

December 9 through December 15, 2021

FREE

# Whidbey Weekly

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WHIDBEY ISLAND DANCE THEATRE

## THE NUTCRACKER

WIDTonline.org

Whidbey's magical holiday tradition

DECEMBER 10th-19th 2021



WHIDBEY ISLAND

CENTER for the ARTS

Tickets at: WICAonline.org

December 10, 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19

Fridays 7pm - Sundays 2pm

Saturday, 11th 2pm - Saturday, 18th 7pm

Artistic Directors:  
Brittany Falso &  
Elliauna McLean

WHIDBEY COFFEE

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Deception Pass Challenge p. 8

## Whidbey Island Dance Theatre's "Nutcracker" delivers an extra dose of joy

By Melanie Hammons Whidbey Weekly

This year's rendition of "The Nutcracker" ballet, by Whidbey Island Dance Theatre (WIDT), which starts Friday, promises the same joy and magic productions of the past 28 years have delivered. But there'll be an extra dose of joy this season for performers and audience members alike, said Brittany Falso, WIDT's artistic director.

"There's just something really special about a live ballet performance. We are ecstatic about putting on a live performance after not having one last year," said Falso.

Pandemic precautions in 2020 curtailed the customary live rendition, forcing the theatre staff to marshal a little more creative energy into their presentation.

"Like many arts organizations, we ended up live-streaming "The Nutcracker" last year," said Falso. "The Blue Fox Drive-in Theater held a screening of our performance. It turned out really nice, considering the circumstances we had to adapt to."

Fortunately for Whidbey Islanders, creativity and artistic excellence are still in ample supply at WIDT. Falso, and WIDT's other artistic director, Elliauna McLean, bring years of training to the organization. Beginning their training at the age of three, both directors dance professionally, Falso with Seattle Dance company DASSdance, and McLean with Bellingham Repertory Dance.

The Christmas season abounds with plays, dramas, and artistic productions of all types, both sacred and secular. But "The Nutcracker" ballet may well be one of, if not the, most anticipated arts presentation of the season. Falso thinks she knows what's behind its enduring popular acclaim.

"The musical score Tchaikovsky composed for "The Nutcracker" is so amazing, moving, and emotional," she said. "And of course, equally inspiring is the choreography itself. Over the years, the production has attained a nostalgic allure that brings people and families together; draws them into the holiday spirit."

As one of the two major productions that WIDT puts on every year, it is "The Nutcracker" that is always staged annually. Falso couldn't envision it being any other way.

"It's so well received every year, I can't imagine it not being held annually. Our community looks forward to this; our dancers and other performers eagerly anticipate it," she said.

Those who have studied a little of the backstory behind "The Nutcracker" know it's based on a story by German author E.T.A. Hoffmann called "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." As with artistic productions everywhere, sometimes the original storyline is adhered to strictly, other times, minor deviations, alterations, and even altered endings are featured, while still remaining true to the basic tale. In light of that, what can audiences look forward to in WIDT's rendition?

"This year's production will be pretty typical, following along closely with what we've presented in the past. Each year though, we do try to impart a 'refreshed' look to the show," Falso said. One way WIDT has accomplished that is by giving what Falso calls a uniquely Whidbey Island flavor to parts of the ballet.

"I believe the first eight to 10 productions staged by WIDT in the earlier years followed the more traditional storyline," said Falso. "One update we've added to



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Dance Theatre  
Kendall Marshall dances the role of Clara in this year's Whidbey Island Dance Theatre production of "The Nutcracker." Performances start Friday at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley.

our rendition occurs in Act 2. Main character Clara enters what we call 'An Enchanted Forest.' It's meant to be very reminiscent of the forests and woodlands that abound on the Island. And being on an island as we are, surrounded by water, it seemed very fitting also to feature an underwater scene that is peopled by mermaids," she said.

Another new development this year is a change in the ballet's venue to Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA).

"In years past, South Whidbey High School hosted 'The Nutcracker.' Changes brought by the pandemic meant the high school is not renting out their premises this time. But when we heard that WICA had a sudden cancellation for another planned event, we 'swooped in,'" Falso said.

While live performances are back this year, there won't be as many of them, so tickets are going quickly.

"Last year, we fielded two shows daily. This year, we are down to six performances," Falso said. "Combined with social distancing guidelines and smaller venue spaces, that means our limited supply of tickets are already largely depleted for all six shows."

While that reality is a disappointing one, all is not lost, Falso said.

"In addition to those six regular performances, we're proposing to add what I call a 'pay by donation' show. This is tentatively planned for Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., and will be open on a first-come-first-served basis. It will be fielded as a normal show, but one that also serves as an extra dress rehearsal for the performers," she said. "You'll still be getting the experience of a regular show."

"We film all our productions and because of the pandemic, that's especially become a priority," Falso continued. "I encourage anyone who would like, to check out the on-demand view service we plan to offer, sometime around Christmas, for people to rent and watch at home. This will be extra beneficial for anyone who is uncomfortable with being in public spaces, or cousins residing out of state, family members out of town, etc."

Whether the trees and settings which showcase the dance company are meant to evoke the German forests of Hoffmann's story or Pacific Northwest evergreens doesn't seem to matter. The magic inherent in the story's narrative and triumphant ending still promises to enthrall the viewers.

Apparel bearing WIDT's Nutcracker logo is also available for sale. Productions of "The Nutcracker" will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 10, 17, and 18 and at 2 p.m., Dec. 11, 12, and 19. For more information, refer to the website wditonline.org or for tickets and venue information, see wicaonline.org.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Dance Theatre  
"The Nutcracker" is back on stage with live performances this year. Whidbey Island Dance Theatre's Tabitha Metts will appear as the Rose Faerie this year.

## Holiday Happenings

There are still plenty of special holiday events taking place around Whidbey Island over the next couple of weeks.

### Christmas Village:

Visit the Christmas Village at the Blue Fox Drive-In this weekend and next. This free event features holiday activities, petting zoo with Magic the unicorn, games, a visit with Santa and more. This free event is sponsored by Whidbey Island Lions Club, Toppins Frozen Yogurt and Blue Fox Drive-in. Friday-Sunday, 3-7 p.m. Dec. 17-19, 3-7 p.m.

\* \* \*

### Santamobile:

Don't miss Santa's visit to these central Whidbey neighborhoods, courtesy of Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue: Dec. 10 – Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington Dec. 13 – Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive Dec. 15 – Holmes Harbor, North Bluff Dec. 17 – Lagoon Point, Dines Point, Honey-moon Bay Dec. 20 – Race Road, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

\* \* \*

### Drive-Thru Visit with Santa:

Everyone is invited to drive up the hill to enjoy lights, music, decorations, and greetings from Santa and friends. Visitors should remain inside their vehicles, and follow all safety guidelines, including wearing masks and social distancing. Optional donations of non-perishable food will be collected for the Good Cheer Food Bank. Friday, 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday, 4:30-8 p.m. Bayview Fire Station, 5579 Bayview Road, Langley

\* \* \*

### Christmas Story Time:

NW Bookkeeping Services LLC and Wicked Teuton are teaming up for a story you'll never forget. There will be cookies and hot chocolate for the kids and adults are welcome to purchase drinks at the bar. Friday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. 1341 SE Barlow St., Oak Harbor

See HAPPENINGS continued on page 8

## Additional "Nutcracker" performance

There are still tickets available to The Ballet Slipper Conservatory's Saturday performances of "The Nutcracker" at Oak Harbor High School (Sunday's performance is sold out).

Performances will be at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for those under 18 and are available for purchase online only. Call 360-929-5828 or visit tbscoh.org for information.

The Ballet Slipper Conservatory is a non-profit organization.

# ON TRACK

With Jim Freeman



Is it cold enough yet? Even my skinny self can tell the difference between 44 degrees and 38 degrees without checking my thermometer. Me thinks Arizona is the solution. No wonder there are snowbirds. They must have smart phones.

