

December 17 through December 23, 2020

FREE

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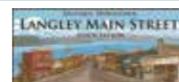
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Whidbey Weekly

# Home for the Holidays

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# ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



According to my slide rule, there are 60 days until spring training. I'll take fake baseball over no baseball any day.

**Pandemic brain**  
Breaking news – While you are reading this after

the fact, the fact just happened.

I left my Holiday Delights at the Freeland Post Office.

In my holiday haste to expedite line movement, I dropped the Sparkling Holiday stamps and the Madonna and Child book of 20 stamps on the floor.

The Holiday Delights might still be on the counter. Maybe the Grinch ate them.

Of course, I did not realize the ramifications of my postal faux pas until getting back in my truck to add postage and to mail the yet-to-be stamped unstamped.

While looking everywhere, which does not take long in my truck, I realized I had left \$11 worth of postage somewhere.

Do I get back in line? How much line waiting can one do on a Wednesday?

The early bird may get the worm, but said bird also gets the line. Three trips through the parking lot yesterday seemed not to be a time waster. At least something was moving.

My fault in analysis – when there is one doer for 20 yet-to-be-dones, patience, bite my tongue.

As a retired barrister, I always look at causation. But for the mailing of cowboy trivia to Nancy White's Dad, Del, in Mesa, Ariz., I would not have been in line to get partially stamped envelopes weighed.

Of course, but for the professional assistance of Anthony, I would not have saved the postage money I saved by combining the partially stamped 8 x10 envelopes into a priority mail flat rate option.

Thank you, Anthony. Without you, I could still be in line.

Yes, were it not for my love for cowboys, I never would have been at the post office. Regardless, look at the fun I had. All that excitement only cost me 11 bucks, plus I got to wear my mask.

### Post office bonus

While waiting in the lobby, I was able to see several celebrities – professional walker Virginia Lindsey, poets Diane Moondancer and Lorraine Healy, chef David Wright, and I think singer/songwriter Michael Licastro, but I am not sure because the gentleman was very tall and wearing a mask.

This social distancing at the post office is tough. If one is in line, the people not in line who just want to retrieve mail must squirm to their designated space, risking social distancing violation in doing so.

This is not easy, even for a squirmer like me.

### Holiday cards

This may be the year. Usually I start addressing unused Christmas cards from prior years about mid-October. By the time I get to the Cs and Ds, I am ready to quit.

This year I am sending cards the day I receive them from the sender. While they may realize I am only replying, at least I am sending.

My CPA used to call me.

"Jimmy, please send me an email. I have something to send you but I only know how to reply."

I better not tell Steve about reply all. He might get in trouble.

### Christmas letters

This year's cards seem to be void of the annual Christmas letters.

Dad always loved those annual summaries

by his friends. Some of the funnier ones, he read aloud.

"Susie made the volleyball team this year. She broke her ankle the third match so she did not get to play at the state tourney. Next year we hope she has healed as she will be a senior."

"Tommy was arrested again this winter for skitching. He borrowed his Dad's loafers and hid at a stop light to grab on to back bumpers of cars to ski in the snow. While he now has a police record, Tommy got a B+ on his Skitching is a Crime report for 8th grade English."

"The divorce could be final by the time you get this. If not, we'll be going to Greece after we get back from Oklahoma. While I am adjusting to life with Merle and without Bob, I have met a nice man who takes care of our dog when Merle and I are on the road. I am not yet sure who will watch the dog if the dog whisperer and I begin dating. He reminds me of an old boyfriend I dated before he got kicked out of high school for taking air out of the tires of the teachers' cars in faculty parking."

Yes, we do miss those holiday letters. Maybe I'll make one up for next year. If nothing else, I can read it to myself.

### Quotes from the quotable

*Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through the experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.*

~Helen Keller

*A friend is one who joyfully sings with you when you are on the mountain top, and silently walks beside you through the valley.*

~William A. Ward

*The first fall of snow is not only an event but it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up to find yourself in another quite different, and if this is not enchantment, then where is it to be found?*

~J. B. Priestley

*People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring.*

~Rogers Hornsby

### Answers so far

Our solicitation for reasons why a person is or is not planning to get the vaccine shot drew this response from a lady with a belted degree in karate. She has no problems with needles.

"My reasons why I won't get the vaccine:

"1. Production and testing are happening at the same time...How can that happen? Better yet, who would volunteer for something like this? Without any idea of the long term effects, no thank you.

"2. They have spent 70 years developing a vaccine for the flu that is only 40 percent effective at best. Why should I believe they will be able to find a vaccine that's more effective in a year, give or take?

"Fun tidbit I was told by a nurse:

If the U.S. had taken all the money given to pharmaceuticals to develop a vaccine, split it amongst the American citizens (it would have been about \$22,000 each), locked down the U.S. for two full weeks, we would have eradicated the virus and be back to normal.

"Anyway, it's not that I don't trust the science, in fact, it's because I trust the science based on past protocols and development that I won't rush out to get the vaccine."

Stay tuned.

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

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**Volume 12, Issue 51 | © MMXX Whidbey Weekly**

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# Holidays

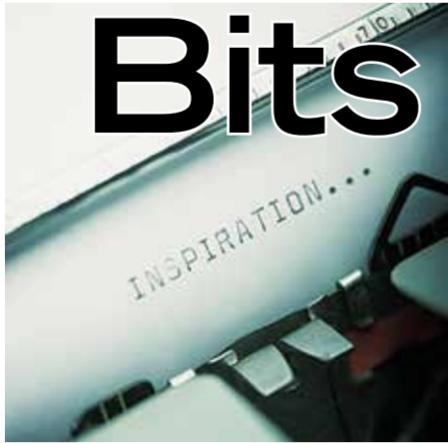
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Langley is dressed for the holidays. Stroll our streets, shop in your favorite shops and grab a bite at our restaurants' outdoor dining tents. Shopping and dining locally is a wonderful way to **support your community.**

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# Bits & Pieces

## Letters to the Editor

### Editor,

This past Sunday, Dec. 13, *The Seattle Times* fish-wrapper contained an article entitled "Far-right group stakes claim at Whidbey Island Grange." The article begins on the front page, consumes the entire content on the twelfth page, and ends at the top of page 13.

To say that I am LIVID, is vastly understating my outrage regarding this biased reporting!

To begin with, the Deer Lagoon Grange is not the issue here - it is simply a venue - a gathering place for many different organizations on south Whidbey Island. It is exactly what your perception of a Grange is, primarily involved with local agricultural organizations, farmers, etc. As a "venue," they make their building available to groups for Sunday services, meetings, and other activities for various local clubs. I have attended church services at the Deer Lagoon Grange.

Now, I am not a member of the 3 percent group, but I have relatives and friends who are. My husband and I are strong advocates for the 2nd Amendment because it is an inalienable right, guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

Recently, some members of the 3 percent joined the Grange. I know some of them but not all. They are good, decent people with families, and longtime residents vested in our south Whidbey community.

It's my understanding the 3 percent decided to plan a community family picnic centered around religious freedom and host it at the Deer Lagoon Grange. They called it the "Freedom To Worship Rally/Protest." They had some signs made and began to advertise it.

It wasn't long before the Grange began receiving threatening phone calls - to the point the caretakers quit answering the phone. There were enough that the 3 percent group changed the venue from the Grange to a private property location and went forward with their plans for the gathering.

We attended the picnic and it was wonderful! Some people wore masks, some didn't. Nobody sat close as there was plenty of room to spread out. Some families with children, including babes in arms, sat together, of course. There were three or five speakers including ministers and political folks. We had prayers and sang hymns. It was very refreshing, wholesome and positive. I heard no derogatory comments about anyone - any race - any creed. All races were welcomed at the picnic and there were black, brown, yellow and white.

Soon after, we began to plan for the "Patriotic Community Caravans." This involved inviting our friends and neighbors to join us in a caravan from Clinton to Oak Harbor driving our vehicles decorated with flags of all kinds and current campaign signs. We gathered at the Clinton Post Office on a Saturday morning and formed a line.

Leaving the post office, we drove north on Highway 525, made a quick tour of the City of Langley, then back to the Highway and made another quick tour of Freeland. Then on up to Coupeville where we repeated the tour, and proceeded up to Oak Harbor where we ended at the large parking lot on Highway 20 in the middle of town.

We actually did two caravans on different weekends, with the same stops.

We did not dally in any of the towns we toured. Stops were for traffic lights, the normal stop signs in towns and on the roads. There were a few rest stops at appropriate facilities. We did not park in front of anyone's business to deliberately antagonize or for any other reason. What I did, myself, was roll the window down and yelled "God Bless America!" and waved at the passersby. Many enthusiastically waved back!

It is my opinion the article in *The Seattle Times* is a bunch of hogwash and I'm very distressed they chose two weeks before Christmas to unleash this hateful, disgusting collection of lies and innuendos against innocent people! The *Times* needs to apologize to our Whidbey Island community!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! God bless America!

Mary Jane Olson  
Clinton, Wash.

### Rider Alert: No Service

Island Transit offices and transit services will be closed in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day - Tuesday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Jan. 1. Other than those two dates, Island Transit will remain open and continue to operate on its posted routes and times. Please visit [www.IslandTransit.org](http://www.IslandTransit.org) for detailed route information or call 360-678-7771.

