishing tale; I would love to hear it. Be safe and stay warm out there!



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MISS OH continued from page 10

high school girls of all types to participate in an event that's about empowerment. There are 10 scoring categories, all equally weighted, that embrace the entire person. Not a single one has to do with looks, unless you consider formal wear, but that's more about poise than appearance."

Categories include academics, attendance, marketing, personal interview, screen presence, speech/talent, style and self expression, to name some. Other categories have been modified slightly to fit health regulations, such as physical fitness.

"We've changed that to health and wellness, which will be a video diary," Powers said. "Each week contestants will submit a short video to tell us – privately – what they did for their own personal health and wellness that week."

The competition is open to up to 25 ninth through 12th grade students who identify as female and live or attend school in the Oak Harbor School District. All events during the six week competition leading up to pageant night will be conducted virtually and most of the judging will be completed prior to the final night of the competition on March 13.

"This will be a livestream event," Powers

said. "The only people physically at the event will be board members, contestants and judges – all masked and following COVID protocols – and everything will be live-streamed for all viewers."

"We are not going to sell tickets to this," she continued. "The contestants are going to sell programs prior to pageant night so whoever wants to join on the night of the pageant can follow along."

Because 2020 has been a difficult year, Powers said it has been tougher than normal to find sponsors for the event. Anyone who is interested in donating to the nonprofit or who wishes to learn more about sponsorships can do so by going to the website: www.miss oak harbor.com. Powers did note the Miss Pioneer Way pageant will also be continuing for girls up to age 14. That competition is held in the summer and is run by the Miss Oak Harbor and Miss Teen Oak Harbor royalty as part of the court's service project.

Powers said she thinks entering the pageant is a great opportunity for people interested in their own personal growth, since the competition teaches important life skills such as interviewing, poise under pressure and working toward a common goal.

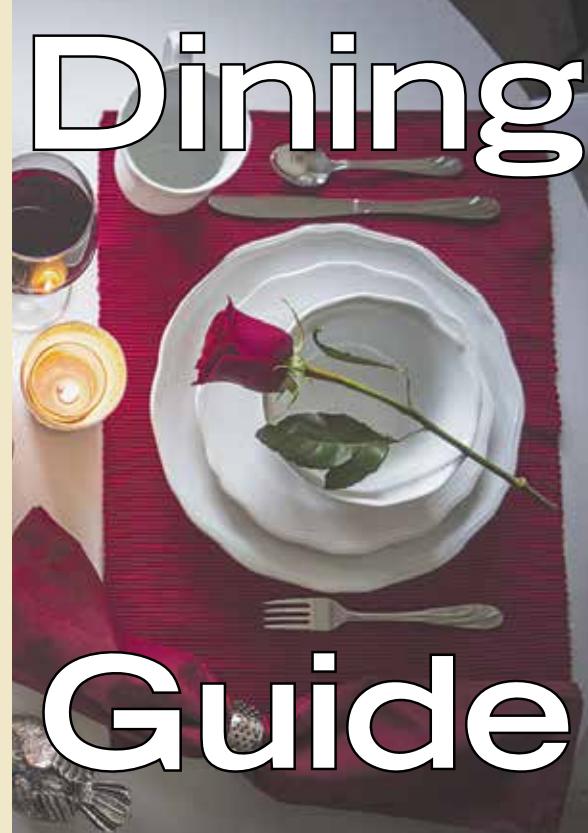


Kathy Reed/File Photo

The Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant is back following a three year hiatus. The competition will conclude March 13, 2021 and is open to all ninth through 12th grade students in the Oak Harbor School District who identify as female. Most of the 2021 pageant will be conducted virtually.

"I think I am most excited to just bring the pageant back," she said. "It has affected so many girls' lives in such a positive way. I'm passionate about the youth in our community. I was born and raised here and I love so

much the opportunity to provide this great event for 25 local girls. I'm happy about bringing it back and being a part of the experience."



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CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



As George Carlin observed, "The caterpillar does all the work, but the butterfly gets all the publicity." Bam. How can any red-blooded crusader against injustice not be rankled? Hard work too often goes unacknowledged, maybe even in your own life. But wait. Is Mr. Caterpillar a publicity-seeker? Is he only in it for fame? Or is his the satisfaction of a job well-done? Ask the next caterpillar you meet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Which is the greater leader, the one who does great things, or the one who inspires his or her followers to do great things? Too harried to care? Try this. If your kids take out the trash without being asked, if your spouse's dirty socks land always in the hamper, and if your dog understands, "Heel!," congratulations. A tip of the world's figurative hat to you. YOU are the greatest leader of all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



