

January 21 through January 27, 2021

FREE

# Whidbey Weekly

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## WHIDBEY GARDENING WORKSHOP



MARCH 6, 2021

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*read more about the workshop inside*

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## Whidbey Gardening Workshop: *Planting seeds for a lifetime of enjoyment*



File Photo

Vertical gardening with vines is just one of many topics to be covered at the Whidbey Gardening Workshop March 6.

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

It may be impossible to “grow” a green thumb, but it is certainly possible to cultivate an interest in, or nurture a love of, gardening. That’s what the Whidbey Gardening Workshop has tried to do for 32 years, and it’s a tradition that will continue Saturday, March 6 in a virtual format.

The Whidbey Gardening Workshop, a production of the Island County Master Gardener Foundation, has moved online this year due to COVID. While some familiar portions of the annual event may be missing this year, the overall mission to bring gardeners together for a day of learning is still the focus, despite the change in format.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Master Gardener Foundation  
In-person classes won't happen this year at the Whidbey Gardening Workshop on March 6, there are still plenty of virtual classes being held at this year's event, and attendees have the opportunity to see them all if they choose.

“It is our mission, and our fervent desire to provide an exciting and engaging day for gardeners,” said Carole Matthews, chair of this year’s workshop. “We seek to recruit wonderful instructors and provide a valuable experience for a reasonable price.”

Today is the last day to take advantage of the early-bird enrollment special for this year’s gardening workshop – just \$45 for the keynote address and three different classes. Starting Friday, the cost to attend will be \$55. For the first time, attendees have the option to see nearly all the classes from the day of learning for an additional fee.

“This year people will have an opportunity to select from 27 different classes on the day of the workshop,” explained Jim Peskuric, president of Island County Master Gardener Foundation. “Furthermore, for an additional fee, you will have access to all classes offering recordings for three additional weeks.”

Stepping into the world of technology has been a bit of a challenge for this group of intrepid gardeners, but it was a challenge ICMGF members and volunteers were happy to tackle, according to Matthews.

“Ours is an organization of gardeners, not necessarily techies,” she said. “So, we have had a steep learning curve. We have spent considerable time teaching ourselves how to run a virtual workshop, and to support our instructors, some instructing on a webinar for the first time. Of course, making the event attractive to our attendees, and getting the word out about our virtual workshop has been a high priority to us.”



File Photo

Growing tomatoes in Washington can be challenging. Instructor Marcia Dillon will share tips and tricks on how to grow great tomatoes at the Whidbey Gardening Workshop, to be held virtually March 6.

“We are hopeful that the word will continue to get out this year and we will have a good turnout from Island County and beyond,” agreed Peskuric. “We have seen an increasing number of attendees each year as people from a broadening area hear about our workshop. Many of the participants join us year after year to get motivated to go forth and garden!”

See **GARDENING** continued on page 9

**This Weekend!**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 24**  
**NEWS OF THE WORLD (PG-13)**  
**THE MARKSMAN (PG-13)**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 7PM**  
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# ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



The other night I ate my first ever frozen fish frozen dinner.

It was also the first time I ever removed film completely from a frozen meal.

Usually one pokes holes or slits to ventilate.

ventilate.

Being directed to "remove film" made me wonder why the Healthy Choice people even cover their frozen food with plastic.

I learned when I called the Jimmy Dean breakfast bowl team during the power outage that frozen food stored in a thawing freezer still stays cold for 2-3 days. Who needs plastic?

The meal was as dry and non-succulent as I had imagined. However, the remedy was swift and sure – Pour Cardini's classic Caesar's salad dressing all over the fish and rice and broccoli for immediate flavor enhancement. It may look strange, but it sure tasted better.

What can they do for the apple slices dessert?

Substitute a brownie.

## No power knowledge

During last week's 36-hour power outage, I learned at least eight things.

1. Don't try and use an ATM. The fact the lights were out should have been a clue.
2. Do not try to make drip coffee with no water.
3. Do not go to the post office to weigh packages.
4. Do not try to check call history on a cordless phone.
5. Do not get up to see what has been damaged after hearing a maple branch liberate itself with the help of the wind. If the truck survives, the truck survives.
6. Buy extra batteries and candles before the next one.
7. Have two transistor radios ready and cued, one for news and one for sports.
8. Follow the Boy Scout motto – *Be Prepared*.

## Family Circus

Other than enjoying the *Addams Family* cartoons in a 1950s copy of the *New Yorker*, I have never been a big fan of the comics page in a newspaper.

When the morning paper, the *Columbus Citizen Journal*, was delivered, Dad got the front page. My older brother got the sports page. My sister got the comics. I got to continue reading the latest issue of *Downbeat*. Did your family have a chain of command for journalism?

When I read the *Seattle Times* each morning, my favorite section to read is the *Family Circus* single framed cartoon by Bill and Jeff Keane. Maybe it is because I am a happy grandpa who enjoys the observations of the little kids in *Family Circus*.

A recent shared observation by an older sister with her younger brother caught my eye after the recent destruction in the Capitol Building.

"Conscience is when God sends a text to your head."

## Did you know?

Mike Connors, TV star of *Mannix*, private detective, played basketball for UCLA. His nickname was Touch, which he used to start his movie career. One of Touch's lines

when he played Hale Clinton in the 1955 film *Five Guns West* was memorable.

"Girls are like royal flushes. It takes a little luck, a lot of savvy and an ace up the sleeve."

Who was the fastest draw in the 1950s westerns? According to the *Cowboy Cookbook*, compiled by Ken Beck and Jim Clark, "Back in the 1950s, Hollywood folks in the know considered the four fastest draws of the cowboy actors to be Ben Cooper, Dale Robertson, Rory Calhoun, and World War II hero-turned-screen cowboy Audie Murphy. In fact, Murphy may well have been Hollywood's top fast draw expert, and actor Hugh O'Brian (Wyatt Earp) was always wanting to test him out one on one. Murphy always refused. Finally, Murphy agreed to a contest, but only by his rules.

"I'll tell you what. You get real bullets in your gun and I'll get real bullets in mine, and we'll have a go at it. What'ya say?"

"And that was the end of that."

According to the Aug. 11, 2019 issue of *Parade* magazine, *And I Love Her*, *Yesterday*, and *I'm Looking Through You* were all Paul McCartney songs written for his then girlfriend, model Jane Asher.

Bob Dylan's *It Ain't Me Babe* was in reference to his early 1960s love, Suze Rotolo, "the most erotic thing I'd ever seen." Only Bob would have the nerve to put that line in print in his memoir.

Carly Simon's major 1972 hit, *Anticipation*, about having to wait, was penned by Simon, based on her real life situation when Cat Stevens never showed for a first time get-to-know-you dinner date.

Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline* was written over a several year period in honor of Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the President. The song is also sung during the 8th inning of Boston Red Sox home games.

## The Duke

"He was a big, big chunk of America. Wayne meant a lot to America. He loved to promote America. He stood for America. I don't think he saw himself as a symbol. He just wanted to do the things he wanted to do, and those things were right for America." ~Bob Hope

"I'm an American actor. I work with my clothes on. I have to. Riding a horse can be pretty tough on your legs and elsewhere." ~John Wayne

## Time to fix

A 54-year-old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table, she had a near death experience. Seeing God, she asked, "Is my time up?" and God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth.

Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital, but while crossing the street on her way home, the woman was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years! Why didn't you pull me from the path of the ambulance?"

God replied, "I didn't recognize you."

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

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# Thank You, Gene's!

"When I purchased the painting on silk in an antique store over 35 years ago it had a plain, thin frame. Now, the frame and matting bring out the colors within and it's become a conversation piece. I've worked with numerous framers over the years and Gene's is by far the best."

Franji C.  
Oak Harbor, WA

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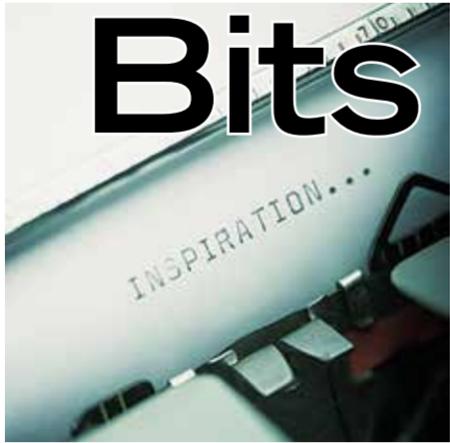
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# Bits & Pieces

## Letters to the Editor

### Editor,

We are all increasingly worried about the threats posed by the insurrectionists, the Proud Boys and other domestic terrorists who are attacking our democracy.

What is it they want? Beyond the excitement of rioting incited and cheered on by a deranged president, what is it they expect to achieve? Is this simply racism, the white supremacists wanting only their own lives to matter? Or is it fear of the COVID virus transferred to people in power who deprive them of their "freedom?"

Freedom to do what? Not wear masks? Carry guns? Remain willfully ignorant of science and reality? Are these the "flat-earthers" or conspiracy theorists?

We all face the reality of the pandemic, of hospitals and caregivers stressed beyond capacity. Isolation increases anxiety, but maskless gatherings are attacks on our freedom to remain well. An orderly vaccination of everyone, combined with safety measures, should end the epidemic before long, but there will be future pandemics in our increasingly crowded society. It will take cooperation to deal with threats to our health and livelihoods.

Jobs lost because of the virus hurt us all, and no amount of rioting will change that. Our so called "socialism" is no threat to anyone; we already have it in Social Security, Medicare and health insurance, imperfect as the system may be. Will attacks on "the government" help? WE are the government; we have elected our preferred representatives, as we have for over 200 years. Violent and irrational protests will only divide the country and make working together more difficult.

I have heard white Christian nationalists are behind all this. Those were anarchists or barbarians who attacked the Capitol, not Christians; Christians believe in peace and love. Nostalgia for a lost age of white Christian power is misplaced: we never were a white country; we stole it from Native Americans, remember? And now we are truly a melting pot of people of all colors and faiths. All of us have the right to freedom and equality. That's the reality we live with.

