Experience the Magic of Peak Bloom at Meerkerk Gardens
It’s happening now through May!

April 21 through April 27, 2022
Centenarian celebration planned  p. 10

By Melanie Hammons

The old adage “stop and smell the roses” reminds us to take time to address what’s important in life while we can. Roses in popular culture are sensory transmitters of visual beauty and lovely aromas and more, since they are also associated with romance, love, and empathy.

So what do the famous rhododendrons at Greenbank’s Meerkerk Gardens have in common with roses, seeing as they belong to two entirely different plant families? Well, it all begins with the name. Rhododendron is the joining of two Greek words meaning “rose tree.” As for analogies between rhodies and love, just ask Ron Newberry, publicity, outreach and events coordinator for Meerkerk Gardens.

“People come here for a visit because they’re intrigued,” said Newberry. “Perhaps it’s a first-time visit for them. But they leave here impressed with the loveliness of it all, a loveliness that makes people ‘fall in love’ with the gardens themselves. That in turn is what nurtures support for them.”

On a personal level, this job is a pairing of my two loves. I love writing, and I love nature,” said Newberry. “So this doesn’t really feel like work to me at all.”

Newberry said the different species of rhododendrons in the gardens, including hybrids, are selected from all over the world. Happily, the cool, moderate, woodland climate of the Pacific Northwest is especially suitable for the plants.

The pictures of rhododendrons featured on the gardens’ website come in hundreds of varying shades and tints. Their names are just as unique as their delicate or bold colorations would imply. Some are namesakes of Washington geographic sites such as Oso and Point Defiance. Others, like Purple Passion, Midnight Magic and especially Teddy Bear, might remind some of that analogy between roses, rhododendrons, and the emotions they evoke.

“The secret to these varying characteristics lies in hybridization,” said Newberry. “That, and the conversion of choosing a name for the new variety, is quite a process. It involves having the name registered. And the person who develops the hybrid receives the honor of naming it.”

“We are coming up on peak blooming season for the rhododendrons very soon,” he continued. “That in itself is a sight to behold. But there’s lots more to see.”

There are many other unique flora at the gardens besides just the rhodies, Newberry shared.

“We pride ourselves on our collection of trees, unique varieties that are not commonly seen here,” he said. “There are Mount Fuji cherry trees, Sequoias, and the always intriguing Monkey Puzzle Tree. Many are from Asia.”

The Meerkerk Gardens experience encompasses far more than just its renowned rhododendrons or even the diverse tree and shrub selections. Garden tours are held each Saturday. A full schedule of classes is also set to be offered this year. Besides the display gardens, there are 43 acres of


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See MEERKERK continued on page 10
With Jim Freeman

1. “You know, stop lights don’t come funny stuff!”

2. “Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don’t think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I’m the shift supervisor?”

3. “Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I’m warning you not to do that again or I’ll give you another ticket.”

4. “No sir, we don’t have quotas anymore. We used to, but now we’re allowed to write as many tickets as we can.”

5. “I’m glad to hear that the Chief (of Police) and my wife gets a toaster oven.”

6. “I have added Gatorade to the menu. It works, don’t you drink six to eight glasses of water a day?”

7. “Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don’t think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I’m the shift supervisor?”

8. “Your birth certificate a worthless document.”


10. “If you know, stop lights don’t come any redder than the one you just went through.”

11. “It is not good news that you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?”

12. “In God we trust; all others we run through NCIC.” (National Crime Information Center)

13. “Just how big were those ‘two beers’ you say you had?”

14. “I heard them say. After two years of wondering, a couple of elephants. The following comments were allegedly made by South Carolina Troopers taken off their car videos.”

15. “I’m glad to hear that the Chief (of Police) and my wife gets a toaster oven.”

16. “I heard them say. After two years of wondering, a couple of elephants. The following comments were allegedly made by South Carolina Troopers taken off their car videos.”

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Whidbey Young Professionals Brings Spring Vendor Market to Oak Harbor
Local young professionals on Whidbey Island are excited to help spread awareness and support for local businesses in an inaugural event. The Spring Vendor Market will be held on April 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce to browse various small business vendors, local artists, crafters and more. In addition, guests can enjoy woodcutting, custom-letter, accesso-
ries, cosmetic products, art, sweets, local organizations and more. Those looking to have a booth at the event should contact whidbeyyoungpros@gmail.com for more information.

The Whidbey Young Professionals (WYP) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to enhancing our community by engaging and creating resilient young professional as a group that is working hard to grow the local Whidbey Island community. This is accomplished by creating networking opportunities and development opportunities for young people. Members of Whidbey Young Professionals enjoy engaging with fellow young professionals throughout the year at monthly events and ongoing programs through development and community programs. If you are interested in getting involved, Whidbey Young Professionals invites you to visit whidbeyyoungpros.com or on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn (WYP Whidbey).

