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Whidbey Island Orchestra p. 6

Island Transit seeks drivers, no experience necessary

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Anyone seeking a new career opportunity or change may want to take a look at Island Transit.

The transportation agency is looking to add new transit bus operators to its ranks and will provide competitive pay and benefits as well as complete training. And no CDL (commercial driver's license) is necessary to get the job.

The COVID-19 pandemic is largely responsible for the current need, said Island Transit officials.

"As the months continued, [the pandemic] decimated our operator positions, causing early retirements as well as a lack of available candidates to interview," said Shawn Harris, Island Transit operations manager.

"One of the other challenges caused by COVID-19 was our inability to conduct recruitment for new transit operators because our service had been reduced so much that the work was not available, and when we did need to recruit as restrictions lifted, we were unable to do so because of social distancing requirements," added Robyn Goldring, administrative and human resources manager for Island Transit.

But wait – surely one must need to have experience to work as a transit bus driver. Not so, said Goldring.

"Our expert trainers provide an eight-week paid training program with hands-on experience to get a commercial driver's license and to guarantee a successful career," she said. "We have state-of-the-art vehicles with fully adjustable driver's seats to accommodate the shortest and tallest of drivers. We

can train anyone to operate our vehicles; you only need a five-year-safe driving history."

"Most new drivers have done other jobs prior to coming to Island Transit and do not have experience from other transportation industries," said Tom Hopper, safety and training supervisor. "With that potential for diverse backgrounds and learning styles, no copy and paste style of training will work. I get to work with a tried and true template that has been in place for many years at Island Transit. My challenge is to make it even more successful."

As many people are still reeling from job losses and hardships brought on by the pandemic, it may be refreshing to hear of job openings. According to Goldring, the operator positions pay more than \$20 per hour following completed training, with regular pay increases. Benefits include medical and dental insurance and two retirement plans. Positions start as part time; fulltime positions with consistent work schedules become available as vacancies occur.

Many current employees began their Island Transit careers as bus operators.

"Currently I'm a dispatcher with the agency, but I started as an operator," said Tafa Belford, who has been with Island Transit since August, 2018. "I had never driven a bus before nor was I aware of the complex and exciting world of transit. This is by far my most favorite job ever. Our training program is designed to give you confidence and complete understanding of the vehicle itself and what the job entails. Zero experience needed – we will train you and give you all the tools and support you need to enjoy this job."



Photo Courtesy of Island Transit

The doors are open to new career possibilities at Island Transit. The agency is looking for bus operators to join its team.

Safety, whether during a pandemic or not, is a priority at Island Transit.

"Working through the pandemic this past year posed quite a challenge for everyone," said Terri Shroyer, road support supervisor who has been with Island Transit for 15 years. "I am very proud to say our agency has pulled together to keep service going, doing an outstanding job keeping our employees and passengers safe."

"We are committed to creating a safe work environment for all employees and riders," said IT Executive Director Todd Morrow. "We have taken great measures to maintain a safe and reliable transit system during COVID-19. This includes following public health guidelines, installing plexiglass shields to protect drivers from the droplets of others, daily stringent disinfecting of all our vehicles and common areas, installing special air filters, wearing masks and keeping drivers and passengers a safe distance apart. In partnership with Island County, we have placed public health messages on the sides of our buses – this is unique in the transit industry."

Island Transit continues to play an important role on Whidbey and Camano Islands, providing a critical service to residents.

"Island Transit is an integral part of Island County's economic growth and stability, providing fare-free and equitable transportation services for all members of the community, connecting individuals to jobs, shopping and medical appointments," said Selene Muldowney-Stratton, IT marketing and communications officer. "Our transit operators have continued to serve our community with grace and compassion. We believe they are frontline heroes – even if most of them will humbly disagree."

"Public transit jobs require a different class of folks who love to serve their communities," said Harris. "These transportation professionals go above and beyond and are truly amazing employees."

For information or to apply, visit islandtransit.org/employment.



Photo Courtesy of Island Transit

Anyone interested may apply to be an Island Transit driver – no experience or CDL is required to begin and an extensive training program is part of employment.

This Weekend!
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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



Today I was on hold so long, the automated music repeated. Kenny G. meets the organic synthesizer band. *Chariots of Fire* meets airline on-hold music.

I felt so appreciated by the recording

guy who reminded me of his appreciation for holding for the person who would be with me as soon as possible, I decided to stay on the line. Sort of an on-hold support program.

The music, albeit elevator type, was so meditative I was able to get much of my desk work done. After 19 minutes, the airline representative appeared. Her name was Danielle, which came in handy because Danielle is the mother of our granddaughters, two of the six reasons for my airline call.

After trying three old confirmation numbers to see if I had any money left to voucher, Danielle disappeared for her official investigation.

Back came the on-hold music for round three.

I was really pleased since the music, part of March madness, made me want to clean the caboose.

Was this like one of those Anthony Robbins cassettes where the music subliminally motivates the procrastinator?

Well, it worked. After 33 minutes of on-hold and off-hold, I was able to verify I had \$51.96 credit remaining.

The credit may not be enough to get me to the granddaughters in Arizona, but it could be enough to get the Whidbey-SeaTac Shuttle to take me to the train station.

Surprise

Have you ever interrupted what you were doing to watch television? Not just any TV, but a program so important to you, you watched it with your mouth open. Like how some of us watched O.J. in his Bronco.

Open mouth, insert shock.

Such is how I felt just hours ago when I walked by my on-too-much television.

Unless I am in total silence, my background noise is the Major League Baseball great games feed from Pluto TV.

Two days ago, I watched Felix Hernandez pitch his perfect game. This was followed by Vin Scully's call of Hideo Nomo's no-hitter in 2007 against the Cubs.

The program that stopped me on the base paths was the rebroadcast of the 2017 Prime Nine Best Baseball Broadcasters.

Growing up in central Ohio, baseball was a radio sport. Dad was not using his weekend off to drive to Cleveland even if Herb Score was pitching.

As a result, the announcer for any baseball team was often as cherished as the team's best players.

The nine selected by Prime Nine were based on the announcer spending a long time with the same team.

In reverse sequence, #9-Curt Gowdy, Red Sox; #8-Phil Rizzuto, Yankees; #7-Harry Caray, Cubs; #6-Harry Kalas, Phillies; #5-Ernie Harwell, Tigers; #4-Jack Buck, Cardinals; #3-Red Barber, Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees; #2-Mel Allen, Yankees; #1-Vin Scully, Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers.

In an interview, Bob Costas said a great announcer had to have "a distinctive and listenable voice."

All together now, Dave Niehaus!

Growing up with such legendary voices still makes me glad my three-speed Schwinn accepted my transistor radio looped on the left side of my handlebars and my Al Kaline ball glove hanging from the other side.

Cherry Coke, anyone?

Shooting hoops

One reason the NCAA tournament is called *March Madness* (an expression coined by broadcasting icon Brent Musburger) is not just because there are so many teams and so many games played in just a few days.

The madness part for me comes from the enhanced frustration I feel as I try to predict the unpredictable.

If the variable factor surfaces in my pulling for teams from cities of my youthful geographics, I am doomed.

Nonetheless, it is still fun to speculate when no money is involved. It is also easier to enjoy the games when you have no dog in the hunt.

Local lore

After Seattle civic leader Eddie Carlson visited Stuttgart, Germany in April 1959, he got an idea. Mr. Carlson, a hotel and restaurant executive, drew the idea on a place mat or a napkin. History has different memories. Eddie's idea was the design for the Space Needle, patterned after the 712 foot tall Stuttgart TV Tower which also has a restaurant on top.