## Booster blues

After making an appointment to get my should I or shouldn't I Moderna booster shot, I drove fast to the drug store to be timely. Because I had forgotten my little white card with the dates of the first two shots, I was denied access. Who cares? My information had already been submitted on the web site.

After waiting an hour to see if I could get around the rules, I realized waiting was a waste. Just like the Marine Corps, my mantra was "Hurry up and wait."

Maybe next year or the year after. My new mantra - "Good things come to those who wait." Maybe I should have a new mask with that sentiment.

## Facebook

Many good things appear on Facebook without crediting a source. In this spirit, we share a very well-written entry that was shared by a reader. The author is unknown according to my web research. The same was true for several of my political science papers in college. I used Edmondson Reynolds, a combination of my middle name and Dad's. He sounds smart, doesn't he?

I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit Grandma on the day my brother dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," he jeered. "Even dummies know that!"

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her "world-famous" cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true.

Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus?" she snorted, "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!m Now, put on your coat, and let's go."

"Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second world-famous cinnamon bun. "Where" turned out to be Kirby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me 10 dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kirby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping.

For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching the 10-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for.

I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class. Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew this because he never went out to recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher he had a cough, but all us kids knew Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he didn't have a good coat. I fingered the 10-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat! I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that.

"Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my 10 dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly. "It's for Bobby."

The nice lady smiled at me, as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus" on it.

Grandma said Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially, one of Santa's helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going."

I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma.

Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobby.

Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma, in Bobby Decker's bushes. That night, I realized those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were - ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team.

I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: \$19.95.

May you always have LOVE to share, HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS who care...

And may you always believe in the magic of Santa Claus!

## Toe tapping stocking stuffers

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. at Langley United Methodist Church, the piano students of Maureen Girard and special guests from the SWHS jazz band will be performing. Seating is limited. COVID protocols will be encouraged.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m., the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts and Maureen Girard will showcase more musical excellence. In addition, the SWHS Jazz Ensemble plays arrangements of holiday favorites inspired by Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton.

## Horse sense

A horse walks into a bar and orders a pint. The barkeep says, "You're in here pretty often. Do you think you might be an alcoholic?"

The horse replies, "I don't think I am," and vanishes from existence. Well, the joke is about Descartes' famous philosophy of "I think therefore I am" but to explain that part before the rest of the joke would be putting Descartes before the horse.

You may groan now.

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# Bits & Pieces

## Letters to the Editor

### Editor,

We see in the news that many employees of fast-food restaurants, Amazon, and other companies have chosen to quit their jobs rather than be continually exposed to COVID by anti-vaxers and anti-maskers.

Of course we are all free to act on our own beliefs – until our actions infringe upon the rights of others. So feel free to go unmasked and unvaccinated; but if your behavior endangers us, we are also free to refuse you service. There may come a time when all businesses and even emergency healthcare providers will refuse to help you.

Since childhood, we have been vaccinated against many horrible diseases, such as small pox and polio. Why not against COVID, when the vaccines have been proven safe and very effective?

Where are these misplaced ideas about “freedom” coming from?

Please consider our right to remain healthy when you choose to exercise your right to get sick.

Mary Fiddler  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Editor,

A heartfelt thank you to 9-1-1 dispatch who took my call on Thanksgiving. Also to the responders who came to our home. The relief one gets when the two come through the front door and completely take over is overwhelming. To have this wonderful service in a time when cities are canceling services is one for which all of Whidbey Island should thank their lucky stars. Sure we voted for this service to continue, but until you use it, you don't know what we have here. Thank You.

Lynette Richardson  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Editor,

Help rectify a crime against humanity. For 100 years the U.S. Indian Residential School system caused the death and suffering of thousands of Native American children. Until 1978, children were ripped from their parents and communities, shipped far from home, stripped of their culture and language, suffered unspeakable abuses from adults (many representing religious institutions), many suffered and died. No wonder Native Americans rank first in psychosocial problems. When you take and abuse its children, you damage the heart and soul of a community. When this is repeated for generations, it creates intergenerational trauma. Most U.S. citizens know nothing of this history. How ironic that a country whose constitution guarantees freedom of religion and expression would deny it to its original inhabitants. Fortunately, we now have an opportunity to rectify this great wrong. H.R. 8420 - The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy Act would establish a commission charged with investigating the trauma to these children and their communities. The bill is gaining bipartisan support in congress. To date, 367

Indian Residential schools have been identified, but only 38 percent of the records have been analyzed. Sad fact: while most schools have playgrounds, these schools had cemeteries. According to the United Nations, cultural genocide is genocide, a crime against humanity. It is rare that an ordinary person can contribute to the rectification of a crime against humanity. H.R. 8420 provides us the opportunity.

Please contact Senators Patty Murray (202-224-3441) and Maria Cantwell (202-224-2621) and Representative Rick Larson (202-225-2605). Urge them to support H.R. 8420. Learn more at the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition at <https://boardingschoolhealing.org>.

On their behalf we thank you.

Dianna and Gary Deseck-Piazon  
Coupeville, Wash.

### Boston-Based Celtic Band Brings a Celtic Christmas to Whidbey

The Whidbey Island Music Festival and Classical Uncorked invite you to warm up your holiday season as The Beggar Boys bring traditional Christmas music from Ireland, Scotland, and Wales to the Pacific Northwest on their 20th Anniversary Celtic Christmas tour. The ethereal voice of Abigail Lennox blends with fiddles, whistle and guitar to create the Beggar Boys' signature blend of traditional songs and tunes and powerful originals, called “lush and revealing” by *The Boston Globe*. This festive program will also feature Larry Young's dramatic storytelling and live Irish step dancing – a perfect family holiday treat for the entire family. Enjoy this Saturday matinee performance, Dec. 18 at 3:00PM, on the Main Stage of the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley. Festive refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information, visit <http://classicaluncorked.com>.

Founded in Salem, Mass., in 2001, The Beggar Boys take their name from a 17th century English country dance tune. They embody the living tradition of folk music, playing everything from traditional tunes of Ireland and Scotland to New England sea shanties to baroque music from the British Isles and colonial America. They also focus on new music in the traditional vein, including original songs and tunes composed by the members of the band. Their recordings have been called “lush and revealing” (*The Boston Globe*) “masterful... proof of consummate musicianship – these people are deep!” (*Celtic Beat Magazine*). In 2009, Abigail Lennox and The Beggar Boys were featured as part of A Carolina Christmas from Biltmore Estate with Kathy Mattea, produced by WDAV 89.9 FM and aired on public radio stations across the country.

To ensure your safety, both face coverings and proof of COVID vaccination are required for entry.

Tickets are \$30 and available at [wicaonline.org](http://wicaonline.org).

[Submitted by Tekla Cunningham]

### Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), Sound Water Stewards (SWS), and Washington State University (WSU) Extension Island County are pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2022 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year award. This award is open to any volunteer, regardless of membership to any one organization or institution, participating in or supporting science and outreach efforts related to protecting or restoring the coastal resources of Island County.

Nominations are requested for any and all individuals who have demonstrated their dedication and involvement in the many services, science and outreach efforts relating to the health of Island County's marine environment. The objective of this award is to recognize volunteer efforts by selecting and publicly recognizing one who best demonstrates the contribution of all. Any and all volunteer efforts, whether as an individual or as part of a team should be recognized as adding to the collective wellness of the marine environment and the knowledge base of our marine area.

Nomination forms must be submitted by 4:30PM Friday, Dec. 31. The online nomination form is available at: [www.cognitofirms.com/IslandCounty4/JanHolmesIslandCountyCoastalVolunteer-OfTheYearNominationForm](http://www.cognitofirms.com/IslandCounty4/JanHolmesIslandCountyCoastalVolunteer-OfTheYearNominationForm).