What can reasonable people do to bring the protestors back to our democratic way of life and put an end to this madness?

Mary Fiddler  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Editor,

Gary Piazzon ridiculed Mr. J.J. Coomer's full page yellow renderings of his views as to what is wrong with our great country. C. Davenport piled on with a sideline of vitriol.

I doubt either of them bothered to phone Mr. Coomer to discuss his views, but chose rather to publicly ridicule him with left-leaning talking points. I've personally spoken with Mr. Coomer and found him a critical thinker, not controlled by fake news, and a patriot seeking to accurately reflect on positions parroted by the critical left. He has lived enough to demonstrate wisdom. So, I applaud an elder statesman who speaks truths that challenge the Left!

Piazzon calling him a "sad class of Americans who is fed by fear, racism, tribalism and conspiracy theories." I believe it is far better

to respectfully speak with him rather than publicly assault him with rehearsed accusations!

Fox News is also criticized and what an insight from Piazzon that Fox's renditions are "critically studied at public high schools and Universities." This should send an alarming chill of how public funded "educators" indoctrinate our children! Do the public schools critically discuss the parroted identical talking points simultaneously coming from NBC, MSNBC, CNN, CBS, ABC, NPR, *Whidbey News Times*?

America is a democratic "Republic" not simply a democracy, the latter of which is mob rule plus one. Our Founding Fathers took great pangs to distinguish the difference and our Constitution embraces these truths. Man is errantly driven by an undercurrent searching for personal gain and our Founding Fathers recognized these errant passions. Hence our Constitution was formed, balancing distinct and competing powers that are separate and limited, a House of Representatives, a Senate, a Supreme Court and a President. Trump did not violate any of these barriers, but won the hearts of 75 million legal voters who were illegally usurped by fraudulent tallies in contested states, namely Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada, Georgia, Pennsylvania. These results were endorsed by a "demented, subterranean, X-VP" that even Obama referenced unfavorably!

Trump did not construct a coup, but Biden's et al did. Gary Piazzon does not understand the principals of respectful dialog, the powers of truth vice corrupted persuasion and should quietly apologize to Mr. Coomer. At least talk with the man before accusing him of unfounded fears, racism, tribalism, quoting the left's false litany of accusations parroted against President Trump!

Edward Drum MD  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Editor,

Trump destroyed the country in four years. Thank goodness he didn't get eight. There's no verification of what he did in this nation. To "Make America Great."

He lost the election but still lies to the hilt. Saying results weren't accurate and fair, but there is no confusion about the conclusion. He claimed fraud that just wasn't there!

He cares less about his followers. Never has and he never will. Greed is the order of his day. It's their money that goes in his till.

But many will always believe him. As they fall for his deceit, they put faith in a guy who can't help but lie. And will never admit to defeat.

Before the election he said if he lost, there must be a reason, and so he claimed it was rigged - there had to be fraud. Thus, the seeds of his lies were in tow.

Just throw out the Black votes, that'll work, he cried, but he refused to see what's true, not only do Black lives matter, our Black votes matter, too.

When the Great Scorer comes to write against his name, he'll ask - not if Trump won - or lost, but how he played the game.

Valetta Faye,  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Editor,

I submit that the U.S. Navy proposal to conduct covert training at 29 Washington State Parks not be approved. Here is why:

Essentially this is war gaming. Up to 20 camouflaged troops at a time will carry simulated weapons made to look like standard military weapons. They will sneak out of the water

and cross beaches to hide in upland vegetation for 2-72 hours while spying on park visitors.

I live on Whidbey Island. All our waterfront state parks are included in the list.

The state parks were set aside (even donated) for public enjoyment and recreation, and non-commercial or private development - while maintaining the natural environment and features of the property so designated.

What the Navy desires here is spying on uninformed (would you go to a state park knowing these operations could be going on?), and unsuspecting visitors - hence, COVERT Operations.

All states have "Peeping Tom" penal laws. The covert training of spying on civilians in our state parks being requested falls under such - Penal Code 647(j) PC: "It is also unlawful to invade someone else's privacy while being lawfully on property but while looking to view someone who has a reasonable expectation of privacy or by using a device such as binoculars or cameras to view or take photographs of others with the intent to invade their privacy."

Covert training operations are inappropriate as it invades the privacy of visitors and campers (recall your memory of campfire ghost stories - now to be made real with military personnel spying on you!).

"The Navy has protocols in place to stop exercises if a member of the public enters the training area." Yet, now, the training area is where the public already is, and the Navy wants them (the public) there for covert purposes (to be spied on)! Seems a major contradiction!

Yes. State law allows the Commission to govern state parks for both public recreation and public benefits. This is a major stretch to call these NAVAL SPYING operations a "public benefit."

For those of you interested in the Navy proposal to do covert exercises in WA state parks, there is a hearing scheduled for Jan 26. Details can be found in the Meetings & Organizations section of this issue. [Page 12]

Our state parks are for the public to enjoy, use, get immersed in nature and the natural, unique topography of our state. Having covert military operations in them is wrong and to make any approval is inappropriate. JUST SAY "NO!"

Michael G. Thelen  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Editor,

Say "no" to the Oak Harbor School District levy. The school district wants local property owners to hand them \$48.4 million over the next four years to operate the schools.

This is money the school district really doesn't need: Washington State has recently added billions of dollars more to the K-12 operating budget from the state level.

Article IX, section 1 of the Washington Constitution says "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

Following an eight-year court battle, McCleary resulted in a huge infusion of money from the state level into the K-12 budget, prompting the state's largest teachers' union to celebrate, stating: "Because of McCleary, state funding for K-12 basic education has increased by billions of dollars, including billions for competitive and professional educator compensation. In 2016-2018, WEA members in school districts across the state negotiated historic pay increases for both certificated and classified education support professionals."

The school district calls this a "replacement" levy, which is a disingenuous "spin" on their part.

Voters handed the school district a property tax levy four years ago. Property values have increased significantly since then. Zillow estimates property values have increased by 35

## Pre-Retirees: Plan Now for Health Care Costs

If you're close to retirement, you'll have several financial issues to consider. But you'll want to pay attention to one of the most important of these issues: health care costs. How can you prepare yourself for these expenses? First, get an early start on estimating health care costs. More than two-thirds of those planning to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their health and long-term care costs will be in retirement, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And some people don't worry much about these costs, which may be considerable, thinking that Medicare will pay for most of them.

While Medicare does cover many medical expenses, it also has its own costs. You probably won't pay a premium for Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage), since you likely had this cost deducted from your paycheck when you were working. But if you are hospitalized, you'll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance (the percentage of costs you pay after you've paid your deductible). Part B (doctor's visits) requires a premium, deducted from your Social Security checks, and you must pay an out-of-pocket deductible. After you meet this deductible for the year, you typically pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor's services. And when you enroll in Part D (prescription drug plan), you will likely also have to pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible and coinsurance or copays.

To help pay for the Medicare deductible, coinsurance and copayments, you may want to get supplemental insurance, known as Medigap. Premiums for Medigap vary, depending on the plan you choose.

As an alternative to original Medicare, you could select Medicare Advantage (sometimes called Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are offered by private companies approved by Medicare, but the benefits and costs vary by plan. These plans generally will incorporate Medicare Parts A and B and will provide additional medical coverage, such as prescription drugs.

When you incorporate all the above, the annual out-of-pocket costs for traditional medical expenses likely will be about \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person - not insignificant, but certainly a number that can be addressed by careful planning.

But there's one more expense to keep in mind: long-term care. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare typically pays few of these expenses.

Clearly, between regular medical costs associated with Medicare or those not covered by it, and costs resulting from the possible need for long-term care, your health care bills can mount. To meet these costs, you need to plan ahead - and take action.

For example, it's essential that you incorporate health care expenses into your overall financial strategy. You can also work with a financial professional to run some "what-if" analyses to see if your strategy would be derailed by a potential long-term care stay. And the professional you work with may be able to suggest specific protection vehicles that can help you meet the costs of long-term care.

The best time to prepare for your health care costs during retirement is well before you retire. So, if you haven't already started, now is the time to do so. When it comes to paying for health care, the fewer surprises, the better.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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percent in Island County over the last four years. The school district explains "... the approximate rate per \$1,000 is \$2.28. This is the same rate currently being collected."

However, this new levy over four years is for \$48.4 million, while the previous levy was for \$41 million. So, this is would be a HUGE INCREASE over the previous levy. The school district telling people the "tax rate" would be the same is a purposely misleading "spin!"

The school district levy is an "excess property tax levy." Some years ago, before McCleary, all school levies required a 60 percent super-majority to pass at the polls. School districts whined about the state not meeting its statutory obligation under the Washington Constitution. State legislators eventually voted to place the issue on the ballot, and in 2007 voters approved doing so by a slim 50.61 percent margin.

After McCleary, it's time to reinstate the 60 percent super-majority for all school district excess property tax levies.

William G Burnett  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

**The "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion" Illusion in White Supremacist Institutions of Higher Education: Delivering Equity and Inclusion for Women Faculty of Color**

Thursday, Farhana Loonat, Ph.D., Skagit Valley College Department Chair for Political Science, Philosophy, International Studies, Anthropology, and Social Science, will present her paper, The "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion" Illusion in White Supremacist Institutions of Higher Education: Delivering Equity and Inclusion for Women Faculty of Color. Dr. Loonat's presentation will take place virtually from 2:30 to 4:00PM via Zoom, https://zoom.us/j/4571870466. The community is cordially invited to attend.

In addition to the SVC presentation, Dr. Loonat also recently presented her paper at the Northwest Political Science Association, the Political Theorists of Washington, and the prestigious

Association for Political Theory. In addition, she presented her work at the Southern Political Science Association and the Western Political Science Critical Whiteness Studies group.

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

**Whidbey Island Grown Introduces Buyer's Club**

The cost of living rurally and producing agriculture on Whidbey is high. Whidbey Island Grown's new Buyer's Club aims to lower the cost of the agriculture essentials by taking advantage of large order discounts. The service is available to anyone on Whidbey and does not require membership in the cooperative. Currently, a long list of supplies is available at WhidbeyIslandGrown.com under the "Buyer's Club" tab, with more being added each week. This service will grow just as fast as it needs to, so the more you use it the more the site can offer.