[Submitted by Emily Klinga, Whidbey Young Professionals]

Earth Day at the Clyde Theater
The Island County Marine Resources Committee and Sound Water Shores are hosting a cinematic event with the Clyde Theater and Seafair Productions to highlight efforts being made to help and preserve the natural beauty around our island and the Salish Sea.
The event will be held Saturday at 2:00pm and will feature a 40-minute video commissioned by the Marine Resources Commit-
tee of Island County to bring the natural beauty of our shoreline into grade school classrooms and tie them into the biology curriculum of the state. It is an engaging tour, diving into the beautiful marine habitats around Whidbey Island. There will be a podium discussion after this film by a selected panel of experts to address any questions from the audience.
The afternoon will continue with Seafair Productions short films about “Tiny Gold:” “The Kelp Lifeway,” a film commissioned by the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, “Our Marine Life in Times of a Global Supply Chain Crisis” and finally “The Elwha River Salmon Recovery Proj-
cct.” After the film selections, another podium discussion will feature the documentary filmmaker Florian Graner - Cinematogra-
pher for the BBC-Blue Planet and Oceans, Florian Graner – Cinematogra-
pher, will be joined by presentation of short films about whales and other marine mammals. Graner will discuss his work on the film and answer questions from the audience.

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

The City of Oak Harbor Continues Working Toward Initial Windjammer Park Improvements
The community input process regarding potential improvement options for Wind-
jammer Park is ongoing. Revenue from the 2018/2019 property tax increases will be used to fund the improvements. The City of Oak Harbor, in conjunction with the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, is sharing some additional improve-
ments Collaborative is a group of faith communities dedicated to working toward the health of the earth, gcswhidbey, www.oakharborchamber.org.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Island Worship Group]

Whidbey Weekly is a locally owned community newspaper. We strive to be a resource for the people who live here. We are committed to providing the local community with the latest news and information, covering a wide range of topics from local politics to arts and entertainment.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Island Worship Group]

The City of Oak Harbor Continues Working Toward Initial Windjammer Park Improvements
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[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Island Worship Group]
Concerti from the Court of Frederick the Great

Concerti from the Court of Frederick the Great, presented by the 2022 Salish Sea Early Music Festival, features special guest harpsichordist David Schrader from Chicago with flutist Jeffrey Cohan and baroque chamber orchestra in a program of works by composers associated with the Prussian king's renowned musical court, including Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Johann Sebastian Bach, Johann Joachim Quantz and the flutist king himself.

David Schrader will play Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's harpsichord concerto in D Minor and the Rioscara for solo harpsichord by Johann Sebastian Bach from the Muysal Offering, which Bach presented to the flutist king following his visit to the king and Bach's son Carl Philipp Emanuel in 1747. Jeffrey Cohan will play flute concerti by Frederick's court keyboardist Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, by Frederick the Great II of Prussia and by the Prussian king's flute teacher Johann Joachim Quantz on an exact copy of a flute made by Quantz for King Frederick at an extremely low pitch, where the flute sounds particularly sonoro.

The orchestra includes Elizabeth Phelps and Courtney Kuroda on baroque violins, Lindsay Strand-Polyak on baroque viola and Annabeth Shirley on baroque cello.

The concert takes place Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 pm at St. Augustine's in-the-Woods Episcopal Church (5217 S. Honeymoon Bay Rd., Freeland). A suggested donation of $15, $20 or $25 (a free will offering) must have to enter the pre-professional working order.

Ticket cost $22 for all shows. Order online at wicaonline.org or call the box office at 360-331-4887. [Submitted by Patricia Duff]

St Augustine’s 8th Trash and Treasure Sale

A two following a year COVID delay, the popular island charity event sale is back. The sale will be held Saturday, April 30 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at St. Augustine's in-the-Woods Episcopal Church, 5217 South Honeymoon Bay Road, Freeland. Since 1962, St. A’s Trash and Treasure sale has raised approximately a quarter million dollars for Whidbey charities.

Once again the church will be brimming with housewares, jewelry, art and arti-facts, craft and office supplies, linens, toys and supporting goods, small appliances, tools, garden items and plants, and more. This year there was a special donation of dozens of vintage Japanese silk obi!

Don’t miss the Treasure Shop with antiques, silver and crystal, fine arts and collectibles, and many wonderful surprises at astonishing prices.

Enjoy lunch at the popular Chapel Cafe, where you can find delicious sausage rolls, soups and pie for the best prices in town. All profits go to charities. This year’s funds will benefit: Episcopal Relief and Development’s Ukraine Crisis Response Island Church's Soup's On soup kitchen in Langley Island Senior Services Medical Transport Fund Whidbey-Camano Land Trust

Unsold items go to Good Cheer. Donations of items to sell may be brought to the church Tuesday through Thurs-day between 9:00am and 3:30pm. Items not accepted include clothing, books, magazines, computer or large exercise equipment, TV's unless flat-screen, large furniture, or tires. The church cannot accept anything broken, stained or not in working order.

For more information, contact Susan Sandri at 360-914-2020, Sara Ann Lockwood at 360-682-8785, or the church office at 360-331-4887. [Submitted by Rebecca Reid]
St. Augustine’s in-the-Woods 58th Birthday Gene!

