

October 21 through October 27, 2021

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VOTER'S GUIDE 2021 INSIDE

Whidbey Weekly

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HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

Read about the Haunted History Tour on Page 2 and
the Haunting of Coupeville Practically Magic Themed Pumpkins on page 10



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Pumpkin painter p. 10

HISTORY WITH A HAUNTED TWIST



By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

It's the time of year for shivers and goosebumps, when ghost stories and scary movies are all the rage. For one Oak Harbor woman, it seemed the perfect time to dive into local history and see if any hauntingly interesting stories might emerge.

Gabrielle Robles is leading Whidbey Island's first ever haunted history tour Halloween weekend. The 21-and-older event sold out so quickly, she has added an additional tour Sunday, Oct. 31. For \$45 per person, tour attendees will meet up at Oak Harbor Cinemas, where they can choose to enjoy an adult beverage before boarding a "haunted" Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle bus for a guided tour of historic, haunted points of interest. When they return to the theater, those on the tour will be treated to a private screening of either the classic "Poltergeist" or the new film, "Halloween Kills." Costumes are encouraged and prizes will be awarded.

"This is history you can touch," Robles said. "We are going to places that have stories or legends and I'll be sharing about what people have found and what they have experienced. We are being respectful everywhere we go. People are going to learn about this amazing place."

Originally from New York, Robles moved to Whidbey Island about a year ago for a job. When she was subsequently laid off, she decided to become an independent travel agent.



Because of her love of history, she researched Whidbey Island and tried to find some kind of tour where she could learn more.

"When I couldn't find what I wanted to do, I decided to create it," she said. "I found all this material and learned about the amazing beginning to these towns. These are actual haunted stories that have gone on through the years."

Robles said she has received some pushback from people who are not happy with her sharing "haunted" history, but said she is not trying to be disrespectful in any way and is not sharing anything that can't be found in historical accounts.

"I have been accused of blaspheming history, of making a mockery of a beautiful town," she said. "I'm bringing people into this to learn history. Why is that bad? Seattle does it all day long. They have 17 different haunted tours. Why can't Whidbey have their own tour?"

"If I can bring people together to enjoy the area, how is that bad?" Robles continued. "We're not disrespecting history, we're celebrating it. It's a great way to explore it and look at how many people I got to listen to me share all this wonderful history. That says a lot."

It does appear the idea of a haunted tour is a popular one. What started as a single bus tour on Saturday only has become a two-bus tour – 48 people – both Friday and Saturday evenings. Spots on the added single-bus tour on Sunday are selling fast. Robles said she was surprised how quickly the tours have filled up.

"It blew me away," she said. "I was thinking 10 people might go. It makes me feel really good. I've tapped into something people have an interest in. I was looking for things to do myself and thought 'there's nothing like this here for adults, let me see if people like this idea.' People are already asking for haunted tours all year round."

Robles is hopeful this will lead to different kinds of tours or weekend travel packages in the future, all of which would feature the best of what Whidbey Island has to offer.

"I hopefully will be bringing commerce into the island, with people spending money they wouldn't have otherwise spent," she said.

Robles is very clear the tour is not meant to be a simple Halloween-style event.

"This is not a haunted house thing, this is a mobile history tour," she said. "I'll tell you the ghost stories behind the history. It's very informative, but you have to be a good story-teller, so people can envision what you're telling them."

Robles has received permission to stop at all locations on the



Photo Courtesy of Gabrielle Robles

Gabrielle Robles is leading the first ever "Haunted Whidbey" tours Halloween weekend. Tours are for adults 21 years of age or older and spots remain for an added Sunday tour.

tour, which are being kept quiet – in part to keep up the suspense of the evening but also to keep potential protestors away, she said.

And, as someone who has dabbled in paranormal investigations for many years, she believes there is something to it when a story or legend lives on.

"If this wasn't an existing thing or entity, why are we still talking about it 200 years later?" Robles said. "I find that fascinating. You don't have to believe in this, but when you're shown something that you can't debunk or recreate it, it's fascinating. And if this wasn't of interest to a lot of people, they wouldn't be going."

Spots for the Oct. 31 tour are going quickly. Anyone interested can contact Robles directly via email at travelwithgabrielle816@gmail.com. Robles said she is also looking for a second guide to join her.

"I'm looking for someone with personality," she said. "If people are having fun on the bus, they're going to have a good time. And who doesn't love a good ghost story?"



ON TRACK

With Jim Freeman



Have you ever not done what you were supposed to do in order to do what you wanted to do?

Me too.

Just about every day.

Benjamin Franklin is reported to have said, "Do not squander time, for that is

the stuff life is made of."

So a little background on squander.

Squander was first used in 1536. The root origin is unknown. We all know the synonyms like "waste, misspend, misuse, throw away, dissipate, fritter away, run through, lose, lavish, spend recklessly, spend unwisely, make poor use of, be prodigal with, spend money like water," but Franklin went with squander.

When is the last time you squandered?

The unknown root word of squander has nothing to do with Squanto, the first Native American hero I had, even before Tonto.

Remember Squanto? He was "the Friend of the Pilgrims." Why wouldn't you be friends? Pilgrims had hatchets, muskets, and the recipe for gravy.

Most likely there was some squandering around the 'ol camp fire.

That's where I learned.

Gray skies

As I write this paragraph, the skies are gray, the tree leaves are still, and I need to mow.

I'd rather write. Mowing is like yoga on wheels, but, for me, writing is a more pleasurable action. Unlike the guys and girls who write dictionaries or encyclopedias, I have a blank canvas and gray skies.

Not that I don't enjoy writing when it is sunny, but gray skies and still trees bring out the metaphor in me.

I should publicly thank Publisher Eric Marshall for calling me years ago. Either a paper I was writing for or let go by had escaped my 1099's. Eric saw an opportunity to get a guy who enjoys writing to join columnist Eileen Brown. Why not get to know Eileen and learn from her? After all, child Eileen hung out with Bob Hope.

Thanks, Eric, for giving me a space. I sincerely value page three.

Thanks also to TJ Pierzchala, who keeps me between the columns by knowing the rules of the Associated Press style book. TJ understands essential and nonessential clauses. I don't even know what a clause is unless it is Santa.

I never understood automobiles but I had a car.

I never understood electricity, but I still turn on the lights.

For me, writing is like electricity. The current is always there, but you have to plug in.

TJ knows conjunctions. She taught me to use the conjunction *that* to introduce a dependent clause if the sentence sounds or looks awkward without it.

That amazes me.

Teresa Besaw keeps us all graphically pleased. Teresa understands computers. Such a language is not in my tool kit. In fact, where did I put my tool kit?

We have a great team at *Whidbey Weekly*. I am the oldest and surely may be the only non-grad of Oak Harbor High.

The team at *Whidbey Weekly* treats me no differently. Even though I graduated from Oil City Senior High, I still have to wear a mask when I go to the office.

Roll on

My Steeler buddy, Holly, bet me a Tootsie Roll on last Sunday night's game. In anticipation, I bought an over-priced bag of the Child's Play Fantastic Tootsie Roll Favorites. Included in this corn syrup jammed cavalcade are Tootsie

Rolls, Tootsie Fruit Chews, Tootsie Roll Pops, and those little boxes of Dots.

We never ate the Dots as kids. Too sticky, but we did throw them during lunch. The custodians knew our names. You know how kids are.

It is very challenging to sit next to a bag of Tootsie Roll products. When you finally get to the chocolate center of a Tootsie Roll pop, you realize you have done something.

By the time I complete my treat bag, I will have enjoyed six boxes of Dots, 17 Fruit Chews, four Tootsie Roll pops (two grapes, one chocolate, one cherry), 20 Tootsie Roll juniors, 16 Tootsie Roll Midgees, and nine Tootsie Roll Snack Bars. Bring on the hygienist.

Holly will have to wait.

Sports sounds

After stumbling on a TV show called *Celebrity Bowling*, I got to thinking about how much I enjoy the sound of bowling. All those leagues planted seeds. I loved and still do smile when I hear that pin symphony.

We all bowled growing up. We all watched the TV bowling shows with Don Carter and Buzz Fazio.

The food in bowling alleys always seemed to taste better. Never have I consumed a bad cheeseburger while watching bowlers.

I bought a bowling ball at Senior Thrift, back in the 80s, when their collection of donated goodies was the bulk of the mall where El Corral serves. I may have mentioned this but it bears repeating.

The bowling ball was imprinted with *Chuck*. The fit for my fingers and thumb was as good as a store-drilled model. I asked the lady what the price would be.

"Depends on whether your name is Chuck."

"It's not Chuck."

"Then \$2."

"What if my name were Chuck?"

"Then \$3."

In the 50s, Lex Mayer, the Chevrolet dealer in Columbus, Ohio, sponsored a Saturday bowling show. Airing live from Fiesta Lanes in Upper Arlington, my best friend Mike Clark and I lived close enough to ride our bikes to the show. We alternated on who would jump and make faces behind the host, some guy named Clark. Yep, Mike and I were those kids.

Today the Fiesta Lanes with bowling pin sign is displayed above the entrance to the medical building that occupies the old bowling alley space. That is a real reason to jump.

Chow down

An elderly couple entered a McDonald's and sat next to a table where some young people were having dinner.

The old man walked over and made the order for himself.

He unwrapped the burger, cut it in half and put one half next to his wife. Carefully he counted all the fries and did the same.

He dipped two straws in the soda and put it between himself and his wife.

The old woman began to eat her half of the burger, whilst people stared at her compassionately.

