

December 23 through December 29, 2021

FREE

Whidbey Weekly

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COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS

And the angel
said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings
of great joy, which shall
be to all people.
For unto you is born this
day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord:
Luke 2:10-11

Merry Christmas

From all of us at Whidbey Weekly & Printing

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& PRINTING**

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SEASON'S GREETINGS



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AND A
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ON TRACK

With Jim Freeman



"You have no hair" said our almost four year young granddaughter. Youthful transparency in action. Having an honest kid is not always flattering but at least she gave me a punch line along

with the punch.

Why bother looking in the mirror? She is quite observant. Ariana could tell the truth without my having to remove my Freeland baseball hat.

Coloring

Every day our granddaughters, almost 4 and 6, color. They use floor, counter, table top – any place to color. My job is to color locomotives and cabooses. I am not authorized to do crocodiles.

This got me to thinking while coloring. About four years ago, *Time* magazine published a superb article by Merrill Fabry wherein a detailed discussion was presented about the history of coloring. As much as the girls enjoy coloring, I was curious. Who started this time soothing creativity?

According to Fabry's research, it all began with adult coloring books.

"An early variation on coloring books could be the illustrations for two volumes of the very long descriptive poem *Poly-Olbion* by Michael Drayton, published in 1612 and 1622. The illustrations were engraved maps of counties in England and Wales featuring fantastical creatures. According to art historian Anne Louise Avery, who edited the reprinting, 'it became quite fashionable to hand-color it yourself,' per the *Guardian*, though whether aristocrats were really sitting around coloring in their maps isn't quite certain. For example, specialist map seller Tim Bryars told *Wales Online* last year that, though he has seen hand-colored copies from the time, he has 'never bought into the idea that people colored them in at home on rainy Sunday afternoons.'

"Whether or not coloring was a fun activity for 17th century aristocrats, it was definitely seen as useful artistic training. Outline books taught people how to use watercolors. Avery pointed to Henry Peacham's *Compleat Gentleman*, from 1634, which suggests coloring maps as a way to begin learning: 'I could wish you now and then, to exercise your Pen in Drawing and imitating Cards and Mappes; as also your Pencil in washing and coloring small Tables of Countries and places, which at your leisure you may in one fortnight easily learn to do: for the practice of the hand doth speedily instruct the mined, and strongly confirm the memory beyond anything else.'

"And as the years passed, coloring only became more popular. The 60 plates of engraved flower illustrations in Robert Sayers *The Florist*, published around 1760 in London, really were specifically meant to be colored in by the owner — with emphasis on accuracy. While choosing your colors can be part of the creativity in using coloring books today, *The Florist* contains descriptions of the colors and instructions for how to mix the colors and paint each flower properly so they would be true to life, 'for the use & amusement of Gentlemen and Ladies Delighting in that Art.' A French marigold is, per Sayer's description, 'Yellow, stripped with a deep Red: Sometimes the Whole is Red, and only ting'd with Yellow. The Stalk is ting'd with Brown. The Leaves a pale dillish Green.' The book came to popular

attention earlier this year, after the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported that Amy Pool, a curatorial assistant at the Missouri Botanical Garden, found a copy in the garden's library. And it wasn't the only book that was intended to be at once amusement and instruction on how to paint. Sayer also published *The Compleat Drawing-Book*, which had 116 engravings of things from faces with expressions, animals, and birds.

"And, notably, these books were aimed at adults — elite adults who could afford fancy illustrated books, and who could furthermore afford to paint on them.

"Though there were some books designed to teach youngsters how to paint, widespread illustrated children's books didn't become possible until the invention of a new printing process, lithography. First developed in Germany in the 1790s, lithography reduced the time, difficulty and cost to reproduce detailed illustrations. This increased the general population's access to printed books, and along with changes to children's education — the first U.S. kindergarten was started in the 1850s — encouraged the early rise of coloring books in the second half of the 19th century."

No matter who started coloring, it will never stop.

Our granddaughters thank the coloring gurus.

Quotes

I seldom get down or depressed. I don't want to waste a minute when I could be enjoying life. ~Dick Van Dyke, 95.

I'm a person whose biggest hobby is laughing. I love being raucous, which is one of the things that really annoyed my husband. ~Rita Moreno, 90

Umizoom time

For Amazon Prime members, and if you have young ones in a living room with a TV that makes your kid look up, you may already know about Milli, teacher of patterns, Geo, teacher of shapes, and Bot, teacher of Belly screen or computer. These three are members of Team Umizoomi, devoted to teaching numbers in story-like vignettes.

Had I grown up with this type of colorful creativity, I might have been better in math. Imagine liking math. Because the tax division of the Senior Services of Island County was pandemically removed, I was forced to use the services of the good 'ol USA.

As this was not my skill without Ed, the chef of food and numbers, I went to the self-serve Free Tax USA government approved non-agency.

The first time I computed my self-worth, my refund was a dollar. That answer was rejected

I had not checked enough boxes. Like the holiday drivers of UPS, who not only try to turn right, they try and do right, even if it means yard delivery. Talk about blowing money.

My second calculation, approved by Free Tax USA, was my owing the Feds 500 bucks, Wonder how they got the gig?

Since Team Oomizoomi was educating, I had to make my own decision. I chose door number one, the one dollar refund. Nothing like having a U.S. treasury check for a buck automatically deposited to one's account.

Life with Team Oomizoomi will help. I may know my numbers, but some of my patterns are off.

Happy holidays!

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

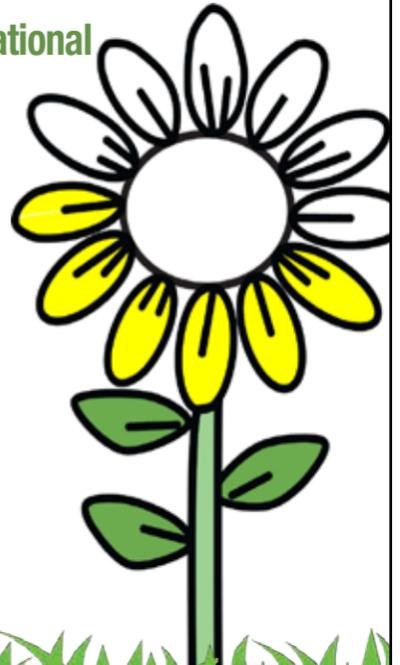
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1131 SE ELY STREET | PO BOX 1098 | OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98277

Publisher..... Eric Marshall
 Editor Kathy Reed
 Marketing Representative Noah Marshall
 Graphic Design Teresa Besaw
 Production Manager TJ Pierzchala
 Circulation Manager..... Noah Marshall

Contributing Writers
 Kathy Reed
 Jim Freeman
 Kae Harris
 Tracy Loescher
 Helen Mosbrooker
 Shannon Bly
 Melanie Hammons

Volume 13, Issue 51 | © MMXXI Whidbey Weekly

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Bits & Pieces

Stay Updated with Holiday Travel Ferry Schedules Vehicle reservations reopened Friday, Dec. 17, for travel after Jan. 1, 2022

While Santa is making a list and checking it twice, state ferry customers traveling this holiday season should regularly check online sailing schedules. Due to an ongoing staff shortage, the busy Seattle/Bainbridge Island, Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinton routes remain on one-boat service, with a second boat added daily as crewing availability allows.

"Because of our recent hiring efforts and new crewing agreements with our labor partners, we've been able to add service nearly every day over the past month on our central Sound routes and operate a full four-boat fall schedule on our Anacortes/San Juan Islands run, but challenges remain," said Patty Rubstello, head of Washington State Ferries. "I encourage riders to sign up for our rider alerts to receive an update each night and morning on what schedule we're operating on each route."

WSF temporarily switched to alternate service schedules on most runs Oct. 16, to reduce last-minute sailing cancellations caused by crewing challenges. The severe staffing shortage is due to many variables, including a global shortage of mariners that has been exacerbated by the pandemic, an aging workforce, COVID-19 cases and quarantines.

