

April 1 through April 7, 2021

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Exploring workforce housing p. 6



Lots of egg-citing fun in store for Whidbey

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Peter Cottontail will almost certainly be hopping down a bunny trail nearby this weekend!

Egg hunts of all kinds have been planned all over Whidbey Island, most of them set for Saturday. Highlights of each of these Easter eggstravaganzas are listed below:

BUNNY TRAIL EGG SCRAMBLE:
Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon
Downtown Coupeville
Preregistration required

Soroptimists International of Coupeville is pleased to continue its longtime Coupeville tradition after the pandemic sidelined it last year.

"The Soroptimists have done the Egg Scramble in the park every year for the last 25 years [prior to the pandemic]," said Janice Vaughan, board member. "I just couldn't see another year going by without it. This has been a signature project for the Coupeville Soroptimists forever."

There will be a few changes to the scramble this year due to the pandemic. Participants

ages 12 and under will complete a drive-through check-in at Town Park, where participants will pick up their Bunny Pass and then proceed to park in the field adjacent to the library.

"At the first scramble site, they will pick up a clue and then they will go to wherever the clue directs them," Vaughan explained. "There are 10 different spots and when they pick up their egg, it will give them a clue to the next stop. The Bunny Pass is initialed at each stop and when they have completed all the stops, they bring their pass back to the park. Everyone will at least get a bag full of candy, but there are multiple prizes in all the eggs."

All stops will be located outside. Masks are required and participants must practice social distancing guidelines.

Participation is limited this year, and children and families must pre-register to take part in the Egg Scramble. The deadline has been extended to noon Thursday (April 1) for *Whidbey Weekly* readers. To register, please call the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce at 360-678-5434, which is co-sponsoring

the event. Donations for Gifts from the Heart Food Bank will also be collected at Town Park. Children may bring their own baskets for collecting eggs, but there are baskets available upon check in.

Vaughan said she has always helped with the Egg Scramble and enjoys the happiness it brings to kids and families.

"I love to see all the kids, their smiling faces," she said. "I love being a part of making everybody's day."

CLINTON DRIVE-THRU EGGSTRAVAGANZA:
Saturday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
6411 S Central Ave.
Clinton Community Hall Parking Lot

Hop down to Clinton Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for some drive through Easter fun.

"While not our traditional Easter egg hunt, there will be eggs, candy, and lots of goodies for the kids," said Sheri Gerhard, volunteer chair of marketing and publicity for the Clinton Community Hall. "The Easter bunny will be joining us along with costumed characters manning the tables of the drive

thru. Join us for a family activity that works within the COVID guidelines."

There is no preregistration required for this event, and all participants must remain in their vehicles. Public health safety measures will be followed. When arriving at the Clinton Community Hall, drivers will be directed to the event in the parking lot.

This free event is being organized by the Clinton Community Council, Clinton Community Hall, Clinton Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the Clinton Library.

"During these challenging times to hold events, we want a family event that is fun and SAFE for everyone to enjoy," Gerhard said.

EASTER EGG HUNT:
Saturday, 11 a.m.
Downtown Oak Harbor

Follow the bunny trail north and discover an Easter Egg Hunt in historic downtown Oak Harbor, presented by the Oak Harbor Main Street Association.

See **EASTER** continued on page 9

This Weekend!
Wednesday, March 31 Thru Sunday, April 4

GODZILLA VS KONG (PG-13)
WONDER WOMAN
1984 (PG-13)

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



With the plethora of pundits predicting winners and losers of the NCAA basketball tourney, I often take notes.

Last weekend I wrote down two things said by CBS sportscaster Clark Kellogg, not because he played ball for Ohio State,

but because I have often wondered what kind of cereal he eats.

Clark quote #1: "We're all more than what we do."

Clark quote #2: When asked by a younger colleague about what it was like being a grandparent of three, Kellogg's answer was swift and succinct – "Indescribable joy."

Pan list

One of the benefits of this pandemic is the amount of time we have to think of things we might have forgotten if we had spent less time thinking.

The other day I found my pan list. It is like a bucket list only not as long.

My pan list only had one entry – *BWED* or *B Western Every Day*.

Some people take vitamins. I take old westerns from the 30s and 40s.

Occasionally, I will break down to watch a 50s Technicolor western, like the 1955 Lesley Selander directed *Shotgun*, with Sterling Hayden and Zachary Scott. Rory Calhoun and Clarke Reynolds co-wrote the screenplay.

This western is also a great reminder that, at all times, Yvonne DeCarlo has plenty of red lipstick in her saddlebags.

For me, there is something comforting watching the galloping horses with their clippity clop chase music. Saddle sores are not part of my pan list, but fantasy hightailing is. Better than two scoops of chocolate ice cream and the latest issue of *Photoplay*.

What is number one on your pan list?

Let me know if you want to share your real name.

Free email in both directions at ontrack@whidbey.com.

Definition

Found a piece of paper with an unknown sourced definition of procrastination. Did not want to spend another moment keeping this to myself.

Procrastination – To begin to start to prepare to get ready to think about considering the possibility.

Four Way

Thankfully, as of now, we have no roundabouts in Freeland. I have enough trouble with four way stops. Growing up in a two stop town with the occasional traffic signal blinking, I had never seen a four-way stop until moving to Freeland.

Actually, there was no stop sign in Freeland back in the early 80s. We had stop flaps, the letters S-T-O-P embedded in the concrete, displayed on pieces of thick rubber that flopped upon impact. Kinda like a bad wrestling match.

While trying to grow up, we were taught the first car arriving at the stop sign intersection had the first exit. Even if one was turning left, the right of way prevailed.

Today in Freeland, the four way stop capital of South Whidbey, our car and truck duo arrived at the intersection at the same time. My truck was on the right of the stopped car. As I started to proceed, after my counting to three, the car on my left took off.

Was this a violation?

Next time I see a county commissioner, I will ask if we could initiate a new four-way stop protocol.

Seniors go first. Like the vaccine protocol only without the masks and the 15 minute waiting period.

However, what if we all showed at the same time? Sort of a simultaneous senior situation.

We'd have to roll down our windows to get birth dates.

Airplay

A gentleman just knocked on my door to tell me the British were not coming.

He added that I would never guess which single record had the greatest airplay in Brit radio history.

He was correct.

I guessed The Searchers' classic *Needles and Pins*, only because there were too many possibilities by the Beatles.

The answer—*A Whiter Shade of Pale* by Procol Harum.

Are you humming yet?

Chow down

The other day, the news reported the pandemic has helped create weight gain in most Americans.

Given my inability to add caloric poundage, I wondered how this could be. So, last Saturday morning, I went to PayLess to visit with Autumn at customer service while observing what people put in their carts. Just call me a cart stalker talker.

No need for me to walk around looking at carts being filled in the aisles. The line for Payless donuts on a Saturday morning affirmed the news reports.

At least those folks were not buying bags of Peeps.

Joke

Reader Kenneth, having returned from his winter hacienda in Mazatlan, just called to tell me he and his bride were back home. Not short on sarcasm, Kenneth added that he had read the column published St. Paddy's Week, wherein another reader had shared a joke about an Irishman at a bar who always orders three beers.

"Freeman, that joke is almost as old as I am."

With my memory, how would I know? They all sound new to me.

If some of our reader-provided jokes sound familiar, please do not tell me. My memory has left the building.

Fantasy supper

When she was not painting for Hallmark Cards and raising our Missouri cousins, our Aunt Rosie might ask a visitor who he or she would invite over for dinner. The only conditions were no family members were allowed, just those folks, living or dead, who came to mind.

I always enjoyed hearing people's answers. Having daydreamed this fantasy for decades, I notice my dinner dozen often change.

Who might you invite over for fantasy chow? If you picked the Lennon sisters and the Marx brothers, you only have three more to go.

My solid attendees always include Jackie Robinson, Jerry Lewis, and Jesus. Other dinner lists have included Abe Lincoln, Thomas Edison, Gandhi, Shakespeare, Roy Rogers, Natalie Wood, Frank Lloyd Wright, President Eisenhower, Mel Blanc, Marvin Gaye, Benny Goodman, Perry Como, and Burt Lancaster.

Were I to have a dinner party tonight, would we all have to mask up? What a bummer to socially distance at a dinner party. Maybe six feet from Natalie Wood would be safer anyway, for her.

Wait a minute. This is a fantasy. Sit where you want.

It might be fun to invite all 14 movie and TV Tarzans over with their literary creator, Edgar Rice Burroughs.

What a great picture it would be. My first question to Gordon Scott, one of my favorite Tarzans, might be, "What was it like being married to Vera Miles?"

Okay, none of my business. Better stick with questions about Cheetah.

Yes, it would be fun to have all these famous people over, but what a disappointment if any of the guests might be allergic to gluten, soy, or corn starch.

There goes the Stouffer's frozen lasagna theme.

Hold the garlic bread.

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

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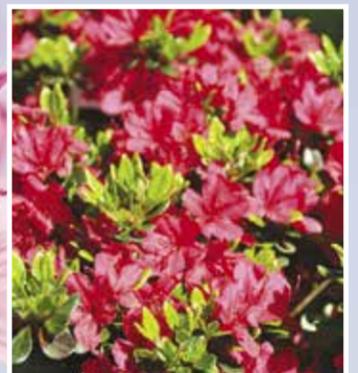
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Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

I want to thank you for your Publisher's Note regarding a letter recently sent to you about an advertisement you did not publish. Thank you for your factual reference to the U.S. Supreme Court case. I have no idea what wording was used in that advertisement. But from what your Publisher's Note mentions, I can guess that I would have been outraged reading that advertisement as well as many other readers here on the island.