Celebrating the 58th Birthday of Gene with a plant sale to benefit local charities.

**Saturday, April 30, 2022
9am - 2pm**

Proceeds go to local charities.

**Visit our website for tentative plant lists:**

**COUPEVILLEGARDENCLUB.ORG**

- **Plant Sale:**
  - **Coupville Recreation Hall 901 NW Alexander Street**
  - **April 23rd, 9:00am - 4:00pm**
  - **Cash, Check or Credit Card**
  - **Enter the raffle to win a quilt!**

**Thank You for Reading Whidbey Weekly | Reduce ➡ Reuse ➡ Recycle**
Healthy living and weight management, TOPS® offers tools and programs for a social network of weight-loss support groups.

TOPS® is the short name for TOPS Club, Inc., the original, nonprofit, noncommercial 12-step fellowship for people struggling with addictions of all kinds and self-centered behaviors. TOPS® is dedicated to making life better for people when you're not hungry? Do you binge, purge or restrict? No dues and no fees! Just caring support, hope and abstinence.

TOPS® (Take Off Pounds Sensibly®) Every Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 pm
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Clinton
NAR-ANON family groups are world-wide for those affected by someone else’s addiction. St. Peter’s Lutheran Church is located at 6609 Wilson Place.

Overeaters Anonymous Every Monday, 4:00-5:00 pm
Langley Fellowship Hall, Langley
Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you’re not hungry? Do you binge, purge or restrict? No dues and no fees! No weigh-ins, no diets, no judgments. Just caring support, hope and abstinence.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Second Mondays, 6:30-8:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation Whidbey Island, Freeland
For more information and support contact: Pflagbayside@gmail.com, Chapter President, Sharon Kabler at 360-222-4028, or Chapter Secretary, Erick Westphal at 360-331-3593.

Parent Support for Miscarriage and Stillbirth Last Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Freeland Library, Meeting Room, Freeland
For details, call Jolene at 360-331-2113.

PASS - Post Abortion Stress Syndrome Wednesday or Thursday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Are you suffering from PASS–Post Abortion Stress Syndrome? Many women suffer from depression, flashbacks, suicidal thoughts, relational dysfunction, and more after an abortion. We offer free lay counseling, help with healing and restoration. Call Wednesday or Thursday for an appointment, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, 360-321-2909.

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA) Every Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church Annex, Freeland
SLAA is a 12-step fellowship for those who wish to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. We offer relief for both those who suffer from a compulsive need for sex, and those with relationship-related compulsivity. We provide an environment free from shame and abuse where all can feel safe to share what they think and feel. You are not alone. For more information call 360-989-4248.

“The Most Excellent Way” Support Meetings Every Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Church on the Rock, Oak Harbor
“The Most Excellent Way” is world-wide support group desiring to minister to alcoholics, drug addicts, and their families. “The Most Excellent Way” is a Christ based self-help group for people struggling with addictions of all kinds and self-centered behaviors. Childcare is provided. For more information, please call 360-675-3032.

TOPS® (Take Off Pounds Sensibly®) Every Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 pm
Family Bible Church, Oak Harbor
TOPS® is the short name for TOPS Club, Inc., the original, nonprofit, noncommercial network of weight-loss support groups. TOPS® offers tools and programs for healthy living and weight management.

The amount will be doubled up to $40 with purple Market Match currency. The matching currency is only for fresh fruits, vegetables, garden seeds and plants and nuts, while the tokens, provided when SNAP cards are run, can also be used for meat, fish, dairy and baked goods.

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) for Seniors or Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides eligible customers with vouchers that may be redeemed with farmers who have registered to participate at any Farmers Market. A sign is posted at the registered farmer’s booth. Learn what foods can be purchased, when and where. No fee. For more information contact Preacott, preacott@whidbey.net or 360-662-8642. The South Whidbey Tilth Classroom is located at 2812 Thompson Rd.

CELEBRATE MOM
Life Tributes

Martha M. Hill

Martha M. Hill passed away Wednesday, March 30, 2022, with her family by her side. She was born in Albuquerque, N.M., July 25, 1943, to parents James Carder and Mildred Kimbrough. She had one brother, Jimmy. She relocated to California just in time to watch the construction of Disneyland. She attended California Baptist College, where she met her future husband, Neil Hill. They were married for 55 years until he passed away in November 2016. Martha had two children, Glen and Wendy. She worked as a switchboard operator in California until Neil transferred to Washington state. In Washington, she worked at Blue Cross for 30 years. Martha and Neil fostered over a dozen Vietnamese children, the first of whom, Trung, stayed a member of the family. After their children had grown, they sponsored several Ukrainian families escaping religious persecution. After retirement, Martha and Neil spent much time at Lake Cushman, enjoying the outdoors. Martha is survived by her children; her grandchildren, Scott, Sarah, Chey, Emily and Melissa; and her older brother Jimmy. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Mildred, and her husband, Neil.