The story is forever fascinating. For more, we recommend *Space Needle: The Spirit of Seattle* by Knute Berger.

You'll love this

Have you ever been guilty of looking at someone your own age and thinking, "Surely I can't look that old?"

My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma, which showed his full name.

Suddenly I remembered a tall, handsome, dark haired boy with the same name who had been in my high school class some 40 odd years ago. Could this be the same guy I had a secret crush on, way back when?

Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate.

After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park High School.

"Yes, Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang," he beamed with pride.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1959. Why do you ask?"

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. Then, that ugly, old, bald, wrinkled, fat, gray, decrepit son-of-a-gun asked, "What did you teach?"

BYOB

Thanks to you readers who keep us laughing with your comedic gifts from unknown sources.

"A 105 year old man is being interviewed for an article on Centenarians, and the reporter asks, 'To what do you attribute your long life?'"

"Well," he says, 'For better digestion, I drink beer. In case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. In case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. When I get a cold, I drink Schnapps.'

"When do you drink water?' asked the reporter.

"The old guy thinks for a moment and then says, 'Gee, I don't think I've ever been that sick.'"

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

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Bits & Pieces

1974 in the case *Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo*, 418 U.S. 241.

Whidbey Weekly welcomes differing religious and political viewpoints, but it reserves the right to, and always will, refuse to publish letters or accept advertising that attacks individuals or groups based on race or sexual orientation, as was the case with Mr. Coomer's aforementioned advertisement.]

Editor, Busting the Filibuster

We need government to work and express the will of the majority and do the people's work. The filibuster originated to prevent progress on the abolishing of slavery. It was used heavily in the Civil Rights era to prevent progress by non-white Americans. At least in those days one had to hold the floor of the Senate in front of 40 percent of your peers "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" style. Now a Senator just calls in, says "I object" and the bill never gets a hearing! If he were alive Mr. Smith's head would explode! Democracy was designed to prevent tyranny of the majority by the minority. However, in its current form, this is just what the filibuster does and why so many liberals and conservatives alike are calling for reform. The filibuster (derived from the Dutch word for piracy) has for too long broken Washington. Let Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell know we want government to work. It is time to abolish or at least reform this anti-democratic, democracy buster.

Gary Piazzon
Coupeville, Wash.

Editor,

After a three-year hiatus, the Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant returned, re-imagined as a virtual event for 2021. Coronation took place in person with the contestants' immediate families present and live-streamed for supporters to watch and share in the excitement.

March 13, at the 5th annual Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant, we crowned our 2021 Miss and Teen Miss Oak Harbor royalty. In our fifth and biggest year yet, we supported nine contestants through our six-week program and ended the evening by awarding over \$21,000 in scholarships and awards! We continue to prove this is not a beauty pageant but rather a program designed to encourage, inspire, and recognize the many achievements of the young women in our community.

The success of this program is not possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We humbly thank the following businesses and individuals for their continued support and contributions:

3 Sisters & Me, Alexa Masters, Allure Salon and Spa, Anita Johnston-Windermere, Annie Cash-Windermere, Best Friends Veterinary Center, Blue Fox Prints, Brianna Thompson, China City, Chris' Bakery, Cravings, Danny Salinger-Real Estate Built on Sound Advice, Deception Pass Tours, Dominos, Edward Jones-Gene Kelly Barner, Edward Jones-River Powers, Forget Me Knot Cake Co., Frasers Gourmet Hideaway, Jes Walker-Wyse, JJ and Kathy Jones, Jordan B Studio, Judy Nave, Kate Hauter-Windermere, Larry and Cynthia Mason, Laura Houck Photography, Lotus Tea Bar and Studio, Mara Powers, Mari Wuellner-Living on Purpose, Mary Kay-Lynnie Brown, Melissa Fritch-Color Street, Melissa York Studio, Mollie Brodt, My Way Home Improvement, Origami Owl-Island Owlets, Priscilla Babinski Beauty, Realty One-Group Orca Real Estate, Riverside Café, SaviBank, Susan Grayce, Sylvan Learning Center of Oak Harbor, The Ballet Slipper, The Greenhouse Florist and Nursery, The Hanson Home Team, The Loft, The Perfect Fit, Thrive Community Fitness and Zanini's Delicatessen.

We would also like to thank our emcees, Danielle Lonborg and Mara Powers, and our judges, Cheryl Jandzinski, Coreen Lerch, Cynthia Mason, Eric Marshall, Erica Wasinger, Jack Ng, and Ronnie Wright.

We acknowledge special appreciation for Ryan and Amy at Living Word Church for flawlessly producing the live-stream event.

We are so fortunate to live in such a caring and generous community that has a deep understanding of the value of our youth. We thank our supporters for their continued investment in our program, our contestants for their steadfast commitment to the program and its process, and the families who shared their daughters with us and cheered them on each week.

Sincerely,

River Powers and the entire
Miss Oak Harbor Board of Directors

A New View When confidence seems lost

Things can seem bleak when we see all the kinds of suffering going on in humanity, perhaps even among our own family members or neighbors. But sometimes these very circumstances spur individuals to find new ways to help and heal.

One such example is Phillip Hockley, practitioner of Christian Science healing and international speaker. After sustaining a debilitating injury which was diagnosed as rendering him permanently disabled, Hockley began investigating ways to improve his situation. Along the course of his search, he attended a lecture about Christian Science.

"During that lecture," he says, "I found something that was indeed life-transforming. Christian Science gave me a new view of God that I'd not had before: a view of God as Love itself, divine Love that loved me fully. I also discovered that this loving God was not the source of my troubles (which were many) but the solution to them. My life began to improve quickly and I became a healthy man."

Now Hockley speaks about Christian Science, introducing the core principles to audiences all over the world. Hockley will present his talk, 'A new view of God and its effect on well-being,' Saturday, April 3 at 10:30AM [webinar link: cstalks.org/oak-harbor-hockley]. He will draw on concepts from the Bible, especially Christ Jesus' life and teachings, as well as explanations from Science and Health with *Key to the Scriptures*, the textbook of Christian Science, written by Mary Baker Eddy.

After the difference Christian Science made in his own life, Phillip Hockley knew he needed to share it with others dealing with similar mindsets of discouragement. "From that moment on I knew I had found something very special and could hardly wait to explain this experience to others—this ability to love and be loved by God," he says. Now, he maintains a healing ministry and is a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

[Submitted by Liz Bryan]

Needs and Deeds ISR in search of volunteer medical transportation drivers

What if you are 60 and older, or an adult with a disability, with no way to get to your doctor? Each day, more and more Island County residents call Island Senior Resources' Medical Transportation and Volunteer Services Program for a ride. However, as our island population ages, there are more people in need of this essential service and fewer people available to drive.

In the last few months, there has been a rapid rise in medical transportation requests as more people feel confident venturing out for medical appointments. To give you an idea of the need, Island Senior Resources' volunteer medical transportation drivers drove 117,424 miles last year.

What does this mean to our community? No one wants to see the day when people are turned away for rides to critical appointments such as dialysis, chemo, or diagnostic appointments with specialists. Island

Senior Resources is committed to meeting the demand, but more volunteer drivers are needed urgently. Most requests come from clients in Oak Harbor, but ISR does not have enough volunteer drivers from the northern part of the island. The volunteer pool must increase if ISR is to meet the growing need for rides. All ISR volunteer drivers follow strict COVID-19 safety protocols to ensure both drivers' and passengers' health and safety.

