

December 30, 2021 through January 5, 2022

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Whidbey Weekly

Your Source For "What's Happening" On Whidbey Island

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POLAR BEAR DIVE



Registration begins at 10:30am

Jump happens at 12pm (Noon)

Event cost \$15

Includes: official event shirt, hot drinks and festive atmosphere.

All proceeds benefit Island County 4-H Teen Leadership Activities

For more information:

Facebook - Whidbey Island Polar Bear Dive
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**DOUBLE BLUFF BEACH
FREELAND**

JANUARY 1, 2022



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New Year blood drives p. 8



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Polar Bear Dive
The Whidbey Island Polar Bear Dive is back. Get ready to take the plunge New Year's Day at noon at Double Bluff Beach in Freeland. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

Take a flying leap into the New Year with an icy dive!

By **Melanie Hammons** Whidbey Weekly

Like so many other events, pandemic concerns forced the cancellation of last year's Polar Bear Dive at Double Bluff Beach in Freeland. But South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District once again welcomes the uniquely bracing event at Double Bluff Beach. It's slated for Jan. 1, at noon sharp.

Skye Dunn, recreation supervisor at SWPR says a polar dive "is a rejuvenation, a welcoming-in ritual of the New Year. It's a family tradition for a lot of folks, and a yearly ritual for many."

The experience is supposed to enhance blood flow too, says Dunn. That anecdote may hold a measure of truth but there's no doubt the Polar Bear Dive is a good cause in itself, since all proceeds go to support youth programs. This year's funds are earmarked for Island County's 4-H Team Leadership program.

Long-time dive organizer, enthusiast and 4-H Team leadership advisor, Jon Gabelein, remembers the local event from its very inception.

"It started back in 2003 as a discussion among a group of friends, 'Hey, we should come up with our own dive event, one that will benefit our youth programs,'" he recalled. "The first was held at Freeland Park; since then, it's been Double Bluff Beach."

Gabelein offers a simple explanation for the Polar Bear Dive's continued popularity.



Photo Courtesy of Fidalgo Nature School
Fidalgo Nature School, which provides outdoor learning for babies, toddlers and preschoolers, has teamed up with personnel at Deception Pass State Park for the first ever Puffin Plunge, to take place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the park's west beach, where hardy souls can plunge into the ocean or Cranberry Lake.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Polar Bear Dive
The Whidbey Island Polar Bear Dive is a longtime tradition that raises money for a good cause – Island County 4-H teen leadership. Participants will take the plunge Saturday at noon at Double Bluff Beach in Freeland.

"It's a party! Yet it's one that has helped so many organizations over the years, including Family Resource Center, athletic teams, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County," he said. "Now it's become just like any other sponsored event such as a 5K run, etc."

Aside from benefiting a great cause, he attributes it on a very basic level to a combination of camaraderie and shared excitement, and something he highly anticipates every year.

"It's just a crazy way to start the New Year off," Gabelein said. "If you can jump in water that cold, then you're probably up (psychologically) for whatever other challenges may be ahead in the New Year."

What can newcomers to this year's Polar Bear Dive expect? Gabelein said past years have seen snow, but that doesn't seem to deter anyone.

"Some people start the dive slowly, only wading out to ankle-deep water. Then the next year, they'll immerse up to their knees as their confidence builds," he described. "Some return year after year."

One very welcome confidence builder promises to be the presence of fire department personnel and EMTs who will be on site too, although there will be no lifeguards on duty.

Afterwards, there are bonfires, hot chocolate and other snacks to warm up with, said Gabelein.

"We'll have music playing, and one of our students will act as master of ceremonies," he said.

See **PLUNGE** continued on page 8

Fireworks to light up the sky New Year's Eve

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

The Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce has planned a bright, sparkly way to usher in a new year.

Its annual New Year's Eve fireworks display will proceed as scheduled at 9 p.m. Friday night at Windjammer Park in Oak Harbor. The public is invited to dress warmly and step outside for a brief display, the timing of which is set to coincide with New Year's Eve observances on the East Coast.

The fireworks display is about 10 minutes in length and should be easily visible around the community, much like the longer Fourth of July fireworks, which are launched from the same area.

"You can be at Wal-Mart, you can be downtown, just look up and you can see them," said Vicki Graham, Oak Harbor Chamber executive director.

Graham said she can't wait to ring in the New Year with all the noise and light of this fireworks display.

"I am hoping and praying whenever we blow up these fireworks, we will blow the last two years away," she said with a laugh, referencing the difficulties the past two years of the pandemic have wreaked on the business community and the Whidbey Island community at large.

"I have hope for 2022," she said. "It's a new year. We got this. Let's move forward and start fresh."

Title sponsor for this year's New Year's Eve fireworks display is Ronnie Wright, of Pacific Grace Tax and Accounting. Additional sponsors include Jeff Pleet/Edward Jones; Sue Blouin and Shelli Trumbull, Leavitt Group Northwest; The Table Group; Whidbey Tech Solutions; Thrive Community Fitness; Land Title and Escrow; and Chicago Title Company of Washington.

