

December 24 through December 30, 2020

FREE

Whidbey Weekly

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

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ARTICLES · CALENDAR · PUZZLES · ISLAND 911

CLASSIFIEDS · DINING GUIDE

“And the
angel
said unto her,
fear not, Mary;
for thou hast found
favour with God.
And, behold,
thou shalt conceive
in thy womb,
and bring forth a son,
and shalt call his name

JESUS.”

Luke
1:30-31

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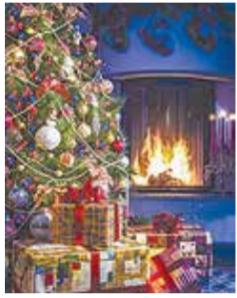
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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



Looking at my new calendar, I am wondering why I need one. Will I ever wear a suit again?

Dad taught us to wear a suit to church and to wear a suit on the

airplane.

The last time I flew, in February of 2020, the only other men wearing suits were pilots.

I have only been to one church service on Zoom. Do I really want to see someone making breakfast while listening to the preacher's message? Do I really want to see me not wearing a suit at church? While this column will excerpt the whys and wherefores of the vaccines, what about Zoom?

Have we Zoomed too much?

Do we have to wear makeup before we Zoom?

Do I need to buy a copy of *Grant* so my Zoom set looks like Judy Woodruff's book-case?

If you don't watch PBS, the last sentence will make no sense.

Maybe the next one won't either.

Sneak peak

In past years, I have opened my gifts and Christmas cards on Christmas Day.

This year, I have opened my cards and my packages early. I keep trying to get in the spirit but masks and mistletoe just don't cut it.

Thanks to my cousins Emma and Charlie, I am now in possession of *The All American Cowboy Cookbook*, written in 1995 by Ken Beck and Jim Clark.

While I may not be able to dine with Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, at least now I can have their chili, or Lash Larue's linguine, or Randolph Scott's High Country New York Stripper steak.

In the opening sequence of *Once Upon A Time In The West* (1968), director Sergio Leone had actor Jack Elam smear watermelon juice on his face to help Elam capture a fly on his gun barrel. Maybe this is why Elam has no watermelon juice in his recipe, "Temple But Not Shirley."

"3 parts Cutty Sark, 1 part water, and ice cubes. Mix. If not satisfied, repeat the same, again and again. Add a few salted peanuts for food value. Makes one serving."

To do or not do

And on that note, what do folks who responded think of the vaccine?

After seeking opinions about the vaccine pros and cons from you wise readers, I feel like Clyde Beatty rattling the cage.

To avoid possible drive-by yelling, I have not included names or locations. Some of the entries had to be edited. This is a family paper even though they let me work here one day a week when I do the cleaning.

Cons

Personally, I have no plans to take the vaccine. I'll take my chances with the virus. I'm not going to intentionally put #@% in my body.*

I will not get it. I may blow up like a balloon.

Developing a vaccine and doing clinical trials at the same time is concerning. Which version of the vaccine are they testing? It seems to me, you must develop

the vaccine to the point of testing, test it, then tweak it based on test results. And the long term effects of the vaccine are unknown – months of testing is not long term. It may work to combat the virus now but will it affect other parts of the body later on? And how is it they can develop, test, and approve a vaccine in less than a year but are unable to treat the virus now?

I'm not ignorant but I won't take someone's word for it. I do read, I get multiple opinions and make decisions based on more than just science. I trust the science. I don't trust politicians who have thrown millions at pharmaceuticals to develop the vaccine in such a short time.

I am allergic to Flu shots and a list of other meds, so I'm not about to take a chance on the vaccine. I am blessed to never get flu, colds, or viruses. I had flu once when I was 14, or at least I thought that was what it was, and have never had it since. Do have allergies that get me congested like an upper respiratory infection, but haven't even had a bad allergy attack in 3 years. So I am very blessed indeed.

No way am I doing this. The rules change every day. I also don't take vitamins. There are enough minerals in my well water.

Pros

I really don't want this virus to continue anymore and with people being hesitant even to wear masks or social distance, what's going to make them want to take a vaccine? It just doesn't make any sense to me why anyone wants this virus to continue to hold all of us hostage in our own homes. It's not the government causing lock-downs, it's people ignoring what they need to do to control it. So frustrating!

I am going to get the vaccine because Dr. Bob Wagner said I should and I trust him. He's a Shifty Sailor. Why wouldn't I?

Well, you can't deny the existence of the COVID-19 virus. Island County alone has had 802 cases with 18 deaths in the last 9 months...and counting. You can watch the progress of it in our county at www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx.

As members of a community, we follow basic guidelines and rules that benefit all of us like stopping for red lights, holding doors open for people whose arms are full, and practicing the Golden Rule. Why then do some refuse to wear a mask and refuse to keep 6-10 feet apart from people outside their households as if this defiance is going to stop the spread of the virus? It is continuing the spread, allowing it to dominate our lives by keeping us in masks and lock-downs. People, please read all you can about this virus and how it spreads and then read the science behind the vaccines that have been created to knock this off our planet. Do what you can to control it until you can get vaccinated. Do it for yourself and your friends and families.

Opinions from many zip codes have been expressed on page three in both this issue and the last. Given my lack of essentiality, I will not be allowed in any line until next spring or summer. So, I'll go back to watching Buck Jones serials until the line forms next year and/or I become essential to the Governor and his staff.

Nothing like political rejection to keep me indoors.

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

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Think of it as essential.



Get a flu vaccine.

KnockOutFlu.org



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





Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

Just read in your Dec. 3-9 paper that Carey Ross will be leaving *Whidbey Weekly* and we want to THANK her for her wonderful/crazy/funny/absolutely true Movie Column.

Every time we get the paper we immediately go to the Movie column and just crack up!! What a really clever writer she is and so spot on about the movies she reviews. This is one piece of writing we will really miss and we send all our best wishes to her in new career!

PS. Go write a book!

Beth and Howard Giske
Clinton, Wash.

Limit State Ferry Travel to Essential Trips Over Holidays if you must ride, review schedules as many are different from years past

With statewide restrictions in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the public is being asked to limit rides on state ferries to essential purposes only over the Christmas and New Year's holiday season.

"With guidance to limit gatherings during a time we normally spend with family and friends, the holidays will be different for many this year," said Amy Scarton, head of Washington State Ferries. "If you must ride our ferries, remember that masks are required aboard our vessels and throughout our terminals in compliance with the state's health order to help keep people safe."

Customers who must take a ferry for essential travel should review sailing schedules in advance. Several routes are operating on modified timetables under WSF's COVID-19 Response Service Plan which are different from years past:

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

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

Edmonds/Kingston: Final round trip suspended Fridays and Saturdays

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

Holiday schedules

Friday and Jan. 1, there will be a few schedule changes for the Edmonds/Kingston, Mukilteo/Clinton and Point Defiance/Tahlequah routes. The Seattle/Bainbridge Island route will operate on a Saturday timetable both days. Holiday sailings are marked on the schedule page for each route.

Busy travel times

Lengthy wait times are possible for people who must drive a vehicle onto a vessel over the holidays. With Christmas falling on a Friday this year, the Wednesday and Thursday before, and the Saturday and Sunday following the holiday are expected to be the busiest. Delays are possible in both directions on several routes. Historically, far fewer people catch a ferry during the week of the New Year's holiday.

To reduce or eliminate waiting, riders may consider taking an early morning or late evening sailing. To maintain physical distance standards, WSF will enforce reduced occupancy in terminals and on sailings for walk-on passengers.

Travel tips

Sign up for ferry email alerts. Check terminal conditions and WSF's COVID-19 travel updates before leaving. Make a vehicle reservation for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands or Port Townsend/Coupeville routes.

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

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

[Submitted by Justin Fujioka, WSDOT]

Skagit Valley College Continuing and Community Education Announces New Online Courses for Winter

Skagit Valley College's Continuing and Community Education program (CCE) is pleased to announce new online workshops for Winter Quarter. CCE allows you to engage, connect, learn, and grow from the comfort of your home by offering short-term, non-credit courses. For more information, visit the CCE Winter 2021 Course Catalog at www.skagit.edu/continuing-community-education/.

Courses are designed for you to enjoy online non-credit workshops outside of the traditional classroom setting, with offerings in Professional Development, Technology, Health and Wellness, and Creativity and Hobbies.

SVC's Continuing and Community Education is also partnering with Ed2Go to provide you with more course opportunities. Check out new areas in SVC's Ed2Go Course Catalog (www.ed2go.com/skagit/). It's easy to enroll in CCE courses. Visit www.skagit.edu/cce.

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

Registration Is Now Open for Sound Waters University 2021

Brought to you by Sound Water Stewards of Island County, Sound Waters University (SWU) is a "One Day University On All Things Puget Sound." For 2021, SWU will launch a new chapter Feb. 6 with a virtual event. Register now at www.soundwatersuniversity.org.

As in past years, Sound Waters University will offer a wide variety of informative classes and presentations about the natural world and the fragile environment of the Salish Sea. These classes include fascinating explorations on such subjects as whales, forest health, birds, river otters, earthquakes, groundwater science, ocean acidification, and many more.

While the interactive portion of SWU only happens Feb. 6, with the opportunity to ask questions and explore the topics presented, new in 2021 attendees will have full access to all classes after the event. This means instead of only choosing three classes, the ticket price for SWU this year covers all 12 sessions planned.

