

January 7 through January 13, 2021

FREE

Whidbey Weekly

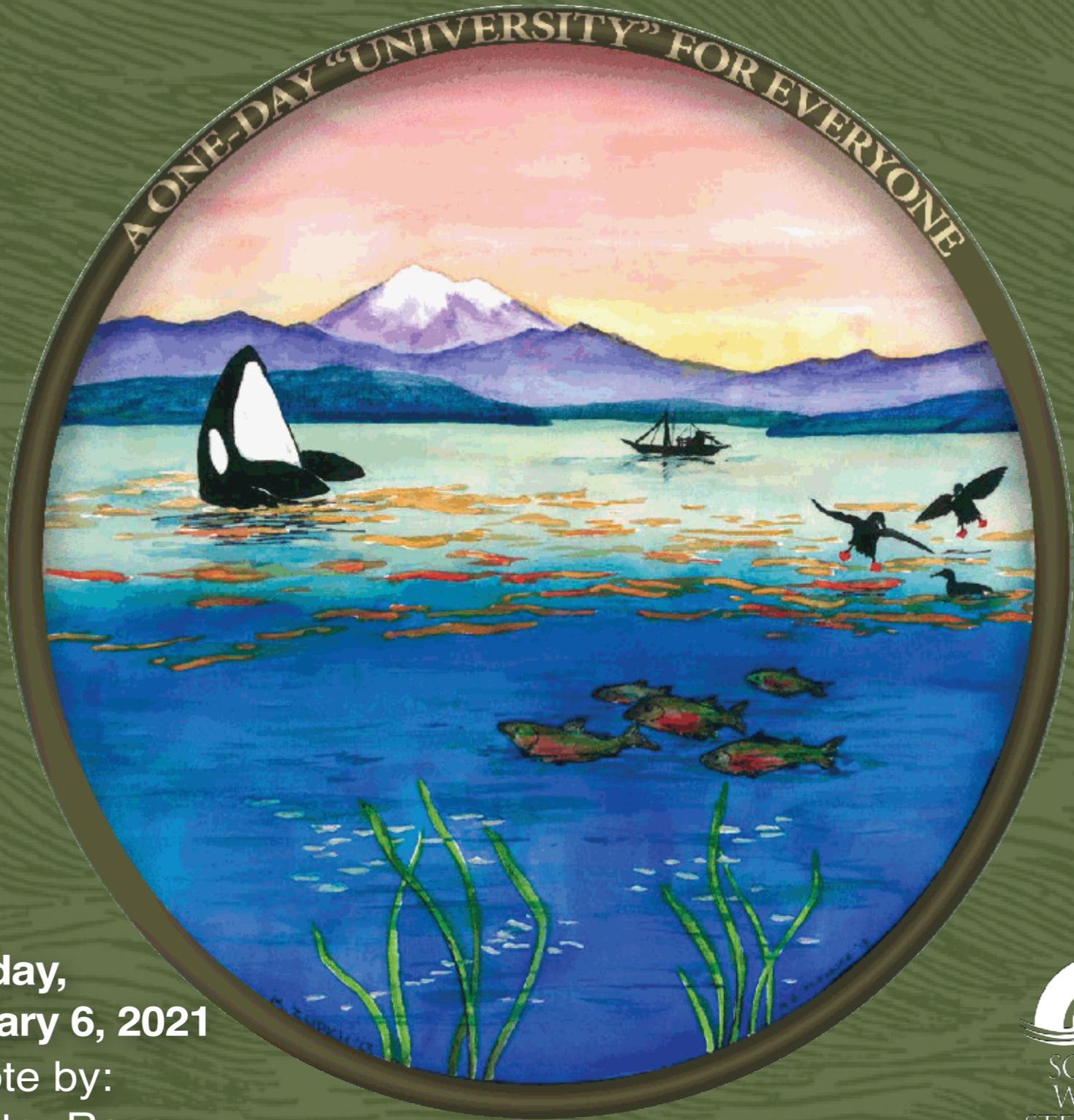
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Sound Water Stewards *of Island County* PRESENT **Sound Waters**



**Saturday,
February 6, 2021**

Keynote by:

Dr. Peter Ross,

Vice President Research at Ocean Wise, Vancouver, BC

SEA OF TROUBLE - TAKING ACTION ON PLASTICS POLLUTION



VIRTUAL ONE DAY EVENT • 8:45 - 3:15 • FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.SOUNDWATERSUNIVERSITY.ORG

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Filmed on Whidbey Island p. 6



Plenty of possibilities proffered at Sound Waters University

Photo Courtesy of Sound Waters University
Plastics pollution takes center stage at the keynote address during Sound Waters University Saturday, Feb. 6. Registration is currently open for the live, virtual event.

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Like so many events over the past several months, Sound Waters University has had to jump on the virtual bandwagon for its 2021 "one day university on all things Puget Sound." While going virtual this year has limited the number of courses offered, there are still plenty of educational opportunities taking place Feb. 6. Registration is now underway and those who sign up by Jan. 15 will save money on fees.

The virtual SWU is still interactive, giving attendees the ability to ask questions and explore the topics presented. But they will also have access to all classes after the event, meaning instead of just choosing/attending three classes as in years past, the ticket price covers all 12 sessions.

"It's the same Sound Waters University as in the past, it's just being presented a little differently," said Anne Cushing Post, who is in charge of publicity for the Sound Water Stewards' event.

"All sessions, with the exception of a presentation by the Tulalip tribe, are being recorded, so people can attend three live sessions and will then have access to every session after the event," Cushing Post continued. "We have slightly reduced the admission price this year, but attendees will get a lot of content for their purchase."

Interested in learning more about the Asian Giant Hornet? There's a session on it. How about the endangered Tufted Puffins? A session on conserving the seabirds of the Salish Sea



Photo Courtesy of Jill Hein
All things Salish Sea will be covered during Sound Waters University Feb. 6, including a session on its largest inhabitants, whales.

may be of interest. Learn about some of Puget Sound's largest inhabitants – whales – as well as some of the smallest – plankton. Sessions on tides and currents, earthquake hazards and climate change are but a few of the other offerings. (A full list of courses can be found at soundwatersuniversity.org.)

Depending on how one looks at it, it could be seen as a "less is more" kind of thing.

"It's less choices, but in some cases, it's really more," Cushing Post said. "We wanted to give a high-quality experience for everyone, so we've taken 12 exciting classes and made them available to everyone. This year, if someone wants to do both the whales and the river otters or the climate change and puffins sessions (which are offered at the same time) they can attend the live/interactive sessions of their choice and then watch the other sessions at their leisure. It gives people a lot of options to have a great day."

As always, SWU will kick off with a live keynote address everyone may attend. This year's speaker is Peter Ross, vice president of research and executive director of the Coastal Ocean Research Institute, whose presentation is entitled "Sea of Trouble – Taking Action on Plastic Pollution."

"We're excited about our keynote speaker," said Cushing Post. "Peter Ross is well known in the area of plastics pollution. Our mission is to turn education into action, so we try to make each presentation have an action-oriented portion. Our keynote speaker is very interested in motivating people to become agents of change in our own back yards. I think we're very lucky to get him."

While this year may look a little different in terms of the number of classes and how they will be presented, Cushing Post said the new format does open up future possibilities for the organization.