Further information can be found on the following websites:

Island County MRC website: [www.island-countymrc.org/projects/volunteer-of-the-year/](http://www.island-countymrc.org/projects/volunteer-of-the-year/)

Sound Waters Stewards website: <http://soundwaterstewards.org/>

WSU Island County Extension website: <http://extension.wsu.edu/island/>

[Submitted by Anna Toledo, Island County Public Health]

### Fundraiser for Local Community Artist

Community members are helping long time local arts participant Talia Toni Marcus, who has already given so much to others through the joy of Whidbey music, theater and dance, while also working to ensure Ivan Neaigus' legacy as a cherished local Langley sculptor continues.

Ivan passed away in July, though his sculptures and memories live on. His life partner, Talia, is adjusting and moving into the next chapter of her life. The recent sale of his home included donations to Good Cheer, The Senior Center, Alzheimer's Association, and Bloodworks NW. There were 10 heirs. Talia's share included selling Ivan's sculptures and artworks to help provide her some income for her uncertain future ahead. Talia and other members of the local arts community are now collaborating so some of Ivan's private collection will continue to be accessible to the broader community into the future.

Price Sculpture Forest and friends of the artists are organizing this community fundraiser for Talia. Ivan's sculpture “Sunrise/Sunset” will be purchased for the park's permanent collection from the funds raised. All proceeds go to Talia.

“Sunrise/Sunset” beautifully presents the rising sun on one side and the setting sun on the other. Ivan's high craftsmanship in stone has a strong presence and evokes its concepts in an interactive way for the viewer. Ivan was an accomplished Langley sculptor who worked in stone, metal, and wood, and he was a 2D painter, as well.

Talia has been an active advocate, volunteer and contributor to the local and international arts community for many years across music, theater, dance, parades, film scores, teaching and art-in-public-places.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to Talia for her next life chapter while also ensuring Ivan's sculpture is shared with the community as a new part of the permanent collection at Price Sculpture Forest. Please donate in memory of Ivan and in celebration of both Talia and Ivan for their contributions to the local community, arts, and friendships. <https://gofund.me/bb759978>

[Submitted by Scott Price]

## What to know about early IRA withdrawals

While you're working, you may be contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA), which can provide a tax-advantaged way to save for your future. So, is it ever a good idea to tap into your IRA before you retire?

Ideally, you should leave this account intact until your retirement. After all, you could spend two or more decades in retirement, so you'll need a lot of financial resources. Still, life is unpredictable, so there may be times you'll consider taking money from your IRA. You'll need to be aware, though, that if you withdraw funds before you turn 59½, you will generally trigger a 10% penalty. Plus, you'll be taxed on whatever you take out, thereby losing, at least in part, the benefits of tax-deferred earnings offered by a traditional IRA. (With a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions free of taxes and penalties, but the earnings may be taxed and penalized if you take them out before you're 59½.)

If you need to withdraw funds from your IRA before you're 59½, you may be able to avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalty if you meet an exception, such as one of these:

- **Paying for college** – You are allowed to take penalty-free withdrawals to pay for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses for you, your spouse, children or grandchildren. However, since the withdrawals may be considered taxable income, they could reduce the student's eligibility for financial aid.

- **Buying a first home** – You and your spouse can each withdraw up to \$10,000 from your respective IRAs to buy your first home. To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, you (and your spouse) need to have not owned a home for the two years preceding your home purchase.

- **Having a child** – Following the birth or adoption of a child, you and your coparent can each withdraw up to \$5,000 from your respective IRA without paying the 10% penalty.

- **Covering medical expenses** – You may be able to avoid the early withdrawal penalty if you use the money to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses (for you, your spouse or dependents) that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. You may also qualify to take a withdrawal without penalty to pay for health insurance premiums if you are unemployed. In the case of a disability, the 10% early withdrawal penalty also may not apply.

These aren't the only exceptions to the 10% withdrawal penalty, but they do cover many of the common reasons that people may consider an early withdrawal from their IRAs. And if you do need to take an early withdrawal, consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility for avoiding the 10% penalty.

Keep in mind, though, that you do have ways to potentially reduce the necessity of withdrawing from your IRA early. One proven technique is to build an emergency fund containing at least three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. You might also consider opening a line of credit. A financial professional can help you explore other options, as well.

Ultimately, if you can leave your IRA intact until you retire, you'll be helping yourself greatly. But if you do need to tap into your account early, at least be familiar with the possible drawbacks – and how you might avoid them.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



**TUESDAY, OCT. 5**  
**1:10 am, Jones Rd.**

Reporting party advising was sitting on his porch when he saw someone running through his yard; occurred five minutes ago; only one person seen, running into woods on reporting party's property. Advising too dark to get a description.

**1:46 pm, East Harbor Rd.**

Former Washington state ferry missing in area. States may be in area of Holmes Harbor. 310 feet in length, green and white, with two decks.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6**  
**12:29 pm, Main St.**

Advising male in silver Toyota Rav 4 is masturbating with window open. White male, 50 years old, with a beard.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 7**  
**1:23 am, SW Terry Rd.**

Reporting party advising someone ran into the fence and is trying to leave. Black SUV.

**3:30 pm, Evergreen St.**

Says two years ago \$2,000 worth of jewelry was stolen from location.

**5:05 pm, Lyle Ridge Cir.**

Reporting party states ex is sending nude photos of reporting party to her clients. Requesting call.

**5:06 pm, SR 525**

Female came into store and walked out with a cockatoo. Occurred 45 minutes ago. Left in a white Subaru.

**6:52 pm, Monroe Landing Rd.**

Advising UPS truck is parked at the beach at end of Monroe Landing Road and reporting party saw two females throwing rocks at the UPS driver and threatening the driver. Then UPS driver pulled a gun on the females.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 8**

**7:48 am, Libbey Rd.**

Anacortes Police Department advising patient left Island Hospital 15 minutes ago, still has IV in arm, should not be driving. Lives at location.

**10:18 am, Goss Lake Rd.**

Caller states needs a helicopter sent to area of location and to search the entire south end of the island. Reporting multiple people at night stealing things.

**11:38 am, SR 20**

Reporting party watching out of window a male who is yelling and hitting a vehicle outside; advising screaming profanities and screaming about Satan; advising male subject in the car trying to comfort male subject yelling.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 9**  
**10:41 am, SR 525**

White 2018 Mercedes Benz was in front of reporting party, suddenly turned on blinker, then did illegal U-turn. Reporting party and suspect driver had verbal dispute in middle of the road. Suspect male pulled gun and cocked it at reporting party.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 10**  
**11:25 am, SR 525**

White GMC Suburban harassing reporting party. Advising the vehicle stopped in front of reporting party and got out of car, screaming at reporting party; reporting party continued on and vehicle just passed reporting party.

**11:45 am, Sandberg Ln.**

Reporting party advising the air quality is bad in the area; children need to wear oxygen tanks; not a safe place to breathe. Advising it's the government's experimental development.

**2:10 pm, Terrace Dr.**

Caller states wife is out of control. Advising she took the remote for the TV.

**MONDAY, OCT. 11**  
**3:23 am, Salal St.**

Party advising man in front yard has been circling the house. Male was trying to open the gate to the yard.

**2:25 pm, Lyon Rd.**

Received text from neighbor stating he was going to go on reporting party's property and cut reporting party's trees. Reporting party states the neighbor does not have permission to do so.

**8:42 pm, Sun Vista Cir.**

Caller states there is someone breaking into her house; states they are going to try at any moment; "I heard them talking."

**8:47 pm, Tomren Ln.**

Reporting party advising friend is being cyber bullied via reporting party's phone; reporting party advising they are going non-stop.

