

December 3 through December 9, 2020

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Whidbey Weekly

Your Source For "What's Happening" On Whidbey Island

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Santa Claus Is Coming To Whidbey!



Read all about Santa coming to town
on page 6 of this issue!

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& PRINTING

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



Are you tired of turkey yet? By the time you read this, you may be like me, out of mayonnaise, out of white bread, and out of turkey.

Nothing says tryptophan like post Thanksgiving sandwiches. In fact, I have

taken so many naps the last few days, I began to think I was a toddler, a gobbler toddler.

Do toddlers remember their dreams?

I sure did.

Dream weaver

Here are a few examples of what has kept me from a good night's sleep:

A crowd of people showed at the caboose, trying to get in. Nobody was wearing a mask so I told them to meet me outside. While outside, the crowd, including nobody I knew, sat in a circle while pizza slices began dropping from a drone. Next thing I knew, after catching a slice of pepperoni, I was on a bicycle racing through another crowd of kids walking past police cars with lights blinking.

"Where is everyone going?" I asked.

"To Thomas Dor's party."

Of course, I did not bother to ask who Tom was. I surely did not want to be ignorant with all these strangers. Shortly thereafter, I was parking my bike by the counter of what looked like Molly's burger place in Hollywood. As I was about to order a cheeseburger, a fellow on the closest stool was offering me a packet with a sample of Thomas Dor's cologne.

Then I woke.

Darn, I wanted that cheeseburger. The last time I was at Molly's, movie critic Leonard Maltin, fresh from a taping at Merv Griffin's studio, sat next to me.

"May I try one of your French fries?"

Never turn down a famous movie critic. To this day, I do not know what rating Leonard gave the French fry, but he did place an order.

Back to the next bad dream.

I was trapped in someone's house, being chased by zombies. Fortunately, having lettered in high school track, I was able to get to the kitchen, retrieve a corkscrew from the drawer, and kill one of the zombies. This enabled me to get to the driveway where I stole a car. In the next scene of my dream, I was in a parking lot off Mulholland Drive feeling good about my timely escape. My quiet time was short-lived as I noticed Kate Hudson, Goldie Hawn's daughter, carrying a pistol.

How long did I have left?

A shot rang out and another fellow dropped.

"We've got to get out of here!"

Following Kate Hudson was no problem until I arrived at the edge of a cliff. Being afraid of heights, I scurried back to the stolen car to drive home where my residence was surrounded by police.

"You are wanted for murder, Freeman."

"But officer, it was Kate Hudson, not me."

Then I woke up.

Being curious, I thought about all this. Maybe the Bruce Willis Die Hard battery commercial, the Xfinity mobile bike riding ad, and seeing Kate Hudson on CBS Sunday Morning talking about feeding the malnourished children in Ethiopia had affected my subconscious to dream these strange events.

Like going home after many years, one cannot go back to hanging with Kate Hudson in one's next dream. The pizza slices from the drone I attributed to the news of the monolith in the Utah desert.

Lesson learned – don't watch too much TV on a Sunday morning when I should be Zooming a church service.

Soda pop

Our aunt Lucy, in Hattiesburg, Miss., used

to recite the following when conversations became too silent.

*Coca Cola went to town
Pepsi Cola knocked him down
7 Up picked him up
Dr. Pepper fixed him up*

While playing bridge, feel free to share this when deciding your bid. It may affect your opponents' concentration.

Anne Frank reminder

"Go outside, to the fields, enjoy nature and the sunshine, go out and try to recapture happiness in yourself and in God. Think of all the beauty that's still left in and around you and be happy!"

Fun puns

Cousins Emma and Charlie recently shared the following puns from their collection in Alabama. To be authentic, please read these with a Southern accent.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes

Practice safe eating-always use condiments

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired

Time flies like an arrow but fruit flies like a banana

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered

A lot of money is tainted-taint yours and taint mine

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat

He had a photographic memory that was never developed

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses

Thoughts from a retired man

Many thanks to Ken Bob for sharing this chortle:

I mowed the lawn today, and after doing so I sat down and had a cold beer. The day was really quite beautiful, and the drink facilitated some deep thinking.

My wife walked by and asked me what I was doing, and I said, "Nothing."

She then said, "That's what you did yesterday!"

I replied, "I wasn't done, so I'm in the middle of finishing right now."

The reason I said "nothing" instead of saying "just thinking" is because she then would have asked, "About what?" At that point I would have had to explain that men are deep thinkers about various topics, which would lead to other questions.

All aboard

During our final month of 2020, one of my favorite mental re-sets seems appropriate, even if our social distancing is still the recommended practice. While I am uncertain of its authorship, I applaud him or her for the thought.

*Life is like a journey
Taken on a train
With a pair of travelers
At each window pane*

*I may sit beside you
All the journey through
Or I may sit elsewhere
Never knowing you*

*But if fate should make me
To sit by your side
Let's be pleasant travelers
It's so short a ride*

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

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Holidays

Shop, Eat, Explore Locally!

Langley is dressed for the holidays. Stroll our streets, shop in your favorite shops and grab a bite at our restaurants' outdoor dining tents. Shopping and dining locally is a wonderful way to **support your community.**

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Bits & Pieces

Owls of North America with Paul Bannick



Learn about owls from a man who knows his owls in a three-part class series on Zoom, hosted by the Whidbey Audubon Society. The classes are from 7:00 to 8:00PM, Tuesdays Dec. 8, 15 and 22. Registration for all three classes is \$65, please register at www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org. Whidbey Audubon members may attend for \$45. Those wishing to take the class and become members may choose the "new member option" at \$65.

The objective of the class series is to help students gain a better understanding of North American owls, with a particular emphasis on those owls living all or part of the year in the Pacific Northwest. The knowledge gained will help participants recognize where to find owls as well as ways to advocate for laws and policies that will ensure their survival. A special emphasis is placed on life histories, movements and habitats.

Instructor Paul Bannick is an award winning author and photographer who has written four books about owls including; *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, *Owl*, *Snowy Owl* and *Great Gray Owl*. His class brings his research and tens of thousands of hours observing and photographing owls and their most secretive behaviors through all four seasons and the full range of the continent. Paul is also a director with Conservation Northwest with a deep knowledge of Northwest conservation issues and challenges.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Audubon Publicity Chair]



Great Gray owl seeking prey

Army to Hold Communications Evaluation Training at NAS Whidbey Island

The US Army's 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion (51st ESB) from Joint Base Lewis McChord will conduct a Field Training Evaluation at NAS Whidbey Island's Outlying Landing Field (OLF), Coupeville, Wash., from Dec. 7-11.

The 51st ESB conducted similar training at the OLF in March 2016, and again in October of this year.

The purpose of this training event is to ensure the battalion's Troposcatter (TROPO) communication system team remains ready to rapidly assist civilian authorities in support of potential natural disasters worldwide.

The Army's 51st ESB can provide secure and non-secure voice, data, and video communications in support of significant or catastrophic events to enable communication between first responders, government agencies, Army units, combatant commanders, joint, intergovernmental, interagency, and multinational forces command and control.

TROPO systems broadcast communication signals that bounce off the troposphere layer of the atmosphere instead of using a satellite, allowing the signal to travel over terrestrial obstructions such as mountains. TROPO communications offer greater distance, reliability, and bandwidth than the more common line-of-sight communications systems.

Training at NAS Whidbey Island's OLF will provide a challenging and realistic environment that will enable members of the 51st ESB the opportunity to enhance the readiness of TROPO soldiers, equipment, movement and signal readiness. As a result, TROPO communication teams will be better prepared to accomplish their mission and assist civilian authorities in the event of a significant or catastrophic event.

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

The Show Must Go On: Whidbey Island Dance Theater Brings The Nutcracker to the Drive-In and Living Rooms

This holiday season, Whidbey Island Dance Theatre (WIDT) is bringing the Nutcracker to a drive-in movie theatre and to living rooms across the world.

Due to COVID-19, WIDT will produce a filmed version of this year's Nutcracker. The film premieres at the Whidbey Island Blue Fox Drive-in theater Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6:30PM. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$40 per carload on the WIDT website (www.widtonline.org). Tickets purchased at the Blue Fox Drive-in box office cost \$50 per carload.

Chyler White, this year's Clara, is excited the show is making it to the big screen. White has danced in four Nutcrackers and is a senior at South Whidbey High School.

"Unless one of the dancers becomes a movie star, we probably won't get to say that we're on the drive-in screen again," White said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing."

Drive-in theaters have seen a resurgence during the pandemic as they offer a safer outdoor entertainment option.

People can also stream the film on the WIDT website from Dec. 11 to Jan. 5. Since the performance is available virtually, the WIDT Nutcracker can be viewed by anyone looking to watch a holiday classic, with an island twist. DVDs will also be available for purchase.

"People don't even have to get dressed up to see this year's performance," WIDT Co-Artistic Director Charlene Brown said. "They can wear their pajamas, eat popcorn, and sit in front of their TV."

WIDT is a nonprofit pre-professional dance company founded on Whidbey Island in 1993. Typically, WIDT performs its Nutcracker to live audiences at the South Whidbey High School auditorium. But this isn't an average year.

This year's show will be filmed over two days at the Whidbey Children's Theater auditorium. Additionally some video shots were taken in locations around Whidbey Island, such as the Mukilteo to Clinton ferry, the Langley Marina, and Fort Casey.

Some aspects of the filmed performance will be different, but the beloved story remains the same. Clara receives a magical Nutcracker from her Uncle Drosselmeyer. The Nutcracker

Prince comes to life and battles the Rat Queen. After the Rat Queen's defeat, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince journey through the beautiful Land of the Snow and the magical Enchanted Forest. Clara returns home and is awoken from what appears to be a dream.