Sound Waters University 2021 Keynote Speaker is Dr. Peter S. Ross, an international authority in the area of ocean pollution and his much-anticipated speech, entitled "A Sea of Trouble - Taking Action On Plastics Pollution," will include how to make a difference on this critical environmental concern.

The overall schedule for Sound Waters University starts with the keynote speaker at 8:30AM, followed by three sessions of classes and the opportunity to explore virtual exhibitors. Some new classes for 2021 include presentations on Asian Giant Hornets, puffins, forest health, tides, and a naturalist's perspective on whales of the Salish Sea. View the full schedule at www.soundwatersuniversity.org/classes/.

Registration for Sound Waters University is now open with a special early-bird rate of \$45 until Jan. 15. Students, current teachers, and AmeriCorps volunteers can receive a discount on registration fees. Interested participants are urged to register early in case attendance is limited to ensure a quality experience.

[Submitted by Anne Cushing Post]

Registration Open for Two-Day Boating Skills and Certification Course

Boaters Can Earn the Required Washington State Boater Education Card

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

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

According to state law, many recreational boaters in Washington are required to complete a boating safety course and carry a Washington State Boater Education Card. You are required to have a Boater Education Card if you fit the following criteria:

You operate a vessel with a 15-horsepower (or greater) motor.

You were born after Jan. 1, 1955.

You are 12 years of age or older.

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

According to squadron commander Pat Waters, this is the most comprehensive introductory boating course available, and will give novice boaters the skills needed to enjoy their time on the water and boat with confidence. The boating squadron will include free on-the-water training for participants, but it will be dependent on COVID restrictions.

The Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron (DPSPS) is a 44-year-old nonprofit organization with more than 75 members from Whidbey and Fidalgo islands. DPSPS is part of America's Boating Club, a squadron of the United States Power Squadrons, a nonprofit boating organization dedicated to education and training of safe boating activities.

[Submitted by Jennifer Geller, DPSPS]

2021 First Day Event

The First Day Hike has long been a tradition at Deception Pass State Park and is a great way to start the New Year outdoors. This year, the Deception Pass Park Foundation would like to continue the tradition while providing a fun and safe opportunity for all. It has come up with a variety of fun, self-guided adventures to help you explore. Find whichever adventure fits best for you and come out to Deception Pass State Park Jan. 1 to enjoy the outdoors.

To participate in one of the Jan. 1 adventures, stop by the East Cranberry Lake Parking Area (first left after the main entrance) to pick up your materials anytime between 10:00AM and 2:00PM. As you explore the park, consider joining the Deception Pass Park Foundation for its first ever First Day event photo contest. Post a picture of you or your group having fun completing your adventure on Facebook and include the hashtag #HikingDeception2021 to be entered into the contest. Participants will have three days to upload their pictures before

Investment Lessons from 2020

As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that we've all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Here are some to consider:

- *The markets look ahead.* Here's something many investors discovered in 2020: Investment prices don't always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing.

What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product (GDP), reflect what's happening today, but the markets are always looking toward tomorrow, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market's opinion by its performance.

- *Opportunities will always exist for investors.* Although the coronavirus seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well.

For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it's probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here's the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress – and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their portfolios in a way that's appropriate for their goals and risk tolerance.

- *Patience and discipline can pay dividends.* As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon – investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's unlikely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year – so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond.

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



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a winner is randomly drawn to win. For more information, visit <https://deceptionpassfoundation.org/news/first-day-event/>.

[Submitted by Deception Pass Park Foundation]

Grants Awarded to Preservation Projects Across Washington Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Announces 2021 Valerie Sivinski Fund Grant Awards

Each year the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation provides grants through the Valerie Sivinski Fund to organizations across the state. Founded in 1976, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a private nonprofit organization with a mission to save the places that matter in Washington and to promote sustainable and economically viable communities through historic preservation. The Valerie Sivinski Fund grant program embodies the mission of the Washington Trust by supporting preservation projects where they really happen: at the local level.

Named in memory of Valerie Sivinski, a beloved former board member of the Washington Trust who served as president in the early 1990s, the Fund was established in 1997 with the first grants awarded in 1998. In addition to cash grants, the program also connects projects to preservation professionals who are able to offer support through pro bono services. Since its establishment, the Fund has awarded over \$190,000 in cash grants and building assessment services to 168 projects across the state to local organizations and historic preservation advocates.

Recipients of the 2021 Valerie Sivinski Fund grant awards were publicly announced Dec. 15 at the Washington Trust's annual Sivinski Holiday Benefit, held virtually and broadcast from the Stimson-Green Mansion, its landmark headquarters. All proceeds from the benefit go to support the grant program. The 2021 grants were awarded to the following organizations:

\$2,000 to the Stella Historical Society to repair siding on the front of the blacksmith shop. The Stella Historical Society uses the shop for

historical demonstrations of blacksmithing with the public as well as a training site for the Clatsop Community College Historic Preservation Program.

\$1,000 to the Friends of Magnuson Park to support a mini pop-up exhibit on Sand Point Naval Air Station's all-black jazz band, the "Jive Bombers." The exhibit will honor the Navy's black musicians in World War II while also exploring segregation in the U.S. military and how black bands were formed as a way of elevating Navy men of color, when they were otherwise relegated to serving as cooks or attendants.

\$1,500 to the Town of Waterville to support a downtown brick repointing and repair workshop at the Cooper Block. The goal is to help educate downtown building owners in proper preservation techniques—a good repointing can last a building many years, and poor repointing can irreparably damage historic bricks.

\$1,250 to Historic Whidbey to fund seismic engineering plans for the Haller-Brunn House chimney in Coupeville. The chimney was carefully deconstructed in order to safely lift the house for foundation work, and the chimney will be carefully reconstructed with original bricks where possible as part of Phase II of the multi-year total rehabilitation.

\$2,000 to the Community Advocates for Tolliver Temple to support a City of Seattle Landmark nomination which will provide permanent protections for the building. Historically built as Sephardic Bikur Holim Synagogue, it served the Jewish community until it was sold to the Tolliver Temple Church of God in Christ in 1963 and became a spiritual center of the black community in the Central District.

\$2,000 to LaCrosse Community Pride to go toward engineering drawings for the Rock House Service Station which is being renovated into the Ice Age Floods Visitor Center and Heritage Museum. The museum in the service station is part of a larger project to rehabilitate all six historic rock buildings, built by local farmers during the impoverished years of the

Great Depression, and to attract visitors and highlight the history of LaCrosse.

\$1,500 to the Harbor History Museum in Gig Harbor to support the rehabilitation of Thunderbird #1, a sailboat designed out of plywood as a versatile vessel that the average handy person could build in their garage. This first-generation Thunderbird has been damaged from being on display in an open-air gallery, and after restoration, she will have a home in the Harbor History Museum's new, enclosed maritime gallery.

For images of the award-winning projects, please visit the Washington Trust's website: <http://preservewa.org/sivinski>

About the Washington Trust:

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a statewide, tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1976 to safeguard Washington's historic places through advocacy, education, collaboration, and stewardship. For additional information regarding the 2021 grant recipients or for information on contributing to the Valerie Sivinski Fund visit www.preservewa.org or call 206-624-9449.

[Submitted by Jennifer Mortensen, Outreach Director, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation]

Small Miracles Available in Coupeville

Small Miracles is a Medical Support Fund for residents of Coupeville who live in the 98239 zip code area. Small Miracles has been helping people in the community for years. Coupeville residents who need help paying prescription drug costs, medical bills, medical support items - such as orthopedic shoes, etc. - or dental bills may contact Small Miracles at 360-672-5651. Help with gasoline and ferry vouchers for those families who may need to go off island for doctor or hospital visits is also available.

Small Miracles is an all volunteer organization funded by donations from the community. Donations to the organization are always gratefully accepted at: Small Miracles, P.O. Box 912, Coupeville, WA 98239.



SOME HEROES INSPIRE US

"Mary is a caring, compassionate, and helpful nurse. She goes out of her way to make sure everyone has what they need. Mary inspires me to be better, work harder and to be more positive. She always has a word of encouragement and a smile. If there is one person I want to be more like, it's Mary Hunter."

Mary Hunter is a real healthcare hero.

Mary is the first employee I job shadowed and everyone said that I was in for a treat, but you better have your running shoes on! They were right. She is not only quick on her feet but just as quick with her smile. Mary has an upbeat attitude and spreads her words of encouragement to everyone. She is always thanking staff for their hard work. Thank you, Mary, for all you do to make WhidbeyHealth great.



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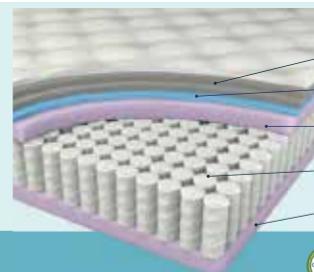
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Sno-Isle offering remote story-telling p. 10

Brief closure to precede new Mukilteo ferry terminal opening

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Folks used to traveling on the Clinton-to-Mukilteo ferry route should prepare for a brief pause in service next week in advance of the opening of the new Mukilteo ferry terminal.

The route will shut down Monday evening after the final crossing and will remain closed most of the day Tuesday, reopening for the scheduled 5:35 p.m. departure from Clinton to the new terminal. Tollbooths at the Clinton terminal will reopen at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Tollbooths will reopen at 5 p.m. in Mukilteo in advance of the 6:10 p.m. sailing from the new facility. The closure is necessary to move floating structures from the old terminal to the new one.

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

Those who need to travel to or from Whidbey Island during the closure can take SR 20 north over Deception Pass or use the Coupeville/Port Townsend or Kington/Edmonds ferry routes.