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

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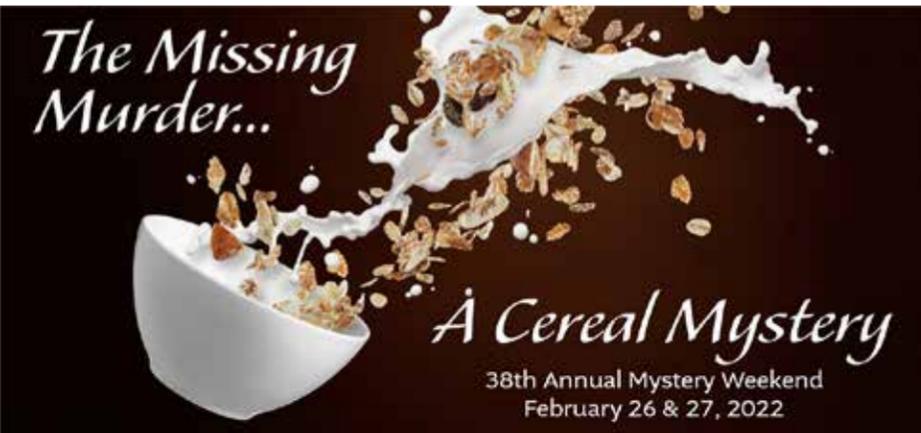
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**Store**  
Habitat for Humanity  
of Island County

[HTTPS://FREELANDSTORE.MYBIGCOMMERCE.COM](https://freelandstore.mybigcommerce.com)

Come check out our new online store!  
We offer a variety of new and used products.  
Find your next treasure with us today!

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



## Just the Ticket!

### Mystery Weekend 2022 Gift Certificate

The 38th Annual Mystery Weekend will take place in Langley on Whidbey Island February 26th and 27th. Order tickets today (\$15 each) and we'll send a gift certificate free of charge, within the US via first class mail.

Order today at: [visitlangley.com/mystery-weekend-2022/](http://visitlangley.com/mystery-weekend-2022/) or scan the QR code below with your phone.

The seaside village of Langley had been tense all year. For the first time in 38 years it seemed there was no murder in Langley last year.

Has the curse really been lifted? Will the missing persons be found dead or alive? Will there be another murder in February 2022?

Langley is again requesting amateur sleuths to come to town on February 26th and 27th 2022 to help local detective I.B. Fuzz solve these missing person cases and any murders which may reveal themselves that weekend.



**LANGLEY**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

208 Anthes Avenue, Langley WA 98260  
360-221-6765 [Langley@Whidbey.com](mailto:Langley@Whidbey.com)



SCAN ME

South Whidbey Tilth  
**Holiday Market**  
Bonfire, Hot Food, Baked Goods, Gifts, Winter Produce & more!  
Sundays 11-2  
December 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>  
If high winds, ice, or snow cancels a market, Make Up Market on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
2812 Thompson Rd  
between Bayview & Freeland on Hwy 525  
[market@southwhidbeytilth.org](mailto:market@southwhidbeytilth.org)  
message: 360-321-0757

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIGHT**

This holiday season sponsor a luminaria for only **\$25** to pay tribute to that special person or pet in your life. Your luminaria will light the front WAIF's Coupeville shelter and help fund vital programs that help light the journey home for Whidbey Island's homeless pets.

Visit [www.waifanimals.org/gol](http://www.waifanimals.org/gol) to sponsor a luminaria today.

WAIF

**6" Poinsettias \$9.99**  
Regular price \$14.99 75009738  
**Freeland ACE Hardware** Sale Dates December 8th-22nd

**TAKE \$50 off 1 CUT CHRISTMAS TREE**  
Must have coupon to obtain discount. Not valid on prior sales. Coupon expires on December 22. 1 coupon per family.

1609 E. Main, Freeland • 360-331-6799 • Mon-Sat 8am-7pm, Sun 9am-6pm

Annual Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association Red Ticket Drawing  
**\$2,300 Cash**

**KEEP IT LOCAL**  
at These Participating Merchants! Earn Tickets and a Chance to

**WIN BIG!**

Coupeville Chamber of Commerce  
Coupeville Auto Repair  
Briggs Shore Ceramics  
Little Red Hen Bakery  
Kingfisher Bookstore  
Callen's Restaurant  
Front Street Realty  
Enchanted Beedle  
The Crow's Roost  
Friends of Ebey's  
A Touch of Dutch  
Front Street Grill  
Elkhorn Trading  
Sunshine Drip  
Toby's Tavern  
Aqua Gifts  
bayleaf

Island County Historical Museum  
Pacific NorthWest Art School  
The Seaside Salon and Spa  
The Laughing Admiral  
Whidbey Natural Pet  
The Tyee Restaurant  
The Coupeville Inn  
the Oystercatcher  
Penn Cove Gallery  
Penn Cove Brewing  
Madrona Blossom  
The Honey Bear  
Lavender Wind  
Vail Wine Shop  
Seagull Coffee  
The Cove

Each \$20 Purchase = **1 Red Ticket**

**\$1500, \$500 & 3 \$100 PRIZES!**

Red 2021 Ticket Shop Locally

Drawing held Sunday, December 19th at 1:00pm on Facebook Live. Must be at least 18 years old, love Coupeville and be present to win.  
[CoupevilleHistoricWaterfront.com](http://CoupevilleHistoricWaterfront.com) • 360.682.6400  
[CoupevilleChamber.com](http://CoupevilleChamber.com) • 360.678.5434

**GREEN TICKET CASH GIVEAWAY**  
**DOUBLE GREEN TICKETS ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27!**

WALK, SHOP & DINE IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN OAK HARBOR

**\$2500 IN PRIZES THIS YEAR!**  
**\$1500 Cash • \$500 Cash • 5 - \$100 Oak Harbor Main Street Gift Certificates!**  
**NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 17, 2021**

Earn a GREEN TICKET for every \$20 purchase\* at participating merchants between November 1 and December 17, 2021 and be entered to win \$1500 CASH, \$500 CASH OR ONE OF 5 \$100 Main Street Gift Certificates!  
Drawing will be held at 4pm on Saturday, December 18. Must be 18 years older to participate. Do not need to be present to win.  
\*1 ticket per \$20 purchase with a maximum of 50 tickets per individual transaction up to \$1000.

Sponsored by  
Whidbey Weekly  
Whidbey Island Bank





# Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris



## CUSTARD: CONFUSING, COMPLEX AND PLAIN DELICIOUS!

This time of the year brings with it the cold weather that determines what our appetites tend to be. It ushers in the chilly air, and with it, a craving for all things warm and welcoming. This includes our food. This past weekend I was busy baking away in the kitchen, recalling dinner parties my parents had when I was a child, and how much we loved those (because it was when we got delicious baked desserts reserved for those times only). This little jaunt down memory lane laid it on my heart to make one of my all-time favorite after-dinner treats on a whim.

Now, while you might (quite understandably) assume the article is about the dessert I'm referring to (which by the way is called malva pudding), it isn't. It's actually about the custard I made to go with it. Okay, so malva pudding isn't what we know and love in America – that milk-based, thickened mixture of flavored goodness. It's actually a cake and the term pudding, in this sense, is used as a general moniker for dessert. Malva pudding is a cake, over which is poured a sweet cream mixture that gets soaked up into the crumb. Then, a homemade custard is prepared and served warm over the cake. It's positively marvelous.

After everyone had eaten their fill of malva pudding and custard, I came across a recipe whilst scrolling through cookery archives online, for "get well custard," and thought to myself, "Cus-

tard really IS that magical, that it makes you feel so much better when you're under the weather." I wonder why this is? Anyway, I started to wonder how far back in history custard goes and if it's the same all over the world. It would seem the culinary world ascribes the definition of eggs and milk thickened slowly over a low heat, to the word "custard." It is used in desserts, pies, pastries and sauces and is well-known over much of Europe.