A young man approached them and offered to buy them another portion of food.

The old woman replied not to bother, as they were used to sharing everything.

People realized the old man had not eaten. He only watched as his wife ate.

The young man approached and repeated his offer.

This time it was the old man, who explained that no, they were used to sharing everything.

The young man then asked the old man, "And what are you waiting for then?"

"Our teeth!"

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Thank You, Gene's!

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

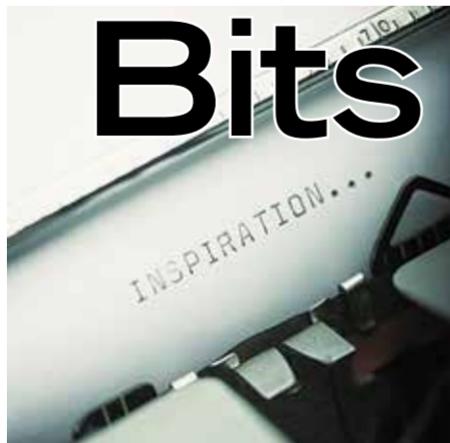
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Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

Here's why we'll be voting for Morgan White for Coupeville School Board. After several attempts to call him failed, I finally had the opportunity to learn more about the mysterious Mr. "Ward4Board" Sparacio when I happened to run into him in town recently. He was very charming, initially. I asked for clarity on his "30 years of professional experience" mentioned in his campaign information. After apologizing for his campaign manager not returning my calls, he told me he'd worked in the medical field, "ultrasound and imaging." When I asked about his credentials, he got defensive saying he had worked for companies who made medical equipment. Okay. He also denied an association with the Republican party until I told him I'd heard he had been their treasurer. Hmm? As to why he was running, he said he was interested in students being independent thinkers. I asked if he favored teaching the complete, unabridged history of the USA. All he said was "students should not be confronted with divisive issues." Hmm? He added he was by nature a Libertarian. The next day his campaign manager called me to say she had been ill. She and her husband had COVID. He actually required hospitalization. And no they hadn't been vaccinated!

Having gotten clarity about the candidates, we've decided to vote for Morgan White, and the other honest, open, qualified and capable candidates for Coupeville school board, Nancy Conard and Sherry Phay. We trust them to represent the best interests of central Whidbey students.

Gary & Dianna Deseck- Piazzon
Coupeville, Wash.

Editor,

As a Coupeville resident since 1963 and long-standing supporter of Coupeville schools, I am proud to endorse Ward Sparacio for Coupeville School Board Position 5.

In addition to his experience, I think it is important our community know Ward is not really a newcomer to Island County. His family purchased a summer home here in 1980. His wife is a 1986 South Whidbey High School graduate. They returned to Whidbey Island in 2007. Their children have attended South Whidbey and Coupeville schools.

Business experience is very important as a school board member. Ward worked in both the public and private sectors. His background is mostly in the medical technology field. He has experience in financial management, fundraising and business strategy. He has been a CEO, a consultant and an entrepreneur. He has served as a board member and as the board chairman of the South Whidbey Children's Center.

Many do not know of Ward's dedication to the children of Coupeville as he quietly goes about working in the classroom, being a chaperone on field trips and enjoying watching football and other sports with his sons. When they see him though, they say, "Oh, I know him!"

I can assure you Ward is dedicated to the children who attend Coupeville schools. As a former foster parent, he is a proven child advocate. He is also a seasoned business executive with the kind of experience that will add tremendous value to our school district.

You see his signs everywhere. He and his team are out knocking on doors and meeting the people of our community.

I have been told this race has developed into a mudslinging character assassination attempt by at least one supporter of his opponent. This is not how I expect the members of our community to treat one another and am saddened that a school board race would come to this.

As for me and John, we will be casting our votes for Ward Sparacio. We urge you to do the same.

Respectfully,

Benye Weber
Coupeville, Wash.

Editor,

I read the Letter to the Editor encouraging voters to back Dawn Tarantino, Farrah Manning Davis, and Bree Kramer-Nelson and then was appalled by the next few paragraphs. There are false statements in the diatribe that, frankly, doesn't deserve a dignified response; especially after listening to school board meetings and workshops that refute all that was written.

But I will say something about the attack on the United Student Leaders. These are kids...they can't even vote yet! For an adult (who should know better) to label them as "Anti-American" is repugnant, indecent, unbelievably ignorant, and just plain WRONG! And what that attack implicates is the type of person the writer is, the type of parent the writer is. And that is very sad.

Folks, look at your Voter's Pamphlet at the education and experience of Andrea Downs, Marnie Jackson, and Ann M. Johnson. And then use your common sense. These three incumbents have more than enough academic excellence, educational diversity, ACTUAL classroom teaching experience and community volunteering to qualify them for the three school board positions.

Dawn, Farrah, and Bree are being used as puppets. And the puppet-masters further up the chain of politics are pulling the strings.

So, get the qualified teachers on the board because they actually KNOW what they are doing.

P.S. From Vote Smart: "A free people that find lies acceptable, will not remain free for long."

Charlene Davenport
Clinton, Wash.

Editor,

Town Hall at the Elks with OHSD board candidates Jessica Thompson and Jason Uemoto

We were at the meeting, were favorably impressed. Interesting meeting, lots of war stories, parents are obviously concerned about the political and biological classes that should be left to parents.

Curriculum is obviously the hot item, but other subjects also need to be aired and have stones overturned.

Budget: it should be taken apart line by line and every expenditure be verified and accounted for.

Personnel: every position should be verified for weak spots and strong spots. Some probably can be eliminated, some expanded, the union needs to be brought to reality.

Physical plant: instead of saddling the taxpayers with more bonds (which probably will fail), examining every facility for HVAC, space utilization, knock off the climate change nonsense, analyze bus utilization, change every light to LEDs, etc.

Management: get some backbone, tell the state, feds, activists, etc., to back off, listen to the district parents and taxpayers.

Security: the NRA has a free program to analyze the schools and develop a program for security. It covers total security, not just gun related.

Pardon my rambling, but I want to get maximum mileage out of my taxes.

Rick Kiser
Oak Harbor, Wash.

Great ShakeOut Celebrates 10th Anniversary in Washington
Tsunami sirens will sound warning tone at about 10:21am

For the 10th year in a row, hundreds of thousands of people in Washington state will participate in the world's largest earthquake and tsunami drill: The Great ShakeOut.

At 10:21 a.m., Oct. 21, you're invited to drop, cover and hold on wherever you are – whether it's at work, home or school. At about the same time, Washington's network of 122 coastal tsunami sirens will be tested using the wailing sound of a tsunami warning, not the Westminster Chimes that are used during the monthly tests. PLEASE DO NOT CALL 911. NOAA Weather Radios will also sound an alarm.

Of note, there are many new sirens on the coast so the sound could come from new directions. Some new tsunami sirens are still being worked on and may not be used during the test.

More than one million Washington residents have registered to participate in the earthquake and tsunami drill. Registration isn't required but it helps the Washington Emergency Management Division with understanding how effective its outreach is. It's also free and easy to register at www.shakeout.org/washington/.

If you're continuing to work from home, take this opportunity to examine your environment for hazards and talk to family about where everyone would gather if your home was damaged and you were separated. If you're at a workplace or have kids in school, ask about what plans are in place for when an earthquake happens. You can use this recording to help with your experience before the drill takes place.

During the event, use #ShakeOut on social media to join many others across the country posting pictures of themselves under desks or using proper earthquake protection techniques. You can also tag the Twitter account at @waShakeOut.

Washington Emergency Management also encourages residents to "do one more thing" to get prepared. Download the free Prepare in a Year guide at <https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness> to find little steps to take each month to get prepared.

If you're on the coast, consider walking your evacuation route – or at least figure out where you would need to go to evacuate. You can find maps and how the sirens work at <https://mil.wa.gov/tsunami>.

If you hear a tsunami siren wailing any other time than Oct. 21, immediately follow the closest tsunami evacuation route inland or to high ground. This is your warning that a tsunami is approaching and you need to evacuate the inundation zone as soon as possible. If you are on the coast and you feel the ground shaking, drop, cover and hold on to protect yourself. When the shaking stops, immediately follow the closest tsunami evacuation route inland or to high ground. Do not wait to hear a tsunami siren or to receive an official tsunami alert – the shaking is your warning that a tsunami may be on its way.

Live Events

At noon Oct. 21, the Washington Emergency Management Division will field earthquake-related questions on its Facebook page. If you have a question you want discussed and can't make it, feel free to email public.education@mil.wa.gov.

Be a Part of ShakeOut!

Register at www.ShakeOut.org/Washington to practice and improve your level of earthquake and tsunami safety. Everyone everywhere can participate! Individuals, families, businesses,

schools, government agencies, and organizations are all invited to join in at 10:21am Oct. 21.

[Submitted by Steven Friederich, Public Information Officer for Washington Emergency Management Division]

Medicare Open Enrollment Began October 15 and Free, Unbiased Help is Available in Island County

If you want to review your current Medicare plans, help is just a phone call away. Volunteers from Island Senior Resources will once again be available during the annual Open Enrollment period from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 to help beneficiaries review all their options and make changes to their plans.

Since Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plans can change every year, enrollees might save money by reviewing their plans. But this chance to change most plans is limited to the seven-week Open Enrollment period.

Island County residents who are already on Medicare and want to review their plans should call 360-321-1600, ext. 0 or 360-678-3373, ext. 0 to request a call from a Medicare counselor. Due to COVID-19 considerations, all counseling will be conducted by phone. A Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) volunteer will get back to callers within two business days.