When I hear, see, or read derogatory words that are aimed at peoples of color and LGBTQ people, I will say something. For me it is a personal attack. I am a white American having three grandchildren with African-American blood, two more grandchildren with Native American blood, and a great-grandchild who is half Mexican-American. And I have friends who are LGBTQ. More than the expression of my outrage, I am very hurt by insensitive and possibly cruel words that are uncalled for, written only to promote someone's personal political agenda. I'm tired of all the political back-and-forth, so let's call "a spade, a spade." When platitudes like "Of course, Black Lives Matter" or "I'm a Christian so I'm not racist" or "We should not be unequally yoked (both color and gender)" or "We have our communities and they have theirs," it reeks of "white privilege, Christian Nationalism, white government, white tradition, white supremacy," and that is pure, unequivocal racism.

We need to educate ourselves about the history of other races, the struggles of other races in this whitewashed country of Christian traditions, or talk with empathy to our LGBTQ neighbors to gain a greater perspective of what "E pluribus Unum" really means. Unfortunately our white culture and tradition is pre-eminent as we wrap ourselves in "patriotism, In God We Trust, and the American flag." How much richer we would all be if we could embrace diversity.

Solution? I take a 30-45 minute walk every day. I look up at the sky, the clouds, the beautiful soaring hawks or eagles wafting on the wind thrust, the swaying of the cedar and evergreen trees as they perform their dance of celebration, the shimmer of the lake or sound listening to the Canada geese as they look for a resting place, the scampering of the squirrel across the trail path or road to run up a tree, the acute alertness of the deer browsing for the fresh piece of grass. And then I thank the Creator for giving me the privilege of living on this beautiful island of Mother Earth. It is my daily walk of gratitude and I view it as my daily miracle. So I encourage the writer of the advertisement and others to take a daily walk of gratitude. It works.

Charlene Davenport
Clinton, Wash.

Scholarship Donations Surpass Coupeville Lions Club Expectations During Pandemic

The Annual Coupeville Lions Club Scholarship Auction began in 2006 and has been growing ever since. Past years have included a fun live auction, a silent auction, a dessert dash and a "raise-the-paddle" event for additional donations. Recent years have seen this auction outgrow past venues and evolve into a larger one where over 170 participants enjoyed a good drink, entertainment and a great dinner.

All of the net proceeds have gone for scholarships to Coupeville High School Seniors.

The COVID-19 Pandemic caused cancellation of the 2021 event that typically happens in February. Last year, fortunately, the event was held just weeks prior to the COVID shutdown and raised \$38,000 for scholarships after expenses. This year, Coupeville High School seniors will still be graduating and need the support even with the event cancellation.

With that in mind, the club set off to accomplish a Scholarship Fundraiser. An online auction was suggested but it was recognized that the local businesses that typically donate items were distressed as well due to the pandemic. So, the focus was on fundraising only. An amount of \$20,000 was raised in online and direct community donations. The club matched the first \$10,000; so happily a total of \$30,000 is available for 2021 Coupeville High School Seniors this year. Per Chair Brian Pulk, "This exceeded all expectations due to strong community and Lion's support."

[Submitted by Deanna Rogers, Coupeville Lions Club]

Announcing Miss Oak Harbor 2021 Royalty



After a 3-year hiatus, the 5th Annual Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant returned, re-imagined in 2021 as a virtual event to keep contestants, staff, and coaches safe, while still providing the benefits of the competition as it was originally designed. Coronation took place in person with only the contestants' immediate families, five judges, and the Miss Oak Harbor Board of Directors present. The event, which was live-streamed for supporters to share in the excitement, was emceed by Mara Powers, Miss Oak Harbor 2016 and member of the Miss Oak Harbor Board of Directors, and Danielle Lonborg, 1st Princess 2018. The evening culminated with the crowning of Miss Oak Harbor and Teen Miss Oak Harbor 2021 and more than \$21,000 of scholarships and prizes awarded.

For six weeks, the Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant contestants dedicated themselves to the program, receiving coaching and practicing dance rehearsals through Zoom, while completing assignments and fundraising independently. In-person categories were filmed at Thrive Community Fitness, and the judges viewed and scored the videos. Contestants were ranked in the areas of Academics, Attendance, Board of Directors Input, Formal Wear, Health and Wellness, Marketing, Personal Interview, Speech or Talent, Screen Presence, and Style and Self-Expression. The final scoring category was the Impromptu Question each contestant answered on stage.

The Miss Oak Harbor Board of Directors is proud to announce the 2021 Miss Oak Harbor Royalty, who will spend their year of reign serving their community and raising funds and awareness for their service project:

Miss Oak Harbor 2021 – Annie Salinger
1st Princess – EJ Boilek
2nd Princess – Chelsea Lonborg
Teen Miss Oak Harbor – Naomi Crawford
Teen 1st Princess – Thinalyn Ramier
Teen 2nd Princess – Payton Syring

Miss Oak Harbor is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire, challenge, and mentor contestants while providing opportunities for them to develop life skills that will enhance their confidence and self-esteem. In only five years of existence, the Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant has deliv-

ered over \$73,000 in scholarships and awards and has mentored 71 young women in our community.

The following contestants received recognition on pageant night:

Alexandra Powers: Teen 3rd Runner-Up, Teen 1st Place Speech
Angelina Gehard: 4th Runner-Up, 1st Place Speech
Annie Salinger: Miss Oak Harbor 2021, Miss Scholar, Marketing Award, 3rd Place Talent
Chelsea Lonborg: 2nd Princess, People's Choice
EJ Boilek: 1st Princess, Interview Award, Formal Wear Award
Gabby Eaton: 3rd Runner-Up, 2nd Place Talent
Naomi Crawford: Teen Miss Oak Harbor, Teen 1st Place Talent
Payton Syring: Teen 2nd Princess, Teen 3rd Place Talent
Thinalyn Ramier: Teen 1st Princess, Teen Miss Scholar, Miss Congeniality, Teen Interview Award, Teen 2nd Place Talent, Most Photogenic

Additional information and a link to view the replay of the 2021 pageant can be found at MissOakHarbor.com.

[Submitted by River Powers, President I Pageant Director, Miss Oak Harbor]

Join Orca Network for a Share the Water - Whale Safe Vessel Project Webinar

The Share the Water – Whale Safe Vessel Project was launched in July 2020 as a way for Orca Network to increase its education and outreach to help the public adopt safe etiquette when around whales on the water. By educating and engaging vessel operators, Orca Network believes they will be motivated to be more careful boaters and inspired to learn more and take action to help the whales of the Salish Sea. As a part of this project, Orca Network is offering a series of webinars featuring guest speakers from around the region.

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00PM, Orca Network will be hosting its third Share the Water educational webinar, this time in partnership with Seattle Maritime Academy. The focus will be on baleen whales which, although large, can sometimes be difficult to spot. Attendees will learn about the biology of these whales as well as some regulatory information and how to share the water with our whale neighbors. Speakers include Alisa Lemire Brooks of Orca Network, Marine Naturalist Stephanie Raymond, and Robert Reeder of the Seattle Maritime Academy.

Register for the Zoom webinar at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r40hSQpxThaUcd-Natici8g. For more information please contact Alisa Lemire Brooks at alisa@orcaneetwork.org.

The Share the Water project is part of Orca Network's Whale Sighting Network. For over two decades, Orca Network has collected sightings data on the whales of the Salish Sea, including the Sounders gray whales, which is shared with research organizations. You can help in these efforts by reporting any whale sightings to the Whale Sighting Network at 866-ORCANET or info@orcaneetwork.org.

[Submitted by Cindy Hansen, Orca Network]

Island County and Department of Ecology Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review Public comment period and public hearing

Island County and Washington Dept. of Ecology are accepting comments on a periodic review of the County's Shoreline Master Program under RCW 90.58.080(4). The County has prepared draft SMP amendments to keep the SMP current with changes in state law, changes in other county plans and regulations, and other changed local circumstances.

Public comment will be accepted through 5:00pm April 25.

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Will investors change behavior after the pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic may end up changing our lives in some significant ways. To cite one example, it's likely we'll see a lot more people continue to work remotely, now that they've seen the effectiveness of tools such as videoconferencing. Education, too, may be forever changed in some ways. Perhaps just as important, though, is how many people may now think more about the future – including how they invest.

If you work with a financial professional, you may have connected with this individual over the past several months through a videoconferencing platform, rather than in person. Some people like this arrangement because it offers more scheduling flexibility and eliminates the time and effort of traveling to and from an appointment. Others, however, still prefer face-to-face contact and look forward to when such arrangements will again be practical and safe for everyone involved. But if you're in the first group – that is, you prefer videoconferencing – you may now wish to use this communication method in the future, at least some of the time.

But beyond the physical aspects of your investing experience, you may now be looking at some changes in your investment strategy brought on, or at least suggested, by your reactions to the pandemic.

For example, many people – especially, but not exclusively, those whose employment was affected by the pandemic – found that they were coming up short in the area of liquidity. They didn't have enough easily accessible savings to provide them with the cash they needed to meet their expenses until their employment situations stabilized. Consequently, some individuals were forced to dip into their long-term investments, such as their 401(k)s and IRAs. Generally speaking, this type of move is not ideal – these accounts are designed for retirement, so, the more you tap into them early, the less you'll have available when you do retire. Furthermore, your withdrawals will likely be taxable, and, depending on your age, may also be subject to penalties.

If you were affected by this liquidity crunch, you can take steps now to avoid its recurrence. Your best move may be to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the funds held in a separate, highly accessible account of cash or cash equivalents. Of course, given your regular expenses, it may take some time to build such an amount, but if you can commit yourself to putting away a certain amount of money each month, you will make progress. Even having a few hundred dollars in an emergency fund can help create more financial stability.

Apart from this new appreciation for short-term liquidity, though, the foundation for your overall financial future should remain essentially the same. In addition to building your emergency fund, you should still contribute what you can afford to your IRA, 401(k) and other retirement plans. If you have children you want to send to college, you might still explore college-funding vehicles such as a 529 plan. Higher education will still be expensive, even with an expansion in online learning programs.

Post-pandemic life may contain some differences, along with many similarities to life before. But it will always be a smart move to create a long-term financial strategy tailored to your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance.

