

April 30 through May 6, 2020

FREE

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



This is going to be a great week.
The stimulus check from Disney Worldwide Services arrived. My movie career has kicked in with folks at home Netflixing flicks.
The benefits of my saying eleven words in the 1997 film *Prefontaine* are still driving my economic security.

Hopefully, you are sitting down when you see the amount of my latest stimulus.

Ready?

\$ 0.47 cents.

Yep. 47 cents.

I was born in '47.

What goes around, comes around.

Skillet helper

Last week's mention of iron skillet cleaning brought my biggest reader response since saying something nice about the cheeseburgers made in a building situated on a wetlands.

No wonder their burgers are juicy.

Thanks to Paul and Bruce and the lady who recommended soaking a dirty skillet in boiled Coca Cola.

While I have yet to try a percolated coffee soak overnight, I plan to try this solution next time I make the mistake of cooking Hamburger Helper on the wood stove.

Bring on the microwave.

Aunt Stouffer is cooking again tonight.

Happy Birthday, Willie

Depending upon which Willie biography you read, today, April 30, is Willie Nelson's birthday. Numero ochenta y siete.

Some biographies say Willie was born April 29.

I celebrate both days.

Wouldn't Willie?

Polipoems

Living alone on top of a hill in the quiet outskirts of my inner sanctum, I feel silly standing in the yard with my pom poms cheering on our first responders.

I can't sing Ravioli like those Italian basso profundos.

I can't play a didgeridoo on the caboose roof to toot my horn for the masked warriors of our hospitals.

However, I can write really bad poetry in short spurts when I watch the news.

Don't drink bleach

The headline said

So I haven't

I'm still not dead

Don't inject disinfectant

Don't drink bleach

Keep 'em six feet away

So you can't reach

There is a good chance I will try to publish the above polipoems in my poetry anthology project, *The Lost Rhymes of Dr. Seuss*.

When I get caught, I hope ABC's anxious looking breaking news dude, David Muir, will start the show with, "Fake Seuss Surfaces to Get Sued."

Burma-Shave

Thanks much to Charlie for dropping off Frank Row-some, Jr.'s *The Verse By The Side of The Road*, the story of the Burma Shave signs. Neighbor Madalyn Jo had given me a few pages of their 600 roadside rhymes a few weeks back. It pays to share with you page three readers.

You must be well read.

Here is another Burma-Shave classic:

Grandpa's

Out With

Junior's Date

Old Technique

With Brand New Bait

Burma-Shave

Thanksgiving in April

After 50 days and nights of my home non-cooking, I decided to violate my own rules of solitary confinement for a 75 mile round trip to get a cheeseburger.

Oak Harbor, here I come.

For the first time since driving through the drive-up in my pajamas in the early 80s, I got in line at Wendy's.

Faster than a speeding siren, I was next.

"Welcome to Wendy's, how may I help you?"

"First of all, let me tell you, this is Thanksgiving for me. I haven't had a burger in 50 days."

"Welcome to Wendy's, how may I help you?"

"Sorry. I'm excited. A Dave's double cheese combo, extra pickle and onion, small fries, small coffee with two creams and two sugars, and a Jr. Frosty. Thank you."

Within moments, I was southbound and down.

Desirous of a scenic location for my Thanksgiving in April burger, I knew to go direct to the Blue Fox Drive-In parking lot.

But wait, Kelsey and Nick were on their front porch with their baby. What if they wanted some of my fries?

I backed up the truck to drive down to scenic spot option #2, the A. J. Eisenberg Airport.

Plenty of parking, with a view to fly for.

Really excited, I opened up my bag from Wendy's.

While my burger was over cooked and lukewarm from my scenery search, it tasted better than a "Porterhouse steak bigger than a blacksmith's apron."

That was Gabby Hayes' promise to Hoppy when Gabby played Windy in *Bar 20 Rides Again* (1935).

Windy's metaphor is almost as good as the caveat by Red Connors (played by Frank McGlynn, Jr.) to Johnny (played by Jimmy Ellison) in *Hop-Along Cassidy* (1935).

"Don't get salty with Bill Cassidy, kid. He'll jerk a leg off ya and spank you with it."

By the way, despite the limp and lukewarm fries, the Frosty, Jr. chaser was the perfect Thanksgiving in April substitute for pumpkin pie.

Improv group

This week I had another idea that went viral, at least in my mind. Given the suggested six foot social distancing, I think the timing is perfect whenever entertainment is once again en vogue for a senior citizen's improv comedy group, *The Six Feet Away Players*.

We'd need a bigger stage. WICA and the South Whidbey Assembly of God have big stages.

Maybe there is a better name for the group.

The Parallelograms.

A comic in each corner, all masked up and ready to chortle.

I just heard the barber yell, "Next."

Last hug

I checked my diary entries. My last hug was March 2. Hopefully there is a tutorial on *YouTube* so I can get re-educated before the hug halt expires.

Shelf life

Becky Krystal's recent *Washington Post* article about refrigerating food caught my eye. Having been an executor for too many estates, I always dreaded the emptying of the refrigerators. What to keep meets what to toss.

The oldest jar of jam I ever executorially tossed was a gift from the deceased's mom, Christmas 1995, tossed in 2012. I still feel bad.

The oldest cans I ever tossed were 11 year old Bush's Baked Beans cans, from Safeway.

I wonder if the Bush's beans are just as overly sweet 11 years later.

Much to the disgust of the deceased's in-laws, I tossed the beans. Even the food banks shuttered at my gift offer. The family wives said the beans were still good.

I thought so too when I took the bad beans to the dump and saw them turned into crunched baby baked beans.

Ms. Krystal points out the federal government refrigeration remarks on labels are for quality, not safety.

"Refrigeration ensures that commercial sauces and condiments stay fresh for a longer period of time... Quality, not safety, is the reason the labels on these products suggest that they be refrigerated after opening."

Score one for all the women I have ever argued with about this.

Cold feet. Cold mustard.

Same thing.

A waste of refrigeration.

Final answer

Today I heard on the news that blow drying one's nostrils does not kill the virus.

This makes complete sense, but doing so will surely get that Zoom chat room you are in all wound up.

Put your blower on low heat.

Low worked better for me.

I didn't want a hot spot in my nose.

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



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Bits & Pieces

Current Information About Antibody Testing from WhidbeyHealth

There is a great deal of media attention about antibody testing, sometimes referred to as serology or immunoglobulin testing. Here's what you need to know:

- Diagnostic testing for Coronavirus measures antigens that make people sick; basically the actual virus.
- Antibody testing doesn't detect the virus. It measures a person's antibodies, which are the body's natural response to fight an infection.
- In the early phases of infection, antibodies haven't built to a detectable level. This can take two weeks or longer for a serology test to register a positive result; too late to provide useful information to guide treatment. Further, patients who are tested soon after being infected are likely to have a negative test result when they actually do have Coronavirus.

This is still a very important test. Widespread use of antibody testing can measure the number of people who have been infected whether or not they felt ill. This could be enormously important to public health authorities as they plan mitigation and 'curve-flattening' responses to the pandemic. At this point, WhidbeyHealth does not anticipate implementation of this testing.

The team at WhidbeyHealth is following this and other developments carefully so it can learn more about caring for patients and perhaps perform some future testing on site at its facilities. Right now, WhidbeyHealth is fortunate to be getting test results in about 24 hours, often sooner.

Everything about Coronavirus continues to change rapidly, a rate of change unlikely to slow down in the near future. WhidbeyHealth will share what it learns as quickly as possible, as soon as accurate information is available.

The World Health Organization has made a scientific brief about this available at www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/advice-on-the-use-of-point-of-care-immunodiagnostic-tests-for-covid-19.

Stay connected with WhidbeyHealth for current information at facebook.com/whidbeyhealth or at whidbeyhealth.org.

[Submitted by Patricia Duff, Public Relations Officer, WhidbeyHealth]

Island Transit Launches Essential Delivery Service for Island County

Last week Island Transit launched a new service to assist Island County social service agencies and food banks with the delivery of essential items during the COVID-19 pandemic. Called Island Transit Cares, the essential delivery service made its maiden trip last week by picking up 50 boxes of food from North Whidbey Help House in Oak Harbor and delivering them to several Island County locations.