"I look forward to finding an impactful way to deliver a new educational product that may allow us to do more in the future," she said. "People have a real hunger and thirst and interest in that knowledge. We have been unable to meet that need in the past. This new virtual format allows us to augment our existing programs, so we hope to have more events like these in the future."

"It won't ever replace the in-person Sound Waters University," Cushing Post continued. "I think a lot of us are



Photo Courtesy of the WA Department of Agriculture
There is a lot of buzz surrounding the invasive Asian Giant Hornet, the subject of one informational session at this year's Sound Waters University, to be held virtually Feb. 6.

disappointed not to be meeting everyone in February because we love our community, but at the same time, it has given us the opportunity to be more creative about our educational program."

Cushing Post said the new format could be used to increase programming throughout the year and to expand SWU's borders.

"Virtual programming is not geographically limited, so it's an opportunity to spread our mission to a broader base of people," she said. "We can continue to educate people about the Salish Sea beyond these physical boundaries. That is the upside. It's a new way of thinking and a new way to allow participation."

SWU is known for featuring an exhibition hall at its in-person day of learning. In keeping with that tradition, there will be a virtual exhibit hall featuring local nonprofits, associations, and companies. Participating groups will share resources and information about their organizations, projects, and services.

Tickets purchased before Jan. 15 cost \$45; all tickets include access to all virtual content, including post event recordings. A full list of classes and registration information is available at soundwatersuniversity.org.

Information on becoming a Sound Water Steward volunteer can be found online at soundwaterstewards.org.

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



The first column of a new year is always exciting. While it is not the same excitement as the first day of school or your first adult beverage in a bar, it is exciting.

Probably as exciting as looking out at your yard after a fresh mow knowing you don't have a rake.

Park City reports

Thanks to Queen Zorro, the fastest runner I have ever seen with snowshoes, the following excerpts from a recent Park City, Utah sheriff's report and police blotter are herein provided:

Monday, Nov. 16 – A man entered an Outlets Park City store, grabbed eight purses from the display at the front of the store, then ran out into a waiting Mercedes that drove away. Deputies indicated the getaway vehicle had a temporary license plate with numbers that weren't visible and that they would refer the case to the Investigation Division.

My thought is the fellow had plenty of money if he needed eight purses, had a Mercedes with a driver, and was too busy to clean his temporary plate.

Saturday, Nov. 21 – At 10:29p.m., someone contacted the police indicating they have "bad knees" and need a ride to their home. They were on Park Avenue.

Having never used the bad knee excuse, I am thinking if I had used such a reason with my parents to hitch a ride to school, I would have had two different responses.

Sky pilot

From the Dec. 25, 1920 issue of *The Mountain Messenger*, Downieville, Sierra County Seat, Calif.

"The residents of Sierra City were treated to quite a novel sight on Saturday when an airplane was sighted among the clouds south of town."

One hundred years ago, seeing an airplane in the sky would have been a treat. Recalling the expression on our Uncle Pat's face when he saw his first item scanned at a Ralph's grocery store in 1975 in L.A., I get excited at anything.

Remember when 3 x 5 cards were 4 x 6? What a transition that was.

Congratulations, Bob

A tip of the Conductor's hat to Langley's Bob Schoenman for coming in eighth at the World Championship of Scrabble in 1993. Our island is filled with celebrities, but only Bob can claim such an achievement.

As we say in Freeland, *a s r e o g n*.

Congratulations, Tasha

Since March, I have become a local expert on the best times to shop. Rather than tell you what I have learned so I do not have to relearn, please permit me to take this time to thank Tasha of Payless for her swiftness in checking me out.

In a recent purchase, like some marriages, I noticed I was finished shortly after I began.

It only took four seconds for me to save 80 cents on a tub of roast beef, a head of lettuce, and a jar of mayo. Call me a smart shopper or a Tasha fan, but it took longer to park my truck than it did to shop.

Thanks, Tasha.

Thanksgiving 1918

In a fascinating article by Dalton Gackle, research coordinator for the Park City, Utah Museum, printed in the Nov. 25-27

issue of *The Park Record*, Gackle quoted the November, 1918 paper:

"To avoid crowds, wear a mask and report your neighbor if they fail to do so. See that your home is well ventilated. Don't sleep in stuffy rooms. Cooperate with the police and health officers and don't be a 'grouch.'"

Attention span

I've outlived my memory
I've passed it by
I left it somewhere
I don't know why;

It served its purpose
And I must say
Without a memory
Life's new everyday.

Puns for all

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Two peanuts walk into a bar. One was a salted.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."

"Doc, I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home."
"That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome."
"Is it common?"
"Well, It's not unusual."

Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning."
"I don't believe you," says Dolly.
"It's true. No bull."

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

I went to a seafood disco last week and pulled a mussel.

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

And finally, there was the person who sent 20 different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least 10 of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in 10 did.

Thanks to KenBob for adding the above pearls to our oyster of randomness.

Canola oil

What a surprise to keep learning after thinking I knew it all at 19.

Did you know canola oil was an acronym?

Canola oil is actually a vegetable oil derived from rapeseed. The name itself stems from the Rapeseed Association of Canada branding it as canola to stand for *Canada oil*. Other sources claim it's an acronym for *Canada oil low acid*. After reading the ingredients, I may go back to ketchup.

According to the Canola Council of Canada, an industry association, the official definition of canola is "Seeds of the genus Brassica from which the oil shall contain less than 2% erucic acid in its fatty acid profile and the solid component shall contain less than 30 micromoles of any one or any mixture of 3-butenyl glucosinolate, 4-pentenyl glucosinolate, 2-hydroxy-3-butenyl glucosinolate, and 2-hydroxy-4-pentenyl glucosinolate per gram of air-dry, oil-free solid."

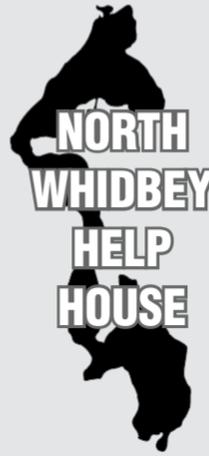
Canola oil is also used as a source of biodiesel.

You will not be tested on the science paragraph. Neither will I.

Is it not amazing that Willie Nelson is also involved in canola oil?

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Volume 13, Issue 01 | © MMXXI Whidbey Weekly

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Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

Thank-you for printing Mr. Coomer's full page ad "An Open Letter to President Trump." Mr. Coomer represents a sad class of Americans who live in an alternate reality fed by fear, racism and tribalism. Their appearance on the political scene was anticipated ("Trump and the Rise of the Authoritarian Party"). These poor folks don't have issues, they have subscriptions, as is obvious by Mr. Coomer's many alternative facts and the movement's embrace of absurd conspiracy theories like Q-Anon. As Voltaire said, "If they can make you believe absurdities, they can make you commit atrocities."

The fact is, though Vlad was sad, the entire rational, ethical world breathed a sigh of relief to see Trump defeated. For four long, disturbing, destructive years we watched this: enemy of democracy, lover of dictators and white supremacists, pseudo-Christian, enabler of grifters, torturer of children and families, abuser of women, defiler of the rules of decorum and decency, denier of science and reality, extortionist and betrayer of Allies (Ukrainians and Kurds) and pardoner of liars, thieves and war criminals wreak havoc.