[Submitted by Selene Muldowney-Stratton, Marketing & Communications Officer, Island Transit]

### Drive Thru the North Pole

The Oak Harbor First United Methodist church invites the public to enjoy a North Pole Drive-Thru featuring two unique experiences of the traditions and symbols of Christmas.

Sunday, Dec. 20, between 1:00 and 3:00PM, drive through the North Pole (in the church parking lot) and stop by the Northern Lights (to sign luminary bags), Luke's Library (video recorded reading parts of Luke's gospel), Evergreen Forest (for a quick, COVID-safe family photo in front of the Christmas tree lit with candles), and Santa's Workshop (with instructions for a "word ornament" project and bringing goods to help The Haven homeless outreach as well as the church's live-stream Christmas Eve service).

Thursday, Dec. 24, drive through between 5:00 and 6:00PM to experience the beautifully lit luminaries you helped to make. As you drive through, you will visit the Reindeer Round-Up (Haven gifts collection center), Elf Village (ornament collection and hanging), and Mrs. Claus' Kitchen (a sweet treat to send you on your way)!

Each drive-thru station will have different activities for you to participate in. Some will be elements that will be incorporated into the church's Christmas Eve Live-Stream Worship service. All ages are welcome and invited. You won't want to miss this! For COVID safety, all volunteers will be wearing masks, and participants are encouraged to as well.

Then, join the church live at 7:00PM for its Christmas Eve service on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/OakHarborFUMC](http://www.facebook.com/OakHarborFUMC)) or its website (<https://oakharborfumc.org/live>). You will get to see the reveal from the two drive-thru events and your own faces and family during the Silent Night montage. The Oak Harbor First United Methodist church is located at 1050 SE Ireland St. For further questions, please call 360-675-2441.

[Submitted by Pastor David Parker, Oak Harbor First United Methodist Church]

### Two Oak Harbor Families Selected to Become the Next Habitat Homeowners

Last month, two families learned they will soon become Habitat Homeowners. Each family qualified for the home-buyer program through hard work and perseverance. Habitat home-buyers must meet income and credit

qualifications and be willing to commit to 250 hours of "sweat equity" in lieu of a down payment.

Habitat for Humanity of Island County CEO Orin Kolaitis said, "It's been a challenging year and we know that even more families need a helping hand to secure decent, affordable housing. We're looking forward to building again and to working with these two amazing families. They've both faced some daunting challenges, but they've never given up."

"Both families were encouraged to apply by coworkers who are Habitat Homeowners," shared Family Services Manager Erik Mann. "It's really great that the families we've worked with become advocates and encourage other families to apply."

After learning about the home-buyer program from Mike's coworker at Island County Transit who purchased his Habitat home in 2013, Mike and Janette decided to apply. Their family of eight includes two sons ages eight and four, and four daughters ages six, one, and micro-preemie twins born in September at just 30 weeks. They will be moving from a 500 square foot manufactured home into a nearly 1,800 square foot, five bedroom home early next year. They are excited they'll have a room dedicated to homeschooling and they will have enough room for a dining table big enough for the entire family.

When Janette was asked what owning a home that meets her family's needs will mean to her she said, "Never in a million years did we think we would be blessed enough to be chosen but honestly, having a true and proper home would change our lives more than I could ever truly express. We couldn't be happier to be a part of the Habitat family and feel blessed beyond measure to go on this journey with you all."

Habitat's second family was also encouraged to apply by a current Habitat homeowner. Aaron and Victoria were childhood friends who lost touch when they were 10 years old and reconnected online 14 years later. Now married for nine years, they have two beautiful daughters ages six and eight. Victoria says they had given up trying to purchase a home and were resigned to living in an apartment. Then her coworker convinced them to apply to purchase a home through Habitat. Imagine their surprise when, Nov. 23, they were invited to the Habitat office to "fill out some additional paperwork" only to be surprised with balloons, flowers, and congratulations on being selected to become Habitat homeowners.

When asked what they are most looking forward to in their new home Victoria said, "I'm looking forward to hanging pictures. We've always lived in apartments and I didn't know how long we'd be there, so I never felt like decorating." She's excited for her girls to be able to pick the colors for their bedrooms and express their own, very different, styles. One is into unicorns, rainbows and glitter while the other enjoys cars, Legos, and Mutant Ninja Turtles.

"Now that we're building again, we hope to complete five homes in the next 18 months," Kolaitis stated. "That's five more families who will be on the path to strength, stability, and self-reliance through homeownership."

### About Habitat for Humanity of Island County

Founded in 1998 by community members who recognized the need for affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity of Island County has grown from a small community affiliate, to a county-wide organization serving dozens of families. With the support of community partnerships with respected businesses, local churches, civic organizations, and military service members, Habitat for Humanity provided decent, affordable homeownership to 50 families and performed critical home repairs for additional members of our community. Through financial support or volunteering at our furniture stores or build sites, everyone

can help families achieve the strength, stability, and the self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

[Submitted by Kathy Blair, Resource Development Manager, Habitat for Humanity of Island County]

### Muzzall Garners Valuable Committee Assignments

Changes in committee assignments have been announced in advance of the 2021 legislative session. State Sen. Ron Muzzall, R-Oak Harbor, has been appointed to a new, influential committee and joins the ranks of leadership on another.

Muzzall will continue to serve on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which focuses on the state budget and tax issues. He has been appointed the ranking member on the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee and joins the Senate Rules Committee, which serves as a final gateway for bills that have cleared the committee stage but have not reached the Senate floor.

"Since joining the Senate, I've focused on ensuring our district has a strong voice in the decisions being made in Olympia and delved into policy issues impacting our residents," Muzzall said. "I'm honored to continue my work on health care issues and the budget and welcome the challenge of working with my colleagues to determine broader decisions about what the whole Senate will vote on in the Rules Committee."

Muzzall is leaving the State Government, Elections and Tribal Relations Committee, whose responsibilities have been split up across two committees.

"As a freshman senator, my thought was just to be happy to sit and listen and learn," said Muzzall. "Now that I will be serving the people of the 10th District for a full, four-year term, it's time to change my approach and bring my wealth of experience to bear for all of the communities I represent. I think these committee assignments will serve us well."

The 2021 legislative session is scheduled to convene remotely for 105 days Jan. 11, 2021.

[Submitted by Laudan Espinoza, Sen. Ron Muzzall's office]

## Local Business News

### Oak Harbor Taproom Temporarily Halts Operations

Despite its best efforts to navigate the operational and economic challenges presented by COVID-19, the recent extension of the lockdown period by Washington State authorities led Penn Cove Brewing Company early last week to make the difficult decision to temporarily halt operations at its Oak Harbor Taproom, effective Sunday, Dec. 13. Optimism remains, and owners and staff want the greater Whidbey Island community to know that tightening their belts for the next short while, although painful, will enable Penn Cove Brewing Company to push onward through the end of the current challenges and into 2021 with secure footing. At its Coupeville Taproom, it remains business as usual, albeit with a few recently added perks, including a cozy covered and heated patio and a new croller machine, which allows PCBC beer fans to snag individual 16oz cans (or better yet, a 4-Pack!) of their favorite beer to-go. Speaking of beer, just on the other side of the covered outdoor seating area, you'll find the brewers hard at work finishing off their final beers of 2020, including a very exciting holiday triple release of a Christmas Witbier, a Chocolate Covered Cherry Stout, and a Fireside Ale. Meanwhile, down south, progress at its new taproom and experimental brewing facility in Freeland continues, with framing underway and custom signage by friend and local artist Mark Wacker coming along beautifully. So, at the end of the day, while it laments the temporary closure, Penn Cove is doing its best to view the (pint) glass as half-full, not half-empty, and remains committed to continuing its focus on Craft, Community and Collaboration in 2021.



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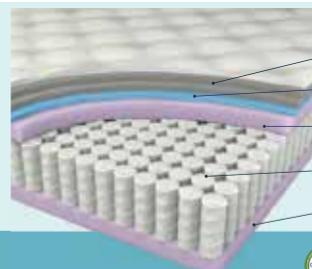
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Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.





Oak Harbor Schools looking ahead p. 14

## COVID vaccinations begin on Whidbey

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

The first COVID-19 vaccinations will be administered starting today on Whidbey Island.

According to Island County Public Health Director Keith Higman, WhidbeyHealth was scheduled to receive 975 doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week. A subsequent press release from WhidbeyHealth Monday afternoon confirmed the facility was set to receive the first doses Tuesday – earlier than first expected – so inoculations are expected to begin Thursday, starting with WhidbeyHealth healthcare workers in the Phase 1a category.

“We can now see light at the end of the tunnel and the availability of vaccine is promising,” Higman told *Whidbey Weekly* via email.

The news of the vaccine’s arrival coincides with a steady rise in cases of COVID-19 in Island County. As of Monday evening, there had been 802 confirmed cases in Island County and a total of 18 deaths.

The vaccine will be given to residents based on recommendations set by the Centers for Disease Control and the State Department of Health. Frontline healthcare workers, high-risk first responders and residents and staff of long term care facilities are included in the initial group. According to a press release Tuesday from ICPH, additional providers will be added throughout Island County as more vaccine is received in early 2021.