"As a public transit agency, offering free delivery service for essential items is just another way to fulfill our mission," says Island Transit Executive Director Todd Morrow, who points out transit is still running bus and paratransit service for essential transportation, but on a reduced Emergency Service Plan to comply with the State of Washington's Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders. "While many people are staying home and not riding the bus, we're adapting our service to meet today's needs and bringing essential items to them through established programs and service organizations."

Island Transit Cares will deliver groceries, medicine, meals, and any essential items not considered dangerous. "We will deliver whenever and to whomever the social service agency or food bank needs us to go," says Morrow. "Deliveries will be done safely, with social distancing and no-contact practices."

An operator at Island Transit voluntarily stepped forward to drive a paratransit van for the first deliveries. Morrow says driving for Island Transit Cares is totally voluntary and the work is authorized as a legitimate service by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) during the pandemic.

"We live in a rural community and people take care of each other really well here," says Morrow. "Island Transit Cares is not meant to replace neighborly love and support, but to fill a gap where there is a need." Morrow acknowledges many businesses and private delivery services are available to the public. Island Transit Cares is not meant to replace those services, nor will it take delivery requests from individuals.

Oak Harbor City Councilwoman Beth Munns, who also serves on the Board of Directors for both Island Transit and the North Whidbey Help House, was instrumental in helping connect Island Transit Cares with a need in the community. "We're just delighted these agencies could come together, get creative and make something special happen to fill a need for our community," says Munns, adding that while she expects initial deliveries will happen on Whidbey Island, the transit agency is working to extend services to Camano Island as well. The service is limited to Island County boundaries.

The FTA is encouraging transit agencies across the United States to support their local communities with similar delivery services. Funds to run these services are federally reimbursable expenses so local tax dollars are not being used. Morrow says he expects Island Transit Cares Essential Delivery Service to run for several months. "It's hard to say what the future holds, but as long as we have available drivers and there is a need, we'll keep it going."

Social service agencies and food banks needing delivery service for essential items during the COVID-19 pandemic, should contact Shawn Harris, Island Transit Operations Manager, at harris@islandtransit.org or 360-678-7771.

[Submitted by Meghan Heppner, Island Transit]

Leisure Travel to Island County Postponed, Yet Tourism Campaign Connects Community with Future Visitors

A new "Escape it All" virtual vacation campaign from Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism bridges the gap in traditional tourism marketing caused by the COVID-19 crisis, by making sights, sounds and flavors of the destination temporarily available through digital tours.

Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism was just recognized by *Washington Post* as one of several "forward-looking destinations around the world," reaching millions of readers around the world for the Escape it All campaign, which provides a series of virtual vacation experiences to keep Whidbey and Camano Islands top of mind until tourism can safely return.

"Tourism is a crucial economic driver in creating the vibrant community we all know and love," said Sherrye Wyatt, Film Liaison, PR and Marketing Manager for Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism. "Now is not the time to bring visitors to the islands, yet it's more important than ever to remain connected to future travelers."

And the numbers speak for themselves. According to Google analytics, in mid-March when the crisis began, website traffic at whidbeycamanoislands.com was down 50 percent year-over-year. Two weeks following the

Escape it All launch, site visitation is only four percent below normal traffic.

"A key step in tourism recovery for the Pacific Northwest is to establish traveler confidence that our region can deliver value for money, a safe environment and memorable experiences," said Patti Denny, Tourism Development Manager at the Port of Seattle. "The new Island County videos showcase the spirit of Washington state, where people can visit to unwind and to experience the wonders of nature. The port values our relationship with Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism and the special marketing tools they provide."

According to the Port of Seattle, the videos will be very helpful in their efforts to rebuild and encourage fly and drive touring from Sea-Tac and Washington state exploration before or after an Alaskan cruise, which might include a visit to the islands.

"The balance of maintaining our health and livelihoods is not one we take lightly," said Chet Ross, CEO of the Freeland Chamber of Commerce. "While the safety of our community is of the utmost importance, we also understand the importance of tourism and need to remain connected with the industry that supports so many in the islands."

The series kicked off in early April with a whale watching experience in Puget Sound, a meet and greet with local artist Georgia Gerber in her home studio and more. A new topic is added twice each week on Monday and Friday mornings. The inaugural launch included:

- See the whales of Whidbey and Camano Islands on a virtual tour of Saratoga Passage in Puget Sound.
- Meet Georgia Gerber, Whidbey Island's artist known for her iconic bronze sculptures, including Pike Place Market's famous piggy bank, "Rachel."
- Discover Deception Pass, explore the seasons and characters of Washington state's iconic destination and most visited state park.
- Learn about Camano Island Honey, which has about 1.5 to 2 million bees busy pollinating plants on the island and making honey. It all began because one woman's garden was not doing well. Now, she's responsible for about one-third of the island's honeybees.
- While most lodging options on Whidbey and Camano Islands are temporarily closed for leisure travelers as the world weathers the COVID-19 crisis, a collection of restaurants open for take-out and delivery service are featured here.

According to Dianne Binder, owner at Anchorage Inn Bed & Breakfast in Coupeville, "the hospitality industry is facing unparalleled economic challenges worldwide, and our small lodgings and bed and breakfasts on Whidbey Island are no exception. When we are able to welcome visitors back, we will be looking at a new normal for protecting our guests and our staff members. As we all stay home and stay safe, it's important that our destination remains top of mind for those armchair travelers waiting to experience our beauty and open spaces."

Find more information and related news updates at whidbeycamanoislands.com. To provide feedback or suggest a local business or idea for the Escape it All campaign, please contact Sherrye Wyatt at Sherrye@islandcountytourism.com.

[Submitted by Erin Osborne, Osborne Northwest Public Relations]

Board of Fire Commissioners Passes Lid Lift Resolution

The Board of Fire Commissioners for South Whidbey Fire/EMS passed a resolution asking voters to consider a 30-cent fire levy lid lift during the Aug. 4 Primary Election. If approved, funding would be used to hire emergency personnel, replace apparatus, and backfill costs associated with COVID-19.

"Our fire district identified the need for additional personnel and replacement apparatus

How Should Millennials Respond to Market Decline?

The coronavirus crisis has unsettled every age group, as we are all worried about our health and that of our families and communities. And if you're in the millennial generation, generally defined as anyone born between 1981 and 1996, you might also be concerned about your financial future, given the sharp decline in investment prices. How should you respond to what's been happening?

Your view of the current situation will depend somewhat on your age. If you're an older millennial, you had probably been investing for a few years when we went through the financial crisis in 2007-2008. And you then experienced 11 years of a record bull market, so you've seen both the extremes and the resilience of the investment world. But if you're a younger millennial, you might not have really started investing until the past few years, if you've started at all, so you've only seen a steadily climbing market. Consequently, you may find the current situation particularly discouraging, but this is also a lesson in the reality of investing: Markets go down as well as up.

But no matter where you are within the millennial age cohort, you might help yourself by taking these steps:

Enjoy the benefit of having time on your side. If you're one of the younger millennials, you've got about four decades left until you're close to retiring. Even if you're in the older millennial group, you've probably got at least 25 years until you stop working. With so many years ahead, you have the opportunity to overcome the periodic drops in investment prices, and your investments have time to grow. And, of course, you'll be able to add more money into those investments, too.

Invest systematically. The value of your investments will always fluctuate. You can't control these price movements, but you may be able to take advantage of them through what's known as systematic investing. By putting the same amount of money at regular intervals into the same investments, you'll buy more shares when the share price is lower – in other words, you'll be "buying low," which is one of the first rules of investing – and you'll buy fewer shares when the price rises. Over time, this strategy can help you reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio, although it can't ensure a profit or protect against loss. Plus, systematic investing can give you a sense of discipline, though you'll need to consider the ability to keep investing when share prices are declining.

Focus on the future. You're never really investing for today – you're doing it to reach goals in the future, sometimes just a few years away, but usually much further out. That's why it's so important not to panic when you view those scary headlines announcing big drops in the financial markets, or even when you see negative results in your investment statements. By creating an investment strategy that's appropriate for your risk tolerance and time horizon, and by focusing on your long-term goals, you can develop the discipline to avoid making hasty, ill-advised decisions during times of stress.

As a millennial, you've got a long road ahead of you as you navigate the financial markets. But by following the suggestions above, you may find that journey a little less stressful.

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



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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two years ago," said Fire Chief H.L. "Rusty" Palmer. "The fact now is that funding also will help our community pay costs associated with the pandemic. The request is timely."