Egg-based custards require gentle heating and cooking in order to aid in the coagulation process of the egg yolks to render a tender, firm gel. When milk is used (as it must be with custard), it helps aid in the coagulation process, as the milk contains naturally occurring salts to help this happen. The gentle heating of eggs and milk helps with the viscosity and texture of the end product and heating the mixture too high can result in the eggs scrambling, thereby ruining your would-be delicious custard. Now, a baked egg and milk mixture has been a fixture in gastronomic history since ancient Roman times. In the Middle Ages, this combination remained popular and was often contained within a pastry crust and enjoyed thusly. As a matter of fact, the word custard is said to come from *crustade*, which means *single crust pie*, and although other foods were added to the egg and milk mixture (such as spices, fruit, nuts and meat), there wasn't a line drawn in the sand determining what was sauce, dessert, drink, or a lunch/dinner dish – until the 17th century, that is.

Enter the posset; a wine or ale warmed and to which was added eggs, cream, spices and some sort of sweetener. This 17th century drink opened the door to what we consider custard and how we distinguish between sauce and dessert. It also may very well have influenced our modern-day seasonal favorite – eggnog. As the next century came and went, it saw the rise of custard with or without its pastry shell. Flavored with decadent ingredients such as pistachio and orange blossom water, these sumptuous concoctions were called "creams." Moving across the ocean, the mixture itself became the base for ice cream in America a little later on in time, which is a big deal since ice cream is wonderful. Meanwhile back in Europe, custard evolved yet again into *crème brûlée*, with its magnificent caramelized sugar crust atop the thick custard base. Each culture seems to have taken the foundation and stamped their seal on it, making new and delectable things with it. In Spain, *leche flan* rose in the ranks of tastiness throughout restaurants in the 20th century.

My dear readers, the more I learn about custard, the more complex and less clear it becomes to me what a custard was, and actually is now. It's all dependent, I suppose, on the century and where you are at the time. Puddings of eggs, cream and flour wrapped in cloth and boiled into a thick custardy end result was a staple in 18th century England, as was "hasty pudding" – a hot milk thickened with flour (but is that a custard though?). You catch my drift on the complexity and confusion custard creates?

Now, in America, homemakers found that cornstarch made an inadequate egg supply go a little further in puddings and seemed to stabilize the whole mixture. Well, this is great, because it's become the cornerstone of American pudding today and we use pudding in so many different things now. From making a banana cream pudding, to adding it into a cake to help retain moisture in the crumb, the incorporation of cornstarch has brought custard out of its European shell and into a new land and era all its own. This doesn't by any means negate the deliciousness of the good old-fashioned custard, which is why I made it to go with the malva pudding. It made me look a little deeper at the mixture and learn about this "get well custard." I still can't quite trace back its origins, but it seems to be

someone's family favorite and whenever a loved one of the original recipe inventor felt sick, they made them this dish to help soothe the ailment and assist the loved one's overall sense of well-being.

What a wonderful idea! Perhaps we don't, can't or shouldn't be doing too much of that in these times, but the fact someone cares enough to cook up a sweet batch of custard to warm you up when you feel poorly makes all the difference in how we feel emotionally, I think.

That being said, I will leave you with my custard recipe, the one I used to pour over my malva pudding. I hope you enjoy it as much as my family did. I hope you all enjoy the fall (soon become winter) weather and that you find the time to make some of this custard one day. It really is tasty! If you have any comments, questions or recipes of your own you'd like to share with me, I am always happy to receive those at [letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com](mailto:letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com) so let's Dish!

### Simple Custard

- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon butter
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup (you could add a little more if you choose) white sugar
- 1 and ½ tablespoons cornstarch

Over medium heat, stir and warm the milk, vanilla extract and butter in a medium saucepan. Remove the mixture from the heat just before it comes to a boil. Next, whisk together eggs, cornstarch and sugar until the sugar dissolves completely. Replace the saucepan with milk mixture back over low heat and slowly pour in the egg mixture, whisking constantly until the custard becomes thick enough to coat the bottom of a spoon (between 5 and 10 minutes). You can add more sugar and some cinnamon if you want to give it a sweeter, more seasonal flare. Serve warm and enjoy!

[www.encyclopedia.com/food/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/custard-and-puddings](http://www.encyclopedia.com/food/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/custard-and-puddings)

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

**DRIVE-THRU**

# Santa

**SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE/EMS**

## SANTA'S SLEIGH

ANNUAL TRADITION SINCE 1995

*Drive up the hill to enjoy lights, music, decorations, goody bags and greetings from Santa!*

Remain in your vehicle and follow safety guidelines.

**Location:**

**Bayview Fire Station, 5579 Bayview Road**

**Dates:**

**Thursday, December 9 • 5:30-8pm**

**Friday, December 10 • 5:30-8pm**

**Saturday, December 11 • 4:30-8pm**

SWFE.org INTEGRITY ✦ SERVICE ✦ TRUST

## HIDDEN Snowflake HUNT

Pick up your snowflake passport at Garry Oak Gallery then go find the hidden silver snowflakes at businesses in downtown Oak Harbor!

Get your passport stamped as you find the snowflakes.

When you have found at least 10 snowflakes bring your passport back to Garry Oak Gallery and you can enter to win a Holiday Gift Basket filled with items from downtown Oak Harbor businesses and a \$100.00 Oak Harbor Main Street Gift Certificate!

**Contest starts December 4 and ends December 17, 2021**

For more information, email [director@oakharbormainstreet.com](mailto:director@oakharbormainstreet.com) or [www.oakharbormainstreet.org](http://www.oakharbormainstreet.org)

#ohsnowflakehunt

**OAK HARBOR MAIN STREET**

# Paddlers to take on the challenge of Deception Pass

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Experienced paddling enthusiasts will take on some of the most turbulent waters around Saturday morning as they participate in the 15th annual Deception Pass Challenge. Those interested in taking on the 6.1-mile course can sign up until 8 p.m. Friday at salmonbaypaddle.com/deception-pass-challenge/. The race gets underway around 9 a.m. Saturday.

Race director Rob Casey, with Salmon Bay Paddle in Seattle, said the event is not meant for beginners.

"Racers must have experience paddling in the Pass and/or have strong experience in rough water, current and waves," he said. "Being able to comfortably paddle 6-plus miles is a plus. [Paddlers and rowers] must be able to self-rescue. Tidal current in the Pass can halt an

inexperienced paddler in their tracks. In 2008, large waves completely buried paddlers."

The Challenge, started 15 years ago by Oak Harbor resident Bill Walker, is open to all human-powered paddling and rowing craft over 12-and-a-half feet in length. The longer length is necessary for speed and control in these waters, Casey explained. Up to 150 paddlers, ranging from single-person entries to teams of six, are able to participate in this year's race, which is unique among paddling/rowing events.

"It is the only paddling/rowing race in tidal rapids in the region. And it's in December," said Casey. "The goal originally was to make it a hardcore race, and December is definitely more of that than July. December also separates the serious from the casual paddlers, thus it's more safe for us."

Safety is key when planning an event like this and Casey said COVID-19 protocols will be followed, such as requiring masks and social distancing when paddlers are on shore.

"I run a very safe event," he said. "Each racer will be required to wear a vest life jacket and bright colors. Immersion clothing is recommended. Additionally, leashes for paddle boards and other craft are required. We will also have a Zoom safety meeting the evening before.

"I have three power safety boats, one jet ski and a half dozen safety paddlers, each connected by VHF radio," Casey continued. "I've been teaching [stand up paddling] and kayaking classes in the Pass for ever a decade, we know it well!"

This year's race will follow the original course, beginning and ending at Bowman Bay. Racers will go around three islands and under Deception Pass Bridge twice. There's also the potential of winning a prize for those who go around Pass Island twice.