For now, WhidbeyHealth has been designated as an open vaccination provider and plans to have vaccinated about 1,600 workers within the first two weeks of receiving the vaccine. Other healthcare workers in the Phase 1a group will be able to schedule an appointment through their employers. Further guidance on the order of vaccine eligibility and distribution will be issued by the DOH as the rollout continues, similar to boarding groups getting on an airplane, according to ICPH. Washington DOH will release a web tool in early January to help people identify their phase and where they can get vaccinated.

The process of vaccinating enough people to attain “herd immunity” within the general population is expected to take quite a long time.

“It will take a significant effort to deliver vaccine to the population through providers,” Higman said. “Behaviors should not change just because vaccine is arriving. We still need to mitigate for COVID until we have a significant portion of the population vaccinated.”

“While this is an exciting phase in our fight against COVID-19, I cannot stress enough the importance of precautions and continuing to contain the spread of the disease,” Erin Wooley, WhidbeyHealth chief nursing officer, said in the press release. “Everyone should follow advice related to gatherings for the holidays, wearing masks, distancing and frequent hand-washing.”



Photo Courtesy of Yahoo News

The first doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine have arrived in Washington. WhidbeyHealth received its first batch Tuesday, meaning inoculations are now beginning on Whidbey Island.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration completed its review of the Pfizer vaccine, which must be kept at -94 degrees, granting emergency use authorization to the vaccine Friday. The 17-member Scientific Safety Review Workgroup in Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado and Nevada put its stamp of approval on the vaccine after conducting its own review. A second vaccine produced by Moderna is being reviewed by the FDA this week and is expected to be granted authorization for emergency use.

All of this is good news, said Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in a press conference Sunday.

“After months of fighting this relentless virus, we now can begin to use this vaccine against this virus and add that to our tools we have been using, of acting responsibly by masking up and socially distancing,” he said. “This cannot come soon enough, obviously. Our state is closing in on 200,000 Washingtonians that we know have been infected...and unfortunately we are approaching the loss of 3,000 Washingtonians to this dread disease. We know there’s much to do, but having this vaccine is just tremendous news for our state.”

But concerns over the safety of the vaccine may prevent

people who are eligible from getting it. Inslee said he is confident the vaccine is safe.

“I am extremely confident Washingtonians can begin to receive this vaccine in a safe fashion,” he said, citing the independent workgroup’s approval as added assurance of its safety. “These experts, after review, advised me the FDA followed its usual process, as it normally would when reviewing a vaccine for emergency authorization. This is very reassuring to me – and I hope, to others – to start down the road to recovering from this pandemic.”

State health officials say they expect to receive about 222,000 Pfizer vaccines by the end of the year. An additional 183,000+ doses of the Moderna vaccine could also arrive by the end of December, should it be approved for use. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses, administered about three weeks apart.

Washington DOH estimates the Phase 1a group includes about 500,000 people.

For more information, visit [islandcountywa.gov](http://islandcountywa.gov), [doh.wa.gov/emergencies/COVID19](http://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/COVID19), [coronavirus.wa.gov](http://coronavirus.wa.gov) and [whidbey-health.org](http://whidbey-health.org).

### CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...4.8

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

Answers on page 19

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

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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 17, 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. Info at www.sowhidbey.com.

### Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue Santa Neighborhood Tours

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. CWF&R will be accepting non-perishable food bank donations. Please call 678-3602 or visit www.cwfire.org for further details.

### Winter Wonderland Drive-Through

Friday, December 18, 5:00-7:00PM

Heller Road Fire Station, Oak Harbor

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

### Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below

Cost: Free

### Books2Movies: Where'd You Go, Bernadette

Friday, December 18, 2:00PM

Read or listen to the book, watch the movie, then join us online for a lively discussion. Brandon Henry, who works at The Clyde Theater in Langley, leads the discussion. This month's title: *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple is about a misanthropic matriarch who leaves her eccentric family during a crisis and mysteriously disappears. It is set in the Seattle area. This meeting takes place on Zoom to receive a Zoom invitation, please register. An email address is required.

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PAID OPINION

# An Open Letter to President Trump

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

Dear President Donald J. Trump,

The question is, “**Has our Nation become just a large Banana Republic?**” Our rights of freedom of speech, the press, etc. including democracy only exist on paper or if you are a liberal and promote the liberal agenda.

This change has been made possible by a gross lack of law enforcement at all levels, especially the top one where it is most important. In reality our Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI are not existent especially if the crimes are committed by liberal Democrats.

An example of this is the November 3rd Presidential Election where there are mountains of evidence that massive voter fraud was committed. There are numerous notebooks filled with affidavits of all the voting crimes that were committed, yet many proclaim that there is no evidence. One state’s supreme court stated that the President has no standing and his case was dismissed. Even on the local level, where is the law enforcement? Even in the Georgia video case where there is video evidence of voter fraud taking place and it is ignored. **None of the criminals have been arrested and charged.** Under the protection of “proprietary rights” the corrupt Domain vote counting machines cannot be opened and the software evaluated. *(There is evidence that this vote counting machine was designed to give inaccurate results rigged elections as Venezuela’s Chavez and later Madura used it to show massive popular support and in actuality the opposite was true. SCOTUS should order every county that used these machines, that the Nov. 3rd result should be cancelled and be voted again using honest machines. There is more than the president’s office at stake as there are House seats and even a Senate seat that can be decided.)* The statistics show that a massive spike of hundreds of thousands of votes were counted in the early morning hours of November 4, all in favor of Biden. It is obvious that a different version of the same Georgia video in all six of the battle-ground states could have been taken. In many counties, there were over 100% more votes cast than they had registered voters, which is impossible without fraud. Many thousands of the deceased voted. Many voted in more than one state or filled out multiple ballots in other peoples’ names. When the other people showed up to vote, they were told that they had already voted.

Prior to the election others than the authorized legislature made changes to the voting laws removing all safeguards to fraud under the excuse of the pandemic. Their illegal actions make the elections in all those states illegal and should be canceled and revoted. Some critical changes that were made are no voter ID and/or no signature verification and/or no legal dated post-mark requirements.

**Without the massive fraud, Trump would have won the election in a landslide.** He won in 17 of the 18 bellwether counties. He also won Florida and Ohio, that no president has won without a victory in these two states. There were many times the number of proven fraudulent votes cast than the margin that a Trump victory needed. *(If there is any justice from SCOTUS, then it is predicted that Biden will never take the oath of office of President. The only serving that he should do is prison time for his crimes.)*

Most recently, with hard evidence that there were over 10 million fraudulent votes counted, SCOTUS ignored its duty and refused to hear the case. In our history, this election fraud case is the most important one. Is our world upside down with no justice anywhere? (If football referees were as corrupt as our judges, the game would be a disaster.)

The same fraud scene is planned by the Dems for the January 5th Georgia Senate runoff race. There are many thousands of out of state liberal Dems, who are planning to fraudulently vote in this election.

Their number may exceed 800,000. As the ballots are received, these ballots should not be counted until a verifiable residence is proven. ***If they voted and cannot prove residence, then they should be prosecuted for voter fraud.***

One suggestion is to assign a serial number for each ballot with coding in the serial number that identifies the county and precinct. The voter shows up at any poll station in the state, gives his address, and a ballot is immediately printed complete with all offices and issues that his normal ballot would have. The ballot would have a tear off strip with the serial number that can be detached and later, if the voter desires, can confirm that he voted and how he voted.

***Voting is a fundamental right that should be cherished, protected, and respected as it is the foundation of our democracy.***

Someone needs to apprise you, President Trump, of the massive power that the Constitution gives the President, far more than you can imagine. The Constitution gives you the power over the judiciary, namely the DOJ and the FBI. It is only protocol that limits a president’s power to just nominate candidates to head these two agencies. ***Logic dictates that you also have the same power as these two agencies. The president has the power to appoint a special prosecutor and to direct the investigation and prosecution of certain crimes even if his AG or his FBI Director refuses.***

Logically, you also have the power to direct either agency, DOJ or FBI, to take prosecutorial action against anyone that has committed significant crimes. One individual is the Dem’s candidate and now President elect, Joe Biden. Your new acting AG should prosecute him for a Quid Pro Quo crime and other ones using his own confession as evidence. (There are so many Democratic criminals that need to be prosecuted and sent to prison, that they are too numerous to list.)

The Constitution dictates that only one agency, our legislator has the power to make laws, and that must be done with a majority vote of both chambers, plus the final approval of the president. *There is no language in the Constitution that authorizes federal judges to make laws.* Their power is limited to just interpreting the law. (If they make a law like the recent DACA one, it should be ignored as it is unconstitutional. In a judge’s decision, there is no majority vote, the backbone of a democracy, which is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, or stated a little different, the consent of the governed.)