Grandma said, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Good advice still. Eat healthy to be healthy. But how do you keep a relationship healthy? By eating apples together? We failed to ask grandma's opinion, but that strikes us as a bit simplistic. To keep a romance going, something more is needed. A bit of sugar. A touch of spice. An aroma of loving care. Maybe that was the reasoning behind grandma's apple pies.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Street smarts. That's the ability to survive difficulty and danger. It has nothing to do with book smarts. The streetwise can juggle diverse people and personalities. The streetwise have "been around the block." The streetwise know "where the rubber meets the road." Savvy in a worldly way, the streetwise possess common sense to an uncommon degree. Want street smarts? Put down your book. The real action is on the street.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



How to shield private life from public scrutiny? Victorian poet George Eliot may have penned an unknowing clue when she wrote, "The human heart finds nowhere shelter but in human kind." Eliot could not have been more clear had she a direct line to our time, in which Siri eavesdrops and tells all: "What loneliness is more lonely than distrust?" she wrote. Don't ask Siri. The paradox of privacy is that it yearns for an open heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



"Praise in public, criticize in private." That advice from coach Vince Lombardi worked great in football, but are they words to live by? Do you really want to deliver a harsh message yourself? In ancient times, the words of a messenger bearing bad news were often his last words. This tendency to

kill the messenger is still alive today, if only figuratively. Criticism is thin ice; tread lightly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



"Am I a lord, or do I dream?" Such was the worry of Sly, who fell asleep drunk and woke up apparently rich in Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." Pranks to confuse people exist in our own time. Half of America resides in the greatest nation on Earth, living side by side in freedom with the other half, who live miserably under a buffoonish dictator. Which side is awake and which side dreams? Or is it all a prank?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



"People love it when you lose. They love dirty laundry." 'They,' is you and me, and admit it, we do love dirt. We love it as much today as when Don Henley sang those lyrics in his 1982 song, Dirty Laundry. Hear Henley mock the evening news: "We can do the innuendo, we can dance and sing. When it's said and done, we haven't told you a thing. 'Cause we all know that crap is king." We love our dirty laundry.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Sing along as the Bee Gees ponder the mysteries of the Universe: "I started a joke, which started the whole world crying. But I didn't see that the joke was on me. . . . I started to cry, which started the whole world laughing. Oh, if I'd only seen that the joke was on me." Special shout-out to all the world's jokers. The unintended consequences that delight us, the unexpected outcomes that befuddle us, wouldn't be possible without you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



A person goes placidly along, taking life as it comes, and then, something changes. Suddenly, what matters today matters greatly, and what mattered yesterday matters not at all. Isn't it odd, these shifts in fortune? Romeo in his cry, "O, I am fortune's fool," saw himself as fate's victim. The poet Henley famously disagreed: "I am master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul." Victim or master? Which are you?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



Second wind. That's the gift life gives after it has taken your last jelly bean. In desperation, you reach deeper, and you discover, another precious jelly bean!--and it's your favorite color. More prosaically, second wind is the return of relatively easy breathing after initial exhaustion. The catch? Most of us give up before we've truly exhausted our first wind. Or parted with our last jelly bean.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



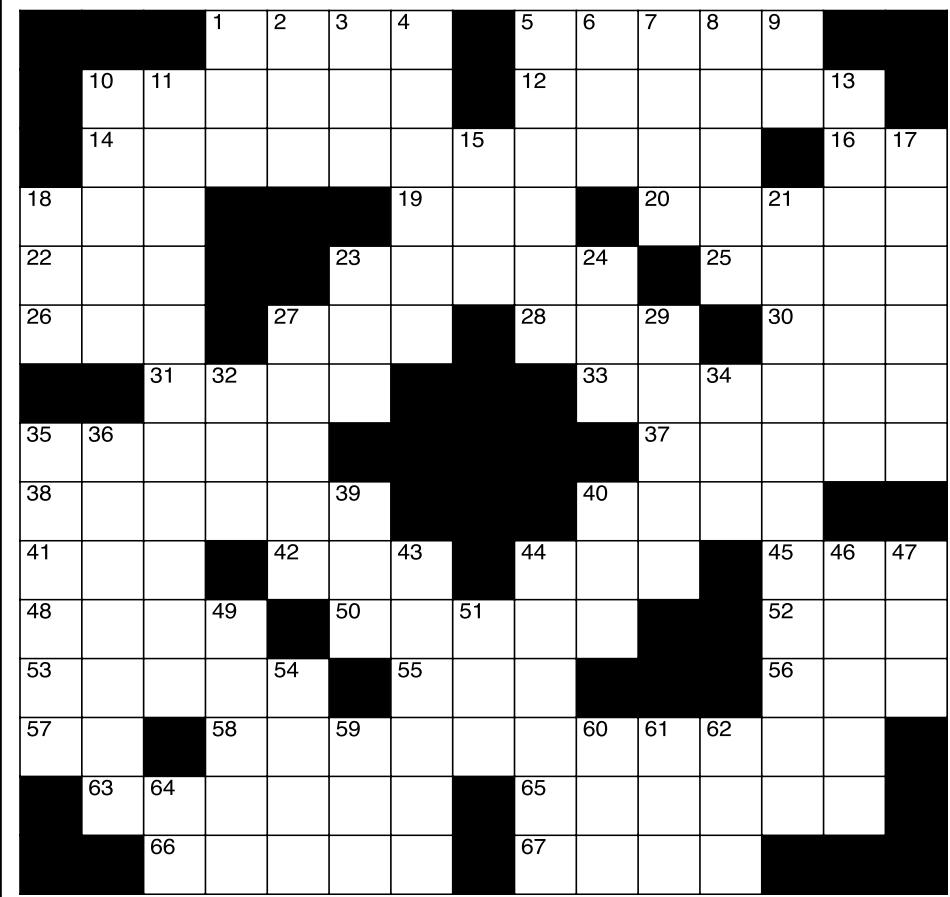
Squeezed between a rock and a hard place, what can you do? We've all been there. Faced with two alternatives, each equally unpleasant, we fuss and fret. And then we grow. We grow by bracing ourselves against the cold-water fact that life is not perfect, and then we take the icy plunge. The person who emerges from the pool will be stronger and wiser than the one who dove in. Promise.