The new Mukilteo ferry terminal replaces the 63-year-old terminal – which had not had any major improvements since the 1980s – and failed to meet current seismic safety standards and presented several safety concerns. The new facility, located about a third of a mile east of its current location, is the first new WSF terminal in four decades.

"We're excited to welcome ferry riders and the public to our

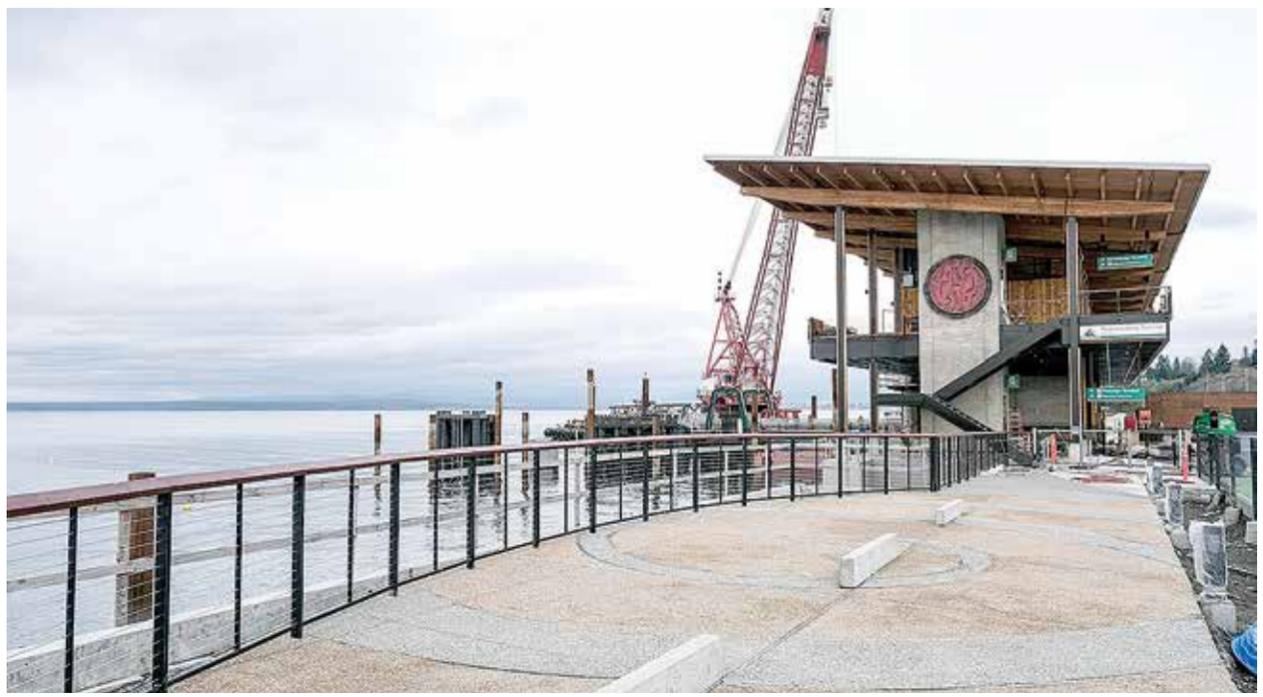


Photo Courtesy of Washington State Ferries

The new Mukilteo ferry terminal will open early Tuesday evening, following a brief closure to move floating structures from the old facility to the new one.

first new terminal in 40 years," Scarton said. "With its many green features and tribal-influenced design, it's unlike any other in the system."

The Clinton/Mukilteo route is WSF's busiest vehicle route, carrying over four million riders each year. Officially part of State Route 525, it is the major transportation corridor connecting Whidbey to the Seattle-Everett metropolitan area.

"The opening of the new ferry terminal is very exciting, and long overdue," said Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson. "People need to plan ahead for the closure and 18 hour loss of service as the WSF system transitions away from the old dock."

The new terminal is located at the site of an old U.S. Air Force fueling station and restores the area to a more natural setting. A new waterfront promenade offers the chance to take in the scenic view. The project also includes a transit center and is a short walk from the Sounder train station.

The new passenger station meets current seismic safety standards. An overhead walkway, when completed, will enable walk-on passengers to load and unload directly to the

passenger deck.

"The new ferry terminal will open the capacity for much better multimodal access for Whidbey Islanders and our visitors, with overhead loading, more transit bus bays, and located conveniently closer to the Sounder station," Price Johnson noted. "Its energy efficiency and respectful acknowledgment of the tribal history of the site are also noteworthy attributes."

The tribal history of the land did play a key role in the development of this project, as it is the site of the 1855 Point Elliot Treaty signing. The new passenger terminal is designed in the form of a Coast Salish longhouse and features a large gathering hall with views of water and land and offers comfortable space to those waiting for their ferry.

The facility was built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards and is certified as environmentally efficient. Solar panels, rainwater harvesting, natural ventilation, radiant floor heating, stormwater treatment, rain gardens and other features were also incorporated into the design. Cost of the project was just over \$187 million.



Kathy Reed/File photo

The new Mukilteo ferry terminal replaces the existing 63-year-old facility which has had no significant upgrades since the 1980s.

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Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
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Answers on page 19

		3		8				
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During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.



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STILL TALKING

By Eileen Brown, 1941-2014



Christmas...a time to share what we have most of with those who have the least. The story below is part fact, part fiction. It has become a tradition to run it at Christmas. My late mother, also named Eileen,

was a beautiful woman with a troubled life. She died at age 40. My late brother traveled around the world as a Navy diver and later, as a civilian diving and oil rig supervisor. What follows is best described as a wished-for dream where we reunite briefly. I clearly recall riding a streetcar to Marshall Field's in Chicago, clutching a too-small coat closer to keep myself warm. It's a story about a family fallen on hard times who, through the kindness of strangers, find that glad tidings can come to even those without hope.

The Kindness of Strangers

By Eileen Brown

"Christmas," said the mother to an empty room. She knew there was hardly money to pay the rent and buy groceries, let alone toys or a new coat for her girl.

Outside, a bitter Chicago wind made ghostly sounds as an elevated train rumbled past, its occupants huddled together for warmth.

A single bulb hung over the little girl's bed where she read her book in the dim light, poking her nose under the covers to keep it warm. The radiator was cold.

And where was that boy? She last saw him run through the alley with his friends. She needn't have worried. He had a good head on his shoulders and seldom got into trouble.

Neighborhood children often went through the trash looking for beer bottles to return to the taverns for a few pennies. Maybe he'd earn a few cents today. Still, it would not be enough.

She hated to be pitied, this mother alone with two children and no money in a big city full of families in dire circumstances.

Growing up, she heard her relatives denounce people who took charity, claiming they'd never stoop so low. "We're too proud!"

Perhaps she could take her children downtown to see the pretty storefronts. The boy had collected enough bottles that week to earn streetcar fare, so they bundled up in scarves and hats and headed to State Street.

As it had every Christmas, the star at Marshall Field was a welcoming beacon to shoppers. Angel hair and twinkling lights filled the window displays and reflected in the children's eyes. Not much point going in to see Santa, thought the mother, but the children pleaded, weakening her resolve.

It took some time for the line to wind down and suddenly Santa was asking the little girl what she wanted him to bring her.

"A dolly, please," she said, giving him a shy smile. She blushed as Santa hugged her and said he'd see what he could do.

It was the boy's turn. Surely he'd ask for a BB gun or bicycle, but his answer to Santa's question caught onlookers by surprise.

"All I want for Christmas is for someone to give my mother a job," he said.

This was not the usual response and Santa was silent for a moment.

Then Santa pressed on, asking, "Don't you want any toys or candy for yourself?"

The boy shook his head indicating "No."

"Well, if that ain't the darndest," said a voice from the crowd.

The mother blushed, and at that moment, she had never looked more radiant. Her boy beamed back at her.

"Let's go, children," she called. "We have to get the streetcar home before dark."

"Wait a minute, ma'am," called a man's voice. In his dark suit and wire-rimmed glasses, he

looked like an orchestra conductor, waving his long, slender arms above the shoppers.

The mother did not hear him. The three continued to the escalator down to the main entrance.

"You over there with the boy and girl. Wait, please," came the voice again.

He caught the boy's eye as they were almost at the revolving door. Outside, a small band played, a bell clanged and pocket change clinked into a metal kettle. Then the breathless man was at their side.

"Excuse me, madam, but I am in charge of the portrait studio here at Marshall Field," he explained. "I wondered if you would sit for some photographs for us to use in our advertising. If I may say so, you resemble those classic English beauties portrayed on castle walls."

She blushed and was about to say no.

"There! That's it," he said. "That lovely smile will grace streetcars up and down Michigan Avenue to be seen by people from around the world, if only you'll say yes."

One look at her children told the mother they wanted her to accept the man's offer.

"How much would the pay be," she asked timidly.

When he told her, she flushed again and said, "I'd be proud to accept your offer." The deal was set.

The studio manager took her name and address and told her when to return. Store professionals would do her hair and makeup, and even provide pearls and a gown to wear.

For a moment she was lost in thought, but her mind quickly returned to Christmas.

"When will I get paid," she whispered. The studio manager looked at her and the children and pulled something out of his pocket. He scribbled quickly and handed her a voucher.

"If you will take this to the cashier's cage, you can have part of your salary in advance today," he said. "Will that do?"

The mother hugged him and said, "You've made me very happy."

When the family returned home, a crumpled paper sack waited at their front door. Who left it, they wondered.