The depth of the gift volunteer drivers provide goes far beyond just being a driver. One of the greatest risks to seniors in our community is isolation. The time while being driven to and from an appointment is an opportunity for friendly conversation with their driver that is often the only connection that a senior might have with someone else in days. Some trips are short local ones, others more distant – as far as Bellingham or into the greater Seattle area, so there can be time to share and foster friendships that benefit both driver and passenger.

If you are 25 or older with a Washington state driver's license and current vehicle registration, have had no moving violations in the past year, your car is in good working order, and you can pass a background check, you can make a big difference for someone when you volunteer to drive. Volunteers can select which trips they wish to drive that fit their schedule. Mileage is reimbursed, you are given priority boarding on the Clinton and Mukilteo ferries for each trip, and when off-island, you receive a small stipend for a meal.

For more information about becoming a volunteer driver, contact Pat Weekly or Carol Colar, Island Senior Resources Medical Transportation & Volunteer Services Co-Directors, at 360-914-3212.

[Submitted by Robin Bush, Island Senior Resources]

Seeking Applicants for Conservation Futures CAB

The Island County Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants to fill two positions on the Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Board (CAB).

The Board of County Commissioners appoints CAB members for three year terms with no member serving more than three consecutive full terms unless deemed advantageous to do so by majority of CAB members and the Board of County Commissioners. Members must be county residents for at least one year prior to appointment and shall include one member from each incorporated area of Island County; one member from each of the unincorporated areas of Whidbey Island coincident with the school districts, i.e., South Whidbey, Coupeville and Oak Harbor; and two members from Camano Island.

Two positions are being sought for representatives living within the City of Oak Harbor boundaries. Applicants must reside within the area they are representing.

The CAB reviews and evaluates applications for funding from the Conservation Futures Fund. For more information regarding the Conservation Futures Program, please visit <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/GSA/Pages/cff.aspx>.

Interested individuals should provide a letter of interest and statement of qualifications by mail or email to:

Island County Board of Commissioners
Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Board Vacancy
PO Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239

Email applications should be sent to j.roll@islandcountywa.gov.

Application materials should be received no later than 4:30PM April 8. For additional information please phone 360-679-7353 or e-mail Jennifer Roll at the above e-mail address.

[Submitted by Jennifer Roll, Deputy Clerk of the Board]



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



What's Going On

Register for In-Person Kindergarten

Wednesdays, 11:00AM-3:00PM

South Whidbey Elementary welcomes families to enroll in the 2021-2022 In-Person Kindergarten Program. Call 360-221-4600 (press 5 for office) to schedule a time for a meet and greet. Children who will be five years old on or before Aug. 31, 2021 are welcome to enroll. For online enrollment, visit sw.wednet.edu, choose "Families" and "Enrollment."

COVID-19 Vaccine 'Mass Clinic'

Saturday, March 27, 9:00AM-3:00PM

Oak Harbor High School

Must be in phase/eligible per Wash. guidelines. This is the second cooperative Mass Clinic with Island County DEM and local first responders. Appointments required (email confirmations will say Island Drug, but location is Oak Harbor High School). <https://islanddrug.com/mass327/>

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Saturday, March 27, 7:30PM

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley
All Seats: \$35

The Whidbey Island Orchestra performs Mozart's joyful *Milanes Quartets* (K.155, 156, and 157) and *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. For tickets or more information, visit www.wicaonline.org or call 360-221-8262.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below

Cost: Free

Oak Harbor Library Online Book Group - "Eruption" by Steve Olson

Friday, March 26, 11:00AM-12:00PM

Online event

Read and discuss *Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens*. Discover the history and science behind the 1980 eruption with page-turning accounts of what happened to those who lived and those who died. To register, visit <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Who's Going to Clean up This Mess?

Wednesday, March 31, 6:30-7:30PM

Online event

Join Mount St. Helens Institute volunteer lecturer David Newcomb to discover how rangers and foresters worked to clear the debris from the the May 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens and its immediate aftermath. To register, visit <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Discuss the Classics with Rita Bartell Drum

Thursdays, 12:30 or 7:00PM

Enjoy a pleasant hour of shared wisdom and fellowship as we consider the words and hope of times past and weave a fabric of renewed hope by leaning on the "Classics." Contact ritadrum777@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Classes, Seminars and Workshops

A New View of God and its Effect on Well-Being

Saturday, April 3, 10:30AM

Free webinar

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Oak Harbor and the Christian Science Society of South Whidbey are sponsoring this free webinar about Christian Science healing by Phillip Hockley, CS. Attend online or by phone, go to cstalks.org/oak-harbor-hockley.

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WICA welcomes Whidbey Island Orchestra to the stage

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

After a long year of pandemic-prompted performance prohibitions, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley is once again opening its doors to live music and more. Taking the stage Saturday at 7:30 p.m. is Whidbey Island Orchestra's string section, presenting Mozart's Milanese Quartets (K. 155, 156 and 157) and "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik." All seats are \$35 and tickets are available at wicaonline.org.

Conductor Cynthia Morrow said it is good to be able to bring music back to the community, just over a year after the group decided to cancel what Morrow said would have been the orchestra's strongest program to date.

"We were supposed to perform our 'Fiesta Latina!' concert last year at this time," she said. "The board and I made the decision to shut the orchestra down in an effort to stop community spread of the COVID-19 virus. We have some players in their 70s and 80s, so we felt strongly this was important.

"We have always felt grateful we made the decision we did," Morrow continued, "despite our great sadness at not presenting what we all believed was our best program ever."

As some restrictions eased over the summer and as more was learned about how to gather safely in small groups, Morrow said members of the orchestra began to gather outside to practice. When the rains came again, Whidbey Island Orchestra was invited to practice – and eventually perform – at WICA.

"WICA was very strict about the number of string players permitted onstage and the need to be distanced and masked," Morrow



Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Morrow, Whidbey Island Orchestra
Members from the string sections of Whidbey Island Orchestra rehearse at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley, preparing for the group's concert Saturday evening.

explained, adding WICA's strict safety protocols and new air purification system made it all possible, at least for the string sections.

"Why just strings? Because string players can play while masked and within six feet of each other, whereas brass and woodwinds spread saliva up to nine feet, and that takes a huge amount of space for safety," Morrow said.

So, while just a portion of the orchestra is playing, members say they are grateful for the opportunity to perform once again.

"To me, giving up playing music together has been harder than going without restaurants or browsing shops," said Clyde Wilson, who is also the WIO board vice president, treasurer and librarian. "There is an intimate connection between musicians who are really listening to each other. In chamber music especially, the whole is much, much more than the sum of the parts. It wasn't until we got back together that I realized that what I missed was that transcendence."

"I found preparing for this concert, first rehearsing in Cynthia's garden last summer

right up to today in the theater, it was the activity most beneficial of my pandemic survival strategies," said Jane Hayes. "It's been a very long time since I practiced so much or learned so much."

"We are so grateful to WICA for offering us this opportunity to finally, several performance cancellations later, present an evening of Mozart," Morrow said.

The opportunity to once again open the doors to entertain the community has been a gratifying experience, said WICA leaders.

"It's amazingly emotional to welcome our community back to WICA," said Artistic Director Deana Duncan. "Last Saturday, we produced our online program 98260: Live! for an in-person audience. Many audience members, guests, and staff had tears in our eyes as we realized how long it's been since we could come together like this.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the global theater industry to a standstill, yet the challenges experienced over this past year and the pivots and adjustments they've

caused allow us to dream in new ways," she continued. "Our Executive Director, Verna Everitt, says, 'We're ready when you're ready,' and we mean it."

Duncan said WICA already has several performances scheduled.