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



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Ron Telles CEO, WhidbeyHealth

Thank You

The declaration of a global pandemic was made just over a year ago. Since then, WhidbeyHealth providers and staff have found ways to sustain core medical services like primary care and cancer care while fighting for the lives of everyone on the island. In the face of that threat, continuous innovation like telemedicine has enabled us to deliver on our mission with only a few interruptions.

The financial impact on our health system cannot be overstated. As of January, unexpected costs to respond to COVID-19 exceeded \$3 million. At the same time, lockdown measures and temporary service closures reduced revenue by \$12 million.

Our community is not alone. America's hospitals of every size face the same unprecedented, massive cost increases and revenue losses. Tragically, some hospitals have ceased to operate in small communities like Yakima, as well as in many large cities.

We are striving to strengthen WhidbeyHealth's financial position so that we are more resilient in these and future extraordinary times. Unfortunately, we have faced the difficult decision to reduce our workforce in some areas, which I can assure you was not taken lightly.

Cost containment is paramount, but we cannot 'cost-cut' our way to fiscal health. Our finance team is working aggressively to secure every dollar of FEMA benefits available, though that will be a fraction of COVID-related losses.

Negotiations are ongoing with insurance companies to improve reimbursement rates, reduce their denials for patient benefits, and accelerate payment for services. Sadly, insurance for some of our active duty and retired military heroes represents the lowest rates of reimbursement. We are advocating for change through our elected federal officials.

Service innovations like our walk-in clinics improve patient access to care, while reducing insurance denials for Emergency Department visits deemed to be 'unnecessary.' This is a win-win for everyone.

Thanks in part to your support of the Foundation, we are investing in specialty services like joint replacement surgeries which are sorely needed by our patients and are also covered by most insurers.

2020 marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of our hospital. With the support of the community and the incredible effort of our team, our children and grandchildren will celebrate a centennial in 2070. We are here for 'the long run' – focused on our mission of delivering exceptional healthcare by our exceptional providers.

From all of us at WhidbeyHealth: thank you for your continuing support.

LOCAL SPORTS ARE BACK!



Broadcasting Oak Harbor High School Athletic Competitions



Pre-game show 15 minutes prior to all start times.

- THUR 4/1 – OHHS Baseball @ Mount Vernon, 4pm***
- FRI – 4/2 – OHHS Boys Soccer vs Lynden, 7pm
- SAT – 4/3 – SVC Women's Basketball vs Olympic, 5pm
- SAT – 4/3 – SVC Men's Basketball vs Edmonds CC, 7:15pm
- MON – 4/5 – OHHS Baseball @Anacortes, 1pm ***
- TUES 4/6 – OHHS Baseball vs Sedro Woolley, 4pm ***
- WED 4/7 – SVC Women's Basketball @ Bellevue, 5pm
- WED 4/7 – SVC Men's Basketball @ Bellevue, 7pm

***-Audio only on SSN

“DualCast” - OHHS Home events on YouTube –
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Goosefoot explores possibility of workforce housing in Bayview

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Workforce housing has long been a need on Whidbey Island, as indicated by a 2018 Island County housing needs study and a resident and business survey from 2019. Goosefoot Community Fund has expressed an interest in helping address the shortage of workforce housing in the area and created the Bayview Vision Steering Group to explore the feasibility of developing in Bayview.

Sandra Whiting, executive director of Goosefoot Community Fund, said the organization has always worked to support the community, including through its involvement in the Goose Community Grocer, assistance to local nonprofits, and other efforts to encourage a thriving South Whidbey.

"Our mission is about building community and it is about supporting our local economy and trying to preserve the rural character of the place," she said.

Chris Salomone, vice president of Goosefoot's board, said the area under consideration is a possibility due to its current zoning, as it is one of only four Rural Areas of Intense Development (RAID) that would allow multi-family and mixed-use housing to be built in the area.

"The reason it (workforce housing) is scarce on the island is there are few places that it can in fact be built because of the zoning and because of the state of Washington Growth Management Act," he said. "Most of the island is for single-family homes, the majority of it, or in the urban-growth areas like Langley and Oak Harbor and Clinton and Freeland, there is a very limited amount of vacant land that can be developed."

Whiting said the Goosefoot Community Fund, as a major landowner in the Bayview RAID, wanted to explore the possibility of building in Bayview as part of its hope to work with other partners to provide housing for retail, restaurant, and other public service workers who often are unable to live on the island due to rising market costs and low availability.

"Our vision is a thriving South Whidbey," she said. "You cannot have a thriving South Whidbey if you do not have a place for people to live that work here and be part of the community."

Salomone said the Bayview Vision Steering Committee has brought in experts to help conduct a feasibility study to determine whether the area will be able to support the type of housing. Salomone said Schemata Workshop will front the master planning group, and will include consultants from Spectrum Development and civil engineers from MIG. He said the issue had long been discussed, and the group felt it was time to take action to determine if workforce housing would be possible in the designated area.

"We were in a meeting of that steering group and we just said, 'If not now, when?'" he said. "'If not us, who?' It was just that someone has got to step up and pay for some consultants and get answers to these issues. Because the issues are threshold things that we have to get past. We have to learn, is there the ability to provide infrastructure that would support this housing?"

Whiting said the effort has drawn support from landowners in the Bayview area, including collaborators from the Henny Family and Legacy Family Tree, LLC, and Island Senior Resources (ISR). She said Island County government and WhidbeyHealth have also expressed support for efforts to create affordable workforce housing in the Bayview area.

"We called together the owners of the properties and got them together and started talking about the idea of workforce housing being developed there," she said. "We got a really positive response, so that is how it got going."

Salomone said the feasibility will likely not be done until later in the year, but Goosefoot plans to keep the community informed by holding community meetings, one in May and a potential meeting in October, to update the public on findings



Photo Courtesy of Goosefoot

Goosefoot is looking into the possibility of adding workforce housing to the Bayview community and has created a steering group and will commission a feasibility study to see if the idea can move forward.

from the feasibility study. Salomone said community input and addressing questions and concerns will be important to the group moving forward. He said the group is optimistic, but the project is still in its early phases and there is still a lot of work to be done.

"We really want this to be transparent and open and we invite questions and so anyone who has heard rumors or wants to know more, they can contact Goosefoot," he said.

Whiting said one of the key ideas behind this effort is to thoughtfully and responsibly consider further development in South Whidbey.

"We all love where we live and we love what is here and we want to preserve that," she said. "And if it is going to change, we would like to be involved in that change in a positive way."

More information and updates can be found on Goosefoot's Facebook page and website, www.goosefoot.org. Goosefoot representatives can be contacted by emailing info@goosefoot.org or calling 360-321-4145.

"Magic Jar" yields blessings to South Whidbey community

By Melanie Hammons Whidbey Weekly

During the 1930's Great Depression era, people sought out the fantasy and romance offered by the Silver Screen. Going to the movies offered them entertainment and escape.

The Clyde Theatre holds a long legacy of serving up entertainment and escape as well, in spite of a curve ball thrown by the pandemic. But facing a mandated closure of uncertain length, Langley's local cinema decided to go above and beyond. For the past year, the Clyde's "Magic Change Jar" has provided friends and patrons ways to engage with others in combatting food insecurity on South Whidbey.

Since 2009, donations to the Magic Change Jar (a mason jar sitting on the Clyde's snack bar counter), have been designated to various local nonprofits. Last year, acknowledging food provision to be a basic necessity that shouldn't be derailed by a pandemic, Clyde Theatre owners decided to devote these donations exclusively to Good Cheer Food Bank. During the cinema's closure, the Magic Change Jar morphed into a "Virtual" Magic Change Jar. Contributors were asked to make their donations via check.

To date, more than \$10,000 has been given to Good Cheer and the folks who head up the organization could not be more proud and thankful.

"We've all been overwhelmed by the generosity of our community," said Carol Squire, executive director of Good Cheer Food Bank and Thrift Stores. "The Clyde's Magic Change Jar represents the best of South Whidbey. It really is magic and it changes lives. And the Willeford family (Clyde Theatre owners) is extraordinary in their vision and compassion. They always know just how to best mobilize and help the South Whidbey community."

Here's how the magic works. Each dollar put in the jar is matched by five partners in the community who have pledged to match the amounts, up to \$250. Currently, those

partners, in addition to The Clyde, are Island Athletic Club, South Whidbey Assembly of God, Richard and Christine Epstein, and Kevin and Mary Jane Lungren.

The Magic Change Jar storyline bears some resemblance to a movie that may have shown once upon a time at The Clyde, namely, "Aladdin and His Magic Lamp." But instead of a genie granting wishes to one lucky recipient, this is all about donations being multiplied for the benefit of the many.

Keeping the food bank up and operational while following health department guidelines has kept the organization busy. But thanks to its dedicated staff and program donors, Good Cheer succeeded in meeting its mission, said Squire.

"We are committed to helping people eat more whole, healthy foods. We have a grocery-style food bank, meaning, people choose what they need and want, rather than receiving ready-made bags or boxes.

"Our shoppers fill out an extensive shopping

list, and our team members 'shop' for them," Squire continued.

Besides regularly available staples, fresh produce, frozen foods and dairy products, donations of food from the community-at-large ensure there's a rich variety and ever-changing selection of food choices, too. The food bank has even added its own produce fields right on-site, growing some of the very food selections that wind up in market baskets, according to Squire.

The Food Bank staff has noted an unusually large number of new households coming in for the first time. Squire said they are committed to giving these newcomers what they need in order to keep their families well fed. Interestingly, one of the ways they've decided to meet these needs also sees local small businesses reaping benefits, too.

"One small step we've taken is to enter into contracts with local farmers to do two things – support their growth and economic stability while promoting local, healthy eating," Squire said. "Plus, a new partnership we've

formed with Community Loaves provides freshly baked, highly nutritious whole-grain bread made by home bakers here on South Whidbey."