"Everyone should dress warmly," Graham said. "It's going to be a quick show. And then enjoy the new year."

Find more information at oakharborchamber.com.



Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Bundle up and take in a fireworks display to ring in the new year, courtesy of the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce. The display will last approximately 10 minutes and begins at 9 p.m. Friday at Windjammer Park.



ON TRACK

With Jim Freeman



Being at the age of memory disruption, I was quite interested in a recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Those of you over 50 may enjoy the highlights that

follow.

The brain

"The director of the George Washington University College of Medicine argues that the brain of an elderly person is much more plastic than is commonly believed. At this age, the interaction of the right and left hemispheres of the brain becomes harmonious, which expands our creative possibilities. That is why among people over 60 you can find many personalities who have just started their creative activities.

"Of course, the brain is no longer as fast as it was in youth. However, it wins in flexibility. That is why, with age, we are more likely to make the right decisions and are less exposed to negative emotions. The peak of human intellectual activity occurs at about 70 years old, when the brain begins to work at full strength.

"Over time, the amount of myelin in the brain increases, a substance that facilitates the rapid passage of signals between neurons. Due to this, intellectual abilities are increased by 300% compared to the average.

"And the peak of active production of this substance falls on 60-80 years of age. Also interesting is the fact that after 60 years, a person can use 2 hemispheres at the same time. This allows you to solve much more complex problems.

"Professor Monchi Uri from the University of Montreal believes that the brain of an elderly person chooses the least energy-intensive path, cutting unnecessary and leaving only the right options for solving the problem. A study was conducted in which different age groups took part. Young people were confused a lot when passing the tests, while those over 60 made the right decisions.

1. The neurons of the brain do not die off, as everyone around them says. Connections between them simply disappear if a person does not engage in mental work.

2. Absent-mindedness and forgetfulness appear due to an overabundance of information. Therefore, you do not need to focus your whole life on unnecessary trifles.

3. Beginning at the age of 60, a person, when making decisions, uses not one hemisphere at the same time, like young people, but both.

4. Conclusion: if a person leads a healthy lifestyle, moves, has a feasible physical activity and has full mental activity, intellectual abilities DO NOT decrease with age, but only GROW, reaching a peak by the age of 80-90 years.

"So don't be afraid of old age. Strive to develop intellectually. Learn new crafts, make music, learn to play musical instruments, paint pictures! Dance! Take an interest in life, meet and communicate with friends, make plans for the future, travel as best you can. Don't forget to go to shops, cafes, concerts. Do not lock yourself alone – it is destructive for any person. Live with the thought: all the good things are still ahead of me!

"A large study in the United States found that:

- The most productive age of a person is from 60 to 70 years;
- The 2nd most productive human stage is the age from 70 to 80 years old;
- 3rd most productive stage – 50 and 60 years old.
- Before that, the person has not yet reached his peak.
- The average age of the Nobel Prize laureates is 62;
- The average age of the presidents of the 100 largest companies in the world is 63 years;
- The average age of pastors in the 100 largest churches in the United States is 71;
- The average age of dads is 76 years.
- This confirms that a person's best and most productive years are between 60 and 80 years of age.

"Therefore, if you are 60, 70 or 80 years old, you are at the best level of your life." Don't you feel better already?

Reader entry from Greenbank

An old hillbilly farmer had a wife who nagged him unmercifully. From morning until night she was always complaining about something. The only time he got any relief was when he was out plowing with his old mule. He tried to plow a lot. One day, when he was out plowing, his wife brought him lunch in the field. He drove the old mule into the shade, sat down on a stump, and began to eat his lunch. Immediately, his wife began nagging him again. Complain, nag, complain, nag – it just went on and on. All of a sudden, the old mule lashed out with both hind feet, caught her smack in the back of the head. Killed her dead on the spot. At the funeral several days later, the minister noticed something rather odd. When a woman mourner would approach the old farmer, he would listen for a minute, then nod his head in agreement; but when a man mourner approached him, he would listen for a minute, then shake his head in disagreement. This was so consistent, the minister decided to ask the old farmer about it. So after the funeral, the minister spoke to the old farmer, and asked him why he nodded his head and agreed with the women, but always shook his head and disagreed with all the men. The old farmer said, 'Well, the women would come up and say something about how nice my wife looked, or how pretty her dress was, so I'd nod my head in agreement.' "And what about the men?" the minister asked. "They wanted to know if the mule was for sale."

Thank you, Jean

There are but a few people we meet, work with and become friends with in our lifetimes. Jean Gibson Gaznier Shaw was one of those people. A community powerhouse in theater, play production, teaching, singing, leadership, listening and more, Jean was the mentor to all mentors. One of a kind and a kind one at that.

Over 30 years ago, Jean began creating entities that would give rise to SWHS drama, the SW Community Talent shows, and the much needed South Whidbey Schools Foundation.

Without Jean's vision and much trusted input, these influences may never have happened.