***Mr. President, one of your first actions is to fire your FBI Director Christopher Wray and your Attorney General (AG) Bill Barr and nominate their replacements, who will serve in that position at a minimum until the Senate refuses to confirm. This needs to be done NOW meaning ASAP.***

For a conclusion statement, one cannot think of the Democratic Party without the derogatory thought of “**those bastards!**” ***Being totally corrupt, they have lost the respect of all.*** Even their hard-core members must be ashamed of their Democratic Party. By many, the Party is no longer considered as an opponent, but “the enemy,” a major change! Yes, a real enemy as the changes that they propose to make, will change our Nation into a socialist one, and that is something that no one wants. ***Yes, the deck is stacked against President Trump to reverse the election that he won in a landslide.*** It is not the time to throw in the towel, but to fight harder than ever before. ***The war is not over, but it is just the beginning!***

*Donations appreciated and can be mailed to Joe Coomer, 2920 N. Heller Rd. MH E, Oak Harbor, WA 98277*

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



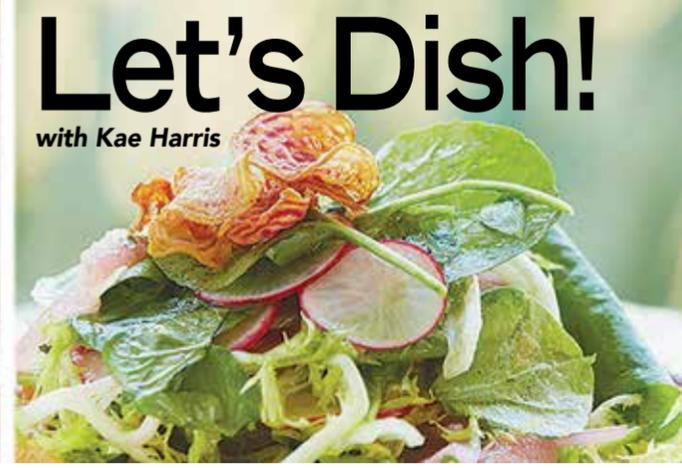
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# Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris



## "BOARD" OF THE SAME OLD THING? TRY A JAR INSTEAD.

I don't like to think I'm one for fads and passing "crazes," especially as far as food and kitchen-related things go, but I recently came across something being dubbed just that – a fad. I really hope it isn't, and I actually think it offers a great take on an old practice. The pandemic has meant we make adjustments to the way in which we do things, so when I saw this new trend, called "JAR-cuterie," I instantly related the need for adjustment with this food "fad." I most certainly did not come up with this idea, nor the naming of it – which is genius.

So, jar-cuterie is a novel take on an age-old French tradition, charcuterie, which started out as a trade and then transformed into the assembling of various meat and meat products on a serving board. It isn't as slap dash as it seems. There is more art and effort involved in just situating some salami atop a board and saying "et voila!" Charcuterie is said to be a style of cooking that revolves around the preparation of prepared meats like ham, bacon, sausages and other pork products. The cook who prepares the meat is referred to as the charcutier. "Oh wow! This looks great! Who made it?" can easily be answered with "Oh, that would be the charcutier, Kae." Sounds a whole lot better than, "Oh, Kae did." I'm kidding. Both are perfectly fine with me, as long

as the title, "Her Royal Highness," precedes my name! Anyways, all these formalities are minimizing the focus: the actual charcuterie.

While the original intention of charcuterie was to preserve meats before refrigeration was even a thing, it has since become a way to enhance the flavor of the meats by way of the preservation process. In 15th century France it was local guilds that regulated the production and trade of food in each city and those that were involved in the production and distribution of charcuterie were called charcutiers. All the meats and meat products produced and sold by charcutiers, were prepared and the only "raw" meat derivative was lard. Each region developed its own distinct sampling of charcuterie, with its own unique flavor profiles and the charcuterie became an icon of the lower echelons of society.

Strange then that today, we seem to make the connection between charcuterie and an air of "status." Today – as hundreds of years ago – there are several styles of charcuterie that can be served. There's rillettes, patés, mousse, salami and galantines (among others I am surely leaving off the list). Rillettes is akin to paté; the texture is just coarser. Mousse is a meat mixture (often blended with liver), processed and strained so fine it leaves you with an incredibly smooth and creamy texture. We all know what salami is and galantines are a deboned, stuffed

meat which is usually poached and served with aspic. For those who don't know, aspic is the savory gelatin made from meat stock that is often found encasing other meats or meat products that have been set in a mold. While the original concept of charcuterie centers on meat – and primarily pork – products, it has since evolved and today, charcuterie can be found to include things like cheese, fruits and nuts to name just a few. Whether or not that speaks to the authenticity of it and leads to it being a "true" charcuterie is up for debate, but for the loose definition, I'll take it.

So, what has all this got to do with the new "Jar-cuterie" trend? Well, the latest trend, a modern take on the old French classic, is to serve items you might normally plate on a charcuterie board, in mason jars, as a way to maintain food hygiene. Now, how do we indulge in a little "Jar-cuterie?" We take the original concept, scale it down and put it in a jar. The key is to know/remember/research what pairs best with what. For example, chorizo is often paired with a sweeter fruit, because the flavors simultaneously complement each other and work in contrast. Additionally, it is recommended smoked meats be limited to one kind per jar (tray). This is due to its strong flavor profile, which can overwhelm the softer, lighter flavors of the other items in the jar (on the tray).

Charcuterie today has become something of a fancy buffet of sorts, with additions such as preserves, olives, breads, flavored oils and the like making their way onto these boards. The fact is, charcuterie now – and perhaps maybe more so here in the U.S. – aims to celebrate the uniqueness of the ingredients that go into making them. It's an exploration of textures and flavors and figuring out you actually quite like brie and a warmer sausage. Maybe you never thought you'd try a moldy cheese with pears, and yet, here you are, doing exactly that.

The actual serving size per person is said to be about two ounces of meat if it's being served in between dishes or before a main meal. That being said, what can we put together to make these novel French classics in Mason jars? The

options are numerous, though you'd do well to do a little research on what flavor profiles marry well and why.

My dear readers, while we're all doing the best we can in these times, I hope you are able to find fun wherever possible and you're able to flex some creative muscle and reinvent traditional dishes and put your own spin on them. I'm including suggestions for "Jar-cuterie" jars and if you do try them out, let me know if you found the items worked well together or even better, if you paired you own in a specific fashion, I'd love to know! Please send any and all comments, questions and most definitely, recipes you might like to share to letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com and we can do just that and Dish!

### "Jar-cuterie" Jar Ideas

- Prosciutto, feta cheese and dried figs
- Prosciutto, mozzarella and dried apricots
- Salami, swiss and almonds
- Salami, cheddar, strawberries

The idea is to create contrast and add depth to your flavor profiles. No, I'm not a charcuterie connoisseur, but I do research when I try anything for myself and these are just the things I've happened across. While your meats, cheeses, fruits, nuts and even vegetables might find themselves in a single serve jar, smaller, separate serving containers for things like pickles, relish, and preserves are another great way to create these flavor contrasts. When assembling a "Jar-cuterie," many people find placing nuts at the bottom first, followed by cubed or sliced meat skewers, as well as cubed cheeses and bits of fruit, slid onto a skewer themselves and then placed – as your eye so expertly will decide – just so, inside the mason jar, ready to merely pick up, eat and enjoy, is the best way to do it.

[www.webrestaurantstore.com/blog/2318/what-is-charcuterie.html](http://www.webrestaurantstore.com/blog/2318/what-is-charcuterie.html)

[www.plumdeluxe.com/dried-fruit-and-meat-appetizers](http://www.plumdeluxe.com/dried-fruit-and-meat-appetizers)

To read past columns of *Let's Dish* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com).



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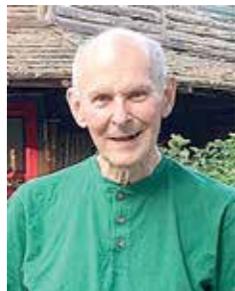


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# Life Tributes

## CAPT. DAVID JAMES POWELL



Capt. David James Powell, born David Jamil Mizrahi, passed away with his loved ones at his home Nov. 21, 2020. He was 86 years old.

He was born in Lebanon Sept. 26, 1934, moved to America as a child and attended Cooper Union (undergraduate) and NYU (graduate), New York City, where he met his beautiful wife, Beatrice. They were married May 11, 1957. After living in New York City and working for ConEd, he joined the U.S. Navy and eventually became a Seabee and spent a year in Vietnam. Before and after he was stationed in Guam and Taiwan, and in Taiwan they had a son, Caleb (1968), and a daughter, Sarah (1970). After settling on Whidbey Island, they had another child, Min, born in 1973.

He was a very generous and hands-on father and loved being involved in his kids' sports at Coupeville. He also had a passion for stamps and trains. He built a model train room at home and took Amtrak across the U.S., running West to East, North to South. He especially enjoyed traveling with Beatrice and visiting family.

He was employed in the Public Works Department at NAS Whidbey Island as a civil engineer and continued in the Naval Reserves. After retiring in the mid-1990s, he discovered his love of French and took lessons at Skagit Valley Community College. He became an avid traveler and, with Beatrice, took many trips to Europe, where he visited his daughter Sarah (who lived in Copenhagen at the time), friends in Switzerland, and France, of course.

He loved being a grandfather and playing board games with his grandchildren.

David is survived by his brother and sister plus his wife, three children, and seven grandchildren. No flowers please, but donations can be made to Spin Cafe in Oak Harbor. There are no funeral services but a memorial will be held next summer where friends and family can celebrate his life.