While providing food is its main focus, the Good Cheer organization has plans to enhance the effectiveness of its operation in a couple of ways. The first is joining up with the Whidbey Island Food Resiliency Consortium, which works to improve the larger food system upon which we all depend, said Squire.

"We are also beginning a small addition to the front of the food bank to provide space for our new Community Connection project. This new space will allow us to help address underlying causes of hunger by connecting those in need with services to help them get ahead," she said.

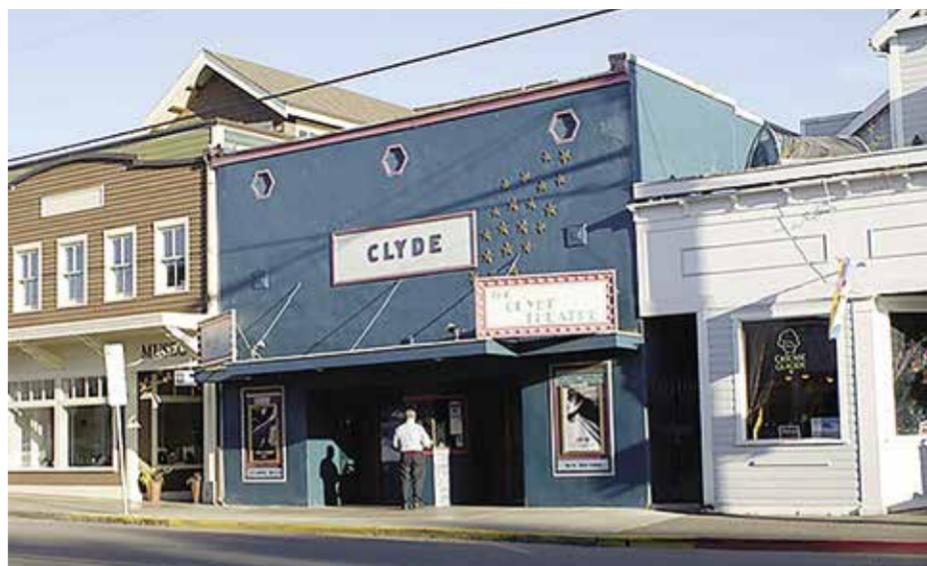
Food, of course, is the major necessity of life. But other things, such as clothing and furniture, are highly important, too. That's where The Good Cheer Thrift Store locations in Langley and Clinton play vital roles.

"We heard the community really felt it when our thrift stores closed in the early months of the pandemic. That's why we always keep a selection of warm clothing and other necessities at our food bank and distribution site for shoppers to take as they need," Squire said.

"Furthermore, we have arrangements with other helping organizations on the Island. When they hear of someone in need of a bed or sofa or kitchen necessities, we arrange for them to receive it free. An example would be a family exiting from temporary shelter trying to set up a home of their own with virtually no savings," she said.

A genie inside a magic lamp who grants three wishes makes for a fine story, not to mention an entertaining movie. But it's just that – a story. The Clyde Theater's Magic Change Jar is for real, yielding real benefits.

Find more information at theclde.net/the-virtual-magic-change-jar-rides.../ or go to goodcheer.org.



File Photo

Although the Clyde Theatre in Langley has suffered through a long pandemic-induced closure, it's "Magic Change Jar" has continued to support the community virtually.



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WHIDBEY IS WHAT IT EATS

If “the big one” hits the Cascadia fault out in the Pacific and knocks out the Deception Pass Bridge and the ferries, how long could we on the island feed ourselves?

The answer lies in our “food system,” something most of us don’t know much about. Most of us go to the grocery store, a farmers market, a farm stand, or a restaurant without giving a lot of thought to where the food comes from or how it gets to our plates.

The food system covers everything from farming to processing and distribution, consumption, and waste disposal and recycling. It’s a complex interweaving of farms, stores, restaurants, and food banks and other charities. A new group called the Whidbey Island Food Resiliency Consortium is now working to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the food system and look at ways it can be improved.

Convened by the Goosefoot Community Fund, the consortium’s more than 30 members include farmers, ranchers, and representatives of such groups as Good Cheer Food Bank, Whidbey Island Nourishes, the Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative, the Organic Farm School, Washington State University Extension, and others. Formed in October, it has been meeting monthly.

The consortium is trying to identify ways to increase the production and consumption of healthy, locally grown food on the island, and to ensure that farmers and ranchers can make a decent living, says Marian Myszkowski, program director at Goosefoot and coordinator of the group.

It’s unlikely we will be able to grow all our food on the island.

“We could grow lemons on Whidbey, but it would cost a lot of money and it would take a lot of energy,” says Judy Feldman, executive director of the Organic Farm School. The question, she says, is “what does the land want to grow?”

That is, what is the most effective use of our farmland?

Another question is, do we have enough farmland?

Although much of Whidbey is rural, Island County is the fifth most densely populated county in the state. Only one percent of our land qualifies as “prime farmland.” An additional 20 percent or so is “farmland of statewide significance,” which is almost as good but needs more careful or intensive management because of soil quality, moisture, and other factors.

The county has 390 farms that occupy 15,850 acres, about 12 percent of the land, according to state data. But only about a third of those are working farms. The rest are farms in name only, for tax purposes.

Most island farms are small. Only three are larger than 500 acres. The great majority are less than 50 acres. Being small is not necessarily a problem. A skillful farmer can make a reasonable living growing vegetables and berries on relatively small acreage. Livestock requires more land, and about two-thirds of Whidbey farmland is devoted to livestock or livestock feed. Some farmers do both vegetables and livestock and say they benefit from synergies between the two.

Farmers say the island could have more farmland if landowners were willing to make it available. Both experienced and new farmers

are looking for land, but it is either too expensive or not available. One group in the new consortium is applying for a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to hire someone to work on getting more land into production.

Some people fear building more housing, even though it’s desperately needed, could take away farmland. That does happen when someone buys five acres and puts a single house on it, but higher-density housing does not threaten farmland. An example of this approach is the recently announced plan to build affordable housing for workers in Bayview. Projects like that will actually help farmers, because farmworkers need housing too.

“Finding good help is easy,” says one farmer. “Finding them some place to live is by far the hardest part.”

Even if they have enough land, farmers face other challenges. Livestock growers have to take their animals off the island to be butchered and a shortage of meat processing is a region-wide problem. “It’s almost impossible to get butcher dates,” says one farmer.

Whidbey also lacks processing for fruits and vegetables. Goosefoot and the Port of South Whidbey have a project to create a commercial kitchen at the fairgrounds, but it is proving more expensive than expected. A mobile meat-processing service is also under investigation.

Another issue is age. Some 38 percent of island farmers are over 65, and 70 per cent are over 55. What will happen to their land when they stop farming?

Even with all these problems, there is good news: The demand for locally grown food is robust. Most farmers say they have no difficulty selling all they produce. Island grocery stores now stock locally grown food. More than 100 island farms sell directly to consumers. Whidbey has five farmers markets and at least 30 farm stands. Some farms now offer CSA’s (community-supported agriculture) in which you pay a subscription and get a regular package of fresh food. Whidbey Island Grown allows people to order from local farms online.

The biggest challenge is the island’s short growing season. Local produce is bountiful in the summer and early fall, but then the farmers markets close and we are back to buying grocery store produce that may have traveled 2,000 miles or more to get here.

The answer may be for consumers to change the way they eat and for more island farmers to diversify into winter crops. Good Cheer, for example, gets so much fresh summer produce through donations and gleaning that its garden has shifted mostly to winter crops.

So with all these food issues, can we feed ourselves if the bridge and ferries go out? Stay tuned.

What you can do:

Eat more local food. Shop at your local farmers market or farm stand. Join a CSA. Goosefoot produces a printed directory and you can find information online at whidbeyfarmstands.com and slowfoodwhidbeyisland.org/csa

Order food from local farms online year round through Whidbey Island Grown. In addition to fresh produce, they have dairy products, meat, seafood, baked goods, herbs and spices and fermented and other prepared foods. You’ll find it at whidbeyislandgrown.com.

Support your local food banks and other food-related charities.

Eat local today **So our farmers can feed us tomorrow**



SUPPORT GOOD CHEER TO BUY FRESH, HEALTHY FOOD FROM WHIDBEY FARMS

Donate by check to:
PO Box 144, Langley, WA 98260
Mention "Eat Local"
via website:
goodcheer.org



Good Cheer
Food Bank & Thrift Stores
 Bayview Food Bank & Distribution Center
 2812 Grimm Rd • Langley
 Langley Thrift Store • 114 Anthes Ave • Langley
 Good Cheer Two (Ken’s Corner) 11042 WA-525 • Clinton

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WITH GRATITUDE



Thank you to the nurses, technicians, doctors, housekeeping, and admin staff and so many more, who continue to provide exceptional care to patients and our community in these unprecedented times.

Your dedication, compassion, and professionalism have continued to carry us through this crisis and we are all indebted to you.

Everyone on Whidbey Island extend our eternal gratitude.

On behalf of the WhidbeyHealth Commissioners, leadership team and the entire community, thank you for all you do!

Grethe Cammermeyer
RN, PhD
Commissioner District 1

Kurt Blankenship
Commissioner District 2

Ron Wallin
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Commissioner District 3

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Brett Mello
Chief Information
Officer

Judye Scheidt, DO
Chief of Staff

Helen Taylor
Executive Director
WhidbeyHealth Foundation

BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

A joint local/state public hearing is set for April 12 at 2:00PM virtually via Starleaf at <https://meet.starleaf.com/4284870043/app>. Meeting ID: 428 487 0043

Send comments to Island County planning staff at CompPlan@islandcountywa.gov. Comments sent to the County will be forwarded to the Dept. of Ecology.

Proposed amendments to the Island County Shoreline Master Program are available for review at www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Pages/2020SMP.aspx and the Island County Planning Department at Annex Bldg., 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA 98239.