This narcissistic wannabe dictator, continues his efforts to shred the fabric of our Democracy with his frivolous lawsuits, all rejected having no merit. He wasn't alone. He had powerful allies in boardrooms and in Congress as well as the Fox propaganda machine. Study after study has pointed out Fox's biases. *The Business Insider* has noted, "Media outlets such as Fox News and MSNBC have a negative impact on people's current events knowledge, while NPR and Sunday morning political talk shows are the most informative sources of news." According to the esteemed Pew Research Center, "The Fox News audience skews more ideological than that of its two main competitors." Their methods are studied in high schools and universities as examples of biased, unethical journalism. In this YouTube video students school Fox in ethical journalism: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzYymuslGDw.

So, while Messers* Coomer, Giulina and Trump et al. maneuver to pull off a coup, the rational are celebrating the integrity of American democracy which, though ravaged, survived this terrible period. It will be celebrated anew Jan. 20, 2021.

*pun intended

Gary Piazzon
Coupeville, Wash.

Editor,

Thank you Judy MacLeod for 'Mask Declaration Form.' I would add one sentence at the end of paragraph one: Since I do not wear a mask, I acknowledge that I am willfully insulting all doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers.

And to J.J. Coomer: Get over it! He lost! Get out of Trumpy Fantasyland and get educated. NPR, PBS, BBC are 100 percent factual/truthful reporting: Fox News is at 20 percent with 80 percent ranging from some false info all the way to 'pants on fire' craziness per Pulitzer Prize winning Poynter Journalism Institute of Media. Finally we will have sanity, brains, and empathy returning to the White House!

Charlene Davenport
Clinton, Wash.

Editor,

I have a question for you:

I have lived through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, assorted Gulf Wars, Afghan War, three car wrecks (not my fault), a motorcycle wreck (my fault), built a new house, remodeled four houses, survived the dot.com recession, was a volunteer fireman/EMT for 13 years, owned four successful businesses, survived measles, riding in the back of a pickup, riding bicycles with no helmet, eating my share of dirt, Russian nuclear threat, and got three college degrees. In other words, I am capable of running my own life.

Here is the question: Why should I give any credibility to a guy who has never had a real job, never signed the front of a paycheck, never run a business, never had any medical training, never had any financial training, accomplished zero in his previous job, appears to be a hand puppet for the unions and big donors, who's only obvious competence seems to be snowing voters and bloating government?

Just wondering...

Rick Kiser
Oak Harbor, Wash.

Editor,

The Birds and the Bees

I appeal to your readers to respond back to this editorial page as to why there are no songbirds singing in loud voices on our island. Our mornings of this past year were eerily silent. If you are in doubt, go hear for yourself. In the past, their background songs would not be noticed through the chores I performed around the farm. Now, however, we enter another year where their songs of winter are missed, especially during the quietest morning moments of sunrise. Why? Does anyone have an answer or know of a solution to bring our songbirds back? Is it like the bee population theory, how bees slowly died in great numbers and in all areas without an abrupt last-gasp shout? Pesticide was blamed, but never determined to be the cause. Too bad I became aware of the lack of morning birds singing after resuming my morning yoga practice. In the past, distinct, detailed and diverse songs could be heard from all directions, calling to their mates, yet now the only sound I notice is the sound of high winds stirring the tops of tall cedars or the rain changing its direction on a windowpane.

Jim Barden
Langley, Wash.

Hummingbirds: Masters of the Air



With their ability to hover in place, fly upside-down or backwards and cross seas without stopping, hummingbirds seem immune to the ordinary laws of physics. Zoom in at 7:00PM Thursday, Jan. 14 for this free program hosted by the Whidbey Audubon Society. Nonmembers must register at www.whidbeyaudubon-society.org to receive the program link, scroll to the Jan. 14 program link or find it on the events page.

Find out more about one of the fiercest birds in the animal kingdom as master birder Constance Sidles shows the wonders of hummingbirds. She says, "Their jewel-tone feathers flash in the sun brighter than rubies or emeralds. Their wings flap faster than the eye can see. Their courtship flights defy gravity. These tiny dynamos of the avian world both fascinate and flummox us."

Sidles is a master birder with more than 600 North American birds on her life list. She is a member of the Seattle Audubon Society. She has led several trips for Seattle Audubon Society and currently serves as chair of Seattle Audubon's Publications Committee. While serving on this committee, she helped produce revised and/or reprinted versions of *Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest*, *Reptiles of Washington & Oregon*, *Butterflies of Cascadia*, *A Field Guide to the Common Wetland Plants of Washington and NW Oregon* and *Dragonflies of Washington*. She founded Constance Press and has written more than 550 feature articles in 65 different publications and has been a contributing writer to *How Magazine*, *Magazine Design & Production*, and *Adobe Magazine*. Sidles has authored four print production and design books. Her latest book is *In My Nature*, a book about the relationship between wild nature and human nature. She maintains a blog about her ongoing visits to the Montlake Fill, one of the most prized birding venues in Seattle, www.constancesidles.com.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Audubon Publicity Chair]

Skagit Valley College Announces a New One-Year Pilot Program to Help Running Start Students Pay for Books and Student Fees

Skagit Valley College (SVC) is pleased to announce the college has been awarded \$32,270 for a one-year pilot program designed to assist SVC's Running Start students by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).

The SVC Running Start Pilot Scholarship will support student success by covering the cost of books, course materials, and/or student fees for eligible students during the 2020-21 academic year. If a student is enrolled in a workforce program, the scholarship can also cover the cost of tools, lab and course fees, and work clothes. The program is designed to help low-income families and improve access to Running Start. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, and who have a GPA of 2.0 or higher, are eligible for the scholarship.

SVC's award is part of a WSAC Dual Enrollment Scholarship (DES) pilot program that encourages students to enroll in post-secondary education and helps reduce the time and cost needed to complete their degree.

Running Start is a dual credit program that began in the early 1990s and provides the opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to earn college credit while they are in high school, with eligible tuition covered by state funding. It allows students to complete their high school diploma, earn an associates degree, or work toward both simultaneously, preparing them for employment or college transfer.

"Running Start provides high school students with an important pathway to a college education and family-wage jobs," said Washington State Representative Dave Paul, D-Oak Harbor, who is also Director of Community Relations at SVC. "I'm excited that Skagit Valley College has been awarded this grant to help students and their families in our community take advantage of this proven and cost-effective program."

The DES program began in 2019, with the passage of House Bill 1973 by the Legislature. It started with the College in the High School component, which was implemented at Clark College, Eastern Washington University, and Whatcom Community College. With

Avoid Tapping Into 401(k) Early

If you've been contributing for many years to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan, it may be your largest pool of money. So, if you are facing a financial need, you may think about tapping into your account. After all, it's your money – why not use it?

But touching your 401(k) before you retire may not be a good idea, as it can lead to some unwanted consequences.

First, taking funds out of your 401(k) now could increase the risk of running out of money during retirement, which could last for decades.

Also, withdrawals taken from your 401(k) before age 59½ may be taxed as ordinary income and are generally subject to a 10% penalty for early withdrawal, although there are some exceptions. And a sizable taxable withdrawal from your 401(k) could bump you into a higher tax bracket.

Therefore, if you are facing a financial crunch, you may want to explore some options before tapping into your 401(k). For starters, see if you can cut your expenses where possible and explore financial assistance programs that service providers, such as utility companies, might offer.