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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. Upright post on a boat | 45. Cool! | 15. Defensive weapon (abbr.) |
| 5. Sentimental person | 48. Tip of Aleutian Islands | 17. Fancy attire |
| 10. Native American tribe | 50. Indicates silence | 18. __ Farrow, actress |
| 12. Wear away | 52. Water in the solid state | 21. Completely opposed |
| 14. Where you're going | 53. Security interests | 23. Supervises flying |
| 16. Doctor | 55. Popular hoopster Jeremy | 24. Pouch |
| 18. Popular Chinese dialect | 56. Shed tears | 27. True firs |
| 19. One point east of due south | 57. Low frequency | 29. Mistake |
| 20. Northern sea duck | 58. Harmful bacterium | 32. Computing platform (abbr.) |
| 22. Note | 63. Common language: lingua __ | 34. Snakelike fish |
| 23. Wives (law) | 65. Standards of perfection | 35. Greatly horrify |
| 25. Trigonometric function | 66. They consist of two parts | 36. Despicable person |
| 26. A way to communicate (abbr.) | 67. A detailed description of design | 39. Tell on |
| 27. Swiss river | | 40. Ballplayer's tool |
| 28. No (Scottish) | | 43. Central Brazilian town |
| 30. Commercials | | 44. Court game |
| 31. Large instrument | | 46. Land |
| 33. __ Chantilly, __ de Menthe | | 47. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan |
| 35. Small, saclike cavities | | 49. Retract a statement |
| 37. High and thin in tone | | 51. Data executive |
| 38. Treat extremely well | | 54. Capital of Yemen |
| 40. Famed track star Usain | | 59. Portable computer screen material |
| 41. Secure web connection (abbr.) | | 60. Electronic data processing |
| 42. Rob of energy | | 61. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley |
| 44. Paving material | | 62. Resinous substance |
| | | 64. Rural delivery |

CLUES DOWN

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. More (Spanish) | 4. More jittery | 7. Cleaving tool |
| 2. A subdivision of a play | 5. Fabric | 8. Ancient city of Egypt |
| 3. Japanese title | 6. Luke's mentor __ Wan | 9. 36 inches |
| | | 10. Farewell |
| | | 11. Second to last |
| | | 13. Improved by critical editing |

Answers on page 19

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Nov. 26	Fri, Nov. 27	Sat, Nov. 28	Sun, Nov. 29	Mon, Nov. 30	Tues, Dec. 1	Wed, Dec. 2
North Isle H-49°/L-42° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-52°/L-40° Cloudy	North Isle H-50°/L-36° Mostly Sunny	North Isle H-51°/L-42° Cloudy with Possible Showers	North Isle H-50°/L-41° Cloudy with Chance of Rain	North Isle H-49°/L-39° Cloudy	North Isle H-51°/L-41° Mostly Cloudy PM Rain Possible
South Isle H-48°/L-42° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-51°/L-40° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-49°/L-38° Mostly Sunny	South Isle H-50°/L-42° Rain	South Isle H-50°/L-40° Rain Possible	South Isle H-49°/L-39° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-51°/L-41° Mostly Cloudy PM Rain Possible



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SCULPTURE continued from page 6

Gerber's unique inspiration comes from her childhood growing up on a farm, where she was fascinated with the shapes of animals.

"I always loved it, even in high school. I sculpted clay on my parent's ping pong table...I grew up on a farm so I knew about animals and studied them and studied their behavior to capture a move, how they might express themselves," said Gerber. "It's always been a part of how I grew up."

The sculptures on sale are all based on animals, but you'll notice how smooth and shapely they are. Georgia's work, as she explains it, is less about the detail and more about the form.

"I've done a lot of figurative work, but I love the shape, the smooth lines that can happen," Gerber continued. "I try and push the form sometimes more than just the realistic approach to an animal form, that has some more abstractness to it without anatomical details and feathers and such. I just love the three-dimensional shape."