In accordance with Governor's Proclamation 20-28 issued March 24, 2020, in-person participation at this meeting is prohibited. The Island County Planning Commission, however, will hear testimony from interested persons via telephone or computer audio. For information on how to participate in the hearing remotely, please contact Jana Raasch at j.raasch@islandcountywa.gov, or 360-678-7802. Persons who would like to participate in the hearing remotely that require auxiliary aids/services should call Island County Human Resources at 679-7919, 629-4522, Ext. 7919, or 321-5111, ext. 7919 (use whichever number is applicable for the area) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting for additional information. In addition, the Planning Commission gives equal weight to submitted written comments and spoken testimony. Written comments may be submitted to Island County Planning and Community Development at P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA, or via email CompPlan@islandcountywa.gov in advance of the hearing.

[Submitted by Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner, Dist. 3]

In-Building Services Are Back at 18 Community Libraries

Sno-Isle Libraries has introduced limited in-building services in 18 of its 23 community libraries while all 23 libraries continue to offer contact-free services, including loans of laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots, and online services.

Using social distancing guidelines and coronavirus safety protocols, Sno-Isle Libraries studied which of its community libraries could safely offer "grab-n-go" in-building services while still providing contact-free delivery services.

"Our goal is to serve our customers under the evolving state health guidelines," Sno-Isle Libraries Director of Public Services Rebecca Loney said. "We remain committed to the safety of our customers and employees."

Customers will see changes when they walk into their community library. Most sitting areas have been removed to encourage customers to move through the library so that other customers can browse, too.

In response to the reintroduction of in-building services, customers have expressed excitement, joy and happiness when they discover their community library is back after a year.

"I cried when I came in," Sultan Library customer Donna Tarver said as she browsed. "I didn't realize how much I missed it. I missed it terribly."

Amelia Kahler of Arlington was overjoyed to return to the Granite Falls Library.

"I am so excited!" she said. "This is one of my favorite places to come."

She started looking through videos for something her husband might like before she browsed for a mystery novel.

"I don't know what to look at!" she said.

In-building services vary by location.

Most libraries offering in-building services currently have browsing access to the collection. At some locations that is available in the library and in others the meeting rooms are set up for browsing a curated selection of items.

The number of customers allowed inside each library at a time is currently limited to not exceed current state guidelines. Customers are also asked to limit their in-building visits to 30 minutes or less. Customers can check out items using a self-serve kiosk or with staff, depending on each library's layout.

Checkouts of laptop computers and Wi-Fi hotspots are available at all community libraries. In addition, in-building computers with printing, copying and scanning are available for use in Brier, Coupeville, Darrington, Edmonds, Granite Falls, Langley, Mariner, Monroe and Sultan. The public computers have medical-grade keyboards that are disinfected between customers.

Library staff and managers are equally glad to see customers returning to the buildings, even with everyone wearing face coverings.

When the Oak Harbor Library began in-building services March 22, Public Services Assistant Heidi Smith greeted a customer who asked to use a public computer.

"The customer said they were really looking to print off an application for Island Transit, which is one of our partners," Children's Librarian Chelsea Cooper said. "Heidi referred the customer to me and I was able to quickly print out the application for them. The customer was so excited and impressed with our fast service!"

Sno-Isle Libraries will continue to adapt to public-health guidelines and adjust services.

The Marysville Library began in-building services with an innovative model of offering public computer access and printing in its meeting room. Staff there are now in the process of planning to offer some in-library collection browsing to customers.

In Mountlake Terrace, construction is nearing completion on the adjacent City Hall project. Until that project is complete, conditions mean that Mountlake Terrace will also focus on contact-free services.

Due to physical space limitations, the Arlington, Clinton, Lake Stevens and Mill Creek libraries will continue to focus on contact-free services while coronavirus safety precautions remain in effect.

Go to sno-isle.org/locations to see operating hours and the specific in-person services each community library offers.

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

Native Plant Habitat is a Wild Bird's Best Friend



An Anna's Hummingbird feeds from a red-flowering currant on Whidbey Island – Photo by Martha Ellis

Steve and Martha Ellis aren't concerned about wild birds going hungry in their yard.

When the Coupeville couple learned about a deadly salmonellosis outbreak among local bird populations this winter, which led to a recommendation by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to take down bird feeders and bird baths, they didn't worry. Steve and Martha are longtime birders who care deeply about birds and other wild creatures and their habitat.

Their property, just shy of an acre, provides many different native plantings that wild birds use for food and shelter.

"Birds simply do not require supplemental feeding, providing there's an abundance of native trees and shrubs," Steve said.

Due to continued reports of sick and dying birds in several Washington counties, WDFW extended its advisory to keep down backyard feeders and baths through April 1 or take extra steps to maintain them such as daily cleaning (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/leave-bird-feeders-down-until-april-1-protect-wild-birds-deadly-salmonellosis>). Beyond that?

"It's really hard to say," Mansfield said March 11. "Our hope is we see a significant decrease in reports of sick and dead birds, which we do expect to happen as natural food sources become available and birds begin to spread out more."

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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EASTER continued from page 2

To allow for social distancing this year, the event has been moved from Smith Park. Easter eggs will be hidden along Pioneer Way from City Beach Street to Midway and on Fidalgo Avenue, from Dock Street to Hathaway.

The event will begin promptly at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"Volunteers will be stationed at the corners to hold egg hunters at bay until the air horn sounds the beginning of the egg hunt," explained Margaret Livermore, Oak Harbor Main Street Association interim executive director. "Eggs will be stuffed with candy or trinkets. Some eggs will have golden coins that can be turned in at the Main Street office for a prize."

Livermore said some businesses are also hiding eggs which will contain special items. Children who recycle their eggs in the bins at the Harborside Village Mall will receive a plastic water bottle while supplies last. OHMSA extends a special thank you to Haggen for donating the candy for the eggs.

There is no preregistration required for this free event. Parents are asked to wait for the blowhorn signaling the beginning of the event before allowing their children to start the egg hunt.

Livermore said organizers hope this event brings a little normalcy to this Easter weekend.

"Oak Harbor Main Street feels that it is important to offer the community an event that allows kids to do what kids like to do - have fun," she said.

HOPPY HUNTING:
Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
NAS Whidbey Island

For those with access to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, there will be a self-paced family scavenger hunt to win a prize Saturday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

There will also be a free screening of "Peter Rabbit" at 5:30 p.m. at the Skywarrior Theatre.

This event is free for eligible personnel. Navy health precautions and physical distancing are in effect and participants must have face coverings.

One registration per family is required. Go to myffr.navyaims.com/nwhtml#992193. For information, call 360-257-2432 or email NASWIMWRRrecreation.cnrnw@navy.mil.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOP EGG HUNT:
April 1-13
Various locations on Whidbey Island

For something a little different, but equally sweet, check out the Neighborhood Hop Egg Hunt, put on by Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid and ongoing now through April 13.

"The Neighborhood Egg Hunt Hop is unique because it gives families and businesses the opportunity to be creative, demonstrate



Photo Courtesy of Janice Vaughan
Easter activities are happening once again this year, including a pandemic-friendly version of the Bunny Trail Egg Scramble in Coupeville, put on by the Soroptimists International of Coupeville.

spring and egg hunt enthusiasm, and by participating, each person or group is making a cheerful and positive difference for the egg hunters - people they may not ever meet," said Amy Hannold, Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid publisher.

Here's how it works:

Visit WhidbeyIsland.MacaroniKid.com and click on the Neighborhood Egg Hunt Hop article. Choose an egg to print out - there is one blank egg to color your own design or a more intricate egg with adult egg designers in mind.

Put your paper egg in your window, where it is visible to passersby.

Share pictures of the eggs you find or others you like on social media. Tag @whidbey-mackid and use #MKWIHOP on social media.

Hannold said she hopes this fun activity will inspire some great memories for residents of Whidbey Island.

"Even as we have recently moved to Phase 3, there is a lot of cabin fever, virus exhaustion and reduced spring enthusiasm felt by those in our communities because we still have a ways to go before we can enjoy many of the traditionally anticipated events on Whidbey," she said. "So, why not give people a reason to get out of their house, give kids and adults a sort of 'Egg Hunt' experience, and [give us all] a little more beauty to enjoy as we go about our daily lives."

EASTER SERVICES AND EGG HUNT:
Sunday, 7 a.m. - Traditional Service
Sunday, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Family service
(Kids Church - Birth-First grade)
Living Word,
490 NW Crosby Ave, Oak Harbor

Attend Easter services at Living Word in Oak Harbor and enjoy an egg hunt too.

The hunt is expected to begin around 10:15 a.m. All are welcome.

EASTER SERVICE AND EGG HUNT:
Sunday, 10 a.m.- Noon -
First Reformed Church
250 SW 3rd Ave., Oak Harbor

Attend the 10 a.m. Easter service at First Reformed Church in Oak Harbor and stick around for an Easter egg hunt immediately after.

The hunt is expected to begin around 11:15 a.m. and will be done in groups for ages 0-18. All are welcome.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND PARTY:
Sunday, 1 p.m.
Oak Harbor Elks Lodge

The public is welcome to attend this free event put on the by the Oak Harbor Elks Lodge. The Easter egg hunt will take place both inside and outside. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Registration is required by Friday. Sign children up to participate by calling 362-675-7111.

LIVING WORD
EASTER
SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

7AM
Traditional Service

9AM & 11AM
Family Services
[Kids Church
Birth-1st Grade]

10:15AM
Egg Hunt

*COVID guidelines apply

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OAK HARBOR MAIN STREET PRESENTS
**AN EASTER EGG
HUNT**

IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN OAK HARBOR
**FOR FUN
TREATS &
SAVINGS!**

**Saturday, April 3
11am**

When the air horn blows, walk downtown & hunt for eggs left by the Easter Bunny!
(On Pioneer Way, City Beach to Midway and on Fidalgo Ave, Dock St to Hathaway)
Hunt will begin at 11 and last until all eggs are gone.