Carl William Hankins

Carl William Hankins passed away peacefully at his home in Oak Harbor, Wash., March 11, 2022. His ashes will be spread at sea. He was born in Whittier, Calif., and raised in La Habra, Calif. Carl married Georgia Ann Page June 24, 1964 and they raised three children, Tammy, Danny and Brandy. He joined the Navy when he was 17 and retired after 24 years. He worked in real estate for numerous years after serving in the Navy. He was an avid bridge player; running his own bridge club for many years. He loved fishing. Carl was a great cook, always cooking and barbecuing for family and friends during the holidays. He was preceded in death by parents, Charlotte and Carl Hankins, grandparents, numerous aunts and uncles and nephews, Steven Hankins.

Carl’s survived by his wife, Georgia; children Tammy (Donald Macy of Anacortes, Wash., Danny (DeLaina) Hankins of Bellingham, Wash., and Brandy Hankins of Oak Harbor; grandchildren Britney (Luke) May of Bellingham, Lacey (Bryce) Tucker of Clarkesville, Tenn., and Jonathan Macy of Bell- eyland. She attended California Baptist College, where she met her future husband, Neil Hill. They were married for 55 years until he passed away in November 2016. Martha and Neil fostered over a dozen Vietnamese children, the first of whom, Trung, stayed a member of the family. After their children had grown, they sponsored several Ukrainian families escaping religious persecution. After retirement, Martha and Neil spent much time at Lake Cushman, enjoying the outdoors. Martha is survived by her children; her grandchildren, Scott, Sarah, Chey, Emily and Melissa; and her older brother Jimmy. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Mildred, and her husband, Neil.

Carl is survived by his wife of 57 years, Georgia; children Tammy (Donald) Macy of Anacortes, Wash., Danny (DeLaina) Hankins of Bellingham, Wash., and Brandy Hankins of Oak Harbor; grandchildren Britney (Luke) May of Bellingham, Lacey (Bryce) Tucker of Clarkesville, Tenn., and Jonathan Macy of Bellingham; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

A public service will not be held, but Carl’s family sincerely thanks those who have reached out to express their condolences, memories and appreciation of him.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
4:33 am, SR 20
Reporting party advising female with a milk crate is in the middle of intersection.
3:04 am, North Bluff Rd.
Reporting party needs to get to the 1st** king island; says she lost her driver’s license and debit card. Called yelling and crying, since we lie. Wanting to know when law enforcement will get in.
10:15 am, Sandberg Ln.
“Whichever way the wind is blowing.” “I’m wanted by the church.” “Smoking children out.”
12:18 pm, SR 20
Reporting party advising white female flipping off traffic; off to side but could walk into lane traffic.
3:01 pm, Harding Ave.
Caller says a rumor is going around that Island County Sheriff’s Office is looking for a bunch of stolen property.
3:18 pm, SR 20
Calling saying something about near the Island County transfer station and strange things on her body. Caller hung up.
5:14 pm, Humphrey Rd.
Reporting party states was held against his will and things were done to him, but not sure what. Occurred a few years ago. States still feels like he is being followed by subjects involved. Reporting party didn’t make police report at the time but did call FBI.
THURSDAY, MARCH 10
12:45 am, Ault Field Rd.
Reporting party advising female at location is threatened to kick reporting party. Says female has weapons and is a terrorist.
FRIDAY, MARCH 11
4:25 am, Sandberg Ln.
Female male and female living with call-taker; states her house is in direct line of airline traffic. Says female has weapons and is a terrorist.
4:45 pm, Ault Field Rd.
States female and her fat friends have radiation equipment. Female neglects kids. Reporting party states doesn’t need contact but wants law enforcement to do something about it or he’ll have go up and look for female.
6:45 pm, San Juan Ave.
Reporting party advising unable to see kids due to not cleaning her car. Arguing all over the phone.
SATURDAY, MARCH 12
3:03 pm, Lockwood Dr.
Advising just had a handgun brandished to him at location, was there trying to get his stolen cat back.
3:43 pm, Crow Rd.
Requesting call; wondering if they can get his stolen cat back.
MONDAY, MARCH 14
9:34 am, Lockwood Dr.
Reporting party advising male keeps contacting reporting party; sending messages; now roommate’s truck is not running.
11:54 pm, Taylor Rd.
Reporting party advising three or four cows in road on Taylor.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
9:25 am, Honeyymoon Bay Rd.
Loose sheep a quarter mile off Calvin on Honeyymoon Bay Road. In roadway. Roadway party last saw them five ago.
9:32 am, Misty Ln.
Advising neighbor has put up her own 10 mph sign on her property that says “slow the F**k down.” Reporting party has young children who are learning to read.
4:07 pm, Harding Ave.
Caller just got home to find three subjects inside his house; he knows one of them.
5:03 pm, Swantown Rd.
Reporting party states commercial dump truck took his career while he was being followed by subjects today from location. Has GPS tracker on vehicles and they are currently in Mission parking lot.
FRIDAY, MARCH 18
4:44 pm, SW Heller St.
Advising reporting party’s daughter had her cell phone stolen; when reporting party calls, male makes answer, but is refusing to give information.
SATURDAY, MARCH 19
11:22 pm, Bearberry Ln.
Reporting party advising he sold things to subject at his apartment in Seattle at 9 pm; reporting party advising he wants law enforcement to go ask subject to give him his money before an issue arises.
SUNDAY, MARCH 20
3:44 am, West Beach Rd.
Advising calling of two bulls and three large puppies walking down the side of the road; now in someone’s yard.
3:50 pm, Goss Lake Rd.
Caller advising was threatened with a shotgun; advising an airline is pointing a gun at her and states “I am going to kill you,” advising 199,000 people are threatening her.
TUESDAY, MARCH 22
8:09 am, Moss Ln.
Reporting party returned from out of town Sunday; was gone for 10 days; advising caretaker took his vehicle while he was out of town. Got a notice the vehicle was towed, unknown where caretaker is.
4:06 pm, Quade Rd.
Advising walking in area; was yelled at by subject never seen before; far side of property. Reporting party left the area.
9:03 pm, Dewey Dr.
Reporting party advising her dog was outside when neighbor seemed to head toward her dog with a taser but did not hurt the dog; advising female noticed reporting party walking over and then left.
Reducing Plastic Pollution