Jean displayed many skills. She could definitely see the need and fill it. For this and all her gifts, we thank her.

Happy New Year.

Toast Jean when you lift your glass.

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

Help Us Grow at Good Cheer Food Bank

Good Cheer is building a Community Connection Center to bring Food Bank shoppers and community resources together under one roof for confidential counseling and referral.

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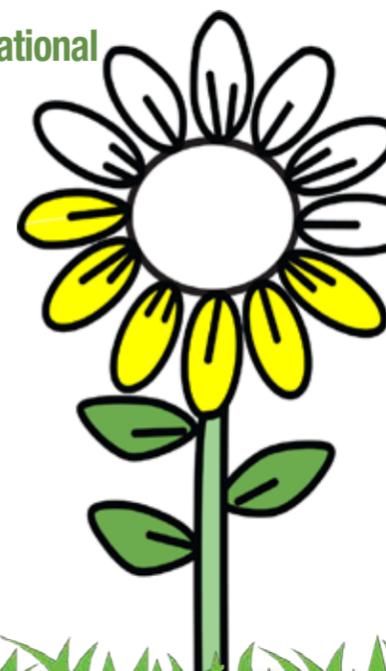
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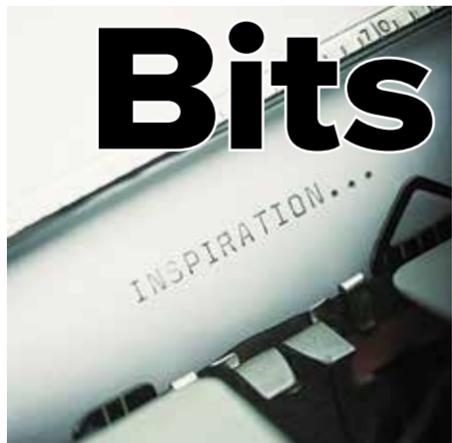
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Bits & Pieces

Health continues to strongly encourage all in our community to be vaccinated.

[Submitted by Conor O'Brien, Marketing Manager, WhidbeyHealth]

Sound Waters University 2022 Registration is Live

Hope in Action, the theme for Sound Waters University 2022, weaves a message of hope for the Salish Sea through education, research, and action. The symposium features distinguished environmental authors, change agents, researchers, and naturalists. Presentations and field trips will deliver in-depth information about the area's wildlife and natural history. The cutting-edge information will infuse us with hope for a flourishing Salish Sea. For more information and to register, visit www.soundwatersuniversity.org

[Submitted by Kelly Zupich, Sound Water Stewards of Island County]

State Ferries to Host Virtual Community Meetings

Attendees will hear updates about ferry service challenges and the alternate service plan

Commuters, occasional riders and community members are invited to attend Washington State Ferries' upcoming virtual community meetings designed to provide updates and answer questions about the ferry system.

Wednesday, Jan. 5 and Tuesday, Jan. 11, members of WSF staff will discuss the ferry system's service and ongoing efforts to mitigate challenges as well as progress on key projects. WSF Assistant Secretary Patty Rubstello will lead the meetings in coordination with the Ferry Advisory Committees, appointed representatives of ferry-served communities who advise WSF.

Both meetings will cover the same material and are designed to give people the option to join the meeting that best fits their schedule. Meeting participants will be able to ask questions and provide comments. People can join the meeting from a laptop, desktop computer or mobile device, but advanced registration is required to participate.

Registration for the January virtual community meetings:

Register for 6:00PM Wednesday, Jan. 5 at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3983759745635533072>.

Register for 1:00PM Tuesday, Jan. 11 at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6345618474300710415>.

Participants must provide a name and valid email address and have access to a computer or mobile device with an internet connection.

Once registered, participants will receive an email with detailed instructions about how to log in to the webinar.

The day after each meeting, a video recording will be available online on WSF's community participation webpage (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries/about-us/community-participation>).

Free Wi-Fi access is available at these locations (www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspots-location-finder/) for people who wish to participate in the virtual meetings.

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

[Submitted by Justin Fujioka, WSDOT]

Whidbey's Saratoga Orchestra Presents "Music Among Friends - A Celebration of Diversity"

Whidbey's Saratoga Orchestra presents "Music Among Friends - A Celebration of Diversity," Saturday, Jan. 15, 3:00PM at The First Reformed Church of Oak Harbor and Sunday, Jan. 16, 3:00PM at Island Church of Whidbey in Langley.

The essence of chamber music is to stretch the boundaries of creative expression. A small group of performers, an intimate space, one musician on a part. This experience will be recreated when musicians from Whidbey's Saratoga Orchestra celebrate a diverse spectrum of composers not often heard in the concert hall. The program, spanning centuries and musical genres, will be performed by string quartet and woodwind quintet and various combinations of the two groups together.

On the program will be selections from two of Joseph Bologne's string quartets. Often referred to by his title *Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges*, Bologne was regarded as one of Mozart's most accomplished contemporaries and the first classical composer of African descent.