Thank you to Oak Harbor Haggen for the candy donation!

Please wear masks and keep social distance.

**OAK HARBOR
MAIN STREET**



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BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Spring couldn't come soon enough this year, not for just the birds, but the many nature enthusiasts concerned about them.

"I would suggest that feeding during a cold snap or a snow event does save many lives," Steve Ellis said. "The warming weather of March is sure to produce large populations of protein-rich invertebrates for the birds to munch on."

Supporting nature conservation organizations such as Whidbey Camano Land Trust is one way to help ensure that forests, wetlands, and other natural areas remain havens for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. The Land Trust not only preserves lands with an abundance of native plant life, but staff and volunteers also re-introduce native trees and shrubs during restoration and stewardship efforts.

One example is at the Land Trust's Crockett Lake Preserve, where red-flowering currant, snowberry, Indian plum, Pacific crab apple and other native plants were planted in places where non-native invasive species were removed.

Implementing native plants into your own landscape is another way to help wild creatures.

"Planting native plants that produce seeds and/or fruits is the best assistance we can provide," said Jay Adams, a Land Trust board member who's been birding for 45 years. "Also, it's important to support the conservation and protection of important native habitat – woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, marshy places and beaches. This provides year-round birds and migratory species the space they need to establish territories and feed and rest as they fly between their wintering and breeding grounds."

Steve and Martha Ellis retained or planted many native trees and shrubs on their wooded property and have seen at least 65 different wild bird species.

"Red alders are hands down the most important," Steve said. "They produce prodigious amounts of seeds and their leaves stay on a long time. The latter helps invertebrates, which in turn, feed birds. The huge Pine Siskin flocks scatter throughout the alders to eat seeds so they aren't concentrated at a feeder."

Steve Ellis understands there is a natural longing to want to help birds by providing food.

"The real reason we feed is because people have a deep longing for connections to wild creatures, so we invite birds into our controlled spaces through the use of feeders," he said. "When we retain or replant native flora, we're the ones being invited into nature."

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust is a non-profit nature conservation organization that actively involves the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands that support the diversity of life on our islands and in the waters of Puget Sound. For more information, visit www.wclt.org, email info@wclt.org, or call 360-222-3310.

[Submitted by Ron Newberry, Communications Manager, WCLT]

Local Business News

Local Author Holds Second Book Signing

In case you missed it, Anna Nail, a local author, held her first book signing March 6. It was a huge success, with numerous people attending. The title of the book is "My Name is Anna" by Anna E. Nail. It is a moving life story about her struggles with childhood, early addictions to lots of things, including alcohol and drugs to help fill a void in her life. The story has a happy ending as she has overcome these addictions for 32+ years now, and continues to live a victorious, purpose filled life. If you could not attend the first signing, there is another opportunity for you Saturday, April 10. It will be held at His Place Christian Book Store, 350 SE Pioneer Avenue in Oak Harbor from 12:00 to 3:00PM.

Her book is available locally at His Place Christian Book Store. It can also be ordered through Amazon and Amazon Kindle. Pick up your copy of this heartfelt story today. If you wish to contact Anna please email anail2@bellsouth.net.

John Haas Joins Whidbey Memorial Funeral and Cremation



Whidbey Memorial Funeral and Cremation is pleased to welcome John Haas to its staff as a full-time licensed funeral director and pre-planning specialist.

John is a native of Oak Harbor and has returned with his wife Kyla to serve his home town. John is the third generation to call Whidbey Island home. His grandparents, Tom and Vivian Wright, were stationed here; his father, Johnny Haas, worked here in auto body rebuild. John returns after several years working in various ministry and related work in Michigan and Washington. He came into funeral service through working part time for Lemley Funeral Home in Sedro Woolley, and then full-time for Evans Funeral Home in Anacortes.

John tells us, "I find it a privilege to help people through one of the most difficult times in life, the loss of a loved one. I lost my own parents at an early age. I did not handle the grieving process well or understand the value of honoring, memorializing, and gathering. Now I find great fulfillment in helping others with the details that help them grieve and honor their loved ones in the loss. It's gratifying to hear people say that we helped them through a terrible time."



TUESDAY, FEB. 23
3:21 am, SR 20

Reporting party advising subject walking on Arnold Road westbound, pushing a wheel barrow/cart full of tools. Calling back; male is now northbound on SR 20.

9:56 am, Fish Rd.

Reporting party advising angry customer is refusing to leave; sitting in parking lot. Reporting party refused to groom dog.

2:40 pm, S Main St.

Reporting male subject urinated in bushes by office, occurred 20 minutes ago; subject no longer in area. Dark pants, denim shirt, dark hair and glasses.

11:02 pm, Kinzie Rd.

Reporting party very confused, advising just moved into the place and does not know address from locals. Reporting party advised it was on corner of Kinzie and Troxell. Advising someone has stolen reporting party's car keys and other sets of keys as well.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

9:26 am, Ault Field Rd.

Reporting party states male subject on Ault Field Road is flailing around in roadway. Rolling in road. Unable to walk.

9:44 am, Woodard Ave.

Advising 30-foot flatbed trailer parked with no truck attached in roadway, in front of stop sign at location.

10:25 am, Monroe Landing Rd.

Caller states bus abandoned at location has now been removed by subjects in white VW Jetta. They left engine block and other debris behind.

2:18 pm, SW Heller St.

Cream colored barn with red roof. Subject pointing gun at passing vehicles. Caller yelling there is Island County Sheriff unit stopping with him. Flagging him down.

2:48 pm, SW Heller St.

Reporting party states subject spit on him. States he's leaving the area.

4:15 pm, SR 525

Caller states yesterday had unsettling incident with male produce employee who has been flirtatious with caller in the past. Caller felt conversation became strange when male began talking about

his background and protection abilities. No threats were made. No weapons seen. However, male was demonstrating.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25

2:37 am, Beaver Creek Ln.

Reporting party stuck in mud, needing law enforcement assistance.

3:03 am, Boon Rd.

Reporting party advising in guest house at unknown address on Boon Road; is on administration line; advising people trying to get in garage and are crawling on roof.

12:15 pm, SR 525

Occurred yesterday; reporting party advising someone rammed his vehicle. Reporting party is colorblind, but advising it was a white or gray passenger car; states he didn't know if he had a gun and was scared subject was going to shoot him, so he didn't call when it occurred.

2:18 pm, SR 20

Advising Port-a-potty flew out of back of truck and is blocking. Truck pulled off nearby. State advised.

6:38 pm, Lone Lake Rd.

On Lone Lake Road, a tree fell across road and a cherry picker is in the road holding tree up. Reporting party advising there are signs up that say "road work," but it is not safe for drivers to pass.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

6:21 am, S Main St.

Reporting party advising vehicle drove off with gas pump attached; gas has been contained; reporting party advising did not see incident, occurred 10 -15 minutes ago; was told by a customer.

1:55 pm, Timber Ln.

Requesting call; states is being harassed. Person drives by reporting party's residence. Last occurred 5 minutes ago. Female stopped traffic and was yelling out of vehicle. Unknown name of female.

2:03 pm, Diane Ave.

Neighbor's dog keeps coming onto reporting party's property. Advising neighbor is throwing frisbee and is causing dog to come onto reporting party's property. States dog defecates on his lawn.

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



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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.

War Horse

Friday, April 2, 7:00PM

Saturdays, April 3 & 10, 7:00PM

Sunday, April 11, 2:00PM

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley
All Seats: \$20

Filmed live on the stage of the National Theatre in London, this powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness. At its heart are astonishing life-size puppets that bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage. For tickets or more information, visit www.WICAonline.org.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3, 11:00AM

Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor

The Easter Bunny will leave some eggs downtown on Pioneer Way (City Beach Street to Midway Blvd) and Fidalgo Ave (Dock St to Hathaway). Hunt will end when the eggs are gone. Please wear masks and social distance.

Clinton Drive Thru "Eggstravaganza"

Saturday, April 3, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Clinton Community Hall,
6411 S. Central Ave.

Bring the family for a celebration of Spring at the Clinton Drive Thru "Eggstravaganza." While not a traditional Easter egg hunt, there will be eggs, candy, and lots of goodies for the kids. The Easter Bunny will be there, along with costumed characters manning the tables of the drive thru. Enjoy a family activity that works within COVID-19 guidelines. Parents and children must remain in their cars.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below

Cost: Free:

Keeping an Eye on Cascade Volcanoes: What the Ground Moving Under Our Feet Can Tell Us About Volcanoes and Their Hazards

Tuesday, April 6, 3:30-4:30PM

Online event

The Cascades Volcano Observatory operates networks of monitoring equipment on many of the volcanoes in Oregon and Washington. Learn about how different kinds of sensors

and signals can tell us what is going on both above and below the earth's surface at volcanoes. CVO continues to overcome the challenges of Pacific Northwest weather to keep important data available year-round and there are lots of current and future projects planned to improve our ability to monitor the volcanoes in our backyard. Register at <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Visiting Mount St. Helens

Wednesday, April 14, 6:30-7:30PM

Online event

Join Mount St. Helens Institute volunteer lecturer David Newcomb for insider tips for hikers, climbers, and day-trippers and make the most of your visit to Mount St. Helens. Register at <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 Zoom link.

Meetings & Organizations

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS)

Tuesday, April 20, 1:00PM

Zoom meeting

Canadian author and genealogist Dave Obee presents "DECODING THE DASH - Build the Stories of their Lives." Explore your ancestors' lives beyond just birth and death dates or just the standard internet sites. Learn how archives and libraries can make it even easier to fully tell your ancestors' life stories. Non WIGS members wishing to attend, send an email to whidbeygenealogical@gmail.com no later than April 18 to receive your Zoom invitation. All are invited to join.

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 on Christian Science healing by Phillip Hockley, CS. Attend online or by phone, go to cstalks.org/oak-harbor-hockley.