The deadline for the next order is Friday, Jan. 29. Items can be picked up the first week of February at Bell's Farm on West Beach in Coupeville.

For more information, call 860-805-4767, email buyersclub@whidbeyislandgrown.com or click the "Buyer's Club" tab at WhidbeyIslandGrown.com.

[Submitted by Elyse Perron, Buyer's Club Manager]

**Free Community Boating Seminar How to Take Control of the Vessel in Case of Emergency**

Whidbey and Fidalgo Island boaters are invited to a free seminar, Partners in Command, designed to assist first mates and other less-experienced crew members to take control of a vessel in the event of disability or an emergency with the skipper. The seminar will be presented virtually by the Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron via Zoom Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10:00AM to noon.

According to squadron commander Pat Waters, the seminar is aimed at boaters who are used to always being the mate or passen-

ger, not the skipper. "In case of an emergency, would the passenger be able to assist the skipper? Could they get the boat back to the dock?" Waters asked.

The seminar covers: starting the engine, stopping the engine/dropping the sails, emergency use of the VHF marine radio, anchoring, handling onboard emergencies, and returning the boat to a dock.

For the Zoom sign-in information and instructions, please contact Steve Pye at stphnpye@aol.com or 360-540-2244.

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

[Submitted by Jennifer Geller, DPSPS]

**Need a Laptop or Wi-Fi? Sno-Isle Libraries Can Help**

Sno-Isle Libraries is expanding the laptop loan program with Laptops to Go and Wi-Fi Hotspots to Go.

Sno-Isle Libraries customers can place a hold in the catalog under the new program to borrow one of 124 laptops or one of 50 Wi-Fi hotspots for use at home. Laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots are available for checkout for one week, with a one-week renewal if no other customers have placed a hold on the equipment.

Sno-Isle Libraries has been loaning laptop computers to customers since October, but use was limited to community library parking lots. That service continues to be available.

To borrow a laptop or hotspot to take home, customers will need a valid Sno-Isle Libraries card with a barcode. Online-only library accounts do not qualify for new program.

All laptops come in a carrying bag with a power cord and sign-in instructions about how to access Sno-Isle Libraries services and how

to connect to a Wi-Fi network. Each laptop comes with a functioning webcam, microphone and speakers.

"When connected to Wi-Fi, the laptops will allow customers to attend school and meetings, connect with friends or family, and take tests online, such as the GED," said Mariner Library Manager Sandra Beck, who headed up the program.

The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation provided more than \$96,000 from its Opportunity Fund to help pay for the laptops. Sno-Isle Libraries received a \$50,000 CARES Act grant from the Washington State Library to pay for the Wi-Fi hotspots that include one year of service.

The laptops are configured similarly to computers used at the library. They have Microsoft Office 2016 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and OneNote); Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome web browsers; GIMP Image Editing, Inkscape, Inkview, IrfanView and paint.net image software; Audacity, Windows Media Player and VLC Media Player media software; and Adobe Reader.

Customers are not able to download other software or programs to the laptops. Due to technical reasons, Mozilla Firefox is not included as a web browser.

There is no disc drive on the laptop, so customers must provide their own external CD/DVD drive to watch DVDs or listen to CDs. Sno-Isle Libraries does not have external drives to loan.

To save any files, customers need to use save and email, use an external device (USB flash drive or an external hard drive) or save to a cloud-based service.

"When saving, any file saved to the laptop will be deleted when the customer signs out, restarts or shuts down," Beck said. "This is similar to our in-library computers and for customer privacy."

Customers can use their weekly \$7 print allowance to print from the laptop by using

**BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

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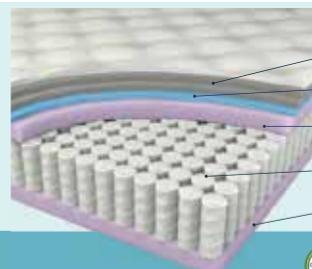
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# MILITARY MUSTER



NAS Whidbey Island, Washington

January 21 – January 27, 2021

## NAS Whidbey Island SAR Conducts Two Lifesaving Missions

A Search and Rescue (SAR) team from Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island conducted two life-saving missions Jan. 9.

The first mission involved a morning medical evacuation from Orcas Island for a 62 year-old woman who had fallen off a ladder. The crew coordinated with local emergency response personnel who arranged pick up for the patient at the island ferry terminal. After checking weather conditions with hospitals in the local area, the crew decided to fly the patient to Paine Field for transit to a local hospital.

Later that afternoon, the crew received another alert for a 28 year-old man suffering from a potential broken femur and dislocated hip. The young man was involved in a snowmobile accident on Darland Mountain at an elevation of 7,000 ft. Darland Mountain is located approximately 30 nautical miles southeast of Mt. Rainer. A Yakima County Paramedic crew had already arrived at the site and prepared the patient on a litter, which enabled a quick turnover. SAR flew the injured man to Harborview Medical Center.

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island SAR has conducted three total missions throughout Washington State this year, including one rescue, and two medical evacuations.



NAS Whidbey Island Search and Rescue team members work with Yakima County paramedics and other first responders to assist a young man injured in a snowmobile accident on Darden Mountain Jan. 9. (Official Navy Photo)

The Navy SAR unit operates three MH-60S helicopters from NAS Whidbey Island as search and rescue/medical evacuation (SAR/MEDEVAC) platforms for the EA-18G aircraft as well as other squadrons and personnel assigned to the installation. Pursuant to the National SAR Plan of the United States, the unit may also be used for civil SAR/MEDEVAC needs to the fullest extent practicable on a non-interference basis with primary military duties according to applicable national directives, plans, guidelines and agreements; specifically, the unit may launch in response to tasking by the AFRCC (based on a Washington State Memorandum of Understanding) for inland missions, and/or tasking by the United States Coast Guard for all other aeronautical and maritime regions, when other assets are unavailable.

## Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group Conducts Bilateral Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

*Courtesy of USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs*

The Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG) conducted a bilateral maritime exercise with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) on Jan. 15.

The exercise, which focused on increasing combat readiness and warfighting excellence, included USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS John Finn (DDG 113), JS Kongo (DDG 173), and JS Asahi (DD 119).

"Carrier Strike Group Nine is grateful for the opportunity to work with our partners in the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force to increase our proficiency and interoperability," said Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine. "The longstanding relationship between our two great nations is critical to maintaining security and

stability in the Indo-Pacific. It is only alongside allies and partners that we can maintain the rules-based order that has allowed continued prosperity around the world."

Working together provided both countries the opportunity to continue to build their capabilities while practicing for the high-end fight.

This is the first bilateral exercise between the U.S. and Japan in 2021.

"It is a great honor for me to conduct the first bilateral exercise in 2021 with CSG-9, USS Theodore Roosevelt, USS Bunker Hill, and USS John Finn as the senior officer of the JMSDF participants", said CAPT Masaru Fujisaki, Kongo's commanding officer. "This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Operation Tomodachi, which proved the importance of close cooperation between the JMSDF and the U.S. Navy. I would like to express my gratitude to our friends who have worked day and night to strengthen the relationship between us, and I am confident that our ties are an enduring pillar to safeguard the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region."

The bilateral exercise supported the U.S. Navy and JMSDF mission to develop regional capabilities that provide layered defensive options to protect each nation's interests and those of their allies and partners. The participating forces exercised a wide range of capabilities, from maritime security operations to more complex air defense exercises,

which demonstrated the inherent flexibility of the two combined forces.

The TRCSG is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to build partnerships that foster maritime security and to conduct a wide range of operations that support humanitarian efforts and freedom of the seas.

The TRCSG consists of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), Destroyer Squadron 23, and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Russell (DDG 59) and USS John Finn (DDG 113).

Theodore Roosevelt's embarked air wing consists of the "Tomcatters" of Strike Fighter Squadrons (VFA) 31, "Golden Warriors" of VFA-87, "Blue Diamonds" of VFA-146, "Black Knights" of VFA-154, "Liberty Bells" of Airborne Command and Control Squadron (VAW) 115, "The Gray Wolves" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 142, "Wolf Pack" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 75, "Eightballers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8 and "Providers" of Fleet Logistic Support Squadron (VRC) 30 Detachment 3.

Theodore Roosevelt departed San Diego for a scheduled deployment to the Indo-Pacific Dec. 23.

For more news from USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), visit [www.navy.mil/local/cvn71/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cvn71/)





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**NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING**

At Whidbey Island Conservation District, we promote conservation practices that help protect natural resources like waterways, forests, and farmland. Native plant landscaping ties many different conservation practices together and is a great way to get started in thinking about incorporating conservation principles into your landscape.

Native plants are well adapted to our wet winters and dry summers and provide a host of benefits to a property and the surrounding environment. They improve our water quality, reduce soil and wind erosion, replace noxious weeds, clean the air, reduce yard maintenance costs and time, attract and support local wildlife, provide pollinator habitat and beautify our island.

"[Native plants] are easier to take care of as well as they fit into the 'natural' look of what I love about living in the northwest," says Whidbey resident Jamie Johannessen. She lives on 20 acres that have large cleared areas and logging property in the next lots over. "I am utilizing some of these larger trees to grow back into a buffer as well as help with wind protection and erosion protection. As for some of the other smaller plants, they are great to grow in a forest setting."

Many native plants can help with erosion and

slope stabilization because of their ability to hold on to soil and spread out their root systems. Freeland resident Christina Tsang has an acre of property on a hill. Their intention for their "back-back" yard is to provide a wild buffer/privacy screen using native shrubs and trees that will prevent erosion and provide wildlife habitat.



Tall Oregon Grape (mahonia aquifolium) grows well in almost any conditions on Whidbey Island.

"We're also hoping native plants will help with controlling water runoff from the hill behind us," Tsang said.