The costs for hand sanitizer, disinfectant and personal protective equipment (PPE) for fire-fighters all have increased. The Fire District also is anticipating higher personnel costs due to overtime and temporary hires needed to respond to calls.

South Whidbey Fire/EMS has been transparent in its struggles when it comes to staffing. Call volumes have increased 12 percent for the Fire District since 2014. Historically, it has relied on volunteers to respond to calls. During the last recession, it lost 30 percent of its emergency responders. It has worked to build its volunteer base back since then, but the pandemic has caused the loss of multiple volunteers due to underlying medical conditions that put them at risk.

"It may feel like we take one step forward and two steps back – but we're still standing!" said Chief Palmer. "We are here, ready to respond when you need us, and coordinating with other agencies on Whidbey Island to provide the highest level of care."

Chief Palmer also wants the community to know COVID-19 is not a majority of its cases at this time. The Fire District continues to respond to brush, residential and commercial fires, and technical rescues for people who ignore the stay at home order. It also has seen an increase in "slip and fall" calls for those who are staying at home.

"We respond to all emergencies, all the time. A pandemic doesn't change that. Call us if you have an emergency," said Chief Palmer.

If approved by voters in August, the levy rate would change from 65 cents to 95 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. (By way of comparison, the fire levy rate for the Fire District was \$1 in 1990.) The lid lift would last for six years and adjust based on the inflation rate, but not exceed 95 cents per \$1,000. The cost would be approximately \$10 per month for the owner of a \$400,000 home. If passed

in 2020, the lid lift would start being collected in 2021.

More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found on the website at www.swfe.org under "Public Information." Community members with questions are encouraged to contact Chief Rusty Palmer at 360-321-1533 or chief@swfe.org.

[Submitted by Sherrye Wyatt]

Boating Squadron Cancels Activities Until Further Notice

In compliance with Washington's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, The Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron (DPSPS) has cancelled and/or postponed all upcoming classes, seminars and activities, including its free boating safety inspections, boating safety for kids, and shrimping seminars.

According to the DPSPS Commander Pat Waters, the pandemic hit at a busy time for many, as they prepare and plan for the upcoming boating season, but said squadron members and the community can keep abreast of courses and seminars through the DPSPS Facebook page www.facebook.com/boat-ingeducation and the squadron's website at www.deceptionpassailandpowersquadron.com.

"Spring is our season to get ready for prime boating season," Waters explained, but our members have successfully changed course and redirected time and resources to assisting neighbors in need, shopping and checking on those challenged medically and/or by age, by making nonsurgical cloth masks, deliveries of essential supplies to local health and public agencies, helping to stock local food banks and more."

[Submitted by Jennifer Geller]

Considering Running for Public Office? File Online May 11-15

May 11-15, the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) will join county election offices across Washington to accept applications for public office during Candidate Filing Week. In an

effort to keep the public and staff safe, the OSOS encourages prospective candidates to file online. It's easy, safe, and secure.

Candidates for federal, statewide, and multi-county legislative or judicial offices must file with the OSOS, which can be done online 24 hours a day beginning at 9:00AM Monday, May 11, and ending at 4:00PM Friday, May 15. Individuals can also file by mail with a paper form beginning April 27, or in-person during filing week at the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division at 520 Union Ave SE, Olympia. All other candidacies may file with the county elections office in which the position resides, except for some local races that cross multiple counties and require candidates to file in the county with more registered voters.

For more information, call 360-679-7367 or email: elections@islandcountywa.gov. Precinct Committee Officers (PCO) may file online; there is no fee to file for this position.

[Submitted by Sheilah Crider, Island County Auditor]

\$300 Prize!

Can you draw a logo?



The PBY-Naval Air Museum has a new name and needs a logo to go with it.
The new name is

Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum

See contest details at <https://pbymf.org/2020/03/25/complete-contest-rules/>



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- Find the missing magic artifacts!
- Show someone the magic touch!
- Be aMAZEd!!!

START  **FINISH**

Q: What did the bunny say to the duck?
A: You quack me up!

Safari Sam is excited to look for 7 lost magic artifacts!

Can you help her by circling each one you find? Then see if you can find ONE MORE lost magic artifact by using just the special highlighted letters in the words that you circled.

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Join us on Saturday 2 May at 10am for a FREE Magic Workshop for kids! You can find it on the JR Russell Magic Facebook page!

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Look for the good in OTHERS and you will find it!

Do you see a duck or a rabbit?

Magic Touch

CHALLENGE: Can you feel the writing on a piece of paper?

STEP 1: Divide a long, narrow slip of paper into three parts. Write one word in each section: "Sharp" in the top, "Soft" in the middle and "Slimy" in the bottom.

Step 2: Tear the slip of paper into three parts, making sure to have a jagged edge where it is torn.

Step 3: Impress a friend by putting all three pieces in a bowl and with your eyes closed, being able to FEEL the writing on the paper and pull out the "Soft" one every time. You do this by actually feeling the paper and finding the one that has two jagged edges.

SHARP
SOFT
SLIMY





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For Vets Only

Memories and recollections
of U.S. Service Members

By Gene Berg



Many stories start with "and there we were..."

My veteran friend Dana and I were on the Sounder train after the ferry on an early, pretty, blue-sky spring morning, then on to catch the "36" bus to the Seattle VA Hospital. Dana had recently connected with the Whidbey Veterans Resource Center, where I have had connections for over 10 years now. (I volunteer and participate in many WVRC activities - now on hold due to COVID-19 - often driving the van transporting Whidbey Veterans to appointments at the VA in Seattle.) This day, before we had our van, Dana and I went to the Seattle VA, taking the train instead of driving a car in, just to test it out as an alternate arrangement. We boarded the train at the Mukilteo train station and had about an hour of travel.

Riding the train, Dana asked me about my service and what I could share about my Viet Nam tour. Surprisingly, there were many good things - friends, learning experiences, the beauty of the country and the night sky. I was in the infantry, patrolling in the jungles, mountains, and hills far west of Hue. Herbicides had cleared most of the jungle foliage, so nights saw me sleeping on my back, looking up through bare tree trunks at the stars. We studied the stars, learning the southern constellations, like the Southern Cross, that were entirely new to me. My wife mailed me a small nylon hammock I could swing between two stumps and actually sleep up off the ground. When I hung my poncho over the hammock, like a pup tent, I was mostly snug and dry, even in the early days of the monsoon.

Another good memory was lemonade. We were in the field for two months at a time, so all we drank was water. Water is the best drink, of course, but you can get tired of it. I guess I complained in a letter sent home, so my wife started sending me packaged envelopes of lemonade - lemon flavoring and lots of sugar. So once about every ten days I had a banquet with a quart of delicious lemonade. It doesn't sound like much now, perhaps, but at the time it was an epicurean highlight.

I returned home to Minnesota in early February of 1971. Being in the field in Viet Nam, you cannot avoid getting a deep suntan. When I came in from the field to our headquarters in the rear, I had one day to clean up, get into my khaki uniform, and head to the Da Nang airport. My khakis and leather shoes had been stuffed in my duffel bag in the headquarters storage bin for a year, so now were thick with mold. No matter, I was heading home. Somehow, at the airport, I broke my glasses. Luckily I had a second pair, a pair of prescription sunglasses.

At the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport, my wife and one-year-old daughter were the most welcoming sight anyone can imagine. After hugs and kisses, I noticed the crowd staring at us. I realized I didn't look very good, deeply tanned and in sunglasses, wearing the most wrinkled, nasty, short sleeved khakis. A winter day in Minnesota: everyone else was sheet white and wearing heavy parkas, hats, and gloves. They let me pass and my wife guided me homeward. My extended family welcomed me home, accepted me as I was, and gently helped me adjust to civilian life.

As the years went by and conditions emerged related to Agent Orange exposure, I have been thankful for great healthcare, and connections with other veterans and wonderful VA providers.

This was a memorable train ride on a sunny morning...and "there we were, on the train."

Thank you, Dana.

-Hey, right back at you Gene, my friend, thank you for sharing.

Screen Time

Part 2: The documentary edition

By Carey Ross



Last week, I detailed films that are not necessarily kids movies per se, but are both educational and entertaining, such as "Hidden Figures" and "Won't You Be My Neighbor." The idea being stir-crazy, stuck-at-home children are clamoring for more screen time while harried home-schooling parents are needing all the breaks they can get. Therefore movies with educational value are a good compromise for everyone—sort of like sneaking vegetables into a child's favorite dish.