The program will also include the first movement of Louise Farrenc's *Nonet, Op. 38*. Farrenc started her career as a concert pianist, and in 1842 became the only woman appointed to the position of professor at the Paris Conservatory in the 19th century. She protested for nearly a decade trying to gain pay equity and after the very successful premiere of this nonet, it was granted.

Moving into the 20th century: composer and pianist Florence Price was faced with overcoming a cultural barrier that defined composers as white, male, and dead. In 1933, Price became the first African-American woman to have a work performed by a major U.S. orchestra when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed her symphony. Though she composed hundreds of pieces, her catalogue of work has only recently gained recognition. Whidbey audiences will be treated to Price's whimsical *Folk Songs in Counterpoint* for string quartet.

Other equally fascinating composers featured on this program include William Grant Still, Bohuslav Martinů, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Stacy Garrop, Valerie Coleman, and local San Juan Island composer Alex Shapiro. Since 2016, the professional musicians of Whidbey's Saratoga Orchestra have gained national recognition in their effort to highlight women and BIPOC composers. To enhance the concert experience, Marta Zekan, formerly of All-Classical KING-FM radio, will give further insight into these composers and their works during the concert.

General Admission concert tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors/military and free admission for students 17 and under. Pre-concert ticket sales will be at Click Music in Oak Harbor and Blue Sound Music in Langley. Current COVID-19 policy requires proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test and the wearing of masks at the events. For the complete policy and more information, visit: www.sowhidbey.com.

[Submitted by Larry Heidel, Executive Director, Saratoga Orchestra of Whidbey Island]

BOOK ONLINE

Movie Showtimes:
12-31-2021 thru 01-06-2021

**SPIDER-MAN:
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Happy New Year

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.



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David Lee Wells



David Lee Wells, 78, born Aug. 16, 1943, passed at home in his beloved hometown of Coupeville, Wash., Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021, surrounded by his family.

David was born at Polly Harpole's Maternity Home to David and Bonnie (Alexander) Wells. He was the leader of the pack of Wells kids, later joined by his sister, Sandra Zoe, brother, Boyd, and sisters, Joannette and Wendy.

A graduate of Coupeville High School Class of 1961, he was a Coupeville kid through and through. He has lifelong friends from his school years. He was full of great memories and stories, which he could tell up until the day he passed away.

David married Pat Brown and they welcomed a son, David Lynn. David later married his life friend and partner, Thelma "Jean" Thompson. Jean brought to the family her two sons, Robbie and Donnie Fullington. Not long after they welcomed another son, Jesse Lee.

He was always a hard worker (a product of the times, perhaps or his upbringing). He was a baker, log truck owner/driver, heavy equipment operator; he retired from Washington State Parks and finished his working years as a tractor driver at Engle's Farms.

David was a friend to all. He could talk with you about anything and was a wealth of knowledge of our local history and of the area.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Dave and Bonnie, sister Sandy, and wife Jean. He is survived by his son David Lynn (Tina); two granddaughters, Samantha and Chloe; son Jesse (Alison); two granddaughters, Hailee and Ashlee; son Robbie (Janie); grandson, Drake; son Donnie (Dorcas); granddaughter, Tara; brother, Boyd (Vicki); sisters, Joannette (Keith) and Wendy (Rick).

Graveside services for the family followed by a community Celebration of Life at the Tyee Restaurant Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Dave's family, and certainly Dave, would love to have you all there. There are plenty of stories to share!

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



**TUESDAY, OCT. 26
12:39 am, Stellar Ln.**

Open line, male voice heard; "I will stab you in the f***ing jugular;" "Get out of here, this is a home invasion."

11:18 am, Donald Ave.

Requesting check on customer. Subject called in today to say her dead husband (of 14 years) is back and has been breaking into her home.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

8:39 am, Norman Dr.

Reporting party is saying someone is working on the water line that isn't supposed to. Reporting party states that the company that is working won't give their names.

7:08 pm, Nimitz Dr.

Reporting party advising saw a transient male with a kid and they walked into an abandoned house. Reporting party went over with his concealed weapon and got the kid. Returned him to his parent across the street.

THURSDAY, OCT. 28

5:37 am, Blue Lady Ln.

Reporting party advising daughter and granddaughter left at 7 pm yesterday to get cigarettes and never came back. Does not have phone with her.

9:12 pm, Blue Lady Ln.

Reporting party calling in advising daughter has come home; no longer needing assistance.

FRIDAY, OCT. 29

7:35 am, Sandberg Ln.

Reporting party states concern for children catching the bus due to smell in the air. Unknown if smell is coming from passing vehicle exhaust or the jets.

7:40 am, Madrona Way

Advising first heard honking horn and female yelling. Then female came to reporting party's door, asking reporting party to take her dog because it couldn't fit in her car and something about Buddhists.

9:08 am, Goss Lake Rd.

Reporting party states law enforcement is still not contacting her. Called yesterday and requested contact. States the SWAT team needs to come out and tell these people to leave. States the stress is causing a migraine; denied medical.