"If you were to remove the parts that identify it as an animal," Hudson added, "it's still the sculptural form itself that has integrity...it has this sculptural form that gives it an appeal that's not apparent a lot of times to people who are seeing it; that is what they like about the piece. I think that defines a lot of the success of Georgia's work—it's both figurative and sculptural on its own and the combination of that is subtle and appealing."

The duo's basic workflow has evolved over time, but generally involves Gerber's ideas and art, with Hudson helping her on the business side. They are also helped by Virginia Keck, who has assisted them for 35 years.

"I do the idea and the sculpting, and Randy may give some input, but it's really just following my heart and eye," Gerber continued. "Randy does pretty much everything except the foundry. Before we worked with the foundry, we split those chores up. It was a

lot of years of daily hard work, and it's been really nice to focus on the creative part for me right now. It feels freeing."

"Basically, Georgia is the artist and I'm the technician," Hudson said. "I help her make her artistic visions possible, but I don't have much role at all in the art side of it. I take on the practicalities of it, and it allows Georgia to be the artist. It's a huge burden for an artist to do it all on their own—it's too time-consuming."

"Recently, we've transitioned, using a foundry in Eugene, Ore., called Reinmuth Bronze," Hudson continued. "They do the casting. Georgia still sculpts, I do a lot of the mold-making still, and then they take the molds and do all the casting. We get it back here, we do the final finish work on most of the work still here—but we no longer do the casting here."

"A day in the life around here doesn't look like what it used to," Hudson said with a chuckle.

The sculpture sale has humble origins, but has evolved into something larger than they ever expected.

"In 1999," Hudson said, "Christmas was approaching and neither of us liked Christmas shopping. We had the idea, if Georgia were to begin to make a small Christmas figure that we could have cast in pewter—which is a very efficient way of casting metal—we would make one each year and that would be our Christmas gifts for family and friends. We realized we might be able to use that to raise money for Holiday House."

Holiday House is an organization based out of the South Whidbey Community Center, providing numerous toys and gifts for children during the holiday season.

After an article on their sculpture sale, the couple got 25 people to participate in it. The year after that, 50 people participated. And the sale didn't stop expanding.



Photo Courtesy of Randy Hudson

Local sculptor Georgia Gerber has teamed up with Whidbey Community Foundation for the past four years to present a new pewter sculpture for sale each year. All sculptures are available for purchase at whidbeyfoundation.org.

"It got to the point where the management of it, it didn't make a lot of sense for us to keep up with the growth of it," said Hudson. "We were losing money because we weren't a nonprofit. So around that time, in 2017, we learned about the Whidbey Community Foundation forming."

The duo joined forces with WCF, allowing them to use the organization's website to host online orders and make the whole process easier for everyone.

"Since 2017, it's grown each year," Hudson stated. "This year, it's really going well. They provided a great framework to make it easier for both the collectors and ourselves. It's been a great partnership."

The sale started at the beginning of the month, but they have already matched their efforts from last year—which was a record-breaking \$25,000.

"One of the reason's it's going really well this year is that it's such a strange year," Hudson said. "With all the pandemic restrictions, people know Christmas is going to be different this year. I just have this feeling that people see this as a nice opportunity to bring a little joy into their homes this year. This is a way to bring a little joy for themselves and helping others."

The duo said this sale is important for others and reminds everyone of how art can be the perfect vehicle for fundraising.

"People can purchase art and it can go way above and beyond the value of the art, so it's always been a great way of fundraising," Gerber said. "This pewter project is a way to give back to the community, which has supported me and Randy so much through all our efforts."

"A good part of last year's Christmas sculpture donations got utilized as a matching fund for the Whidbey Community Founda-



Photo Courtesy of Randy Hudson

One of Georgia Gerber's works commemorates the Stimson family, who raised two bear cubs in their home until they grew too large. The bears were given to the Woodland Park Zoo.

tion COVID-19 Community Resilience Fund," said Hudson. "It's something they set up particularly to look at organizations being affected by the pandemic...regardless, the bulk of it will still go to the organizations that we started with—Good Cheer and Holiday House in particular—because of the holiday-related aspect of it."

The two never lose sight of the spirit of their holiday sculpture project.

"We remind you of the spirit of this project—it is an effort to raise money for a number of important organizations who provide so much help and support to our neighbors in need. For this project to be meaningful, your contribution must be in addition to what you would have donated otherwise. We are happy to have you as a collector, but we urge you to continue your usual generous support of Whidbey charitable and service organizations. Thanks for your support of this project. As your collection grows and adds to your holiday traditions, it's nice to know we have all helped make Christmas a lot merrier for a good many of our neighbors."

Find more information at whidbeyfoundation.org.



Photo Courtesy of Don Wodjenski

Many people may recognize sculptor Georgia Gerber's whale sculpture, mounted in Langley's Whale Bell Park earlier this year.