Reopening of vehicle reservations

Vehicle reservations for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands and Port Townsend/Coupeville reopened Friday, Dec. 17, for sailings Jan. 2 through March 26. New reservations for both routes were suspended Oct. 16 when the San Juan Islands run was temporarily downsized from four boats to three. The fourth boat returned Nov. 19 on a trial basis to see if all four boats could be reliably crewed before reopening reservations.

Busy travel times

Ferries are popular every holiday weekend and people boarding a ferry by vehicle should be prepared for long waits. With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on a Saturday this year, the Thursday and Friday before, and the Sunday following each holiday are expected to be the busiest. Delays are possible in both directions on several routes. To reduce or eliminate waiting, riders may consider taking an early morning or late-night sailing or walking on.

Holiday schedules

Friday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 31, there will be a few holiday schedule changes for the Point Defiance/Tahlequah run, along with the Edmonds/Kingston and Mukilteo/Clinton routes if supplemental service is added. The Seattle/Bainbridge Island and Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth runs will operate on a Saturday timetable both days, with a few schedule changes if service is added. Holiday sailings are marked on the schedule page for each route. Christmas Day and New Year's Day, all routes will operate as a typical Saturday.

Before heading to a terminal or boarding, customers are encouraged to sign up for rider alerts and check terminal conditions. A face covering is required in all indoor areas of vessels and terminals in compliance with the governor's "Washington

Ready" proclamation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's order for public transportation.

People using state highways to get to the ferry terminal should plan ahead for potential holiday travel backups and delays by checking real-time traffic information on the WSDOT traffic app for mobile devices or online using the updated WSDOT travel map feature.

[Submitted by Justin Fujioka, WSDOT]

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.

Start by looking at the individuals with whom you volunteer. Take note of the contributions they make to the total effort. Are they volunteers you enjoy working with? Are they dedicated, helpful and consistent in their approach and efforts to get the job done?

If so, fill out the nomination form and nominate them for this prestigious award. Nomination forms must be submitted by 4:30PM Friday, Dec. 31. The online nomination form is available at: www.cognitofirms.com/IslandCounty4/JanHolmesIslandCountyCoastalVolunteer-OfTheYearNominationForm.

[Submitted by Anna Toledo, Island County Public Health]

Accepting Applications for Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant

Applications for the 2022 Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant March 19, 2022, are currently being accepted. Any freshman-senior who identifies as female and who lives in or attends a school in the Oak Harbor School District qualifies.

Since 2015, the Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant has awarded more than \$67,000 in scholarships and awards. The organization's mission is to provide scholarships for young women interested in the advancement of their education through the spirit of a competition that embodies the four points of the crown: scholarship, service, success, and style. This unique six-week program focuses on personal and professional growth through the development of leadership, communication, and marketability. Pageant directors hope participants will gain confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment that will enable them to serve as role models for the youth of their community.

Applications for the 2022 pageant are available online at MissOakHarbor.com. The pageant is limited to the first 25 applicants who submit completed applications, accepted until Jan. 2.

More information can be found at MissOakHarbor.com or by emailing MissOakHarbor@yahoo.com.

[Submitted by Miss Oak Harbor Scholarship Pageant]

T-Mobile Awards \$50,000 Hometown Grant to the City of Oak Harbor for the Windjammer Park Lagoon Dock Replacement Project

T-Mobile awarded the Hometown Grant of \$50,000 to the City of Oak Harbor Public Works Parks Division for the Windjammer Park Lagoon dock replacement project.

During the Dec. 14 city council meeting, staff from T-Mobile presented Mayor Sevens and the city council with a \$50,000 check for the lagoon dock replacement project. The Mayor received council approval to sign the grant contract and accept the funds during the meeting.

The Windjammer Park lagoon and accompanying dock were built in 1965 by the Rotary Club. This recreational water feature at Windjammer Park is an amenity providing community benefit for over 50 years. More than 300 people a day swim for free from dawn until dusk during the summer. Additionally, the lagoon and dock provide a recreational programming opportunity for the local parks and recreation programs, including introductory kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding courses. Another benefit of the lagoon and dock is its proximity to Shipwreck Shores Splash Park, which allows families of children of varying ages to recreate at a single location.

In June 2021, the Public Works Parks Division staff completed significant repairs to the existing Windjammer Park Lagoon dock. However, city staff determined the dock has reached the end of its serviceable life and prepared information for including the dock replacement as part of the future Windjammer Park improvements. The improvements identified by city staff are replacing the dock material with a safer material for marine life and humans, transitioning away from a stationary dock that is unsafe during tide changes, overhauling the dock's structure and providing accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges.

Staff applied for the grant in September and received notification of the award in November. T-Mobile announced the grant award in a press release on the T-Mobile Hometown Grant website.

The city will construct a new dock that will provide the following features:

- A floating dock will adjust with tides and float, providing a safer entrance and exit for users.
- Enhance Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access by providing railings and non-slip surfaces and the ability for the dock ramp to rise to meet users' needs.

Instead of wood or creosote, weather-resistant materials decrease the frequency of preventative maintenance and harmful chemicals in the lagoon.

The goal is for the new dock to have a similar design and dimension. Staff estimates the construction to take approximately five months to complete the project by Memorial Day.

Additional project details are available on the city website (www.oakharbor.org).

[Submitted by Sabrina Combs, Communications/IT Manager, City of Oak Harbor]

Skagit Valley College Cardinals Achieve Record-Setting Fall Season in Volleyball, Soccer

The Skagit Valley College (SVC) Athletic Department is celebrating a historic and

What are your financial resolutions for 2022?

As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some *financial* resolutions, too?

Here are a few ideas to consider:

• **Prepare for the unexpected.** If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

• **Boost your retirement savings.** The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33% of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

• **Reduce your debt load.** The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress – at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were making the right moves.

• **Don't overreact to the headlines.** A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation – it shot up in 2021, but it may well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates? How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't forget extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day. Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust this strategy over time, in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence.

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



Jeffery C. Pleet,
CLU®, ChFC®
Financial Advisor

630 SE Midway Blvd.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-679-2558
jeffery.pleet@edwardjones.com

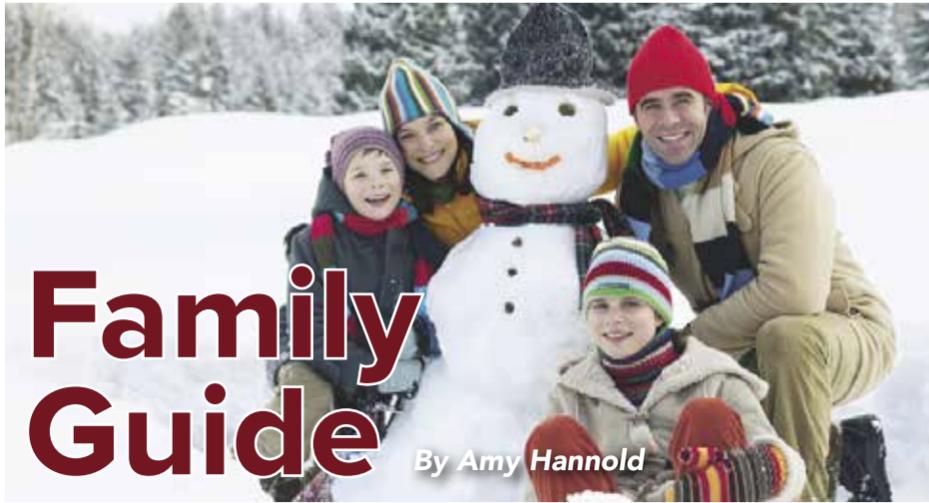
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BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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Family Guide

By Amy Hannold

What is DDA?: Island County Parent to Parent will host an online presentation Jan. 12 for parents of children with a developmental disability. The Developmental Disability Administration program provides services, funding and supports that can be utilized starting at age 4 through adulthood. This event gives parents the opportunity to ask questions of an eligibility and intake representative and benefits coordinator. Register and receive the link to the event: t.wheeler-thompson@island-countywa.gov.