Beneficiaries can also go online at www.medicare.gov to review their plans and make changes online. The Plan Finder tool is available to help review Part D drug plans. The tool compares plans based on the drugs one needs, their pharmacy and drug costs. Help is also available by calling Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.

Any changes you make to your Medicare plans will take effect Jan. 1, 2022.

A public service offered by the Washington state Office of Insurance Commissioner, SHIBA volunteers statewide provide free, impartial and confidential Medicare counseling and education to people in their communities about Medicare health plans, prescription drug access, programs to help pay for Medicare, fraud and abuse, and more. Read more about SHIBA. Island Senior Resources is your local SHIBA office.

[Submitted by Annette Barca, SHIBA Volunteer Coordinator]

Island County Taking Applications for Community Service Grants

Island County began accepting applications Oct. 15 for Community Service Grants under the federal American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA.

A total of \$2 million in Community Service Grants will be awarded by the Island County Board of Commissioners to local organizations, including senior and veteran services, childcare and development services, support for youth and support for the physical or developmentally disabled.

"It's super exciting to offer this opportunity to help the community to expand much-needed services," said Liz Chaffin, Island County ARPA Program coordinator.

Grant money may be used by an organization to expand its reach, modernize services or adapt to needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications are due by the end of day Nov. 15, according to Chaffin, who added there is no cost to apply. Only one application per entity will be accepted.

For those who may be inexperienced at applying for grants, the application is two pages and the process simplified.

"Most of it is going to be pretty easy," Chaffin said.

For more information about the grants, or to return an application, email to Liz.Chaffin@islandcountywa.gov or mail to Island County ARPA Program, PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239. Chaffin's contact phone is 360-679-7397. Applications can be found on the Island County website at www.islandcountywa.gov/arpa/Pages/ARPA---Community-Service-Grants.aspx



State Ferry Temporary Schedule Changes as of Saturday, Oct. 16 Service on most routes to be reduced due to severe staff shortages

Saturday, Oct. 16, Washington State Ferries began temporary reduced schedules on most routes to provide more predictable and reliable travel. The change comes as the system is exercising maximum effort to crew its sailings in the face of a global shortage of mariners that has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

The severe staff shortages are also due to many other variables including an aging workforce, COVID-19 cases, and quarantines. Given what has happened to the response to calls to fill positions on recent weekends, WSF feels there is too much uncertainty to continue the schedule at this moment. WSF will continue to evaluate and strive to return additional boats back into service on a daily basis. Ferry customers are encouraged to monitor the agency website, the WSDOT app and social media channels for updates.

Route-by-route schedule changes

The following sailing schedules are in operation:

Seattle/Bainbridge, Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinton: One-boat service instead of two

Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth: Two-boat schedule instead of three

Anacortes/San Juan Islands: Three-boat schedule instead of four with temporary suspension of vehicle reservations

Seattle/Bremerton: Continued reduced one-boat service instead of two

Point Defiance/Tahlequah: Continued one-boat service as normal

Port Townsend/Coupeville: Continued one-boat service with vehicle reservations as normal for this time of year

"Throughout the pandemic, we've worked hard to maintain reliable service, completing the vast majority of sailings," said Patty Rubstello, head of WSF. "However, to better

reflect the service we can currently provide and to minimize last-minute cancellations due to a lack of crew, we made this difficult decision to adjust our schedules."

Recruiting new employees

Although COVID-19 has not allowed WSF to hire or train new recruits at the same rate as prior to the pandemic, more than 150 new crewmembers have been brought on this year. Prior to COVID-19, WSF hired new crewmembers once a year leading into the busy season. The system is now continuously recruiting new employees, but is struggling to find qualified mariners. WSF is also expanding its recruitment efforts with maritime academies across the country.

WSF, a division of the Washington State Department of Transportation, is the largest ferry system in the U.S. and safely and efficiently carries tens of millions of people a year through some of the most majestic scenery in the world. The system is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. For breaking news and the latest information, follow WSF on Twitter and Facebook.

[Submitted by Justin Fujioka, WSDOT]

Permit Required if You Want to Hunt on Base

NAS Whidbey Island manages a hunting program on Ault Field and the Sea Plane Base in accordance with Department of Defense policy. Affiliated individuals interested in hunting during the 2021-2022 season must obtain a permit to do so. Non-affiliated hunters interested in the pheasant release program may be issued a permit after they complete a National Crime Information Check (NCIC) background check and get temporary base access.

To request temporary base access, non-affiliated hunters must submit for a background check at the Visitor Control Center (VCC), which is open from 7:30AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday. The form is online and can be completed prior to arrival, but you are required to sign it at the VCC after presenting proper personal identification.

All hunters must have a Washington State hunting license and any species-specific licenses. There are no vendors for Washington State licenses on the installation. The installation hunting permit can be purchased at Gallery Golf Course at a cost of \$13.

Specific documents required to get your installation hunting permit are:

- Pheasant hunters must bring DoD-issued identification or State-issued identification with NCIC background check and a Western Washington Pheasant License (with odd/even selection).

- Waterfowl hunters must present DoD-issued identification card, Washington small game license, migratory bird validation, and Federal duck stamp (attached to license and signed across the face).

- Deer hunters must present DoD-issued identification card, Washington big game license with archery only deer option, and transport tag.

Questions may be directed to the Environmental Office; John Phillips: 360-257-8873 or Mike Bianchi: 360-257-4024.

[Submitted by Mike Welding, Public Affairs Officer, NAS Whidbey Island]

State Parks Offers Unique Learning Opportunities For Students and Children Programs are offered in-person and virtually

Washington State Parks offers unique learning opportunities for children and students in person and virtually throughout the year.

Interpretive staff have developed pre-recorded lessons that are accessible through Flipgrid. The lessons have been designed to help students learn about Washington state parks virtually at their own pace. The platform encourages students, families and educators to engage in virtual discussions. Current video topics include Geology 101, the Naming of Deception Pass, a Nature Observation Virtual Walk, What is a Marine Mammal and more. Parks currently offers 26 unique videos on Flip-

grid, and the agency plans to create additional videos throughout the year.

At select parks, live virtual field trips are offered by interpretive staff. They provide real-time programming produced onsite in the park. The field trips allow students to experience the park in a way that helps simulate an in-person educational adventure. Virtual field trips are currently offered by staff at Cape Disappointment, Deception Pass, Ginkgo Petrified Forest, Mount St. Helens Visitor Center and Surrounding Area and Central Whidbey Area parks. Virtual field trip lessons can be tailored to meet specific educational goals and requirements. Visit parks.state.wa.us for more information and booking contact information.

Since 1953, Washington State Parks has offered educational programming through the agency's Interpretive Program. Traditionally, interpretive staff developed learning opportunities that were only offered in-person. Attendance was limited to those who were able to visit the parks or attend a classroom visit.

The program delivery model shifted in 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when interpreters began producing virtual lesson plans and field trips. The change offered a different way for children to access important historical, cultural and science-related programs. This development has helped reduce participation barriers.

"We want to create park experiences and educational opportunities that are accessible to everyone," said Ryan Karlson, Interpretive Program Manager. "Our in-person programming is great and offers hands-on experience through educational programs. However, we know not every student can easily visit our parks. Geographic and socioeconomic barriers have kept youth from participating in the past. The new, virtual offerings help remove those barriers and provide easier access for interested students throughout the state. We've even been able to expand our reach and connect with individuals across the country."

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAS NEW & USED MATTRESSES AND NEW & USED BEDFRAMES!



Habitat for Humanity

New: Mattresses, Flooring, and Online Store!

We offer a variety of new and used products. Find your next treasure with us today!

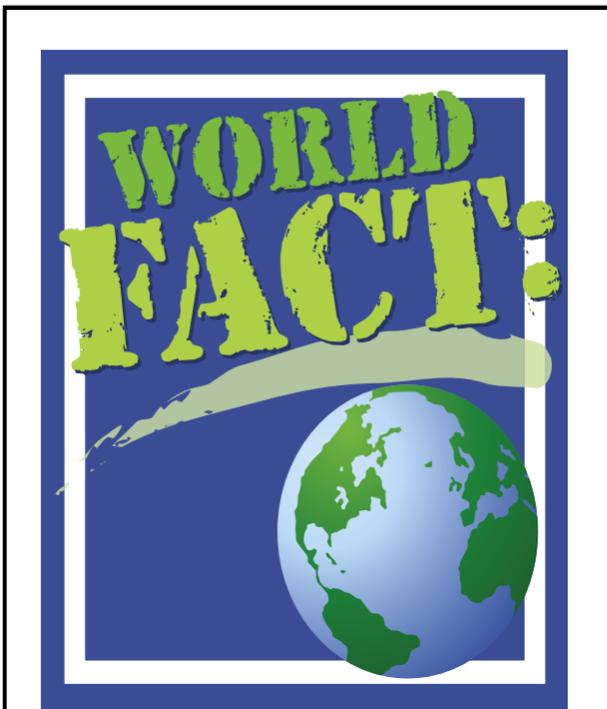
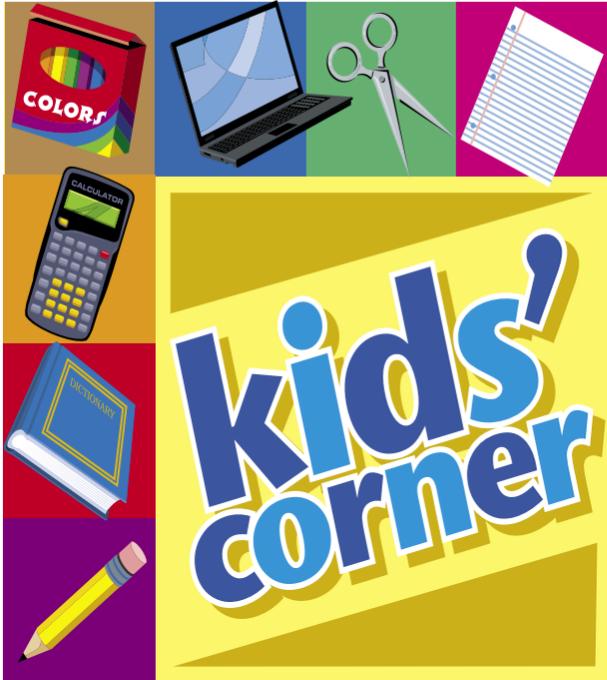


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FREELAND • 1592 Main Street • 360.331.6272
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HALLOWEEN TRACES
ITS ORIGINS TO
THIS COUNTRY.