"We're looking forward to seeing more patrons return and to share exciting and diverse programming such as National Theatre Live's stage-to-screen production of "War Horse;" Robert Merry's interview with leading shaper of national trends and political messages, Peter Hart; and home-grown musicians Eric Vanderbilt-Mathews, Keegan Harshman, Sidney Hauser, and Katyrose Jordan reuniting for an evening of jazz standards, new works, and a tribute to Chick Corea," she said.

As far as the musical selection for Whidbey Island Orchestra's performance Saturday, Morrow describes the quartets as some of Mozart's most-performed pieces, because they are accessible, not technically difficult and familiar to most professional string players. They are often performed as background music at weddings, parties, funerals and other indoor and outdoor functions.

"Despite that, the average person never gets to truly hear them in a concert situation, or without champagne glasses and plenty of loud conversation in the foreground, so the beauty and elegance of them is lost to the listener and even the player," Morrow said. "And yet, they deserve our full attention and deliver beautiful melodies and clever twists throughout."

Tickets for Saturday's performance at WICA are now available by visiting wicaonline.org. To find out more about Whidbey Island Orchestra, visit whidbeyorchestras.org.

Island Angels open resource center in Freeland

By Alec Brown Whidbey Weekly

Island Angels, a grassroots charity organization created by Cindy Buchanan and local Whidbey Islanders, has opened a physical resource center on 1689 Main Street in Freeland. It shares the resource center with Oasis for Animals and WI Drive. Anyone can come into the resource center and request household items, toiletries, or anything else they might need.

Island Angels began after Buchanan started coordinating donations on Facebook, and it grew far faster than she anticipated.

"It's really become an overwhelming thing," Buchanan said. "I started it March 15 of last year when COVID broke out. A lady posted on Facebook that she had some free food. An elderly lady answered it and said that she would take it—but it was already taken, so then she posted 'Well if anyone has anything extra they could spare, think of me.' So I said right before her post, 'What do you need?' Then people started jumping in.

"I personally messaged her, and it ended up being that she had COPD, which was a high risk, and her husband was in third stage of cancer," she continued. "So they couldn't go to the grocery store, they were elderly, low income. So I put back on the post that this is what they needed and a bunch of people just jumped on."

"She was so overwhelmed," said Buchanan. "We filled her freezer, her refrigerator, and all her cupboards. She was



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Buchanan
A volunteer restocks Island Angel's new resource center's food pantry.

overwhelmed. She was crying...and after that happened, she posted a thank you to all of us. So then I got another message from somebody else, 'you helped this lady can you help me?' I put out a post and we did it again."

Soon enough, the community mobilized around this single act and offered resources to anyone who requested something.

"Pretty soon it became five people asking me a week," Buchanan stated. "I'd say by July I was doing 20 people a week. And then it just kept growing. Now we're up to 175 people per week that we deliver to."

Island Angels is a grassroots community organization. As such, they get no financing from outside sources. Their money is received from donations, auctions and fundraising.

In addition to giving food and items to those in need, they also offer a variety of other services. They have helped seniors pay their phone bills and helped people afford car repairs such as batteries, oil changes and general maintenance.

"Last night I had a woman reach out," Buchanan said. "She's extremely depressed—just lost her dog—and having a hard time. But she felt like if she had a car, then she could socialize and help and even deliver for me. So one of the other angels happened to put this post up. His mother had recently passed away and he was trying to sell the mother's car before his father decided to drive it. So he was looking to sell the car. I asked how much for the car...they gave me the car today to give to this woman. And it is not a cheap car. It's a Lincoln town car. Probably a 2015. It's totally maxed out...And they have a date tomorrow to go dog walking."

The organization has rapidly expanded, and Buchanan is now coordinating with a number of other charities to provide to the community. Its physical resource center is now the nexus of its operation, where anyone can come in to request the things they need.

"We have little TV's, VCR, DVD players, household items, just about anything they need," Buchanan stated. "We have a food pantry. We have meat, dairy, diapers, things for seniors—you know, we keep everything on hand for people. And if we don't have it, we have our resource page and will ask for it and get it for people."

The process for requesting help is so easy that many people who come to the resource center are caught off guard.

"There's no paperwork," said Buchanan. "It's funny when people come in. They ask how much it is, I say 'there's no price, if you want to make a donation, you're welcome to, but if you want it, take it.' People look at me like 'that sounds like



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Buchanan
Shoppers peruse clothing items at the new Island Angel resource center in Freeland. All items were donated to Island Angels and are free to take

a prank...'

But we get this stuff for free! There's no reason to make money off of it if people need it."

The resource center, as well as a new van that Island Angels recently acquired, both come from a generous donation by Clayton Granby.

"This is how I got the resource center started," Buchanan explained. "A nice man, Clayton Granby, decided he wanted to do a money match. Every dollar I raised, he would pay me \$4, up to \$5,000. Within 24 hours, with his money, I raised \$8,000. With that \$8,000 I bought our van from Life Church up in Oak Harbor; they gave me an awesome deal, and I paid for two months' rent at our place, and we continue to fundraise and auction things off that we get donated which are super nice."

While the van wasn't useful to the church due to the pandemic, it now finds new purpose with Island Angels.

"They used it for their youth group," Buchanan mentioned, "but since COVID, they aren't allowed to put a bunch of kids [together] — you have to be a family group, so it makes no sense for them to sit on this van. We needed one because we go up and pick up food boxes for families, and we were renting a van every weekend. We pick up 100-150 boxes every Saturday."

Anyone interested in contacting Island Angels to lend or receive assistance can go to its resource center or post to its Facebook community at [facebook.com/groups/415194956273893/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/415194956273893/).



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





Family Guide

By Amy Hannold

Let the Good Times Roll: Open Skate is Back at the Roller Barn! The Oak Harbor Roller Barn is now open for public skating events and private parties. A "Save the Roller Barn" campaign, begun by James Croft and his family, has acquired the building to resume the entertainment center Whidbey Island residents have enjoyed for decades. Reservations are suggested for open skate sessions as the number of participants is limited. There are open skate sessions during the following times: Friday: 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday: 2 to 4 p.m., 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 2 to 4 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 per person, whether you are skating or not. Skate rental is included in the admission price, or you are welcome to bring your own. Masks are required by all who attend. Monday through Thursday, the Roller Barn is available for private parties. To reserve your tickets for public skating or for a private party booking, go to Therollerbarn.com.

Little Free Libraries: Take a Free Book, Leave a Book: Free book exchange libraries have been popping up all over Whidbey Island. The idea for these miniature libraries, placed to offer free books to anyone, is said to have begun in 1996 in Wisconsin, by the late Todd Bol. He created one in honor of his mother to spread the love of reading. His nonprofit organization, Little Free Library, offers a world map of chartered libraries for readers to find. Libraries officially registered with the nonprofit organization total more than 75,000 in 88 countries around the world. For just \$40, a "Little Free Library" host receives an engraved charter sign for their library and is posted on the world map for others to find. littlefreelibrary.org

Whidbey Island's Free Book Exchange Sites: On the map at littlefreelibrary.org, there is an approximate total of about 20 chartered libraries on Whidbey Island. However, residents have created a far greater number of their own book exchange sites throughout the island. These sites are located outside homes, schools, businesses and other places. To assist you in finding them, Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid has created a "Little Free Libraries" guide on our website. Should you be the host of one of these free book exchange sites, you're welcome to add your location to our guide: WhidbeyIsland.MacaroniKid.com.