SUPPORT continued from page 10

gling most with employment security and behavioral health needs."

Griffith said the resources and referral help provided by the organization have become even more vital during the pandemic.

"There are so many layers of importance to the services provided," she said. "Supporting the needs of those most marginalized is a major priority. Ensuring that people are able to maintain housing, utilities, food, etc. is always a priority, but especially during the pandemic. Island County Human Services has always been a go-to contact to help individuals to connect with resources to support those basic needs."

"Further, the Island County Human Services behavioral health programs help to support citizens in connecting to counseling and substance use services," she said. "This is especially important now as people are experiencing increased stress, anxiety and depression. These stressors are manifesting in increased substance use/abuse, increased experiences of suicidal ideation and increased domestic violence. Our hope is that by making services as accessible as possible, we can minimize the expected impact of the stressors of 2020 and increase the resiliency of our community."

Clancy said a steady rise in need for the organization's assistance has been seen recently.

"Over the last six months, we have seen an increase in reports of depression, anxiety, stress, thoughts of suicide, and drug/alcohol overdoses," she said. "There has also been a steady increase in calls to 911 and visits to hospital emergency rooms for mental health and substance use needs and concerns. We believe these increases are due to the ongoing isolation and severe economic challenges for residents of our county due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of school closures, business closures and the Stay Home and Stay Healthy guidelines from the state have added to the stress for residents. All of this creates an increased need for behavioral health services now and the foreseeable future."

Clancy said although the pandemic has brought many challenges, Island County residents have also come together to support one another and community resources.

"In the behavioral health field, one of the areas we also notice after a disaster is the resilience of people," she said. "In Island County, we have witnessed this resilience in residents along with a desire of the community to help one another."

If you or anyone you know is having thoughts of suicide or if you are concerned about yourself or a loved one having these thoughts, please call:

**Local Crisis Line:
1-800-584-3578**

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-8255**

For more information, visit www.islandcountywa.gov/Human-services. Island County Human Services' Help Line can be accessed by calling: 360-678-2346.



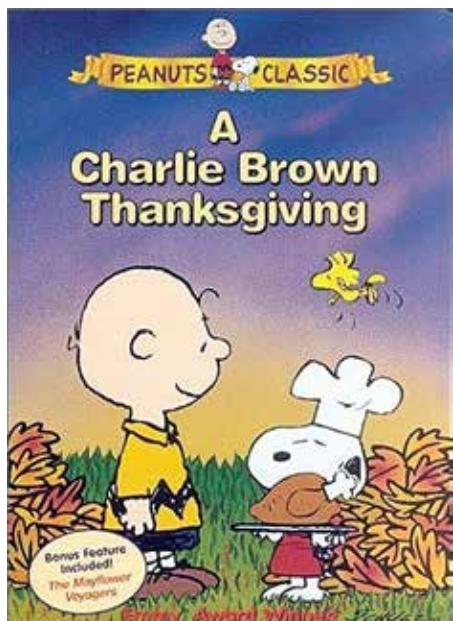
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Thanksgiving Classics

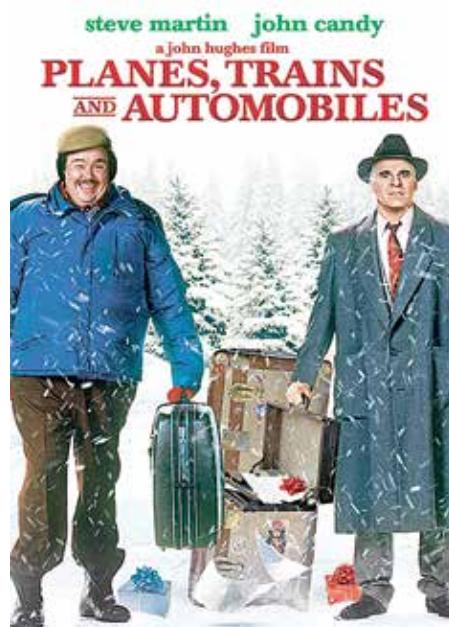
Home
for the
Holidays

As per last week, I'm still eyeballs deep in watching made-for-TV Christmas movies. I'm currently on *A Nashville Christmas Carol* (featuring special guest star Wynonna Judd) and will shortly be transitioning to *Christmas Next Door*. However, Thanksgiving day, I'll be taking a break from hauling out the holly jolly movies in favor of revisiting some turkey day classics.



It's not so easy to find these days, but the classic of all classics is, of course, *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*. For every year since the dawn of recorded time (or thereabouts), the timely tale of Charlie and his friends cobbling together a Friendsgiving dinner has been shown on ABC—not so much this year because 2020 wants to steal everything familiar that you love. However, the special can be found on Apple TV+, where it can be streamed from Nov. 25-27 for free and without a subscription. Lucy yanks the football away from Charlie, Peppermint Patty invites herself over for dinner, Linus proposes a Friendsgiving meal, Snoopy serves up a feast that includes popcorn and pretzels—and for some reason they make poor Franklin sit in a lawn chair by himself.