"Let's go," she called as the children struggled to remove their boots, clogged with snow and ice. Inside, all eyes were on the brown bag as it sat on the kitchen floor.

"I'll open it," said the boy.

"That's fine," said the mother, "but be careful."

In went his hand and out came a gray sweater with a white reindeer leaping off the chest. It was a few sizes too large for him, but he'd be kept warm for several winters. He laughed at his good fortune as his head popped out of the neck hole.

There was more. He reached in again. The girl got excited when she saw the spine of a book emerge.

"Black Beauty!" she exclaimed. "Is it for me?"

Just as he was about to throw the bag away, the boy heard something rattle as he shook it.

He brought out two tortoise shell hair combs and handed them to his mother.

"Here, mother! These will look fine in your hair when you have your portrait taken."

She hugged him and then the girl. The room became warm and bright with the sounds of their laughter.

The mother's heart felt light as she set on the teakettle. Things do look their darkest before the dawn, she thought.

Humming to herself, she thought of another family long ago who received the kindness of strangers on Christmas Eve.

The promise of Bethlehem, of new hope, was reborn that night in Chicago.

Hold your loved ones close and have a very Merry Christmas.

Most recently published December 2016 Whidbey Weekly. God Bless you, Eileen. We miss you.



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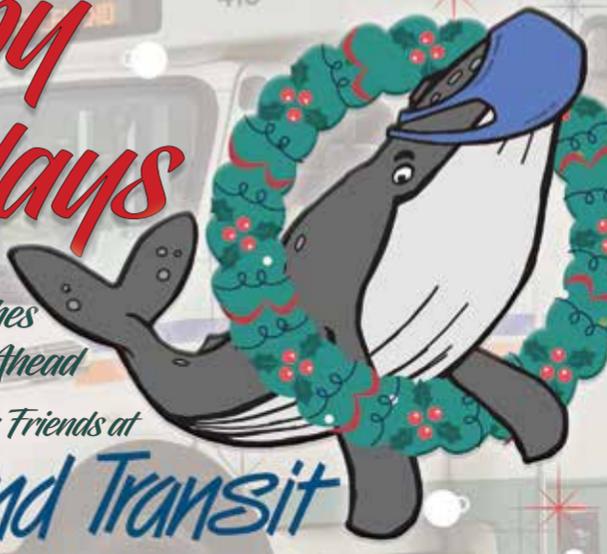


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Storyphone offers remote stories for winter break and beyond

By Alec Brown Whidbey Weekly

Looking for something to spark the imagination during winter break? Sno-Isle Libraries is now offering Storyphone, a remote storytelling service where customers can call in and listen to stories for free. You can call 360-651-7171 to listen to a new story each week. They are available in English, Spanish, Korean and Russian.

Sno-Isle Libraries Early Literacy Coordinator Joy Feldman described the service and how COVID encouraged them to make it.

"Because of COVID, we've seen a need to return to older technologies and Storyphone is one of those—just to reach a wider swath of families and customers in need," Feldman said. "We've been offering a lot of wonderful story time through Facebook, Zoom. We have our stay-at-home story time snippet and we're really excited about that...but we also know that we have a lot of families where it's just really a challenge technology-wise to access storytime through all of those formats."

"There are large areas on Whidbey Island where this is a real challenge," she continued. "And so, Storyphone! It's just a line, you call in, and you get to listen to a story... and we also have a separate line for our 3rd grade reading challenge. We have some schools on Whidbey Island that are participating with us and they have the opportunity to listen to one of our books by a local author."

Sno-Isle isn't alone in offering this kind of service. Many libraries have been forced to adapt and reach out to their customers because of the pandemic.

"It's a service that's been offered in other libraries like Seattle Public Library," said Feldman. "It was very successful and was offered for many years and was retired or phased out. And again, because of COVID, a lot of organizations, libraries included, have been thinking and reassessing what they're offering. So we're not alone—libraries have been thinking about this, of offering a dial up story or storyphone to their customers. I don't think we've ever offered it in the past..."



Sheena Fisher Graphic Courtesy of Sno-Isle Libraries

Sno-Isle Libraries now offers Storyphone, a remote story-telling experience. Call 360-651-7171 to listen to stories in English, Spanish, Korean or Russian.

for us, it was really the right time. We had to pivot quickly to take a lot of our storytimes online and then we really started thinking about other ways we want to get stories out to our families. So Storyphone is one of them."

But the service isn't just for kids. It has a kinetic appeal for anyone yearning for some storytelling fun.

"I am a storyphone customer," Feldman mentioned. "I'm dialing in regularly—I love to listen to stories. It's really fun to listen to a quick story."

She hopes that Storyphone will bring comfort to people during what might be a lonely winter break.

"It's something I've been thinking about—something that families can tune into during winter break," said Feldman.

But Storyphone isn't the only thing Sno-Isle Libraries is up to. There are a whole heap of services for kids and families.

"Sno-Isle Libraries continues to offer many daily online events, available to all Sno-Isle Libraries customers no matter where they live," said Sno-Isle Libraries Communica-

tions Specialist Kurt Batdorf. "There's family trivia, adult 'pub' trivia, children's storytimes, Craft and Chat work groups, Book to Movie discussion meetings, numerous book discussion groups, Silver Kite adult art classes and more."

All scheduled events can be found at sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index.

Feldman described even more programs. "We also have some winter science programs coming up during winter break for families to enjoy and those are from the Pacific Science Center," she said. "In the past, we've offered those in our building during the winter break, but now we've taken them online and are really excited about that. And of course, we have story time going on year-round."

"These are materials where they can have an activity to do," Feldman continued. "For example, a bingo card activity—getting kids excited about doing a number of activities and they can pick up a prize when they've done their activities—or for teens, they can make a stress ball, so we have a lot of ready-to-go activities for families."

Sno-Isle Libraries' science programs can be accessed at sno-isle.org/blogs/post/winter-break-science/, and take-home activities—and more—can be found at sno-isle.org/blogs/post/to-do-to-go-crafts-activities-for-kids-teens/.

"We care a lot about kids...so we want to do our best to support our communities and our families to keep them engaged and active," Feldman concluded. "Despite all of the challenges that we have faced in 2020 due to COVID-19, it's actually been a really exciting time and it's really pushed us to innovate, to collaborate across our system and with community partners...so there's been many silver linings to it, and we've been constantly inspired by all our families and our customers who utilize the libraries, and we're excited to keep offering them new services."

COVID-19 vaccinations begin on Whidbey Island

Photo Courtesy of WhidbeyHealth

Vaccinations for COVID-19 are now underway on Whidbey Island. Dr. Nick Perera, Emergency Department Medical Director and WhidbeyHealth Chief of Staff was the first in Island County to receive the COVID-19 vaccination Thursday. WhidbeyHealth performed 20 vaccinations Thursday and anticipates vaccinating approximately 1,600 high-risk healthcare workers living on Whidbey Island within the first two weeks of the program. Currently only those in the State Department of Health's Phase 1a are eligible to receive the two-part vaccination. According to WhidbeyHealth, the state is continuing to plan and define the other phases.

The Food and Drug Administration and the Western States Work Group have also approved a second vaccine by Moderna for emergency use. More information on when and where that vaccine will be available to Island County residents will be forthcoming.



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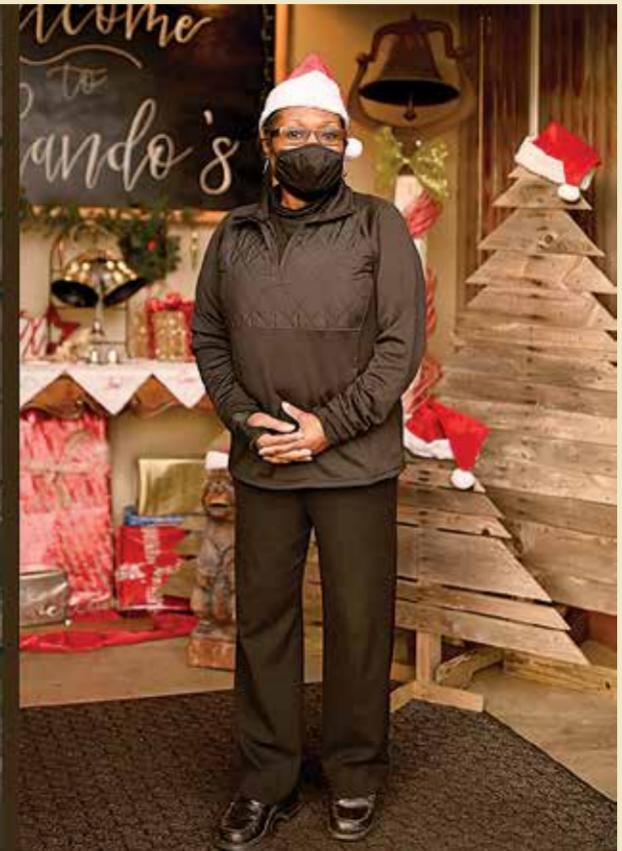
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Life Tributes

BEVERLY MAY REEDY



Beverly May Reedy died peacefully Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, at WhidbeyHealth in Coupeville, Wash. She was born May 19, 1934, in Anacortes, Wash. Beverly grew up on the family farm on Tea and Coffee Road, which is now known as Troxell Road in Oak Harbor. She attended Oak Harbor schools and graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 1952. In 1956, she married Norm Reedy and together they had two sons: Mike and Tony.