Also, if you have an emergency fund, now may be the time to use it. For most folks, it's a good idea to keep three to six months' worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. But even smaller amounts can help in a financial crunch.

You might also find another source of cash in your taxable investment accounts. Any uninvested cash in these accounts is an easy place to start. You might also look at selling investments to free up some cash. However, before making this decision, you may want to consult with a financial professional to discuss the pros and cons.

Another cash-generating option is a 401(k) loan, assuming your plan permits such loans. Unlike a direct withdrawal, a 401(k) loan is not taxable if it's repaid on time. (If it isn't, you could also incur penalties.) And, although the loan may have some fees, the interest on it will be paid to your account, rather than to a bank. However, you won't earn investment returns on the loan balance, because you can't use this money to invest. And if you leave your job before you've fully repaid the loan, you'll likely have to come up with the remaining balance quickly.

You could also consider using your credit cards to generate cash, but these types of loans or advances can be quite costly. Instead, you may want to look at other possibilities, such as a home equity loan, the cash value of a life insurance policy, the "margin" on your investment accounts or a personal loan. Again, you should talk to a financial professional to discuss the tradeoffs of taking out these loans and to develop a payoff strategy, if you decide to use any of them.

Your 401(k) is a long-term investment designed to meet a long-term goal: your retirement. So, if you think you might require these funds before retirement, explore all alternatives first to find the right decision for your needs.

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



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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the passage of Senate Bill 6374 in 2020, the Running Start pilot program expanded to include apprenticeship and professional/technical programs. With this expansion, Skagit Valley College, Everett Community College, Green River College, Highline College, and Community Colleges of Spokane were selected to participate.

For more information about Running Start, visit www.skagit.edu/runningstart or email outreach@skagit.edu. To apply for the scholarship or to learn more about eligibility, visit https://tinyurl.com/y6qvmpy9.

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

WSDOT Starts New Year with Big Changes in Leadership Team Retiring Deputy Secretary Keith Metcalf sets off series of transitions

Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar announced Wednesday, Dec. 30, the appointments of several key positions in his agency's executive leadership team. The upcoming retirement of the Washington State Department of Transportation's second in command, Deputy Secretary Keith Metcalf, set these changes in motion, which include new appointments for Assistant Secretary of Washington State Ferries Amy Scarton; Assistant Secretary of Urban Mobility & Access Patty Rubstello; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Mega Programs Julie Meredith.

"I thank Keith for all his hard work and tremendous leadership, and I wish him the very best in his hard-earned retirement. I am pleased WSDOT will continue to be in good hands with Amy, Patty and Julie in these roles," Gov. Jay Inslee said.

"Keith has dedicated 43 years of public service to transportation for WSDOT and the people of Washington state, and we have all benefited from his contributions," said Millar. "I am fortunate to have a deep bench of highly qualified and experienced individuals on my leadership team who can step up and take on the challenges of these roles."

Amy Scarton, currently the head of Washington State Ferries will serve as WSDOT's deputy secretary. Scarton was appointed to the helm of WSF in 2017 and is credited with the completion of the first ferries long range plan in more than a decade. Working to reduce transportation emissions, she initiated a program to electrify the state ferry fleet and convert some of the largest ferries to hybrid power. Scarton also shepherded the first new ferry terminal to open in 40 years at Mukilteo.

Patty Rubstello will serve as the new assistant secretary of WSF. Rubstello created and led the Office of Urban Mobility & Access, which brings together tolling, regional transit coordination, and the management of mobility divisions to enhance operational and planning coordination in the greater Puget Sound area. With 30 years at WSDOT, Rubstello has experience in design, construction, planning and traffic operations, and in 2015 served as the agency's assistant secretary for Tolling.

Julie Meredith will serve as the assistant secretary of Urban Mobility & Access, while also continuing to oversee the more than \$6 billion investments in the Puget Sound area "mega" programs (Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement, State Route 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV, Interstate 405/SR 167 and Puget Sound Gateway). Meredith has more than 30 years at WSDOT and highlights of her career include the successful delivery of the SR 520 bridge, world's longest floating bridge; and overseeing the opening and multi-jurisdictional coordination of the State Route 99 tunnel.

To ensure a smooth hand-off of duties and continued delivery of transportation programs, these transitions will began this week.

[Submitted by Lars Erickson, External Relations, WSDOT]

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Dr. Meghan McSorley is a real healthcare hero.

Dr. McSorley joined our team one year ago. She had the opportunity to go anywhere for her employment but thankfully chose Whidbey Island and WhidbeyHealth to call "home". Her compassion and drive to make a difference along with her commitment and dedication to her profession benefit not only WhidbeyHealth but the entire Whidbey Island Community. We are so grateful to have this talented and passionate physician on our team. Thank you Dr. McSorley.



Ron Telles, CEO
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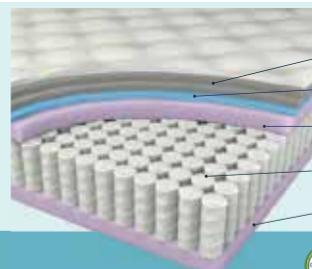
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Film featuring Whidbey Island available to see for free

By Alec Brown Whidbey Weekly

Film lovers have an opportunity to enjoy an award-winning short film featuring Whidbey Island for free, for a limited time. "The Hour After Westerly" will be available to see online until Sunday, Jan. 17.

The film follows a meticulous man discovering the alternative paths he could have taken in life. Search for it online at Vimeo, or find it online at vimeo.com/492609784/718dd1bce2

Filmmakers Nate Bell and Andrew Morehouse shot and produced the film right here on Whidbey Island.

"Get lost at several filming locations on Central Whidbey Island, including Fort Casey Inn, Coupeville Auto Repair, Greenbank Restau-

rant, Admiralty Head Lighthouse, and more," said Kelly Gehringer, of Osborne Northwest Public Relations.

The film has won several awards, including the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts' very own Grand Jury Prize at last year's Whidbey Island Film Festival. It's currently the first film ever to win such an award.

"We were doing a Hitchcock festival...showing six of his masterpieces," Deana Duncan, WICA artistic director, described. "When I took a look at their film, first of all, I was floored at how well done it was. I was a filmmaker, so I know what it takes — and these two young men created such a beautiful film. The cinematography was perfect, the story was fantastic. It was brilliantly done and so well-executed."

Duncan said the film had qualities none of the other contestants had.

"[It had] that ability to take me out of my reality and into their reality and keep me there without blinking, sneezing, getting up for popcorn — you want to know what happens," Duncan stated. "It stands alone by

itself. It's a mini-masterpiece. People do not understand — you can have the most experienced director, the best script ever, good actors, but bringing it all together is magic. All of it matters.

"When it was time to give the prize, it was a no-brainer," Duncan continued. "They had the most beautiful film."

But Bell and Morehouse didn't film here on Whidbey just by coincidence. Bell has family here, and the island's natural beauty lent itself to the film's mystery.

"The thing about Whidbey is it's really a filmmaker's dream location because we have everything here," Duncan said. "Woods, water, nature — beautiful everything that you need to make a film."