Dancing and performing in the Nutcracker will look very different this year.

In accordance with COVID-19 protocols, dancers are screened for illness before each rehearsal through temperature checks and health questions. Additionally, in rehearsals the dancers wear masks and sometimes gloves. Masks will also be incorporated into their costumes during filming.

This year's Nutcracker prince, Zane Vanderwood, is working on how to portray facial expressions and personality in a mask — an important part of a dance performance.

"I have to use a lot of my eyes and my eyebrows," he said.

Zane Vanderwood has played the prince for seven out of the ten years he's been in the Nutcracker. He choreographs parts of the show with his mother Susan Vanderwood, who has been involved in the show since 1993.

Susan Vanderwood says it's been interesting to choreograph for a filmed show. Instead of creating large scenes with multiple dancers, she is focusing on what is seen by the camera.

Additionally, the cast is smaller to comply with room capacity guidelines, so she's working with fewer dancers.

Co-artistic Director Brittany Falso says WIDT moved forward with this year's Nutcracker to provide a creative outlet for the WIDT company dancers. She believes the production provides some normalcy during a stressful time when the dancers are spending a majority of their days completing schoolwork virtually on Zoom.

"The motto that I've had the whole time is the show must go on," Falso said.

Brown believes it's imperative to support the arts, especially during the pandemic. The arts industry has been hit hard this year. The Nutcracker is WIDT's biggest fundraiser, which is why community support is vital this year. Businesses interested in sponsoring the show can purchase a logo spot on a banner that will hang on the Island Dance building through the end of the year.

Falso appreciates the support the Whidbey Island community has provided over the years. She believes this year's show provides the community with safe holiday cheer during a difficult year.

"I hope the community will get on board and have a Nutcracker night at home," Falso said. "We want to bring the holiday spirit into your living room this year, instead of you coming to the theater."

[Submitted by Clyde Monma, WIDT Board Member]

Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), Sound Water Stewards (SWS), and Washington State University (WSU) Extension Island County are pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award. This award is open to any volunteer, regardless of membership to any one organization or institution, participating in or supporting science and outreach efforts related to protecting or restoring the coastal resources of Island County.

Nominations are requested for any and all individuals who have demonstrated their dedication and involvement in the many services, science and outreach efforts relating to the health of Island County's marine environment. The objective of this award is to recognize volunteer efforts by selecting and publicly recognizing one who best demonstrates the

contribution of all. Any and all volunteer efforts, whether as an individual or as part of a team should be recognized as adding to the collective wellness of the marine environment and the knowledge base of our marine area.

Start by looking at the individuals with whom you volunteer. Take note of the contributions they make to the total effort. Are they volunteers you enjoy working with? Are they dedicated, helpful and consistent in their approach and efforts to get the job done?

If so, fill out the Nomination Form and nominate them for this prestigious award.

Nomination forms must be submitted by 4:30PM Thursday, Dec. 31. The online nomination form is available at www.cognitofirms.com/IslandCounty4JanHolmesIslandCounty-CoastalVolunteerOfTheYearNominationForm

Further information can be found on the following websites:

Island County MRC website: www.islandcountymrc.org/projects/volunteer-of-the-year
Sound Waters Stewards website: <http://soundwaterstewards.org>

WSU Island County Extension website: <http://extension.wsu.edu/island>

[Submitted by Anna Toledo, Island County Public Health]

Boating Squadron to Offer Introductory Boating Class Boaters Can Earn the Required Washington State Boater Education Card

Registration is now open for America's Boating Course, a two-day boating skills and certification course, to be offered virtually Saturday, Jan. 16 and 23, by the Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron. Successful completion of the course, conducted over the two Saturdays from 9:00AM to 5:00PM, will qualify individuals for the Washington State Boater Education Card, now required for most boaters.

According to squadron commander Pat Waters, this is the most comprehensive introductory boating course available, and will give novice boaters the skills needed to enjoy their time on the water and boat with confidence.

"You'll learn about boating laws and regulations as well as boat registration and licensing. Get in-depth knowledge of boating safety equipment, and learn how to become a safe boater by learning the do's and don'ts of boater safety," Waters said. The class also includes free on-the-water training, but this will be dependent on COVID restrictions.

The boater safety class not only meets Washington's state requirements but can reduce the risk of accidents and injuries, and may save money on boat insurance. The classroom is virtual, and those registered will be sent information to sign in via Zoom, an easy-to-use video conferencing platform. The boating course includes a comprehensive introduction to boating, covering boat types, boat engines, boat selection, and more.

The cost to register is \$40. For a spouse or partner sharing the course materials, it will cost an additional \$20. For more information or to sign up for the course, contact Steve Pye at stphnpye@aol.com or 360-299-2244. Registration deadline is Jan. 5.

The Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron (DPSPS) is a 44-year-old nonprofit organization. It is a member of the United States Power Squadrons, the world's largest boating education organization. DPSPS has over 75 members from Whidbey and Fidalgo Islands.

The Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron is part of America's Boating Club, a squadron of the United States Power Squadrons, a non-profit boating organization dedicated to education and training of safe boating activities.

[Submitted by Jennifer Geller, DPSPS]

Goosefoot Contributes to Local Christmas Cheer for 2020

In a holiday season made harder for many with rising COVID-19 cases and the need for social distancing, Goosefoot has recently donated to both Island Senior Resources and Readiness to Learn. For years, these two groups have worked to help families and seniors in need enjoy their holidays.

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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Thank you!



Thank you to the tens of thousands of voters in Island, Skagit and Snohomish counties who voted for me, and a big "thank you" to the volunteers and donors who gave countless hours and a lot of money to our effort.

Congratulations to Senator Ron Muzzall (R) for his election to the State Senate. While my 2020 campaign did not turn out the way I wanted, I am proud of all we accomplished and know that our advocacy continues. I will stay involved and will continue to speak out on issues that affect our islands and rural communities.

Helen Price Johnson
November 2020

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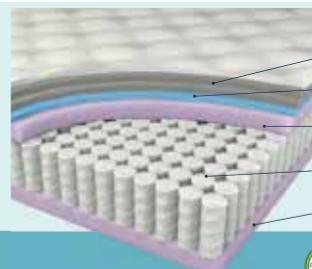
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HOLIDAY ROUND UP!

Islanders can enjoy several holiday events this season

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Neither wind, nor rain, nor global pandemic can keep that intrepid elf Santa Claus from making his appointed rounds on Whidbey Island!

Jolly 'ol Saint Nicholas will be making several appearances in the coming days, but there is no shortage of events scheduled to mark the season. All these events are outdoors and most will require you to participate from a vehicle at a safe distance.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS SANTA CRUISE:

Saturday, Dec. 5 • 4-6 p.m.
Downtown Oak Harbor

Santa will be cruising down Bayshore Drive and Pioneer Way in Oak Harbor Saturday, and he is hoping lots of people will cruise by and wave to him after he stations himself in front of Harborside Village Mall from 4 to 6 p.m. In fact, Santa hopes everyone will decorate their vehicles and get in the spirit of things, too.

"Since we cannot do a regular tree lighting because that requires gathering people together, we decided to do a Santa Cruise," said Margaret Livermore, acting co-director of the Oak Harbor Main Street Association. "We are asking people to decorate their cars for the holidays and cruise down Pioneer Way and Bayshore and around again. They are welcome to cruise around town as well."



Photo Courtesy of Sherrye Wyatt

Up close and personal visits with Santa aren't allowed this year, but residents on South Whidbey will have the opportunity to drive through a holiday display and greet the jolly old elf from the comfort and safety of their vehicles. Santa will be at the Bayview fire station Dec. 10-12. Masks and social distancing are required.

Those choosing to join the cruise will be asked to stop at the sign at Dock and Pioneer, where elves will be passing out candy canes, along with tending to other very important duties.

"If kids have letters for Santa, they can give them to the elves and they will get them to Santa," Livermore said. "Then they will drive down the street and wave at Santa."

The Santa Cruise is just one of the things going on in Oak Harbor's historic downtown, such as the pop up Holiday Market and the annual Green Ticket Giveaway.

"The drawing for the Green Ticket Giveaway will be done virtually at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19," said Livermore. "The OHMSA has commissioned an artist to paint winter scenes on the windows of downtown businesses. If you are so inclined, take an evening stroll down Pioneer Way. The window lights are beautiful."

"During the day you can see the over 70 Toy Soldiers that have been painted over the last four years by businesses, individuals and organizations," she continued. "This year's new Toy Soldiers are displayed on the fence between Allure Salon and Dock Street. You can go to oakharbormainstreet.org and vote for your favorite."

Part of the adoption fee for the Toy Soldiers goes to Toys for Tots, according to Livermore.

Things might look a little different this year, according to Livermore, but she said that shouldn't hamper one's enjoyment of the season.

"We would like to ask people to share the spirit of the holidays even if the events take on a different look this year," she said. "It is important to share the joy and happiness with others, even if it means at a distance."

Find details at oakharbormainstreet.org.

DRIVE THROUGH STORY OF CHRISTMAS:

Saturday, Dec. 5 • 5:30-8 p.m.
675 East Whidbey Ave., Oak Harbor

All are invited to drive the road to Bethlehem and experience the Real Story of Christmas at Oak Harbor Christian School from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday evening. The school has joined forces with several other churches and organizations from the community to put on this free, one-night Christmas display, featuring several vignettes, live actors and animals as well as music and crafts for the kids (while supplies last).