See the Eagles: The months of December and January are peak eagle watching season. Spend some time in the outdoors, witnessing bald eagle migration, birdwatching and catching a glimpse of other wildlife in a gorgeous mountain and forest setting along the Skagit River. Guided hikes, eagle watching stations and a variety of exhibits are available at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, located at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, in Rockport. The center is open Saturdays and Sundays in December and January. For winter break exploration, the center will be open weekdays Dec. 27 – Jan. 2. Skagiteagle.org

Sno-Isle Libraries Host Winter Events: These educational and active programs will be online; registration is required to receive the event link. Seats are limited, sno-isle.org. As a side note, Sno-Isle Libraries continues to host online storytimes, book groups, author chats, workshops, family trivia nights and other events for all ages. Previously recorded programs are available for viewing at its YouTube page: [Youtube.com/user/snoislelibraries](https://www.youtube.com/user/snoislelibraries) or its Facebook page: [Facebook.com/SnoIsleLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/SnoIsleLibraries).

Dorky Dance Kids: Down on the Farm – Dance away the winter doldrums when you attend this online event with Sno-Isle Libraries, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. Get fit, play games, laugh and wiggle around! Come dressed to the theme of "Down on the Farm," or come just as you are, whatever you want. Dorky Dance Fitness is the creation of Bellingham trapeze artist Sadye Osterloh, who says it's a workout for your body as well as your funny bone. All ages and abilities are welcome to this event, and to check out Dorky Dance Fitness, which hosts a free, online class every Sunday. dorkydancefitness.com

Gansango Drum and Dance Workshop: An online African showcase of music and

dance with local artists Gansango Music and Dance Company, Sno-Isle Libraries on Jan. 11. The workshop will feature an afternoon of drumming and dance from West Africa. Experience contemporary and traditional dance with drumming, song, and audience participation. For grades Pre-K – 8.

The Science of Exercise: Get moving and shaking while investigating the effects of exercise on the human body with this online event on Jan. 10, Jan. 31, and Feb. 9, with Sno-Isle Libraries. Join the educational staff from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in exploring the benefits and science behind exercise. Topics include physical fitness, biology and health. For students in grades Pre-K through 5.

Whidbey Island Special Olympics: Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who love sports and want the challenge of competing with their peers participate in programs offering competition in several sports including basketball, bowling, track, cycling and bocce ball. The goal is to provide physical fitness with an emphasis on sportsmanship, friendships, and fun! wispecialolympics@gmail.com

Fun Exploration with the Family: When it's cold outside, take a short drive and learn something new! Parents will love the educational aspects of local museums, while their kids enjoy learning about history, science, and more. Local museums of note include the Imagine Children's Museum (Everett), Skagit Children's Museum (Burlington), Heritage Flight Museum (Burlington), Skagit County Historical Museum (La Conner), Spark Museum of Electrical Invention (Bellingham), The Anacortes Museum, Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum (Oak Harbor) and the Island County Historical Museum (Coupeville).

Marine Life and the Nature Around You: The Port Townsend Marine Science Center offers a variety of inspiration, activities and printables, including nature mapping and scavenger hunts, as well as other

online activities and education. It also lists resources for free courses, webinars, and other informative websites about the ocean and marine science. One of the coolest links connects you to live animal cams at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where you can view jelly fish, penguins, sharks and more. The Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Aquarium is located in Fort Warden State Park and is open to the public on weekends. Ptmsc.org

Hiking Close to Home: Whidbey Island is home to many great hiking locations. Author and hiking guide Maribeth Crandell and retired Washington State Parks Manager Jack Hartt have a blog that features a "Hike of the Week," with descriptions and details about these locations, including directions, whether you can get there on bus or by bike, accessibility and other information encouraging you to take in the beauty that is around us, on foot. They are also the authors of "Hiking Close to Home," of which the 2022 edition has just been published: Hikingclosetohome.weebly.com

Run Whidbey's Marathon: The Whidbey Island Marathon, on April 24, features a marathon, half-marathon, 10K and 5K course and a 1K Kids Run. Register by Dec. 31 to receive your early registration discount. RunWhidbey.com

Let's Play Ball! It's time to think about spring basketball, baseball and soccer season. Registration for your sport may be in progress, so check with your local league and look forward to joining the team. If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of young athletes, local sports organizations are always looking for coaches and other volunteers.

Warm Your Winter with Great Memories: Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid has a "Whidbey Winter Fun Guide" a calendar of virtual events, and ideas for local things to do as we weather the winter together: WhidbeyIsland.MacaroniKid.com.

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Oak Harbor to proceed with Fakkema Access Road project – for now

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Oak Harbor City Council members have approved a one-year contract extension for an engineering plan for the Fakkema Access Road project.

The Dec. 14 vote was a procedural one for the extension of the professional services agreement for engineering and design for the project with Harmsen LLC, not on the final road project. The funding and cost of the Fakkema Access Road have been called into question by Whidbey Weekly publisher/owner Eric Marshall, who is also a member of the Oak Harbor Planning Commission.

The city council had delayed the vote for a week, after Marshall appeared before the council Dec. 7 to ask why the city is spending \$481,500 to build an access road along the east side of its property at State Route 20 and Fakkema Road. The road will provide access to the developer of an adjacent parcel of land, which is owned by Amerco Real Estate, and where work is currently underway to build a U-Haul rental and storage facility.

But the issue is more complicated than accessing an adjoining parcel of land, according to Marshall, who was appointed to the Planning Commission in 2020.

"I first learned of the Fakkema Road project prior to the Oct. 27, 2020, Planning Commission meeting," he said. "It was listed as a line item on the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) in our packet. I questioned it during the meeting and was told the road was going to provide access to a privately owned, for-profit business. I questioned how much of the \$481,000 price tag was being passed onto the business owner and the answer received was 'zero.' At that point the project was slated for 2022.

"I have called Oak Harbor home since 1980," Marshall continued. "I know the property in question and its history. It struck me as odd that the city would be spending nearly a half million dollars to put in an access road to nothing. I wondered, 'What needs to be accessed?'"

"The Fakkema Access Road project proposes to construct a new public road to improve the accessibility and development potential of 53 acres at the north edge of the City," Sabrina Combs, Communications/IT Manger for the city, told Whidbey Weekly via email last spring. "This road was identified as a future road in the City of Oak Harbor's 2016 Transportation Comprehensive Plan.

"The U-Haul development submitted a pre-application to the City November 2018 and a formal application September 2020," she continued. "This development is proposed over several of these parcels. Local residents and all SR20 users will benefit from



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

The State Department of Transportation wants to prohibit access off State Route 20 to a new U-Haul facility under construction in north Oak Harbor. The City of Oak Harbor has proposed building an access road off Fakkema Road at the rear of its parcels to give safer access to the business.

the safety improvements resulting from the construction of the Fakkema Access Road. Multiple parcels and property owners will benefit from a development potential with the construction of this road."

In 2016, at the time the road was identified in the comprehensive plan, the affected area included 11 parcels of land, four of which are owned by the city and are home to what will eventually be developed, according to the city, into Centennial Oak Grove park.

It is unclear how many people owned the remaining seven parcels at the time the project was proposed. Today, however, five of those seven parcels are owned by 20 Oak Harbor LLC, one is owned my Amerco Real Estate and one remains privately owned.

"20 Oak Harbor LLC and Amerco Real Estate are all the same company, essentially," Marshall told the council. "They have the same governors, they are out of Arizona. Amerco is a publicly

traded company on NASDAQ; it was founded in 1945, it has over 22,000 employees, it reports over \$755 million in sales. Their CEO and one of their principal governors, Edward Shoen, is worth at least \$7.86 billion as of 15 June, 2021. He owns over 81,000 units of Amerco stock, worth over \$6 billion.