Like turkey, stuffing and napping after dinner, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* is also a holiday classic. The 1987 John Hughes comedy has Steve Martin playing a straight man (of sorts) to an increasingly madcap and



endlessly frustrating John Candy. They begin as strangers and seatmates, both trying to make it to Chicago for the holiday. They're rerouted to Wichita, seatmates become bunkmates and their desperate—and desperately funny—dash across Middle America is a comedic spectacle for the ages. By the time control freak Martin cracks up in a rental car parking lot, this travel film has gone totally off the rails. They might not take your mind off of not being able to spend Thanksgiving with your extended family, but Martin and Candy may remind you there are worse things than staying home for the holidays.

Speaking of *Home for the Holidays*, it's the final film of this holiday roundup. The 1995 dramedy helmed by Jodie Foster stars Holly Hunter as a divorced mom who makes the trip home to spend Thanksgiving with her folks (a perfectly cast Anne Bancroft and Charles Durning), and from the outset, it's clear this is a family that convenes only on special occasions. They're deeply dysfunctional and wildly idiosyncratic in a way that feels wholly real—and all too relatable. Hunter brings her customary likeability to her role, but it's Robert Downey Jr.—who, in 1995, was on the cusp of the career downtown that led to his remarkable comeback—steals every scene as only he can.

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...4.6

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 19

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



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By Carey Ross

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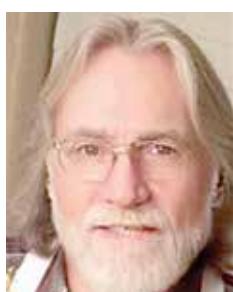
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Life Tributes

Derwood Lee "Rocky" Rogge, Jr.

May 18, 1956 – Nov 16, 2020



Derwood L. "Rocky" Rogge, Jr., beloved father, grandfather, brother, and son, passed away peacefully in the presence of loving family in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 16, 2020.

He was born in Battle Creek, Mich., May 18, 1956 to a very proud and happy Marlene and Derwood Rogge. He spent his childhood traveling to many Air Force bases where his father was stationed.

He was educated in Buena Parks, Calif., and lived there approximately 14 years before moving to Oak Harbor, Wash.

He really loved it up here: the outdoors, camping, boating, and fishing; but the love of his life was his daughter, Alicia. He was very proud of her and his grandchildren, Rebecca and Anthony.

He is survived by his daughter, Alicia Young; his grandchildren, Rebecca and Anthony; sisters, Ginger Johanningmeier and Sandra Cook; nieces and nephews: Marlene and Taylor Lien, Christina Rientjes (Michael), Faith and Ashley Rientjes, Jamie and Joe Cook; Aunt Sue Boe; mother, Marlene Boe; and stepmother, Sandra Rogge.

He was preceeded in death by his father, Derwood Rogge, Sr.; stepfather, Charles Boe; and by his grandparents.

There will be no funeral services per his request, but a Celebration of Life will be held after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Derwood's name to the American Cancer Society or to the charity of your choice.

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

Pam's Prayer Corner

In honor of my late mother-in-law,

Pamela Kaye Young, this column is a place

where believers can share their prayer requests for others to help lift them up in faith. The prayers can be for you, a family member, or anything weighing on your soul. Email info@whidbeyweekly.com or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.

Heavenly Father as you sit high and look low, I pray to you oh Lord to help us to truly learn to trust You, that our "walk is by faith and not by sight," that we understand that your power reigns even when the days seem dark, that your Grace is sufficient and your Mercy is everlasting. Your love for us is unconditional and even though the days seem to be filled with tribulation you have prepared calm at the end of the storm. Oh Lord we cry out to you with Thanksgiving, we sing praises unto you for we are thankful for your love that will see us through. Amen

Roosevelt Rumble, Mins.,
USN Ret.

*"For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning."*

Psalm 30:5



Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

THURSDAY, OCT. 22

12:41 am, Barr Rd.

Female at location would like a ride home; doesn't want to be at location anymore. While gathering information, male advising female would get a cab. Male refused to provide name.

5:05 am, Anglers Haven Dr.

Reporting party states went out to walk puppy and a smaller SUV was stopping at mailboxes along the road. Reporting party yelled to guy "Are you stealing mail or something?" and vehicle sped off.

10:08 am, Ollom Dr.

Advising he thinks he is being followed. Requesting call.

11:15 am, Honeymoon Bay Rd.

Open line. Caller heard saying "What is Emergency SOS?" Attempting redial. On redial, call went to busy tone and disconnected

2:06 pm, Scarecrow Ln.

Advising neighbor pulled a gun on reporting party.

3:33 pm, Huckleberry Ln.

Reporting party advising apples were stolen from location. Reporting party available for call.

