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Whidbey Weekly

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



As Shakey Spear once said, *To vaccine or not to vaccine. That is the question.*

I have never had a flu shot.

Not since the barrage of shots we got in boot camp.

I couldn't salute for a week.

Needles have never been my forte, although I do have the 45 rpm of the Searchers singing *Needles and Pins*.

Many people have told me not to get the vaccine. The lady said we would have chip juice installed in our bodies so we would know when to turn right.

Works for me. UPS has been doing it for a long time.

I don't want to be political.

I just want to be alive.

If you would like to share why you will or won't get the shot, feel free to use a fake name and send to ontrack@whidbey.com.

If you do not have a computer, call me. I am in the book, but I don't take shorthand, so please speak with a slowness.

Advice from An Old Farmer

Thanks to our older young granddaughter, Malia Mae, the following is hereby shared. Wonder why she thought I needed this information.

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

Facebook info

You may have already seen this. Being a guy who seldom checks email, it is new to me. These are the top songs being played on the social distancing juke box. If you do not know these songs, you must be listening to Alice in Chains or Edith Piaf.

Don't Stand So Close To Me – The Police

Too Much Time On My Hands – Styx

Dancing with Myself – Billy Idol

Keep Your Hands To Yourself – Georgia Satellites

U Can't Touch This – M C Hammer

I Think We're Alone Now – Tommy James and the Shondells

All By Myself – Eric Carmen

Don't Come Around Here No More – Tom Petty

I Ran So Far Away – Flock of Seagulls

Alone – Heart

I think the web jokers missed Peggy March's *I Will Follow Him*, The Beatles' *I Wanna Hold Your Hand*, and the Beach Boys' *In My Room*.

Swedish wisdom

Last week's column with puns from Alabama brought this addition from my sister-in-law, Giti. Given our strong Scandinavian readership here at the *Whidbey Weekly*, many of you will understand without the translation.

Allting har en ände, men en korv har två... or, in English, *Everything has an ending, but a sausage has two!*

Colorado via Kentucky

Rockies Reader Robert shared the following regarding his lifelong appreciation of being a charter member of the "clean plate club" mentioned in a recent column. Thanks much to Robert for sharing.

"When I was a pre-schooler at home in Louisville, Kentucky, every day at lunch time I would be in front of the TV watching *Uncle Ed and the Magic Forest* on a local station while eating my lunch. That's because every day Uncle Ed, along with his magic sidekick Sylvester the Duck, ate their lunch on a tree stump in the studio, along with us kids in TV land. Every day when it was time to say goodbye, Uncle Ed would say, 'So long like a hotdog,' or 'See you round like a donut.' At some point I adopted these two phrases and now use them whenever I bid farewell to people. I once told my Barbara that the inscription on my gravestone should read, 'So long like a hotdog' and 'See you round like a donut' as my parting message to those I'm leaving behind. A rather elegant way to bid adieu, don't you think?"

Christmas

A quick check of the web revealed this Q and A for any one's holiday social distancing.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing – it was on the house.

What do donkeys send out near Christmas?
Mule-tide greetings.

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot?
"Get out of my face."

A gingerbread man went to the doctor complaining of a sore knee.
"A sore knee?" the doctor said. "Have you tried icing it?"

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsillitis.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
They're always dropping their needles.

Hanukkah

Thanks to JuicyQuotes.com, these were listed among the first reasons to celebrate Hanukkah.

- * No roof damage from reindeer
- * No silent night
- * If the gift giver blows it, there are seven more days to correct it
- * You can use your fireplace
- * No Christmas songs

As I tell my friends and my kids if they listened, be careful with the Internet. The answer may be only as good as the question.

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



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It is with a sad and heavy heart that we, the Whidbey Island Lions Club, Blue Fox Drive In and Toppins Frozen Yogurt have had to make the difficult decision to cancel our Christmas Village Event for 2020. This decision was due to the state mandated restrictions and group limitations imposed by our Governor, as well as the rise in COVID-19 cases reported statewide. We felt that it would be in the best interest for the health and safety of our community to responsibly cancel this event. The Whidbey Island Lions Club wishes to acknowledge their community partners, the Blue Fox Drive In, Toppins Frozen Yogurt, Oak Harbor Country Store, Island County 4-H Clubs, the Oak Harbor High School NJROTC and Whidbey Island Macaroni Kid, without their dedicated support the Christmas Village would not be possible. It is our sincere wish for health and happiness for all of our community members and their families as we look forward to a brighter and prosperous year for all in 2021!