We all love and miss him so much.

## MAXINE SONDERICKER



Edythe Maxine Sondericker was born Nov. 16, 1929 in Bell, Calif., to Claas and Sarah (Eitzen) Willems. When she was still a small child, the family moved to Exeter, Calif. Maxine always considered Exeter her hometown. She attended Exeter schools, and graduated from Exeter Union High School in 1947. In 1943, Maxine met Jack Sondericker at a youth event at the Exeter Baptist Church. They dated all through high school and married in June, 1948.

Maxine and Jack started their married life in Berkeley, Calif., where Jack attended the University of California and the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. Their first child, Deborah, was born there. In 1953, Jack was ordained and became the pastor of a church in Rio Vista, Calif. Maxine became a pastor's wife, who considered her role a calling. She taught Sunday school, organized events, and attended many meetings and studies, all while raising her children. While they lived in Rio Vista, two more children, Rebecca and Stephen, joined the family. In 1962, Jack was called to serve a church in Moraga, Calif., and the family moved to the Bay area. A fourth child, Philip, was born there.

In 1966, Jack was called to serve a church in Oak Harbor, Wash. They loved the northwest immediately and stayed in Washington State for the rest of their lives together. In 1978, they were called to a church in Spokane. In 1989, they were called to serve two small churches in Roslyn and Cle Elum, Wash. Jack retired in 1992, and they returned to Oak Harbor, where they had many friends and family.

As her children grew, Maxine decided to return to work to help with college expenses. She returned to the field she had worked in before Debbie's birth, medical records. She took a couple of college classes to update her skills and went to work as a medical transcriptionist at the Navy hospital in Oak Harbor. Later, she worked in various office jobs in Spokane, and in a medical clinic in Cle Elum. She retired when Jack did in 1992.

Maxine was a woman of strong faith her whole life. She was very proud of her Dutch Mennonite heritage, and loved learning the stories of her Mennonite ancestors. She and Jack were active members of Oak Harbor First United Methodist Church, where Maxine participated in various activities of Women's Ministries.

In retirement, Maxine and Jack began to do the traveling they had always wanted to do. They took a variety of cruises and traveled all over the world. They visited Europe several times, as well as China and South America. They loved living close to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and visits were frequent.

As Maxine's health began to fail, they sold their home of 25 years and moved to the Cottages at Regency on Whidbey. A few years later, they moved into the assisted living facility at Regency, where Maxine passed away peacefully Nov. 30, 2020.

Maxine was preceded in death by her parents, Claas and Sarah Willems, and her sister, Marilyn Davidson. She is survived by her husband of 72 years, Jack Sondericker, and children: Debbie (Bob) Wallin; Becky Machin; Steve Sondericker (Lorraine); and Philip Sondericker. She is also survived by five grandchildren: Caitlin Machin (Rob Anderson); Julia Machin; Kirstin Wallin (Justin Roche); Kelda (John) Adair; and Erik Wallin (Laura). She also dearly loved her five great-grandchildren: Cara Adair; Cayden Wallin; Kyla Wallin; Silas Anderson; and Oriana Anderson.

Memorials may be made to Oak Harbor First United Methodist Church.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Proverbs 31:28

**Life Tributes can now be found online at [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com)**

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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](mailto:info@whidbeyweekly.com) or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.*

Lord, our Protector and Shield, defend us from anything that would crush hope in our community and city. May we, individually and collectively, look to You as our ultimate hope and our champion. Give us faith in place of despair, and resilience in place of resignation. Turn any anguish and desperation into elation and assurance. Help us not just to look for blessings during the Christmas season, but to go out of our way to bless others. Remind us to pray for friends and loved ones every time we pray for ourselves. Teach us to invest in our relationships by sharing Your love and grace with others. Amen.

Matthew Erikson  
 Hope Church Oak Harbor - Pastor  
 Whidbey Island Young Life - Area Director

*"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."*

**Luke 2:10-12 ESV**

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# CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)



People do collectively what they cannot do individually. Adding your voice to a rising ground swell thus magnifies your reach. Whatever captures your imagination, know that your ability to make it reality is limited only by your willingness to pursue it.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Who is making your life hard? Maybe it's none other than you? Before you reject the idea, let's look closer. Can you see that what could have been an easy victory was turned into a loss by your own inability to adapt to change?

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



Ranging far and wide in search of answers to your questions may produce much more than you bargained for. The oddities you uncover, while not entirely unexpected, should still contain that element of intrigue that you seek.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Strained relationships are a sign that both parties have lessons to learn. Think you are not to blame here? Recognizing where you could do better is the first step to peace.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Firm but fair is the best you can hope for in a relationship. The opposite of that is wishy-washy that undercuts you in the end. Knowing that you can trust what you see and hear, even if you don't like it, is infinitely preferable to nice words that you cannot trust.

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



Isn't it much easier to hear long-winded people out when they're saying what you want to hear? Patience in proportion to your satisfaction level means you're only human.

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



How does one eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Got an elephant-sized problem? Make it less formidable by tackling it piecemeal.

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



What happens when fickle meets unpredictable? What happens when you squirt your cat with a water gun? The cat will bolt, quicker than lightning, and which direction it runs is anybody's guess!

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



When Britain fought the American colonies, the British afforded us the courtesy of wearing red coats. It's helpful to see your enemy from a mile away.

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



Today's fortune cookie: "In dark times, be as the lighthouse." The one mission of every lighthouse? Stand firm and bright for all to see, marking dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals and treacherous reefs.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Remember the little red hen? Who planted the seed that became the wheat, then milled the wheat and finally baked the bread? All alone, with no help from the lazy dog or the sleepy cat?

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



"A day late and a dollar short." Is that an excuse to throw up your hands and quit? Sadly, for many it is. Don't be one of them.

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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.

# Crossword Puzzle

Grid for a crossword puzzle with numbered squares from 1 to 70.

## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
4. Profoundly wise men
9. Camera company
14. Folk singer DiFranco
15. Passerine birds
16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
17. Popular kids channel
18. Dodgers' skipper
20. Removes
22. The Atlantic is one
23. Badgerlike mammal
24. Foulness
28. Luke's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
29. Commercial
30. A type of gin
31. Temptress
33. Shuts in an enclosed space
37. Milligram
38. Actress Adams
39. Strive to equal or match
41. Health insurance
42. A detective's source
43. Small American rails
44. Alfred \_\_, Brit. poet
46. Crest of a hill
49. Atomic #52
50. \_\_ Caesar, comedian
51. Breaks apart

- 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
58. Worker
59. Chemical compound
60. Disgraced newsman
64. Born of
65. Chemical substance
66. Supernatural powers
67. Clothes
68. Indy footballers
69. Moves forward
70. Midway between south and southeast

- 19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One point east of southeast
24. Belgian city
25. Praise excessively
26. River in France
27. Edible lily bulbs
31. Quarterbacks take them
32. Organic compound
34. Tears down (Brit.)
35. Beloved Hollywood alien

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver
2. Bone cavities
3. Menacing
4. Where coaches patrol
5. Greek mythological figure
6. War-based board game
7. Midway between northeast and east
8. 18-year period in astronomy
9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
10. Large bodies of water
11. Eurasian ryegrass
12. Perform on stage
13. Greek island

Answers on page 19

## YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Table with 7 columns showing weather forecasts for North and South Islands from Dec 17 to Dec 23, including temperature ranges and conditions like rain or wind.



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



# Amid pandemic, Oak Harbor Public Schools looks forward

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

There have been no COVID-19 cases among students and staff following Oak Harbor Public Schools' hybrid learning model, but the district has temporarily moved to a distance learning model due to rising case rates in Island County.

In a special board meeting held Dec. 9, OHPS officials, employees, and parents came together for a virtual discussion of the district's plans regarding managing the impact of COVID-19. Concerns ranging from staff and student safety, engagement, mental health and more were discussed as the board looked at adjusting the current plans for determining whether students will be learning remotely or in a hybrid model.

Based on current data, OHPS moved to the Distance Plus model for this week, and students will return to Distance Learning Only Jan. 4-8. As of press time, plans for grades seven through 12 for Jan. 11 and beyond are still to be determined. An updated reopening decision matrix was adopted by the board for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade during the regular board meeting Monday, with the hope being to return the age group to Hybrid Rotation Jan. 11, provided metrics are

met. Conor Laffey, communication officer for OHPS, said the goal remains to bring students back to school as soon as is safely possible.

"We have a plan that we created in August, but we have also learned that all of our mitigation efforts – wearing masks, sanitizing, social distancing, separating desks so they are six feet apart – are working," he said. "We have had zero cases of COVID-19 in our schools that were hybrid. The only two student cases were in our middle school, which is only bringing in small groups to campus, like ELL (English Language Learners), special programs, or students who need access to our internet cafes."

Laffey said the board has been continually monitoring cases in the community and numbers from Island County Public Health to determine what age groups will be participating in different learning models, from Distance Plus to Hybrid Rotation. The review day for the current plan used to determine which groups were in each learning model was Dec. 8, and the board has adjusted the pre-kindergarten through sixth grade matrix and is currently considering updates for the metrics to determine the return to school for seventh to twelfth grade students.



Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Public Schools  
Oak Harbor Public Schools students will return from the winter break with a Distance Learning Only week Jan. 4-8.

"We were the largest district in western Washington to start with pre-kindergarten through fourth-grade hybrid (learning)," he said. "The plan that we had put forth, we have actually followed that plan."

Even in the midst of navigating the pandemic, the district has been considering long-range plans. Laffey said the district was recently granted a nearly \$1 million growth grant from the Department of Defense (DoD) through the Office of Economic Adjustment to support pre-design and planning for school buildings.

"This is huge because we have never had this before," he said. "We are going to be

able to do more with this grant than in the past. All the studies conducted allow us to determine accurate costs for the construction of these school buildings before we go to taxpayers and ask them to vote on a bond."

Laffey said the district is considering the replacement of five school buildings and a transportation center, which are eligible for different levels of matched funding. Crescent Harbor Elementary and the HomeConnection/Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center are eligible for an 80 percent match from the DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment.

See SCHOOLS continued on page 16



Photo Courtesy of Langley Main Street Association  
There is still time to grab a canine companion and take part in the annual PAWZ by the Sea 5K/10K run/walk. This year's virtual event is ongoing through Dec. 31.

# PAWZ by the Sea goes virtual

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

It's never too late to grab the leash and head out the door for a walk or a run, but there's even more incentive to do it by the end of the year.

PAWZ by the Sea 5K or 10K run/walk, normally held on Memorial Day, will be taking place after all this year, just in a virtual format. Those interested in participating can do so until Dec. 31.

"Since Pawz by the Sea 5K/10K couldn't run in-person this year on Whidbey Island and getting out and enjoying some fresh air is always good, the idea of having a virtual run wherever you are seemed like a perfect fit," said Michaleen McGarry, executive director of the Langley Main Street Association, which puts the event on in conjunction with Animal Hospital by the Sea in Langley.

The event has taken place for at least seven years. Walkers and runners often complete the course with their canine companions. That part of the race hasn't changed.

"You can bring along your furry friends and support other furry friends with your run now through Dec. 31," McGarry said. "This event supports the 4-H Happy Hounds Club, Good

Cheer Food Bank and the Animal Hospital by the Sea Support Fund."

Additional donations to the Veterinary Care Charitable Fund, known as the Animal Hospital by the Sea's Angel Fund, can help pay for the care and treatment of a sick, injured or abused animal and provides financial assistance for pet care to Whidbey Island residents in need.

While course information from previous events is available online (pawzbythesea.org), the move to a virtual format means participants can complete the posted course or make up their own – whether it's indoor or outdoor.

"There are sample courses available online including the original 5K course and 10K course," McGarry said. "But participants can go out and run the original course, run on a treadmill at home, or walk their usual route. They can do the course all at once or a mile at a time - it's up to them."

As in the past, there are options for runners and walkers from which to choose. The cost varies, depending upon the course, but it ranges from \$12.50 for the Kids Fun Run, a one-mile

See PAWZ continued on page 16

# Christmas Angels set up shop on Whidbey

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Whidbey's Island Angels – or perhaps they should be called Christmas Angels – are hard at work filling in the gaps for those Whidbey residents in need this holiday season.

The unofficial group, founded this year by Cindy Buchanan on South Whidbey, has been growing in scope on every front over the past several months. There are more volunteers getting involved, there are more people being helped and the group is establishing itself as another support network on the island.

"I'm a free social worker," laughed Buchanan. "We actually are working with a lot of social workers and organizations on the island and have reached out to a lot of them."

Now the group is working on its own holiday program that features a Christmas headquarters where families who have been sponsored can pick up their food and gifts and

"shop" for additional items.

"We connected families with sponsors," Buchanan said. "The sponsors will drop off their items here at headquarters and then people will pick them up. Then, we're letting those families go through our headquarters "store" to pick up additional items they want."

Pickup times are being scheduled and strict health precautions – such as social distancing, masks and hand sanitizer use – will be followed.

When all the designated families have picked out their items, Buchanan said the headquarters will be opened to other families.

"We have a lot of other items that we will accept donations for," she said. "There are some older game systems that would be good for 8- or 9-year-olds – we'll be selling raffle tickets for those."

Many of the sponsors who "adopted"

families for the holidays are providing food as well as gifts. For those not providing food, Buchanan said Island Angels will fill in that need so everyone will get food and gifts.

The generosity of her fellow Islanders never ceases to amaze Buchanan.

"I think we live in a place like none other," she said. "It makes your heart feel good to see so many people helping."

"We need to stick by each other," Buchanan continued. "Things have to go back to the old ways, neighbor to neighbor, helping each other."

Buchanan said the location of Christmas headquarters is being kept under wraps for now. Anyone with questions about making donations or who may need assistance can find the Whidbey Island Angels Facebook group and send a message. You can also find Island Angels through the Whidbey Island Community page on Facebook.



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Buchanan  
Volunteers with Island Angels sort through and organize donations for its Christmas "store" being set up at an undisclosed location. The items will be made available to sponsored families and others.





**SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY: A ONE-DAY UNIVERSITY FOR ALL**

The first Saturday of February each year, Sound Water Stewards of Island County delivers to the public a full day of science-based classes to connect people with the local marine environment, shorelines, bluffs, wildlife, forests, watersheds and ecosystems. The event brings together a variety of subject matter experts, organizations and individuals. It is a day to learn, to share knowledge, and to connect with others who are passionate about caring for Whidbey Island and the Salish Sea. Now in its 27th year, this event is called Sound Waters University, a "one day university for all."

The event begins with a keynote speaker followed by choices for high-quality classes taught by professionals from throughout the region, including many favorites who return year after year. Lunchtime and breaks allow for visiting with exhibitors and learning about programs sponsored by government, tribes, nonprofits and private entities.

In recent years, this event has maxed out all of the available space at South Whidbey High School in Langley eclipsing 60 classrooms, the auditorium, cafeteria and all common areas. A full-capacity crowd of 700 people attended and more were turned away. Putting on the "university" took more than 40 volunteers who cumulatively contributed nearly 2,000 hours of time.

**Sound Waters University Goes Virtual**

Fast forward to the year of the pandemic. Because of COVID, the next Sound Waters University will be a virtual event Saturday, Feb. 6. By utilizing a virtual platform, attendance will not be restricted by room capacity or geography. Registrants will be able to watch all of the classes offered, either live the day of or the recorded versions later, or jump from class to class.

**Keynote: Dr. Peter S. Ross**

The purpose of Sound Waters University is to inform and encourage people to put their new knowledge into action. The SWU 2021 keynote speaker exemplifies this purpose. Dr. Peter S. Ross is the vice-president of research at Ocean Wise and the executive director of the Coastal Ocean Research Institute (CORI) which are based at the Vancouver Aquarium in Vancouver, B.C. Ross oversees 10 research programs at Ocean Wise with a focus on conservation science and is an international authority in the area of ocean pollution. In his talk, "Sea of Trouble – Taking Action On Plastics Pollution," he will describe the dangers of microplastics which today are found in every ocean, on the highest mountains and in the air, and outline steps we can take to turn around the problem.



**Wide Range of Classes**

Four subsequent sessions round out the diverse class offerings for 2021. Topics include: Ocean Acidification with Dr. Brooke Love of Western Washington University; Conservation of the Endangered Tufted Puffin with Dr. Peter Hodum of University of Puget Sound; Stopping the Invasive Asian Giant Hornet with Cassie Cichorz of Washington State Department of Agriculture; Understanding Treaty Rights and Tribal Sovereignty with Ryan Miller of Tulalip Tribes; Explanation of Tides and Currents of the Salish Sea with Jack Hartt, author and retired State Park Ranger; and Understanding Forest Health in Western Washington with Kevin Zobrist of Washington State University. This is just a sampling. A complete list of speakers and topics along with exhibitors can be found on the website at [www.soundwatersuniversity.org](http://www.soundwatersuniversity.org).

**Registration is now open**

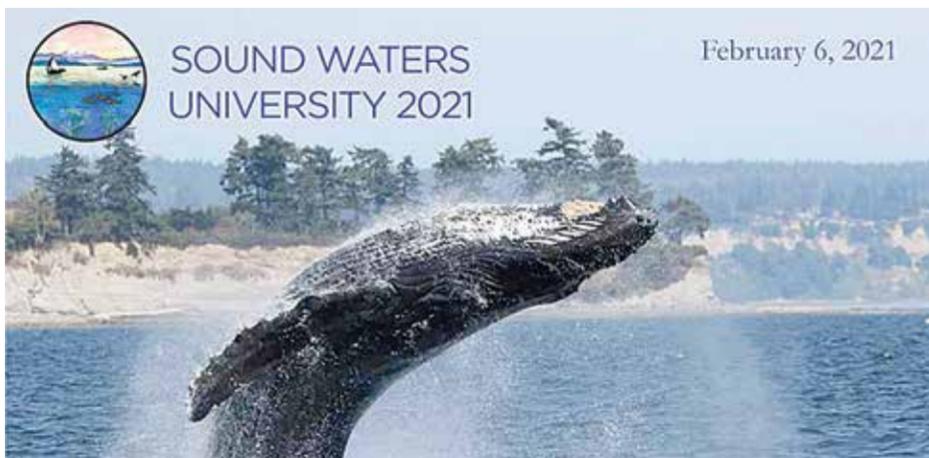
Saturday, Feb. 6, sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Registration for Sound Waters University is now open. Early bird tickets are \$45 until Jan. 15, then the price goes up to \$50. Since anyone can attend, you are invited to share the details and website with interested persons far and wide.