Tsang said they chose native plants for their landscape "because they should adapt well to our soil; the different varieties will accommodate for sun and shady areas on the property; they are lower maintenance (not fussy and pretty resistant against pests and disease) and do well in drier conditions (at least the ones we selected) and provide food and habitat for the wildlife. Those are all the practical reasons. They are also beautiful and we love the sight and scent of many of the native species such as the Red-flowering currant, Mock-orange and Low Oregon grape."

Native plants are well-adapted to our unique climate. Landscape designer Dianne Iverson uses native plants in her designs as much as possible, listing many of their benefits, including "their drought and rain tolerant qualities, so unique to the PNW."

Due to their low maintenance demands and adaption to our specific climate, native plants are often used in wetland mitigation and riparian restoration projects. WICD Natural Resource Planner Kelsi Mottet planted over 280 bare root native plants for a wetland mitigation project on her property in central Whidbey. She chose eight native plant species, including Douglas Spirea, Red Osier Dogwood, and Nootka Rose.

"It's been a real journey," Mottet said. "Tending to them, mulching them, regularly watering them during the dry season."

The plants grow quickly and in just a few years will create a wild wetland area that absorbs and filters water, prevents soil erosion, and provides habitat for birds and wildlife.

"What I love about [the restoration project] is that it's taking the grass species...a somewhat lower ecologically functional plant species and replacing it with much more diversity."

Not sure what to plant? Take a walk and look for forested areas and wild spaces near



Native plants growing in wilderness near your property are good choices to incorporate into your landscape.

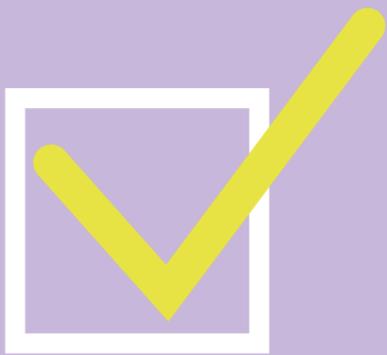
your property. Observe the plants that are growing heartily there, and even in closer areas like ditches and neighboring fields. The native plants around your property will most likely also grow happily on your property.

WICD administrator Sandy Welch has planted many different native plant species over the years, and she says one of her favorite species turned out to be Tall Oregon Grape. When she first planted the bare root plants, she said their leaves turned brown, then fell off, and became sad little sticks in her yard. She assumed they had died, while the rest of her plants did well. But the next spring, the Tall Oregon Grape sticks grew new leaves and have been thriving ever since!

The experience taught her that Tall Oregon Grape plants have a unique process of establishing themselves in the yard, but are hardy and beautiful if given patience, attracting native bees and even hummingbirds with their bright yellow flowers in spring.

You can learn more about the benefits of native plants and where to find them for sale at [www.whidbeycd.org/native-plants](http://www.whidbeycd.org/native-plants).

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# Island Angler

By Tracy Loescher

**HATCHERY SALMON: NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

If you're not a hard-core, year 'round salmon or steelhead angler, you probably don't give it much thought when a traditional or highly anticipated recreational saltwater salmon season or beloved winter steelhead run has been taken away. Or that the great Olympic Peninsula's coastal rivers are totally shut down to recreational fishing or fishing from a floating device is prohibited. Even the part-time weekend angler over the last 20 years can sense the ever decreasing numbers of fish, even if it comes in the form of disappearing fish stories told around a cold beer and campfire, or a hot cup of coffee at the breakfast table.

Why is there a broad, overwhelming feeling of no fish among anglers? Why are there such large-scale drawdowns on legacy salmon seasons and fishing opportunities for us recreational fishermen? Why has it been many years since my son and I have been able to hook and land a Christmas time winter steelhead out of the Skagit River? I'll tell you why: First, the huge lack of intestinal fortitude of Washington State judges and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife commissioners, reaching back as far as 1974, who agree with one-sided lawsuits filed by groups to permanently close successful hatcheries; who think they know what is BEST for us anglers and the fish resource instead of standing firm on what is RIGHT for all Washington state recreational fishermen. Second, and in my opinion, the main reason we are seeing less and less fish returning each year to the Puget Sound and our local rivers is the continuous misguided, unwarranted defunding of Washington state fish hatcheries. Until the demand for salmon decreases by the consumer and commercial harvesting is scaled way back, the need for fully funded, fully operational hatcheries is paramount!

The use of salmon hatcheries is nothing new, they have helped sustain salmon populations since the early 1900s. You might ask "Why on earth would we need to augment wild fish with hatchery fish that far back in time?" Well, the answer is unimaginable over-harvesting at the commercial level, PERIOD. The West Coast had fish canneries every hop, skip, and jump from the San Francisco Bay to the Puget Sound. The European netting techniques that came to the Pacific Coast in the late 1800s clobbered the salmon; so many fish were caught by the commercial fleets, processing plants simply could not handle the number of adult fish being brought in for processing and sadly, tons of precious fish were dumped overboard and left to rot. The reality of the whole thing is wild salmon along the California, Oregon, and Washington coasts have never truly recovered from the century's loosely regulated commercialized slaughter.

When entire runs of salmon were netted into extinction and canneries began to go out of business and close their doors, the scientific brilliance of the salmon hatchery to help recover the decimated salmon numbers was born. The calculated use of hatchery salmon and steelhead worked back then and with the advances in technology, work even better today. Support of hatcheries is badly needed

in this state; even more important is the co-managed WDFW commissioners and tribal representatives need to stop restricting hatchery production. The orcas, with the help of biologists, are trying to tell them, and the sportsmen have seen this coming for years. It's time to privatize some of the state's hatcheries, get rid of bureaucratic reasoning. Let the people who fish and who love sport fishing, energize recovery efforts, help rebuild the sport-fishing economy and give both the beginner and experienced anglers a reason to get back out on the water.

Many answers to the difficult decisions that face the governmental fish management personnel of this state have already been provided, they are just too blind to see them or convinced not to act upon them. If anyone thinks for a moment that fully funded hatcheries are not needed or have nothing to add to a salmon angler's success, just fan through the pages of the Washington state fishing regulations and take notice of the salmon sections; read what type of salmon and steelhead we are allowed to retain – yep, 95 percent of the fish in the regulations we are able to keep and take home are marked, or hatchery. With this black and white fact why is it such low numbers of hatchery fish are allowed?

Total "wild" fish recovery is what everyone would like, including me, and drives some angler groups like the Wild Fish Conservancy out of Duvall, Wash., to file lawsuits against hatchery fish. Realistically, this is beyond reach without the total shutdown of non-selective commercial and tribal netting. The hard truth is the wild fish we see today sprang from the hatchery fish of yesterday. The wild fish were wiped out long before us. We simply cannot continue to wait for non-marked fish to recover on their own and let generations of young anglers cross their fingers in the hopes of a salmon fishing season year after year, when a tried and true solution has already been developed, which would guarantee smiling faces, memories for a lifetime and food on the table. Is this not why we fish in the first place? Hatcheries must be allowed to run at full capacity, returning grand numbers of healthy juvenile salmon to the rivers and ocean. Our grandchildren and the orcas will thank us.

There are many thoughts and ideas about why salmon numbers continue to decline – poor ocean conditions like "The hot Blob," back-to-back years of flooded-out spawning beds, commercial over-harvesting and loss of habitat, just to name a few. Most of those we can't control or are too slow to regulate. From my point of view, there is one sure way to combat and help reverse this decline and that is hatchery salmon and steelhead. Public input and suggestions are welcome; there is a window of time for public input that does change slightly from year to year. For more information, contact Rules.Coordinator@dfw.wa.gov.

Fishing is pretty slow right now, so give your gear some cleaning attention and be ready for spring and summer fishing. Be sure to stock up on those seasonal, hard-to-find trout and salmon lures. Here is my email – tlfishmonger@gmail.com – feel free to drop me a fish story or ask questions.

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Answers on page 15



Photo Courtesy of Coupeville School District  
Temperature checks, screening questions and other safety and mitigation measures have been a key piece in planning student's return to schools. Here, Coupeville School District students have their temperatures checked prior to starting the school day in September 2020.

## Island districts make plans for returning to in-person learning

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Throughout the challenges of COVID-19, a large focus has been on education and K-12 institutions. In many cases, large groups of students have participated in remote learning models for extended periods of time, and in-person opportunities were often limited to younger learners, special education students and those considered most at risk. Whidbey Island's three school districts each have their own timelines for returning to in-person learning, but each system has emphasized the focus on safety and providing educational opportunities for students based on up-to-date guidelines from the Washington State Department of Health and other data.

For Coupeville School District, the target date for returning K-2 students who elected to attend hybrid learning is Feb. 1. Steve King, superintendent of Coupeville School District, said the district's approach has been to prioritize the wellbeing of students.

"Our goal has been to remain positive and hopeful as we listen to all the concerns and needs of our students and families," he said in an email. "We're excited about the opportunity to provide our students and families with the option to safely return to school. I'm looking forward to seeing more students back in our schools."

See SCHOOLS continued on page 14

## GARDENING continued from page 2

This year's course offerings cover a multitude of topics, such as how climate change is affecting how gardens grow, how to grow tomatoes in the Pacific Northwest, vertical gardening with vines, how to benefit pollinators by adding native plants to the garden or yard, container gardening, how to care for rhododendrons and azaleas and much, much more.

"This year a remarkable group of classes are being taught by expert instructors," Matthews said. "We will have Richie Steffen as our Keynote speaker. Steffen is the executive director for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Gardens and director of the GreatPlantPicks.org outreach branch of the Miller gardens. Two extra features are included this year for the first time: Gardening Pain Free by physical therapist, Mike Goodman, and a panel of five answering questions in the Master Gardener Plant Clinic."

While the new virtual format gives people access to more content, other regular events associated with the workshop will not be happening. The popular marketplace will not be held and the field trips had to be canceled. Organizers say both – and maybe even more – will be back in 2022.

"Next year we plan to have field trips, a marketplace with a bookstore, raffle, master-gardener store, and plant, gardening art, and other vendors," Matthews said. "We also will be considering how the classes will be held, just physically as in years past, or a hybrid event with both virtual and physical classes. Much for which to look forward!"