"We have prizes and awards from top local and national sponsors such as Epic Kayaks, Kai Wa'a in Maui, Mustang Survival, Seattle Sports, Giant Fish, Kavu and others," said Casey, adding the event link has race details and his online guide to help races complete the course successfully.

For those who aren't as experienced on the water, they can always watch the fast-action fun.

"The bridge is the best view," Casey said. "The trails surrounding Bowman Bay, Reservation Head and the Pass do require some effort. Plan to arrive early to specific spots, as paddlers are



Photo Courtesy of Rob Casey/Deception Pass Challenge  
Paddlers will line the shore of Bowman Bay Saturday morning to take part in the Deception Pass Challenge, in which as many as 150 paddlers and rowers may compete. Masking and social distancing guidelines will be enforced on shore.



Photo Courtesy of Rob Casey/Deception Pass Challenge  
The Deception Pass Challenge is a 6.1 mile race that takes paddlers and rowers through the turbulent waters under Deception Pass Bridge and around three islands. Experienced paddlers are encouraged to register by Friday at 8 p.m. to participate in Saturday's event, which will begin around 9 a.m.

fast and will pass before you get there if you're late!"

A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Skagit Bay Search and Rescue, which donates its time to watch out for the racers.

Experienced paddlers and rowers who haven't yet signed up for the Deception Pass Challenge are encouraged to do so by Friday to get in on the action on Saturday.

"It's a super fun event if you have the skills," said Casey. "Seeing all the different water craft is inspiring and it's a beautiful place to paddle in."

Registration closes at 8 p.m. Friday. Go to salmonbaypaddle.com/deception-pass-challenge/ to learn more.

## HAPPENINGS continued from page 2

\* \* \*

### Holiday "Biz'arre" - A Holiday Shopping Event:

The Boys and Girls Club of Oak Harbor is sponsoring this biz'arre event, featuring holiday shopping with local small business vendors. Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 30 Ely St., Oak Harbor

\* \* \*

### Holiday Market on Pioneer Way:

Hosted by Oak Harbor Main Street and Whidbey Young Professionals. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 810 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor

\* \* \*

### Visit with Santa at Harborside Village:

Enjoy a visit with Santa now through Dec. 23 at Harborside Village in Oak Harbor. Bring your camera to capture that special moment. Free. Thursdays and Fridays, 4-7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 21-23, 4-7 p.m. 830 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor

\* \* \*

### Admiralty Head Lighthouse and Gift Shop:

See the Admiralty Head Lighthouse decorated for the holiday season and enjoy a visit to the gift shop to find that special something for someone on your shopping list. A Discover Pass is required for parking. Saturdays and Sundays in December, Noon-4 p.m. Dec. 27-30, Noon-4 p.m. Fort Casey State Park, 1280 Engle Rd., Coupeville

\* \* \*

### Christmas Concert at the Ducken Farm:

Enjoy an evening of Christmas cheer, featuring live, local music, cocoa, cider, snacks and more. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased online at store.braverymusic.com/products/christmas-concert-at-the-ducken-farm. Doors open at 4 p.m., music starts at 5 p.m. This will be held at the Ducken Barn, so bundle up! Saturday, 4-7 p.m. 451 Ducken Rd., Oak Harbor

\* \* \*

### South Whidbey Tilth Holiday Market:

Find gifts, enjoy hot chocolate and a bonfire, shop for winter produce and more. Extreme weather such as ice, high winds or snow will cancel the market. If this happens, there will be a make-up market on Sunday, Dec. 19, also

weather-permitting. Sunday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2812 Thompson Rd., Langley

\* \* \*

### W.I.G.S. Holiday Get Together:

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers invite all those interested to attend. Hear members' short stories and music, enjoy treats and fellowship. Masks are required.

Thursday, Dec. 16, 1 p.m.

Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, 1253 NW 2nd Ave.

\* \* \*

### Swingin' in the Holidays:

The award-winning South Whidbey High School Jazz Ensemble plays arrangements of holiday favorites inspired by Basie, Ellington and Kenton. Tickets are \$10; available online at wicaonline.org.

Thursday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave., Langley

\* \* \*

### Friends of the Clinton Library Book Sale:

Bring your own camera and the kids to this event and take photos with Santa in front of

a festive holiday backdrop from noon to 2 p.m. Every child gets a free book; after that, children's books are three for \$1. All proceeds support the Clinton Library. Friday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Clinton Community Hall, 6411 South Central Ave., Clinton

\* \* \*

### Come Meet Santa at Freeland WAIF Thrift Store:

Every child 12 and under will receive a Santa Buck Voucher, to pick out any toy or book \$5 or less. There will also be hot apple cider and cookies for everyone to enjoy. Come help us celebrate the holiday season! Face masks required. Saturday, Dec. 18, 10am-4pm 1660 Roberta Ave., Freeland

\* \* \*

### A Holiday Party:

This event benefits local dance students at Rise Academy of the Arts. Enjoy a magic show, decorate a craft, participate in a dance party and visit with Santa. Beverages and baked goods available for purchase. Cost is \$10 per child and can be purchased at the door or online at riseacademyofarts.com. Magic show starts promptly at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 2-5 p.m. 628 W Oak St., Oak Harbor

\* \* \*

### Children's Christmas Party:

VFW Post 7392 is hosting a Christmas party for children up to age 12. Kids can enjoy crafts, snacks and more. Seating for 50 available. Saturday, Dec. 18, 1-3 p.m. 3037 Goldie Rd., Oak Harbor

\* \* \*

### Santa's Holiday Playlist:

The Whidbey Island Orchestra has planned an evening of glad tidings and good cheer sure to warm hearts and get everyone in the holiday spirit. "Santa's Playlist" includes selections from "Charlie Brown's Christmas" to "The Nutcracker," from beautiful carols and Chanukah songs to the Grinch and Mariah Carey. Premium seats are \$45, standard seats are \$30. Purchase online at wicaonline.org. Sunday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave., Langley

**Now Showing!**  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 10 THRU SUNDAY, DEC. 12**  
**CLIFFORD**  
**THE BIG RED DOG (PG)**  
**ENCANTO (PG)**

**BLUE FOX DRIVE-IN THEATER**  
 BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 4PM, FIRST MOVIE BEGINS AT 7:00PM  
 11 & OVER \$6.50\*, KIDS 5-10 \$1.00\*, 4 & UNDER FREE \*CASH PRICES  
 GO KARTS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON  
 1403 N MONROE LANDING RD • OAK HARBOR  
 360-675-5667 • www.bluefoxdrivein.com

**OAK HARBOR CINEMAS**

BOOK ONLINE  
 Movie Showtimes  
 Week 12-10-2021 thru 12-14-2021  
**RESIDENT EVIL:**  
**WELCOME TO RACCOON CITY (R)**  
 Friday - Tuesday: 4:00pm & 7:00pm  
**HOUSE OF GUCCI (R)**  
 Friday - Tuesday: 3:30pm & 6:45pm  
**GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE (PG-13)**  
 Friday - Tuesday: 3:45pm & 6:30pm  
**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



## CUTTING THE COST OF FISHING TACKLE

Even before the shortage of goods and services, the price of fishing tackle and gear has been climbing upward at an incredible rate. For example, an 11-inch plastic Rotating flasher for salmon trolling has gone from \$8.99 to \$15.99; salmon spoons that are towed behind the flasher that averaged \$3.67 in the mid 2000s are now as much as \$7.99 each. All types of fishing accessories, from basic lead sinkers to a dozen worms, are high priced, almost to the point of being out of reach for young anglers' wallets.