ANSWER: IRELAND

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Extra spider on right 2. No spider in center of pizza 3. No eyes on ghost 4. Pumpkin on middle left has bigger stem

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1415: THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE TAKES PLACE.
- 1760: KING GEORGE III OF BRITAIN IS CROWNED.
- 1940: BENJAMIN O. DAVIS IS NAMED THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GENERAL IN THE U.S. ARMY.



PHANTOM

ghost or figment
of the imagination

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Ghost

SPANISH: Fantasma

ITALIAN: Spettro

FRENCH: Fantôme

GERMAN: Geist

Did You Know?

TO HELP A JACK-O'-LANTERN LAST LONGER AFTER IT'S BEEN CARVED, LEAVE THE STEM INTACT AND CUT A HOLE TO INSERT A LIGHT IN THE BACK OR BOTTOM OF THE PUMPKIN, INSTEAD.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CANDY CORN



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.

Trunk or Treat

Friday, October 22, 5:00-7:00PM

Station 36, 5579 Bayview Road, Langley

The public is invited to join South Whidbey Fire/EMS at the top of the hill for a trunk or treat event. A fire engine will be parked between the event and a designated area for public parking. The only cars participating and offering treats during the event belong to fire department members and staff. These decorated cars will all be numbered, so the public will have a chance to vote on which car they like the best. For more information, call 360-321-1533 or email alex.mcmahon@swfe.org.

Live Entertainment: The Brohamms

Friday, October 22, 8:00PM

Orlando's BBQ, Oak Harbor

Brohamm covers Motown classics and modern soul/pop favorites. No Cover. Call 360-544-6344 for more information.

Dine Out 4 Kids

Saturday, October 23, 4:00-9:00PM

Captain Whidbey Inn, Coupeville

Captain Whidbey will donate a portion of the day's sales to the Coupeville Schools Foundation. The foundation provides an extra measure of support to students through teacher grants, scholarships and the Promise Fund. The Captain Whidbey Inn is located at 2072 W. Captain Whidbey Inn Road.

Live Music - Carly Ann Calbero

Saturday, October 23, 6:00PM

Penn Cove Taproom, Coupeville

Calbero is a Seattle musician with an acoustic guitar and a big voice playing a mix of folk, pop, and rock. No cover. For more information, visit www.penncovebrewing.com.

Read and Create Space

Wednesday, October 27, 4:00-7:00PM

210 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor

Free books, games, and puzzles will be available. While visiting, guests are encouraged to take some time and utilize art supplies and creative activities featured at this event. All ages are welcome. Find more info on Facebook.com/ReadandCreateSpaceOakHarbor.

Pumpkin Day

Saturday, October 30, 10:00AM-3:00PM

(while supplies last)

The Langley park on 2nd & Anthes

In addition to pumpkins being fun to decorate this time of year, they are the symbol of fall, they are in our lattes, sweet and savory treats and we decorate our homes with them. To celebrate all things pumpkin this year, take a trip to downtown Langley and test out the many offerings local business have in pumpkin form. The Langley Chamber of Commerce will be providing pumpkins and stickers to anyone who wants to decorate a pumpkin. Take home options available too. For more information, call 360-221-6765.

2nd Annual Drive-Thru Trick or Treat

Saturday, October 30, 4:00-6:00PM

Clinton Community Hall

Families are invited to join this free drive-thru Halloween 2021 event. Come enjoy costumed characters manning decorated booths as they hand out candy and goodies for children and parents. All participants will remain in their cars. For information, contact info@clinton-communityhall.org

Meetings & Organizations

Al-Anon

Every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30AM

432 2nd St., Langley

If a friend or relative has a problem with alcohol, you can find solutions for yourself at Alanon.

Al-Anon Group

Oak Harbor

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon group can help. Call Laurie at 360-675-4430 for meeting information.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Day, 12:00 & 8:00PM

432 2nd Street, Langley

For more information, call 360-221-2070

Classes, Seminars and Workshops

Orca and Salmon-Inherent Connections

Wednesday, October 27, 6:00-8:30PM

Free Online Webinar

You will learn about the endangered Southern Resident orcas, who come into Puget Sound October through January, searching for salmon. Presenters include Jacques White from Long Live the Kings, Brad Hanson from NOAA Fisheries, and Tara Galuska, Washington State Orca Recovery coordinator. Watch beautiful videos of salmon returning to the Elwha River and orcas as they share salmon. Pre-register at <https://fb.me/e/4IUfLEITD>.

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OAK HARBOR CINEMAS

BOOK ONLINE

Movie Showtimes
Week 10/22/21 thru 10/26/21

DUNE (PG-13)
Friday & Saturday: 3:45pm, 7:00pm & 10:00pm
Sunday - Tuesday: 3:45pm & 7:00pm

HALLOWEEN KILLS (R)
Friday & Saturday: 4:00pm, 7:15pm & 9:50pm
Sunday - Tuesday: 4:00pm & 7:15pm

NO TIME TO DIE (PG-13)
Friday & Saturday: 3:30pm, 6:35pm & 9:40pm
Sunday - Tuesday: 3:30pm & 6:35pm

CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

1321 SW Barlow St • Oak Harbor
Movie Hotline 360-279-2226
Book A Party or Special Showing 360-279-0526
www.oakharborcinemas.com

GARDEN CENTER NEWS

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(Not valid on prior sales)
Sale dates 10/20-10/26



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BROHAMM

FUNK | SOUL | R&B | POP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22
8PM



For safety purposes, capacity is limited and admission will be granted on a first come, first serve basis.

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orlandosbbq.com

This Weekend!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 - SINGLE FEATURE
DUNE (PG-13)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22 THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24
RON'S GONE WRONG (PG)
DUNE (PG-13)

BLUE FOX DRIVE-IN THEATER

BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 4PM, FIRST MOVIE BEGINS AT DUSK (APPROX 6:50PM)
11 & OVER \$6.50*; KIDS 5-10 \$1.00*; 4 & UNDER FREE *CASH PRICES
GO KARTS OPEN AT 4PM FRIDAY, 12PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY
1403 N MONROE LANDING RD • OAK HARBOR
360-675-5667 • www.bluefoxdrivein.com



BONE AND JOINT HEALTH ACTION WEEK

TAKING JOINT REPLACEMENT to new standards

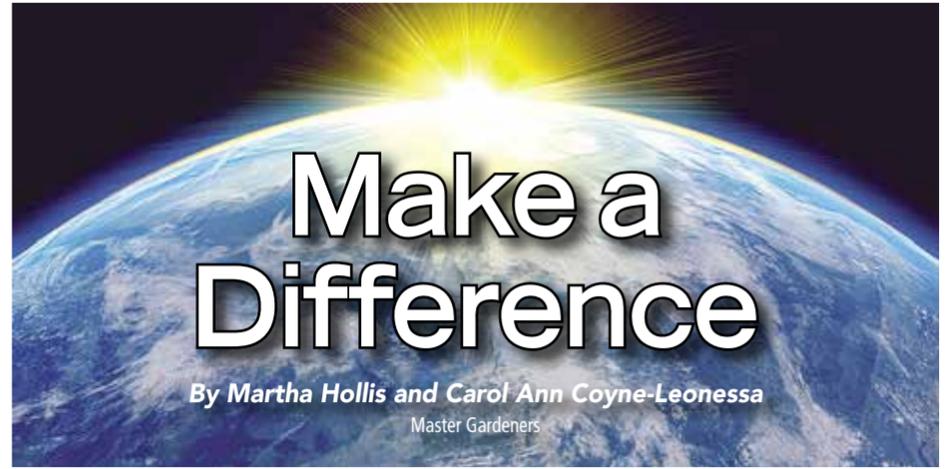


Our new Enhanced Recovery After Surgery [ERAS] process is a global standard providing:

- Total Joint Patient Education Program
- Less time in the hospital
- Lower risk of infection
- Comprehensive plan for your care and recovery

Accelerate your return to a pain free and active lifestyle right here on Whidbey.

Learn more at:
whidbeyhealth.org/jointreplacement



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR WILDLIFE

We have all become aware recently of the plight of our pollinators. Our lawns look great, but do they provide a home for bees, caterpillars, birds and other wildlife? Truth be told, a lawn provides very little benefit to wildlife. In fact, it can harm wildlife through maintenance practices such as mowing and fertilizing. Raking up and disposing of fallen leaves removes protective cover for pupating moths and butterflies and organic material to enrich the soil. Chemical fertilizers can run off into the sea or pollute groundwater.