It is no small feat to put together an event like the Whidbey Gardening Workshop year after year. This year has been no exception. But community spirit and determination have allowed the event to continue to grow and flourish, even during a global pandemic.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Master Gardener Foundation  
Richie Steffen will be the keynote speaker at the 32nd annual Whidbey Gardening Workshop, which will take place virtually March 6. Steffen is the executive director for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Gardens in Seattle and director of GreatPlantPicks.org.

"Over 50 master gardeners have participated in creating the workshop for 2021," said Matthews. "Even more people are involved if you add in the 30-plus instructors. As usual, we have also had contributions from the community—both in funding and time and energy. Our sponsors have been generous in this time of economic stress, and friends and family have pitched in to support the classes in manpower. For over 32 years this workshop has grown into an event expected and loved. We manage this with support from our amazing volunteers, friends, family and our community."

Anyone looking for more information or who is interested in registering for the March 6 event can visit whidbeygardening.org.



## BUS DRIVER GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND: Jim C.

"Above and Beyond" is the WSTIP award won by Island Transit bus operator Jim for his quick response at the scene of a car and cyclist collision in 2018. "I just did what I had to do," he said. He parked the bus to block traffic, then attended to the cyclist, who was lying face down, injured but lucid. He covered the cyclist with his coat and directed another driver to call 9-1-1. Once he made sure the cyclist was stable, he tended to the hysterical driver who had hit him. "I told her it was going to be okay." Jim stayed until the ambulance arrived then proceeded to take his paratransit rider to her appointment on time. This was the fourth accident where he was the first responder. Jim was an EMT for Snohomish County and worked on search and rescue for nine years before becoming a bus operator.



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# Life Tributes

## DON HOLMES



Don Holmes, born in Montana May 4, 1932, passed away Jan. 14, 2021 in Oak Harbor, Wash., surrounded by loving family.

He attended high school in Miles City, Mont., and spent two years at Wasatch Academy in Utah. Don served in the Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Rendova during the Korean War. He witnessed the testing of the first hydrogen bomb on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific. He spent 45 years with the same construction company in the acoustical field, taking him to California, Oregon, Alaska (where he caught a 101-pound halibut!) and Hawaii. He retired at the age of 74.

While on a fishing trip to Whidbey Island, Wash., in 1979, he decided he loved the island so much he purchased five acres. He built his home in 1981, living on Whidbey until his passing. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Carla Holmes; son, Robert Holmes (Luz Emma); daughters, Michele Thompson and Donalyn Hartley (Jay); sister, Mabel Cotton; granddaughters, Danika and Ashley Holmes; and many nieces and nephews.

Don was an extremely positive man and enjoyed life to its fullest, until developing Alzheimer's disease in the late stages of his life. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. In lieu of flowers, family requests memorial donations to the Alzheimer's Association in Don's name.

## SANDRA C. MARSHALL



Sandra C. Marshall, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend, passed away peacefully Jan. 6, 2021 at the age of 85. She spent the last year and a half in a memory care facility before she was moved to the home of one of her daughters to enable family members to visit her before her passing.

Sandra was born to Marion (Currie) and Stuart Dodge in Worcester, Mass. She, her twin brother, and older sister were raised in Cranston, R.I. She graduated from Cranston High School in 1953. She met Donald Marshall Feb. 14, 1954 at Naval Air Station Quonset Pt. They were married Jan. 17, 1955. When Don worked for Philco as a TechRep, they lived in Augusta, Ga. (Ft. Gordon), Huntsville, Ala. (Redstone Arsenal), Biloxi, Miss. (Keesler AFB), and Oak Harbor, Wash. (NAS Whidbey).

Sandy worked for the Oak Harbor School District at Clover Valley Elementary for 20 years before retiring in 2001. She was a much loved, friendly face in the office. In the 2000-2001 school year, Sandy was the recipient of the Classified Employee of the Year award. After her retirement, she volunteered at Clover Valley and Hillcrest Elementary for a number of years.

Sandy was an avid walker and was often seen walking around town with her friends in the early morning hours. She enjoyed sewing and crocheting, and enjoyed making many items such as capes, hats, mittens, scarves and sweaters for her children, grandchildren and charities. She was also a member of First Reformed Church for many years and participated in Bible study groups.

She is survived by her husband, Donald; her children Donald S., Robert (Melissa), Doreen (Alan) Jennings, Sandra 'Sammey' (Ken) Harrison; seven grandchildren, Amanda, TJ, Seth, Ben, Sandra, Alex, and Hannah; her twin brother, Stuart Dodge, of Cranston, R.I.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were both of her parents and her older sister, Ann Duke.

Memorial services are pending.

Life Tributes can now be found online at [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://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](mailto:info@whidbeyweekly.com) or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.*

Lord we humble ourselves before you today as we recognize our limitations. Our knowledge, our insight, and our efforts fall short in bringing about your kingdom on earth. So today we ask for your grace and forgiveness. We need your wisdom that stands above all earthly wisdom. We ask that you would strengthen us by the power of your Spirit to be peacemakers in the world. To be full of mercy and gentleness. To love as we have been loved in Christ. Your kingdom come, your will be done here in our city, in this nation, and in the world. Amen.

Drew Barnhart  
Lead Pastor, Living Word Church

*"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*

James 3:17-18 ESV



# Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

## THURSDAY, DEC. 24

**3:55 am, 3rd St.**  
Reporting neighbor's dog is outside barking in an odd way. All neighbor's lights are on, is unusual. Neighbor would not leave dog out and let dog bark like that.

**9:46 am, Shepherd St.**  
States stray cat passed away on porch overnight, reporting party requesting call to know what to do with it.

**7:36 pm, Stellar Ln.**  
Reporting party advising subject just stole a Chevy Z71, brown in color, from location; states subject headed towards SR 20. Also stole tow straps.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 25**  
**1:29 am, Zylstra Rd.**  
Advising was skateboarding on SR 20 and almost got hit by vehicle. Now on Zylstra near Van Dam. States really needs a ride. Denying medical attention.

**11:32 pm, Hunt Rd.**  
Reporting party advising at intersection on Crescent Harbor Road; vehicle in middle of road, no lights on, unknown what occurred; smaller sedan. Possibly tow truck already in area for vehicle.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 26**  
**1:10:pm Eastpoint Dr.**  
Windsurfers off of Fox Spit. One keeps standing up and sitting down on surf board, other is going back and forth as a windsurfer would. States the two are communicating with each other.

**3:56 pm, SR 20**  
Reporting party was driving by and saw female standing in window holding up a sign that says "911."

**6:47 pm, Bush Point Rd.**  
Advising neighbor is dumping sewer into road; runs into reporting party's pump house. Another caller referencing subjects dumping sewer into road.

**6:54 pm, Heller Rd.**  
Reporting party states just purchased dog from adoption agency. Dog killed their cat. Dog contained in vehicle. Female in background asking reporting party who he was calling. Male advised female and line then disconnected after hearing female get upset about reporting party making phone call.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 27**  
**12:57 pm, SR 20**  
Reporting party states she sold her house and is supposed to be out by Jan. 5. New owner has already changed locks on guest house and reporting party still has stuff in there. Requesting call.

**MONDAY, DEC. 28**  
**4:52 am, Silver Lake Rd.**  
Reporting party advising feels uneasy, unsafe. Needs someone to come talk to her. States she is freaking out. Reporting party states feeling unsafe because she feels like someone is watching her.

**7:28 am, NW 6th St.**  
Reporting party states spent the night in her vehicle after being hit with radiation

last night. Aware law enforcement can't help her. Just wanting it documented. Denied aid.

**4:19 pm, Native St.**  
Advising of rapid-fire shooting on Native Street, has heard approximately 11 shots. Reporting party states she yelled at person to stop shooting and they just shot more off instead.

**4:51 pm, Sanford Dr.**  
Caller states is wanting to give further information regarding stolen bicycle incident to handling detective; also states person who stole bicycle has continued to harass reporting party's girlfriend by sending sexual texts.

**5:16 pm, Burroughs Ave.**  
States neighbor said "I'm going to kill you" three days ago; reporting party overheard neighbor say it from his backyard.

**5:27 pm, Barque Rd.**  
Reporting party states some may wonder who he is. In the seven months he was in Oklahoma, states he was arrested 11 times. States he has acquaintances with murders and other persons from jail. That's who he is.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 29**  
**1:12 am, Darvic Pl.**  
Reporting party advising male just came to his door and said "I want my wife out of the house right now;" male believed his wife was there. Also said "You made the wrong move m\*\*\*\*\*f\*\*\*\*\*, I am calling the cops and they will get her out." Occurred 10 minutes ago.

**8:42 pm, Hawks Prairie Rd.**  
Reporting party states neighbor is yelling at dog. Thinks it's weird, hasn't heard anything from the dog.

**8:43 pm, NW 6th St.**  
Reporting party states someone is shooting radiation into her house. States not happening now, only happens when reporting party goes to sleep.

**11:42 pm, NW 6th St.**  
Reporting party calling back. Advising wants call to discuss the use of radiation that is making her sick. Declining aid.

**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
**12:32 am, Cedar View Dr.**  
Reporting party states people are on his roof. Ongoing issue. Reporting party is in bedroom.

**6:28 am, SW 6th Ave.**  
Reporting party states subject sprayed mace inside house. Female now having trouble breathing. Thinks people are trying to get into garage at address.

**10:49 am, Layton Rd.**  
Reporting party advising water department drove vehicle into sewer. Unknown injury.

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



# Inslee announces new vaccine distribution plan to get shots in arms

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Washington Governor Jay Inslee has announced an ambitious new effort to get as many citizens as possible, as quickly as possible, vaccinated against COVID-19. And he's got a goal in mind – 45,000 vaccinations a day.

At a Monday afternoon press conference, Inslee laid out the new public-private venture being called the Washington State Vaccine Command and Coordination Center, a statewide initiative which teams up government, corporations, labor unions and health care organizations to help facilitate vaccine distribution efforts.

"We are removing as many impediments as possible to Washingtonians getting vaccinated," Inslee said. "We are going to deliver every dose that comes into our state. We will still be dependent on the federal government for doses, but we are doing everything we can once it gets here."