"I think it's going to be really cool," said Oak Harbor Christian



Photo Courtesy of Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue

Santa Claus will once again be making the rounds on central Whidbey. Visits begin Monday and run through Dec. 21.

School Principal Mary Beth Eelkema. "This year, because we can't have it in the gym, we decided to do several vignettes, from the soldiers to the angels visiting the shepherds, to the 'no room at the inn,' to the night of Christ's birth."

Eelkema noted this will be a drive-by event, aligning with all public health safety protocols. It is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. All actors in each individual vignette will be adding masks to their costumes this year.

"The story of Christ's birth is what we want to get out there, masks or no masks," she said. "This is our gift to the community. We want to share what we believe."

Go to oakharborchristian.org for more information.

CENTRAL WHIDBEY NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS:

Approximately 5:30 p.m. each evening
For schedule go to: www.facebook.com/cwfireescue

Santa has teamed up with Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue to continue his traditional neighborhood visits again this year. Visits will begin at about 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7 and will take place each Monday, Wednesday and Friday through Dec. 21 at various locations around central Whidbey. The full schedule can be found online at facebook.com/cwfireescue.

"It is important for us to maintain Santa's schedule every year, but this year was particularly important as we hope that this will bring at least a little normalcy to an otherwise traumatic year for everyone in the community," said CWIFR Chief Ed Hartin.

While they are asking people to wear masks and to avoid forming large groups to say hello to Santa, Hartin said Saint Nick's helpers have come up with a sweet idea for distributing goodies.

See HOLIDAY continued on page 14



TOGETHER WE CARE

Strengthening healthcare strengthens us all

COVID-19 continues to have a dramatic impact on our lives

WhidbeyHealth Foundation's "Together, We Care" 2020 Campaign has one goal: a healthier Whidbey Island. The flu season is upon us and a COVID-19 spike is already underway in parts of Washington.

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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.

Music Trivia Night with Saratoga Orchestra

Thursday, December 3, 7:00-8:30PM

Join the musicians of Saratoga Orchestra for a Holiday Music Edition of their fun and festive online music trivia event. Don't know much about Bel Canto but you do know your 90s Boy Bands? No worries, we'll eventually cover them all. To register or for more information, visit www.sowhidbey.com.

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 oakharborchristian.org.

Tilth Winter Market

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.

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue Santa Neighborhood Tours

Monday, December 7

Town of Coupeville (N. Main St. side of SR 20)

Wednesday, December 9

Town of Coupeville (S. Main St. side of SR 20 and Crockett Lake)

Friday, December 11

Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington

Monday, December 14

Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive

Wednesday, December 16

Holmes Harbor, North Bluff

Friday, December 18

Lagoon Pt., Dines Pt, Honeymoon Bay

Monday, December 21

Race Road, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

Neighborhood tours start around 5:30PM each night. All dates are subject to weather conditions. Please see www.cwifr.org to track Santa's whereabouts and more specific route information. CWFR will be accepting non-perishable food bank donations. Please call 678-3602 or visit www.cwfire.org for further details.

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 Maxwellton 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. You can register by calling 360-682-2748 or emailing ryanshouseforyouth@gmail.com.

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS) Holiday Get Together

Tuesday, December 15, 1:00PM

(sign in 10 mins. early)

Zoom meeting

Join us in memory sharing holiday memories/activities. Learn how to build a Christmas Village. Non WIGS members wishing to attend, send an email to whidbeygensearchers@gmail.com no later than December 12 to receive your Zoom invitation. All are invited to join.

Enroll today for affordable, quality care



Learn about our Kaiser Permanente Medicare Advantage (HMO) health plans and enroll before Dec. 7

RSVP for a FREE¹ Live Local Webinar to learn about plans with:

- **New** enhanced vision, hearing,² and dental² allowances
- The option to keep your doctor with the Family Care Network, PeaceHealth, Skagit Regional Clinics, Whidbey Health, and Island Hospital Medical Group
- **New** lower out-of-pocket costs when you see Kaiser Permanente or Family Care Network doctors³
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Call 1-877-536-6417 (TTY 711), seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., or visit kp.org/wa/whidbeyweekly

Or, contact your broker to learn more

¹Free with no obligation to enroll. ²Excludes Key and Anchor Plans. ³For our Anchor Plan. See plan for details. ⁴Online access to make appointments, view test results, have phone and video appointments, and email your care team for non-urgent issues; when appropriate and available. ⁵For our Key Plan in Island County and our Anchor Plan in Skagit and Whatcom counties. Kaiser Permanente is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal. You must reside in the Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan service area in which you enroll. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, call 1-877-536-6417 (TTY 711). Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington, 1300 SW 27th St. Renton, WA 98057.





TUESDAY, OCT. 27

8:25 am, Skycrest Dr.
White male, mid to late 30s, wandering in green jacket. Told reporting party he was looking for mushrooms in the area of location. No weapons seen.

10 am, Hastie Lake Rd.
Reporting party advising has called about a cabinet dumped on the beach of the county park with cans of possible pesticides inside twice now and states law enforcement hasn't been able to find it.

6:07 pm, Zylstra Rd.
Advising female on property is refusing to leave. States she is sweeping insulation up, describing it as "scrapping."

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

10 am, East Harbor Rd.
Requesting call referencing the Patriot Prayer meeting that occurred the 18th; reporting party would like follow up, as several of her friends are afraid to go turn in their ballots now.

10:12 am, Keystone Ave.
Caller states "crazy girl" is stalking caller around town and calling him nonstop. States he used to date her a few months ago. Female also took pictures of caller while he was at the Red Apple.

11:35 am, Main St.
Male in location refusing to put a mask on. States he's being rude.

Friday, Oct. 30
12:54 am, Lancaster Rd.
Reporting party states ongoing issue with running water in area. States is not coming from reporting party's location. Has talked to water companies and they advise there is nothing occurring.

4:28 pm, Wildwood Dr.
Reporting party advising he was backing into driveway when vehicle hit him; reporting party followed, now arguing with subject.

5:07 pm, Northgate Dr.
Reporting party advising male wearing hospital gown and sock wandering around Northgate. Black male, 30s-40s, beard, appeared confused.

SUNDAY, NOV. 1
1:13 am, Fish Rd.
Reporting party advising just got home; someone broke into house, does not believe anyone is still inside. Subject who did it posted it on social media. Reporting party not armed.

12:51 pm, Main St.
Reporting party states he was refused

service at location because he wasn't wearing a mask, states this is discrimination and a violation of his rights.

1:52 pm, Colonial Way
Male just pepper sprayed reporting party's dog, left walking, turned right on SW 16th Ave.

2:58 pm, N Main St.
Reporting party states was approached by male at location 15 minutes ago who inquired if she had any cash on her. When reporting party said no and began heading inside, male said "Just remember this face," and gestured with his hand from face to stomach area on his body.

3:44 pm, Whidbey Shores Rd.
Reporting party is a caretaker for someone at location, states found meth pipe on front porch left by previous caretaker.

5:56 pm, SR 525
Advising received email this afternoon telling reporting party "Thank you for your contribution to Black Lives Matter." Reporting party states he has not made any contributions to that organization.

9:13 pm, Manor Way
Reporting party advising female has been harassing him via phone, calling wife, parents and reporting party's business. Left a seven-minute long voicemail about how she doesn't care about marriage and is interested in reporting party.

10:56 pm, Hamilton Dr.
Reporting party advising for the last two months husband has been getting emails from anonymous subject; emails contain sexual content involving reporting party. Reporting party advising videos and photos are being posted to adult websites. Requesting call.

MONDAY, NOV. 2
9 am, Blattman Rd.
States landlord has been allowing subjects

to live in trailer partially on property and partially into road; states subjects have been utilizing reporting party's electricity.

10:33 am, Intruder Ln.
Requesting call; states received call asking for \$750.

11:06 am, Neely Rd.
Reporting party states last night neighbors ran over everyone's mailbox in area.

1:09 pm, Blattman Rd.
Reporting party states landlord is now at location. Presented reporting party with eviction notice. Requesting call. Landlord is still outside.

9:12 pm, NE Regatta Dr.
Reporting party advising vehicle hit front of building, other vehicles left, possibly a Jeep, left northbound on Regatta.

TUESDAY, NOV. 3
7:17 am, NE 3rd St.
Reporting party states trying to get someone off her porch. Have been there all night in a vehicle, honking. Red Cadillac.

7:40 am, Dead Goat Rd.
Reporting party states she doesn't report things anymore, but person or persons broke into her home last night while she was home. Came in through windows. Suspects two persons. Took reporting party's and husband's vehicle keys.

11:28 am, Ducken Rd.
Reporting party advising he was hit by car. Calling for help. Doesn't know where he is.

8:51 pm, SR 525
Advising NW Ambulance patient has released herself, becoming physical. Female is locked inside ambulance cab.

9:37 pm, Loerland Ln.
Advising something is outside the house, metallic noise trying to get in the door.

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

Coupeville & Central Whidbey Curbside To Go & Take Out

bayleaf
360-678-6603
CURBSIDE PICKUP Take Out

Callen's Restaurant
360-499-2306
www.callensrestaurant.com
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
www.currentsbistro.com

Front Street Grill
360-682-2551
www.fsgcoupeville.com
CURBSIDE PICKUP Take Out

Greenbank Deli
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

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
DRIVE-THRU

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



THANK YOU FOR DINING LOCAL BY ORDERING TO GO!



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Promote your holiday events and bazaars island wide with Whidbey Weekly!

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

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.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Santa Cruise

IN DOWNTOWN OAK HARBOR

4-6pm, Saturday, December 5



OAK HARBOR MAIN STREET

DECORATE YOUR CAR & COME DOWNTOWN!
CRUISE DOWN PIONEER WAY AND WAVE TO SANTA AND HIS ELVES!