At the Hollis home, a modest one-sixth of an acre residential lot on the edge of a forest, my husband and I decided the natural environment was more beautiful than a lawn. We have allowed our lawn to grow wild. We have let the leaves stay on the ground under the plants. We use arborist wood chips and compost as mulch to feed and hold moisture in our soil. We realized that by adding a hedgerow along our fence line, we provide a safe place for birds to land and rest. Birds depend on the tall grass and thickets we planted for nesting and protection. By applying these habitat enhancing practices, we see many birds such as woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, hummingbirds, brown creepers and more. Douglas squirrels harvest their namesake fir cones, chattering all the while. Harmless garter snakes have gained some control over the slug population and bumblebees visit our year-round flowers we enjoy so much.

In the early 1970s, Carol Ann's mother-in-law, Nora Coyne Knierim, documented more than 75 species of flora and fauna on her land. She submitted her information to Washington State Fish and Wildlife which designated her five acres as a backyard wildlife sanctuary. Over the years, her forested land has been home to eagles, herons, hummingbirds, bees, rabbits, raccoons and of course, deer. Conifers, yews, hemlock, and fruit trees have provided homes and shade for the many residents of Harrington Lagoon.

Nora's descendants have chosen to keep the area wild and only use a lawn as a pathway through garden beds.

It is easy to get your garden certified as a natural habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Your garden must contain food, water, cover and nesting areas, and must use sustainable gardening practices. Food can be native plants with berries or fruit and flowers for pollinators. Water can be a pond or a birdbath; if a bubbler or moving water can be included, it will draw many birds. Cover is a bit of dense vegetation, shrubs, a hedge, brush pile, or a thicket for wildlife to escape and hide from predators. Nesting areas are

trees, thickets, or a snag left in place when a tree falls. Sustainable gardening practices include water conservation, mulching, and limiting the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

We can all do our part to restore habitat for our fellow creatures on Earth. To get started, just stop mowing part of your lawn. Maybe mow the pathways through the lawn and let some areas grow. Raise the cutting height on your mower. Taller grass allows wildlife, such as bumblebees and other insects, to survive and go about their beneficial activities. Adding some native plants and trees will provide food and cover for birds. If you put a little fence around the tall grass, your neighbors will recognize that you haven't abandoned your lawn but are experimenting with another kind of gardening beauty – the beauty of sharing your landscape with our native wildlife.

Our national parks and other protected areas are not big enough or connected enough to prevent the loss of habitat for many species. Dr. Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology and author of several important habitat restoration books, has proposed we collectively create a new national park, the Homegrown National Park. He proposes that if just half of the lawns in America were converted to habitat, wildlife corridors would be created that would reverse the ecological damage to our environment. There are over 44 million acres of privately owned lawn area in the United States. If folks would convert half of their lawn areas to native vegetation, those 22 million acres would be larger than all the national parks put together.

The following are good sources of information:

The National Wildlife Foundation has a native plant finder database (www.nwf.org/Native-PlantFinder). Enter your zip code to find native plants for your area.

To put your garden on the map or learn about the Homegrown National Park concept visit www.homegrownnationalpark.org.

If you have garden questions, contact the WSU Extension Island County Master Gardener hotline at 360-639-6058. WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers help educate gardeners on research-based horticultural practices that help protect and preserve our natural resources. The Island County Master Gardener Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides educational opportunities to the community and supports the Master Gardener and Washington State University Extension education program. See www.icmgf.org for more information about their mission.



NO TRICKS SAFE TREATS

3:00-5:00pm
October 30, 2021
Downtown Oak Harbor

TRICK OR TREATING • PHOTO BOOTH
COSTUME CONTEST WITH PRIZES
POSH PUPPIES PET COSTUME CONTEST
FLIGHTLINE FRANKS

Please wear masks & social distance.

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BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Karlson emphasized that in-person opportunities will continue - and grow stronger - because of the supplemental virtual programming.

"As pandemic restrictions began to relax, we resumed offering modified in-person learning activities," said Karlson. "We are happy to have visitors back at our parks, and our staff enjoy interacting with students, children and families. However, our virtual programs provide valuable opportunities for broad audiences, and we will continue to offer those experiences, hopefully for years to come."

In-person learning opportunities range from exhibits and lessons at interpretive centers to tidepool talks, guided hikes, campsite chats and more. Visit individual park webpages to learn more about offerings and upcoming events.

Additional learning opportunities offered by Parks include:

Junior Rangers Program: Youth and families can play, discover and learn about how to protect State Parks through Junior Rangers Program activities. Junior Rangers Program activities and events are hosted at parks throughout the state. Visit our website for more information and easy to use printable activity sheets.

Agents of Discovery: Agents of Discovery is a free, educational mobile gaming app that uses augmented reality to motivate kids of all ages to actively explore and learn more about the outdoors. Parks staff designed two missions — one for the Franklin Ghost Town and one for Saint Edward State Park. View the Adventure Awaits blog post to learn more.

Adventure Lab: Adventure Lab is a free location-based digital treasure hunt designed for all ages. These Adventures guide users through 10 Washington state parks in Island county and help them solve questions by using physical features within the landscape. View the Adventure Awaits blog post to learn more.

To learn more about all offered learning opportunities, please visit parks.state.wa.us.

[Submitted by Amanda McCarthy, Communications Manager, Washington State Parks]

Skagit Valley College President Keegan Announces Retirement

After 43 years of service in the Washington Community and Technical College system, and as the third longest serving President of Skagit Valley College (SVC), Dr. Tom Keegan has announced his intent to retire effective Aug. 31, 2022.

"I am forever grateful to have been able to come full circle from student to President at the college that set me on an inspiring and life-changing educational journey," said Keegan.

Since his arrival in March 2012, Dr. Keegan has worked tirelessly to expand access to higher education, transform the college culture, collaborate and innovate to support regional economic development efforts through education, and reach out to and partner with diverse communities.

Highlights of his tenure and leadership include:

The College received authority to serve as a baccalaureate-granting institution, and is currently offering applied bachelor degrees in Environmental Conservation and Applied Management.

Latino student enrollment increased from 12 percent in 2012 to 24 percent in 2021, and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities recently recognized SVC as an "Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution."

The SVC Foundation raised over \$16 million since 2012, including increasing its endowment from \$7.6 million to over \$19 million, conducting its first-ever capital campaign, which raised \$3 million to support childcare vouchers, emergency grants, and classroom enhancements, and a \$3 million campaign to construct the Sue Krienen Early Learning and Childcare Center on the Mount Vernon campus.

An aggressive grant-writing effort in support of equity in student success garnered over \$20 million in federal, state, and private funds.

The College's comprehensive Student Achievement Strategy resulted in dramatic increases in student success measures and the College being selected as one of 30 colleges nationwide to participate in the inaugural Guided Pathways Project, led by the American Association of American Community Colleges.

Through innovative and collaborative instructional programming, the College developed the first two-year Craft Brew program in Washington, and in partnership with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, developed the Dental Health Aide Therapist degree—one of only three in the US.

The College developed new degrees in Manufacturing Technology, Applications Development, Information Management and Data Science, Multi-Occupational Trades, Engineering, and Sustainable Agriculture.

"Under Tom's exceptional leadership, the College has embraced the principles of respect, integrity, open and honest communication, collaboration, and compassion," said SVC Board of Trustees Chair Flora Perez-Lucatero. "Skagit Valley College is viewed as a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion work, and our College prides itself in serving our diverse populations, and meeting students where they are."

A proud SVC alum, Keegan earned an Associate in Arts Degree in 1978. During his time as a student, he was co-captain of the 1977 men's soccer team that went on to win the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) championship and was co-captain of the College's baseball team. In 1978, he was named SVC Athlete of the Year and was a finalist for the Charles H. Lewis Memorial Award. In 1985, Keegan returned to SVC as a graduate intern and Head Soccer Coach, leading the Cardinals to the NWAC championship.

Dr. Keegan began his career in higher education at Tacoma Community College, where he served in numerous positions. He served as Vice President of Student Services at South Puget Sound Community College, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services at Columbia Basin College, and served as President of Peninsula College for eleven years before being named President of SVC.

The Board of Trustees will begin a national search process which is expected to take several months. The Board expects to name the new SVC President in April 2022.

SVC serves over 6,000 students each quarter at two campuses in Mount Vernon and Oak Harbor and three centers in Anacortes, Burlington, and Friday Harbor.

[Submitted by Laura Daniali, Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications, SVC]

Local Business News**Peoples Bank Opens Permanent Branch Location in Oak Harbor**
The new Oak Harbor Financial Center opens on Monday, October 25, at its new location, 570 NE Midway Blvd.

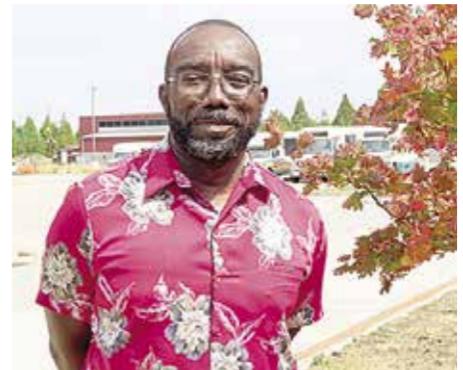
Peoples Bank is pleased to announce the opening of its relocated Oak Harbor Financial Center at 570 NE Midway Blvd. on Monday, October 25. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is also planned for 10:00AM on Wednesday, October 27, during which Peoples Bank will be recognized as the "Business of the Month" by the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce. Customers and community members are invited to join City of Oak Harbor Mayor Robert Severns, Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Board President Jeff Pleet, and Charles LeCocq, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Peoples Bank, at this event.