"We are speeding up the process of getting vaccine to the people of Washington," said Dr. Umair Shah, secretary of the Washington State Department of Health. "This is a huge undertaking – no one can do it alone. Together, with the measures Gov. Inslee and others have announced, we pledge to make the forward progress the people of Washington deserve to get COVID-19 under control and protect everyone with this life-saving vaccine."

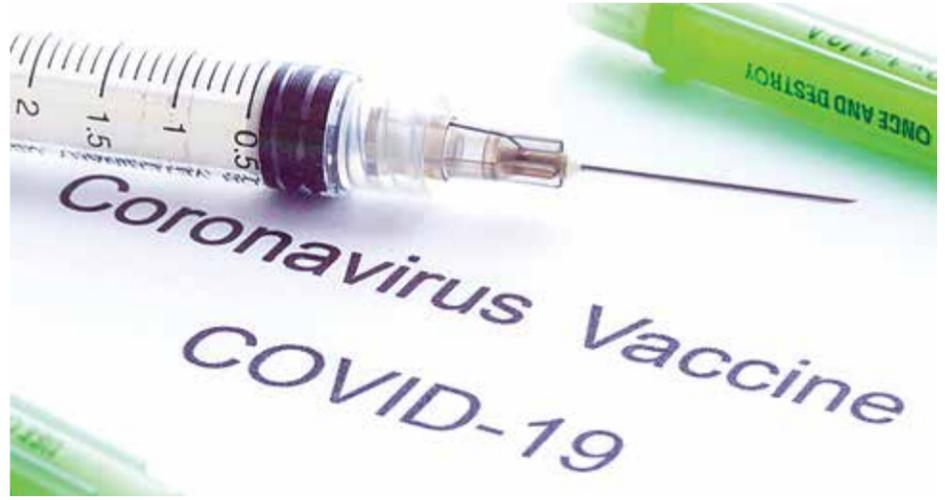
Some of the partners in the WSVCCC include Starbucks, Costco, Microsoft, Kaiser Permanente, SeaMar, Service Employees

International Union 1199NW, United Food and Commercial Workers 21, Washington State Nurses Association and the National Guard. Under the plan, each stakeholder will focus on a different area of responsibility. For instance, Kaiser Permanente will share its expertise to aid in setting up mass vaccination clinics and distributing the vaccine to healthcare providers. Microsoft will lend its expertise in technology and support and Costco will assist in vaccine delivery by pharmacies. SEIU 1199NW and UFCW 21 will help with coordinating and training volunteer vaccinators and staffing vaccination centers.

"We come together to launch this true public and private partnership among Washington health care organizations and our state's business community, to align and deliver the most effective and safe path to COVID-19 vaccination for all Washingtonians," said Susan Mullaney, president of Kaiser Permanente Washington. "Our own health care expertise coupled with the leadership of our state, and the dedication and resources of the best and brightest our state has to offer, is what our community deserves and should expect of us."

"Governor Inslee has convened some of the best public and private resources and capabilities to engage in a concerted effort to optimize and accelerate the vaccination process across our home state," said Kevin Johnson, Starbucks president and CEO. "We are proud to contribute in every way we can to help operationalize and scale equitable access to the vaccine."

It is a massive undertaking that Inslee hopes



will put Washington in line to deliver 45,000 vaccinations per day when fully operational, more than tripling the 14,000 current daily vaccinations being administered. To help reach that goal, Inslee announced several changes to the state's distribution phases, among other things.

Effective immediately, those 65 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine, instead of those aged 70 and older.

The governor has mandated providers must administer 95 percent of their vaccine allocations within a week of receiving them and all doses acquired before this week must be administered by Sunday. Providers must also submit data to the state within 24 hours of administration.

The state will establish several high-vaccination sites; four sites will be set up starting next week in Spokane, Kennewick, Wenatchee and Ridgefield. Other locations may follow.

"We are very excited that Gov. Inslee and these partners are coming together to leverage the best expertise available to us," said Jane Hopkins, RN and executive vice president of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW. "Getting vaccinations out and seeing our state through to the end of this pandemic

is going to take all of us, and this command team is the model of what that can look like — Washington businesses and labor working together, hand-in-hand, for the greater good and bringing our best resources to bear."

The DOH's new Phase Finder tool is now operational. The tool will help residents determine whether they are eligible for a COVID vaccine. The online questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete and those currently not eligible to receive the vaccine can sign up to be notified when they become eligible. Find the tool at [findyourphaseswa.org](http://findyourphaseswa.org). Those who do qualify to receive the vaccine will be directed to information on how to schedule an appointment with a provider in their area.

Currently on Whidbey Island, only Whidbey-Health and Island Drug are approved vaccination providers. According to a press release Monday afternoon, Island County Public Health hopes to finalize details soon with two providers able to administer vaccines to Camano Island residents. ICPH is working with community partners to establish additional vaccination providers in Island County.

Find more information at [islandcounty.wa.gov](http://islandcounty.wa.gov) or [coronavirus.wa.gov](http://coronavirus.wa.gov). Check your eligibility at [findyourphaseswa.org](http://findyourphaseswa.org).



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# What's Going On

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

## Drive-thru Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 30, 8:00-10:30AM  
Deer Lagoon Grange, Langley

Cost is by donation with the proceeds to benefit the Good Cheer Food Bank. Sponsored by the Deer Lagoon Grange. Please come out and support our community while receiving a nice breakfast by your Dear Lagoon neighbors. Deer Lagoon Grange is located at 5142 Bayview Rd.

## Meetings & Organizations

### Naval Special Operations Training in Washington State Parks

Tuesday, January 26, 4:00PM  
Zoom meeting

In accordance with state law (RCW

42.30.080), the Commission chair has called a Special Meeting via a Zoom/conference call to be held at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The purpose of the January 26 special meeting is to hear public comment on Item E-1: Naval Special Operations Training in Washington State Parks. Anyone who wishes to watch or listen to the meeting via phone or watch it on TVW:

To listen via phone: 312-626-6799 or 888-788-0099 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 979 7491 6906

To watch via TVW: [www.twv.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2021011044](http://www.twv.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2021011044)

### Whidbey Island Real Estate Investors

Tuesday, January 26, 6:00PM  
Zoom/online video

Local real estate expert Tom Trimbath will educate us about the big local real estate changes that occurred in 2020 and are currently underway across the entire Whid-

bey Island real estate market. We will discuss differences between north/middle/south, where housing demand is hottest, property type comparisons, trends / projections for the future, and other investor related topics. Also, we will include financing, group introductions, and roundtable discussion.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82771145609?pwd=d1BLQjdua01RT0k0RIZlQ2wrVGpRdz09>  
Meeting ID: 827 7114 5609  
Passcode: 214641  
(Or dial in for audio-only by phone: 253-215-8782)

## Classes, Seminars and Workshops

### Basic Level Reiki Training

Saturday, January 23, 9:00AM-12:00PM  
Zoom meeting

Skagit Valley College's South Asian Student Club is pleased to sponsor an online basic level Reiki (Japanese healing technique) session. Leading the session will be Delhi's well known

and highly respected Reiki Grand Master, R.K. Sharma. The cost is \$70 per person. For more information and to sign up for this session, contact Dr. Farhana Loonat, SVC Philosophy/Political Science Instructor, [farhana.loonat@skagit.edu](mailto:farhana.loonat@skagit.edu).

## How to Take Control of the Vessel in Case of Emergency

Saturday, February 6, 10:00AM-12:00PM  
Zoom meeting

Whidbey and Fidalgo Island boaters are invited to a free seminar, Partners in Command, designed to assist first mates and other less-experienced crew members to take control of a vessel in the event of disability or an emergency with the skipper. The seminar will be presented by the Deception Pass Sail & Power Squadron. The seminar covers: starting the engine, stopping the engine/dropping the sails, emergency use of the VHF marine radio, anchoring, handling onboard emergencies, and returning the boat to a dock. For the ZOOM sign-in information and instructions, please contact Steve Pye at [stphnpye@aol.com](mailto:stphnpye@aol.com) or 360-540-2244.

## BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the remote printing portal. Remote printing instructions in multiple languages are included in the laptop bag.

Laptops to Go do not have a built-in data connection or plan. In order to use the internet, customers need to connect to Wi-Fi using a home or business network or with Wi-Fi Hotspot to Go. Software applications that do not require an internet connection will function without connecting to Wi-Fi.

The Wi-Fi Hotspot to Go uses a mobile signal to connect to the internet.

"We understand that mobile signals will vary by location, and unfortunately, some customers may have connection issues depending on where they live," Beck said.

Each Wi-Fi Hotspot to Go comes in a case with a power cord and instructions.

The Wi-Fi hotspot has a content filter, but customers will still have access to email as well as commonly used websites, including search engines and social media websites.

Laptops to Go and Wi-Fi Hotspots to Go will be quarantined for a full 24-hours upon return.

[Submitted by Kurt Batdorf, Sno-Isle Libraries Communications Specialist]

## Ferry Ridership at Lowest Level in Nearly 50 years Annual riders down 10 million from 2019 due to pandemic

Annual ridership aboard Washington State Ferries plunged by nearly 10 million customers in 2020 – a drop of 41 percent from the previous year – to roughly 14 million. Stay-at-home orders, remote work and decreased tourism because of COVID-19 are the main reasons for the system's lowest yearly count since 1975.

For the first time since it began operations in 1951, WSF carried more vehicles (7.6 million) than passengers (6.4 million) last year. This shift in ridership was fueled by a dramatic decline in walk-on customers on routes serving downtown Seattle and more people choosing to drive on board because of the pandemic.

"When COVID-19 drastically altered ridership patterns, we quickly adjusted service to match this new reality," said WSF Assistant Secretary Amy Scarton. "Since late summer, we've been incrementally restoring sailings based on our COVID Response Service Plan, which considers demand, crew availability, vessel availability and funding."