10:08 am, Northgate Dr.

Caller advising heard a loud crash and saw a blue truck; came straight through cul-de-sac and landed in the bushes. At the very end of Northgate Drive.

2:21 pm, Penn Cove Rd.

Reporting party states heart and other organs on the beach and in the water near location. If you are at the dock off Riepma, look to the left.

5:20 pm, Verlane St.

Male locked inside the lumber yard. Volkswagon Golf.

10:32 pm, Junco Rd.

Reporting party's brother is at location; advising reporting party and brother had a code word if anything ever went down and subject was in danger; advising brother just texted reporting party the code word now and reporting party is unable to get ahold of him.

SATURDAY, OCT. 30

8:09 am, NE Summit Loop

Reporting party advising hearing shooting, sounds of mortars. Occurring last 15 minutes.

3:57 pm, Clinton Ferry Terminal

Advising semi-trailer, high centered, is blocking off-loading vehicles. High centered on ramp to ferry.

11:36 pm, Greenbank Dr.

Reporting party advising went outside and heard someone in the yard laughing; reporting party advising he could not see the subject, only heard a male subject; only heard the one subject, laugh was deep like a male subject, sounded close to the house.

SUNDAY, OCT. 31

8:02 am, Wahl Rd.

Reporting party advising female feeds the deer in driveway on 50 mph road; concerned due to the amount of deer in area now causing a danger.

11:39 am, Goss Ridge Rd.

Reporting party advising barn vandalized; unknown if items missing; handful of bullets tossed on a vehicle. No one out there now.

3:44 pm, Tree Frog Ln.

Reporting party advising vehicle stolen overnight; states may be an inside job; was sleeping on the keys; now gone.

6:54 pm, SR 525

Reporting party advising there is a truck with the black American flag; they are loitering near the ballot box and reporting party is concerned that they are plotting.

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

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Franji C.
Oak Harbor, WA



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Enjoy food, live music, door prizes
Dance, drink and have some fun!*

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"Elected officials number one goal and obligation is to the people of our county! I will stand and be the buffer between big government overreach and Island County"

Please RSVP
TEXT / Call 360-720-0602
E-Mail
TimHazelo4Commissioner@Gmail.com



Paid for by Tim Hazelo 4 Commissioner District 3

Bloodworks Northwest

New year, new opportunities to donate blood

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The season of giving doesn't end with the holidays – especially when it comes to donating blood. This life-saving gift never goes out of style and there is always a need.

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley will host a pop-up donor center for Bloodworks Northwest Jan. 10-11 and 17-18. Times vary, so those interested in donating can schedule an appointment online by visiting schedule.bloodworksnw.org or by calling 800-398-7888.

Maintaining a steady blood supply is critical, say Bloodworks Northwest officials.

"Blood cannot be manufactured in a lab. We rely on 1,000 donors a day across the region to help ensure we have a safe and stable blood supply," said Hannah McNutt, community engagement liaison with Bloodworks Northwest. "Most community members don't realize it's not just the trauma victims that are at risk when we have no blood on the shelf. A majority of transfusions actually go to support cancer and leukemia patients. When our inventory is low, their treatments are often delayed."

McNutt said natural disasters and local emergencies are unpredictable, adding to the importance of maintaining a good blood supply. Typically, blood bank supplies drop in the summer months and again around the holidays, owing to travel or vacation schedules. Even the winter cold and flu season can impact supplies, as donors who are unwell find themselves unable to donate.

For those who do choose to give blood, the screening process is simple and for the most part, anyone over 16 who is healthy and well is able to donate. Plus, the majority of the blood donated through Bloodworks Northwest stays in the region.

"Bloodworks Northwest is the sole provider of blood to 95 percent of the Pacific Northwest," McNutt said. "We are proud to say that the blood collected through Bloodworks Northwest stays local. We span the western coast of Washington and Oregon. The only time blood would be used elsewhere is if there is a severe strain on another blood center and they need the assistance. For example, after a hurricane, another natural disaster, or major catastrophe."

As with virtually everything else, COVID-19 has impacted how Bloodworks Northwest handles donations.

"Pre-COVID, we would schedule roughly 500 mobile blood drives across the region monthly," McNutt said. "Due to our current staffing shortages and resource constraints, we are down to about 36 mobile blood drives a month. Quite the drastic difference!"

"I would like to note that pre-COVID, we would operate our blood drives for a single day. Post-COVID, we now operate what we call a Pop-Up Donor Center. Essentially, it's a blood drive that spans the course of about two weeks. We are visiting less sites monthly but are operating for multiple days at a time."



Stock photo

The holidays may be over but the gift of a blood donation is always welcome. Bloodworks Northwest will have a pop-up donor center at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley Jan. 10-11 and again Jan. 17-18 for those interested in donating.



McNutt stressed it is 100 percent safe to donate and Bloodworks Northwest is following all state and federal guidelines regarding COVID.