Santa will cruise down Bayshore Drive then Pioneer Way and park in front of the Harborside Village Mall for you to drive by and say hi!

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 INTEGRITY SERVICE TRUST

Annual Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association Red Ticket Drawing

\$2,300 Cash

Shop, Dine and Stay

at These Participating Merchants! Earn Tickets and a Chance to

WIN BIG!

- Coupeville Chamber of Commerce
- Rain Puddles Kids Boutique
- Balanced Mind Hypnosis
- Coupeville Auto Repair
- Briggs Shore Ceramics
- Little Red Hen Bakery
- Collections Boutique
- 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

- Island County Historical Museum
- The Seaside Salon and Spa
- Kingfisher Bookstore
- Rain Shadow Nursery
- Whidbey Natural Pet
- The Tyee Restaurant
- The Coupeville Inn
- the Oystercatcher
- Penn Cove Gallery
- Penn Cove Brewing
- Madrona Blossom
- The Honey Bear
- Sea Bre's Yarns
- Lavender Wind
- Marbley
- bayleaf
- Ciao

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

Santa Is Coming To Town!



Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue

Neighborhood Tours Start Around 5:30 pm each night

Please see www.cwfire.org to track Santas whereabouts and more specific route information



- 12/07/20 Town of Coupeville (N. Main St. Side of SR20)
- 12/09/20 Town of Coupeville (S. Main St. Side of SR20 & Crocket Lake)
- 12/11/20 Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington
- 12/14/20 Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive
- 12/16/20 Holmes Harbor, North Bluff
- 12/18/20 Lagoon Point, Dines Point, Honeymoon Bay
- 12/21/20 Race Road, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

All Dates Are Subject To Weather Conditions.

Please Call 360-678-3602 or Visit www.cwfire.org for further details.

We will be accepting non-perishable food bank donations!



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



Annual Festival Of Trees goes digital

By Alec Brown Whidbey Weekly

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County is putting on its 22nd annual Festival of Trees, but in an entirely different format this year.

The traditional dinner and live auction of decorated trees and wreaths will move online and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday. The silent auction featuring local items is currently underway and is open for bids through noon Monday, Dec. 7.

The annual character breakfast and community viewing, however, will not happen this year due to the pandemic.

To help add to the festive flavor of the at-home festivities, BBBSIC is also selling celebration boxes. These boxes are full of goodies such as a commemorative ornament, red or white wine, glasses, napkins, napkin rings, table decor, masks, shot glasses, and more.

"I want to make sure that you don't miss out on our 22nd Annual Festival of Trees Virtual Gala," says BBBSIC executive director Tiffany Scribner. "As you know, things are different this year, but we're doing our best to raise money to help the community and our young people."

It's the story of the year—nothing went without difficulty this time around. The Festival of Trees has happened the same way for over 20 years, and this is the first time it's going online.

"Traditionally, Festival of Trees is a week-end-long event," Scribner stated. "We have a Friday night gala, which will usually be held at the Elks Lodge in Oak Harbor...200 of our closest friends and supporters would be at the Elks Lodge in their ball gowns and tuxes, dressed to the nines, ready to have a multi-course dinner served by Frasers Gourmet

Hideaway, accompanied by a silent auction and a very large live auction, which would include the highly decorated, beautiful, really original, creative, exciting Christmas trees that have been decorated by volunteers, many of whom are professionals.

"We would all gather, and at some point do a presentation about what BBBSIC is all about, whose lives we've touched, what our work has been this past year, and what that means to our community and why it's so important to all of us," she continued. "The night is marked by a huge amount of giving."

The morning after the Festival of Trees is usually the Teddy Bear Breakfast. This event lets attendees bring their children to the Elks Lodge for food and a parade, which included teddy bears, Santa Claus, and other characters. Community Day came after the breakfast, offering people who might not have attended either of the previous events a chance to look at the trees. Last but not least, on Sunday, the organization took the trees that had been auctioned and set them up in people's houses. None of that is happening this year, thanks to COVID-19.

"People look forward to it every year," Scribner stated. "This year, of course, everything is different. We've tried to take the festival and turn it into something that can still be a celebration, that can still be fun and can still connect people in our community and bring them together."

Scribner said her heart goes out to those who won't be able to experience the live event this year.

"Not being able to do Teddy Bear Breakfast breaks my heart because of the families who look forward to it, and the kids that get to experience a really fun festival holiday, and

all the fun that they have there," she said. "I was lucky enough to go last year and see how much fun they were having."

Although much of the traditional event is canceled, she has noticed the unique opportunities the online format brings.

"Anyone can register for online bidding," she mentioned. "It's totally free this year, which is really exciting. Anyone can be involved in the event. I'm very thankful for it."

One of the most difficult things to change was Community Day, which was canceled in November to comply with new state orders, Scribner said.

"We were hoping to be able to do a version of Community Day at the Elks Lodge so people could come to see the trees, but unfortunately with the new stay home orders and new changes in the governor's plans for the state, we've had to cancel that," she said. "As much as it hurts my heart, I also totally understand that protecting our community and people who are vulnerable is really important. I really salute and understand the value of that. It wasn't an easy decision to make, but it was an important one to make."

In addition to being a fun holiday event, this fundraiser is, as Scribner mentioned, critically important to the organization.

"This fundraiser is about 60 percent of our annual operating fund," she said. "So the money we bring in goes directly to keep this organization matching kids. This is not a special fund. We're not taking money to build a building, not raising money to do a special event or a particular thing—this is money that goes into the heartbeat of our organization and makes us really able to do the things we do to make sure the kids in our program are with appropriate, safe volunteers, and



Hope McCormack photo courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County

The 22nd annual Festival of Trees may look a little different this year, but the trees and wreaths going up for auction at a virtual gala Friday evening are still as pretty as ever.

continues to allow us to support the matches we've already made and to make new matches. This is, quite literally, allowing us to continue helping children."

This fundraiser comes at a time when both the average online fundraiser is reporting losses and a time when they need more

See FESTIVAL continued on page 16

Commissioners grant WIGC permit request extension

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

The Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative food hub has won an extension in its effort to gain proper permitting from Island County Public Health.

The WIGC food hub began operation in spring of 2020, providing a socially-distanced shopping option for Whidbey residents, which also supported local farmers. After being visited by the Island County Health Department, the organization was asked to submit permit requests by Dec. 1 to designate the food hub as a retail food establishment.

WIGC asked for an extension to submit the permit requests and to work with the county to apply for a permit which would best regulate the food hub. At the Nov. 24 Island County Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board unanimously voted to provide an extension on the permit date to Jan. 31, 2021 and work with WIGC to determine what rules and permits would be most applicable to the food hub.

"We support Island County Public Health's job of monitoring businesses that sell food, in order to keep the public safe,

and we want to be in compliance with the county, including holding all required permits," the WIGC stated in an email. "However, WIGC and Bell's Farm do not believe that either of our business ventures fall under a retail food establishment, and we're concerned that if we acquire the retail food establishment permit, we will be required to follow rules of the business designation that don't fit our business, with requirements that would be impossible for us to meet."

Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner, said moving forward, WIGC, the commissioners and the public health department will meet and work to determine the best path.

"It is my belief that we can find a solution with the evolving changes, both with the pandemic and evolving agritourism, (and) that we can reach out and work together to find a solution that I think is going to work to protect public health and allow them (the food hubs) to innovate and deliver products to market," she said.

Shannon Bly, an organizer for WIGC, said collaboration will be key during the next steps.

"Going forward we, the WIGC, the Northwest Agricultural Business Center (NABC) and the commissioners are all going to work together on figuring it out and making sure that we educate the commissioners on what exactly food hubs are and how they work, what our processes are and how to best regulate us going forward," she said. "So that everyone is safe and protected and all the FDA Food Codes are being followed and everything like that because there are going to be more and more of these food hubs, I think."

Bly said there are no local precedents for regulation of food hubs at this point. In conjunction with the local public health department, commissioners, and representatives from WIGC and NABC, she said work will be done to establish an appropriate method for safely regulating the food hub.

"They (the NABC) are going to do a bunch of research on what precedents there are in the U.S. for this so that we can help with recommendations to the commissioners," she said. "This is definitely going to be a big decision that could affect other food hubs in other counties in Washington."

Bly said opening the WIGC Food Hub, which has locations at Bell's Farm in Coupeville, and Mutiny Bay Blues in Freeland, has provided another avenue for local farmers to sell goods. She said the hubs are a way to support local businesses and farmers during the pandemic. Shopping is done online and customers simply have to pick up products from one of the hubs.

"It (ordering from the hub) is also offering a really great socially-distanced way to pick up your food, too, because you just go to the distribution center and you can even stay in your car," she said. "It is basically like online shopping with an easy pickup."

Bly said WIGC's request was met with a large amount of support.

"I thought that all of the commissioners and really a lot of people in the community were behind our request and supported us," she said. "We are just really thankful that everything went that way and they seemed to understand what we were asking, which was not that we do not want a permit or we do not want to be regulated, but that we just want to make sure that the regulations that we have to follow fit our business."

To learn more about the WIGC Food Hub, visit whidbeyisland-grown.com.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative

The WIGC food hub has provided local consumers with a socially-distanced method of shopping in the wake of COVID-19. Here, WIGC staff pack orders of fresh, locally made products for customer pickup.



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



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Promote your holiday events and bazaars island wide with Whidbey Weekly!

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.



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Freeland ACE Hardware Sale Dates December 3rd-19th

TAKE \$5.00 off 1 CUT CHRISTMAS TREE
 Must have coupon to obtain discount. Not valid on prior sales. Coupon expires on December 19th. 1 coupon per family.