Youth, Teens and Parents: Link Positively for Support: You have the opportunity to connect with others, virtually, for support and encouragement, beginning in April. Positively Linked, a local organization, invites you to its upcoming support groups: *Youth and Teens:* By sharing your experiences in a safe setting, you can gain hope and develop supportive relationships. This group allows your voice to be heard and provides an opportunity for your personal needs to be met. It encourages empathy, productive discussion and a sense of community. Through fun interactive activities, you will meet others who feel the same way you do. Master fun and healthy coping skills you can use for the rest of your life and participate in community projects that promote connection.

Parent Support: We all need a little extra support when life seems out of our control and those we love are suffering. As a parent, we need a safe place to connect and get help from others who are feeling the same way so we can find a way to move

forward. During this seven-week series, you will learn meaningful ways to promote your wellbeing and resilience, how to connect on a deeper level with your children and find a community of caring parents who can support you through these turbulent times.

2021 Congressional Art Competition: Each spring, the U.S. House of Representatives holds a nationwide high school arts competition. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district. The Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students in the Second District. The winner of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol with other winning pieces from around the country. A variety of art work is welcome including paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer-generated art, and photography. All artwork must be submitted no later than Friday, April 30 at 4 p.m. For a full list of guidelines, submission instructions, and more information, visit Larsen.house.gov/helping-you/art-competition-zip.htm.

Junior Ranger Day "All About Sheep" at Ebey's Reserve: Ewe are invited to the Reserve's Junior Ranger Day Saturday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the historic Pratt Sheep Barn. Local 4-H members, their sheep, and local sheep farmers will be there, presenting their knowledge and handling of sheep as local resources, from the sheep's introduction to Whidbey Island, to present. This educational event is bound to be woolly fun for the whole family! Reserve your preferred tour time slot at Ebeyreserve.com/learn-about-the-reserve.

Kid Gear and Children's Items, For Less: "Just Between Friends" is a children's consignment marketplace where you can buy and sell everything needed for your children, for less. April 24-28, at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, find clothes, furniture, strollers, playsets, nursery items, toys, and books. Teachers, expectant parents, military families, and first-time parents qualify for pre-sale FREE admission Wednesday, when you register to attend at MarysvilleMountVernon.jobfsale.com. Free admission for everyone Thursday with pre-registration, Friday is free admission (no pre-registration required), Saturday is "Half Price Day" and Sunday, remaining items are up to 75-percent off.

Spring and Fall Learning in the 100-Acre Woods: Whidbey Island Waldorf School is now enrolling for Spring Early Childhood programming in nature for ages 15-months to 7 years. Nursery, Pre-School and Kindergarten, and Grades 1-8 registration for the 2021-2022 school year is also open. For more information and a virtual tour, visit wiws.org.

Look Forward to Spring, and All Sorts of Fun: Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid has guides to upcoming events and activities at WhidbeyIsland.MacaroniKid.com.

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Mei-Ling's smile is contagious. She not only brightens the room; she lifts the hearts of everyone around her. She has this attitude of "how can I help" and a passion to make our lives better. I always look forward to visiting with her when I make my rounds to our Hospice and Palliative Care Departments.

Thank you, Mei-Ling, for being part of our WhidbeyHealth family and supporting our patients and their loved ones!

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Insurance and You

By Mary Elizabeth Himes

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

To begin, we will review personal auto insurance and what coverage is required by the state of Washington and what those coverages mean.

Personal Auto Insurance is coverage provided for motorized vehicles with two axles. The vehicles must be street legal and made for standard highway use. The grouping of covered vehicles does not include buses, box trucks, flatbed trucks, semi-trucks, tow trucks or modified cargo vans used in business. Some companies will allow coverage on this policy type for scooters and motorcycles. Many vehicles used in commercial businesses are also excluded from personal insurance.

Personal Auto Insurance coverage consists of the following:

Liability- This coverage provides protection to the policyholder if they are found to be at fault in an accident. There are two parts to this coverage.

- Bodily Injury -25/50
- Property Damage - 10

A. Bodily Injury - Will provide payment up to policy limits of medical and hospital costs, loss of wages and funeral/death expenses to a party that is injured by the insured in an at fault accident.

B. Property Damage - Will provide monetary benefit up to the policy limits to a party that has property damaged by you in an at fault accident.

In the state of Washington, the minimum amount of required insurance coverage is \$25,000 maximum pay out to one person, \$50,000 maximum to multiple persons and \$10,000 maximum pay out for property damage. Higher coverages are available and recommended.

The following coverages are optional, however, they are recommended to provide the most protection in the event of an accident:

Personal Injury Protection (PIP) - This coverage provides protection directly to you, the insured, in the event of an accident no matter who is at fault. It provides coverage for the insured and family members who

may be injured in a vehicle accident or as a pedestrian. The coverage provides for medical and hospital expenses up to the policy limits. It also provides for funeral expenses, lost wages and loss of services. The full scope of coverage should be discussed with your agent or carrier. You are required to sign off if you decline this coverage.

Medical Coverage - This coverage is available when you are at fault in an accident and you, and any passengers, are injured. It provides coverage for medical and hospital expenses, funeral costs and if you are injured as a pedestrian or bicyclist. There are varying levels of coverage available, and you should discuss the options with your agent or carrier. You are required to sign off if you decline this coverage.

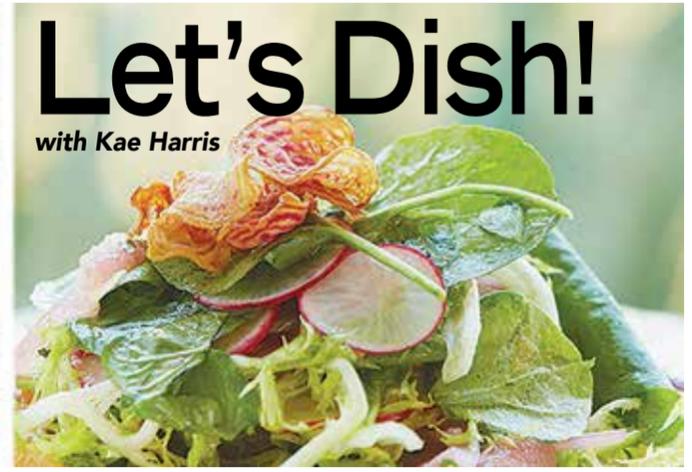
Comprehensive - This is coverage for your vehicle if damage is caused by acts of nature or theft. A deductible amount will be paid by you before insurance kicks in. The types of incidents that fall under this coverage are: cracked or broken windshield, stolen vehicles, vandalism, damage by rodents, damage cause by hitting a wild animal, a tree falling on the vehicle. If you think you may have this type of damage, call your agent before filing a claim to get the proper guidance. If you finance or lease a vehicle your financial institution will require this coverage.

Collision - This is coverage for your vehicle if you are involved in an accident with another vehicle or property. Coverage is available if the other party is at fault but does not have insurance, or if you are at fault in an accident. A deductible amount will be paid before insurance kicks in. It is always best to contact your agent prior to filing any claim so you can receive the proper guidance on how to proceed. If you finance or lease a vehicle, your financial institution will require this coverage.

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

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

We hope this helps as a quick reference to what your personal auto insurance covers.



Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris

GOING NUTTY FOR A CHILDHOOD FAVORITE!

There it came and went; another year just went by and we're in spring again. Just like that, everything is growing and blooming. Just like that, spring brings with it the usual flavors and flares of tried and tested fare. But did you know this month is National Peanut Month? When was the last time you had some peanuts? I don't just mean spreading a handsome helping of peanut butter across your bread. I mean, when was the last time you ate plain 'ole peanuts? What form did they take? Were they by themselves or part of another dish?