Bill Harper is a former Whidbey Island resident who now works at Bloodworks Northwest. He is a survivor of leukemia that was diagnosed while he was in college in 2010. Having undergone more than 265 blood transfusions during his treatment, he knows very well what the gift of blood can do for someone.

"When someone needs blood, them getting it is the difference between life and death. It's that simple," he said. "Blood donations make remissions, recoveries, and cures possible, and give those patients the hope and strength they need to fight. Donating blood doesn't just

make an impact; it makes treatments, recoveries, and even hope itself possible.

"What else can you do in an hour's time that would literally help save someone's life?" Harper continued. "It might not be you or your family today that needs blood, but if it ever were, you'd be grateful forever to those blood donors who helped you. So don't wait – people just like you need help now. You and your specific blood type can make a unique, lifesaving impact that lasts forever."

Call 800-398-7888 or visit schedule.bloodworksnw.org to make an appointment for the pop-up donor center at WICA, to be held Jan. 10-11 and 17-18. Visit bloodworksnw.org for more information on the donation process

PLUNGE continued from page 2

Whidbey Island is uniquely positioned this year when it comes to these sort of chilled-water adventures. In addition to the SWPR event in Freeland, at the very north end of the island, Fidalgo Nature School, in partnership with Deception Pass State Park, is hosting its very first "Puffin Plunge."

There's an easy explanation for the name choice, says Anastasia Brencick, chair of FNS board of directors and a founding member.

"Although our region doesn't have polar bears, we do have puffins," Brencick said, adding that her young son "just loves puffins."

Both FNS and Deception Pass Park, which currently serves as the school's "outdoor classroom," joined forces this year to welcome the New Year. While FNS observes its first plunge, the Park is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2022. Brencick said the extra-special events planned are sure to be memorable for all.

"Dec. 31, the West Beach parking lot will open for a camp-out, with a limited number of RV camp-out sites available," she said, adding, "It's never opened in winter like this before." Parks staff will lead family programs and activities, including s'mores making.

"Then on Jan. 1, at 9:30 a.m., the Puffin Plunge will happen at

West Beach. Following that, the park's staff will host the traditional First Day Hikes, open to all ages," said Brencick. Snacks and warm drinks will be available before and after the hikes.

Activities centered on enjoying fresh air and exercise, in a lovely outdoor setting, are a microcosm for FNS's mission, Brencick said. A founding member of the school four years ago, she said what began as a mom's group planning playdates for their children evolved into a dedicated team of teachers who love children and the outdoors. Originally meeting in Anacortes' Washington Park, the group now calls Deception Pass Park home.

Having once lived in Langley, Brencick herself participated in the Double Bluff event several times. That experience, plus the incentive to invite families outdoors, is what inspired the Puffin Plunge.

"Our school was awarded a grant, 'No Child Left Inside,' and our programs aim to do exactly that. We hope to grow the school so we can offer more opportunities to more kids, and create new partnerships between the school and community," said Brencick.

"We love the land the school's on. That's the bedrock principle that underlies our preschool for ages 3-6, which is geared toward learning about the wonders of nature all around us."

The school also offers a "Small Wonders" program catering to ages 0-3 years of age and their caregivers. In partnership with Friends of the Forest, "Small Wonders" allows very young children the chance to explore and to be with other children of their age group.

"It's a way for them to test the waters for themselves," Brencick said.

Speaking of the waters, lifeguards and emergency response staff will be on hand during the Puffin Plunge. For more information, go to www.puffinplunge.com which also links to a site where limited quantities of hoodies and other merchandise are available for sale. Proceeds from the suggested \$10 registration fee will go to support FNS programs. You can learn more about FNS online at fidalgonatureschool.com.

Please check the site Eventbrite.com to register for any of the Deception Pass Park events Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Early registration for the West Beach campout is strongly encouraged.

For more information about the Double Bluff Polar Dive, refer to swparks.org or call 360-221-5484. The \$15 registration fee includes a T-shirt (while supplies last) and more.



OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

As the Executive Director of an assisted living facility during 2020 and 2021, the pandemic, for what are you most grateful?



Katie Jones
Harbor Towers, Oak Harbor

As the Executive Director of an assisted living community, I cannot put into words my extreme gratitude for a team that lives to bring joy to those who live here.

They treat every day as if it is nothing different than we have ever lived. They smile through their masks. They find ways to make our residents laugh, feel safe and know they are part of a family.

Our team has somehow figured out a way to leave the chaos of the world outside of our doors. When they walk into our building, they bring every ounce

of comfort and companionship they can.

I can't imagine doing life or caring for others' lives without them.

They are the best.

Nicole Sullivan
Maple Ridge, Freeland

What I am most grateful for during this pandemic is my awesome, faithful staff. Their diligence and special care is the reason my community has remained COVID-free the last 18 months. It's because of my staff that my residents have remained safe and healthy. I am so grateful for their dedication to the residents.