"Of those pieces of property out there, we are going to build an access road for a multi-billion dollar company," he continued. "They don't need our money, they don't need that road – if they want that road, they can build it themselves."

While city council members were not familiar with the parcels' ownership, they were familiar with the project and its cost. But further discussion at the Dec. 7 meeting revealed the price tag for the project had increased significantly.

"So the current budget we have is \$701,000," said David Goldman, the city's finance director. "It's been updated since the Capital Improvements Plan was published last year, so I think there was a budget amendment earlier this year that upped the budget. The funding sources include [transportation] impact fees, funding from the streets fund and a small amount from city funds, but the majority of the funding is coming from transportation impact fees."

Council members also questioned whether it is unusual to have a developer bear at least part of the cost of road construction.

"Where is the line between the city requiring the developer to pay for this stuff that benefits them and their business and to us to get help?" asked Mayor Pro Tem Beth Munns. "It just seems like we're missing the boat if they're not being charged to help develop this."

"I think the impetus on this thing was the economic development; normally we would require this, said Project Engineer Brett Arvidson. "This road is considered very minimal. Matter of fact, we've had discussions with the developer about making it bigger and more accessible for the trucks and we said we'll be glad to do more for you, but you're going to have to pay for the upgrade because this is not a fancy street by any shape or form. So to me, the issue was yeah, we were trying to promote development in the area and we're making that investment. I wasn't party to the decision to move it forward on a policy basis, but yeah [cost is] normally born by the developer."

Whidbey Weekly did reach out to U-Haul via email for comment, but has not received a response.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Construction vehicles are currently accessing the U-Haul property from a road on private land adjacent to the City of Oak Harbor's property, near where the city's proposed Fakkema Access Road would be built.

See ROAD continued on page 10



SEASON'S GREETINGS

SEASONS GREETINGS

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ROAD continued from page 6

When the project was first introduced in 2016, it was anticipated the city could get grant funding from Island County .09 Funds in the form of a Rural Economic Development Grant. The city applied for the grant in 2019, but it was not approved by Island County commissioners, who said the proposed development didn't provide enough jobs.

Council members decided to postpone action on the issue for one week and took up discussion on the Fakkema Access Road once more at their Dec. 14 meeting.

Staff went over the history of the parcels for council, telling them three developers had shown interest in the property between 2016 and 2018, but had decided cost of road construction was prohibitive. The land falls within the U.S. Navy's Accident Potential Zone (AZP) as well, which limits its development to low density, commercial endeavors.

City staff told council members the road was not just necessary for economic development to the area, but because it is a matter of safety; the Washington Department of Transportation prohibits direct access to Highway 20 from the parcels in question.

"The road is a safety enhancement to eliminate the need for adjacent properties to go directly to Highway 20," said David Kuhl, Oak Harbor development director. "We wanted to provide access to the city-owned land for the park, which are four parcels. And so rather than come off of 20, come off a back road we're proposing and so you're not going to have traffic conflicts coming off of Highway 20.

"Same issue with address to public safety need for coming off Highway 20 for this particular parcel that U-Haul is proposing," he continued. "It's right there on Highway 20 at a high speed section. It's 50 miles an hour through that area, also there's limited sight distance. If you've gone out there it's really kind of a tricky area to see around. There's a lot of high conflict things happening out there with the merge lane and a deceleration lane, an acceleration lane, passing lanes, so there's a lot of activity going on out there. Also, there was a fatality there at that area once and so that's on the record. So there's a lot of mitigating factors that we need to take into account and that's why we want to build this road."

Kuhl told the council the road project would be able to eventually serve as a north-south circulation route for the city, allowing people to avoid Highway 20 altogether.

Furthermore, Kuhl said U-Haul's development of the property is based on the city's plans to build the road.

"U-Haul has designed, permitted and had approved plans based on the city building the north section of Fakkema Access Road," he said. "This developer has already come forward, we've approved their site plan and so they're currently under site construction. They've submitted building plans and the building plans are ready for approval."

Kuhl said the U-Haul facility will be built in two phases. The first is currently under construction and will use the Fakkema Access Road. The second phase calls for U-Haul to build its own road extension to the south that stretches to Case Road, which raised some questions from council members.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Phase two of the U-Haul facility being constructed along Highway 20 in north Oak Harbor includes a road built by the developer of the property that would connect to Case Road behind Mariner Self Storage, off Regatta Ave. Case Road is privately owned and could require upgrades by the City of Oak Harbor in the future.

"Isn't Case Road a private road?" asked councilor Jim Woessner, citing concerns about future costs. "And so we're going to end up building a road onto a private road that then we're going to have to take on, upgrade and [maintain]? I mean, it's an underdeveloped road presently."

"Case Road is currently a private road so that would be definitely a consideration for the future," agreed Alex Warner, city engineer. "As we're looking at this as developing the roadway network in the city, we have to start where we are developing from the north. It would be a continuation of the development to the south and at some point in the future, Case Road would need to be made public."

"And have we verified that Case Road, or the easements on Case Road, are wide enough, or do we have acquisition and everything else to deal with there?" asked Woessner. "Obviously it doesn't do us any good to start a plan if we don't have an idea of how to finish it."

Council member Jeff Mack wanted to know what the city's actual obligation is to U-Haul.

"We've gotten into this thing, so how deep are we, what do we really have to do and what do we want to do?" he asked. "So could someone please clarify that for me?"

"It's my understanding that we have issued permits on this, that they bought the property with the city's plans to build this road being made public and that the permits issued contemplated this road being built by the city and not asking them to require them to contribute to it," said Interim City Attorney Hillary J. Evans. "So, at this point we don't have any promises made, per se, to the developer, we can decide not to do it. If we decide not to do it, they could very likely file a lawsuit against the city and if that's something you want to discuss I would recommend we do that in an executive session. But certainly, it's your choice whether or not you want to build this road, whether you want to fund this road, but in terms of the way it impacts this particular developer and this development could result in liability."

Council members said they would like to find a way to share the cost with the developer.

"I would like to see the city negotiate to share the cost," said newest council member Bryan Stucky. "I mean you look at the CIP, it's \$481,500 for construction, yet last week we hear it could be \$700,000-plus. I'm not insinuating they should pay 100 percent, because there are city parcels there. Whether we use it for a park or something else, we're still benefitting, so you know as a comment, yeah, I'm okay approving the extension, but before we sign the contract and build the road, I would really like to see us negotiate to have a cost-sharing process."

"We certainly do not want to be the community that says we're going to do something and then doesn't do it," said Woessner. "I think a lot of us are in line in the fact that we have committed \$481,000 to this project, that was the number we committed and we probably need to be the city that keeps our commitments. Hopefully the developer understands that, that we've got a budget established for this and that's what we have to work with and uh, you know, there's nothing else there."

"Just because it's on the CIP doesn't mean it always gets done," said Munns. "But we need the feasibility study, the engineering to finish, to find out is this really going to stay at the amount we thought, or not. I think our attorney has said that we're not exactly having to do it, we haven't signed that agreement, it's just in our [CIP] this is what we'd like to do. This is what we're planning, but if the costs get too much, then, no. And we're only building part of the road; if they want the whole road, they're gonna have to do it."

The council passed the service agreement extension unanimously.

Marshall said while he has been frustrated in his efforts to get answers, he is still glad he brought the matter to the council's attention.

"Each time this project was questioned the response given was 'Council has already approved this project several times and not one of them (council members) have ever questioned it,'" he said. "I was curious as to why Council never questioned this road and what their reasoning for approving it was, so I asked them all about it via email. I received answers from City Administrator Blaine Oborn but not from any council members. I sent follow up questions and, again, no response from council. I decided to attend the next council meeting and share with them what I had learned about the property through some simple research. I thought it was important for Council to hear at least one of their constituents had concerns about this road."