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 www.aknotinthyme.com • aknotinthyme@frontier.com

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 600 SE Barrington Dr • Oak Harbor
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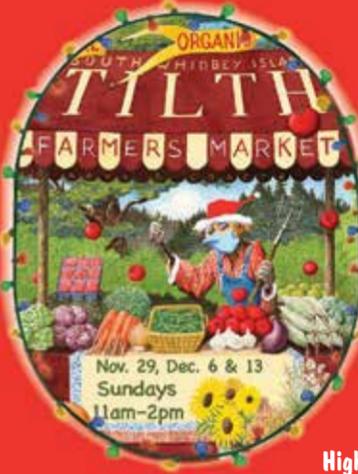
The Store with the Big Heart

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



GREEN TICKET CASH GIVEAWAY

Walk, Shop, Dine in Historic Downtown Oak Harbor

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. Must be 18 years older to participate. Do not need to be present to win.

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



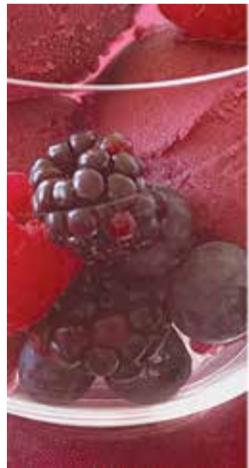
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Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris



A PEACOCK IN A PEAR TREE?

How does the adage go again? "For as much as things change, they always stay the same," or some variation thereof? I think it was written by a French writer, and it's so fitting for the season. We have moved forward in time, we've advanced technologically, our seasonal decorations are more interactive, have a certain modern edge to them, and yet, they are still ornaments of the same things that were ornamented 20, 30, 40 years ago. Our pop stars of today sing individual renditions of Christmastime

favorite songs, each one lending something a little different to the song and yet, they are the same songs that were sung, how many years ago? Exactly.

Now, there is one area I wanted to touch on that doesn't hold quite as true to this trend as say, decorating for the holidays, and that's food. Yes, some food traditions are handed down throughout the years, moving from generation to generation untouched, unchanged, intact and as delicious today as when great-great-grandma or grandpa made it. There are those, however, that are so anti-

quoted, leaving them in antiquity is probably for the best.

The first of these is the consumption of peacock meat at Christmas. Yes, I know, I didn't think it was a "thing" either, but apparently it was during the reign of King Henry VIII. I also found information, scant though it may be, which suggests peacock is still enjoyed around Christmastime in Argentina, so I don't know. Maybe the adage applies here? I don't imagine it's as widespread a tradition as it perhaps once was, as indicated by the fact we don't tend to decorate with peacock feathers during the season. In any event, it's believed peacock meat was replaced with turkey, though I still haven't figured out why.

Next up we have kiviak. This is said to be an Inuit delicacy dating back as far as we can conceive of man roaming the earth. It's a dish comprised of up to 500 seagull/auk birds, which have been stuffed inside a seal, sewn up inside and then the whole seal is oiled before being buried underneath a big flat rock for about six months, after which the entire meal is completely ready – by that, I mean fermented. Any fluids found inside the pelt are removed and used to make sauces, it's said, and people describe the flavor as being something akin to a nice ripe cheese. I can't attest to the flavor of the dish and, no matter what you think, just remem-

ber, you won't know whether or not you like something if you don't try it. You go first.

Never mind seal-fermented seagulls. How about some jellied confetti chicken? Have you ever tried it? I haven't and though it intrigues me, I have to say I am a little wary of the idea. Gelatin, pimento, veggies, chicken, mayonnaise, lemon juice, cream (to look like snow on top, apparently) canned chicken soup and a few other bits and bobs all combine to make some kind of vintage, savory chicken Jell-o tart. There are some things gelatin tastes great with and other things that might be best suited to...well...not gelatin. Perhaps this is one of them. Then again, it might taste wonderful and I may just make it to see!

Okay, the next thing I discovered is dried white fish is a yummy Norwegian seasonal dish. This is one of the more benign holiday "treats" I happened across and maybe I have a bias. I happen to thoroughly enjoy dried fish. So, this dish, lutefisk, calls for air dried, or dried and salted cod to be pickled in lye and then rehydrated a few days before it's set to be enjoyed at Christmas. After reading the steps taken just to render it edible again after having bathed in a lye solution (which, by the way, is thought to be a "ho hum,"

LET'S DISH CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Dining

Guide

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to linger and let your history dictate your destiny.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



According to an old proverb, revenge is a dish best served cold. Don't look for the recipe on any cooking show. Simmering, steaming, and other forms of heat only work against you. This most especially pertains to the heat of anger. With that, we have the ingredients behind a phrase made popular by John F. Kennedy: "Don't get mad, get even." Have a score to settle? Present it like a no-bake cookie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



The quotable tee of the day reads, "I was born free, but now I'm expensive." Does that shirt fit you? Or do you shop with champagne taste and a beer budget? Let's be real. The upper crust of society is thin by design. No matter. On a list of the finer things in life, stary nights, a summer sunrise, the smells of damp forest after a rain--these rank among the finest. Can you afford those? You're rich in ways that money can't buy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



The value of a dollar. It's about money, yes. But even more, the value of a dollar is a personal thing. It's about you. What's your desire? What do you want so urgently you will spend your hard-earned dollars to get it? And will you be happy with your purchase? An old saying tells us that a fool and his money are soon parted. Maybe that's because the value of a dollar is about dollars and sense?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



Hemingway's famous first novel title, *The Sun Also Rises*, is a marvelous example of terse eloquence. In four words, it conveys optimism amid the implied darkness. Might we wish the same for our own time? The image of sun triumphing over shadow is an apt one. Can you see parallels in America and the world? Can you see them in your own life? Remember the old saying: It's darkest before the dawn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Two steps forward and one back is a common lament, because it implies slow progress. Isn't that better than no progress? Still, many a forward thinker balks at the idea of giving ground. Does the idea of a sidestep hold more appeal? Two steps forward, a gliding side step, and two steps forward. Put that way, life begins to sound like a dance. Hip-hop, it ain't, but isn't it better than one step back?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



What happens when coy meets sly? That's two people engaging in purposeful evasions. Sound like a rousing game of elementary school dodge ball? We think so, too. While the unwillingness to give away too much can sometimes be justified, isn't it refreshing to put your cards on the table without subterfuge? Direct, or indirect. The nature of your game will dictate which approach to use.

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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.

CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



One of life's juicy paradoxes is that the seat of strength is the willingness to stand alone. What do you stand for? Do you have the bravery and the moral fiber to stand and defend that belief? The easier course may be to bend with the wind, but in the end, you must live with yourself. Speaking against being wishy-washy, Peter Marshall said, "Stand for something, or you'll fall for anything."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Nelson Mandela said, "A leader is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind." Are you the nimble one in Mandela's picture? Or a follower? Maybe you're a low-profile leader? The situation now before you is made easier for all by knowing your place in the flock.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



Knowing when to speak up and when to shut up troubles every generation. The number of words a person delivers is thought by some to be a measure of their intelligence. You know the ones. Fearful of silence, they chatter endlessly in their effort to elevate themselves. Be wary of that. Witty Mark Twain said, "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



A black sheep, a wild child, a crazy aunt or uncle. Every family has its source of drama. In a telling line from Vanity Fair, Thackeray observed that when it comes to abusing a person's character, nobody does the job better than a relative. What's your role in the family drama? Abuser, abused or peace-maker? Each family is like music; some high notes and some low notes, all of them essential to the song.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



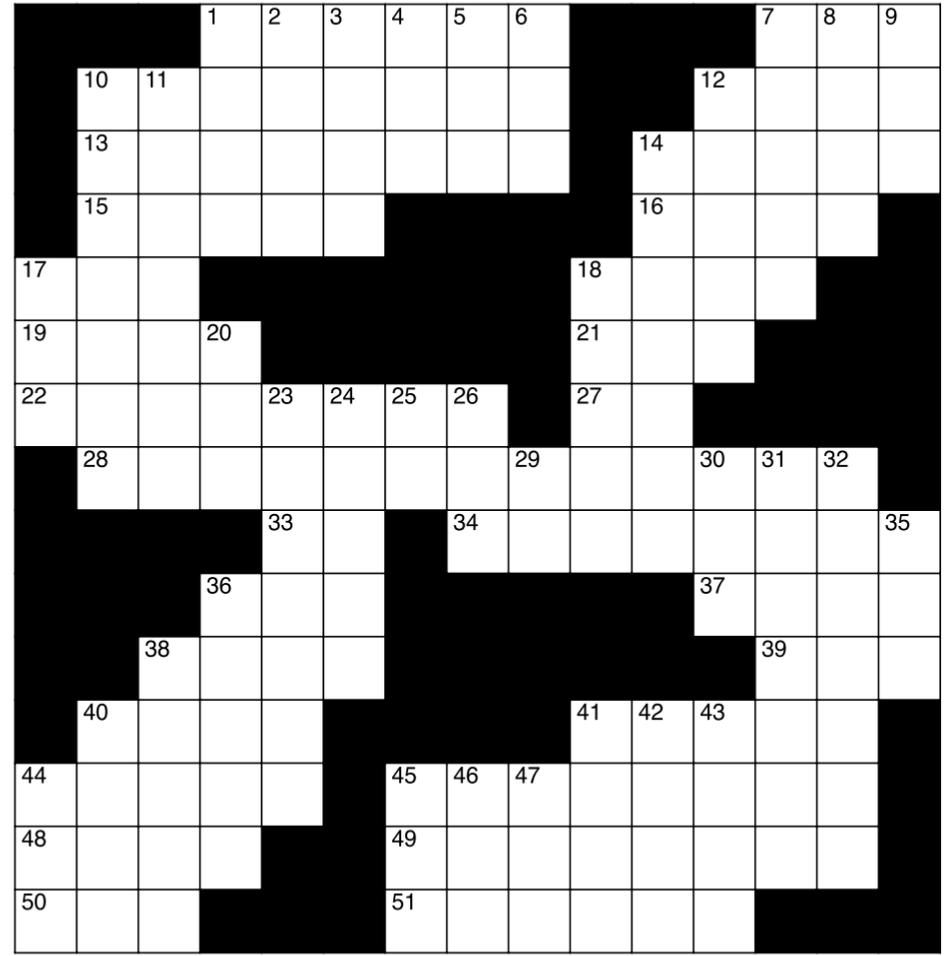
Tired of tip-toeing around the elephant in the room? Being the first to tackle a controversy is never comfortable, but the longer everyone shys away from the embarrassing issue, the bigger and more troublesome it becomes. Have you the courage to do what must be done? People will thank you, but thanks is not what you're about. The goal is the return to normalcy. How to do it? One elephant at a time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Still thinking of what could have been or should have been? Still feeling betrayed by events you thought would go differently? This is no time to let regrets paralyze the present. The sad paradox is that betrayal never comes from your enemies. That makes it so much harder to forget and move on, but move on, you must. The worst that you can do now is