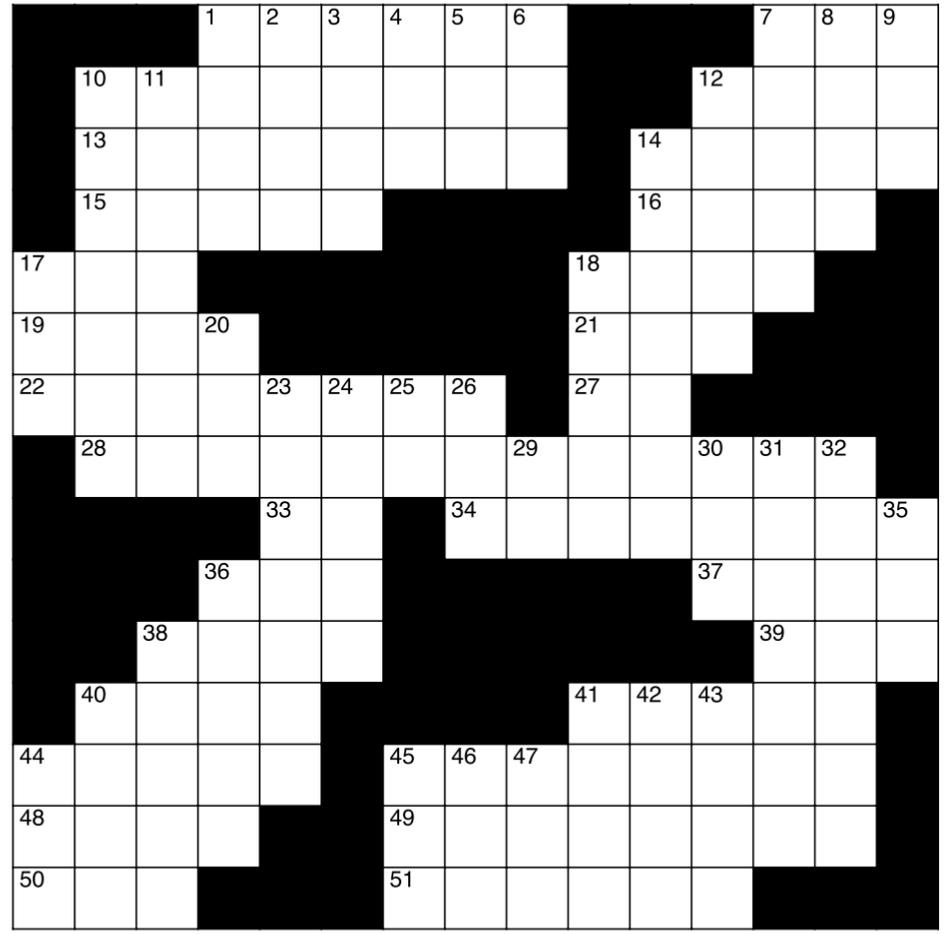


Jennifer Moody
HomePlace Special Care, Oak Harbor

The answer to this question isn't a simple answer, but if I had to narrow it down to the thing I'm most grateful for, it would be my team. I work alongside the greatest people at HomePlace Oak Harbor. They have devoted themselves to ensuring the safety of the residents throughout the pandemic. We have been one of the lucky few, that didn't have COVID-19 in our community during 2020 and 2021, and this is a direct correlation to the people that work here. No matter the position, every employee has stepped up to ensure not just the physical

needs are met. They come in even on their days off to do activities and just spend extra quality time with residents, since it's been a lonely time for a lot of people. Again, the employees at HomePlace are what I'm most grateful for, for making a difference every day!

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Topsides
- 7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 10. A Sultan's court
- 12. Maine city
- 13. Largest living land animal
- 14. Appetizer
- 15. Encounters
- 16. Leader
- 17. The source of bacon
- 18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
- 19. Celery (Spanish)
- 21. Pie ___ mode
- 22. Eye disease
- 27. Hello (slang)
- 28. Those in their 80s
- 33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 34. Business organizations
- 36. Mimic
- 37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
- 38. Feeling
- 39. Visual way to in-

CLUES DOWN

- 1. N. American indigenous people
- 2. Fascinated by
- 3. Root of out
- 4. Patti Hearst's captors
- 5. Atomic #50
- 6. Habitual drunkard
- 7. Arabic for "peace"
- 8. Trickery
- 9. One's physique (slang)
- 10. Not quite there
- 11. Wistfully mournful
- 12. Popular dance

- 14. Cut of meat
- 17. A way to stand
- 18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
- 20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 23. A way of jumping
- 24. Utah town
- 25. Of I
- 26. Actress de Armas
- 29. Silver
- 30. Play a role
- 31. ___ Falls
- 32. Attaches to
- 35. Japanese title
- 36. Expressed pleasure
- 38. Buckets
- 40. Dirt
- 41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
- 42. Restaurant drive-__
- 43. Digs up
- 44. He voices "Olaf"
- 45. Relaxing place
- 46. Body part
- 47. Pesky house critter