At the checkout at the grocery store, the clerk was almost apologetic in speaking to a customer – “I’m sorry, I have to charge you an additional eight cents for a bag. We unfortunately are forced to do it.”

Standing in line, I was sad to hear this explanation. There are so many ways the plastic bag funding could be explained, and this seemed like an explanation that only told part of the story. There must be a better way to explain sustainable plastic consumption. What kind of elevator speech could influence people to change their behavior?

Every minute the equivalent of one garbage truck of plastic is dumped in the ocean. Ninety-one percent of plastic is NOT recycled. (www.nationalgeographic.org/article/whopping-91-percent-plastic-isn’t-recycled/) Most people (over 80 percent) are aware that plastic winds up in our oceans and takes hundreds of years to decompose. (World Wildlife Fund) Awareness does not necessarily lead to action.

Consumers need three things before they change a particular behavior. First, they need information about the sustainability of the plastic product or packaging they are buying. Is it reusable? Is it recyclable? Is it compostable?

Second, they need to feel the plastic problem is relevant to them. The customer in front of me in line at the grocery store was buying fish, by the way. Third, they need opportunity. People can’t shift to a more sustainable choice unless there are governmental policies in place that provide that opportunity. “Research has shown that no amount of environmental concern, reuse intention, personal norms or attitudes could overcome the sheer ubiquity of plastic.” (www.campaignsthatwork.org/)

Luckily, here in Washington, we are given the opportunity to change our behavior and not use those flimsy plastic bags in the parking lot reminding us to bring in our bags, we would be less forgetful. Campaigns that work are those that tap into positive social norms. They encourage the use of recycled plastic in other products, so the plastic is not just placed in a landfill. The opportunity to bind the recycled plastic into a park bench keeps it out of our marine environment. The legislation was well researched and serves as a powerful supplement to individual action.

But what counts is YOU! Please remember your reusable bags. Associate those bags with your happy place on the beach. Think of orcas. Think of salmon. Think of your favorite surfer. Whatever it takes to change your behavior. The marine resources are counting on you.
By Kathy Reed

Whidbey Weekly

All of Whidbey is invited to help celebrate a special occasion: 100 years in the making.

Gene Phelps, owner of Gene’s Art and Frame in Oak Harbor, is celebrating his 100th birthday. There will be a public party Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the store on Pioneer Way. Enjoy an afternoon of activities, including a rock painting demonstration.

Gene’s Art and Frame has been a fixture in Oak Harbor for 55 years. Even at 100, Phelps makes it a point to come into work just about every afternoon. For the most part, he says he still feels about the same as he did when he was younger.

“It feels okay (to be 100),” he said, sitting in front of the rolltop desk tucked away in the back of the store. “I feel the same as when I was 20. I’ve always been very active – walking, riding bikes almost daily, and I always felt good about that.”

Even at 100, Phelps makes it a point to come into work just about every afternoon. For the most part, he says he still feels about the same as he did when he was younger.

Phelps was born in New Orleans, La., in 1922. He joined the Navy Reserves before World War II and was called up to active duty during the war. He served just shy of five years when all was said and done, then went to work in construction. He traveled around the country with the company he was with, building military housing. But Oak Harbor caught his eye, and this is where he decided to settle with his family.

“I thought Oak Harbor was such a nice place,” he said. “It was very quiet and the kids could play in the streets; the cars would hardly ever come by. So, I said this is probably the place we should be, so I decided to move here. But I didn’t have a job. So I went over to a hardware store, and I charged some things – that was really the only store in town. Then I went into the painting and drywall business.”

Phelps opened a paint store and eventually began adding art supplies to the mix.

“There was a little display of a few little art supplies and so I said, ‘Let’s get some more of that,’ so we did,” he said. “I finally built this art thing.”