She worked and managed the Dutch Maid Dry cleaners for 37 years before retiring in 2007. Her interests include playing bingo and going to Las Vegas to visit her son Tony and two grandsons, Chris and Phil.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Jane (Reinstra) Oakley; sister Carolyn Helde; and granddaughter Natasha (Reedy) Divyak. Bev leaves behind her brother, Ralph Oakley; sons Mike Reedy (Liz) and Tony Reedy; grandsons Chris Reedy and Phil Reedy; granddaughters Candice (Dylan) Reedy-Lee, Rachelle Sward, and Stacey Clary; and numerous great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service will be held at Maple Leaf Cemetery in Oak Harbor at a later date. To view her online guestbook please visit www.wallinfuneralhome.com.

We all love and miss her so much!

GLYNES (THURSTON) TABACH

Glynies (Thurston) Tabach passed away Dec. 6, 2020, at the age of 89. She was born Jan. 19, 1931, to Glen and Minnie (Smith) Thurston in Sumas, Wash.

In 1947, she married Lyle "Swede" Norman. They had two children, Don and Gwen. The marriage ended in 1950.

In 1952, Glynies married Henry "Hank" R. Tabach, who is also known around town as "Toby."

They lovingly created a family with Don and Gwen, soon after adding Robert "Bob" and five years later, Kimberly "Kim."

Glynies worked for Payless Foods for 21 years as a meat wrapper and later as a cashier.

In 1970, Hank and Glynies purchased Sealeys Tavern in Coupeville, later naming it Toby's Tavern. Hank loved it, Glynies not so much.

After selling Toby's in 1980, Hank and Glynies created Toby's Country Catering, through which they met many great, long-lasting friends. No one was a stranger to Hank and Glynies. In 1995, after selling their family home in Greenbank, Hank and Glynies moved to Lake Havasue, Ariz. Hank passed away suddenly in 2004 and Glynies remained in Arizona before returning to Coupeville in 2011 to be closer to her family.

Glynies was the glue that held the family together when Hank made many deployments while serving 20 years in the U.S. Navy. She had to be both mother and father. She taught her children to have strong moral character and huge ethics. She loved her children and grandchildren immensely and they loved her. She was definitely the strongest woman in the world, and she will be greatly missed.

Glynies is survived by her children: Don Tabach (Pat) of Coupeville; Gwen Hannon of Poulsbo; Kim Tresslar (Mike) of Coupeville; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren, with one on the way. Glynies is preceded in death by her parents, Glen and Minnie; her sister, Arlene Holz; her beloved husband of 53 years, Hank; and their son, Bob Tabach.

TRACY MONET RANER-FUCHS



Tracy, 55, of Oak Harbor, Wash., passed away peacefully Dec. 16, 2020.

She was born Dec. 1, 1965 in Los Angeles, Calif., the daughter of Linda and Clarence Raner. She grew up all over the west coast with her eldest brother, Jim, older sister Christine, and youngest brother Mark.

Tracy was the beloved wife of Fred Fuchs, with whom she shared 20 years of marriage. She was a devoted mother to her sons, Nicholas Medina, Idaho, and Fred Fuchs Jr., Wash.; and daughters, Ashley Soltero, Calif., Yvette Fuchs, Calif., and Delaney Raner, Calif. Tracy was grandma to Corine Moana, Dean Moana, Hunter Chile, Rose Chile, Sophia Soltero, and Isabelle Soltero.

Our beloved wife, sister, mother, and grandmother will be missed dearly by her family. Through her kindness and laughter, she could light-up any room. She lives on through so many hilarious stories and endless beautiful memories. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the WhidbeyHealth Hospice Care in Coupeville, Wash. She wanted to be comfortable and through the care and kindness of nurses, she was able to be so. A private service will be held at a later date.

Thank you sincerely,
The Raner-Fuchs Family

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at www.whidbeymemorial.com.

Top Five Reasons to Advertise in a Down Economy

You Must Advertise to Reach New Customers

Your market changes constantly. New families in the area mean new customers to reach. People earn more money, which means changes in lifestyles and buying habits. The shopper who wouldn't consider your business a few years ago may be a prime customer now.

You Must Advertise Continuously

Shoppers don't have the store loyalty they once did. Cars give shoppers mobility and freedom. You must advertise to keep pace with your competition. The U.S National Retail Merchants Association states: "Mobility and non-loyalty are rampant. Stores must promote to get former customers to return, and to seek new ones."

You Must Advertise to Make More Sales

Advertising works. Businesses that succeed are usually strong, steady advertisers. Look around. You'll find the most aggressive and consistent advertisers are almost invariably the most successful.

You Must Advertise to Keep a Healthy, Positive Image

In a competitive market, rumors and bad news travel fast. Advertising corrects misleading gossip, punctures "overstated" bad news. Advertising that is vigorous and positive can bring shoppers into the marketplace, regardless of the economy.

You Must Advertise Because It Pays Off Over a Long Period

Advertising gives you a long-term advantage over competitors who cut back or cancel advertising. A five year survey of more than 3,000 companies in the U.S found that advertisers who maintained or expanded advertising over a five year period saw their sales increase an average of 100%.

The bottom line is clear: If a company is not communicating with its customers, then that company will not be considered in the buying decision. That fundamental truth does not change, regardless of the economy. While many companies readily understand the value of short-term advertising generating new sales, it is more difficult to understand the long-term value of generating repeat business from existing customers and generating new leads that turn into future customers. Think of a snowball rolling down a mountain: Consistent advertising has a cumulative effect. The more familiar buyers are with your business or brand, the more likely they are to purchase from you.

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

Pam's Prayer Corner

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

Lord,

We ask you to grant us peace during this Christmas season and throughout the new year. May your peace be in our homes, our communities and our hearts.

We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. Help us to remember his birth is the reason we celebrate this season.

We pray for the safety of all those who are traveling during the holidays. Bless those who are not able to be home with their families. Keep them safe so they may return home to their loved ones in due time.

We ask for these things in your name, Amen.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6



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CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



Behind every scrumptious meal, there's a mess to clean up. Behind every gala house party, a mess to clean up. Behind every sushi bar, behind every 18-wheeler barreling down the wet freeway--you get the idea. It's a messy world. Impossible not to get some of it on you. And who does the clean-up? Can you trust that to the other guy? Depends on the mess. Sometimes, too much trust is what leads to the mess.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Happy is a frame of mind. So is scrappy. Do the two mix? Like crackers and cheese. The world is filled with people happy to be scrappy. Happy and scrappy are as American as the shot heard 'round the world. People happy to be scrappy fought the war on poverty, the war on drugs, the war on crime, and the war on terror, to name a few. Happy to be scrappy is fast becoming the new drug. How about a war on war?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



The Judas goat is trained for one special role: Lead the herd to slaughter, after which, its own life is spared. Cringe. Do we say this as an admonition, be careful who you follow? Or as a catalyst to moral debate, such as, is life at any cost a life worth living? True leaders lead always to the higher and better. True leaders think not of self. In the words of scripture, "By their fruits you will know them."

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Rude comments and haughty opinions can be hard to let slide. Disparaging remarks aimed at something you hold dear are always tough to bear. How you respond, or indeed, whether you respond at all, is up to you. Do you fire back in the heat of the moment? Pretend not to hear? There are no easy answers. On one thing, the wise agree: It's rare that we regret the words we didn't say.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Nobody likes a bully. We detest those who pick on children, animals, and the defenseless. To rise quickly in defense of those who cannot defend themselves is to earn the defender a warm place in everyone's heart. The courage to be such a defender, while widely admired, is not something everyone possesses. Count yourself blessed if you are such a one. The world supports you, wherever you go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



What happens when the wind and tide work together? A lot. The high tide reaches higher. The beach gets rearranged. The detritus of days gone by, the jumbled flotsam and jetsam of old, all gets washed away. Wind and tide working in partnership scour the waterfront, leaving the shore with a fresh new face. Happy day. The tide of fortune, the winds of

fate, are now at work rearranging the waterfront of human history. Are you helping or hindering?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



Life is a process of trial and error. Sometimes you must know what doesn't work before you can clearly see what works. Sometimes you must walk through the darkness before you see the light. Sometimes you must experience betrayal before you know who is true blue. Does it seem that you spend so much time on defense that you have no time to mount an offense? That's part of life's process. It's a process of trial and error.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Fast turns and unexpected curves make any race exciting. Whatever your game, you must navigate those curves or be lost in the dust. But what happens when the action extends outside the rules of the game? If you think you're being treated unfairly, then it's up to you to cry foul. Fair officiating often begins with a challenge from the slighted one. Some people will take as much as you let them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Honesty is a virtue, it is true. But when the truth works against you, what then? Is withholding the truth when the truth works against you dishonest? Our legal system says when the truth would hurt, you have the right to remain silent. But sometimes, the broken cookie jar on the floor speaks louder than words. Sometimes, honesty is not about silence or confession. It's about the honest bearing witness to what is right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



To speak your truth is to speak for many. To act from your heart is to act for many. To know what you know, and then to live by it, is to live for many. Who are these many whom you represent? And who appointed you to be their spokesman? Call them the ancestors. They comprise the family lineage from which you arose. As their spokesman by default, you're in the seat of power. Are you giving them good representation?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



The all-night grocery store. The 24-hour pharmacy. The ER that never closes. They exist for one reason: Circumstances in which tomorrow is not an option. The 2:00 AM craving for ice cream was never easier to satisfy, proving that our much-maligned era of run-away progress is not all bad. Got an itch rooted in some aspect of progress that is bad? Don't wait for tomorrow. The time to scratch it is now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