### Current ridership trends

In recent months, state ferry ridership has returned to about 60 percent of pre-pandemic

levels. Total vehicles are near 70 percent of 2019 numbers, while walk-ons are around 20 percent of last year. Ridership is expected to rebound further as more sailings are restored and when COVID-19 is under control.

### 2020 route-by-route ridership highlights

The largest year-to-year dip came on the Seattle/Bremerton run, where ridership was down 64 percent. This excludes the Sidney/British Columbia route, which only operated the first four days of 2020 before a yearly wintertime suspension. The international route did not resume due to U.S.-Canada border restrictions. The Seattle/Bainbridge Island route had the second biggest decrease at 59 percent, falling out of the top spot as the system's busiest for the first time since 1958. The Mukilteo/Clinton and Edmonds/Kingston runs both carried more riders than Seattle/Bainbridge Island.

Mukilteo/Clinton: Carried the most customers in the system for the first time despite a 26 percent drop in total riders. Remains busiest route for drivers, even with a 19 percent decrease in vehicles.

Edmonds/Kingston: Total riders fell 29 percent and vehicles declined 22 percent.

Seattle/Bainbridge Island: Total riders down 59 percent with the system's largest year-to-year drop in walk-on passengers at 74 percent, vehicles decreased 36 percent.

Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth: Total riders fell 39 percent, vehicles declined 31 percent.

Anacortes/San Juan Islands: Total riders dipped 30 percent, vehicles down 21 percent.

Seattle/Bremerton: Largest year-to-year drop (excluding international service) with total riders down 64 percent, led by a decrease in walk-on passengers of 72 percent; vehicles fell a system high 50 percent.

Point Defiance/Tahlequah: Smallest year-to-year dip with total riders down 22 percent and vehicles dropping 15 percent.

Port Townsend/Coupeville: Total riders decreased 37 percent, vehicles fell 30 percent.

Anacortes/Friday Harbor/Sidney, British Columbia: Total riders and vehicles both declined 99 percent due to border restrictions.

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

[Submitted by Justin Fujioka, WSDOT]

## Demystifying Hospice: Inside the Stories of Patients and Caregivers

*Demystifying Hospice: Inside the Stories of Patients and Caregivers*, is now available in paperback. Karen J. Clayton's book was published in hardcover in October 2018 by Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group.

"My passion is to help folks understand end-of-life options and be more comfortable using hospice care in a timely manner. Six months of care is available, and 40 percent of patients waited until the last 14 days to request this exceptional care," says Clayton.

The book is available in the Sno-Isle Library System and local independent book stores.

Hospice and Palliative Care are offered in Island County. Contact WhidbeyHealth Palliative and Hospice Care teams for information, assessment and services at 360-914-5634.

Palliative care provides symptom management for persons who are not terminally ill.

[Submitted by Karen J. Clayton]

## Local Author Releases New Book: Sailing Off the Hook

Marian Blue's new book, *Sailing Off the Hook*, was just released by Cyberwit Publishing in India. This collection of short stories includes both new stories and stories previously published in magazines and books. This is the first time they've been published in one volume.

Many of Blue's fiction explores the world of magic realist traditions with psychological implications. An undercurrent in the work is the idea that none of us is experiencing events and reality in the same way.

Blue has published three books of her own and co-authored with JoAnn Kane the award-winning biography of Whidbey Island's musician/composer *Artie Kane: Music to My Years*, published October 2019. A local favorite of Blue's work is the humorous nonfiction book *Interpretative Guide to Western Northwest Weather Forecasts*. Her other books include poetry and fiction.

Blue has been writing since she began working as a journalist in 1972. She's also taught writing, literature, and communication in various venues, including conferences, Writer's Digest online courses, and 21 years at Skagit Valley College, South Whidbey Center in Clinton.

She continues to write and edit from her home in Clinton where she lives with goats, guineas, chickens, turkeys, ducks, one goose, dogs, parrots, and writer husband Wayne Ude.

[Submitted by Marian Blue]

## Opportunity to Apply - 2021 Island County Conservation Futures Funds

Island County is accepting applications for grants from the 2021 Conservation Futures Program. The Conservation Futures Program is funded by a local property tax. The Conservation Futures property tax is used for land protection and stewardship to preserve the irreplaceable character of unique, distinctive lands and to protect habitat.

The organizations eligible to receive Conservation Futures grants include Island County government, cities, towns, special purpose districts, nonprofit nature conservancy organizations (as defined in RCW 84.34.250), and nonprofit historic preservation organizations (as defined in RCW 64.04.130).

Application instructions are available on the conservation futures webpage: [www.islandcountywa.gov/GSA/Pages/cff.aspx](http://www.islandcountywa.gov/GSA/Pages/cff.aspx).

Since 1992, Island County Conservation Futures funds have been used to help protect over 3,800 acres in the county through either purchasing the property or purchasing a conservation easement. These grants are often leveraged with state or federal funds to increase their impact locally.

Recent projects the CFF has helped fund include:

- Protect Kristoferson Farm and Forest on Camano Island
- Increased protected wetland area at the headwaters of Glendale Creek
- Expand and improve the Barnum Point Park on Camano Island
- Create the new Pearson Preserve on South Whidbey for public waterfront access
- Expand the Strawberry Point Preserve including parking and trail access

To be considered in the 2021 funding cycle, completed applications for projects must be emailed to [m.meyer@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:m.meyer@islandcountywa.gov) by the end of day Sunday, Feb. 28. For further information, please visit the website above or contact Michelle Meyer, Administrative Services Director at 360-678-7837.

[Submitted by Michelle Meyer, Island County Administrative Services Director]



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





# CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)



Hypercalculia is the condition of being a human computer. An example of hypercalculia is India's Shakuntala Devi, who is officially the world's fastest human calculator. Devi earned the title by correctly multiplying two 13-digit numbers in her head, completing the feat in just the 28 seconds it took to read off her answer. "Humans have no limitations," Devi insists. Want to be more than you are? Begin by believing her.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



Isn't it amazing, how much gets accomplished by the highly motivated? You know the kind. They don't wait to be told what to do. They actually go looking for things that need doing. Highly motivated people can't wait to get out of bed in the morning. Some are born highly motivated. Others can be lazy, until suddenly, they're seized by an ACTIVE spell. And when that happens to many at once? Things get done. History gets made.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



Membership within an elite in-crowd has its perks. Power and influence. Status and prestige. Special privileges denied to lesser mortals. Small wonder that competition for a place in the heady world of elitism is so fierce. Small wonder that, having attained their place, people fight so viciously to keep it. Most of us know these things only by watching the fight from outside. Does what you see make you glad to be ordinary?

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Injustices, real and imagined. Money. A young pretty lady with ties to the enemy. Add them up, and what do we get? In the case of Benedict Arnold, we get treason. Arnold sold information to the British in the Revolutionary War, finally changing sides to lead British troops against Americans he'd once commanded. The jealousy and revenge that drove Arnold are familiar in our times. In how many ways do you see them at play?

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Process is important. Scratch that. Process is indispensable. The complicated route to a destination, the maze of toll gates, bypasses, road changes and one-way streets, is not easily learned from the back seat. To go to a place, and know how to reach it again, requires hands-on learning and remembering in the driver's seat. Do you know where you're going? Are you learning and remembering? Carry on!

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



A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Can we agree? Toddlers watching mommy and daddy cut things know just enough about knives to make them dangerous. Where in life are you the experienced adult? Where the knife-wielding toddler? Have you

unwisely trusted someone who knows only enough to be dangerous? Consider making changes. Many are the ways of losing a finger.

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



You start on the ferris wheel, a good warmup ride. Move on to the tilt-a-whirl (gasp!). Get your legs back with some cotton candy. And hey, don't those chili dogs look good! Bumper cars, next. More cotton candy. Roller coaster, why not? Urrp. Losing the chili dog, you know why not. That wavy, wiggly you in the funhouse mirror? That's exactly how you feel. Have you noticed? How much a day at the carnival is like an election year?

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



Shiny objects are things that appeal to the eye and create great excitement, but only waste time at the end of the day. Think bikini pinup calendars. The eye falls on them and--what were we saying, again? People with things to hide make use of this. Have a sensitive subject to avoid? Want to skip embarrassing questions? Toss out a shiny object. The more outrageous, the better. It's the perfect dodge.

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



The world was flat throughout much of human history, simply because everyone knew it to be true. Sailors who ventured too far at sea risked falling over the edge, and that was that. The lesson: Simply because a majority says something is true doesn't make it so. Holding your tongue because yours is a minority voice? Don't despair. Truth inevitably wins out. It's a round world, after all.

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



A tool is only as good as the person using it. To drive a straight nail requires knowing which end of the hammer to grab. Enter the expert. The expert can coax more from a tool than the tool was originally meant to give. Pray, then, that your expert is honest. Do you see where this is going? Let's ask in a different way. When crooked people have the hammer, do we still get a straight nail?