This annual event is presented by Sound Water Stewards, a mission-driven nonprofit organization, as a means of delivering high quality environmental education, inspiring stewardship and promoting citizen science in support of research.

For more information, see [www.soundwatersuniversity.org](http://www.soundwatersuniversity.org) and [www.soundwaterstewards.org](http://www.soundwaterstewards.org).

**Guide Book makes a great gift**

Sound Water Stewards recently published *Getting to the Water's Edge*, a guide book to 69 public access beaches in Island County. At only \$20, it makes a great gift. The book is found at local bookstores, gift shops and hardware stores or may be purchased online at the Sound Water Stewards website.



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ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



# Tri-county agency promotes safe and healthy home heating with wood

By **Melanie Hammons** Whidbey Weekly

As winter officially approaches, many people on Whidbey Island have found themselves taking the chill out of the air with a cozy fire in the fireplace or wood stove. But how does an increase in home heating with wood affect air quality? The air we breathe forms an invisible, yet vital component of our environment.

Since 1967, the mission of Mount Vernon-based Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA), has been to preserve our breathing spaces, which also benefits Washington's evergreen forests.

Roughly two dozen employees seek to carry out the NWCAA's goals, says Seth Preston, communications program manager.

"We are a small group as far as governmental organizations go, but everyone is thoroughly dedicated to our mission," he said.

That level of diligence is readily apparent from the earliest days of NWCAA's inception, said Preston.

"We are the oldest clean air agency in the state. We predate not only the Department of Ecology, but also the (Federal) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA.)

NWCAA focuses on air quality in the three-county region formed by Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties. According to its website, factors impacting local air quality range from wildfires, industrial or construction pollution to residential wood-burning stoves.

In wintertime, a greater share of that impact is linked to the latter. NWCAA estimates up to half of residences in northwest Washington rely on wood-burning heat, as either primary or back-up sources. Wood-burning stoves can sometimes produce harmful particulates that can degrade air quality.

Poor air quality especially creates problems for children, the elderly, and those with heart/lung issues, said Preston, noting that particulate-filled air frequently ends up inside residences as well as outside.

There are many reasons people give for using wood-source heat. One is financial: Many people have come to rely on wood stoves as efficient, economical ways to heat their homes. There's another dollar-related human motivation at work as well - knowing there's such a ready market for seasoned, dry firewood, some people either make a living or supplement their income by supplying wood for themselves and others.

Much of the main source of potential firewood is directly due to those infamous



As temperatures fall, more and more people use wood to warm their homes. The Northwest Clean Air Agency in Mount Vernon helps residents of Island, Skagit and Whatcom Counties learn how to burn wood cleanly, helping to preserve the area's air quality.

Washington wintertime storms that never fail to take out numerous trees. Devoting these trees to producing firewood answers a need while at the same time reduces chances of future wildfires, which can also affect air quality.

The entire decision-making process - natural and human factors - that comprise home heating choices is a complex one, Preston admits. It involves striking a balance with not only the natural environment, but with humans who are very much a part of that, too.

"We acknowledge people have valid reasons for using wood heat: Wood-burning stoves, when properly used with seasoned wood, can be a very smart choice. Especially when they are used as a back-up heat source," he said.

That statement particularly resonates with Island County residents. Last month, all of Whidbey Island experienced a windstorm that led to a 12-hour-plus power outage. There's security in knowing one's home will stay warm in spite of power outages that strike suddenly and seem to last interminably.

Some of these homeowners cite a variety of reasons for their heating preference. Central Whidbey resident Norm Skurdal has heated with wood for over 20 years. In his rural neighborhood, he is blessed to have ready access to abundant firewood. His woodstove, which he describes as "extremely efficient," has saved him money over the long haul, while also providing reliable heat in case of power failures.

An important part of NWCAA's mission is to provide the public with links and resources devoted to the safe implementation and use of wood-burning stoves. This includes every-

thing from how to ensure wood is properly seasoned to information about wood stove usage, said Preston.

"We view our role as educational and informational, just as much as it is regulatory enforcement," he said.

Because NWCAA's primary focus is strictly air quality, it may seem a brief discussion on fire hazards in the home is somewhat out of place. After all, from 2013 - 2017 nationwide, only six percent of home fires were linked to a fireplace or chimney flue. Closer to home, there were no wood stove fires in Oak Harbor in 2018 and 2019, according to Oak Harbor Fire Chief Ray Merrill.

Yet the same safe practices that lead to optimal air quality seem undeniably responsible for lower fatalities and injuries when it comes to fire hazards. "It goes without saying: These best practices just work together to achieve good results on more than one level," said Preston.

In the late 19th century, pioneer C.T. Conover, inspired by abundant evergreen forests, gave Washington an unofficial nickname, "the Evergreen State." The term, "green" is an apt description of the general public's mindset toward the natural environment, which ideally aims to both protect and enjoy nature's beauty.

Wood-heating involves a fascinating interconnectedness of sorts, dating right back to those evergreens that gave this state its nickname. It reaches from the trees that supply the wood to the humans who are its beneficiaries. It is perhaps somewhat reminiscent of what this region's earliest settlers may have felt.

Learn more at [nwcleanairwa.gov](http://nwcleanairwa.gov).

## SCHOOLS continued from page 14

A 20 percent state match is available to Oak Harbor Elementary and Oak Harbor Intermediate, while the transportation center has eligibility for a 70 percent state match based on its cooperative work servicing vehicles from Coupeville School District. While Olympic View Elementary is not qualified for matched funds, building a new school will help with spacing concerns in the district.

"The DoD has taken an active interest in our community," Laffey said. "In the past decade, NAS Whidbey Island has grown by more than 2,000 personnel, and since the base resides entirely within the boundaries of Oak Harbor Public Schools, the DoD has been a great partner as we look to build new schools. The federal match and the growth grant allow our district to create a thorough and comprehensive application for these projects and to determine an accurate funding proposal needed to complete the projects."

Laffey said in order for matching dollars to be made available, local bonds must be approved by voters.

"Matching dollars are only available to the school district and community if a bond for the portion for the local match is passed," he said. "The district is currently paying off a bond for Oak Harbor High School in 2022 (originally passed in 2006). Based on the information and studies conducted in the Ed Specs process, the district may ask voters to pass a bond in 2022 to fund these six projects."

Laffey said the goal is to keep tax rates the same or similar to what they were before when it comes to funding school buildings and raising the necessary funds beyond the state and federal matching.

"We are very conscious of Oak Harbor taxpayers," he said

Laffey said in order to plan and complete the new buildings several items, including approval for a bond in 2022 and support for replacing an expiring levy in February 2021, must happen.

"I am very excited about the possibility, but at the same time there is a lot of work that needs to be completed before then," he said.

For more information about OHPS and updates, visit [ohsd.net](http://ohsd.net).

## PAWZ continued from page 14



Photo Courtesy of Langley Main Street Association  
Runners of all ages are welcome to participate virtually in the PAWZ by the Sea 5k/10k run or walk through Dec. 31.

run is \$16.50, the 5K run is \$29.95, and the 10K is \$42 per participant. Each registration includes additional goodies. Those interested may register online or find more information at [pawzbythesea.org](http://pawzbythesea.org).

McGarry said there are plenty of good reasons to enter this year's virtual run/walk and participants are encouraged to do so with their furry, four-legged friends, then share their photos.

"My favorite part of this event is seeing all the dogs, and this year will be no different as everyone can upload images of themselves and their furry friends," she said.

"Everyone who registers will be entered once for the general raffle. Those who upload photos will be entered into the specialty raffles," McGarry continued. "Look forward to: Best Dressed, Most motivational, Whidbey Island Spirit, and more."

## Thank you, Oak Harbor!

Photos Courtesy of Cali Cibrian

As many of Whidbey Island's small businesses struggle in light of shutdowns and limitations from the COVID-19 pandemic, people have pulled together to support many of them, restaurants in particular.

As a way of expressing appreciation for all the community support it has received over the course of this year, Riverside Café in Oak Harbor decided to give residents a yummy thank-you card. Restaurant staff prepared 1,000 breakfast burritos and spent part of Saturday morning passing them out to anyone who wanted one - for free!

The burritos included sausage, ham, bacon, scrambled eggs, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, green

peppers and cheese. Chocolate chip pancakes were also provided for kids.

Health protocols were in effect as staff members happily distributed the tasty breakfast bundles to those who came by. All 1,000 burritos were distributed - no word on how many chocolate chip pancakes were given away.

Owner Cali Cibrian said they wanted to thank everyone for the "amazing" community support they've received and said it was their pleasure to give a little something back.

Riverside Café is located at 705 SE Pioneer Way in Oak Harbor. Call 360-240-0250 for takeout or check out the menu online at [riversidecafemv.com](http://riversidecafemv.com).