Friends make life easier. In that way, they're like escalators. You can get where you're going without them, but why not make it easy on yourself? Of course, some people like to sweat. You know, fitness buffs. Their "escalator" is the trusty treadmill. It'll sap your last ounce of strength. And in case you're wondering, yes, there are, indeed, treadmill friends. You know the kind. You never quite get anywhere with 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. Wesley Hallock, as Whidbey Weekly's professional astrologer and horoscope writer, keeps one eye on the sky and alerts us to the prospects each week. To read past columns of Chicken Little and the Astrologer in the Whidbey Weekly, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

Crossword Puzzle

Grid for a crossword puzzle with numbered squares and blacked-out areas.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Skateboarders love them
6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
9. Former Ohio State great Michael
13. Not dirty
14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
15. A Spanish river
16. Pig meat (French)
17. Famed astronomer
18. Floating ice
19. Broadcast
21. Aquatic mammals
22. Some are bath
23. Hip hop trio
24. NY Giants' #56
25. Small European viper
28. Neither
29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
31. Loud noise
33. Second year high schooler
36. "___ in comparison"
38. Golf score
39. Raise
41. Pastas
44. Easily manageable
45. Fathered
46. Pouch
48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. News organization

- 51. Unruly group of people
52. Fasten or secure
54. Sheets of glass
56. Doubled
60. Foolish person
61. Rooney and Kate are two
62. Small, rich sponge cake
63. Advice or counsel
64. Large wading bird
65. Famed British physicist
66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
67. Field force unit
68. Lying face downward

- 17. Grain storage units
20. Not a car, not a truck
21. Ooze
23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
25. Tennis pros group
26. Something that's not what it's purported to be
27. E. Indian trees
29. Beloved December holiday
30. Regions
32. Metric unit of length
34. Peter's last name
35. Beige
37. 18-year period in astronomy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
2. Soap ingredient
3. Blackbird
4. Single steps
5. Tin
6. Books have lots of them
7. Made of fermented honey and water
8. You can get it in a bed
9. Room for communal meals
10. Early Syrian kingdom
11. Provokes dry amusement
12. Use with "thou"
14. Mollusk

Answers on page 19

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Table with 7 columns for dates from Thurs, Dec. 24 to Wed, Dec. 30, and 2 rows for North Isle and South Isle weather forecasts including temperature ranges and conditions.



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



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PACIFIC SURF PERCH AND RAZOR CLAMS

Since the tribal co-managed Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) closed all Olympic Peninsula coastal rivers to salmon and steelhead fishing to non-tribal anglers because of low fish returns, what are the anglers who booked a guided steelhead trip or had a river fishing trip planned to catch a few late season chums to smoke up for the New Year to do?

Here is an idea; hit the Pacific surf for some fun-to-catch and good-to-eat ocean perch. And if the shellfish toxins are within acceptable limits, don't forget the suction gun and/or curved razor clam shovel, too.

Ocean perch are easy to catch and do not require a lot of expensive gear to catch them; chances are you have everything you need in the garage. Swap your level-wind steelhead reels, rods, and lures for an 8-1/2 to 9 foot spinning rod and reel, grab a few dozen nightcrawlers and a couple of packages of soft plastic baits and you're on your way to easing your river fishing disappointment.

Here are the baits I have used in the past to land surf perch:

Razor clam bits and pieces: Or, sacrifice a whole clam and cut it up in small chunks - perch love clam meat.

Night crawlers: I believe every fish on earth will bite a worm, maybe that's why they call them earthworms. If you can't dig or collect your own, worms can be found in almost all tackle shops, hardware stores, and even Walmart. A dozen worms will go a long way due to the fact you only need a pinch of the worm to bait the hook. The whole worm is not necessary to get the fish to bite.

Plastic soft baits: There are a slew of soft plastics on the market but all you need to buy is a bag of Berkley Gulp saltwater sandworms (green). You can choose the pre-cut, two-inch worms or the six-inch worms and cut them to a size you like.

I'm sure there are other proven baits out there, but these three have worked for me every time.

My family fillets and de-bones our catch, then we deep fry the fish in the same manner you would a crappie, walleye, or yellow perch. The flesh of a surf perch tends to be on the soft and tender side. I like to tighten the fillets up overnight before I cook them: In a shallow casserole-style dish, lay the



Red Tail surf perch, this is what you're after.

fillets in the bottom and just barely cover the fish with water, then add 1 teaspoon of coarse salt and 1 teaspoon of fresh lemon or lime juice for each pound of fish, then place the dish in the refrigerator for at least 12 hours. This soaking process gives the flesh a little more body - similar to a piece of cod. Drain and rinse the fillets, pat them dry with some paper towels and you're ready cook the fish in your batter of choice. The salt and citrus juice also helps hold the chunks of fish together if you are making a fish stew or chowder.

Finding and digging for razor clams is not difficult but there is an art to it. The tide plays a huge factor in when you dig and there some helpful digging tricks that will keep you from cutting your clam in half as you dig down. If you can go with someone who has clammed before, this is the best way to learn. I am fortunate to have a friend, Kelly Malone, and his wife, Carroll; they were glad to show my family the technique of locating, digging and not breaking the shells. Don't be afraid to ask a local for some friendly advice; most are willing to lend a helping hand to get you started. Trust me, you won't be the only one on the beach.

With a valid shellfish license, a person can harvest 15 clams per day during open season. When my family spends a weekend at the coast, both fishing and clamming, I bring along my pressure canner and small canning jars. I already pressure can my own salmon and tuna, and clams are just as easy. They require the same cooking time and pressure as fish, and then they're ready for the shelf and later use.

I know standing up to your knees in the Pacific Ocean casting for a 1-1/2 pound fish doesn't have the same flare as catching a hard-fighting steelhead or chum salmon, but until this state realizes all of the state's salmon fish hatcheries desperately need to be running at 100 percent capacity for a minimum of 10 years to begin to bring our salmon back, we will fish for what is available to us because we love to fish!

Be sure to check the state fishing regulations for seasons and limits, also log onto the WDFW website to check all emergency rule changes for the state. GOOD LUCK fishing! And have a safe and wonderful Christmas, from my family to yours.



This is a nice size razor clam, tender and great eating.

Home for the Holidays

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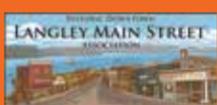
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A Classic Christmas

By Carey Ross

Tried and true

Normally, when writing about seasonal cinema, I try and suggest movies outside the realm of the standards. I operate under the assumption we've all seen the classics umpteen times and what we're really after are the outliers.

However, 2020 has not been a normal year.

During a normal year, I start watching Christmas films right around, well, Christmas. This year, bored, a bit sad and looking for cheer, I fired up the yuletide movies before Thanksgiving was upon us. As previously mentioned, I've been swimming deep in the waters of Hallmark, Lifetime, and now Netflix Christmas movies. Spoiler: They're all terrible, none are believable and I don't care about either of those things one bit.

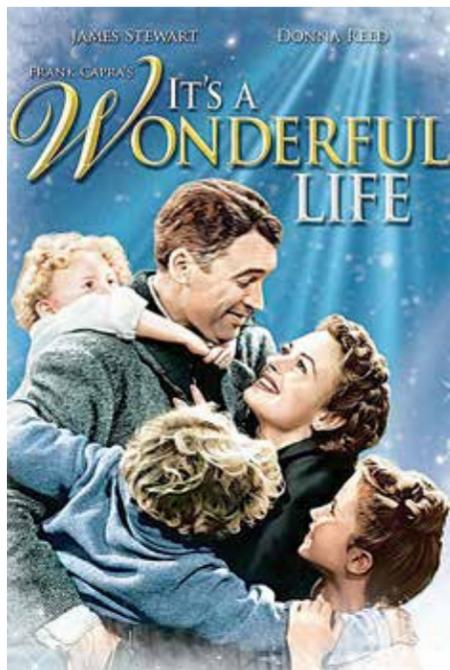
Now that the holiday itself draws nigh, I find myself craving the true-blue Christmas classics. Perhaps it's my longing for pre-COVID days at play or maybe it's a simple desire to immerse myself in worlds where everything turns out just right by Christmas morning, but during a year when I won't be opening presents with my folks while my Pops wears his light-up holiday sweater, and I'm not sitting down to a feast of Christmas lasagna with my friend and coworker Amy Kepferle, traditional movies feel like a warm blanket of Christmas comfort. Pour yourself a mug of hot chocolate (feel free to doctor it with the spirits of the season) and press play on the classics to which we've returned time and again.



I'm not sure when exactly *A Christmas Story* entered my life, but I do remember who introduced it to me: my grandma Pat, who had an affection for the movie which seemed to come straight from her own life experience. In Ralphie Parker and his quest for a Red Ryder BB gun, she saw her youngest son Dennis, and in Ralphie's mother's "You'll shoot your eye out" admonition, she saw herself. But the real-life reminders didn't end there. Every year, when we'd watch together, she'd talk about how my Uncle Dennis' best friend Cornwall was just like Flick, the kid who stuck his tongue to the frozen pole, and the Bumpus' dogs were all the cats she'd ever had who'd sneak away with part of a holiday dinner. I have to admit, there was a bit of resemblance between the rough-around-the-edges, working-class Parker family and my own clan, but even if you could never imagine anyone in your family calling a leg lamp a "major award," *A Christmas Story* remains an enduring classic for so many reasons.