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Home of the Cowboys
- 7. "Hawaii Five-O" actor McBride
- 10. Most aged
- 12. Fitted with a shoe
- 13. Courteously
- 14. They form over cuts
- 15. Western Alaskan river
- 16. Aggressive men
- 17. Farm animal
- 18. Young woman (French)
- 19. Sixth month of Hebrew calendar
- 21. Short cry
- 22. State capital
- 27. Rural delivery
- 28. "Twilight Zone" creator
- 33. Gigabyte
- 34. Flammable hydrocarbon
- 36. Supervises flying
- 37. An actor who plays a principal role
- 38. Furnace for pottery
- 39. Fall back

CLUES DOWN

- 40. Afrikaans word for language
- 41. Chinese city
- 44. Fleshy
- 45. Inventor
- 48. Taxis
- 49. A citizen of Spain
- 50. Important age for aging workers (abbr.)
- 51. Body part
- 1. Chinese mountain range
- 2. Romanian city
- 3. Fishermen cast it
- 4. Shelter from wind
- 5. Sign language
- 6. Pigpen
- 7. Make sore
- 8. Flat metal shelves
- 9. Forms that say who you are
- 10. Cigar lovers' necessity
- 11. Popular cooking ingredient
- 12. Skin covering the head
- 14. Unshakable
- 17. Exclamation meaning "Finally!"

- 18. One of the wise men's gifts
- 20. Take away from
- 23. In accordance with the law
- 24. Nicole Kidman's husband
- 25. NY Giants legend
- 26. Utilize
- 29. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 30. Unwell
- 31. More destitute
- 32. Grinded together
- 35. Sun up in New York
- 36. Italian-made cars
- 38. Most sacred site in Islam
- 40. Rip apart
- 41. Go in a specified direction
- 42. Freshwater mussel genus
- 43. "___ the Man" Musical
- 44. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 45. West coast time zone
- 46. Mimic
- 47. You can get one in summer

Answers on page 19

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Dec. 3	Fri, Dec. 4	Sat, Dec. 5	Sun, Dec. 6	Mon, Dec. 7	Tues, Dec. 8	Wed, Dec. 9
North Isle H-48°/L-36° Mostly Sunny	North Isle H-47°/L-38° Mixed Clouds and Sun	North Isle H-49°/L-38° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-50°/L-39° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-47°/L-41° Rain Possible	North Isle H-48°/L-39° Rain Possible	North Isle H-46°/L-37° Mostly Cloudy
South Isle H-48°/L-36° Mixed Clouds and Sun	South Isle H-49°/L-39° Mixed Clouds and Sun	South Isle H-50°/L-39° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-48°/L-39° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-46°/L-41° Showers Possible	South Isle H-48°/L-39° Rain Possible	South Isle H-46°/L-37° Showers



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State launches new smart phone app to help in COVID fight

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Gov. Jay Inslee has announced the addition of a new tool to aid in the battle against COVID-19.

At a press conference Monday, Inslee introduced WA Notify, an app that can tell users if they have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, while retaining complete privacy and anonymity.

"It is particularly innovative because it will alert people without ever having to share personal information. This is the beauty of it," Inslee said. "This is a program that will alert you if you come in close proximity to someone who's positive, without ever having to share your personal, private information."

Inslee said the program uses cell phones' Bluetooth technology, sharing a random code with other phones that have the WA Notify app, which makes it possible to alert people without sharing any personal information or location.

The governor stressed the system does not store or share any personal information, nor does it track users' location or who is notified through the app. It also does not provide any personal information to developers or to the state Department of Health.

For the system to work, someone who has tested positive for the virus can enter a code from public health officials into WA Notify. Anyone who uses WA Notify who was near that person during their infectious period will get a notification that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. Notifications will link users to information about what they should do next to protect themselves or others.

There is no information about who tested positive or where the exposure may have occurred.

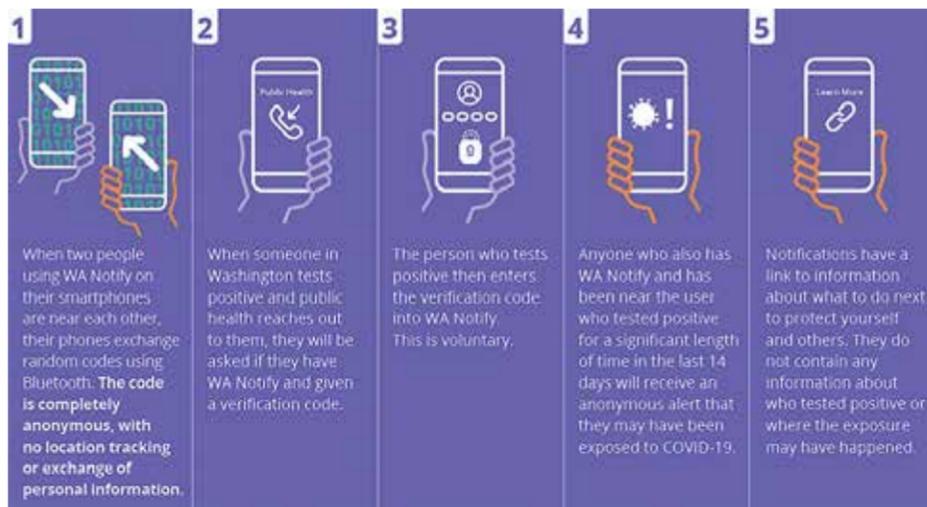
"This allows more people to get the testing and care they need quickly," said Inslee. "All you need to do it is to activate this feature on your settings feature on an Apple product or download it as an app on other smart phone models."

This app is strictly voluntary and according to Inslee, more than 200,000 people had already downloaded or activated the app by the time his press conference began.

"Obviously, the more people who take advantage of this, the more who will know whether they've potentially been exposed to COVID-19," he said. "We're releasing WA Notify in 29 languages, it uses an algorithm that determines how close users were, for how long, and puts it in the context of the COVID-infected person's contagious period. The algorithm uses the CDC's definition of a close contact...to decide to alert you or not."

Inslee said models indicate that if just 15 percent of the population in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties alone used WA Notify, it could reduce infections by 11 percent and deaths by up to 15 percent. He said such a tool is a great complement to traditional contact tracing, but said the app is not a fail-safe for whether or not someone has been exposed to COVID-19.

"WA Notify is one more tool for awareness and care that we did not have before in our fight against this virus," said Inslee. "It seems to be a very elegant and important tool in a fight against a potentially fatal disease. We



recommend it and we're very happy people are already responding well to it."

The app was created with help from the University of Washington.

"Privacy is absolutely paramount and the goal from the very start was to use this technology to help to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while protecting users' privacy," said Ana Marie Cauce, president of UW, adding the university conducted a soft launch of the program at its Seattle campus. "We were able to use it both to test privacy and to work out the technical issues. Our UW experts will continue to collaborate with Washington's Department of Health to evaluate how WA Notify technology works, including evaluating its benefits to users and public health."

With the Thanksgiving holiday behind us officials say they expect to see the holiday's impact on the number of COVID infections in about six to 10 days, although the state ranked number one in the nation in terms of the number of people who chose to stay home for the holiday.

And even though vaccines will be hitting the state by mid-December, Inslee said it is more important than ever to continue to follow public health measures.

"We would really hate to lose lives when we're getting this close to the vaccine," he said. "This is not the moment to reduce our efforts; I would argue it's the time to perhaps increase our efforts as we're getting close

See APP continued on page 16

HOLIDAY continued from page 6

"In the past we have had our elves bring candy canes to people who could only watch from their doorway or porch," he explained. "This year the elves will be on the fire engine with Santa and will distribute candy canes from a distance using a special candy cane dispensing device. Our elves and other assistants will be masked up and compliant with best practice to remain safe."

Those who turn out to see Santa can also share some holiday spirit by making donations of canned food.

"We are working on a method for food donations," said Hartin. "Right now, it looks like one of our vehicles will tow a trailer with containers for food collection. All of the food goes to the Gifts from the Heart foodbank."

Visit times could be impacted by weather, so check for time and location by visiting cwfire.org or on Facebook for updates.