Should council approve a bid on the project early next year, construction on the Fakkema Access Road could begin in the spring.

City logo dropped from U-Haul sign

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Signs for a new U-Haul rental facility bearing the Oak Harbor city logo have been replaced.

Temporary signs for U-Haul of Oak Harbor were placed on the property along Highway 20 in north Oak Harbor

in November bearing the city's familiar twin sails. Whidbey Weekly publisher Eric Marshall questioned city staff about the logo, prompting the city to contact developers of the U-Haul facility, who promptly covered a portion of the logo. While still recognizable to those familiar with Oak Harbor's logo, most of the design was covered.

City regulations require permits be submitted for temporary signs and designs must be approved.

"A permit was submitted for the project," said Communications/IT Manager Sabrina Combs in response to questions from Whidbey Weekly. "However, the City did not provide approval for the

developer to use the City logo on the sign. The developer covered the logo after receiving communications from City staff."

The original temporary sign has been removed and replaced with a new sign with no sails in sight.

The City of Oak Harbor began using the current logo in 2006, but the design is not copyrighted or trademarked and Combs said she is working with the city's legal department to determine "the appropriate process for the logo as part of our efforts to improve City branding."

According to the city attorney, the city can apply for a trademark if it is used to sell or advertise goods and services.

"A city's official seal is generally not eligible for trademark protection (RCW 19.77.020 and 15 USC 1052(b) prohibit registration of "insignia" or municipality). This is a current project that City staff is working on," Combs said.



Oak Harbor's logo features a twin sail design and has been used since 2006.



Eric Marshall/Whidbey Weekly

Black tape covers a portion of the logo displayed on the original sign for a U-Haul rental facility under construction along Highway 20 in north Oak Harbor. The design was very similar to the city's logo.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

A new sign has been installed at the U-Haul construction sign and the City of Oak Harbor's logo has been removed.





FISHING RULE CHANGES

How do we create legislative progress and positive changes to fishing opportunities here in the state of Washington? How do we make our voices heard, and get our questions answered with honesty? Most of our regulations and restrictions are based on historical data, real-time studies, theories, and expectations. Debating all the gathered data is what helps us reach common ground or give-and-take for what we hope will be to the benefit of all anglers and economic growth for the businesses and communities in the fishing realm. What I personally see in this state is major government decisions at the federal level that forces the path of many other decisions, or restricts the lateral movement opportunities of the state to the point of creating disgusted fishermen and the loss of revenue to bordering countries. (More and more fishermen are spending their fishing dollars in Canada and Mexico each year.)

Don't be misled into thinking fishing is all about making money; the real goal is to make memories with friends and family and doing something we love! It's about teaching our sons and daughters respect for Mother Nature and exposing their young minds to the beauty of the great outdoors. By doing so, good stewardship will come automatically. The push to keep traditions, or not, is front page news these days. Basic fishing is an ancient tradition, and a good one, something worth fighting for. So how do we fight for change? How do we fight for the right to go fishing? First, we must remind the decision-makers that they work for you and me and they cannot string along one-sided decisions for so many years that it eliminates whole generations from creating their own fishing memories.

The number one thing we have to do is get involved and get plugged into what is driving the loss of fishing opportunities; you can't be content to stand on the sidelines waiting for things to change in our favor. Here is a good example: What is the true reason there has not been a winter Blackmouth Chinook salmon season two years in a row? A Puget Sound winter Blackmouth Chinook salmon does not travel to the Bering Sea near Alaska to become an adult. They spend their entire lives here in our surrounding waters growing from a six-inch juvenile fish to a 12-pound adult, so to restrict the entire season and use the reason for closure on "low returning numbers" is totally false! It simply does not fit! These are the types of restrictions we need to find the real truth about why there is a closure.

The second thing that helps shed light on questions is strength in numbers. Joining a local, well organized club or organization is the quickest way to get up to speed on the truth. Groups like the Puget Sound Anglers and the Coastal Conservation Association have elected individuals who represent their organizations and anglers at state and federal level meetings where seasons, quotas and reasons for potential closures are discussed and set. We as recreational anglers must learn to band together to make change in our favor, otherwise the path chosen and set in motion at the highest level will dictate and restrict every action below it and we will have no choice as law abiding citizens but to go along with those decisions affecting fishing in this state.

Federal agencies have a heavy influence on dictating policy to states, but the "power of the people" can challenge federal rulings. For example, marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning it falls into the same category as heroin, LSD and ecstasy. Schedule I is the most restrictive category and defines those drugs as having a high potential for abuse and no current, acceptable medical use. Cocaine and methamphetamine are Schedule II drugs. But while marijuana is illegal at the federal level, the state of Washington legalized recreational use of cannabis in 2012 with the passage of Initiative 502 (I-502).

In 2010, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) identified Yelloweye Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, and Boccaccio as endangered and used the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to leverage the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to implement new regulations that prohibited fishing for, retaining or possessing any rockfish species and prohibited all "bottom-fish" fishing deeper than 120 feet within the greater Puget Sound region. It has been 11 years since recreational anglers have been able to keep a four-pound Quillback Rockfish or a four-pound Black Sea Bass in Marine Areas 6 through 13.

Do you see where I'm going with this? Our state legislators who represent us should not be looking to break a federal law, I get that. But I do not understand why they will not take the time to fight for some kind of compromise, to put pressure on the agency that put such restrictions on us, make them re-visit the research and data. If compromise will not be considered even after the state solicits and receives good ideas from the public, then it is time for the anglers to act. If a group of people in this state can create a voter initiative like I-502 and gather enough support to pierce through and overcome an upper level law that was based on an illegal substance, to me getting the right to keep a non-ESA rockfish after 11 years is well within reason.

When effective efforts can change things in favor of the people at the higher levels, it supports and eases the difficulty of changes down the line, ultimately turning bureaucracy into common sense, challenges one-sided studies to prove their findings are still valid and forces agencies to find common ground and find compromises that benefit all of us. To change directions and get the train on a different track takes courage and staying power, but is not beyond reach if we stick together.

Fishing opportunities are slim right now, but winter lake trout and winter yellow perch are both a possibility; check the WDFW website for trout stocking reports and research the nearby lakes for perch prospects. This was a good year for pink salmon, and the coho bite was good while the season lasted. Summer king salmon fishing was so hot Marine Area 7 was only open for seven days before the small quota of retainable fish were caught and then closed for the whole year. Crabbing was on par for numbers, and I've got my fingers crossed the newly spawned salmon were able to find a soft spot to hide in during the high river water levels of November. Remember to see the glass as half full. Merry Christmas to all Island Anglers! Love and take care of your families. I'll see you next year.

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TUESDAY, OCT. 19
7:33 am, Mutiny Bay Rd.
Caller advising motorcycle versus deer off to side of road; motorcycle in ditch; unable to locate driver. Motorcycle pieces all over the road.

8:56 am, Tree Frog Ln.
Reporting ongoing issue with two subjects just walking in and sleeping at location. Have just left.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20
10:15 am, Norman Dr.
Reporting party advising contractors are in area repairing water service; states subject came running out yelling at them to leave. No longer out there.

10:15 am, Little Dirt Rd.
Advising political sign was up at the end of the street; advising just noticed candidate on the sign had been shot through with air gun between the eyes; unknown who may have done it; advising subject left a note saying you need to find Jesus.

11:18 am, Heller Rd.
Caller advising rented Rug Doctor and left it on porch overnight and it appears to be stolen this morning; unknown who stole it.

2:11 pm, Scatchet Head Rd.
Reporting party requesting contact, advising phone company has cut off her cell service; has already reported with company; advising they told her that her bill wasn't paid; reporting party advising she had paid the bill.

THURSDAY, OCT. 21
11:05 am, SR 20
Advising silver Dodge truck behind reporting party was tailgating, tried to run reporting party off the road multiple times. Unable to see plate; truck has handicap plate.