“We always welcome new volunteers,” said Newberry. “Over time, if they were their own.”

“We need some of these active people because we’d like to attract more of them,” she continued. “It’s not just age. It’s what he’s seen and what he knows about the business. I just was always interested in running it and ordering stuff. I was just at home here.”

“I think his work ethic keeps him young,” said Armstrong. “He works very consistently, hardly misses a day coming into the store. He’s very energetic and dedicated and I really has been a pleasure to work for him over the years.”

“It feels very special to know someone who’s reached that milestone,” she continued. “It’s not just age. It’s what he’s seen and what he knows about the business.”

“His outlook is so inspiring, because he doesn’t see this as slowing him down or anything.”

In his soft-spoken voice, Phelps said he’s always been content over the years, although he did acknowledge he’s seen his share of changes.

“It’s so different now than when I was young,” he said. “It’s changed completely, this world. All the computer business and all that; we never had anything like that. When we went to school, we did ABC’s. We didn’t have all that computer stuff, so it’s a big change there.”

But as it is sometimes said, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

“One of the things people love about the store is, while we’ve updated a little bit, in a lot of ways it’s the same, so it’s kind of nostalgic for people to shop here,” Armstrong said.

In addition to Saturday’s birthday bash, Phelps will also serve as the grand marshal for the upcoming Holland Happening parade. He said he’s not sure about all the attention.

“I’m not used to all the hoopla do,” he said with a soft laugh. “Some times I don’t feel like I deserve all that. You know, what did I do to be the centenarian? I feel the same as when I was 20. I’ve always been very active – walking, riding bikes almost daily, and I always felt good about that.”

CELEBRATION continued on page 12

Price Sculpture Forest welcomes “Vertebrae”

By Kathy Reed

Whidbey Weekly

There is yet another new sculpture to discover at Price Sculpture Forest in Coupeville.

“Vertebrae,” by Seattle-based sculptor Sarah Fetterman, becomes the 53rd piece to occupy a place in this living art gallery. The 20-foot-long steel and fabric creation was put in place over the weekend, suspended carefully among the trees of the old growth forest.

As its name implies, the inspiration for this work, which was previously displayed at Seattle Center, came from a once-living creature.

“The piece was conceptualized when I happened upon a section of elk vertebrae in the woods,” described Fetterman in response to questions from Whidbey Weekly. “The elk bones evoked the memory of the whole animal—not alive, but not fully gone. There was a beauty in the white bones against the underbrush, their abrupt beginning and end.

“I see the sculptural vertebrae as the body of the dream, never fully complete but never fully lost—a fragment of memory that alludes to the rest of a colossal backbone that existed in the past or perhaps only as an image of what might be, but has never fully materialized,” she continued.

“The hollow framework of bones suggest the structure and the supporting, a living body, suspending us between future and past.”

See SCULPTURE continued on page 12
Recipe of the Week

PECANS GIVE THESE COOKIES EXTRA APPEAL

Pecans are tasty offerings that are ideal in both savory dishes and desserts. Like fruits of other members of the hickory genus of trees, pecans are not truly nuts, but drupes. A drupe is a fruit with a single stone or pit surrounded by a husk. With pecans, the outer husk dries out and splits open, exposing the “nuts” inside.

Pecans are heart-healthy and rich in antioxidants, several vitamins and minerals, and a good source of healthy fats. In a one-ounce serving, one ounce of pecans provides 10 percent of the recommended daily fiber intake.

This recipe for “Cowboy Cookies” from “Live Well, Bake Cookies” (Rock Point) by Danielle Fya includes oats, pecans and coconut in the mixture, adding flavor and nutritional appeal.

**COWBOY COOKIES** (Makes 50 to 52 cookies)

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1⁄2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1⁄2 cups packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 1⁄2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 3⁄4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 1⁄2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 3⁄4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1⁄2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1⁄2 cups packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 3⁄4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 1⁄2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 3⁄4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans

1. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, ground cinnamon, and salt until well combined. Stir in old-fashioned rolled oats and set aside.
2. In a separate large bowl, using a mixer, beat the butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well combined.
3. Mix in eggs, one at a time, then mix in vanilla extract until fully combined, making sure to stop and scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed.
4. Mix in dry ingredients until just combined, then mix in chocolate chips, shredded coconut and chopped pecans on low speed until fully incorporated.
5. Cover tightly and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
6. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats and set aside.
7. Scoop 1 1/2 tablespoons of cookie dough onto prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one. Gently press each ball down to slightly flatten it.
8. Bake for 10 to 13 minutes, or until top of cookies are set and the edges are lightly browned. Remove from oven, and allow cookies to cool on the baking sheets for 5 to 10 minutes, then carefully transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.
9. Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week.

**COOKIES**

**INGREDIENTS**

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- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
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9. Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week. 
Fetterman, who often designs pieces which are integrated with a human model or dancer, said creating “Vertebrae” required learning some new skills. Since her ideas often come into her head as fully formed images with no gravitational, weight or structural restrictions, making them come to life can prove challenging.