SANTA'S SLEIGH AT BAYVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

5579 Bayview Rd., Langley

Saint Nick has visits planned on South Whidbey as well, but this time the visitors will come to see him, not the other way around.

Santa has been doing neighborhood visits on South Whidbey



Photo Courtesy of Langley Main Street Association
Shop windows and doors throughout Langley are all decked out for the holidays, part of its annual Deck the Doors event.

since 1995, but due to COVID-19, this year he's asked the crew at South Whidbey Fire and EMS to set up a special drive-through at its Bayview Station in Langley.

Visitors are asked to remain in their vehicles and wear masks as they drive through holiday lights and decorations while enjoying music, goodie bags and special greetings from Santa.

Learn more about South Whidbey Fire/EMS and Santa's Sleigh on Facebook or at www.swfe.org.

DECK THE DOORS IN LANGLEY:

Ongoing daily
Downtown Langley

Step into a holiday wonderland in Langley, where businesses are participating in the annual Deck the Doors holiday event put on by the Langley Main Street Association.

"Businesses go wild with imagination and holiday cheer by decorating downtown Langley doors and windows," said Michaleen McGarry, executive director of LMSA. "This annual event is a highly-anticipated affair that allows everyone the opportunity to escape the crowds by leisurely shopping in our charming seaside village.

"This year, the idea of an outdoor holiday art gallery takes on special significance due to COVID-19," she continued. "Langley's streets offer a safe place to stroll with your family—day or night—stop for hot chocolate and pick up something special for everyone on your gift-giving list. There are lots of surprises as well, so we highly recommend meandering down the alleys and lanes about town when you come!"

Find out more at langleymainstreet.org.



Photo Courtesy of Mary Beth Eelkema
See the story of Christmas play out over the course of nine different vignettes, similar to this one last year, as Oak Harbor Christian School presents the Real Story of Christmas Saturday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is an outdoor, drive-through event.



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



Haul Out the Holly

Christmas is coming

By Carey Ross



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Everywhere I go—which, to be honest, isn't very many places. These days, most of my travel happens between my bedroom, living room and kitchen.

However, like most folks, I log more time being logged in than I once did, and what I have gleaned from friends in my network is where we once waited until closer to Dec. 25 to deck the halls, in 2020 all the rules are out the window and we have no chill left, which means Christmas starts now.

As you all know by now, my holiday season began weeks ago with Hallmark Christmas movies—and it hasn't stopped since save for a brief Thanksgiving airing of *Ocean's Eleven* while I was baking pumpkin cheesecake bars. Now that the count-down to Christmas has begun in earnest, I'll queue up my personal playlist of holiday classics.

While I certainly watch my fair share of traditional Christmas movies like *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Home Alone*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and, of course, *Die Hard*, the ones I return to time and again are either not classics at all or enjoy a status that is best described as "classic adjacent." Mind you, none of my favorites are highbrow cinematic fare—I'm not fancy like that. I'm just here to haul out the holly and have a good time.

One movie you'll never find me suggesting on any list ever, unless it's a compilation of movies that should be burned to ash and then that ash should be burned to dust: *Love Actually*. I think Lindy West said it best when she described it as being "the apex of cynically vacant faux-motional cash-grab garbage cinema" in her Pulitzer-worthy 2013 review titled "I Rewatched *Love Actually* and Am Here to Ruin It for All of You."

Now that I've gotten that off my chest, I can get down to the business at hand.

Every Dec. 25, after the presents have been opened, the family Skype calls have been made, and Amy Kepferle's Christmas lasagna has been consumed, I end my holiday with a viewing of the 1988 Richard Donner comedy *Scrooged*. Sure, its jokes—and its fashion—are vintage 1980s and it certainly has its cringey bits, but what keeps me revisiting this modernish take on *A Christmas Carol* is not its surfeit of Christmas spirit, but instead its gleefully unhinged performances. The engineer of this crazy train is Bill Murray as Frank Cross (aka Ebenezer Scrooge)—and he veers off script and takes the film off the rails shortly after the opening credits and never quite gets back on track. Matching him scene for scene is Bobcat Goldthwait (remember him?), who is somehow the perfect copilot for this wild ride. Along the way, Carol Kane shows up to slap people around, Robert Goulet plays Robert Goulet, and no part of it makes a lick of sense. Kind of like Christmas itself.

On his way to a remarkable Hollywood comeback which would result in his anchoring the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe, Robert Downey Jr. starred in a little-seen gem of a Christmas movie called *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*. It's a hardboiled neo-noir that pays homage to the detective stories of Raymond Chandler set during a present-day holiday season in Hollywood. It's whip smart, razor sharp—and packed with hilarious one-liners aplenty thanks to the nimble pen of screenwriter Shane Black. After finding considerable success writing *Lethal Weapon* scripts, Black fell out of favor in Hollywood. By the time he made *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, he was a bit of an outcast, and so he made a film about outcasts and then cast it with a pair of outcasts, Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer, as its main characters. A modest hit, the film was well-received by critics and led to RDJ's massive comeback—and then the Avenger paid Black back with a gig writing and directing *Iron Man 3*.

I was this many years old when I learned *Gremlins* was not a Steven Spielberg film. In fact, I have written about it before, and I'm pretty sure I attributed it to Spielberg. Mea culpa. I was so wrong. The 1984 horror comedy—which is considered a Christmas classic by more people than just me—was directed by Joe Dante, and judging by the rest of his resume, he definitely peaked with this holiday creature feature. Spielberg did act as producer (and has a cameo in the film), while Chris Columbus (no, not that one) did duty as screenwriter. Columbus would go on to do a short stint behind the camera on *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* before leaving the production after scrapping with Chevy Chase, and followed it up with *Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2*, making him Hollywood's King of Christmas. But before being at the helm for the hijinks of Kevin McCallister, Columbus wrote a story about a furry little creature called a mogwai, who would remain insufferably cute as long as it wasn't fed after midnight. Cue the post-midnight snacking and all holiday hell breaking loose. It wouldn't be Christmas without a little chaos, right?

On a more personal note: This will be my final film column for *Whidbey Weekly*—at least for now. I've accepted a job offer that will take me away from the newspaper biz for the time being. I have loved my time with this newspaper and have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the community it serves so well. I've had the best time writing about movies for all of you and hope to return to the pages of *Whidbey Weekly* one day. Until then, I'll be reading right along with you. Keep watching films, support your independent theaters and, when we're on the other side of this crazy time, I'll see you at the movies.

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.6

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

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

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Pam's Prayer Corner

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

Heavenly Father,

As we enter this winter holiday season we ask for your grace and protection over those who are struggling with food security, homelessness, addiction, and mental or physical illness. Please guide them to the people or resources in our community who might be able to help them. Bless them with protection from the elements, bless them with sufficiency of food and clothing, bless them with joy and peace of mind. We ask these things and give thanks and praise in the name of Jesus.

Amen

*"God is our
refuge and
strength, an
ever-present
help in trouble."*

Psalm 46:1



FESTIVAL continued from page 10

volunteers and resources than ever.

"I'm sure our fundraising will be impacted this year," Scribner said. "Most organizations that are doing online fundraisers this year are posting a 50 percent loss over last year. It would be incredibly unrealistic of me to think we're going to make the same amount of money this year. It's just not reality. I wish it was, but it's not."

"We've seen a huge downturn in the number of volunteers who are showing their interest and signing up for our program," she continued. "I understand there's a lot of the fear in the world right now about all the uncertainty, but the kids who are on our waitlist—which there are about 50—they need somebody to be their rock. They need somebody to be consistent and available, and someone who isn't necessarily mom or dad. Someone outside of their home they can talk to, be real with, learn from, and grow with."

Despite the challenges, Scribner is reassured by the organization's continued success.

"I think one of the most amazing things about our program is how often the Bigs tell us about how much their Littles have helped them to grow," she stated. "What a cool thing. People come in thinking they're just going to help someone else out, and in turn this person they were there to support has made them a better person."

"We've continued our program, and almost

100 percent of our school-based matches continue to meet, which I think is just incredible," Scribner continued. "We've been able to maintain those matches meeting online instead of in-person. Our Coupeville school-based program is currently our most robust system, and has really done an amazing job during all of this. They just keep meeting them, and we were able to make some new matches."

In the end, Scribner hopes this event will bring joy to a stressful year.

"The support of this community is just incredible," she stated. "In a very heartfelt way, I'm thankful every day that I get the honor of working for this organization, and hopefully improving the lives of kids in our community. I think it's one of the most beautiful, wonderful things I've ever been able to do. When we get kids who come back and tell us their Big has made a difference in their lives, that they have fun and look forward to it and that person has been a bright spot in the midst of a really uncertain year, that makes every bit of everything else we've dealt with this year worth it."

Register for the live event or the silent auction at bbbsislandcounty.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/FestivalofTrees2020, and preview the auction items at bbic2020.ggo.bid/bidding/package-browse. Registration is free. Bidding for the silent auction ends at noon Monday.

APP continued from page 14

to being able to have a vaccine for folks. The need to reduce the gatherings in our homes...that is still so important. It's really great news to have the vaccine on the way, but to have the vaccine work, you've got to be alive [to] get it. We really hope people will continue what has been a really vigilant and resolute effort so far."

The governor also announced the state's Commerce Department will open applications this week for the additional \$50 million in Working Washington grants for businesses hard-hit by the pandemic.

"If you know of a small business that has been heavily impacted by COVID – a

restaurant, theater, music venue, your local bowling alley – please tell them to visit commerce.wa.gov/bizgrants and stay connected to the Department of Commerce so they can apply as soon as possible. We hope that this is going to help."