11:49 am, Banta Rd.
Reporting party is concerned for offensive sign that was posted on reporting party's street; has picked up the sign; available by phone.

4:13 pm, Honeymoon Bay Rd.
Party requesting phone call regarding a boater that is buzzing along the shoreline in area of location. States usually when this is happening, they are filming the property. It is occurring now.

FRIDAY, OCT. 22
12:21 am, East Harbor Rd.
Reporting party advising she is babysitting her friend's dogs and about 12:05 am, people broke into the house and stole the dogs in order to blackmail the owners.

10:46 am, Grimm Rd.
Advising of new break-in to report. Toilet paper and potassium supplements. Last occurrence a week ago.

12:29 pm, Captain Whidbey Inn Rd.
Male stating he is in hotel on Whidbey; talking about having animal tranquilizers and tazers, states has TBI, asking to speak to animal control about the animal tranquilizers.

12:53 pm, Scatchet Head Rd.
Requesting check on sister; has not been answering phone and phone company was advising not paying the bills; advising it is not like sister to not pay bills.

5:39 pm, Alexis Ln.
Advising someone is shooting in the area; can see bullets flying; advising one went just past reporting party's head; advising has stopped now.

SATURDAY, OCT. 23
4:13 am, Stellar Ln.
Reporting party advising there is someone trying to break into his house; seems like someone is trying to get in, the boards on the windows are coming off; living room window; front door as well.

4:31 am, Bayview Rd.
Reporting party states landlord is running tractor next to wall.

4:13 pm, Trisha Ln.
Advising people are throwing trash into reporting party's yard; about five people. Advising neighbor and his friends.

6:03 pm, N Main St.
Advising male walking in the street chasing vehicles, trying to stop them.

OAK HARBOR CINEMAS

BOOK ONLINE

Movie Showtimes:
12-24-2021 thru 12-30-2021

SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME (PG-13)
Friday: 12:30pm & 3:40pm, Saturday: 7:00pm
Sunday - Thursday: 12:30pm, 3:40pm & 7:00pm

MATRIX (R)
Friday: 1:00pm & 4:00pm, Saturday: 7:15pm
Sunday - Thursday: 1:00pm, 4:00pm & 7:15pm

SING 2 (PG)
Friday: 1:15pm & 4:15pm, Saturday: 7:30pm
Sunday - Thursday: 1:15pm, 4:15pm & 7:30pm

We will be open on Christmas Eve ONLY for the MATINEE SHOWS, and we will be Open on Christmas ONLY for the EVENING SHOW.

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

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



Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris



BEYOND CHRISTMAS! SWITCH THINGS UP WITH A VEGAN TREAT!

With Thanksgiving behind us, we move quickly into the Christmas period and I don't know about you, but I am exhausted! This time of year is truly magical, but with all the activities being planned and food being consumed, it is easy to feel drained and in general, a little weighed down. It's no secret the end of year festivities are bound to bring some extra cheer around the waistline if we're not careful, but is it possible to indulge without regretting having eaten just one too many Christmas cookies? There does seem to be a solution to this dilemma: use vegan recipes! As ingredients have become more readily available, affordable and delicious, vegan meals are becoming more accessible and enticing to the non-vegan eater and may help fill you with that tiny bit of vitality you need to keep up with everything as the countdown to Christmas and New Year's begins. So, let's dive into the exciting world of veganism and see what delicious treats await us!

Before we can sift through all the vegan recipes out there, we need to establish what vegan cooking is. A vegan diet is a form of vegetarianism that excludes the use of meat, eggs, dairy products and any other ingredients derived from or processed using animal products. While it may seem there are very limited vegan ingredients, especially when it comes to proteins, nothing could be further from the truth. Meat substitutes, for example, range from jackfruit that mimics the texture of shredded meat (particularly chicken) to seitan, which is a wheat protein that can be used as a substitute for most meats due its texture. The evolution of vegan products has come so far it is quite common to be able to buy "impossible" meat substitutes in your local grocery store that have the taste and texture of a steak and is, frankly, very difficult to differentiate from the real thing! If you're afraid you won't be able to have a satisfying vegan-version of your favorite holiday treat, let me assure you there is a vegan substitute out there that will meet your expectations!

One of my favorite snacks that can be used as an appetizer is Christmas cheese spread (or cheeseball, depending where you're from). Traditionally made using cream cheese mixed with cheddar or another bold cheese, this holiday treat can still be enjoyed by all by making your own cashew "cheese." Sounds intimidating? Not in the slightest! Here's a great recipe from Taste of Home (www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/cashew-cheese/):

- 1 cup raw cashews
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast

Place the cashews in a bowl and cover them with warm water, allowing them to soak for about two hours. Drain the nuts and add all the ingredients to a food processor. Process until you have a smooth mixture before chilling in the fridge for at least an hour. Serve on toasted bread or crackers and enjoy!

With appetizers taken care of, it's time to move onto the most challenging part of

our vegan meal: the main dish. While there are many delicious veggie dishes out there, I think it is important to make a dish that appeals to diehard meat eaters as well as vegetarians and vegans. That may seem like a tall task, but I have the perfect dish for your Christmas main meal: non-meat meatloaf! This may sound too good to be true, but with the miracle of vital wheat gluten, we are able to create a loaf that has the texture of an actual meatloaf. I tweaked this recipe from Shane & Simple (<https://shaneandsimple.com/vegan-holiday-roast/>):

- 1 cup canned red kidney beans
- 2 cups vital wheat gluten
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/4 cup low sodium soy sauce
- 1/3 cup nutritional yeast
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons sage
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups water or low sodium vegetable broth

Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Add kidney beans, tomato paste, soy sauce, and 2 tablespoons of the bean juice from can to a food processor and blend until everything is smooth. In a large mixing bowl, combine the wheat gluten, nutritional yeast, onion powder, garlic powder, sage, thyme, Italian seasoning, and pepper. Stir in the bean paste and mix until well combined.

Pour in the water or vegetable broth and mix the dough until it becomes thick and has a stretchy, elastic texture. Knead the dough by hand for about 2 to 3 minutes, letting it rest for about 5 minutes after kneading. Roll out the dough and make a log that's about 8-10 inches long. Lay out enough aluminum foil to get at least two wraps around the roast and overlap on the ends. Take out a piece of parchment paper the same size as the aluminum foil. Wrap the log in parchment paper first and then roll it up in aluminum foil. Set the roast on a baking sheet, place it in the oven and bake the roast for at least 1 hour. Flip the roast every 15 minutes.

Remove the roast from the oven, safely remove the foil and parchment paper, let sit for 10-15 minutes, then slice and serve with rice or mashed potatoes.

Having spent a little over an hour in making these two dishes, I would opt to get vegan ice cream from the store because I don't have the patience to make vegan ice-cream and I don't think I can quite replicate some of the delicious tastes and textures in my kitchen. That being said, there are many wonderful vegan desserts that are easily made at home, and if you have a recipe for one, I would love to hear from you! Please write to me at letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com and let me know what you think of the recipes I've included this week, along with any other comments. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year and I can't wait to continue to Dish! with you next year!

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

BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

record-setting fall 2021 sports season in volleyball, women's soccer and men's soccer within the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC).

The Cardinals were proudly ranked in the NWAC top 10 at No. 6 and received the Athletic Director's Cup in the large school division (8-12 sports offered). The award recognizes schools that perform the best in the NWAC championships.

"Our fall coaches, Joe, Tony and Jordan did a fantastic job establishing a successful culture within their programs under continued health and safety challenges," said Athletic Director Mitch Freeman. "This year's success will create continued momentum for their programs, our department and SVC. I am thankful to our head coaches and the student-athletes who performed at a high level since they started last August."

Volleyball

Head coach Joe Amaral and the volleyball team finished the season with a 25-6 record and clinched second place in the NWAC tournament, which tied an SVC record set in 1987 for the highest finish.