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Life Tributes

Stephen "Steve" K. Newman



Stephen "Steve" K. Newman, son of Jack and Lee Newman, was born in Yokosuka, Japan Sept. 27, 1955, and passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family April 24, 2020 in Oak Harbor, Wash.

Steve grew up in a Navy family, having lived in Japan, San Diego, Alameda and arriving in Oak Harbor in 1966. He attended Broadview Elementary, Oak Harbor Junior High and graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 1973. Steve joined the U.S. Navy in 1974 and attended boot camp training in San Diego. Following in the family footsteps, he received training as a Personnelman and earned the rate of Personnelman 3rd class and served on the USS Schenectady. After his military service, he returned to Washington. He was employed with a map company advertising local businesses in a rural town in Georgia and a care computer systems company as a quality controller in Bellevue, Wash.

Steve had many lifelong friends from the day he arrived in Oak Harbor. He enjoyed holidays and special events with family and friends and remembered so many with greeting cards. Steve was an avid movie watcher and spending time with grandchildren was his greatest joy.

Steve is survived by his two daughters, Rebekah and Rachel Newman, of Oak Harbor; mother, Lee Newman, of Oak Harbor; brothers Mick (Sandra) of Everett and Patrick of Oak Harbor; sisters Gwen (Bill) Mead of Salem, Ore., Kathy (Tom) Kososki of Oak Harbor, Monica Newman of Everett and Mary Burdick of Oak Harbor; grandchildren, Joseph, Karina and Amaya Newman of Oak Harbor; Karen Lemoine of Oak Harbor; aunts, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Newman, Jr.; brothers, Jack Newman III, Mark and Gregory; grandparents, aunt Lois Thorne and uncle Ken Ross and his grandson, Jeremy.

Rosary will be Friday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 3259 Old Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor.

Funeral Mass will be held at St Augustine's Catholic Church, Oak Harbor, Saturday, April 10 at 11a.m.

A reception will be held at 1 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3259 Old Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor.

Burial with military honors will be held at Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, Wash., Friday, April 23 at 11 a.m.

Daniel 'Dan' Dillard, III



Daniel 'Dan' Dillard, III was born July 21, 1940 and passed away June 19, 2020. He will be laid to rest at Maple Leaf Cemetery Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10 a.m. Please see the full obituary and leave messages of condolence at wallinfuneralhome.com.



Patrick "Pat" Newman



Patrick "Pat" Newman, son of Jack and Lee Newman, was born in San Diego, Calif., May 12, 1957 – a "Mothers Day" baby. He passed away Saturday, March 13, 2021 in Oak Harbor, Wash.

Pat was the youngest son in a Navy family. He attended Crescent Harbor Elementary School, Oak Harbor Junior High School and graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 1975. He attended Renton Vocational School and earned the title of journeyman welder. He worked on many jobs in Renton and Seattle, one of the most interesting and dangerous jobs was working on high rise buildings in downtown Seattle. Pat worked on a commercial fishing tender in Alaska for many

years and also refurbished the outside of the Camp Casey Conference Center in Coupeville. His greatest joys were being with family and friends, shooting pool, working in his shed and repairing and building almost anything. He was an avid pool player, flew kites and drones and played with his remote control cars.

Pat is survived by his mother, Lee, of Oak Harbor; brother Mick (Sandra) of Everett; sisters Gwen (Bill) Mead of Salem Ore., Kathy (Tom) Kososki of Oak Harbor, Monica Newman of Everett and Mary Burdick of Oak Harbor; aunts, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Newman, Jr.; brothers, Steve, Jack Newman III, Mark and Gregory; grandparents; Aunt Lois Thorne of Ukiah and Uncle Ken Ross of Finley, Calif.

Rosary will be Friday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3259 Old Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor.

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Oak Harbor, Saturday, April 10 at 11a.m. Viewing will be at 10 a.m., preceding the Mass.

Interment will be at Maple Leaf Cemetery following the Mass.

A reception will be held at 1 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Puget Sound Kidney Center, Oak Harbor; or the Knights of Columbus John E. O'Brien Council #3361, PO Box 795, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, or your favorite charity.

Joseph S. Davis



Joseph S. Davis, Jr. was born Feb. 12, 1955 in Billings, Mont., and passed away peacefully at his home March 20, 2021.

Joe worked as a welder at Nichols Bothers Boatbuilders on Whidbey Island, at Whidbey Tire and Auto as a mechanic and at Whidbey Parks and Recreation. Joe built amazing tables from wood burls and enjoyed fishing with his brothers for years. He could catch a fish with a string and a safety pin. Joe retired in 2016 to spend his remaining years at home with "the love of my life."

Joe and Ginny were married in 1997 and enjoyed their years with family and friends, camping, playing cards, socializing, and lovingly spending time with their grandchildren as they grew up.

Joe is survived by his wife, Virginia Davis; his sisters, Kathleen Brakebush, Theresa Villella and Jamie Glein; his brothers, Scott Penny and Glenn Penny; and his grandchildren, Angelica Janda, Samantha Huben, and Tyler Heggnes.

No funeral service will be held, as Joe's wish is you spend that time with those you love.

Wilma Rae Engen



Wilma Rae Engen, long time resident of Oak Harbor, passed away at WhidbeyHealth Medical Center March 25, 2021. She was born June 8, 1939, in Aberdeen, Wash., to parents Henry Earl Evans and Ida May (Boynnton) Evans.

Wilma was a kind, caring, loving, joyous, free spirited person. She loved reading, casinos, trunk shopping, helping others, and spending time with her five sisters and family. Wilma loved unique things. She was a resource to others to help them in times of need. She bartended at the Freeland Cafe for over 20 years.

Wilma is preceded in death by her parents and her sisters: Lois Greninger of Mansfield, Wash.; Lydia Goll of Mansfield; Anaa "Tutu" Powers; Cora Spaulding (John); her stepdaughter, Linda "Sue" Engen of Montana; and her ex-husband, Gilbert James "Jim" Engen.

She is survived by her sister, Barbara (Bob) Tupling of Brewster, Wash.; sister, Delores (Slim) Johnson of Glasgow, Mont.; daughter, Candy Cae Otlinger (Michael Rucci) of Maricopa, Ariz.; son, Bill (Lisa Van Benscoten) Engen of Oak Harbor; grandchildren, Andrea and Kenneth Obie; great-grandchildren, Austin, Micah, Isaac, James L. Engen USN; many nieces and nephews and all their children.

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

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

Pam's Prayer Corner

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

Heavenly Father, as we enter Holy Week, we are cognizant of the fact that you were not what humanity expected. The hope for a king, a conqueror, and a deliverer was met by a humble servant riding a donkey into Jerusalem. You were not what the people wanted, but you were what they needed. This is still true today. Lord forgive us for all the ways we try to shape you into our image. Open our eyes and our hearts this Easter to see you clearly, that we may experience the power and joy of your salvation. In your name we pray. Amen

Drew Barnhart
Lead Pastor, Living Word Church

*"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

Zechariah 9:9 NIV





**KING SALMON SERIES
PART 4 of 4: MARINE AREA-9**

Where do I begin with Marine Area-9? Here is what I have noticed about fishing this southern chunk of water since 1995: When fishing is hot it's really hot, when fishing is cold it's really cold. The following statements, "You should have been here yesterday!" or "You should have been here this morning!" are no lie when speaking of Area-9. I've been motoring out to a popular salmon spot called Mid Channel Bank a little later in the morning and observed fishing boats already headed back into the boat launch with their limits of fish. That tells me fishing was probably great at first light. Even though kings are known to be early morning biters, my son and I have fished the evening tides and had rewarding results as well.

Area-9 covers all of the west side of Whidbey Island, with the exception of Deception Pass down to Partridge Point. Area-9 best accommodates salmon fishing from a boat, however, there are a couple public Whidbey Island beaches that produce a few kings each year, the first being Admiralty Bay Beach. This pea-size gravel beach stretches east from Keystone Spit to Driftwood Park. The beach is normally alive with fishermen later in the fall during Coho and Pink seasons, but kings prowl these waters in search of herring and sand lance during the summer months, which makes it very possible to hook and land a summer king; but only if the co-managers – Tribal and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) – decide to open Area-9 during the summer.

Second is a small beach located at Lagoon Point. If open, each year this sandy beach also seems to surprise lucky anglers with a hard-fighting king on the line. Two-and-a-half-inch pink "Buzz Bombs," pink "Rotators" and medium-heavy "Kast Masters" with a 50/50 pattern of blue and silver, orange and silver, or green and silver will let you cast out far enough to encounter a hungry fish, especially if you are using 30# braided mainline with a 12# to 15# monofilament leader.

If our timing is right and we encounter a big school of hungry, migrating summer king salmon leaving the Straits and turning south at Point Wilson into Area-9, it is a blast! Remember to fish with the current, and keep your hooks sharp or change them out for new ones. Here are some of the hot spots of Area-9:

- The Southeast side of Point Wilson (There is a deep channel that holds kings)
- All of Mid Channel Bank (Lots of bait on this bank)
- Admiralty Bay (Troll your gear near the bottom between 45 to 60 feet here)
- The old Navy practice bombing range (Out in front of Lake Hancock)
- All along Lagoon Point (This is a hot area during Coho season as well)
- Both north and south sides of Bush Point (Depending on current direction)
- Around the green marker can and south side of Double Bluff
- Both sides of Point-no-Point

- The entire bottom end of Whidbey Island (Possession Point can be king heaven)

Like all other summer salmon hotspots, Area-9 boat traffic can get heavy. The busy waters are mainly due to the small quota of fish we are allowed to catch, which can make for a short season. (I've seen the quota caught in less than two weeks.) In turn, everyone is anxious to fish and "bumper boats" is often the result. When the tidal movement is light, drift mooching with herring and a banana weight is popular in Area-9; moochers will bounce their offering along the bottom and then begin to work the mooching rig slowly up through the water column in search of any suspended fish. Catching salmon on a mooching rig is very exciting – there are no downrigger clips and flashers to contend with after the fish has taken the bait; basically it's just you and the fish. The artificial tackle choices and colors you have been using in Areas-6 and 7 will be just as effective in Area-9. The natural bait type and size is generally the same throughout the Puget Sound; using a standard 2-inch to 4-inch lure will get the job done.