The fishing industry is no different from any other well-known, well-established manufacturer; you are familiar with the term "you're buying the brand name." Generally, the brand names got to where they are because of good research and development, the products were proven to catch fish and they had great marketing strategies. Fishing is like any other hobby; it can become a sickness – a good sickness – but one which at times will pay no attention to dollar signs. When you see someone standing next to you catching fish after fish, it gets your attention and you will go crazy searching for and buying the lure that fisherman was using. Nothing typically wrong with these sometimes-expensive actions, you just have to explain the cost to your wife or husband.

I personally have tackle boxes filled with brand name tackle, but at some point even the most avid, addicted fishermen stop and say "Man, that price is ridiculous," and start to seek out alternatives to the brand names and lower tackle costs. Being a retired U.S. Navy man, I believe in buying American first, but being raised on the farm, I also believe in getting the most for your hard earned money. Yep, out-sourced products sold in the U.S., fishing tackle made in the Philippines to Mexico, can be found in the brick and mortar tackle shops and numerous cyber shopping sites. If a person really takes the time to search, there are bargains still out there.

When shopping online, be sure to crunch the total cost after shipping and handling. If you are only saving a few pennies it's smart to buy it over-the-counter if available; this way you're guaranteed to have it in your hand when you need it and it's the correct size and color. Here are some places and events to watch carefully for discounted/cheap tackle; you could be pleasantly surprised at what you might find.

- Estate sales
- Garage sales
- Moving sales (many times people are moving to a totally different fishing environment and will be selling all their salmon and halibut gear, for example)
- Thrift stores
- EBay
- Buy-Sell-Trade sites.
- Swap Meets of any kind. (Antique car or tractor, etc.)
- Small town hardware stores.

- Small town marine repair shops.
- Flea markets
- Craigslist (watch for scams)
- End caps at convenience stores.
- Marinas
- Marine consignment stores

The places I've mentioned above give you an idea of where to look that you might not have considered before. Fishing gear of any kind seems to be in high demand, so you must get an early start if you want to compete with the "fishing gear pickers." One area I pursue, especially during the winter months when fishing opportunities are slim, is build-it-yourself. There is nothing more satisfying than to catch fish on a homemade lure, jig, or fly you put together. The DIY spectrum is wide open; I have cut the thin handles off tablespoons and the blades from butter knives bought at the thrift store to make casting and trolling lures. The craft store is a lure builder's paradise; it has jewelry, feathers, glues, glitter, paints, wire, beads, mylar, wood, sequins and much more. Just let ideas sink into your fishing brain and then just build it. Not everything comes out perfect the first time, but take notes along the way and start over if you are not pleased with the results.

Remember, the goal is to off-set the cost of tackle and keep the cost down to an acceptable level for you. I have spent money on lead molds for making jigs, along with all the other supplies needed to make a durable, fishable jig. In the beginning, the initial cost was a bit high but with every batch of jigs I finished, the cost began to bottom out, plus I thoroughly enjoy building things myself. You might be wondering how much fishing gear you really need. My answer is, how much do you fish? And for how many species do you fish? And finally, do you have children and other family members who want to fish with you?

One lure or one package of hooks might not get the job done. If that's the case, then saving money where we can makes the experience better. I suggest prioritizing in the beginning. Pick the fishing that appeals to most or all of the family, like lake trout. Trout are fairly easy to catch and depending on where you fish, you don't need a boat. The gear required will be pretty basic and affordable. Then, if the fishing bug bites, that's the time to build up the extra tackle and when the opportunity arises, you will be ready to go!

Winter is here and fishing opportunities are sparse, but spring will be here before you know it and fishing will begin to pick up. Stay warm, take time to clean your rods and reels and if you do go fishing, GOOD LUCK!

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December 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th, 19th  
OPEN 3PM-7PM

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**WHIDBEY ISLAND LIONS CLUB**

**A Free Community Holiday Event**  
**Visit with Santa and his Elves**  
**Petting Zoo, Holiday Crafts & Games**  
**Located at The Blue Fox Drive In**



## HERE FOR GOOD

Evolving to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Healthcare has changed dramatically since we opened our doors, and **thanks to the support of our community**, WhidbeyHealth has evolved as well delivering progressive, patient centric healthcare services in **over 250,000 hospital, EMS and clinic** visits in 2020 alone.

### THE QUIET FIGHT

The 'quiet fight' against COVID continues, adding to the **\$18+ million in unplanned expenses and lost revenue**. As our community ages and more people rely on Medicare, which pays far less than commercial insurance, the gap widens.

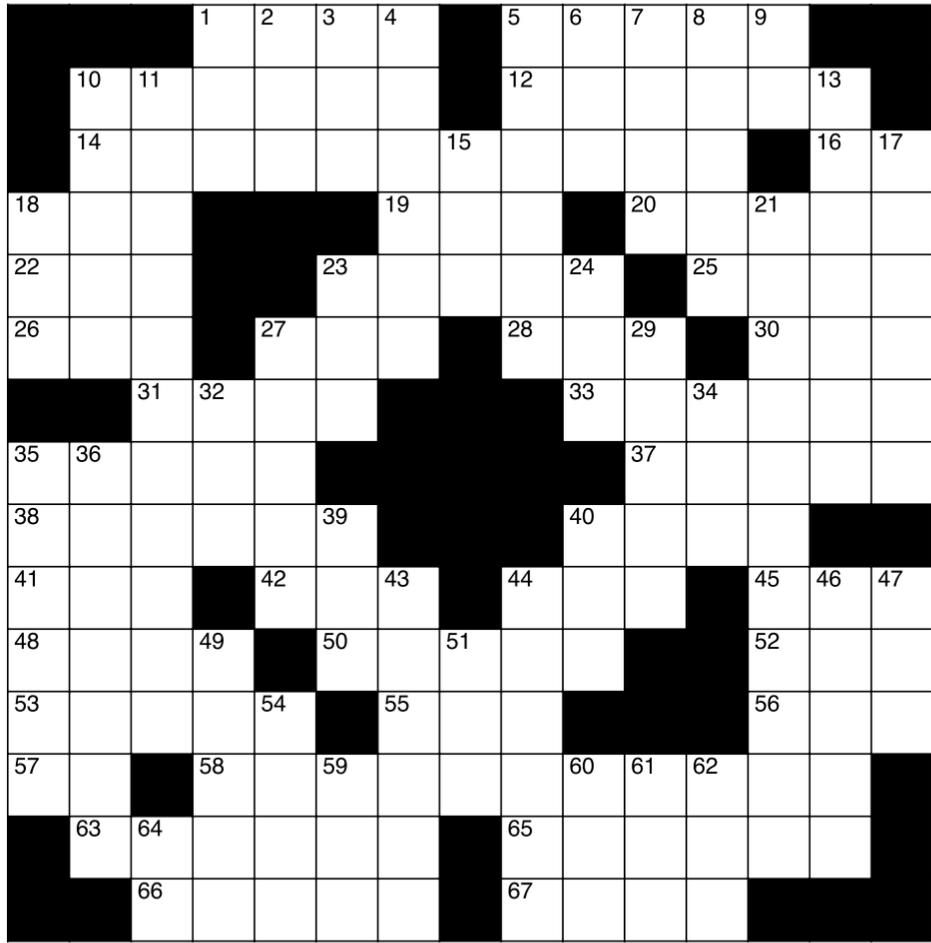
**We need your help** to ensure WhidbeyHealth is **HERE FOR GOOD**, continually evolving to meet the needs of our diverse community, now and for generations to come.

**PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT**  
Together we're **WHIDBEY STRONG!**

Visit [whidbeyhealth.org/HereForGood](http://whidbeyhealth.org/HereForGood)  
or mail your donation to  
**WhidbeyHealth Foundation**  
P.O. Box 641, Coupeville, WA 98239

As always, we welcome your calls at the Foundation;  
360-678-7656, ex. 4021 or 4020.