Answers on page 11

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...4.2

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

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

Answers on page 11

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Dec. 30	Fri, Dec. 31	Sat, Jan. 1	Sun, Jan. 2	Mon, Jan. 3	Tues, Jan. 4	Wed, Jan. 5
North Isle H-33°/L-28° Snow Possible	North Isle H-40°/L-31° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-37°/L-33° Chance of Rain or Snow	North Isle H-36°/L-31° Snow Possible	North Isle H-38°/L-31° Chance of Rain and Snow	North Isle H-39°/L-33° Showers Possible	North Isle H-38°/L-31° Cloudy and Cold Rain Possible
South Isle H-32°/L-26° Chance of Snow	South Isle H-38°/L-29° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-35°/L-31° Chance of Rain or Snow	South Isle H-40°/L-33° Snow Possible	South Isle H-38°/L-30° Chance of Rain and Snow	South Isle H-38°/L-31° Showers Possible	South Isle H-38°/L-32° Cloudy and Cold Rain Possible

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- ✓ FREE Transfer Case & Fill
- ✓ FREE Windshield Washer Fluid & Fill
- ✓ FREE Battery Fluid & Fill

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- ✓ LUBE Chassis
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- Inspect Exhaust System
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- Test Ignition Cables
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- Inspect Suspension
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- Check Charging System
- Inspect Ignition Cables
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Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pregnant? Need baby clothes? We have them and the price is right – FREE. Pregnancy Care Clinic, open Tuesday 10am-4pm, Wednesday 12pm-7pm, and Thursday 10am-4pm. Stop by at 670 SE Midway Blvd. in Oak Harbor.

Be the difference in a child's life and become a foster parent today! Service Alternatives is looking for caring, loving, and supportive families to support foster children. 425-923-0451 or mostermick@servalt-cfs.com
The Whidbey Island community is encouraged to try out the paddling sport of dragon boating with the Stayin' Alive team. Our team's mission is to promote the physical, social, and emotional benefits of dragon boating. It has been shown to be especially beneficial to cancer survivors. Practice with us for up to 3 times for free. Life-jackets and paddles provided. Saturdays at the Oak Harbor Marina, 8:45am. Contact njlish@gmail.com. More info at our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl

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

If you or someone you know has been a victim of homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, identity theft, fraud, human trafficking, home invasion and other crimes not listed, Victim Support Services has advocates ready to help. Please call the 24-hr Crisis Line 888-388-9221. Free service. Visit our web site at <http://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.

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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. (1)

Island Transit is Hiring! If you are looking for a solid career with great pay and benefits

including two retirement plans, we are hiring. Visit www.islandtransit.org/employment to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

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

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S	E	R	A	G	L	I	O			S	A	C	O							
E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T			S	A	L	A	D						
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Travel Plans? Sunset Kennel is your pet's home away from home

Do you have travel plans for the coming year? Can't take your furry, four-legged or feathered family members with you? Worried about providing them with a safe, comfortable boarding experience?

Look no further than Sunset Kennel in Oak Harbor. Sunset Kennel has been caring for your pets for more than 40 years and regular customers have a good reason for calling it a "Country Club for Pets." And Sunset can accommodate all your pets, including birds, rabbits, pot belly pigs, hamsters, ferrets, chickens and other exotics. Fish are free! It has everything your pet may need!

The kennels are located on 10 park-like acres with four large play yards, a four-acre off-leash area for dogs, plus woods with trails. It's just what the cooped-up pet needs to stretch those muscles and romp like a kid again. Larger dogs have their own private, 22-foot suites with a private 4-foot by 4-foot bedroom complete with muted lighting and classical music.

Cats are boarded in a private, dog-free "Cat House," where each cat has its own condo. Kitties are let out to play on large cat furniture and can hang out on the over-sized, carpeted windowsills. It's the perfect place to watch the bird feeders and other wildlife on the property.

Boarding accommodations include a "TLC Room" specially designed for the comfort of a small or aging pet. It's a sweet, warm and cozy place with soft music, comfy beds, area rugs and a private outside play area.

Sunset also has a full service Grooming Parlor. From toenail trims, bath and brush to fancy haircuts – for cats, too! And, if your pet is groomed during its stay, the last boarding day is free! The grooming parlor is open six days a week.

Sunset offers more than boarding and grooming, like board and train, board and spoil, private walks on the beach or in the woods, home-cooked food, treats and more. Medications and injections are given as instructed. While you're away, Sunset staff care for your fur babies as if they were their own. Sunset promises to keep your pet in a clean, warm, safe, healthy environment with fresh food and water, lots of attention, hugs and treats (if permitted). A private shelter and estate planning for your pet is also available.

Sunset even has a pet store and sells quality dog food, quality collars and leads at reasonable prices. A pet taxi and airport transfers are also available.

In the military? Sunset works closely with military members on the Island and around the world. Huge deployment discounts encourage owners to keep their pets and help the community by helping these pets stay out of local, overcrowded shelters.

Anyone interested is invited to tour the facility and meet the caring staff from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, no appointment necessary. Call 360-675-7288 or visit www.sunsetkennel.com for more information. Mention this article and new clients receive special pricing.

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