"Filmmakers from all over the world have long been drawn to Whidbey Island's historic, charming and inspiring backdrops, which has bolstered awareness of the island as a tourism destination and in turn, our local economy," said Sherrye Wyatt, film liaison, PR and marketing manager for Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism. "As we anxiously await the time when it's alright to invite visitors back, we're thrilled that Nate and his team were able share this gorgeous story and a piece of Whidbey Island with our local community, and future visitors near and far."

Films on Whidbey don't just help the movies—they're good for our economy, and for our community, according to Wyatt.

"Film contributes a lot to the local economy, before, during and even after the actual production," she said. "In just the few days one episode of 'Z Nation' was filmed here, the crew spent well over \$30,000. Plus,



Photo Courtesy of Sherrye Wyatt
The brains behind "The Hour After Westerly," Nate Bell and Andrew Morehouse, take a break from filming to pose for a photo.

that closing shot of the season finale at Fort Casey was so dramatic, many who watched it said to themselves 'wherever that is, I want to go visit there!'

"Although 'Practical Magic' was filmed here over 20 years ago, there is such a strong following it's still actively searched on our website and fans make a pilgrimage to Coupeville just to see the streets where the Owens sisters walked," Wyatt continued.

"The Hour After Westerly" will only be available to stream through Jan. 17 at vimeo.com/492609784/718dd1bce2.

The film played at WICA's second film festival last year. WICA's third festival, which will be called "Legends," has been postponed due to COVID. When it eventually opens, the festival will show classic films by Betty Davis, Katherine Hepburn, Humphrey Bogart, Laurence Olivier, Cary Grant, and more stars of the golden age. Find more information on the upcoming Whidbey Island Film Festival at wicaonline.org.



Photo Courtesy of Sherrye Wyatt
Director Nate Bell shows off a page from the storyboard of "The Hour After Westerly."



Photo Courtesy of Sherrye Wyatt
Lead actor Peter Jacobson films the first scene of "The Hour After Westerly" with local islander Ron Wilhelm.

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation Districts acquires 40 acres

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Three years ago, Shelley Ackerman, a Whidbey Island resident, started the process of trying to keep 40 acres of land on south Whidbey from being sold for logging or other development. Ackerman brought the property to the attention of the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District (SWPRD) and after months of grant applications and gaining community support, SWPRD announced its acquisition of the forest land from the Waterman family at the end of 2020.

Jennifer Cox, a member of the board of commissioners for SWPRD, said the acquisition of the two parcels of land, which are located behind the elementary school on Maxwellton Road in Langley, shows the community's dedication to conservation.

"I think it has really created an additional opportunity for us to continue to preserve land and dedicate it for outdoor recreation here on the south end," she said. "This is a community that really appreciates its rural character and certainly wants to try and maintain that.

"Then, coupled with that, the fact that it is adjacent to... the trails that are currently owned by the school district and being nearby to the high school, I think it creates some great

opportunities for outdoor learning experiences, along with just another great space for our community to experience the outdoors of Whidbey Island," she continued.

Doug Coutts, executive director for SWPRD, said the property provides a way to continue with the district's plans for the future.

"Our comprehensive plan talks about us building upon Community Park," he said. "This (property) does not physically connect to Community Park, but it is basically a crosswalk away with the easement. It is close to our core parks system, [and] it is a natural area that is immediately adjacent to school district property that has trails all over it, so we could expand on that if that was the decision the board made."

Ackerman, who started an active campaign to find a way to preserve the land, said she was excited to see everything finalized and see the efforts of a small group affect change in the community.

"Starting small and even small efforts from others, they all add up to be something bigger," she said.

Cox said she was thankful to Ackerman and her group of volunteers for reaching out to SWPRD about preserving the



Photo Courtesy of South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District
South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District has acquired 40 acres of forest land located behind the elementary school on Maxwellton Road. The land is adjacent to South Whidbey School District property, which contains an existing trail system.

property and for the patience of the owners of the parcels throughout the process.

"Without them bringing it to our attention, it may have gone on the open market," she said. "The Watermans are tremendous stewards in this community and have gone to great lengths to protect land, which has been wonderful."

Coutts said the acquisition of the property included applying for two grants: the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program local parks grant, and a federal grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition, he said a local bond was approved by voters in 2019 to help support the purchase. Community awareness was raised through volunteer efforts along with multiple open houses in 2019 offering visuals of and details about the land.

"I would thank the community for their support of the bond issue and thank our volunteers for the work that they did to help us make this happen," he said. "My final thank you would be to the Waterman family for their extreme patience in getting this to happen."

Ackerman said although the process took longer than expected, she was glad to see the perseverance and patience of all involved parties.

"I think there was enough momentum and good news throughout the process that I never gave up," she said.

Cox said as of now, the board has not approved any official plans for the property. The grants used to help fund the purchase of the land include stipulations of what the land can be used for, which includes outdoor recreation purposes.

"As far as anything going forward, we are just pleased to have it within the park district now and we do not have any plans for it at this time," she said.

For more information on SWPRD, visit swprk.org.



Photo Courtesy of Shelley Ackerman
Shelley Ackerman first brought the Waterman property to the attention of the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District approximately three years ago, and since then has worked to help facilitate the purchase through organizing efforts to raise awareness and funds for items such as the property's appraisal.



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



Oak Harbor debuts website to bolster businesses

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The City of Oak Harbor has developed a new website aimed at helping local businesses suffering in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Trouble is, the very businesses the city is trying to help may not even know about the website.

The "supportoakharborbusiness.com" website went live in mid-December, even though few businesses were listed (more are being added regularly) and the site seemed incomplete and contained only stock photos.

While the Langley and Coupeville Chambers of Commerce launched virtual shopping villages featuring local businesses in April and May, respectively, the subject of establishing a website for Oak Harbor businesses wasn't brought up until a November City Council meeting and at a budget workshop meeting the following day. Spurred on by Gov. Jay Inslee's order to again close restaurants to indoor dining and close fitness centers, bowling alleys and indoor movie theaters before the Thanksgiving holiday – a closure which continues today, city council members wanted to investigate other ways CARES funding (which had to be spent by Dec. 31) could be used to help small businesses.

"I don't think there's anything more pressing," Councilmember Joel Servatius said. "If we have excess COVID dollars, we as a city have a lot bigger pockets to get through this than some of these small businesses do. I know that we've utilized some of these funds internally for some of our own COVID-related expenses, but my hope would be we could put our heads together...to figure out how to fast track a package out to those businesses, specifically those most affected by the 'no dine in' restriction."

Council members wanted to see if any of the remaining CARES money could be used to help with rent payments, but because of strict regulations for how the money could be used, the City looked for other alternatives, identifying a need for assistance purchasing PPE, take out containers, signs and printing.

"I know it's challenging to know where to find these resources," said Sabrina Combs, public information officer for the City of Oak Harbor. "People want to know where a list is available, or where they can support their local businesses. This [website] points you in the right direction."

"We quickly identified that we could use CARES funding, and used an online website provider that allowed us to use a



A new website to support Oak Harbor businesses is now live at supportoakharborbusiness.com.

template," Combs continued, remarking on how fast the city was able to get the site up and running. "It's user friendly and required pretty minimal work."

The website has several different categories of business, such as finance and insurance, travel and lodging, restaurants, shopping and retail, construction and handyman, real estate, automotive and marine, to name a few. Cost of the website template and hosting is approximately \$248 per year.

The City worked closely with the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce to get the website off the ground.