"Our decision to purchase property and relocate our Oak Harbor Financial Center is significant as it solidifies our long-term commitment to serving the Oak Harbor and Island County community," said Mark Swanson, retail sales and service director at Peoples Bank. "Our new location offers many facilities upgrades including dedicated customer parking, improved access to our Drive-Thru teller, and plenty of room for future expansion."

Peoples Bank began serving customers in Island County when it opened its Coupe-

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**IT'S AN ISLAND – AFTER ALL**

Jerome started working at Island Transit 12 years ago. He's a bus operator and paratransit driver. Jerome is one of the few Island Transit bus operators who used to commute by Island Transit bus and vanpool. Having been a rider as well as a driver gives him a deeper understanding of the customer's experience.



While in the Navy, he was stationed at NAS Whidbey. After his military service, he wanted to live on Whidbey Island but he worked in Bothell. He commuted by bus to the Clinton ferry where he transferred to a vanpool to Bothell. If any vanpool buddies were late and caused them to miss the ferry, they had to buy ice cream for the others on their way home.

Jerome loves the relaxed atmosphere at Island Transit and says the Hawaiian shirts they wear set the tone.

Did You Know...

Island transit bus operators wear Hawaiian shirts to work. These specially designed shirts were made for Island Transit staff featuring whales, salmon, and the Deception Pass Bridge.

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Photo Courtesy of the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association
Pumpkins painted with images from the film "Practical Magic" have been scattered about the town of Coupeville in honor of movie, which is the theme for this year's Haunting of Coupeville.

Coupeville artist swaps canvas for pumpkins

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Ivy Breen loves to paint. The Coupeville artist has painted large-scale, historical murals and she's painted small pieces from paper grocery bags. But in the fall, her favorite time of year, she paints pumpkins.

In fact, she's joined in the fun of the annual Haunting of Coupeville by providing 15 painted pumpkins to the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association, which have been randomly placed around town. Each pumpkin contains an image from the film "Practical Magic," which serves as the theme of this year's Haunting, "It's Practically Magic."

"I used to paint on a lot of things," said Breen, who moved to Coupeville from Idaho five years ago. "I've painted gold pans, I've painted on furniture. I would even paint underneath and on the back side, I'd paint an original poem. I'd paint the insides of doors and drawers. Art is supposed to move you. It's interactive. I thought people should have a discovery every time they interacted with a piece of furniture, whether they were opening a door or a drawer, they would discover a new piece of art."

Breen grew up in an artistic household, she said. Her mother was a painter, her father, a sculptor (in addition to his day job). She did her first oil painting when she was 7. Although she worked as an accountant professionally, art has always been in her life, whether creating it or teaching it. Her goal was to paint full time, which she achieved when she retired 11 years ago.

And, while she paints standard canvases, painting on pumpkins has long been a favorite.

"I got to thinking about how it started," she said. "I was part of a little community that had a 'haunted hotel.' As part of that event, we were having a pumpkin decorating contest. Of course, everyone was thinking carved



Photo Courtesy of Ivy Breen
Coupeville artist Ivy Breen has been painting pumpkins for more than 25 years. This year she has painted several pumpkins for the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association's Haunting of Coupeville.

pumpkins, but I immediately thought 'fine art on pumpkins.' When I ran out of pumpkins to paint, I started painting on cans of pumpkin. I even took a frozen pumpkin pie out of the box and then painted on the box. I did all kinds of entries. It was kind of a wacky, crazy thing. After that, I kept on painting."

That was 25 years ago and she's still going strong. Breen was on her 26th pumpkin of the year when *Whidbey Weekly* spoke with her last week.

"It took a while to perfect the process," Breen shared. "It's not that easy. The paint doesn't just stick to a pumpkin, there's quite a process. It takes longer to prep a pumpkin than to paint a pumpkin."

For the "Practical Magic" pumpkins, Breen said she watched the movie and snapped

pumpkins, but I immediately thought 'fine art on pumpkins.' When I ran out of pumpkins to paint, I started painting on cans of pumpkin. I even took a frozen pumpkin pie out of the box and then painted on the box. I did all kinds of entries. It was kind of a wacky, crazy thing. After that, I kept on painting."

"I knew didn't want to do portraits," she said. "It was hard to find paintable scenes."

Painting so many pumpkins every year is hard work, according to Breen.

"I love it, but it's very grueling," she said. "I'm just exhausted. You hit a wall and it's like you're brain dead. I always think this will be my last year, but then when I see the pumpkins ripening in the field, I get a fever."

"I've had some wonderful experiences as a result of painting pumpkins," Breen continued. "One time I brought a small pumpkin to a lady; I had painted it weeks earlier, but it just sat in my garage, ready for me to just put it in the car and take it. So, I took it, knocked on her door, and she came out and was so

touched I was there, because that day was the one-year anniversary of her husband's death. She said she woke up and felt so bad, and then there I was with a pretty painted pumpkin for her. I've had some wonderful experiences. It's like there's a pumpkin angel that kind of directs me."

Sharing her talent is something that seems to come naturally to Breen. She's taught art at the middle and high school level and she currently teaches a weekly class on Mondays at The Center in Oak Harbor. During the pandemic, she said she would shop at the Red Apple in Coupeville and found herself feeling bad for the dedicated grocery workers. So, she found a way to bring art to workers and customers alike to brighten days during a difficult time.

"I sat there looking at the grocery bags and I thought 'I think I could do something with that,'" she described. "I started doing art – itty bitty little pastels that I would slip into clear, cellophane bags, along with a little note. I brought in 200 of those and gave them to people. I'd have them in my purse – it was my pandemic art, and I'd tell where the sacks came from."

Breen said she loves everything about this time of year – the colors in particular.

"I think it's the fun of it all," she said. "I think orange is a fun color; everything about orange is just fun. I love trick or treating, I love kids coming to the house, even teenagers."

But perhaps more than anything, Breen loves sharing her love of art.

"I tell people to enjoy the journey," she said. "Art is a journey. It's not about the finished piece, it's the journey to get there. That's why I do such odd things, I guess. I do traditional things as well, but it keeps me positive and learning. They talk about lifelong learning. I take that seriously."

BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ville branch in July 2004. The Bank opened its Oak Harbor branch the following year and added a Real Estate Loan Center in Freeland in 2015. Today Peoples Bank retains 19 full-time employees at its three branch locations in Island County.

The Peoples Bank Oak Harbor banking team is led by the following financial services advisors:

Carron Chernobieff, District Branch Manager. A 20-year banking veteran, Carron is a strong advocate for community involvement. She sits on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Island County and is a member of the City of Oak Harbor Finance Committee and Rotary Club of Oak Harbor. She also serves as a judge for the Soroptimist Oak Harbor Live Your Dream Awards, a program recognizing women who provide the primary financial support for their families and offer-

ing resources to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects.

Jim Slowik, Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer. Jim has over four decades of experience in business and banking. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Jim has lived and worked on Whidbey Island for more than 35 years and is actively involved in giving back to the community through his work with the Island Thrift Board, North Whidbey Lions Club, Oak Harbor Rotary Club, the Oak Harbor School Board, the City of Oak Harbor, and the Island County Board of Health.

Jason Joiner, Vice President and Business Development Officer. A lifelong Whidbey Island resident, Jason has served Oak Harbor in several roles, including as a commercial real estate broker for 15 years and as Chief Deputy Assessor for Island County. He has also served as chair of the Island County Housing Author-

ity, as a member of the Island County Affordable Housing Task Force, Washington State Dept of Transportation Ferry Advisory Committee, and other public committees.

Brittney Shigley, Mortgage Loan Representative. Brittney is a lifelong Whidbey Island resident who grew up in a U.S. Navy family. She is a member of the executive team for Whidbey Young Professionals, a group created to help with networking, professional development, and community service opportunities.

Keith Hamilton, CFP®, APMA®, Peoples Investments - LPL Financial Advisor. Keith offers investment clients comprehensive financial guidance, including wealth and portfolio management, retirement, estate, and insurance planning.

"The entire Oak Harbor team is very excited to welcome customers to our new location where we will continue to offer a full relation-

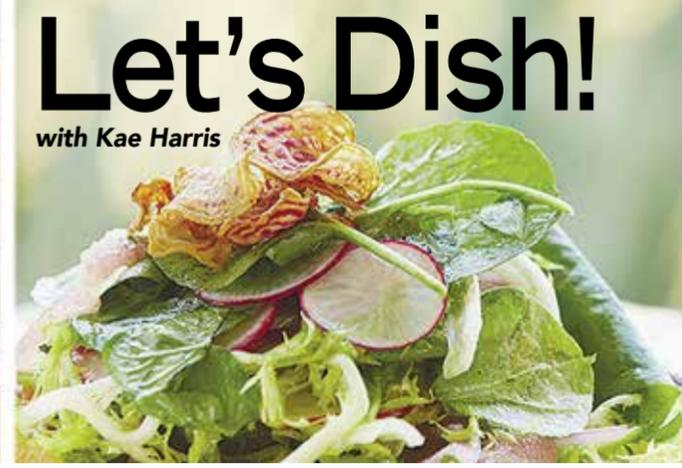
ship banking experience, including personal and business banking, real estate lending, and investment planning," said Carron Chernobieff, Peoples Bank district branch manager. "Peoples Bank is deeply committed to serving the Oak Harbor community, as evidenced by our dedication to hiring local staff, our participation in local civic and business organizations, and our sponsorship of community events."