“I often need to learn a new tool or way of making to be able to make the vision I have a reality,” she explained. “For this instance, I began to learn blacksmithing to get the specialized curves I wanted. I don’t think most people consider the engineering aspect when they look at or learn about art. I certainly didn’t in art school. When you see me hard at work creating a project as an artist you are the imaginer, the fabricator, the engineer, and often the installer and the marketing team. I often make site-specific work and I do thoroughly enjoy the challenge of creating structures that have the structural integrity to last for years, while fitting the location and installation needs.”

Surprisingly, it wasn’t shaping the steel that was the most challenging aspect of this work for Fetterman. Rather, it was sewing the fabric on.

“I could stand inside the large one while I sewed the fabric on, so all the knots and ends would remain invisible,” she said. “But when I started on the little piece, I didn’t think about how the negative space of that sculpture, when made solid with fabric, wouldn’t actually leave room for a person inside of it. Hah, you learn something every time you make something new.

“I love that each new piece is a completely new learning curve and at the same time I get more familiar with how to make some- thing that has never existed before,” Fetterman continued. “I love the engineering challenge of bringing a work from my imagination into real- ity. I love being a woman who can blacksmith and forge steel. I love the places the work takes me — whether it’s for research or installation. It’s allowed me to keep the child-like parts of my mind alive, so I’m able to live in a way where I can see the world in a creative and playful way.”

Fetterman was on hand for the installation last weekend, which was challenging, according to Scott Price, Price Sculpture Forest founder and board president of the nonprofit.

“The heights, placement angles, and working within brush from the ground were the main challenges,” he said. “We of course retain and protect all the native understory, though that made the entire work area a maze of branches and high bushes. We also wanted an aerial rigging system that protected the health of the supporting trees. Fortunately, we received essential assistance from a very generous and knowledgeable semi-retired professional rigger who lives right here on Whidbey. He led the entire operation, directed the volunteers and ensured that everything was installed profes- sionally and securely.”

As is often said in real estate, it’s all about location. When it comes to sculpture, its placement and location can inform its interpretation and the viewers’ perspective, something Fetterman loves about placing work in fresh environments.

“It is my favorite part of installing in new loca- tions,” she said. “I learn something new or see the work completely different every time.”

Interpretation of her work is always in the eyes of the beholder.

“Don’t need viewers to magically know what I was thinking when I made the sculpture. I just want to give people a moment of pause to be able to see this drawing in the sky and take it with them in their minds,” she said. “My hope is that when viewers send me pictures of something they’ve created that my work inspired them to do, even weeks after they’ve seen it.”

At this point, “Vertebrae” is scheduled to remain at the sculpture forest for the next two years, so there is plenty of time to see it. Of course, multiple viewings of any of the pieces in the forest gallery could be necessary, as the sculptures can change based on light at various times of day, weather, or season.

“We are approaching the point where we have the maximum number we want that in the sculpture forest, to ensure that every sculpture is provided its own space and visitors enjoy the natural setting between sculptures,” said Price. “After filling all of the best locations, we will gradually begin rotating sculptures out and replace them with new sculptures over time.”

Fetterman said she is very pleased to have brought “Vertebrae” to Whidbey Island.

“It was looking for a forever home for my work and when I found Price Sculpture Forest, the images looked absolutely beautiful and serene,” she said. “Scott had a call out for work that was natural and whimsical, and I loved that was what the park was looking for.

“I do think of much of my work as whimsical, but not in the way that a fairy tale’s whims- ical creations bring you to another place,” Fetterman continued. “I want to bring that fairy tale solidly onto the ground next to you, to make this world more imaginative. Working in 3D materials, the same materials that make up everything around us in our daily lives, gives my work that realism that allows it to solidly exist in our reality.”

Prior, meanwhile, said the creativity of the art- ists who have work on display in the sculpture forest never ceases to amaze him.

“More importantly, it amazes, excites, and increases appreciation of the possibilities for art for visitors,” he said. “We have specific themes and design principles that art must align with at the sculpture forest. Every submitted sculpture is considered individually, as well as how it inte- grates with the natural environment and how it enhances the overall collection. Yet within all of those requirements, sculptures from around the world delight and entertain everyone with new visions that are able to expand people’s percep- tions of nature-integrated art.”

The Price Sculpture Forest is open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (or sunset, whichever comes first). Admission is free, but donations are gladly accepted. Dogs and bikes are not allowed. A few guided tours are available via a smartphone. The forest is located at 678 Parker Road, in Coupeville. Learn more at sculptureforest.org. Learn more about Sarah Fetterman’s work at SarahFettermanStudios.com.
Welcome  The Whales

PARADE & FESTIVAL

Saturday April 23 -
1:30 Parade-stage at US Bank at 1 pm
3:30 Presentation- “Gray Whales as Sentinels of Climate Change” by Sue Moore, UW Professor
Whidbey Island Fairground’s Pole Building, Langley

Sunday April 24
2-4 pm, Gray Whale Fundraiser Cruise, arrive at Langley Marina at 1:30

Event Details or purchase Cruise tickets at www.orcanetwork.org/events.