Over the last two months I've touched on some of the key techniques, tackle choices and identified some salmon hotspots during the four part "King Salmon Series," focusing on Marine Areas-6 through 9. Recreational salmon fishing is one of the wonderful activities that helped put the Puget Sound on the map, despite the low numbers of returning salmon, even the thought of catching one 20-pound king salmon gets my heart rate up. If your family enjoys salmon fishing as much as mine, be sure to stay informed and current on what decisions the Tribal and WDFW managers are making that both positively and negatively affect our fishing opportunities. Check into and join groups like the Puget Sound Anglers (PSA) and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). Organizations like these are the positive, active voice for us recreational anglers in Olympia. If left unchecked, powerful, greedy lobbyists, anti-hatchery groups and unproven non-local fish studies and models will attempt to severely restrict recreational salmon and bottom fishing as we know it. Here is my email – tlfishmonger@gmail.com. Feel free to contact me with any questions. Summer is near, think salmon!



Basic mooching rig setup for salmon.

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Franji C.
Oak Harbor, WA



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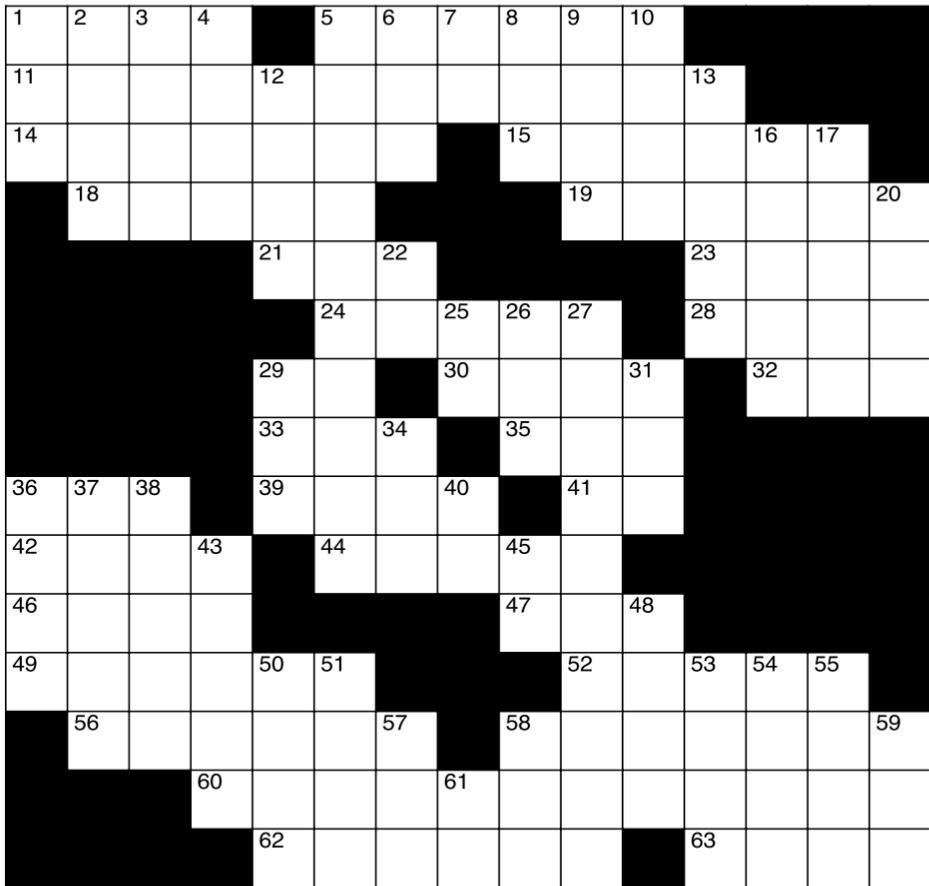
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One of Noah's sons
- 5. Openings
- 11. Rising from the dead
- 14. Expressions for humorous effect
- 15. North American country
- 18. Flowed over
- 19. Tags
- 21. Long-lasting light bulb
- 23. Off-Broadway theater award
- 24. Khoikhoi peoples
- 28. Beloved movie pig
- 29. South Dakota
- 30. Tai language
- 32. Get free of
- 33. Afflict
- 35. Transmits genetic information from DNA
- 36. Commercials
- 39. Digits
- 41. Expression of sympathy
- 42. Bleats
- 44. Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
- 46. Vegetable
- 47. Turf

49. Disorganized in character

- 52. Takes
- 56. Rules over
- 58. More fervid
- 60. Sweet drink
- 62. Cry loudly
- 63. A friendly nation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A title of respect in India
- 2. His and ___
- 3. Employee stock ownership plan
- 4. A type of bond (abbr.)
- 5. Acting as if you are
- 6. Affirmative
- 7. Not caps
- 8. Type of medication
- 9. Monetary unit
- 10. Private school in New York
- 12. Small stream
- 13. A person of wealth
- 16. Exclude
- 17. Someone who vouches for you
- 20. Vegetable part

22. Gov't lawyer

- 25. Term to address a woman
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. About senator
- 29. ___ Paulo, city
- 31. Native American tribe
- 34. "Titanic" actor
- 36. Campaign for students' rights (abbr.)
- 37. Capital of Senegal
- 38. Slang for military leader
- 40. Football's big game
- 43. Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
- 45. Equally
- 48. Forest animal
- 50. Heavy stoves
- 51. Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- 53. Song
- 54. Type of pickle
- 55. Offer in return for money
- 57. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Burns wood (abbr.)
- 59. Beloved singer Charles
- 61. Three-toed sloth

Answers on page 15

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.2

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

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

Answers on page 15



OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What experience would you recommend to a first time visitor to Whidbey Island?



Diana Black Freeland

Double Bluff Beach, just outside of Freeland, is a must see for anyone visiting Whidbey. It's a perfect place for an easy walk on the beach. There's plenty of sand to create a sand castle with kids. Dogs are welcome. A beach for all to enjoy.

Kathy Habel Freeland

I would recommend a first time visitor come Sunday morning and go to the early service to experience Pastor Jim and the amazing music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland. From there, have an excellent breakfast at the Useless Bay Country Club. In the spring, venture on to Merkeer Gardens and take in its unique rhododendron displays. As you travel north up the island, your next stop will be Ebey's Prairie, to enjoy a scenic hike up the bluff and then down to the beach. Having worked up an appetite it will be time to head back down south towards the ferry. The last stop before leaving, will be Village Pizza in Langley, knowing you have had a full experience of south and central Whidbey.



Dick Johnson Coupeville

First, I would recommend a first time visitor go to Main Street in Coupeville and explore the unique shops. When finished, walk out on the pier and discover what is there, taking in the Schooner SUVA.

Next, I highly recommend walking up the hill and enjoy a great lunch at Ciao's. To finish the day off, Fort Casey is the place to go to walk off lunch, and finish the Whidbey experience.

Cathy George Oak Harbor

There are many ways to enjoy the beauty of Whidbey Island. I would suggest kayaking as a different way to interact with nature. Coupeville and Langley have kayak rentals. There is also a man in Oak Harbor who has a trailer with kayaks. He delivers wherever you want to kayak.



Lindsay Furberry Langley

The first experience you have when coming to Whidbey is getting to ride the ferry, which is already an amazing experience, even before you get here! Once on the Island, I recommend going to see Fort Casey, walk around the bunkers and check out the cannons. Then have a picnic on the grass as the Navy jets fly by above, for you an unforgettable experience.

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, April 1	Fri, April 2	Sat, April 3	Sun, April 4	Mon, April 5	Tues, April 6	Wed, April 7
North Isle H-57°/L-40° Mostly Sunny	North Isle H-51°/L-38° Showers Possible	North Isle H-50°/L-39° Showers Possible	North Isle H-50°/L-39° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-51°/L-42° Showers Possible	North Isle H-53°/L-41° Showers Possible	North Isle H-52°/L-41° Mostly Cloudy
South Isle H-59°/L-41° Mostly Sunny	South Isle H-52°/L-38° Showers Possible	South Isle H-53°/L-39° Showers Possible	South Isle H-52°/L-39° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-53°/L-40° Showers Possible	South Isle H-55°/L-39° Showers Possible	South Isle H-54°/L-40° Mostly Cloudy



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



Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pregnant? Need baby clothes? We have them and the price is right—FREE. Pregnancy Care Clinic, open Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 4pm and Saturday, 10am to 2 pm. Stop by at 670 SE Midway Blvd. in Oak Harbor.

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

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

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

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.

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 Har-

bor: 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.

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

JOB MARKET

Island Thrift in Oak Harbor is now hiring one full-time and one part-time position. Please inquire in person to 600 SE Barrington Drive (3)

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 (1)

No Cheating!

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

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 (2)

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://sieracountryclub.net/index.php/Jobs_&_Volunteering\(0\)](http://sieracountryclub.net/index.php/Jobs_&_Volunteering(0))

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

Heavy-duty fire ring: 18 inches high, 3-foot diameter, ¼-inch thick steel, weighs approximately 150 pounds, \$150. 360-678-5255 (1)

Two crab pots still in packaging. Comes with line,

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Richard Voit



Richard Voit Agency
390 NE Midway Blvd
A102, Oak Harbor
rvoit@farmersagent.com

harnesses and four new bait boxes, \$100. Call corrected number, 360-914-2823, and leave message (1)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

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

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

WANTED

Sewing patterns from 1970s. Little girls' dresses and pinafore. Holly Hobby style. Call 360-672-7813 (2)

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

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

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

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

How'd you do?

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

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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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