The peanut is one of the most water-friendly nuts to grow and produce. It takes just 4.8 gallons of water to produce an ounce of peanuts, whereas an ounce of almonds requires almost 8 gallons. Crazy, right? The peanut plant is actually one of the more eco-friendly foods we consume. It's tight root structure not only makes it water efficient, due to the legume growing underground and being more compact, but in fact, it puts more nitrogen back into the soil for the next season's crops; other crops tend to strip the nitrogen from the soil. Additionally, its vines are used to make "hay" for cattle and the hull makes pellets. Versatility, thy name is peanut!

I have fond memories of peanuts from the time I was a child, and as I have matured, the way I incorporate and use peanuts in my cooking has evolved as well. Join me as we explore how to best use this incredible legume in our day-to-day lives!

Now, when I was a kid, one of my favorite snacks (on the rare occasion we snacked - it just wasn't a thing), was peanuts and raisins. I now know this to be a rudimentary form of trail mix, but back then, we didn't know what trail mix was, other than a hiking route that was varied in its terrain and topographical nature, I guess. Anyway, we had what I like to think of as peanut finger foods: PB and J mini sandwiches, peanut butter fudge and salted, roasted peanuts are the ones that most readily spring to mind for me. I mean, I've always marveled at the countless ways peanuts are used in cooking; soups, stews, stir fries, desserts. You name it, it lends itself perfectly to whatever dish it's becoming part of. I was thinking about all these dishes, when peanut brittle popped into my mind. Who doesn't love this sweet, crunchy mess of peanuts and caramelized sugar? I didn't know it was credited to Paul Bunyan's cousin, Tony Beaver. Legend has it he saved a town from a deluge by pouring peanuts and molasses into the river. Great, right? I'm not quite sure how that makes brittle but the story has become a pretty integral part of American southern folklore. More believably however, is that peanut brittle was accidentally created in about 1890 by a southern lady who, instead of putting cream of tartar into her caramelized sugar to make taffy, added baking soda by mistake. She cooked and cooked it and ended up with a brittle, which became peanut brittle's foundation we all know and love today.

The foods I touched upon from my youth were quick and easy to prepare and were always a welcome treat. I have now come to appreciate the complexity peanuts can give to dishes such as stews and soups. One of my favorite recipes is a peanut butter stew that hails from West Africa and is rich in protein and flavor! The peanuts are used to create a base for the stew, thickening the stew while also being used as a vehicle to carry the flavors of the ingredients in the dish, notably, the protein (usually chicken), tomatoes,

onions and other aromatics and a plethora of spices. Groundnut stew is quick to prepare and can be served by itself or over a bed of rice. Introduce this hearty dish to your family members and I guarantee you will have a winner on your hands to stave off any further cold fronts!

The humble peanut can also be used as a marinade and dipping sauce. Yes, dear readers, I am referring to satay sauce, the wildly popular Indonesian condiment used to add a savory, creamy finish to meat skewers and veggies alike. Easy to prepare and comprising of ground, roasted peanuts, coconut milk, soy sauce, tamarind, galanga (a member of the ginger family), chili peppers, lemongrass and cumin, satay sauce can be used to marinate the meat prior to cooking on skewers or it can be used as a condiment to add the right amount of sweet and savory to any meal. Many a meal has been saved with a well-prepared satay sauce and it is easily one of my "go-to" sauces as it is appreciated by vegetarians and meat-lovers alike.

Although we have explored the use of peanuts in a number of savory dishes, I always come back to the desperate need to enjoy a peanut butter-based dessert! The classic combination of peanut butter and chocolate are tried and tested and are very economically successful through a number of candy bars produced using this combination. This week, I'm leaving you with a real crowd pleaser in my home: Peanut Butter Banana Pudding! This dish is so quick and easy to assemble, you will be left with copious amounts of time to enjoy this sweet, creamy treat with your family. I hope you try it out and incorporate this recipe into your log of delicious goodies! As always, write to me at letsdish.whidbey-weekly@gmail.com with your comments and questions along with any Dish! worthy stories!

Peanut Butter Banana Pudding

In a large bowl, combine milk, vanilla pudding mix and sweetened condensed milk. Whisk thoroughly, breaking up any lumps, and refrigerate for at least 5 minutes, or until set.

In another large bowl, combine heavy cream, powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until stiff peaks form, 2 to 3 minutes. Set aside 1/3 of the mixture for topping the dish. Fold remaining whipped cream into the pudding mixture.

Build the trifle: Spread one-third of the pudding mixture onto the bottom of the trifle dish. Cover with a layer of nutter butter cookies—you may want to also stand some cookies up vertically, so you see the full circle along the edge of the trifle dish. Top with an even layer of banana slices then drizzle melted peanut butter on top. Continue layering the pudding, nutter butters, banana slices, and peanut butter until you reach the top, ending with a final layer of pudding.

Refrigerate for at least 3 hours, or up to overnight.

Just before serving, dollop whipped cream on top of the pudding layer, then sprinkle crumbled Nutter Butters on top and drizzle with melted peanut butter.

www.nationalpeanutboard.org/news/peanuts-are-food-future-heres-why.htm

www.nationalpeanutboard.org:443/news/peanuts-are-food-future-heres-why.htm

www.candyfavorites.com/peanut-brittle-candy-history

www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a58604/peanut-butter-banana-pudding-recipe/



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Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

MONDAY, FEB. 15

10:26 am, Moran Beach Ln.

Requesting call regarding security cameras set up in area; believes are privately owned; has questions regarding them being directed at residence and not at entrance to location. Reporting party is caregiver at location.

5:42 pm, Briarwood Dr.

Reporting party advising recently purchased location, is finding things concerning: shop with bars on windows; in attic, there is a secret door, heavy, locks from inside and is sound proof; hose with drag marks; ax marks; slices in ground.

10:15 pm, Oak Harbor Rd.

Patient went home with IV in place, hung up on hospital staff two times. Female does not understand she needs to come back, requesting check of female.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16

1:16 pm, Fircrest Ave.

Reporting party advising subject is harassing reporting party. States does landscaping and subject has been harassing reporting party about being licensed.

4:11 pm, Silver Lake Rd.

Requesting call. Advising last week heard a thump and found an arrow yesterday in her house.

9:43 pm, N Main St.

Reporting party advising female subject sleeping on sidewalk in front of building. Was asked to move along and refused.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

6:39 am, N Main St.

Reporting party advising female subject is still hanging out at location. Has been yelling and then singing. Reporting party recalling, advising female subject just left, was heading towards the bus stop.

10:38 am, Gravel Way

Requesting call; lent vehicle to friend, was supposed to be for one day; friend has not returned vehicle and is ignoring reporting party's calls.

11:04 am, Midvale Rd.

Reporting party advising she is in Mexico and caretakers who were watching the home were harassed by neighbors.

Reporting party advising caretakers left the house due to the harassment.

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

1:42 pm, E Crescent Harbor Rd.

Caller states received email from male subject that was threatening. States they are both on HOA together; reporting party said something in a meeting the subject didn't like and now subject is threatening to beat reporting party up.

9:10 pm, SR 525

Caller advising red truck is swerving; states tried to hit reporting party twice. Unable to see license.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

9:56 am, SR 20

Customer outside, white male in Mini Cooper, red bottom, white top, drinking in car and stabbing knife into dashboard. Only occupant, big straight knife.

1:49 pm, Walden Lp.

Reporting party advising loose pit bull is "scaring the grandmas and their 'lil dogs." States it does have a collar, there's a pet link, but dog won't slow down enough for someone to see it.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

12:26 pm, Neely Rd.