I was an insufferable teenager when *Home Alone* was released and my interest in Kevin McAllister's hijinks was bordering on nonexistent. As a teen, I had no minutes or patience for the plot holes so wide you could drive an ocean liner through them and Macaulay Culkin's charms were completely lost on me. However, via repeated viewings as an adult, I've come around. Kevin is an excellent mix of diabolical precociousness and scared kid (Culkin is a miracle of perfect casting—one of those times when Hollywood got something exactly right), and Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern make for appropriately ridiculous villains. Plus, I'm a total sucker for a John Hughes script and a John Williams soundtrack. And, at the end of the day, who wouldn't want to booby trap their own house in the name of self-defense and outwitting some bad guys?

In the arena of films that are less Christmas classics and more guilty pleasures falls a movie I have watched on TV, complete with commercial breaks, as many times or more than I've watched *He's Just Not That Into You* (don't watch it. It's not good. Especially with commercial breaks): *The Holiday*. I can take or leave Kate Winslet's character and I've never really bought into the vague charms of Jack Black. It's the British side of this Hollywood-England house-swap rom-com that compels me. There's just something about Cameron Diaz's Amanda as a tightly wound Hollywood type who is actually a mess under her perfectly coiffed exterior—a wholly relatable, wine-swilling, cheesy-dancing, bad-decision-making mess—I find to be endearing. And I love the interludes when she imagines her life as a movie trailer. Add those Nancy Meyers eye-candy houses to the mix and it's a sneaky piece of holiday entertainment.



Every year since I was born (give or take those years before my memory kicked in), my mom has forced me to watch *It's a Wonderful Life* with her. I used to find the 1946 Frank Capra film starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed to be boring and more than a little cheesy (sorry, mom). However, as time has gone by, I've come around to the story of George Bailey's reckoning with what life in small-town Bedford Falls would've been like without him, and have developed an appreciation for the film's inspirational messaging that our lives are important, regardless of how we feel about them. Mostly I succumb to endless rewatches because Stewart's performance is multi-layered, masterful and rife with surprisingly sly humor—but I still think they're too mean to Uncle Billy.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18
4:25 pm, Evening Glory Ct.
Caller says someone pushed over a large rock on the Sunlight Shores club house.

5:16 pm, SR 525
Advising truck blew through stop light, struck guard rail, kept driving southbound. Mid-size, light colored, no plate.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19
12:35 pm, Spur Ln.
Cow running loose in neighborhood, was just in reporting party's yard. While on the line reporting party advising it went onto long driveway that accesses a number of houses behind reporting party.

3:31 pm, West Beach Rd.
Requesting call regarding purchase of firearm online; when it arrived reporting party discovered it is fake, not the gun that was advertised.

4:15 pm, Sharon St.
Male subject was parked in front of reporting party's house in middle of street for past 30 minutes.

9:13 pm, Blazer Ct.
Reporting party advising neighbor in third driveway to the right, unsure of which unit, has made threats to punch reporting party. States if one more threat, reporting party is going to punch her back.

SATURDAY, NOV. 21
7:28 pm, Mark St.
Reporting party advising sister stole her cat, possibly occurred an hour ago; reporting party advising sister came to visit and reporting party was not at location; suspects subject took the cat.

8:47 pm, West Beach Rd.
Reporting party advising huge explosion heard 15 minutes ago; states unknown source, sounded like it was coming from area of water near intersection.

8:59 pm, SR 20
Reporting party advising red Audi SUV in front of her is swerving and flipping reporting party off and brake-checking. Inconsistent speeds.

9:07 pm, Twisted Tree Ln.
Reporting party advising he has been listing property on that location, unknown specific address; reporting party advising has been trying to keep property's location a secret but *The Seattle Times* got hold of address and disclosed the information in *The Seattle Times*.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22
12:04 am, Wilkinson Rd.
Reporting party advising ongoing issue of vehicle parked in area of location with engine running and subjects smoking; cannot see vehicle or tell where subjects are, but advising it is "smoking out" her house and making her sick; denied medical attention.

10:50 am, Roberta Ave.
Reporting party states male urinating in public then climbed onto WAIF thrift store roof. Male, all black clothing, white and red sneakers.

11:55 am, Lalka Ln.
Caller just woke up to his truck windows being shot out with some sort of pellet gun. States it may have been neighbor, going through harassment issue.

MONDAY, NOV. 23
8:24 am, West Beach Rd.
Black Honda, half car, half truck-type vehicle hit several roads signs in area of location. Northbound on Crosby Road toward Naval Air Station. License unknown. Passed reporting party at 70 mph prior to leaving off roadway.

1:14 pm, Shore Ave.
Reporting party states he just wants to leave message that seven college girls (sometimes less) are living together at location (may be relatives to homeowner). Concerned girls don't stay home. They run up and down the street and leave residence. Reporting party states expose elderly people to COVID virus.

2:09 pm, SR 20
Reporting party states neighbor is harassing her. Stopped his vehicle, exited vehicle and yelled in Spanish. Reporting party states she feels threatened. Both parties took pictures/videos of one another.

3:05 pm, Lake Forest Dr.
Reporting party is delivery driver; states subject who lives at location was upset because he thought reporting party was going too fast down private road. Told reporting party "I'm gonna hang it to you if I get a chance."

TUESDAY, NOV. 24
3:09 am, Dead Goat Rd.
Reporting party advising male just walked into house, went into reporting party's office; husband went to confront subject with gun. Husband has not returned yet. Reporting party calling from bedroom.

11:51 am, Cameron Rd.
Requesting call referencing found domestic rabbit. Trying to trap it. Looking for resources.

4:12 pm, Swantown Rd.
Reporting party states subject was allowed to use his bicycle and phone but didn't return. Occurred Sunday. States he doesn't know person's name.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25
8:29 am, Bayview Rd.
Advising male subject walking in middle of road on Bayview. Carrying can in his hand. Last seen wearing all black.

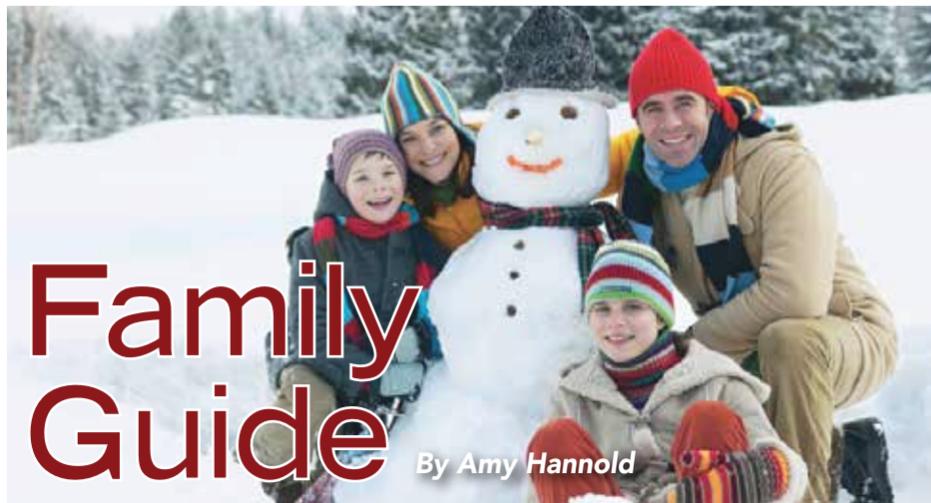
9:44 am, Saratoga Rd.
Requesting call. Advising neighbors are having issues and one put sign up on property line saying "a witch lives here." Reporting party not involved. Wants to know if this is allowed. Refused address.

3:37 pm, E Fakkema Rd.
Reporting party following white older Tacoma. Passenger lying in back bed of truck keeps sitting up and reporting party saw blood on his face.

5:17 pm, SR 20
Reporting party states just got done hiking and are on the side of SR 20 trying to find car. Doesn't remember exactly where they parked and doesn't want to walk on the side of the road.

9:30 pm, Kinzie Rd.
Caller advising car keeps going up and down road in reverse. Keeps pulling in and out of driveways.

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



Family Guide

By Amy Hannold

Take a Hike on New Year's Day: Jan. 1 is a Washington State Park Free Day, which means no Discover Pass is required. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 18, is also a Free Parks Day. For a list of 2021 Free Days go to [Discoverpass.wa.gov](https://discoverpass.wa.gov).

Imagine "You" For 2021: Create as a family, or individually, a Vision Board. Celebrate "you," what makes you unique, activities you enjoy, motivating images, etc. Placing all those things on one board creates a way to make goals and dreams visual. What you place on your vision board could be goals for the year, plans for things you'd like to do together, new things to try, etc. Family boards can be a visual description of your family and/or images of what you hope others think of you. Creating vision boards together sparks conversation, connection and a "bucket list" for 2021. Use magazines and cut out words or images that fit your vision board theme. Glue your vision board pieces onto card stock, poster board or canvas in a collage form. This activity gives everyone the opportunity to think positively, define goals, and share what they would like to experience in the new year.

Subscribe to New Experiences: Magazines and "project boxes" are available to receive each month, as a reminder to try or learn new things together. When the box arrives each month, it's something to look forward to, despite what is going on around us. There are boxes for science, cooking, art and more. Discover subscription box options with a search on the internet, or see Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid's "Winter Fun Guide," for boxes created by local businesses. As for magazines, set aside time each month to refresh your enthusiasm for a hobby or sport. Subscribe to a "hard copy" edition or read digital magazines, for free, of interest to all ages, at [Sno-Isle.org](https://sno-isle.org).