However, some movies are more direct educational opportunities and, much like butternut squash stirred into Kraft macaroni and cheese, kids might know what's in front of them is good for them, but they probably won't care.

I'm talking, of course, about documentaries.

As I've mentioned many times before, I work part-time as a projectionist at Bellingham's Pickford Film Center, an art-house movie theater. As part of our extensive community outreach efforts, we founded a program called Doc-Ed which runs in conjunction with our annual month-long documentary film festival, *Doctober*.

The premise of Doc-Ed is simple: We invite schoolchildren of all ages to take class field trips to the Pickford for the purpose of watching documentaries. They get some basic instruction in media literacy, we get feedback from them about what they watched, everyone leaves presumably better for having had the experience.

As a worker bee, my Doc-Ed duties are restricted to crowd control, popping popcorn if needed and starting the movies. However, I have gleaned some anecdotal knowledge from sheer proximity alone. For instance, I've learned a goodly number of the kids had never seen a documentary before attending a Doc-Ed screening. Also, despite being subjected to something they knew to be educational, by and large, they enjoyed the movies and were often eager to share their opinions and analysis of the subject matter.

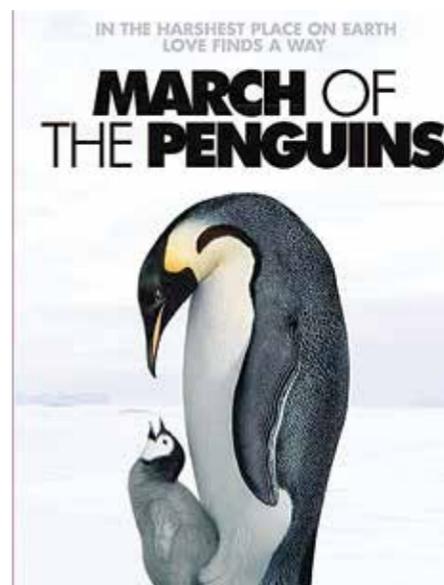
Keeping this in mind, should you want to have an at-home Doc-Ed showing, I happen to have some suggestions for conversation-starting documentaries appropriate for your offspring.

inland breeding grounds, find a mate and, if lucky enough, hatch a chick they nurture by undertaking arduous journeys to the ocean and back in search of sustenance. With stunning visuals courtesy of National Geographic, narration courtesy of Morgan Freeman, a penguin population containing some truly memorable characters, learning about the natural world has never been so adorable. One caveat: Life in Antarctica can be cruel and not all of the penguins make it to the end of mating season. This cycle of life might be too real for the youngest ones.

For sheer thought-provoking inspiration, there's nothing quite like "He Named Me Malala," the true story of Malala Yousafzai. By the time she was a tween, she'd already become an outspoken advocate of education for women in her native Pakistan, where girls going to school was banned by the Taliban. Her activism came at a terrible price when she was shot in the head during an assassination attempt and was not expected to survive. She not only survived, but she also thrived, traveling the world to continue her work, speaking before the United Nations and becoming the youngest Nobel Laureate in history. Her story is one of perseverance and optimism—and if you'd like to teach your children that one person can change the whole world, you need look no further than tiny-but-mighty Malala.

As a former middle school spelling bee almost champ, I have a soft spot for 2002's Oscar-nominated "Spellbound," which follows eight super-spellers as they prepare for and compete in the 1999 Scripps National Spelling Bee. The world of competitive spellers might seem like a dry, boring place, but in truth, it's fascinating stuff. The children come from different races, backgrounds and educational experiences and they train for the prestigious spelling bee with all the focus and determination of professional athletes. In case you think I'm biased in favor of the film because of my history as a former spelling nerd, you might be interested to know "Spellbound" was one of the first largely unknown documentaries to take the box office by storm, and it also breathed new life into the National Spelling Bee, which is now broadcast every year on ESPN (except for this year—the 2020 Scripps National Spelling Bee was canceled due to Covid concerns).

In a decidedly different vein is "Microcosmos," the groundbreaking documentary that gives viewers an up-close—literally—look at the insect world. Let me just put this out there: I do not like bugs. Even as a child, I did not like bugs. Even though this documentary did not convert me into an insect-lover, I now harbor a grudging respect for the wee creatures that share our planet. Using astonishingly breathtaking up-close-and-personal cinematography, viewers can watch bees collect nectar, an underwater spider create a bubble house, a beetle push his ball of dung uphill, a mosquito hatching and other wonders of the infinitesimally small natural world. A fully immersive experience, the only voices you'll hear during the documentary's 80-minute runtime is some brief narration at the beginning and end. Be warned: Your kids will learn a whole lot from this film, but they'll also probably beg you for a praying mantis to keep as a pet after watching it.



An excellent gateway documentary is "March of the Penguins." This 2006 Oscar winner gives an overview of Antarctica's emperor penguins as they leave their ocean habitat for

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Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.





Coupeville stands together p. 10

Whidbey's food banks, meal programs stay strong amid increased demand

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The struggle to put food on the table is real for many families on Whidbey Island as the COVID-19 crisis continues. Add a growing economic crisis and the result is increased demand at local food banks and for meal programs like Meals on Wheels and Whidbey Island Nourishes.

"We have seen a lot of people who have lost their jobs or have had their hours cut who are coming in," said Jean Weiman, executive director of North Whidbey Help House in Oak Harbor. "But overall, we're seeing pretty regular numbers. However, people got extra food stamps, which we didn't know, so I think we're probably going to be a little higher going forward."

"The statistics from March, the first month of this craziness, are also a bit unexpected," said Carol Squire, executive director of Good Cheer Food Bank and Thrift Stores in Langley. "We have seen a large number of new households signing up and using the food bank for the first time. We have simultaneously seen a reduction in the number of total visits. That can be explained by the fact people are coming out less frequently and shopping for larger amounts at one time."

"This works in everybody's favor because, since we're still open five days a week, no one day sees too many people having to line up or wait for a long time," she continued. "It definitely doesn't feel like the pictures we see of urban settings where lines of cars are winding around the block or parking lot."

Whidbey Island Nourishes, a program that provides weekend lunches to children and teens on South Whidbey is still up and running as well, although its self-serve vending machines are currently closed due to Good Cheer's thrift stores being closed. They have also seen an increase in demand.

"We have seen an increased need by some individual families and anticipate a greater need for our summer program once the school lunch program stops delivering at the end of the school year," said WIN Program Manager Melinda Gardiner. "We're currently working with Readiness to Learn who is regularly performing risk assessments with low income families on the south end, to better shape what our summer program will look like."

Meals on Wheels, designed for use by Whidbey residents over age 60 and fulfilled by Island Senior Resources, has seen a large spike in its numbers.

"Requests for Meals on Wheels has increased 42 percent," said Robin Bush, outreach director for Island Senior Resources, adding how important it is to check in with Whidbey's seniors.

"We need to know that isolated seniors are okay," she said. "All of the seniors who used to eat in our dining rooms no longer have a place to gather, socialize, eat a nutritious lunch and share. We ask everyone in the community to please check on your vulnerable, isolated senior neighbors, make sure they are okay, see if they need help and refer them to Island Senior Resources for assistance."

While these services are holding their own for now, Weiman and Squire are both concerned about whether they will be able to maintain adequate supplies as this crisis stretches on.

"We are definitely concerned about the long haul," Squire said. "Right now the cash infusions are helping everyone, but as the economy slowly starts moving and the stimulus winds down, we expect that more folks than ever are going to be needing some food assistance. At Good Cheer we are seriously planning for this short to mid-term future by investing in some new storage containers and stocking up on non-perishables for emergencies."

See HELP continued on page 10



Whidbey Weekly file photo

Gov. Jay Inslee has eased some of the restrictions on outdoor activities, meaning some state parks will reopen for day use and activities like hunting, fishing and playing golf can resume.

Back to Nature: Inslee begins to dial back stay-at-home restrictions

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The dial has slowly begun to turn in what Gov. Jay Inslee said will be a long process of returning to "normal" life after COVID-19.

At a press conference Monday afternoon, Inslee announced some outdoor recreation will reopen Tuesday, May 5, including day use at some state parks and public lands, fishing, hunting and playing golf.