Reporting party advising ongoing issue with loose pit bull in area; states purposely trying to go after reporting party's chihuahua. Occurred last night.

1:03 pm, Windmill Dr.

Neighbor stole rocks, sometime over last couple of weeks. States has been an ongoing issue. Requesting call.

MONDAY, FEB. 22

3:56 pm, Cultus Bay Rd.

Immediate hang up. On recall, neighbor is riding dirt bike on his property, and threatened his son with brass knuckles.

5:50 pm, Cultus Bay Rd.

Reporting party advising back at location; spraying rocks on vehicles with dirt bike. Reporting party did not make contact.

8:11 pm, Holst Rd.

Reporting three horses running in roadway. Reporting party states almost ran into them; cannot see them running in road until you are right up on them.

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

For Vets Only

Submitted by WVRC and Local Veterans
Charlotte Chase and Henry Tunes



In my senior year in high school, a representative from the 50th Reconnaissance Battalion of the National Guard came to our high school, and he convinced me to enlist. This meant attending meetings every Thursday evening, and two weeks of active duty every summer. The unit was originally a cavalry one, but after World War II it became armored.

At the weekly meetings, we learned Army procedures, short order drill and the use and care of small weapons. In addition to the regular meetings, several times a year it was required to spend a three-day weekend at Sea Girt, New Jersey for target practice. The flag is up, the flag is waving, ready, aim fire!

The two weeks of active duty took place at Camp Drum (now Fort Drum) in upper New York State. The first year we went there, travel was by Pullman cars, and it was a novel and luxurious journey. In subsequent years, we went by military convoy, consisting primarily of jeeps and six-by trucks, and I rode in the back of a six-by on the first trip. The seats were hard wooden benches, and as a relief, we would take turns sleeping on the pile of duffel bags.

As we had started out pretty early, we had no problem falling asleep. The roads were two-lane in those days, but now there is the Thruway, and the distance can be covered in only a few hours. Every hour or two, the convoy would pull off to the side of the road so we could relieve ourselves.

In subsequent years, I drove a jeep on the two-day journey. We wore Army uniforms with helmet liners, and the days were long and hot. I always had a non-com, or officer, as a passenger and occasionally I would get drowsy due to fatigue, the hot sun, and the drone of the vehicles. My passenger would nudge me, and fortunately there was never an incident.

In early evening, the convoy stopped at a farmer's field where we set up pup tents in which we slept at night. A hot meal was served, and although there was always much complaining about it, I was really happy to have it. In my mind I can still smell the smoke that came from the heaters set in trash cans of water for cooking. When I say hot meal, it was hot, but it was C-Rations that consisted of a can of frankfurters, beans and I cannot remember what else. There was also a dessert and a package of four cigarettes. So, after a long day of travel, having eaten, and well into the evening, we crawled into our sleeping bags and told off-color stories before falling quickly asleep.

These scenes are relatable: Veterans often gloss over the mundane and frustrating aspects of service in favor of humor, drama and shared experiences of field conditions. These reminiscents are the stories service members most often retell with other Veterans and recount with old friends years later, long after they have left military service.

Military camaraderie is strong among Veterans who served together. However, it also exists universally between all Veterans. Despite generational differences, when Veterans meet there is an instant kinship and common ground. Welcome the connection. Don't doubt that these moments can go a long way both for you and the fellow Veterans. It can be good for the soul.

This might be a moment of camaraderie, talking over a coffee or while waiting at the VA.

Whidbey Veterans Resource Center, with COVID-19 social distancing precautions, helps Veterans connect, give assistance applying for benefits and have camaraderie groups with Veterans of all ages.

WEEKLY VETERAN GROUPS ONLINE:

Women Veterans and spouses, Mondays, 5 – 6 p.m.

Mixed group, Veterans, Tuesdays 5 – 6 p.m.

Join anytime. 360-331-8081 or email at whidbeyVRC@gmail.com. Weekly benefits information sessions are on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86153261493?pwd=R0RIUTdJZZZVbkx-sU3lpQW8vTVpSdz09>

Weekly van rides to the Seattle VA from Langley may resume soon. Call for more information.

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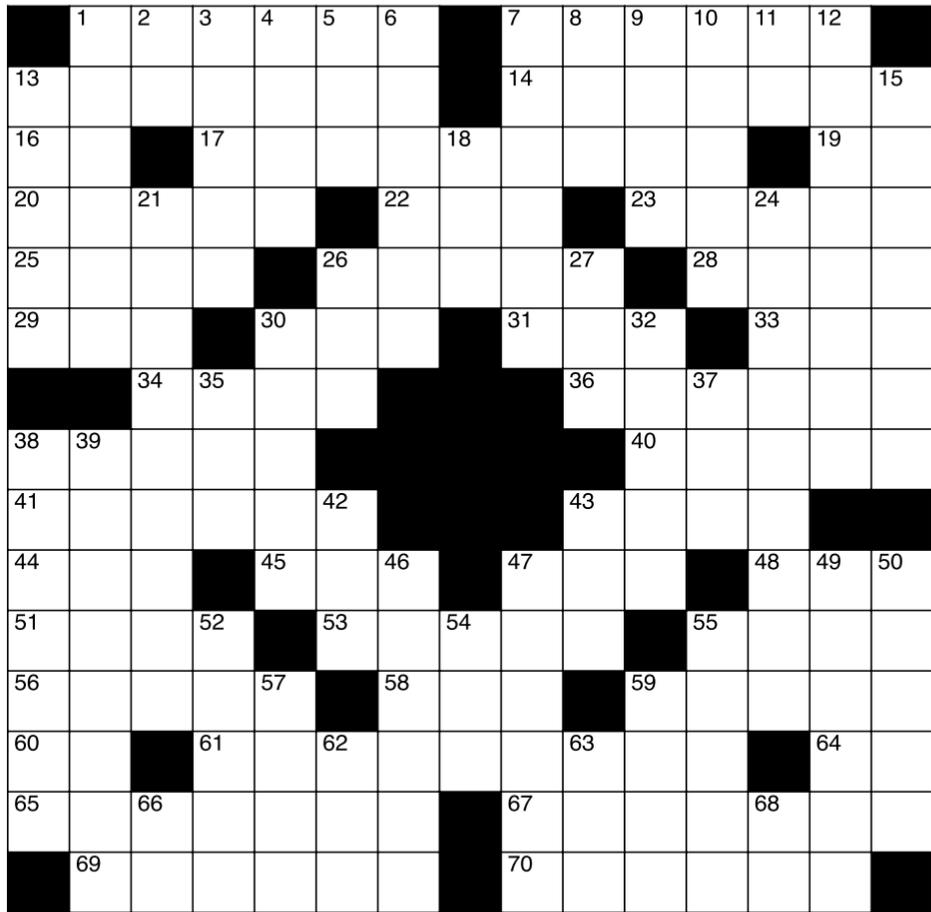
www.whidbeyvrc.org



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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Large dung beetle
7. Representation of a plan
13. In a fervid way
14. The Book of Psalms
16. Morning
17. Exactly the same
19. About
20. Brown and basmati are two
22. Swiss river
23. Philippine island
25. Expressions of surprise
26. An ant
28. Common Japanese surname
29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
30. Car mechanics group
31. A person's brother or sister
33. Ancient pharaoh
34. Quantitative fact
36. Vividly colored bird
38. Your home has one
40. Organic compound
41. Section at the end of a book
43. Flat tableland with steep edges
44. Criticize
45. Split pulses
47. Brief trend

48. Cool!

51. Purposes
53. Brews
55. Skin condition
56. Pops
58. American air travel company
59. Minute bug
60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. One who rides in your car
64. One of the Gospels
65. City in southern Spain
67. Inquisitive
69. Jean Paul __, author
70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

1. An ape or monkey
2. Chemical element
3. Zodiac sign
4. Removes
5. Brew
6. Nickname
7. Architectural structures
8. Trigonometric function
9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
11. Mountain (abbr.)
12. Landscaping practice

13. Capacitance unit

15. Redirect
18. Hat for women
21. In a way, dressed down
24. Granny
26. Feed
27. Endpoint
30. Indian instrument
32. Bleated
35. Cablegram (abbr.)
37. Root mean square (abbr.)
38. Jellyfishes
39. Individual TV installations
42. Talk
43. More (Spanish)
46. Leaseholder
47. Monetary units
49. Hostility
50. Work stations
52. Linguistics giant
54. Female sheep
55. Calendar month
57. Seasoning
59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
62. Single Lens Reflex
63. A way to remove
66. Virginia
68. Old English

Answers on page 11



OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What inspired you to volunteer for the organization you are now working with?