Peoples Bank was founded 100 years ago with a commitment to give back to the communities it serves. As a member of the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, the bank sponsors the annual golf tournament and Crab Cakes and Cocktails celebration to help raise funds for local events. It also sponsors the Oak Harbor Music Festival, Hydros for Heroes, Oak Harbor Pigfest, and the Soroptimist Oak Harbor "Power of the Purse" program. It is also a business partner with the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum.



Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris



SCARY WITH A SIDE OF HEALTHY!

As October draws to a close, we are coming closer to a celebration that is loved by all: Halloween!

While the allure of Halloween for kids (and those who are kids at heart!) is the prospect of collecting a treasure trove of candy, I look forward to making snacks with a ghoulish twist that not only taste great but spark the imagination with their play on the Halloween theme. This year, I have challenged myself to do something different while still having fun creating snacks and dishes that fit with the Halloween spirit: a menu made up of only vegetarian or vegan options. Why am I doing this, I hear you ask? For a number of years, I have been trying to introduce more vegetarian options to my family (particularly my kids, who have an apparent phobia of veggies) and I couldn't think of a better way of putting my culinary skills to the test than by creating some treats that not only taste good but trick the senses and prove plant-based alternatives should be enjoyed by all! I hope the list I've compiled will give you some ideas and open up some flavor doorways you never thought you would cross!

Vegan Rice Krispie Monster Treats

This delicious treat combines my love of cooking with my love of arts and craft and is a great way of getting kids into the spooky swing of things. This vegan take on traditional rice cereal treats gives a snack that is softer and healthier while also providing a great gluten-free option. The recipe is simple and the ingredients are readily available at most grocery stores. Have fun bringing this creature to life with your family and friends using the following recipe:

For the Rice Krispies:

- 1 tablespoon vegan butter
- 2 cups vegan marshmallows
- 4 cups organic brown rice cereal
- 5 drops natural green coloring

For the hair/mouth:

- 1/2 cup nondairy chocolate, melted, + 1 table-spoon coconut oil
- chocolate sprinkles

For the eyes:

- 12 edible googly eyes

For the neck bolts:

- 6 vegan marshmallows, sliced in half

Other ingredients:

- 6 popsicle sticks

Instructions:

Line an 8x8 pan with wax paper. In a medium saucepan, melt the vegan butter and vegan marshmallows on medium/low heat, stirring often. Once completely melted, remove from the heat and add the natural food coloring until well-combined. Add the brown rice cereal. Place in the 8x8 pan and pat down gently. Allow to cool down for 10 minutes. Cut into 6 rectangles. Place a popsicle stick into each treat. Coat the tops of the treats with melted chocolate and sprinkles. Attach the googly eyes with melted chocolate; do the same with marshmallows for the bolts. Use melted chocolate to draw the mouths and allow to set.

Baked Monster Donuts

Donuts are a guilty pleasure of mine (and most people, I suspect!) but I tend to avoid these sweet confections because they aren't the healthiest option around. Sure, deep-fried dough covered in sugar is undeniably amazing, but what if there were an alternative that was healthy and helped set the mood for Halloween? Look no further because these delicious donuts are baked to give a healthier version of the traditional fare we love and they are easy to decorate, which makes them perfect for creating a creepy creation to be enjoyed by all!

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup white whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup special dark cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 6 ounces unsweetened applesauce
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups sifted powdered sugar
- 3-5 tablespoons water
- 16-ounce container vanilla frosting
- Green food coloring
- 30 edible googly eyes, 5 for each donut

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Spray a donut pan with cooking spray. Combine flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and baking soda in a bowl. In another bowl, combine applesauce, sugar and vanilla. Pour the wet ingredients over the dry ingredients and stir until just combined. Spoon the batter into the donut pan, filling about 2/3 full. Bake for 10-12 minutes, until golden brown on the bottom.

Allow the donuts to cool in the pan for about 3 minutes before emptying out onto a cooling rack. Mix powdered sugar and water together to make a viscous, pourable glaze. Pour over the donuts and spread the glaze with the back of a spoon. In a bowl, combine the half tub (8 ounces) of vanilla frosting and 20-25 drops of the green food coloring. Spread over the tops of the glazed donuts and use the tip of a knife to poke at the frosting to create spikes. Randomly place the googly eyes on the donut and scream with joy!

Black Bean Pumpkin Soup

This hearty soup is the perfect way to warm up anyone who stops by on a cold day and is rich in protein, anti-oxidants and flavor! This healthy and simple soup will fill up your family while freeing up your time to enjoy fun activities with those closest to you. Use non-dairy yogurt to create fun designs or write chilly messages on the surface of the soup to give everyone a healthy dose of fright to go with spoonful of deliciousness!

Ingredients:

- 2 15-ounce cans black beans rinsed and drained
- 1 15-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 3 cups low sodium vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3-4 garlic cloves, chopped fine
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika or regular
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked black pepper or regular
- 1/4 teaspoon ground chipotle pepper
- 1 15-ounce canned pumpkin puree
- 2 -3 teaspoons Balsamic vinegar

Instructions:

Add drained beans, tomatoes and half of the broth to a blender and puree until smooth. In a large saucepan heat olive oil over medium low heat and add onion, cooking until soft and fragrant (about 3-5 minutes). Add garlic and cook 1 minute more before adding spices and cooking for an additional 2 minutes.

Stir in black bean-tomato puree, pumpkin, and the rest of the broth. Simmer uncovered until blended and thickened, about 15 minutes. Stir in vinegar and serve!

I hope these recipes inspire you to create your own vegetarian or vegan versions of your favorite holiday dishes. Feel free to Dish! your recipes with the rest of the Lets Dish! family by writing to me at letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com along with any comments and I hope you have a fantastically spooky Halloween!

Source: www.veganfoodandliving.com/features/22-ghoulishicious-vegan-halloween-recipes/

To read past columns of *Let's Dish* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

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Life Tributes

Bonnie Tchuileng

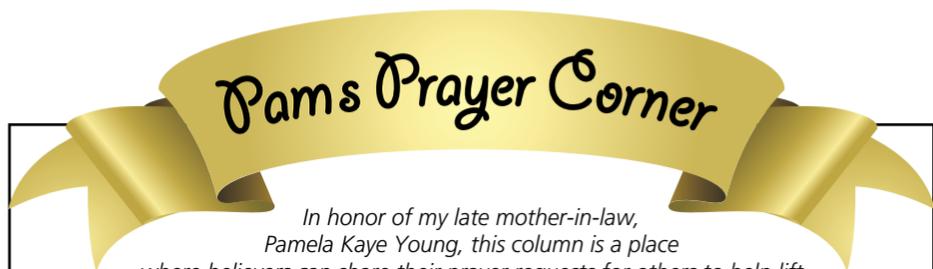
Our dear Bonnie began her earthly journey in New Jersey in 1943. Moving with her parents to Bellevue, Wash., she was joined by her little sister, Gail. Attending local schools, Bonnie blossomed in high school as she studied college prep subjects, including French, and enjoyed serving as cheer leader for her school. Continuing her studies, Bonnie graduated from University of Washington, and journeyed to France to polish her language skills. She became fluent in French and later taught French in Detroit.

Married while in Massachusetts, the couple welcomed a son John and a daughter Susanna. The marriage ended, and Bonnie later lived with her parents in Washington State. She often spoke proudly of her two children and four grandchildren (now in college and high school on the east coast).

Bonnie continued her lifelong devotion to Christian Science, serving on the church board and in the Reading Room. She was a member of The Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, the global center of Christian Science, and attended First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Oak Harbor.

Bonnie may be remembered as Barbara June Thompson before marriage in 2008 to Georges Tchuileng, their home being in Oak Harbor. Bonnie completed her earthly journey September 2021. She will be remembered dearly.

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



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,

How precious it is that you watch over us each day. You give guidance by touching our heart, you give strength through those around us, you show love through those who are near us, and you provide hope when we feel all hope is lost. Yet, when we are still, your loving arms comfort us. You let us know we are loved – yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever more. Thank you, God, for be the all knowing, the everywhere God. You are always providing your Grace and Mercy. To God be the Glory, Amen.

Roosevelt Rumble, USN Ret. Mins.

“to God be the Glory”

Galatians 1:5-15



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OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

If you could visit any place in the world, where would it be, and why?



Robin Hylton, Oak Harbor

I would love to visit Ireland. My grandparents were first generation Americans from Ireland. I would want to explore the old castles and countryside and meet my extended family living there. The photos I've seen of the coast are breathtaking.

Tricia Fick, Oak Harbor

If I could visit any place in the world it would be Auvers-sur-Oise, France where Vincent Van Gogh lived the last two months of his life and is buried. Ever since I lived in Holland when I was young and we studied Van Gogh's art, I have been a fan of his art. The trip would be an appreciation to an artist and his work as well as something that would sort of bring back a piece of my childhood.