"This will open up widespread outdoor recreation, assuming health and safety guidelines continue to be used by Washingtonians," Inslee said. "I do want to emphasize this is a decision we made today, but if this virus were to spring back, we might have to roll back some of these measures again, which is the reason we have to remain disciplined in how we do enjoy the great outdoors."

Inslee said difficult decisions were made when he announced his "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order last month, but he knew it was necessary to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and save lives. But the governor stressed that even though some restrictions are being lifted, it is essential residents continue to practice social distancing and other health measures.

"If we see a sharp uptake in the number of people who are getting sick or are not following appropriate steps, then we won't hesitate to scale this back again," Inslee said. "This is only a beginning phase of relaxing outdoor recreation restrictions."

Inslee said any further lifting of restrictions will depend on data and compliance rates.

"This is not a return to normal today. The virus is too rampant to allow that," said Inslee. "Data, not dates, determine how we act. We have a plan for reopening our state, but it depends on how the data comes in regarding the progress of this virus."

Public gatherings, events, team sports and camping will NOT be allowed to resume. Local governments and national agencies are not bound to reopen outdoor facilities – they may choose to open or close them based on local public health information.

"Because of our shared sacrifice and the heroic work of our first responders, we can begin reopening our public lands," said Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, an elected official who leads the Department of Natural Resources.

"Reconnecting people with nature is the first step of a long journey back to normalcy. However, as we reopen we cannot stop being diligent in the fight against this virus. We all need to make sure we continue to do as much as we can to keep our families and communities healthy."

The order also does not mean all state parks will reopen next week.

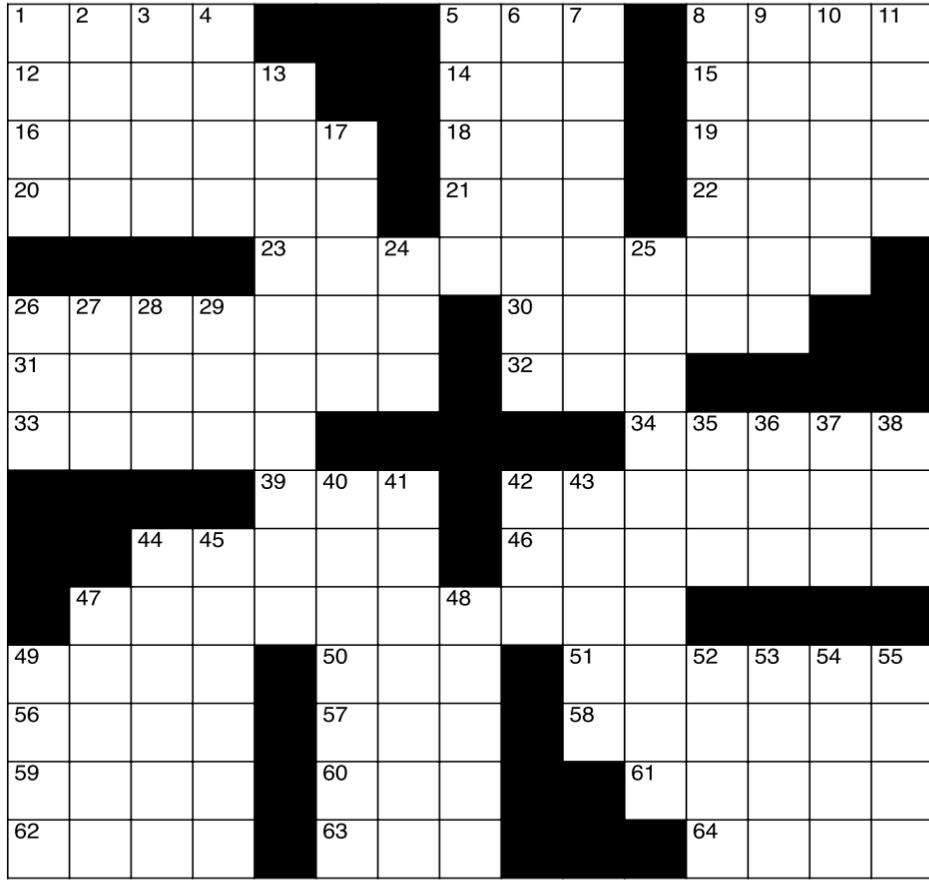
"Right now, we are looking at impacts on rural communities and the potential for crowding," Anna Gill, communications director for Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, told *Whidbey Weekly* via email. "We're also working with local communities and partners to determine the best approach and timing to reopening these areas. We expect to have a list of parks that will not open on May 5 by the end of the week. Once those decisions have been made, we will post that information on our website, parks.state.wa.us/COVID19."

- As with most things, the following guidelines and restrictions are included in the governor's plan:
- Anyone exhibiting any cold or flu-like symptoms shall not participate in outdoor recreation activities.
- Any state parks, state public lands, hunting and fishing seasons, golf facilities, trails and other public parks, lands and trails may be closed at any time if there is reason to believe unsafe conditions exist or social distancing practices are not being followed.
- Keep it local. Do not travel farther than necessary and do not stay overnight.
- Limit your recreation partners only to those who live within your household unit.
- Social distancing must be practiced at trailheads, boat launches and all areas where you encounter others.
- Use face coverings in any situation where social distancing is not possible.
- Bring your own food and supplies when possible to protect others in your community.

Monday's lifting of some outdoor recreation restrictions follows an announcement by the governor last Friday that some low risk, in-progress construction may resume. The current "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order expires May 4. At Monday's press conference, Gov. Inslee said he will address those restrictions within the next couple of days.



Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bond villain Mik-kelsen
5. A team's best pitcher
8. French river
12. Mountain nymph (Greek)
14. City of Angels airport
15. Military force
16. Scrawny
18. Value
19. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
20. Highly seasoned sausage
21. Trouble
22. Prong
23. Showing varying colors
26. Cloaked
30. Renters sign one
31. Acquires
32. Type of language (abbr.)
33. Partner to pains
34. Third portion of the small intestine
39. Excessively theatrical actor
42. Infraction
44. Classical music for the stage
46. Slogged
47. One who terminates

CLUES DOWN

1. Female parents
2. Region
3. Transaction
4. Heroic tale
5. Of algae
6. Luminous intensity unit
7. Uncovers
8. French commune name
9. Poisonous gas
10. Pearl Jam's bassist
11. Horse groom in India
13. Destroyed
17. A way to alter
24. Promotional materials

25. American state
26. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
27. "Modern Family" network
28. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
29. Exercise system ___-bo
35. Type of bulb
36. Opposite of beginning
37. Utilize
38. Type of student
40. Deficiency of moisture
41. Areas of the eye
42. Select
43. Sheets of floating ice
44. Priests who act as mediums
45. Roof of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Illuminated
49. There are three famous ones
52. Large, fast Australian birds
53. "Dracula" heroine Harker
54. Substitutes (abbr.)
55. Tax

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, April 30	Fri, May 1	Sat, May 2	Sun, May 3	Mon, May 4	Tues, May 5	Wed, May 6
North Isle H-62°/L-46° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-63°/L-46° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-63°/L-46° Showers Possible	North Isle H-61°/L-46° Showers Possible	North Isle H-62°/L-46° Showers Possible	North Isle H-61°/L-47° Showers Possible	North Isle H-61°/L-47° Cloudy
South Isle H-60°/L-45° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-66°/L-46° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-66°/L-46° Showers Possible	South Isle H-65°/L-47° Showers Possible	South Isle H-65°/L-47° Showers Possible	South Isle H-65°/L-47° Showers Possible	South Isle H-65°/L-47° Cloudy



CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



There you are, cruisin' the streets, on the lookout for the intersection of Opportunity and Preparedness. The bustling Times Square of your world, the place where your dreams, ambitions and aspirations all come magically together. When you reach your goal, what will you have? Convenient parking at the mall? We hope you're aiming higher. Your potential is great. At the green light, hang a right.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



A strange fact from the department of Life is Like That: Money flows most freely to those who need it least. It's true. The rich get richer. But are they happy? Another strange fact is that the rich are often unhappy. Our point is not to psychoanalyze the wealthy. It's to say that contentment begins with untying your happiness from your bank balance. Almost a lost art, yes. Do you have what it takes?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