January is a Month of Comfort Food: NationalDayCalendar.com tells us January is Oatmeal Month, Slow Cooker Month and Soup Month. Revitalize your family meal rotation based on these foods. Oatmeal isn't just for breakfast – how about cookies? Imagine the delight of spending a weekend day enjoying an activity while dinner cooks for you in your crockpot. Add some bakery or homemade bread, and you'll know "What's for dinner?"

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and even dessert can be made in a slow cooker, with a little pre-planning and simple ingredients. Research some new-to-you ethnic foods to spice up your life. Travel the world with your slow-cooker, or simply provide yourself with a ready meal at dinnertime. However you choose to celebrate Slow Cooker Month, I'm sure you'll find it's a great option to create delicious meals, without spending your afternoon at the stove. It may be Soup Month, but slow cookers can prepare more than soup – breakfasts, casseroles, sauces, and stews are superb when they simmer. Themagicalslowcooker.com has a great variety of recipes.

JANUARY INSPIRATION FOR BEATING THE WINTER DOLDRUMS:

Start a New Hobby: January is Hobby Month, and also being winter, it's a great

time to find something new to be passionate about. Everyone can benefit from some un-plugged time, perusing and learning about things that may be on our bucket lists, but we haven't actually begun the adventure. Include a new hobby for your kids as well, so you can share and connect during time spent exploring your individual interests. Showing them down time is vital to good health, you're also instilling in them how to prioritize themselves amongst life's demands.

Make and Maintain Connections: If you or your kids are feeling down this winter, chances are the people in your life are as well. Brainstorm ways you can brighten someone's day, whether it be a phone call, "doorbell drop" of goodies or encouragement, receiving a handmade card by mail, or other surprise recognition. Taking the time and thought to make someone smile will shift the focus from how you are feeling and likely improve both of your perspectives. Make the effort to stay in contact with relatives, friends and neighbors, despite our distances.

Celebrate TODAY!: I believe celebrating "today" in small and extraordinary ways will get us through the winter months. Sometimes after days of rain, wind and cold weather, it can be a challenge to have fun events to look forward to. Though so much is canceled and closed around us, there are ways to fill our calendar with bright spots in the winter. Parents can plan for these special days as surprises for their kids, or work together as a family to produce these memories waiting to be made.

How large you scale your "special days" is up to you, as it's not the wow factor that matters, it's the distraction from ordinary life that will make memories. There's a great website with a calendar and email reminders of upcoming days to enjoy. Go to [Daysoftheyear.com](https://daysoftheyear.com). You'll find what January has in store for "National Days," such as Hat Day, Opposite Day, and Chocolate Cake Day. Select a few of interest to you, and plan for something to eagerly anticipate.

LOCAL SOURCES OF FAMILY FUN:

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation is hosting a series of Kids Workshops, with a "Grab and Go" option. With one-week notice, you can have the supplies prepared for you to enjoy the project completion at home. swparks.org

Get Active: Local dance studios are offering classes in-person and virtually. This is a great time to try out some active instruction, at home, with the family, to create a new habit of vital exercise. Once we are able to meet again in person, you'll feel more confident about joining a class, if it initially seems intimidating.

Warm Your Winter with Great Memories: Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid has a "Whidbey Winter Fun Guide," a calendar of virtual events, and ideas for local things to do as we weather the winter together. Find inspiration for fun at WhidbeyIsland.MacaroniKid.com.

Insurance and You

By Mary Elizabeth Himes

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

As we enter the last part of the year and head into 2021, everyone is experiencing financial stress. COVID-19 has unsettled all of us and many are not quite sure what the future holds. Trying to pay for insurance is going to be a struggle for many and others will feel they have no other options than to drop car insurance coverage altogether to make ends meet.

We last reviewed what to do if you have a loss in your home, how to address a claim and gave suggestions on how to navigate the claims process. This column will give some insight into your auto insurance and the Uninsured Motorist Coverage options. We touched upon these coverages previously, but here are the general explanations of what they mean.

Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Bodily Injury: This coverage will provide you with bodily injury protection in an accident with an uninsured or underinsured driver and in which you are not at fault. The coverage will provide payment of medical and hospital costs, loss of wages and funeral/death expenses. This is a supplemental coverage and should be discussed in detail with your agent or carrier. You are required to sign off if you decline this coverage.

Uninsured motorist property damage: This coverage provides protection to your vehicle if you are in a non-fault accident with an uninsured driver, hit and run or phantom driver and your vehicle is damaged. There is a deductible of no more than \$300. This coverage and its applications should be discussed with your agent or carrier. You are required to sign off if you decline this coverage.

Uninsured motorist coverage is often declined by insureds when securing insurance. Citing cost, many drivers feel their medical insurance provides the protection needed if there is an accident. Although medical costs may be covered under health insurance, the insured is still responsible for deductibles and other costs of which the insured may not think. An agent or carrier has the responsibility to explain the breadth of the coverage and how declining it may impact the insured financially. An

insured driver should think of Uninsured Motorist coverage as a way give themselves the same protections they extend to another party in an at-fault accident.

Uninsured Motorist Bodily Injury coverages should match the bodily injury that your policy extends to another party, which at a minimum is \$25,000/\$50,000 in the state of Washington. The policy allows maximum level of coverage to match liability limits but not more. The coverages will include payments for lost wages due to an accident caused by an uninsured or underinsured driver, pain and suffering. While hospital bills may be paid, insureds are still responsible for deductibles, rent and mortgages, groceries, car payments, and all other financial requirements to maintain a household. How will these items be paid for in the event of an accident where the other driver was not insured or carried very minimum coverages? For insured with medical insurance via the workplace, that coverage is valid only while employed. If injury results in loss of employment and disability payments are delayed or minimal, how will medical care continue?

Uninsured Motorist Property Damage covers a vehicle that has been involved in an accident with a driver without insurance or minimum insurance, or a hit and run; witness and/or a police report must be filed. Here are two real examples of how Uninsured Motorist property damage works.

Insured drives newer model vehicle and has no accidents. Visits hardware store and comes out to find a broken light, scratches and a dent on their pristine vehicle. Although the driver of the other vehicle is on camera and a police report is filed, insured has no Uninsured Motorist Property Damage coverage and must now pay his full deductible for repairs.

Insured waits to turn left as vehicles pass on drivers' side, speeding car loses control and crashes into insureds' newer model vehicle and takes off. Witnesses are available and police report is filed. Insured has Uninsured Motorist Property Damage coverage and repairs are made with no cost to insured.

Taking charge of insurance needs is the right thing to do when we think about protecting ourselves and families from unforeseen financial burdens. For perspective, many of us will pay \$10 per week at the coffee shop but not \$20 per month for better insurance coverages.

Take the time and contact your agent or carrier for more information on Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist coverage.



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Mary Elizabeth Himes
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Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pregnant? Need baby clothes? We have them and the price is right—FREE. Pregnancy Care Clinic, open most Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 4pm. Call 360-221-2909 or stop by 6th and Cascade in Langley.

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

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

Medical Marijuana patients unite; If you need assistance, advice, etc. please contact at 420patientnetworking@gmail.com. Local Whidbey Island help.

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.

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 encourages BIPOC and LGBTQIA community members to inquire. Please contact admin@bbbsislandcounty.org for more information.

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

more information or contact s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov

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

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pnwnam.org and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself.

Imagine Oak Harbor's first Food Forest, Saturdays 11am-3pm, at 526 Bayshore Drive. Each week, we have volunteer opportunities available to help care for our commu-

nity garden, share organic gardening tips, and learn Permaculture principles. All ages and skill levels welcome. Schedule can change due to adverse weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact us at: imaginepermacultureworld@gmail.com

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

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

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 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 (0)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

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

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

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

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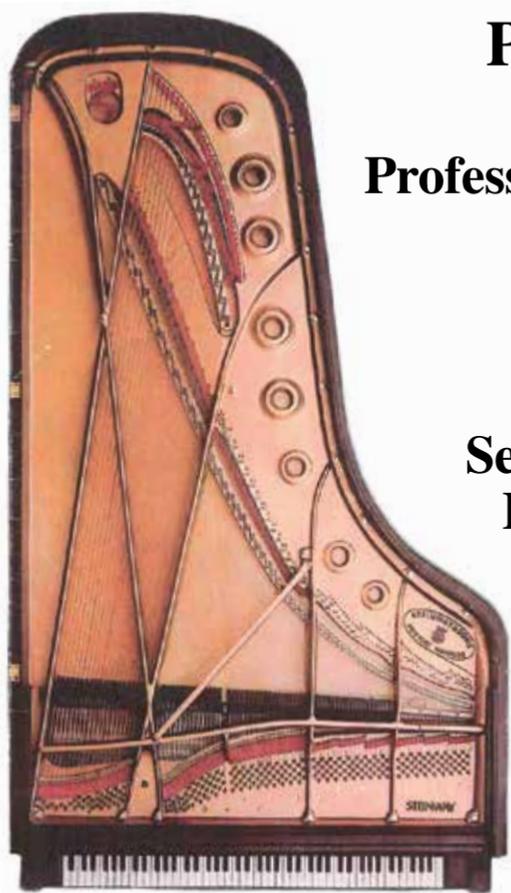
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How'd you do?

1	4	3	7	8	5	6	9	2
8	9	5	2	6	1	3	4	7
7	6	2	3	9	4	8	5	1
6	3	7	1	2	9	4	8	5
4	8	1	5	7	6	2	3	9
2	5	9	8	4	3	7	1	6
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Home for the Holidays

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