Colin Huffman, Greenbank

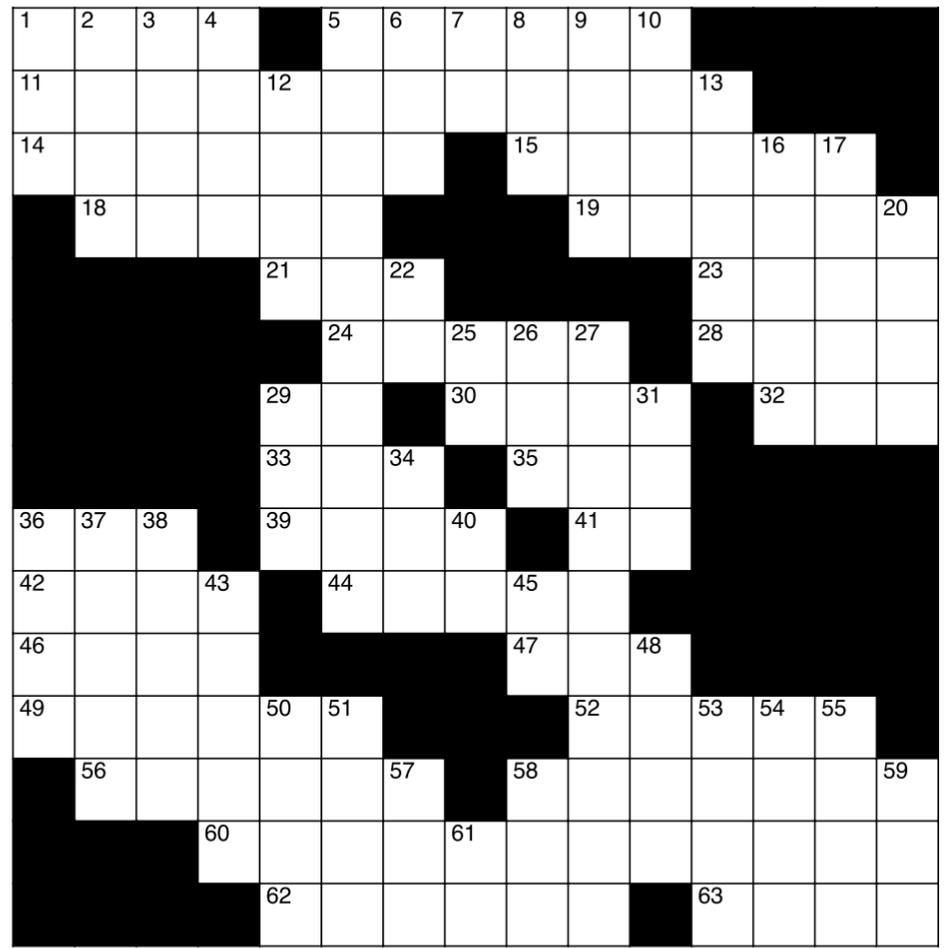
I would choose a destination with either a personal connection or a purpose beyond simple tourism. Rather than travel somewhere solely to see something, my ideal journey would have lasting positive impact on others and even myself. Next trip would be to Iceland from where my Grandparents immigrated and I still have family.

Kelly Davidson, Oak Harbor

I would love to visit Rome; to see the ancient catacombs, the Flavian Amphitheatre, and the city of Baia. The history and mythology of the Roman empire are intriguing, the engineering implemented (aqueducts specifically) were state-of-the-art, and I have heard the beaches there are gorgeous and warm.



Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Flat-topped hill
- 5. Move upward
- 11. Admiration
- 14. It's useful for serving food
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. One of the Greek Muses
- 19. A type of media
- 21. Sunscreen rating
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. German town devastated in WW2
- 28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
- 29. Leave
- 30. Forearm bone
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Helps little firms
- 35. Defunct economic organization
- 36. Science-based students organization (abbr.)
- 39. Feels ill
- 41. Indicates position
- 42. Beverage containers
- 44. Assists
- 46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)

47. Purpose

- 49. Group of elected officials
- 52. Hebrew prophet
- 56. They help you drink
- 58. Lawmaker
- 60. Charitable
- 62. Doctrines
- 63. Footwear

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Where wrestlers work
- 2. Dueling sword
- 3. Practice fight
- 4. Genus of clams
- 5. Fear of heights
- 6. What some tell their dog
- 7. The Golden State
- 8. When you expect to get there
- 9. Pointed ends
- 10. Extinct flightless bird
- 12. Feeds
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Descendant
- 17. Small boats found in Turkey
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
- 25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

26. Brew

- 27. Feeling of anxiety
- 29. Young girls group
- 31. Perform on stage
- 34. White clerical vestment
- 36. Popular musical awards show
- 37. Bumpkins
- 38. One who acts on another's behalf
- 40. Direction
- 43. Look at with fixed eyes
- 45. One who helps professors (abbr.)
- 48. A large number of
- 50. Type of powder
- 51. Large jug
- 53. ___ Christian Anderson, children's author
- 54. American state
- 55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines
- 57. Witness
- 58. Landscapers lay it
- 59. Type of bread
- 61. Of I

Answers on page 15

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...3.4

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

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

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Oct. 21	Fri, Oct. 22	Sat, Oct. 23	Sun, Oct. 24	Mon, Oct. 25	Tues, Oct. 26	Wed, Oct. 27
North Isle H-62°/L-54° Mostly Sunny	North Isle H-60°/L-50° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-58°/L-49° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-55°/L-46° Cloudy	North Isle H-57°/L-44° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-53°/L-45° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-56°/L-46° Mostly Cloudy
South Isle H-61°/L-53° Clouds and Sun Mixed	South Isle H-59°/L-50° Clouds and Sun Mixed	South Isle H-57°/L-49° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-54°/L-46° Cloudy	South Isle H-52°/L-43° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-52°/L-44° Cloudy	South Isle H-54°/L-45° Cloudy



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Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pregnant? Need baby clothes? We have them and the price is right – FREE. Pregnancy Care Clinic, open Tuesday 10am-4pm, Wednesday 12pm-7pm, and Thursday 10am-4pm. 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/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?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 Islands. 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

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

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

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

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

SERVMART STORE WORKER NEEDED NOW! Full time at Oak Harbor store. Sales, inventory, pricing, stocking, displays, make deliveries, filling, packing, shipping orders.

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

How'd you do?

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

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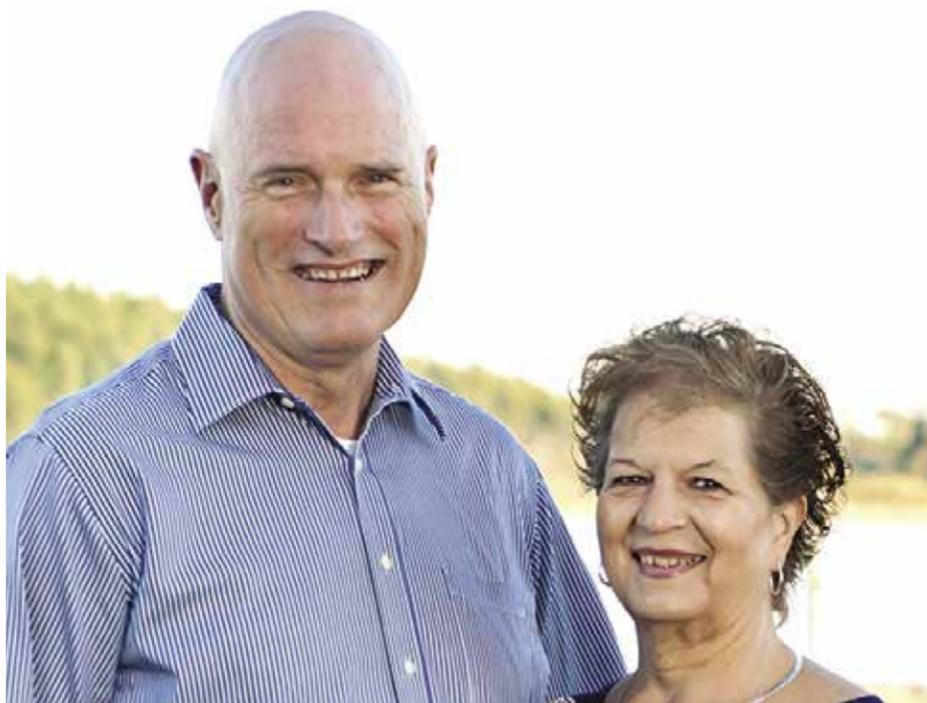


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Putting Heart into Quality Service

Paul and Heidi Kuzina and the staff of Whidbey Memorial Funeral Home consider it an honor to serve the community of Whidbey Island and beyond. Believing each person is a unique creation, they realize honoring the life of a loved one can be done in a variety of ways. Whether it is expressed through time honored traditions or new and contemporary ideas, they will work with the families they serve to bring forth a fitting remembrance of each person's life. They are experts at guiding clients through the maze of decisions that inevitably come with the loss of a loved one, and they do it with the utmost compassion, dignity, respect and integrity. They definitely are gifted at "putting heart into quality service."

"Warm," "comforting" and "homelike" are words that have been frequently used to describe the simply-stated elegance of their gracious facility. When families step into Whidbey Memorial, they are immediately greeted with a sense of genuine caring. Paul and Heidi have been blessed to have Edie Silvey and Elizabeth Lee as part of their team for several years and recently welcomed 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.

Whidbey Memorial has steadily gained an honorable reputation through the tests of time for providing distinctive, dignified and dedicated service to the bereaved.

To learn more about the services Whidbey Memorial offers, call them at 360-675-5777, visit www.whidbeymemorial.com or stop by at 746 NE Midway Blvd. in Oak Harbor.

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