"We came together as a group...one huge team trying to get economic recovery back to the entire island," said Vicki Chambers, executive director of the Oak Harbor Chamber. "It's still a work in progress – we're just now uploading photos and trying to make it more specific to more Oak Harbor businesses."

Graham said it's tough for small businesses. Some have had to close and others are having to make hard choices.

"We have 11, 12 members who are not able to renew their memberships because they just don't have funds," she said. "They have to choose between that or paying their light bill,

paying their employees. It's tough out there and we want to be there to help."

The chamber and the Oak Harbor Main Street Association, along with the city, are trying to identify businesses and inform them about the website. Any business within the City of Oak Harbor can ask to be added to the website by clicking on the "Business Resources" tab, then clicking on "Promote My Business." Those interested can also email cares@oakharbor.org.

"I hope the community is patient as we try to get all this information up there," said Combs. "We're continuing to update, so if something needs to be added or included, let us know."

"I wish I had a magic wand so that on Feb. 1 everything will be back to normal, but there's not," said Graham. "We're hoping to have the website up as long as we need it up to push the economy."

Check out supportoakharborbusiness.com, altogetherlangley.com and explorecoupeville.com to find local businesses and shopping options in your community.

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Answers on page 15

Due to an exposure to COVID of one of the Senior Thrift volunteers, Senior Thrift is closed through January 13.

No public exposure occurred.

In an abundance of caution, all volunteers and staff are currently quarantined and being tested.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 3

8:54 am, SR 20

Requesting call in reference to vehicle being hit by a loose tire at location.

3:43 pm, SR 20

Bright green car lost wheel in middle of SR 20.

4:12 pm, Parker Rd.

Advising white female, late teens or early 20s, with no jacket on, had baseball bat, told reporting party she was "On my way to go beat up my boyfriend."

6:19 pm, Wanamaker Rd.

Reporting party states female pulled into driveway and turned around then attempted to steal generator. Occurred 10 minutes ago. Has now left. States female violated order by being where he is.

9:32 pm, Midvale Rd.

Reporting party advising shot himself on accident - gun is in driveway. Urgent: male "Hurry up," disconnected.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

12:42 pm, Bells Beach Rd.

Requesting call for event that occurred two days ago. Someone possibly trespassed on his property. Missing two bird feeders from location. Neighbor also missing bird feeder.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

6:39 pm, Engle Rd.

Reporting party belligerent, wanting phone call from law enforcement about "Neo-Nazi rally" that is going to happen Dec. 7-9. When asked for location reporting party yelled at call-taker stating law enforcement should already have that information and law enforcement needs to do their job and not support racists.

6:48 pm, Main St.

Reporting party states male is refusing to wear mask and refusing to leave store.

7:53 pm, Mobius Loop

Caller stating received information that his cow was out again. States is currently in Oregon, requesting call. Is working on getting a group together to get cow corralled and moved to eastern Wash.

7:53 pm, Main St.

Reporting party advising male subject sleeping in location; grey hoodie, not wearing mask.

10:12 pm, SE 4th Ave.

Reporting party advising loose pig in road near location; black in color. Another reporting party advising same, has no idea where pig belongs.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

3:46 am, Manchester Way

Reporting party stating male subject is wandering around staring in windows; was just looking in bedroom window. States looked out and saw male subject with blond hair.

MONDAY, DEC. 7

12:18 am, Oak Harbor Rd.

Caller has order with ex-husband; is contacting her through phone. Reporting party states "I was with him for four years and can't spell his last name."

12:59 pm, Fort Nugent Rd.

Reporting party advising of ongoing issue; has been finding dead wild and domestic animals all over his property. Thinks they have been poisoned and thinks it is suspicious.

11:58 pm, Beachwood Dr.

Male saying he is being chased by people with tasers. Unknown names. Chased by "a lot of people."

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

11 am, Saratoga Rd.

Reporting party states her address faces Baby Island, refused her location; requesting call regarding hunters on Baby Island. Concerned for the elephant seal that lives in area and it shouldn't have to "put up with the shooting."

3:30 pm, Race Rd.

Reporting party advising was scammed online purchasing a donkey and hay; requesting call.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

12:49 pm, SR 525

Female was nude in the parking lot. Female with no shirt on, black with white skulls on them, walking around Short Stop parking lot.

3:31 pm, Cornet Bay Rd.

Requesting phone call. Received call

from male subject stating he was holding reporting party's daughter for ransom and that she had been in an accident.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

12:13 am, Hastie Lake Rd.

Reporting party advising he is walking on Hastie Lake and someone is whistling loud enough to ring his ears; being stalked by two women. States female using machine to make high-pitched whistle.

2:17 am, Cultus Bay Rd.

Advising vehicle is in reporting party's driveway; states vehicle has spotlight on it. Wondering if law enforcement is on reporting party's property right now. Cannot see what type of vehicle it is.

4:07 am, Haven Way

Reporting party advising neighbor across the street is parking extra vehicles on her property; advising ongoing problem; she confronted subject and he screamed at her that he didn't have to do anything.

12:40 pm, E Crescent Harbor Rd.

Reporting party advising heard loud explosion few doors down, west of location. Advises explosion occurred twice within last 10 minutes. Reporting party thinks it could be a weapon of some sort, since it was louder than fireworks.

6:31 pm, Stephen St.

Requesting call regarding denying her husband access to home. States he has been partying with his family, without COVID PPE, and she does not want to get the virus.

7:32 pm, W Fakkema Rd.

Reporting party advising cannot find one of his UPS drivers; advising truck was last checked in area of SR 20 and Fakkema; advising that was at 3 p.m. Subject not answering phone and truck is not at stop.

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



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FEEDING FISH VS. DEFENSIVE FISH

Most fish, in their day-to-day lives, fit into one of two general groups: Feeding fish or defensive fish. They are either swimming about in search of food needed for survival, or they are aggressively defending their offspring from neighboring competition or predators. Whether the fish is an egg layer or gives live birth, the natural instinct of eating to survive and defending their young is powerful. These two powerful driving forces are what we recreational anglers capitalize on to catch fish.

Which group of fish do you think is the easiest to catch? If we were fishing in a vacuum where everything about the two groups of fish were equal, then I would lean towards a split down the middle, but we are not fishing in a vacuum and that's the reason it's called fishing. The carefully thought-out times, tides, and tackle decisions you make will determine your success. For this comparison, I'm going to be mainly thinking salmon, steelhead, trout, and bass, but like I said in the beginning, most fish still fall into the two groups.

Let's start with feeding fish: "Matching the hatch" – this is a true statement that has been around a long time. I believe fish can be opportunists and will attempt to eat whatever swims in front of them, but like us, fish grew up eating what was plentiful and normal in the waters around them. Adult Chinook salmon, when feeding in the saltwater, are accustomed to attacking herring in the mid-water columns or cruising near the bottom for candlefish and shrimp; this is why we use cutplug herring as bait to attract the feeding salmon or a mixed bag of proven artificial lures like Silver Horde spoons, Coyote spoons, Coho Killers, and large bucktail-style flies in colors, sizes and action that closely resemble the fish's natural foods. We're trying to entice them into eating.