Mary Stewart, Oak Harbor

Years ago, I was recently retired. I was looking for a way to donate my time and a close friend mentioned that she sewed with the local chapter of Days for Girls. I tried it out and was hooked. Nice people, a great cause, and no special skills required. A win win.

Deborah Jones, Bayview

I volunteer for two very important organizations now that I'm retired. WAIF (Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation) and Island Senior Resources.

I started volunteering for WAIF in the early 90's over 28 years ago helping out at the animal shelter. What inspired me was seeing the deplorable conditions they were in back then. Everyone, staff as well as fellow volunteers, inspired me with their dedication. I've done whatever is needed most of the time, along with my good friend, Carol Gannaway, whom I met on my third volunteer day. From cleaning the dog "kennels" to helping with the cats, doing laundry, walking and training the dogs, fundraising, passing out information, transporting dogs or cats to KIRO news station in Seattle for their Pet of the Week, gathering used blankets from several local thrift stores, speaking at local organizations, helping set up WAIF's first cat adoption center, to helping start up our very first thrift store in Freeland. I have served two six-year stints on the WAIF Board and ALL of those "jobs" have been incredibly fulfilling and each adoption inspires me to continue in any way I can.

In January I added volunteering for Island Senior Resources. What inspired me to volunteer for them was seeing (often) the need for volunteers in their newsletters and talks at Chamber meetings. I've always been partial to seniors, whether it's dogs, cats, or people. When I asked where they needed help the most, the answer was medical transport. So that's what I do a few times per month. All you need is a car. Very rewarding! And I meet so many wonderful people that just need a little help getting to and from appointments.



Kate Mistler, Oak Harbor

I was watching a show on Facebook called "Returning the Favor" with Mike Rowe (Dirty Jobs). It was Jan. 21, 2019. He was featuring this woman in Wheaton, Md., who was dubbed "The Bra Fairy." Something in that featured show about I Support Girls and the founder and Executive Director, Dana Marlowe, really tugged at me. The more I watched, the more it tugged. Suddenly it was as if Ms. Marlowe and Mr. Rowe jumped out of my computer, kicked me in the butt and said: "Get up! You have to do this." I watched it a second time and it tugged even more. Hence, the affiliate "I support the Girls-Whidbey Island" began. This organization does something not many others

do. We educate about "period poverty." We do this by giving a small measure of dignity to women who are experiencing distress and hardship for whatever reason. And we firmly believe local donations stay local. We also do not feel any woman should have to choose between a meal or a maxi-pad. Or between taking care of her family and a tampon or good fitting bra. Every woman deserves to have dignity.

Diane Trepanier

I am so happy I can be a part of getting "jabs" in the arms of people in the community and making sure they are counted. I do this by volunteering to administer vaccines and by doing data entry with the Department of Emergency Management. I also love seeing so many volunteers stepping up in this nationwide effort!



YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, March 25	Fri, March 26	Sat, March 27	Sun, March 28	Mon, March 29	Tues, March 30	Wed, March 31
North Isle H-51°/L-39° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-53°/L-39° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-55°/L-41° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-54°/L-39° Windy with PM Rain	North Isle H-52°/L-38° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-53°/L-41° Showers Possible	North Isle H-54°/L-40° Showers Possible
South Isle H-50°/L-37° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-53°/L-37° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-54°/L-40° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-55°/L-38° Windy with PM Rain	South Isle H-51°/L-37° Showers Possible	South Isle H-54°/L-38° Showers Possible	South Isle H-56°/L-39° Showers Possible



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Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Surplus instructional materials from the Oak Harbor School District will be available for review and purchase through March 31. Contact Brian Hunt at 360-279-5960 (0)

REAL ESTATE WANTED

All cash. Looking for a perkable lot in Oak Harbor. Call 360-668-9300 (0)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat

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

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

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

JOB MARKET

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Whidbey Island Conservation District is accepting applications for a .08 FTE, non-exempt, salaried, benefited position of Office Administrator. This position is responsible

for District fiscal operations activities, including BARS accounting, payables and receivables, monthly payroll, preparation of monthly/quarterly/annual financial reporting to Federal and State agencies, and maintenance of all financial records. Job description, including qualifications, duties, and benefits, plus application materials and submission instructions available at www.whidbeycd.org. Application deadline April 15, 2021 (2)

Hiring IMMEDIATELY for part-time night janitor in Freeland/Langley: \$15 per hour. Monday to Friday, 2 hours per shift, 10 hours per week – flexible hours, clean any time after 6 p.m. Candidate must possess valid state-issued DL or ID, working cell phone (at all times), pass background/drug screening and USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services). E-Verify check to confirm eligibility to work in the U.S. Please reply with your FULL NAME and include your contact phone number and we will phone you to schedule an interview. Resumes welcome. Email susan.valenzuela@ybswa.net or call 425-583-3015 (3)

HOA Property Manager: Sierra Country Club HOA in Coupeville is seeking a part-time property manager to provide facilities and grounds maintenance, repair, and oversight. Applicant should have: knowledge of swimming pool operations, general construction principles, facility repair and maintenance, and groundskeeping; experience supervising part-time and seasonal staff. Varied

schedule, average 15-20 hours weekly, \$25/hour. Application available at: http://sier-racountryclub.net/index.php/Jobs_&_Volunteering (1)

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Two crab pots still in packaging. Comes with line, harnesses and four new bait boxes, \$100. Call 360-941-2823 and leave message (1)

Bayside TV wood stand with hangars 53 wide by 47 high, \$75; Honda full-size rototiller, \$300; Four blue-glazed planting pots, two 16", 15" and 20", \$100 for all. 360-682-2633 (0)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

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

WANTED

Holly Hobby sewing patterns from 1970s. Little girl dresses. Call 360-672-7813 (1)

WANTED - We recycle cars, trucks, motorhomes, travel trailers, motorcycles, boats, tractors, dump trucks and much more. Free estimates on junk removal and junk vehicle removal. TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363

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CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...2.9

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

Answers below

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

No Cheating!

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

Pam's Prayer Corner

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

Heavenly Father

Yet we walk each day and we see your wonderful creation, we need to remember this is your earth and we are your people. Forgive us, oh Lord, that we do not praise you for all you have provided for us. Let us not focus on that which we do not have but, focus on what we do have, and our joy will be complete because of you. Thank you, God, for earthly provision and heavenly goodness.

Roosevelt Rumble
Mins. USN, Ret.



"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Psalms 24

How'd you do?

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



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CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail Whidbey Weekly Classified Department
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Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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

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

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