4:48 pm, Robinson Rd.

Advising male subject with shotgun shooting deer right next to road. Saw male subject was running behind deer and shot it twice.

5:02 pm, Allyson St.

Male subject was at reporting party's front door knocking on front door in a threatening manner, believe it is related to dispute with neighbor over dog. Occurred 10 minutes ago. Subject no longer at location. Reporting party also noticed political sign was taken by subject when subject left.

5:30 pm, North Bluff Rd.

Male subject in his 20s talking to himself and pacing back and forth since about noon; reporting party passed by subject at noon and just passed by him on her way home just now.

5:37 pm, SR 525

Subjects with political signs in area, waving flags in hazzardly [sic] manner.

9:04 pm, East Harbor Rd.

Reporting party requesting call regarding stolen boom truck. Vehicle went missing four years ago and reporting party is now trying to report the vehicle stolen.

FRIDAY, OCT. 23

3:04 am, SR 20

Reporting party advising subject is wrapped in sleeping bag laying on side of road about a quarter mile south of intersection. States subject is laying on white line, almost hit the subject.

9:23 am, E Squire Rd.

Reporting party advising subjects were evicted from location and now are parked in middle of road.

1:11 pm, Cardinal Way

Reporting party advising sailboat with sails down was stationary for a while. Boat is now moving. Reporting party wanted to report it was odd they were stationary for so long.

3:30 pm, SR 525

Silver Chevy Silverado throwing rocks on vehicles behind them.

SATURDAY, OCT. 24

1:52 pm, Hastings Rd.

Caller states neighbor has anti-harassment order against him; caller is trying to sell his house and neighbor has been harassing caller's agent.

6:17 pm, Maxwelton Rd.

Advising female seen in area, reporting people being annihilated, was asking reporting party for beer and cigarettes. White female, approximately 40 years old, last seen wearing colorful gypsy clothing.

SUNDAY, OCT. 25

8:17 am, Tree Frog Ln.

States large brown horse jumped out in front of reporting party's vehicle while he was driving and his vehicle clipped it. Horse continued to run across the road, unknown if injured.

11:20 am, Forest Ln.

States about an hour ago reporting party saw someone shooting out of their vehicle onto reporting party's neighbor's property adjacent to reporting party. Deer is dead in the brush.

12:03 pm, Monroe Landing Rd.

Reporting party states was driving and someone threw rock at their window. Window is busted. Reporting party took pictures of subject. Occurred 5 minutes ago.

1:48 pm, SR 20

Reporting party advising just past pumpkin patch northbound lane, male is lying on side of the road. States it's where there's a gap in the guard rails and that's where he was.

2:54 pm, SR 20

Caller states same male from earlier welfare check was caught walking to back area and was seen urinating on storage trailer. Caller told him to never return.

4:50 pm, SR 20

Reporting party is on boat in water and people are on the beach near the curves on 20 shooting out in his direction. Looks like it's two people, one is now in a row boat, shooting.

MONDAY, OCT. 26

4:38 am, Williams Rd.

Reporting party advising subjects with speakers and microphones pointed at house are harassing him. Ongoing issue. Advising female in Bothell started this.

2:19 pm, Hastie Lake Rd.

Reporting party advising behind white house on corner, in duplex behind, female is using an airhorn to harass and threaten reporting party.

3:20 pm, SR 525

Reporting party advising female just urinated outside, now at bus stop yelling racial slurs. Harassing reporting party's customers and employees.

4:40 pm, Mobius Loop

Reporting party advising saw post on social media regarding subject admitting to shooting reporting party's brother back in 1992 and burying male on property.

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



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





By Amy Hannold

December - Make It a Month of Giving: Last month, I invited you to join me for a month-long exercise in gratitude. This month, I encourage you to spend a little time and money on giving. Here are a few ideas:

Reverse Advent: Each day take an item from your pantry and put it into a box or basket. After the holidays, deliver it to a food bank. Or, as you shop for your holiday, purchase an item for someone else. Our local food banks will be grateful for your donations come early January, after they have served families for Christmas. Google "Reverse Advent" for a handy list of needed items.

Cheerful Letters to Our Elders: Residents living in retirement communities and nursing homes are not receiving visits from families as they are used to. Contact a home near you for the name and interests of someone who would love to receive mail. This would be a great activity for kids, with their artwork or writing. Adults can do this too!

The Nativity, Live!: Oak Harbor Christian School presents a "Live Nativity," Saturday, Dec. 5. OHCS invites you to experience Christ's birth through the scenes being played out before you from your car. Step back in time and experience this joyous event in our history. Drive through from the comfort of your car 5:30 - 8 p.m. Live animals and music. Popcorn and a craft for kids (while supplies last). Admission is free, 675 E. Whidbey Avenue, Oakharborchristian.org.