I believe color slightly edges out size and shape when fish are feeding. I recall a trout drift boat trip down a section of the Skagit River one summer; I started out using the bright pink and purple colors I like to use on salmon. Not one single strike until I switched over to more natural colors. When I tied on a light brown, tan or flesh-colored lure, I started getting bites. These subtle colors mimicked the natural foods found in the river and the feeding trout reacted accordingly. We caught rainbows and dolly vardens the rest of the day. Bass fishermen are very good at matching the hatch; bass fishermen do a lot of shallow water fishing which often gives them the opportunity to visually identify what type of baitfish is in the lake or area they are fishing, such as bluegill, shad or crawfish. Many times a hooked and struggling bass will expel some of its stomach contents into the water and there you have it, the food of choice has just been shown to you.

Obviously, fish are in feeding mode much more than defensive mode because defensive mode is normally brought about during a spawning situation, but we're trying to determine which fish is easier to catch. Just because a fish is hungry doesn't always mean it is going to bite. I've had

many trout follow my offering a long way only to turn away at the last minute, never striking the lure. A reliable salmon biologist by the name of Charlie White says "only one out of 10 salmon that follow your lure will strike," so we cannot count on catching fish to be lights-out fishing and needs to be taken with a grain of salt.

There is a way to up our odds on catching feeding fish; if the body of water you're fishing allows for chumming, this can get a feeding frenzy going which will keep your net-man busy. My two nephews and I were fishing a trout pond one summer and we watched school after school of 15-inch rainbow trout swim by our salmon eggs suspended under a bobber without a bite. During one cast, a salmon egg flew off of the hook and we watched a trout immediately swim over and devour it; the lesson here was "these fish were tackle shy." They wanted nothing to do with the salmon egg with a hook in it. I pulled a half-dozen eggs from the jar and we waited to test our theory; the next school of fish that passed by I tossed the eggs out in front of them, they circled frantically and gobbled up all of the eggs. When the school came by once more I tossed out a few more eggs and my nephews cast their bobber and eggs in at the same time and area. The fish were so frenzied they ignored the hooks this time and we went home with our limits of rainbow trout. Baker Lake allows chumming for Kokanee; when this technique is mastered, stand by for fast action – smoked Kokanee is fantastic!

Defensive, aggressive, spawning fish: When given the opportunity to fish for these one-track-minded fish, natural colors and normal size lures don't mean a thing; just the opposite is true. The bigger and the brighter the bait or lure the better; anything that invades their territory, looks like it's going to challenge the pecking order or dart in and steal a quick meal is going to be met with a gymnastic-like quick reaction strike, snapping jaws and almost a form of blind rage. You know, like when someone tries to take your Halloween candy.

Two things I have seen when targeting spawning fish is they can be very spooky and the fish will not chase an object very far; they are eager to get back to the redd/bed they are building or protecting. This is to our advantage; the fish will stay in the vicinity, which gives us more casts to agitate the aggressive fish. Do your best to sneak up on the fish and cast as gently and as close to the fish as possible. If you are successful at these two steps, hold on for the bite that is coming next.

To summarize, regarding the question of which is easier to catch, I believe there is more opportunity to catch foraging and feeding fish. However, a fish on the defense will fall easily to a skilled angler.

I am very hopeful the 2021 fishing year will be better to us than 2020 was; only time will tell. Keep looking at the glass half full, not half empty and hope we will put some fish in the cooler and on the BBQ this summer. Here is my email: tlfishmonger@gmail.com. Feel free to drop me a note or a fishing story.

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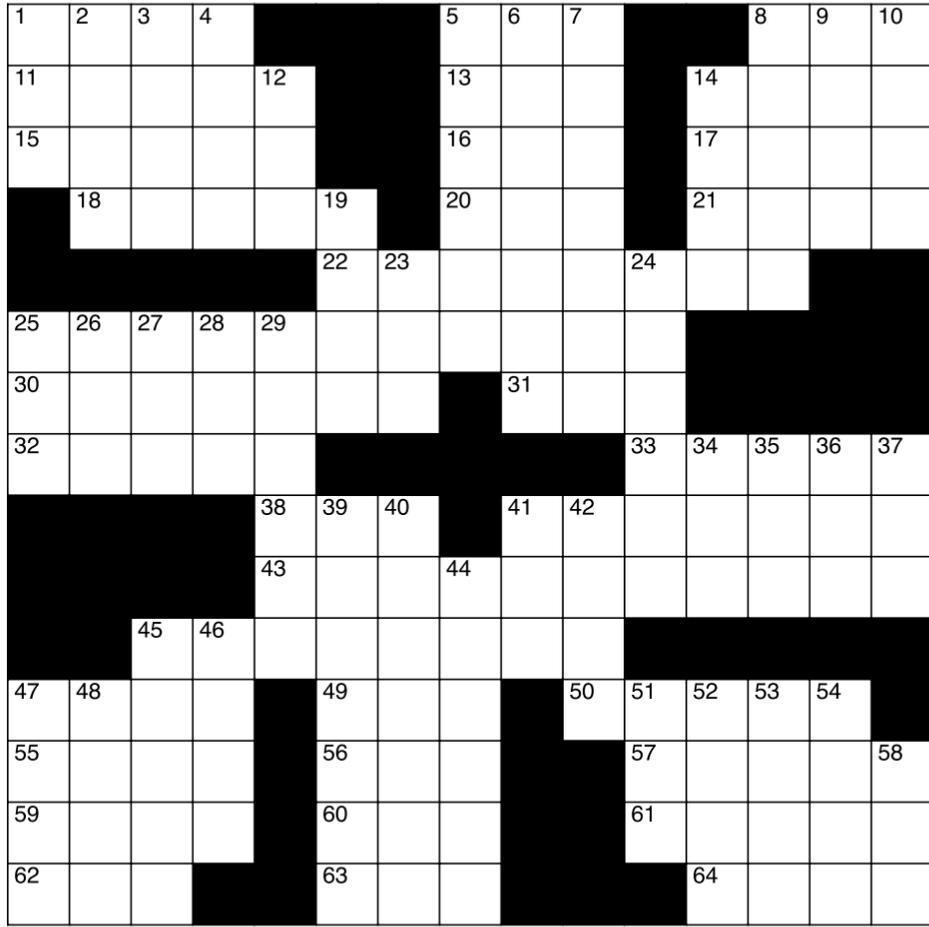
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gather a harvest
- 5. Federal Republic of Germany
- 8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 11. "The Little Mermaid"
- 13. The common gibbon
- 14. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 15. Mother of Perseus
- 16. Egg cells
- 17. Teams' best pitchers
- 18. Credit associations
- 20. Advance
- 21. Hair styling products
- 22. Benign tumors
- 25. Arriving early
- 30. Called it a career
- 31. ___ Paulo, city
- 32. Avoid with trickery
- 33. Easter egg
- 38. Veterans battle-ground
- 41. Lack of success
- 43. Thing that causes disgust
- 45. Deep, continuing sound
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. You might put it in a fire
- 50. Partner to "oohed"
- 55. Actor Idris

- 56. Slippery
- 57. Plant of the bean family
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Patti Hearst's captors
- 61. Places to hang clothes
- 62. Midwife
- 63. Of she
- 64. S. Korean statesman

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Amounts of time
- 3. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 4. Popular veggies
- 5. Wedding accessory
- 6. Deep, narrow gorges
- 7. Dry cereal
- 8. Competitions that require speed
- 9. Cain and ___
- 10. Snake sound
- 12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)
- 14. Pattern of notes in Indian music
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Misfire
- 24. Nearsightedness
- 25. Indicates before
- 26. Increase motor speed