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





# Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11**

**3:47 pm, Nubian Way**

Reporting party requesting law enforcement to report a crime; will not give any further information regarding what crime is. From previous call; reporting party believes "piracy and pirate channel" is occurring at location.

**5:30 pm, Conrad St.**

Reporting party advising coyotes in area; worried for their safety. Has called wildlife and they advised there's nothing they could do, call Island County Sheriff's Office.

**5:55 pm, Blazer Ct.**

Reporting party advising landlord changed locks to rental and all of reporting party's possessions have been removed from residence.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 12**

**6:29 am, SR 525**

Male subject in store yelling and screaming; call-taker can hear subject in background. Reporting party states subject trying to buy cigar and didn't have enough money.

**1:39 pm, W Green Valley Rd.**

Reporting party states third party report by photographer on site; indicated found extension cord coming off property into woods. States photographer is reporting male in woods staring at him. No weapons mentioned. No description of male available.

**4:29 pm, Izzy Ln.**

Advising subject who showed up on property today around 2:20 pm driving an old Ford truck with camper shell. White female has taken shell off truck and appears to be taking up residence there now.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 13**

**10:47 am, Fort Nugent Rd.**

Advising trampoline in middle of the road.

**10:58 am, N Oak Harbor St.**

Reporting female walking in and out of traffic, flipping people off and yelling. White female, 40s, 5' 05", thin, blond, beige jacket, camo pants.

**12:36 pm, West Beach Rd.**

Reporting party drove over log, is high-centered and unable to move. Advising water coming over roadway, reporting party still in her car.

**3:06 pm, Ault Field Rd.**

Reporting party advising made mistake at traffic light and almost caused an accident; other party now yelling and calling her names.

**6:16 pm, Cameron Rd.**

Reporting party advising road is flooded at intersection and in front of Nichols Brothers. Vehicles are driving through and almost losing control. Reporting party advising he is advising people not to take the road, wearing reflective gear.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14**

**8:19 am, Newman Rd.**

Reporting party states his son and his friends were seen outside reporting party's window carrying marijuana pipes out to trailer on property; states they were going there to the sauna to "get high."

**1:32 pm, Blazer Ct.**

Advising neighbors at location put nails under reporting party's vehicle tire last night; ongoing issues with neighbors harassing reporting party.

**1:37 pm, Springwater Ln.**

Reporting party advising received calls from subjects asking odd questions; has received three today so far.

**4:16 pm, Columbia Beach Dr.**

Reporting party is on the beach, a skiff is going by with no one in it; 50-75 feet off shore, approximately 10-foot skiff/dinghy type boat, no motor.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 15**

**12:50 am, N Main St.**

Reporting party states needs ride to Anacortes. Can't find cab. Does not have phone. Reporting party wearing basketball shorts, sandals, flannel.

**12:51 pm, NE 3rd St.**

Caller states something going on in building; strange people with masks on; need someone to be aware

**3:47 pm, Penn Cove Rd.**

Reporting party advising found vehicle empty, still on; is on Penn Cove Road; white Nissan Pathfinder; doors were shut, is in middle of lane. No plates on vehicle.

**5:29 pm, SR 20**

Inmate requesting to report cell phone stolen; occurred back in October; unknown where. Requesting call to jail.

**7:35 pm, Beachwood Dr.**

Reporting party advising someone has been staying at location, is unable to return home because she is there. Requesting call; wants her removed now.

**MONDAY, NOV. 16**

**12:46 pm, Windrose Dr.**

Reporting party advising has lost large falcon in last few days; reporting party is Falconer, bird is trained for ducks. Advising in case issue starts occurring in area with large bird getting to animals.

**2:31 pm, Cameron Rd.**

Advising found black rabbit in backyard; reporting party insists it is domesticated and not wild. Concerned about trying to get it captured and feeding it appropriately.

**4:05 pm, Williams Rd.**

Male subject on foot pacing roadway. Has walked past location three times today. Also occurred yesterday.

**7:08 pm, Sullivan Rd.**

Male on line asking if this is still the number you dial if you have an emergency; advised everything else has changed. Disconnected.

**7:43 pm, Bayview Rd.**

Requesting call; advising militia keeps meeting in building, advised FBI is also involved. Reporting party does not want to give call-taker all details. Requesting to remain anonymous.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18**

**8:51 am, Northgate Dr.**

Reporting party advising male walking around singing to himself. Last seen wearing black fuzzy jacket, black skirt under pants, flower in hair.

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

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# Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email [classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com](mailto:classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

### 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@islandshakespearefest.org](mailto:jeff.natter@islandshakespearefest.org).

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County (BBBSIC) is actively seeking new member(s) for its Board of Directors. Join the board's exciting array of professionals! BBBSIC is seeking individuals who are committed to defending the potential of youth in our community through their time, skill sets, and influence in the community. To complement the existing board, candidates with expertise in accounting, law, nonprofit management, networking, or fundraising are of particular interest. Committed to diversifying its board to better represent our community, BBBSIC encour-

ages BIPOC and LGBTQIA community members to inquire. Please contact [admin@bbbsislandcounty.org](mailto:admin@bbbsislandcounty.org) for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Island. Volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members with no prior healthcare background. ICMRC utilizes volunteers to strengthen community health, enhance emergency response capabilities, and boost community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters such as winter storms, flooding, earthquakes, as well as public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks. If you are interested in volunteering please go to the Island County MRC website for more information or contact [s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov](mailto: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](http://www.pnwnam.org) and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself.

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

Mother Mentors needs volunteers! Oak Harbor families with young children need your help! Volunteer just a couple of hours a week to make a

difference in someone's life! To volunteer or get more info, email [wamothermentors@gmail.com](mailto:wamothermentors@gmail.com) or call 360-321-1484.

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

### JOB MARKET

Island Transit is Hiring! If you are looking for a solid career with great pay and benefits including two retirement plans, we are hiring. Visit [www.islandtransit.org/employment](http://www.islandtransit.org/employment) to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Great Christmas presents for camping enthusiasts: Thetford Potti, new condition, paid \$75, sell \$50; Coleman 2-burner white gas stove with one gallon fuel, \$40. Buy both for \$85. Leave message at 360-632-2179 (1)

Sportscard collection: six volume set in fine condition. Topps 1970-1995 sets. Mostly sets and better singles and inserts, all brands, 1950s to 1995. Some football, hockey and basketball cards. Also

foreign stamps for sale. 1995 Scott stamp catalog, six volume set in fine condition, \$30. 360- 675-1061, Oak Harbor (0)

### ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

Wanted: Horse to ride, gentle for beginner, share cost or lease, road safe. 360-279-1565 (0)

Excellent grass hay, no rain, good for horses, \$7 per bale. 20 bale minimum. Good quality round bales available also. 360-321-1624

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

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3	7	5	6	4	8	9	1	2
2	6	8	3	9	1	7	5	4
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## Island Herb: Meeting medical and recreational cannabis needs

Before Washington State legalized the recreational use of marijuana, it was approved for medical use and Island Herb in Freeland was there to meet the needs of residents on Whidbey Island.

Island Herb's mission has stayed the same throughout - the shop remains committed to providing top grade products for both medical and recreational use. And in what has been a difficult year for many, staff at Island Herb are seeing more people interested in discovering how cannabis can help with not just physical pain, but also with mental health. Its knowledgeable staff has become a vital resource for those seeking information as well as responsible pain and stress relief.

At Island Herb, the quality of care doesn't ebb based on the nature of the purchase, and the desire to educate remains steadfast. Island Herb should be the consumer's choice for compassionate, educated budtending on both the medical and the recreational side of cannabis use.

Staff at Island Herb put compassionate customer interactions above everything. With compassionate service as the backbone of its operation, the environment at Island Herb completely sets it apart from other dispensaries. Customers know when they're in Island Herb, they are with people who care.

Because there is no distinction between medical grade and recreational use cannabis, all staff members at Island Herb are fully trained and hold medical marijuana certification from the state, which requires an initial 20-hour training and CPR courses. To maintain certification, staff members must complete additional training annually. This means all staff at Island Herb are able to provide sound consultations and remit cards to new patients all day, every day. Customers don't have to wait for a specific employee to be available in order to access the state's medical marijuana registry.

And just because Island Herb became an adult recreational use dispensary doesn't mean its original goals as a medical dispensary have changed. Meeting every customer with the utmost compassion and knowledge has been its cornerstone since the medical days, and nothing about its operating procedures has changed since recreational legalization. Every consultant in good standing understands qualifying conditions for MMJ recommendations, and what product, what delivery method and what cannabinoid may be most beneficial in those cases.

So stick with a tried and true, trained staff who knows Island Herb's products like the back of their hands. Its products are vast and vetted! Island Herb's budtenders have a major influence on what it carries and why. The hands-on element has the staff fluent in the language of capsules, tinctures, topicals, flower, edibles and concentrates and keeps products relevant. A vast selection doesn't have to be overwhelming when budtenders know how to dial in what's needed - from people with specific taste aversions, allergic reaction awareness, dietary restrictions, personal nutritional preferences to preferences on psychoactivity of the medicine - Island Herb has it covered.

Island Herb is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is located at 5565 Vanbarr Place, Unit F, Freeland. Find more at [whidbeyislandherb.com](http://whidbeyislandherb.com) or call 360-331-0140.

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