Come for a walk with us. We don’t stop until Cancer does!
Walk 1 - April 23 at 11 a.m. Windjammer Park Trail
1605 S Beeksma Drive, Oak Harbor. 4 mile trail, paved and easy access, open parking. Park and meet near the basketball courts.
Walk 2 - May 21 at 11am Meerkork Gardens
3531 Meerkork Lane, Greenbank. Variety of unpaved trail options surrounded by trees, rhododendrons and pond. Entrance. Park and meet at the main entrance.
Walk 3 - June 4 at 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Blue Fox Drive-in
1403 Monroe Landing Road, Oak Harbor. Join us in walking the paved go kart track, enjoy the activities and music and finish the evening with a triple feature movie.
Walk 4 - June 25 at 11am Hoytus Point
296 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor. 3 mile unpaved trail with easy access, Discover Pass. Park at the end of Cornet Bay Rd and meet at the trail head.
Walk 5 - July 16 at 11am Deception Pass State Park
41229 State Route 20, Oak Harbor. 3 mile unpaved trail under the bridge, Discover Pass. Park in the lot by Cranberry Lake (North and West Beach Parking Lot) and meet by the bathrooms.
Walk 6 - August 20 at 11am Fort Casey State Park
1280 English Road, Coupeville. Multiple trails, tour the lighthouse, beach access, Discover Pass. Celebrate with a picnic and kite flying! Park in the lot by the batters and meet on the lawn.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF NORTH PUGET SOUND
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022 • BLUE FOX DRIVE IN

Join our local Relay For Life
To Help Fight Cancer!
Attend our hybrid meetings with Zoom or at the Elk’s Lodge
Email us, go to our website or follow us on facebook for more information!

Welcome The Whales

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Welcome The Whales
What are you most grateful for, living in Langley?

By Helen Mosbrooker

**Tamar Felton, Langley**

Working and living everyday life in Langley, is working and living everyday life as FAMILY. This unique community of islanders welcomed us, embraced us, supported us, and has continued to do so for the past 40 years. The support has not only been for our business and family, but for our own family, as well! "It takes a village..." this idiom pretty much sums it up; people cooperating to achieve a goal, helping when needed, acknowledging other people’s roles in success, and in raising a child. Langley is this village of community that has contributed to helping us raise our child, and now our daughter and her family, back on the island, are embraced by this same community, and this new generation is now becoming that village.

It is the synergistic, heartfelt partnership that I am most grateful for...for being a part of something larger than just a place to settle, but a place to live life. We love Langley.

---

**Jenn Jurriaans, Langley**

I am most grateful for living in a community in which so many people care deeply about nature, social justice, community and democracy; and where exhibits of conspicuous consumption and bullying are so rare. Living by the sea and having such wonderful views are icing on the cake!

---

**Mayor Scott Chaplin, Langley**

I am most grateful for living in a community in which so many people care deeply about nature, social justice, community and democracy; and where exhibits of conspicuous consumption and bullying are so rare. Living by the sea and having such wonderful views are icing on the cake!

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**Can Do Sudoku!**

On a scale from 1 to 10...4.8

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Answers on page 15
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Take the Leap! Volunteer for Young Dancers! Do you love helping young people find their passion? Are you interested in supporting young dancers who are honing their skills on and off stage through their path to adulthood? If this sounds like you, please consider Whidbey Island Dance Theatre's (WIDT) board of directors. We need your skills! We need your enthusiasm! We need you! Our board needs helping hands. Please consider volunteering with us to take on the role of a volunteer director. Our board is a volunteer-run nonprofit with the goal to provide a safe haven for young people to explore all aspects of the performing arts. We are seeking board members who are interested in board meetings, participating in discussions, and helping to shape the direction of our organization. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact the board or reach out to find out 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! Whidbey Island is seeking individuals who volunteer to help support the community through the health and safety of our residents. The ICMRC is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with disaster preparedness and response, public health, and other medical and non-medical tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at Island County MRC website for more information.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact the board or reach out to find out more information. We need your help to support our young artists. Please consider Whidbey Island Dance Theatre’s (WIDT) board of directors. We need your skills! We need your enthusiasm! We need you! Our board needs helping hands. Please consider volunteering with us to take on the role of a volunteer director. Our board is a volunteer-run nonprofit with the goal to provide a safe haven for young people to explore all aspects of the performing arts.
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  - Safety & Brake Inspection

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  - DRUMS:
    - Raybestos Brake Shoes
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    - Rebuild Wheel Cylinders
    - Adjust Parking Brake
    - Bleed & Adjust System
    - Road Test Vehicle
    - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty
  - 2-Wheel Rear Axle:
    - Rear Wheel Bearings
    - Clean-Lube Sleeve & Bushings
    - New Seals
    - Bleed & Adjust System
    - Road Test Vehicle
    - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty

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