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Length, width and height. Those are the three dimensions of every box. Material reality is also three dimensional. Does that mean we live in a box? Time has been called the 4th dimension. For those unwilling to live in a box, time is the possible escape. Are today's box and tomorrow's box the same box? Might our escape be the wise use of time? A simple role call will tell. Let's synchronize watches and find out.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



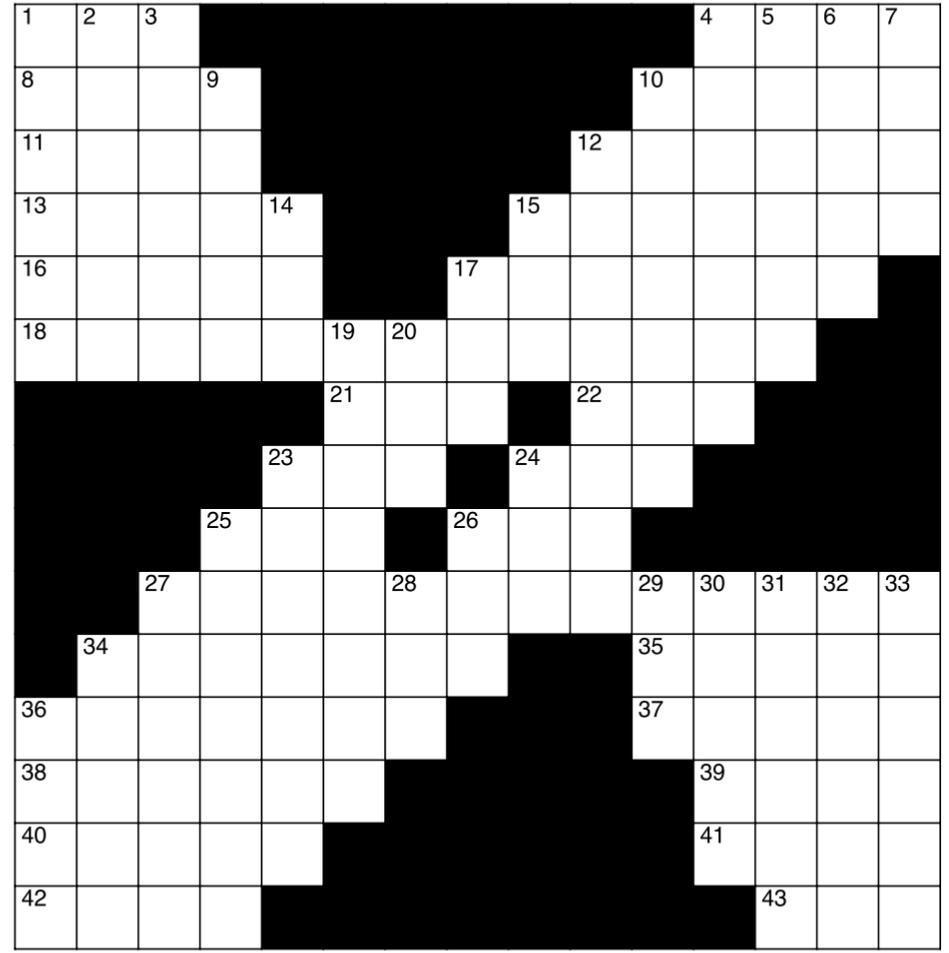
Friends come in all shapes, sizes and persuasions, qualities that change with time. Will the change be drastic? For better or for worse? Will the "new" person be someone whom you can still call a friend? And what of you? Time stands still for no one. Reuniting with a long lost friend will reveal how much you've changed. When your past comes calling, it's always enlightening. Get ready.

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Chicken Little's knock on the head meant to him that the sky was falling, silly bird. His horoscope showed other possibilities. Don't wait for a knock on the head to ask what's up in your life. Wesley Hallock, as Whidbey Weekly's professional astrologer and horoscope writer, keeps one eye on the sky and alerts us to the prospects each week. To read past columns of Chicken Little and the Astrologer in the Whidbey Weekly, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

# Crossword Puzzle



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
- 4. Silicon Valley's specialty
- 8. Gather a harvest
- 10. Famed mathematician
- 11. No (slang)
- 12. Students use one
- 13. Type of molecule
- 15. Play make-believe
- 16. Large barrel-like containers
- 17. Touching
- 18. Treats allergies
- 21. Calendar month
- 22. Single
- 23. Cease to live
- 24. Brew
- 25. What ghosts say
- 26. Geological time
- 27. Focus
- 34. Discomfort
- 35. A citizen of Iran

- 36. Trip
- 37. Imitate
- 38. Makes happy
- 39. Double-reed instrument
- 40. Body parts
- 41. Transgressions
- 42. One-time emperor of Russia
- 43. Time zone

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used in treating bruises
- 2. One who cultivates a small estate
- 3. One who supports the Pope
- 4. Annuity
- 5. Geological period
- 6. Grab onto tightly
- 7. Kept
- 9. Chinese city
- 10. The most direct route
- 12. Type of tooth
- 14. \_\_ kosh, near

- Lake Winnebago
- 15. Popular veggie
- 17. Supervises interstate commerce
- 19. Foolish behaviors
- 20. Witness
- 23. Gives
- 24. Expression of creative skill
- 25. A way to prop up
- 26. Midway between northeast and east
- 27. Winter melon
- 28. Supernatural power
- 29. Target
- 30. Threes
- 31. A type of poetic verse
- 32. They make some people cry
- 33. Kindest
- 34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two
- 36. A way to liquefy

Answers on page 15

## YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Jan. 21	Fri, Jan. 22	Sat, Jan. 23	Sun, Jan. 24	Mon, Jan. 25	Tues, Jan. 26	Wed, Jan. 27
North Isle H-46°/L-35° Showers	North Isle H-46°/L-35° Sunny	North Isle H-44°/L-33° Cloudy	North Isle H-42°/L-32° Cloudy	North Isle H-44°/L-34° Chance of Rain or Snow	North Isle H-43°/L-30° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-45°/L-35° Snow, Sleet and Rain Mixed
South Isle H-44°/L-35° Showers	South Isle H-44°/L-33° Sunny	South Isle H-44°/L-32° Cloudy	South Isle H-43°/L-31° Cloudy	South Isle H-44°/L-32° Chance of Rain or Snow	South Isle H-42°/L-30° Mostly Sunny	South Isle H-43°/L-34° Chance of Rain or Snow



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### SCHOOLS continued from page 9

King said the schools will continue to offer remote learning opportunities for students and families who elect to continue learning virtually.

"We deeply care about our students and want to do what is best for them," he said. "We understand the need to provide safe in-person schooling options along with continuing a viable remote learning program. We are working diligently to protect everyone in regards to COVID-19 while addressing the learning needs and social-emotional needs of our students."

King said safety remains a top priority as the district plans tentatively to bring students back to school. The target date for a return to hybrid learning for remaining K-5 students who have opted to return to an in-person model is Feb. 22, with the hopeful dates to bring back middle-school in-person and high school in-person learning being March 8 and 15, respectively.

"We have closely followed the safety guidelines and school reopening guidelines since the beginning of the pandemic," he said. "We have made sure that we either meet or exceed all mitigation requirements as well. We proactively asked Labor & Industries along with Island County Public Health to review all safety plans and do a site visit to give us feedback on how we can ensure safety in our schools. During the fall we prioritized our youngest learners and learners served in special services for in-person instruction."

"Now that the guidance metrics, which are based on research and science, have changed we have decided that we will begin a phased in approach to bringing students back to in person instruction," he continued.

Oak Harbor Public Schools returned PK-6 students to hybrid learning Jan. 11. The district approved a new reopening decision matrix for grades 7-12 at a school board meeting Jan. 11 and plans to begin to start a return for this group starting early February.

"As long as the metrics and criteria are met, we will begin in-person instruction for our grade 7-12 students in a modified hybrid instruction format beginning Monday, Feb. 8," the district stated in an email to families.

Students in grades seven to 12 will follow a modified hybrid in-person learning schedule

with two groups (A and B) with Group A attending morning in-person classes Monday and Tuesday and Group B in-person Thursday and Friday. Both groups will continue Distance Plus each afternoon, on Wednesdays, and while the other group is in-person.

"This has been a challenging year for all of us, but we are so thankful to return students back to campus," the district said in an email.

Jo Moccia, superintendent of the South Whidbey School District, said the district plans to slowly start phasing more students back to a hybrid model of learning by early February, provided certain metrics are met. Currently, kindergarten students, students with special needs and students at greatest risk are taking part in on-campus instruction. Moccia said the district will continue to move slowly and consider returning upper grades after the board review Feb. 10.

"We want to get our kids back to school," she said in a school board workshop meeting held Jan. 14. "It is in the hands of the local district as to whether or not we come back. We have plans in place, this is not a question of if, it is a question of when. When is the right time, when do we move this train forward? We are thinking we gradually start to return at the beginning of February, maybe 1-4 but not all at the same time. Maybe we do first and second and then third and fourth and start moving it forward. That is what we are talking about now."

Moccia said the health and wellbeing of the students is a top priority of the district. The district also will continue with mitigation strategies, including social distancing protocols, increased cleaning and continuing to require masks.

"This is really about kids and their social-emotional status, especially the younger children," she said. "Academically, and I know that it is not ideal, but certainly academically we are meeting kids' needs, it is just very difficult. It is difficult all around and there is no easy answer -- we are in the middle of the pandemic and we are doing our best."

For more information and updates, visit [coupeville.k12.wa.us](http://coupeville.k12.wa.us) (Coupeville School District), [ohsd.net](http://ohsd.net) (Oak Harbor Public Schools), and [sw.wednet.edu](http://sw.wednet.edu) (South Whidbey School District).



Photo Courtesy of South Whidbey School District  
Starting Jan. 11, South Whidbey School District brought student groups on campus that had been part of in-person learning in November. If approved metrics and conditions are met, the district plans to begin bringing back more students to a hybrid learning model gradually by Feb. 8.



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# Community Bulletin Board

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## 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. 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@servalts-cfs.com](mailto:mostermick@servalts-cfs.com)

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

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

If you or someone you know has been a victim of homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, identity theft, fraud, human trafficking, home invasion and other crimes not listed, Victim Support Services has advocates ready to help. Please call the 24-hr Crisis Line 888-388-9221. Free service. Visit our web site at <http://victimsupportservices.org>

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

skills related to overseeing a performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF, attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact [jeff.natter@islandshake-spearefest.org](mailto:jeff.natter@islandshake-spearefest.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](mailto:admin@bbbsislandcounty.org) for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Island. Volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members with no prior healthcare background. ICMRC utilizes volunteers to strengthen community health, enhance emergency response capabilities, and boost community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters such as winter storms, flooding, earthquakes, as well as public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks. If you are interested in volunteering please go to the Island County MRC website for more information or contact [s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov) If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat for Humanity of Island County

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College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to [www.pnwnam.org](http://www.pnwnam.org) and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself. Imagine Oak Harbor's first Food Forest, Saturdays 11am-3pm, at 526 Bayshore Drive. Each week, we have volunteer opportunities available to help care for our community garden, share organic gardening tips, and learn Permaculture principles. All ages and skill levels welcome. Schedule can change due to adverse weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact us at: [imagineapermacultureworld@gmail.com](mailto:imagineapermacultureworld@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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