With our morning granola, let's crunch these words of Alexander the Great: "I'm indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well." Who was the Great's teacher? Aristotle, who in turn gleaned much from Plato. Do you see it? There amid the honey oats, the nugget of wisdom passed down through the ages? We'll spell it out: More important than genes to your happiness is how fully you develop what you're gifted. Chew it well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Frank Zappa said, "Art is making something out of nothing, and selling it." We'll say there's something in that line for you this week. You'll profit by your own hand. You'll profit more by joining hands. Collaborate. Get with the smartest person you know and mind-storm. Outline your problem and kick ideas around. The least you'll create is solutions. You might even make a friend. How's that for something out of nothing?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



The motto of the South is, "What's the hurry?" Take that to heart. Southerners take their sweet time doing most everything. Or almost everything. Hospitality happens quickly. In the South, there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met yet. And when you finally meet? You whip up a warm peach cobbler and sit a spell. How's the kids? Aunt Mabel doing well? Like that. Nice and easy. No rush. No rush a'tal. Y'all come back now, ya hear?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



About that unpopular opinion of yours. Who says it's wrong? And why do you care? Today's heresy often becomes tomorrow's fact. Galileo nearly got himself executed over his insistence that the sun was at the center of our solar system. Time and scientific progress eventually proved Galileo right. May it be so for you. On our

journey from flint knives and bearskins to the stars, humanity advances one heresy at a time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



For sale: Parachute. Used once. Never opened. Small stain... Don't laugh. Scams abound, always have and always will, because, in the words of P.T. Barnum, "There's a sucker born every minute." Do you know who the sucker is today? Who is blinded by their hopes and fears? If you don't know, chances are good it's you. So be alert. Somewhere ahead, there's a parachute play with your name on it. Don't fall for it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



If you had only an hour to chop down a tree, how would you use the time? (And all lines are busy at Acme Tree Removal.) Abe Lincoln said he would spend the first 45 minutes sharpening his ax. Good tools make short work, would you agree? That 45 minute preparatory is active in your life on a much larger scale. Whatever your task, your tool, test your edge with a final light thumb. The chopping phase is about to begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



What does it mean to be wealthy? Franklin Roosevelt won the presidency in 1932 with the meager promise of a chicken in every pot, and never mind the dumplings. The measure of wealth changes with the times, obviously. It is now changing again. What is wealth to you? Will it be the same tomorrow? Speech writers are chewing their nails trying to anticipate your answers. Speak up now if you want dumplings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



What's the secret of the potter's wheel? Pressure and spin. Wet clay becomes an elegant vase under pressure and spin. Ever read a news story you knew to be false? That's an event under pressure and spin. Why? Maybe to pressure and direct your thinking? You see where this is going. In each life, a little pressure and spin must fall. The who, what, when, where and why of it make the world go round. We know. It's enough to make one's head spin.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



All we really need to know in life, we learned, not in kindergarten (sorry, Robert Fulgham fans), but in the fifth grade. Miss Teague's lesson was simple: "You have two ears and one mouth, which means you should listen twice as much as you talk." Bingo. In one fell swoop, math, biology and philosophy. A heady lesson for a fifth grader. Use it as your own, wherever you encounter fifth grade minds.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



The quick fix is out. Ultimate solutions are in. Time to oust the mediocrity from your life. In what area do you suffer a rubber band remedy? Money? Relationships? Fix it, and we do not mean with scotch tape and paper clips. Real, lasting, foundational fixes are what's needed. So put away the super glue and get ready to pour concrete. A hundred master carpenters agreed: You can't build a life on balsa wood.

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Chicken Little's knock on the head meant to him that the sky was falling, silly bird. His horoscope showed other possibilities. Don't wait for a knock on the head to ask what's up in your life. Wesley Hallock, as Whidbey Weekly's professional astrologer and horoscope writer, keeps one eye on the sky and alerts us to the prospects each week. To read past columns of Chicken Little and the Astrologer in the Whidbey Weekly, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.



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Island Angler

By Tracy Loescher

THE LORE OF SPORTFISHING

MAY WE FISH?

May 5 is the day we fishermen and women have been waiting for!

Governor Jay Inslee has loosened up some of the restrictions on outdoor activities. I take the COVID-19 virus seriously and I understand the intent of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" and the practice of social distancing. But shutting down all lakes, rivers and the Puget Sound to recreational fishing, along with the closure of all the state and many national parks, took away millions of acres of water and wilderness where people could go to safely unwind and still maintain six feet of separation without a protective face mask.

The month of May is normally the starting gun for our summer fishing season. Hundreds of rainbow and cutthroat trout have been planted in the lakes; those ugly-but-beautiful, flakey, sweet-tasting Lingcod have had a whole year to grow and multiply; and the thick-shouldered, hard-fighting spring Chinook salmon have started to arrive in the local Puget Sound waters. They will hang around for a few weeks to chase down some last-minute prey to fatten up on their way to their spawning rivers. I know for a fact we can stay six feet apart in our boats while fishing and I am willing to wear my PPE gear during my short stay at the boat ramps.

TROUT: If you are still fishing from a boat or the lake shore, the planted fish will be hungry and will strike at most natural or artificial baits. Natural baits to use are night crawlers, red worms, and salmon eggs. Other not-so-natural baits that will catch trout are small, diced pieces of spam or hot dogs, small white marshmallows, and last but not least, Berkley Power Bait. This doughy bait has a built-in trout formula the fish almost can't resist. All of these baits can be fished either resting on the bottom or suspended under a float (Power Bait is designed to float up off the bottom). Be patient when still fishing - the schools of fish will be cruising and foraging all around the lake; it may take a little time before the fish get to your position. If you prefer trolling or casting artificial baits, size F-4 flat-fish, small Dick-Nite spoons, Mepps style spinners, Rooster-tail spinners, dark green or black Woolly Bugger flies, and small Cast-Masters will get the fishes' attention. I have caught locally-planted rainbows on all of these artificial lures.

LINGCOD: To help keep this fantastic fish sustainable, a size slot limit has been established - the fish must be between 26- to 36-inches to be a legal retainable fish. I use three terms to describe these slot size fish: Under-ling, Keeper-ling, and Over-ling. The very large lingcod are female and carry all of the precious eggs for the future, so for me I don't mind putting the big ones back. Lingcod are found at a wide range of depths; they can be found between 10 to 310 feet (there is a 120 foot depth restriction for the Puget Sound). I recall a scene at a Cornet Bay fish cleaning table a few years ago: The table had a long, tubular chute attached at one end to discharge the carcass of a filleted fish back into the

water. As people were filleting their fish and releasing the carcass down the chute, as soon as the remains hit the water, a three-foot long lingcod would dart out from under the nearby floating dock and grab up the leftovers of the day. It was surprising to see, and a perfect example of how comfortable these fish can be in shallow water. Lingcod are typically very aggressive and will attack whatever gets in their sights. Rubber swimbaits threaded onto a 4- to 6-ounce lead jig head work well for these fish; skinny lead darts quickly bounced off of the bottom will get bit. A lead weight and chunk bait (herring, mackerel, shiners, and even old salmon parts) will get bit if the fish sees it. In my experience, lingcod bite best when there is a small amount of current movement. If the water is moving the speed of a person walking, then get your gear headed to the bottom. Lingcod like rocky areas but they will also lie on the bottom just on the edge of the major rocks, so watch your depth finder and continue your drift a few yards past the rocks. When drifting a rock pile for lings, drift downhill if at all possible; there is less chance of getting hung up on the bottom this way. Lingcod are a super fighting fish and delicious as table fare.

SPRING CHINOOK: Many salmon fishermen consider spring Chinook the best tasting of all the seasonal Chinook. This is due to their fat content. "Springers" arrive in late March through late May and will remain in the river systems for a few months while in the spawning phase; this long exposure to freshwater is made possible by the fishes' fat content and keeps them fueled up for the long haul. Springers in the saltwater are taken by mooching with a banana weight and herring, or trolling cutplug herring. Artificial lures are also very effective while trolling - Coho Killers, Coyote spoons, Gold Star spoons, rubber squid Hoochies, large saltwater Bucktail flies, Apex lures, and Brads Baits stuffed with oily tuna fish have all caught fish for me in the Puget Sound. If I could only fish with one lure, it would be a 3.5-inch trolling spoon in a Mother-of-pearl color with a glow back. Springers in the local rivers can be hard to catch, primarily due to the low returning salmon numbers; the state simply does not open up many, if any, of the rivers for us to fish, and as long as NOAA and the Federal Government allow tribal gill netting, many rivers will continue to be restricted or closed to all recreational fishermen. I understand why the treaties of the 1850s were drafted and put into place, but it is my opinion it is time for the great American Northwest Indian Tribes to put the resource first; like the rest of us, things have changed in the last 165 years.