"Virtually" Enjoy Dance and Music Presentations:

A Christmas Carol: A 1940's Live Radio Show: Anacortes Community Theater presents a live radio show, featuring the classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge. A talented group of voice actors and sound effects technicians bring every ghostly visitor and Christmas celebration to life and The Holly Trio will sing your favorite holiday classics. Purchase your ticket for the time and date you wish to access the presentation, on any device, for \$20 each, \$40 for a household. The live radio shows are Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 27 through Dec. 19. Thursday through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Act-theatre.com

Fidalgo Dance Works presents "Winter Celebration," A Virtual Recital and Evening of Classic Holiday Movies: Enjoy a presentation of the Fidalgo Dance Work's Winter Recital at the Blue Fox Drive-In, Wednesday, Dec. 9. The holiday classic "Frosty the Snowman" will be shown at 6:30 p.m., Fidalgo Dance Work's Virtual Winter Recital at 7 p.m., and then the movie Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," at 8:15 p.m. The public is invited, doors open at 5 p.m., admission is free, donations to the dance school are welcome. Blue Fox Drive-In's snack bar will be open for delicious concessions. Fidalgodance-works.org

"ELF Jr. The Musical," presented by Whidbey Playhouse as a Multi-Camera Virtual Presentation: Dec. 4 through 31, this modern-day holiday classic will be brought to life by the Whidbey Playhouse, sure to make everyone embrace their inner Elf. Ticket information, showtimes and access: WhidbeyPlayhouse.com.

Whidbey Island Dance Theater presents "The Nutcracker": Experience WIDT's World Premiere film of "The Nutcracker" on the big screen! The Blue Fox Drive-In is proud to host this special viewing one night only, Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The film "Elf," with Will Ferrell, will follow the Nutcracker film presentation, included in your admission. For the evening of "The Nutcracker" and "Elf," tickets are \$40 per carload in advance, \$50, at the theater. The day of the event, individual tickets can also be purchased per person: \$15/adult and \$10/student (ages 5-17).

You can also share the holiday tradition of the WIDT's "The Nutcracker" with your family, in your home, via the internet Dec. 11 through Jan. 5. Tickets for both the Blue Fox Drive-In debut and virtual access purchase information can be found at Widtonline.org.

Festive Holiday Drive-Through Events:

The Lights of Christmas Drive-Through: A wonderful way to experience the magic of Christmas this year! Located in Stanwood, Wash., it's a holiday outing for all families to enjoy during this challenging year. See spectacular lights, dazzling displays, wave to Santa and Mrs. Claus, while listening to Christmas music from the comfort of your own car. Fun for people of all ages. Admission is per vehicle, \$20 Sunday through Thursday, \$25 Friday and Saturday, \$25 during "Christmas Week." Event Dates: Nov. 27-29, Dec. 2-6, 9-13, 16-23, 26-30. Event hours are 5 - 10 p.m. Advanced online reservations are required. WarmBeachLights.com

South Whidbey Fire/EMS Annual Santa Sleigh 2020: A Drive-Thru Visit with Santa:

Santa: You're invited to greet Santa Claus at the Bayview Fire Station (5579 Bayview Road, Langley), Dec. 11-13. Thursday and Friday, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Drive up the hill and around the festively decorated fire station exterior to say "Hello" to Santa. All occupants will remain in their vehicles, and all distancing and safety guidelines will be followed. Admission is free, everyone is invited. swfe.org

Winter Wonderland" Drive-Through:

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue hosts a drive-through holiday event Friday, Dec. 18, 5 - 7 p.m., at the Heller Road Fire Station (2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor), featuring a sighting of Santa Claus and a special mailbox where you can deliver your letter to him, just in time for Christmas. Children who leave their phone number in their letter can expect a special phone call from Santa Claus. Guests are welcome to bring a new, unwrapped toy or gift for a child, ages 0 to 18; there will be a collection for "Toys for Tots." Admission is free, all are welcome. nwfr.org

"Zoom" to the Pacific Science Center with Sno-Isle Libraries: Reserve your seat today to enjoy a virtual visit to the Pacific Science Center.

Planetary Geology
(Gr. K - 8), Dec. 22, 4 - 5 p.m.

Radical Reactions
(Gr. K - 8), Dec. 29, 4 - 5 p.m.

Featured Creatures
(Gr. 3-6), Dec. 21, 11 a.m. - noon.

Night Sky Tonight
(Gr. K-8), Dec. 28, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sno-Isle Libraries also has some off-screen activities for kids and teens:

To Go Activities for Kids and Teens Kits: These fun, engaging and tech-free activities may include printable booklets, science experiments, art projects and more. Three new sets of activities will arrive each month.

BINGO Cards: Complete a different activity on each space of the Bingo board and once you have completed a row (either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally), bring in the Bingo card to your community library in exchange for a color changing pencil.

Looking for ideas to enjoy the colder months, online and "off-screen?" Check out Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid's daily calendar of events and our "Winter on Whidbey Fun Guide:" WhidbeyMacaroniKid.com.

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