The latest figures on the number of COVID-19 infections in Island County was not available by press time due to the holiday schedule. As of Nov. 25, there had been a total of 603 cases since the pandemic began. Visit coronavirus.wa.gov or islandcountywa.gov for the latest figures.

To download the WA Notify app or to find more information, go to WaNotify.org.

LET'S DISH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

incidental thing that just became absorbed as part of the process later on), it seems to me it involves way more soaking in water than I have the patience for. It also leaves you with fish that has a similar gelatinous texture to what I imagine confetti chicken has. If you enjoy this, you just might like this kind of fish dish.

I had to include this next one on the list because it reminds me a little of mince pies. You see, growing up, we referred to ground beef as mince or mincemeat, so I never understood why mince pies were called such, yet not a hint of ground beef was to be found anywhere within the pastry casing. Unlike many of my friends, I really quite enjoy a mince pie or two. Or three. Or however many is socially acceptable before I look greedy – though not much is socially acceptable now and that's probably with good reason. In any event, goose pie is, as it sounds; a pie made from goose meat. It is also known to include rabbit and duck (also likely why it's sometimes called English duck pie). It's like my mince pies that didn't actually contain mince (ground beef). In any event, a goose pie isn't really something you'd come across at a festive gathering today. Unless it was themed; circa 1800 English country cottage at Christmas.

Whatever festive fare looks like to people anywhere and everywhere, just remember every dish comes attached to a tradition and memory. It helps make the dish what it is and maybe that's what keeps certain foods going strong, all these years on. My dear readers, I'd love to know what festive food tradition has been going for generations in your family, if you feel so inclined to share it with me. I am including a recipe for...can

you guess? No, it's not the gelatin confetti chicken, sorry to disappoint! It's a recipe I've used once before and it's incredibly easy and so tasty! If you try it, let me know how you like it. Who knows, maybe it becomes part of a seasonal food tradition passed down through the branches of your family tree. Please send any and all comments, questions, stories and recipes you'd like to share to letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com and we'll do just that and (seasonal) dish!

Brie and Cranberry Bites

1 tube crescent dough (8 oz)
½ cup cranberry sauce
1 wheel of brie cheese (remove the rind)
¼ cup chopped pecans
Cinnamon to taste
Flour for work surface
Cooking spray or butter to grease pans

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a mini muffin tin with cooking spray or butter. On a floured surface, roll out crescent dough and gently smooth over the seams. Cut the dough into 24 squares and place into mini muffin pan. Cut brie into small pieces and place into the dough cups. Top each with a spoonful of cranberry sauce, a sprinkle of cinnamon and some chopped pecans. Bake for 15 minutes or until the dough is golden. Allow to cool a bit, serve and enjoy!

<https://vintagerecipesandcooking.com/a-christmas-goose-pie/>
www.culinaryschools.org/blog/kiviak-greenland-inuit-fermented-seal-dish/

To read past columns of *Let's Dish* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

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BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Goosefoot had initially discussed installing additional Christmas lights throughout all of Bayview Corner to add more holiday magic during these challenging times. However, according to Executive Director Sandy Whiting, "As much pleasure as it would bring to residents and visitors alike to enjoy an expanded light display, we decided it was more important to bring that magic directly into homes in our community."

Goosefoot has distributed a total of \$4,500 to Island Senior Resources and Readiness to Learn for their 2020 holiday programs. "Everyone needs some extra cheer this year," said Program Director Marian Myszkowski. "We hope our donations make it easier for Holiday House and caseworkers at Island Senior Resources to share the magic of this season with their clients, our neighbors, our community."

Island Senior Resources will distribute gift cards to its clients who have the most need this holiday season, determined by its service teams and caseworkers. These general gift cards will give clients the most flexibility and self-determination to fill their needs. <https://senior-resources.org>

Readiness to Learn will be using the grant to fill requests it receives through its annual Holiday House program—restructured as Holiday Help this year. Holiday Help is designed to safely offer parents and caregivers facing financial hardships a chance to request the gifts their children want, or to get as close as possible. Learn more about this year's Holiday Help program at www.readinesstolearn.org/holiday-house

[Submitted by Marian A. Myszkowski, Director of Programs, Goosefoot Community Fund]

No Mukilteo/Clinton Ferry Service for Most of Dec. 29
18-hour route suspension to end with opening of new Mukilteo terminal

People who use the Mukilteo/Clinton state ferry route will need to make alternate plans for much of the day Tuesday, Dec. 29. Washington State Ferries will suspend service on the run for 18 hours total, including the first 13 hours of the day's sailing schedule, in preparation for the opening of the new Mukilteo multimodal terminal that evening.

After the final Monday, Dec. 28, evening sailings (the 11:45PM from Clinton and the 12:15AM from Mukilteo), crews will start the hours-long process of moving key marine structures from the old terminal one-third of a mile away to the new one. During the 18 hours of closure, even emergency, non-scheduled sailings will not be possible.

Service on the route will resume starting with the Tuesday, Dec. 29, 5:35PM departure out of Clinton. The new Mukilteo facility officially opens upon arrival of that first sailing around 5:50PM.

Ahead of the resumption of normal service on the route, tollbooths in Clinton will reopen at 4:30PM. Tollbooths in Mukilteo will open at 5:00PM so riders can line up for the 6:10PM first sailing out of the new terminal.

Alternate routes

People who need to travel to or from Whidbey Island before ferry service resumes on Dec. 29 can drive north over Deception Pass on State Route 20. Another option is to use WSF's Edmonds/Kingston and Port Townsend/Coupeville routes.

"We recognize this is a major disruption for some of our customers," said Amy Scarton, head of WSF. "We worked to balance the need of those who rely on this route to get to work with the need to open the new terminal by scheduling this move over a holiday break, when there are usually fewer commuters."

The new terminal, replacing the cramped 63-year-old one, boosts transportation safety and reliability for a growing Seattle metropolitan region.

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 Diane Rhodes, Communications, WSDOT]

Local Business News

Rob Schouten Gallery & Sculpture Garden Presents Fine Art in the Season of Light

This holiday season enjoy finding the perfect fine art gifts created by over 40 of your favorite local and regional artists at Langley's Rob Schouten Gallery & Sculpture Garden during its "Fine Art in the Season of Light" Holiday Show, through December 31. Celebrate those you love with a one-of-a-kind piece chosen especially for them.

Included in the gallery's beautiful displays are fabulous jewelry by talented Whidbey jewelers, stunning sculptures in bronze, stone, wood and steel, original paintings in a variety of styles and mediums, and some extraordinary fine art glass including handblown, sculpted and fused. You'll also find elegant woodwork, ceramics and fiber art, fresh witty assemblages, and a wonderfully wide array of beautiful art objects sure to delight.

Rob Schouten Gallery, a premier showcase for Whidbey Island and Northwest artists, is located at 101 Anthes Avenue, Langley, at the corner of First and Anthes. The gallery is open Weekends 10:00AM to 5:00PM, Weekdays 11:00AM to 4:00PM, Tuesdays by appointment.

For further information, call 360-222-3070 or email info@robschoutengallery.com

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

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Island Shakespeare Festival is seeking new members to join our Board of Directors. We're looking for people who are passionate about high-quality live classical theater and can devote time and energy to support the work of Island Shakespeare Festival's important cultural, social, and fiscal position on Whidbey Island. Our current needs include individuals with backgrounds in the following areas: human resources, donor relations, finance, as well as other skills related to overseeing a

performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF, attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact jeff.natter@islandshake-spearefest.org.

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

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

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Island. Volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members with no prior healthcare background. ICMRC utilizes volunteers to strengthen community health,

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enhance emergency response capabilities, and boost community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters such as winter storms, flooding, earthquakes, as well as public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks. If you are interested in volunteering please go to the Island County MRC website for more information or contact s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov

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

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest

Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pnwnam.org and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself.

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

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

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

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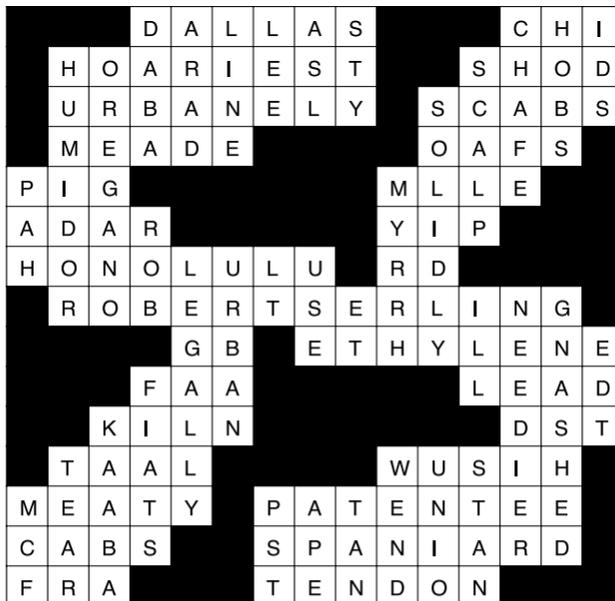
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You can come as often as you like until your monthly points are all used. Everyone gets new points on the first of every month. Please don't hesitate or be embarrassed if you need a little or a lot. These are unsettled times and we all need to help each other. No one is turned away. Just bring a document or letter showing you live on South Whidbey (Greenbank and south).

Good Cheer Food Bank is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We are located at 2812 Grimm Rd, which is off Bayview Rd., right next door to the new South Whidbey Fire Department.

If you are able, please consider supporting your local Food Bank with a financial gift.

- North Whidbey Help House in Oak Harbor
- Gifts from the Heart Food Bank serving Coupeville
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