"May we fish?" The question on all our minds has finally been answered. I'm glad the state has eased some of its restrictions, allowing us to get back out on the water. Stay healthy, continue to be patient, and take care of your families. I'll see you on the water soon. Here is my email: tlfishmonger@gmail.com. Feel free to drop me a note or tell me a fish story, true or not.



MONDAY, MARCH 30

9:29 am, French Rd.

Advising heard shots in area of location after 19:30, also heard loud explosion.

10:32 pm, Hamilton Dr.

Reporting party states subjects trying to fight reporting party with knives; two subjects. Advising does not know who subjects are, worried mother will get hurt.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

3:24 pm, SW Terry Rd.

Reporting party advising a cat is foaming at the mouth at mailboxes; states cat charged at her and she is worried it has rabies. Reporting party will also call WAIF.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

9:02 am, E Frostad Rd.

Reporting party advising just got home from deployment. Advising just moved into location and there is a box in laundry room with bags inside and papers with threats. Advising one has the 10 Commandments, one mentions a thief.

4:42 pm, Woodbine Rd.

Reporting party advising ex-husband was at location taking plants. Advising made him unload plants and trees and is no longer at location.

7:15 pm, SR 20

Advising male, late 20s, orange sweat-shirt, is swinging his arms and hitting himself; reporting party worried he will venture into SR 20. Dirty blonde hair, no weapons seen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

1:24 am, Fort Casey Rd.

Caller states horse is in road on Fort Nugent; horse walking southbound towards ferry. States now horse going up a driveway; reporting party can't tell house numbers.

1:51 pm, Custer St.

Reporting party advising his bobcat was stolen in Skagit County. Reporting party was told by someone these people may have his cat. Advising he can see it in backyard

2:08 pm, Garden Ln.

Requesting call. Advising neighbor is at location again, ripping out caller's plants. Caller not at location.

3:49 pm, Custer St.

Requesting call to know if he can drive vehicle he does not have license plate for yet? Has title and bill of sale just not license plates for it.

10:44 pm, Mobius Loop

Reporting party requesting note be taken for sheriff running this town as a bozo; rambling on - not able to state what emergency is.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

2:35 am, Mobius Loop

Another call from reporting party stating "When are they gonna call me?" Speech extremely slurred and muffled, difficult to understand. Reporting party was advised law enforcement had tried multiple times to call him earlier tonight.

11:06 pm, S Main St.

Caller wanting to update that her retina is still damaged from van she reported earlier tonight. States van has moved down two residences south of location but is still in area. Concerned persons in van will damage other elderly persons eyes in area.

11:45 pm, Wellswood Ln.

Advising 18-year-old tenant is bringing people home who are not allowed to be there, ongoing problem, no issues being caused right now.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

10:47 am, Wellswood Ln.

Reporting party advising tenant is not supposed to have guests at location; reporting party advising called last night and subject never left - reporting party advising it's against the rules at location.

5:50 pm, Wellswood Ln.

Reporting party advising kids are getting "more bold," advising they just keep coming. Reporting party advising rents room in her house to female and they keep coming and going from location.

6:52 pm, Mariner Beach Dr.

Caller states has been driving behind silver Chevy pickup dragging a boat; caller feels driver is looking to leave boat in a county ditch, which they feel is illegal.

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

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Coupeville comes together to weather the COVID storm

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Coupeville is the latest Whidbey Island community to pull together to support Central Whidbey small businesses.

The Chamber of Commerce has announced it is launching a virtual shopping website to support businesses in Coupeville and Greenbank through COVID-19 and beyond.

"The website is designed to support local businesses either with or without their own websites," said the Chamber's Executive Director, Lynda Eccles. "Our aim is to help them generate sales through this platform in the short term. In the long term, I visualize this being a year round Virtual Coupeville, continuing to support our local merchants and a way for visitors to navigate our historic downtown, and Reserve, as well as online sales."

According to Eccles, this new opportunity has just been announced to local retail businesses, restaurants and lodging establishments throughout Central Whidbey, and will launch May 15. Deadline for businesses to turn in all their information is May 11. There is no cost to participate and all money from any sales will go directly to businesses. Chamber membership is not required.

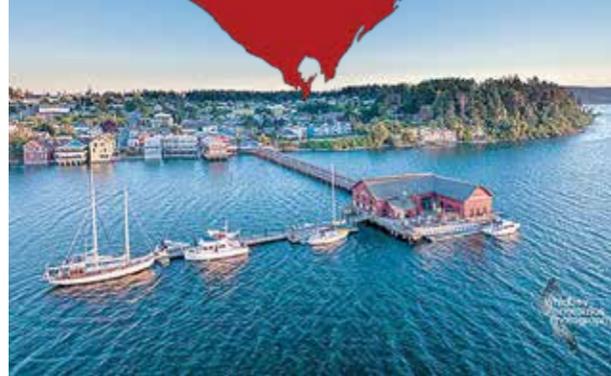
"For now, you don't have to be a member of the Chamber to apply," said Eccles. "If you are a retail business, restaurant or lodging, we are offering this free for the remainder of the year. Once [patrons] are on the page, they will select the business they are interested in viewing; if they decide to purchase, they can do it from the page. Payment goes directly to the business. We are also promoting gift certificates if the businesses are offering them."

Eccles said it doesn't matter whether a business has its own website or not – owners can choose from options that include business pages, e-commerce portals or gift certificate purchases.

The "Virtual Coupeville and Greenbank" page is very similar to the e-commerce platform "Altogether Langley," which the Langley Chamber of Commerce launched earlier this month (see the April 15 issue of *Whidbey Weekly*).

Meanwhile, the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association is offering a new micro-loan program for businesses that fall within the organization's boundaries. These "Light at the End of the Tunnel" loans – called LENT for short – will be available at little or no interest. CHWA started the program with \$20,000 in seed money, according to an announcement on its website.

"With 75 percent of historic waterfront businesses closed (making no income but still strapped with rent and other bills), \$20,000 is not a lot of money to help mitigate COVID-19 damage for businesses," reads the statement by CHWA Executive Director Vickie Chambers. "With that in mind, we are asking you to help generate more loans than we could alone."



Denis Hill Photo Courtesy of Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association
There are several efforts underway through the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce and the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association to help business in Central Whidbey survive the COVID-19 crisis.

"Along with our Facade Grant program, the LENT micro loan program can help ensure our friends and neighbors who own businesses...can face fallout of COVID-19 and unforeseen crises in the future," Chambers' statement continued. "We hope you'll see the benefit of the LENT micro loan program and will join us in investing in Coupeville. Together we'll be investing in Coupeville's long run during the COVID crisis and beyond."

Just how the town of Coupeville and the rest of Whidbey Island's communities have handled the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic is at the heart of another endeavor created by the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce. Eccles said board member Matt Iverson came up with the idea for each Island County chamber to put together a time capsule to commemorate this moment in our history.

"They are all on board and excited to be doing this," said Eccles. "The plan is for each chamber to have a time capsule in their community; we will be planning the individual ceremonies once we are through this pandemic."

"This is to let people know what we were doing during this time - our thoughts, memories, new hobbies. Sadly, this is a moment in history that our children, grandchildren and their children will be talking about for years to come. We want our future to know what it was like, our heroes, our stories."

Miranda Hoppock, executive director of the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, said she was happy to be asked to participate in creating a time capsule.

"These are treasures for future generations to be able to look back on and see how far we, as a society, have come - the advances we've made or the setbacks we've faced," she said. "It's valuable to show our generations where they came from, how they started, and what shaped our community to be what it is today, what it was yesterday, and what it will be tomorrow."

"As a child in elementary school my class buried a time capsule to be dug up when we graduated, since we were the class of 2000," Hoppock continued. "I still remember putting a floppy disk in the bin to be buried, thinking there was no way technology would get any more sophisticated than that since it was cutting edge at the time!"

Eccles said complete details on the time capsule project will be announced soon, along with size and item guidelines, drop off points and deadline. Current plans call for Coupeville's capsule to be buried by the town hall.