# Crossword Puzzle



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chinese Muslim group
- 5. Alternative name
- 10. Resounds
- 12. Supporter
- 14. Furnishes anew
- 16. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 18. Supervises flying
- 19. Ballplayer's tool
- 20. Coarse edible red seaweed
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Basketball player
- 25. Travel necessities
- 26. Honey producer
- 27. Military analysis (abbr.)
- 28. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 30. Mental sharpness and inventiveness
- 31. Popular Easter meal
- 33. Man (Spanish)
- 35. \_\_\_ de la \_\_\_
- 37. Counterweights
- 38. Made a harsh, grating noise
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. Commercials
- 42. Cool!
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 45. Expression of creative skill

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hogshead (abbr.)
- 2. Misery resulting from affliction
- 3. Defunction European group
- 4. Line on a map
- 5. Becomes less intense
- 6. Back muscle
- 7. Frosted
- 8. Ethiopian town
- 9. Midway between south and east
- 10. Wipe from the record
- 11. In a continuous way
- 13. Breathe
- 15. Cleaning device
- 17. Male organ

- 18. Tab on a key ring
- 21. Criminals
- 23. Taxi
- 24. Cheer of encouragement
- 27. Wartime American escort carrier
- 29. Polish river
- 32. Current unit
- 34. Life form
- 35. Painful contractions
- 36. Glowing
- 39. Press against lightly
- 40. Melancholic
- 43. Something you can be under
- 44. Of the mind
- 46. E. Indian cereal grass
- 47. Couple
- 49. Sharpshoot
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. \_\_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Human gene
- 60. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 61. Examines animals
- 62. Mineral
- 64. Cools your home

Answers on page 11

## YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Dec. 9	Fri, Dec. 10	Sat, Dec. 11	Sun, Dec. 12	Mon, Dec. 13	Tues, Dec. 14	Wed, Dec. 15
North Isle H-43°/L-38° Showers	North Isle H-44°/L-42° Cloudy, Very Windy Late	North Isle H-46°/L-39° Very Windy, Rain Possible	North Isle H-45°/L-40° Breezy with Showers Possible	North Isle H-46°/L-41° Showers Possible	North Isle H-46°/L-39° Showers Possible	North Isle H-45°/L-42° Chance of Rain
South Isle H-40°/L-36° Showers	South Isle H-41°/L-41° Cloudy, Windy Late	South Isle H-44°/L-35° Very Windy, Rain Possible	South Isle H-43°/L-36° Breezy with Showers Possible	South Isle H-44°/L-38° Showers Possible	South Isle H-43°/L-37° Showers Possible	South Isle H-44°/L-40° Chance of Rain



# OUR Community

## An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the coolest gift you have ever given, and why?

### Kathy Dunn, Oak Harbor

The coolest gift I ever gave was a diamond pendant to my daughter on her 40th birthday. It had been my grandmother's and she passed it down to my mother, who passed it down to me. My daughter is the fourth generation in our family to wear that diamond.



of the big red bow I picked up at the local Ace I now work at so many years later. Each year as we place these big red bows in the aisle for shoppers, I remember this coolest gift ever.

The gift was from Gordon to his bride, but being a part of that gift-giving experience will live with me much longer than every book, bottle, game, or piece of pottery I've ever wrapped and given.

Being a part of fulfilling a lifelong dream definitely makes this experience rank as the coolest gift I've ever been involved in giving, even if I wasn't the actual giver or receiver of the gift.

### Vicky Brown, Freeland



The coolest gift I have ever been part of wasn't actually a gift from me.

In order to set the scene, it may help to know that after a successful professional

career in accounting and before launching my retail career, I owned and operated a small goat creamery in Freeland.

We had many spectacular goats due to our creamery needs. I made several friends through the days our farm was open to the public. One friend in particular confided in me her lifelong dream of having her own goats. Fortunately, she is also lucky enough to have a husband who seems to thrive on trying to make her every wish and dream come true.

Her husband arranged a clandestine purchase of three goats, a mother and two of her daughters. In the days coming up to Christmas I worked to make special signs and arranged for him to bring her to our barn on Christmas morning. I woke up well before the sun came up to help set the scene. Waiting for her in the barn that morning she found a stall with a sign that read "Merry Christmas Kaycee" with three curious goats nibbling on the stray corners

### Dr. Dawn Madeiros

Oak Harbor



The best gift I ever gave was scuba diving lessons to my husband David for our first Valentines Day. This gift has continued to give for 18 years and take us on

many wonderful adventures exploring the oceans. We love to dive in Hawaii, Mexico, Curacao and the Caribbean. We look forward to more trips in the future.

### Marissa Santa Ana

Greenbank



The gift of art. I love to craft and often give things as gifts. One of the coolest ones I have given was a collaboration blanket for my dad. My sister and I each crocheted half the blocks needed, while living two states apart. When we met up for Christmas we pieced it together just in time for Christmas morning.

## 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

Answers on page 11

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



# Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email [classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:njlish@gmail.com). More info at our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl)

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

**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@island-shakespearefest.org](mailto:jeff.natter@island-shakespearefest.org).

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County (BBBSIC) is actively seeking new member(s) for its Board of Directors.

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

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Islands. Volunteers primarily include medical and public health professionals but other volunteers who have no healthcare back-

grounds are also utilized. MRC responds to local emergencies such as natural disasters and public health emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us at Island County MRC website for application and information.

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat for Humanity of Island County stores, you are helping local families attain decent, affordable housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they

pick up donated items using our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to [www.pnwnam.org](http://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](mailto:wamothermentors@gmail.com) or call 360-321-1484.

**JOB MARKET**

Senior in coupeville needs light cleaning help. Call Hank, 360-678-7591 (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](http://www.islandtransit.org/employment) to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

**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**

**WANTED: We buy running or not! We recycle cars, trucks, motorhomes, travel trailers, motorcycles, boats, tractors, dump trucks and**

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

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

**How'd you do?**

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

**No Cheating!**

			H	W	E	I		A	L	I	A	S				
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	R	E	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	S		E	T		
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			T	A	P	I	R	S			A	V	E	R	S	E
			C	E	D	I	S				L	A	T	E		

**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

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Oak Harbor, WA 98277**

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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.**

**Pam's Prayer Corner**

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

**Jesus meets us in our world, on our journey!**

Our journey through life is marked with many forms of unwanted problems, struggles, pain, disappointments and unmet expectations. In this season of Advent, Christians celebrate the hoped for "coming, arrival" (the meaning of advent) of Jesus the Messiah (savior) of the world. This annual celebration marks a joyful reminder that we are not alone in our dark passages on earth. God is with us (the meaning of Immanuel). It was precisely when Joseph and Mary were in such a vulnerable moment of their lives that God showed up. "While they were there" means so much more than a geographic location (Bethlehem). It means while they were away from home, comfort, familiarity, provision, stability, certainty, and control. Jesus showed up in their lives. God surprises us in these unsettling moments with wonder. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, come again to us in this busy season of commercial glee and relational, personal, financial, and physical tenuousness. We hear cheery music and see happy décor, but in our hearts, we are often still longing, seeking a deeper resolve to life's hurts and unfulfilled dreams. Meet us on our journey, O God, by revealing to us Your Son of righteousness. Let our hearts swell with hope in these days of uncertainty. May we find joy in simplicity, service to others and in our sacred memories, one we have come to cherish. Let this Advent season become for us not a race to consume and digest the most Christmas cheer as possible. Instead, let us stop to look up, gaze at the heavens, ponder our place in this universe and give thanks to the God who has ordained our very life! Let us breathe deeply and know that life is a gift. Lord Jesus, it is in you that we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). For your gift of life to us, we are ever grateful. May we share this life generously with others. Because you live, we live too! In your holy name we pray, Amen!

Pastor David Parker  
Oak Harbor First United Methodist Church

*"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born"* **Luke 2:6**



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