Skagit's team was comprised of five sophomores and four freshmen who began with a 12-0 start and finished North Division play with a two-way tie for second place.

Amaral was named the North Division Coach of the Year.

The Most Valuable Player selection went to team captain Brooklyn Johnson, with Faith Baar, Aynslee King, and Olivia Pratt being named All-Conference First Team and Second Team. Johnson and Pratt were also named to the NWAC Championships First Team, and Libby Miller was named to the Second Team. Johnson also earned Second Team All American Honors and Miller earned Third Team All American Honors.

Men's Soccer

This year, head coach Jordan Carver restarted the SVC men's soccer program, which has been one of the most prominent programs in NWAC history.

After a one-year hiatus, the Cardinals won five games and narrowly missed an opportunity to make the NWAC Championships.

During his first two months leading the Cardinals, Carver recruited an entire roster that included nine international student-athletes from France, Germany, and Japan.

This year's team also included three North Division All-Stars: Aurelien Habasquez, Manuel Segura and Tobie Smith.

Carver was named the North Division Coach of the Year.

Women's Soccer

Coach Tony Savoy's connection with SVC soccer goes back to 1992-94 as a player, men's assistant in 2000-01 and 2005-06, and women's head coach in 2016.

When Savoy took the helm of the women's team, the program was struggling to establish a winning season and advance to post season play. The team's last winning seasons were in 2008 and 1997. Among the highlights of the team's turnaround are these accomplishments:

- 2017: Placed third in the North Division, qualified for the playoffs, but lost to Spokane.
- 2019: Placed third in the North Division and won at Portland to advance to the quarter finals, but lost in overtime at Walla Walla.
- 2020: COVID-19
- 2021: The spring season had no playoffs, but the Cardinals finished second in the region.
- 2021: In the fall season, the team finished second and hosted a playoff game and won against Spokane, but lost to Clark.
- The Cardinals made the NWAC Coaches' Poll at No. 8, moved up to No. 6, and finished at No. 5.

• The team had six all-star selections for First Team: Mackenzie Carnell, Amber Elliano, Hannah Esson, Delany Kaysner, Cassie Mullin and Bri Yamada. In addition, three players received Honorable Mention: Sierrah Esson, Bonnie Martin and Ashley Thomas.

Skagit Valley College is a member of NWAC, which consists of two-year colleges in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and one college in British Columbia. To stay connected with the Cardinals, visit their Fan Zone, athletics.skagit.edu.

[Submitted by Arden Ainley, SVC]

Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation Budget Boosts Local Libraries

The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation has approved a 2022 budget of nearly \$700,000, much of it destined to improve community libraries in the Sno-Isle Libraries regional district.

The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that uses private donations to fund innovative programs throughout the 23-library Sno-Isle Libraries district.

"We work alongside and in partnership with the Sno-Isle Libraries system to augment and expand their services and capabilities," Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation President Luke Distelhorst explained.

The 2022 Foundation budget includes an investment of \$200,000 to Sno-Isle Libraries to contribute towards matching capital improvement grants the library district received from Washington State. The funds are designated for community libraries in Langley and Darrington for projects that will improve and expand access to the library buildings and facilities.

Earlier this year, Sno-Isle Libraries received a \$700,000 grant to remodel and update the historic Langley Library to improve accessibility within and around the library.

A \$250,000 grant for the Darrington Library will focus on increased accessibility, improved sustainability and resiliency, as well as general upgrades.

The planning phase for both projects is scheduled to begin in early 2022.

In addition to funding ongoing programming such as Third Graders Read Together, Explore Summer reading program, and the innovative Opportunity Fund, the 2022 Foundation budget also includes funding to expand the availability of express hold lockers, Distelhorst said.

Last summer, Sno-Isle Libraries installed express lockers as a pilot project at the Monroe Library and Camano Island Library. Customers can request their holds be placed in an express locker, which allows self-service hold pickup 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Distelhorst and his colleagues on the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation board are continuing to raise funds to support Sno-Isle Libraries programs in the years ahead.

"We're excited for all these projects next year, but in order to make them happen, we'll need help from the Sno-Isle community," Distelhorst said. "The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation is entirely privately funded, which means we rely on the generosity and support of private citizens and businesses to help us provide additional programming and services to 23 Sno-Isle Libraries, and our communities."

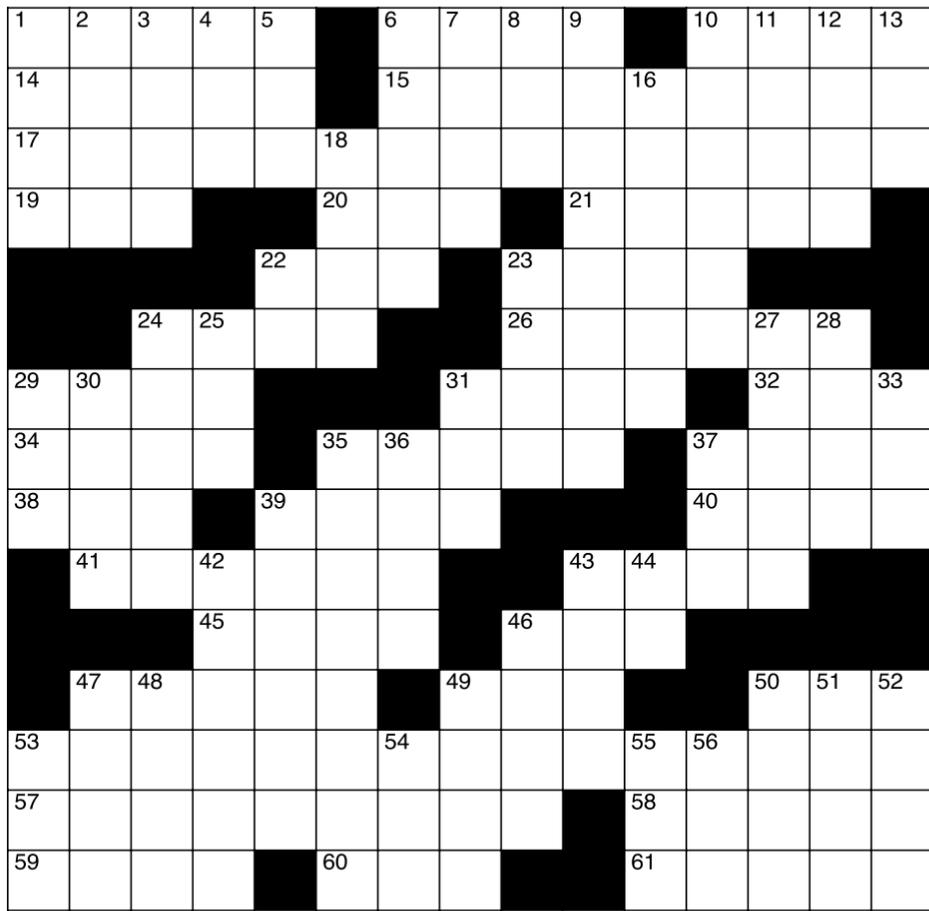
To join the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation and make a tax-deductible donation, visit the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation website, <https://sno-islefoundation.org/donate/>.

"With the approval of our 2022 budget, we've crossed one year-end goal off the list. Now, it's time to get started raising those funds," Distelhorst said.