"We plan for the burial once it is safe for people to gather and we will announce it through the *Whidbey Weekly*," she said. "After speaking with the Mayor and getting the town's support of this project, we will be planning to open the capsule in 32 years, which will be the celebration of Coupeville's 200th anniversary."

"The last piece to go into [the capsule] before it is closed will be from Mayor Molly Hughes," continued Eccles. "One of our plans is to have some of our community children involved with the burial ceremony and hopefully they will be there at the opening of the capsule."

Those interested in participating should watch for details in *Whidbey Weekly* when they are available, and also by checking in with participating chambers.

"Share your experience during this time with future generations," encouraged Eccles. "Let them know we are #Coupeville Strong!; that we are - and always will be - an amazing community; that when this capsule is opened in 32 years when this community is healed and strong once more, they can learn from this and acknowledge the heroes of this time."

For information on Virtual Coupeville and Greenbank or the time capsule project, contact Eccles at director@coupevillechamber.com. For information on the LENT micro loan program, visit coupevillehistoricwaterfront.com.

HELP continued from page 7

"We've been fortunate to be able keep up with [the demand] and have even been able to give some extra, which is nice," Weiman said. "My concern is the supply line going forward. The meat [supply in particular], we're grabbing what we can. It's gonna get worse before it gets better."

"People are experiencing a range of needs, from food insecurities including the delivery of food, to help with laundry and hygiene items, help filling out unemployment applications, information about medical services and insurance, to at-home school supplies and the need for internet services, hotspots and mobile devices for students to participate in continuous learning," said Readiness to Learn Executive Director Gail Lavassar.

The organization, which works to serve the needs of students and families on South Whidbey, began to respond to the COVID-19 crisis almost immediately, said Lavassar, enabling them to broaden its range of community resource options.

"All staff pivoted and began outreach to the families we know to assure them we would be alongside helping to navigate resources and supports," she explained. "Our online Family Resource Center is one outcome of this new way to carry out our mission. We have also expanded our scope by assisting Good Cheer [Food Bank] in contacting their clients to inform them about new hours and procedures and to learn about needs."

"For example, within the online Resource Center, people will find the times the food

bank is open and its shopping list," Lavassar continued. "Likewise, the Whidbey Island Nourishes application and South Whidbey school meals form is there along with information about financial assistance. Resources are provided in both English and Spanish."

Just as needs are increasing among island residents, many local charitable organizations will be facing their own growing needs. With thrift stores being closed, both Island Senior Resources and Good Cheer have lost important financial lifelines. Help House and Readiness to Learn depend on donations and grants to get by. All of them will have both short and long term needs as the days progress.

"Honestly, our biggest need is financial support," said Lavassar. "Readiness to Learn has kept all our staff working. We are reliant on grants and donations. As this crisis continues to unfold and emergency grants are expended, we will need support from the local community more than ever to keep providing our highest level of services. This is especially important because more and more families are in need."

"With the increase in the Meals on Wheels numbers and the closure of our thrift store, we need funding to help us keep up with the increased food costs," said Bush, adding large nitrile gloves and disinfectant wipes are also needed. "Pledges and donations can be made on our website www.senior-resources.org or by mailing a check to Island Senior Resources, P.O. Box 939, Freeland, WA 98249. For more informa-



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Nourishes
Whidbey Island Nourishes is still providing sack lunches for youth enrolled in its weekend lunch program, and anticipates the need will increase when the school year ends.

tion on how to make a gift to Island Senior Resources, contact Charles LaFond, 360-210-3011."

"Our greatest need currently is monetary support of food-based programs like ours, Good Cheer and Meals on Wheels," Gardiner said. "Keeping people fed during these difficult times will help hold our community together."

"Our South Whidbey community has been incredibly generous," said Squire. "We are holding our own even without the revenues from the Thrift Stores. With the help of the available emergency loans to cover payroll, we're moving ahead with our storage plans. Donations are being used for food and operating supplies."

"We're investigating ways to be able to raise money to buy more produce from our local farmers, who will be struggling this summer

to sell their produce that would normally go to tourists and restaurants," Squire continued. "Investing in the local food system will make our community even more resilient."

Weiman said immediate needs for Help House include pasta, canned/packaged tuna and canned chicken. She also said as the growing season progresses, they would welcome donations of fresh produce and fruit such as apples, plums and pears.

"On the other side of that, this community has been amazing," she said. "It's not uncommon for us to get 15 people a day pulling in to tell us they've got stuff for us. I just want to say thank you to everyone."

Find North Whidbey Help House on Facebook for information and go to www.goodcheer.org, www.senior-resources.org, www.whidbeyislandnourishes.org or www.readiness-tolearn.org for more resources.

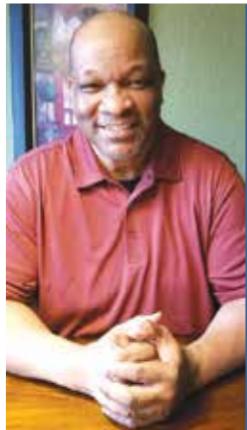


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CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...3.5

Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Answers below

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	2				9		8	5
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pregnant? Need baby clothes? We have them and the price is right—FREE. Pregnancy Care Clinic, open most Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 4pm. Call 360-221-2909 or stop by 6th and Cascade in Langley. 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@servalat-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
 If you or someone you know has been a victim of homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, identity theft, fraud, human trafficking, home invasion and other crimes not listed. Victim Support Services has advocates ready to help. Please call the 24-hr Crisis Line 888-388-9221. Free service. Visit our web site at <http://victimsupportservices.org>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Habitat Stores depend on enthusiastic volunteers to help carry out our mission. We are looking for volunteers to help us with customer service, merchandise intake, store up-keep, organization and pick-ups of donated items. If you have two (2) hours or more per week to donate, please join us in our mission to create affordable housing in our community by volunteering at our Oak Harbor Store. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm and Sun, 11am-4pm. Please

contact Tony Persson if you are interested in volunteering at our Oak Harbor store (290 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277): 360-675-8733, tony@islandcountyhabitat.org. For our Freeland store (1592 Main Street, Freeland WA 98249), please contact John Schmidt: 360-331-6272, john@islandcountyhabitat.com. Habitat for Humanity of Island County, www.islandcountyhabitat.org, 360-679-9444.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the PBY-Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pbymf.org and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself. Imagine Oak Harbor's first Food Forest, Saturdays 11am-3pm, at 526 Bayshore Drive.

Each week, we have volunteer opportunities available to help care for our community garden, share organic gardening tips, and learn Permaculture principles. All ages and skill levels welcome. Schedule can change due to adverse weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact us at: imagineapermacultureworld@gmail.com

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

Looking for board members to join the dynamic board of Island Senior Resources and serve the needs of Island County Seniors. Of particular interest are representatives from North Whidbey. For more information please contact: reception@islandseniorservices.org

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ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

Emergency Pet Food Bank: We are a grassroots group committed to assisting you with pet food and similar needs during this challenging time. Contact Rita Bartell Drum, 631-707-5980 or email ritadrum777@gmail.com (0)

Excellent grass hay, good for horses, \$7 per bale. 20 bale minimum. 360-321-1624

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

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

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

How'd you do?

1	4	9	8	5	7	3	2	6
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Pam's Prayer Corner

In honor of my late mother-in-law, Pamela Kaye Young, we are going to be running a new weekly section called Pam's Prayer Corner. This is a place where believers can share their prayer requests for others to help lift them up in faith. The prayers can be for you, a family member, or anything weighing on your soul. Email info@whidbeyweekly.com or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.

Please send prayers of healing for Jenelle in Portland, Ore. Last week, the 35-year-old had a sudden seizure, went into cardiac arrest and was placed on life support. Lord, please lend skills to the hands of her healers and bless the means used for her cure. Please alleviate the worry and sorrow of her family and friends, grant them grace and strength to accept this burden. Please help them to understand that everything is part of your plan.

You restored me to health and let me live. Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

~ Isaiah 38:16-17



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CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

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 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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 Telephone.....(360)682-2341
 Fax(360)682-2344

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD. Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$10/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling \$1,000 and above. We do charge \$25 to include a photo. The FREE classified space is not for business use. No classified is accepted without phone number. We reserve the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be published twice consecutively. If you would like your ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it. Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.

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