- 27. When you hope to get there
- 28. Indicates position
- 29. Where rockers perform
- 34. Substitute
- 35. ___ juris: of one's own right
- 36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: ___-magnon
- 37. Adult female bird
- 39. Do away with
- 40. Lens
- 41. Flattened appendage
- 42. Post or pillar in Greek temple
- 44. A medieval citizen of Hungary
- 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Sew
- 48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish-white
- 53. A way to illustrate
- 54. College basketball superpower
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Jan. 7	Fri, Jan. 8	Sat, Jan. 9	Sun, Jan. 10	Mon, Jan. 11	Tues, Jan. 12	Wed, Jan. 13
North Isle H-49°/L-40° Cloudy	North Isle H-48°/L-41° AM Rain PM Wind	North Isle H-49°/L-43° Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	North Isle H-52°/L-44° Showers Possible	North Isle H-51°/L-44° Cloudy with Chance of Rain	North Isle H-51°/L-45° Showers Possible	North Isle H-53°/L-44° Chance of Rain
South Isle H-48°/L-40° Cloudy	South Isle H-52°/L-35° AM Showers	South Isle H-48°/L-42° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-47°/L-41° Showers Possible	South Isle H-49°/L-42° Cloudy with Chance of Rain	South Isle H-50°/L-44° Showers Possible	South Isle H-52°/L-42° Chance of Rain



CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



An old saying tells us there is no "I" in teamwork. Even staunch individualists find great power in letting go of their "I" thinking. Why is this important to you now? It's a gentle

reminder that we are all members of Team Human. What uplifts one must uplift all, or it's not really uplifting. Do your current thoughts and actions benefit you and others equally? If so, good show! You're right where you want to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Tired of dealing with jerks? Listen up. When a train leaves the station, the slack between cars means the last railcar to move is the caboose. There it sits, engine and forward cars fast picking up speed. Until, BAM! the poor caboose gets yanked into action with a jerk. No choice in the matter. But YOU have choice. So get your caboose moving. The train has left the station! Your power of choice is your power to avoid the jerk.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



We've all heard it said: "Do as I say, not as I do." A frank admission of human frailty, yes. More bluntly, the words of one who cannot walk their talk. Reverse that phrase, and you get an equally frank, but much less common human frailty, in which one's deeds outshine their words: "Do as I do, not as I say." Which speaker has your sympathies? Which would you hire to do a job? Don't complicate the uncomplicated.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." This stock political advice endured for at least a century, but is heard no longer. Gone with it, all notions of defeat. The new attitude? Do or die. Unwilling to admit they're beat, both sides of every dispute cite the same divorce-court reason for refusing to concede: irreconcilable differences. Where's it going? Ask any fan of Divorce Court. Someone's about to get hit with alimony payments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Which is preferable, a supporting role in a long-playing and highly acclaimed stage production, or the lead role in a box office flop? It's a no-brainer. No role is too humble if it pays the rent. The doughnuts get made, the buses get driven, the dogs get walked, by people proudly paying the rent. However humble your mention on the playbill of life, be happy. It's a critical role, or life wouldn't put you there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



An odd fact of life: Something stated three times softly carries farther than loudly once. It's true. Ask any speechwriter. Any toddler on the cookie aisle. Loud and annoying gets you slapped. Softly and convincing is where it's at. Doesn't matter where in life you're going. Soft

and convincing is what carries home the cookies. All you need is to know your business and carry on. Softly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



A thorough house cleaning means taking up the rugs to scrub the floors beneath. Every housekeeper knows this. What is found under the rug is a full record of everything that ever passed over the rug. Every slob knows this. Peach pits, nail clippings, contraband of every stripe--all gets exposed. So the suddenly helpful slob who anxiously volunteers to help with the rugs? Watching out for himself. Everyone should know this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



How do you share truth with those inclined to resist it? How do you make the horse led to water take a drink? The impossibility of making a horse drink is common knowledge. Neither can you force-feed truth. Rubbing in the truth only increases the resistance factor. But might a lump of sugar make the stubborn horse thirsty? Does truth spoken sweetly create a thirst for more? It's worth a try.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Does procrastination ultimately make for extra work? Often it does. And sometimes, as when there's a deadline involved, putting off until tomorrow what you should have done today can take you completely out of the race. The reverse is also true. Don't step out too fast. Ask any soldier how the drill sergeant responds to that. Don't like being yelled at? Don't like being shut out? Get with the flow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



Want to earn instant admiration and respect? Speak out when others can't find their voice. Speak up for what's right. The acclaim you'll earn for tackling those tongue-tying subjects the more timid fear to broach is well-deserved. You'll sleep better at night. You'll become the darling of people you'd never otherwise meet. You will still have bad hair days, yes. But you'll be loved, bad hair and all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Sometimes there's no way out of the storm except to grit your teeth and face it. This is true of the outer storms you see on the Weather Channel. It's doubly true of inner storms. You can't block your inner drizzle by reading and rereading the same six lines on the cereal box. You must face it. Tie your hair, slip into your metaphorical rain slicker, and face the weather. It's easier than you think. Much easier than munching soggy cornflakes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



The lessons of the past are keys that unlock doors in the present. Want to load up your key ring? Adjust your rearview mirror! Everything you see today in front of you has already been faced by someone in the past. Your problems may be new to you, but their solutions are old. In the words of scripture, "What has been will be again; what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun."

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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.



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 Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 4pm and Saturday, 10am to 2 pm. Stop by at 670 SE Midway Blvd. in Oak Harbor.

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, afford-

able housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they pick up donated items using our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

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

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

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

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

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

Three adjacent burial plots in Hawaii, Hawaiian Memorial Park, on the windward side of Oahu. Asking \$4,000 each plot, willing to consider reasonable offers. Call Stone at 360-774-0168 (1)

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

WANTED

WANTED Running or Not: We buy cars, trucks, travel trailers, motorhomes, boats, tractors, & much more! If you want to sell

or get rid of anything, call TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363. We will haul junk vehicles away.

Art, Antiques & Collectibles. Cash paid for quality items. Call or text 360-661-7298

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

Always buying antiques, collectibles, sporting goods, tools, garden equipment, furniture, vehicles, tractors and boats. Cash paid at loading out. 45 years experience. 360-678-5888 or text 360-969-1948.

How'd you do?

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

No Cheating!

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

Pam's Prayer Corner

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

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the gift of the new year. We ask that your radiance shine a light on our future paths and a shadow on our past shortcomings. We ask for your blessing on this year, please let 2021 be the year of resurrection of families and businesses. Please eradicate this virus from our lands so we may gather again as families and congregations, so we can dine and celebrate together with friends, and so our businesses may not only survive, but thrive in this new year. We know all things are possible through you, Jesus, so we ask these things in your might name. Amen

"So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!"

2 Corinthians 5:17



CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail

**Whidbey Weekly Classified Department
PO Box 1098
Oak Harbor, WA 98277**

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

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD. Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$10/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling \$1,000 and above. We do charge \$25 to include a photo. The FREE classified space is not for business use. No classified is accepted without phone number. We reserve the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be published twice consecutively. If you would like your ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it. Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.



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

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