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



Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Polish city
- 6. Very eager
- 10. Identifies a specific person or thing
- 14. Tennis great Naomi
- 15. One concerned by professional advancement
- 17. PGA Championship reward
- 19. A fashionable hotel
- 20. Norse mythology afterlife location
- 21. Stood up
- 22. Car mechanics group
- 23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
- 24. Broken branch
- 26. Astronomy unit
- 29. East Asian nursemaid
- 31. "Airplane!" actor
- 32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 34. "Batman" villain
- 35. Downfalls
- 37. Philippine province
- 38. Once-vital TV part
- 39. Valley
- 40. Tax
- 41. Classic Scorsese film
- 43. Subway dwellers

45. Book part

- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Founder of Babism
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Withdrawal from a larger entity
- 58. Lot's father
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Lemur

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Quarrels
- 2. Right away
- 3. Comedian Carvey
- 4. Egyptian unit of weight
- 5. A Brit's mother
- 6. Tropical tree
- 7. One who speaks Gaelic
- 8. NHL legend Bobby
- 9. Vacation spots
- 10. Military personnel
- 11. Shakira's don't lie
- 12. Wimbledon champ
- 13. Teletypewriter
- 16. Mistakes
- 18. Whale ship captain
- 22. Thus

23. From end to end

- 24. Kids love him
- 25. One and only
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Taxis
- 29. Basics
- 30. Refuse of grapes
- 31. Go quickly
- 33. French ballet dynasty
- 35. Most open
- 36. Popular soap ingredient
- 37. US time zone (abbr.)
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Backbones
- 43. Infrequent
- 44. Blood type
- 46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Pike
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. A cardinal is one
- 51. From a distance
- 52. Bolivian river
- 53. N. American student organization (abbr.)
- 54. River (Spanish)
- 55. Chinese life force
- 56. Chinese surname

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Thurs, Dec. 23</p> <p>North Isle H-43°/L-39° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-43°/L-37° Showers</p>	<p>Fri, Dec. 24</p> <p>North Isle H-42°/L-36° Cloudy, Breezy and Rainy</p> <p>South Isle H-41°/L-34° Cloudy, Breezy and Rainy</p>	<p>Sat, Dec. 25</p> <p>North Isle H-37°/L-26° Snow</p> <p>South Isle H-36°/L-27° Snow</p>	<p>Sun, Dec. 26</p> <p>North Isle H-30°/L-19° Cold with Snow Flurries</p> <p>South Isle H-31°/L-25° Cold with Snow Flurries</p>	<p>Mon, Dec. 27</p> <p>North Isle H-32°/L-28° Cold with Chance of Snow</p> <p>South Isle H-33°/L-25° Cold with Chance of Snow</p>	<p>Tues, Dec. 28</p> <p>North Isle H-34°/L-21° Cold with Snow Possible</p> <p>South Isle H-32°/L-20° Cold with Snow Possible</p>	<p>Wed, Dec. 29</p> <p>North Isle H-30°/L-22° Cloudy and Cold</p> <p>South Isle H-31°/L-21° Cloudy and Cold</p>
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OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the best gift you have ever received and why?

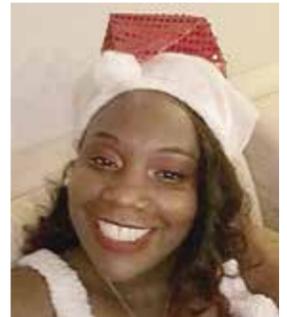


Bernita Sandstad, Langley

When I was about 12 and my younger brother was 10, we each received a burgundy, 3-speed Raleigh bicycle for Christmas. I still remember the thrill of riding downhill to Greenlake in Seattle with the wind in our faces. The freedom felt wonderful! Of course, we had to walk our bikes up hill on the way home, but this bike was one of the best presents I can remember receiving.

Leandra Kelly, Oak Harbor

The gift of love this year; Why? Because it was something I really needed in my life.



Colin O'Hara, Oak Harbor

The best gift I have ever received was love, because when someone cares for you that much and wants the best for you, there is no material gift that could surpass that. Love from family and friends is a gift that I hold very close to my heart.

Kenny McGuire, Oak Harbor

The best gift I ever received was the joy of my two young daughters when we gave them kittens for Christmas. Not much mattered after that. I do not believe those cats could walk, as they were carried everywhere the first two weeks. They were family. One did leave us too early but the other lived until my youngest was half way through college. There has always been cats in the McGuire house and though both girls are grown and on their own, they have cats as well.



CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...4.4

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

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

Answers on page 15

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://victimsupport-services.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@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 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 backgrounds 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!

Surprise A Loved One With An Ad With Us!
Only \$45
Call 360-682-2341 to schedule your ad today!
Whidbey Weekly
 1131 SE Ely Street Oak Harbor

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

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

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

JOB MARKET

Martin's Auto in Oak Harbor is seeking a full time auto technician, Monday through Friday. Wages DOE. Apply in person at 152 NE Midway Blvd. (2)

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

MISCELLANEOUS

New Electric Snowblower, still in box. Was \$450, asking \$400. Call 360-914-2848 (1)

Moving and need to clean house: Pots and pans, dishes, king and queen beds – both w/linens, bedroom set – bureau w/mirror, 2 kitchen tables – one with 4 chairs, matching chest of drawer, 2 matching table lamps, wooden bench seat w/storage, computer desk w/hutch, office two-pedal desk, 4 drawer file cabinet, 4 shelf storage unit, womens clothes & 7.5 shoes, bathroom scale, 2 heavy quilts & many pillows, kitchen stuff – some appliances, HP printer/fax Envy 5644, 4-drawer file cabinet. Call Hank to make appointment, 360-678-7591 (0)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

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

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.

Auto • Home Life • Business
Call: (360) 675-1598
Se Habla Español

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

WANTED

WANTED: We buy running or not! We recycle cars, trucks, motorhomes, travel trailers, motorcycles, boats, tractors, dump trucks and much more. Free estimates on junk removal and junk vehicle removal. TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363

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

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.

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

How'd you do?

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

No Cheating!

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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail **Whidbey Weekly Classified Department**
PO Box 1098
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

E-Mail classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
 Telephone..... 360-682-2341
 Fax 360-682-2344

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.

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FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR

Mobil 1
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No Appointment
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\$44⁹⁵
Full Synthetic

\$38⁹⁵
Includes 4X4 & SUV

- ✓ FREE Anti-Freeze & Fill
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\$1*
Per gallon
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Limited Time Only
* Ask for details

Flat Rate Auto Repair only \$89⁹⁵ per hour

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At Hilltop Service Center we only repair and replace parts that are needed. We will not oversell or install unnecessary parts. We are highly trained brake technicians, not high pressure sales people.

Most cars up to 5 qts. 5W20, 5W30, 10W30. Other grades extra. Some filters cost extra. Vehicles with Skid Plates may be extra. Plus \$1 Environmental Disposal Fee.

Diagnostic Scope & Scan

\$89⁹⁵

- Retrieving Codes
- Reset Check Engine Light
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- 12 month/12,000 mile warranty

Safety Inspection

\$89⁹⁵

- Labor Includes**
- Scope & Scan (Retrieving Codes, Reset Check Engine Light)
 - Brake Inspection
 - Tire Rotation
 - Inspect Belts & Hoses
 - Inspect Exhaust System
 - Check Charging System
 - Test Ignition Cables
 - Tire Rotation & Balance
 - Inspect Suspension
 - Check all Fluids
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Radiator Flush & Fill

\$85⁹⁵

starting at
Flushes Radiator, Engine Block, Heater Core & Hoses to -35° below

Computerized TUNE-UP Special

\$79⁹⁵*
4 cyl

\$89⁹⁵*
6 cyl

\$99⁹⁵*
8 cyl

- Check Compression
- Clean/Replace Spark Plugs & Air Cleaner
- Inspect/Replace Distributor Cap & Rotor
- Check Charging System
- Inspect Ignition Cables
- Scope & Scan
- Adjust Timing & Idle Speed
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*Plus Parts

Brake Reline Special **FREE Brake Inspections**

2-Wheel Front Brake Reline or 2-Wheel Rear Brake Reline starting at **\$119⁹⁵**

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 - Machine Drums
 - Rebuild Wheel Cylinders
 - Adjust Parking Brake
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 - Road Test Vehicle
 - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty
- DISCS**
 - Install Raybestos Disc Pads
 - Machine Front Rotors
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 - New Seals
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 - Road Test Vehicle
 - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty

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BRAKE PARTS
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Most Cars - HD Shoes
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