Thank you for your continued support on behalf of the Whidbey Island Lions Club

Merry Christmas





Bits & Pieces

New "Best Travel Times" Gives Transit Riders More Options

Island Transit now offers customers "Best Travel Times" information to further support social distancing practices during the pandemic by avoiding buses running at high capacity. The information now appears next to the bus schedules on the agency's website. By providing this information, the agency hopes to empower riders to make informed decisions with options to protect their health and safety.

"Information is a powerful thing. As we all move through this public health crisis together, we want riders to be informed and make choices that are best for them," says Todd Morrow, Island Transit Executive Director. "We're doing our part by limiting seating on the bus to allow for social distancing. Best Travel Times gives passengers the opportunity to do their part by choosing routes and schedules that typically run with fewer riders."

Since March, seating has been limited to 11 passengers on two-door buses and eight passengers on one-door buses during the pandemic. Morrow says early in the pandemic ridership was low, making social distancing easy. Between March and July, the agency saw a 30 percent increase in ridership.

"Customer's confidence is building and people are slowly returning to ride the bus," says Morrow, who credits Island Transit's front-line staff for their heroic efforts to keep public transit running during the pandemic and slow the spread of the virus by implementing rigorous health and safety guidelines. "With more riders and limited seating, there are some routes at certain times of the day that are starting to get crowded and that concerns us all. We're asking those who can make changes to their trips to use this information to find other times to ride."

If buses are full, some passengers may need to wait for the next bus; a possible 30- to 60-minute delay. Although Island Transit dispatches a back-up bus to ease crowding when possible, back-ups are dependent on available buses and coach operators, so are not guaranteed.

"Best Travel Times is another tool in the arsenal to fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus," says Morrow. "Our goal is to serve the essential travel needs of Island County residents in a safe and responsible manner during the pandemic. In addition to seating limits, face mask requirements and stringently sanitizing buses daily, this is one more thing we can do. We hope our riders will find the information useful to protect themselves and others. We really are in this together."

Best Travel Times can be found on the Island Transit website at www.islandtransit.org/routes-and-schedules. The information is color coded to make it easy to read at a glance; and will be updated weekly.

Key to Best Travel Times

Green = Low Ridership: Good time to ride to maintain distancing.

Yellow = Moderate Ridership

Red = High Ridership: Seating may not be available.

Learn more about Island Transit's commitments to passenger health and safety during the pandemic at www.islandtransit.org/commitments.

[Submitted by Selene Muldowney-Stratton, Marketing & Communications Officer, Island Transit]

Holiday Meal News

Island Senior Resources is offering take-out holiday meals Wednesday, Dec. 23 from 11:30AM to 12:30PM at Island Senior Resources (Bayview), CamBey Apartments in Coupeville, The Center at Oak Harbor, and Camano Center. Donations for the meal are requested to help keep the program going, but no one will be turned away if unable to donate. There is a limited supply of meals; first come, first served.

If you need to start Meals on Wheels deliveries, please call Mark MacNaughton, 360-321-1615 and your Holiday Meal will be delivered.

[Submitted by Robin Bush, Island Senior Resources]

The Economic Development Council for Island County Adds Business Advisor to their Team

Kristina Hines, a business professional with nearly 20 years of experience in business administration, HR and digital marketing, has joined the Economic Development Council for Island County (EDCIC) to provide no-cost, confidential advice to business owners and entrepreneurs who want to start, grow or buy/sell a business.

"With her skills and expertise, Kristina will be a tremendous asset to business owners and entrepreneurs throughout the county," said Sharon Sappington, executive director of the EDCIC.

While located within the EDCIC, Hines is an employee of the Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC), a network of more than 30 business advisors working in communities across the state to provide one-on-one assistance in any area of business development. This is the first time an SBDC advisor has been located in Island County.

Sappington, who was an international trade advisor with the SBDC before joining EDCIC, said SBDC advisors provide in-depth assistance to business owners in any industry, from retail to restaurants to professional services, and at every stage of business development. And now with COVID, this assistance is even more important than ever for small businesses in Island County.

"SBDC advisors have no agenda but helping businesses succeed, so SBDC clients can trust their advisor to be objective, transparent and focused on what matters," Sappington said.

Hines said she is looking forward to working with business owners and entrepreneurs in Island County and intends to offer "best-in-class" business advising.

"Every small business has its own unique story, a tale of grit and unmatched determination, and with that story comes a dynamic set of circumstances and individual challenges," Hines said.

"There is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to the decisions business owners must make," Hines said, and that's why having an expert business advisor to help identify and evaluate options is so important.

"I am a firm believer that collaboration yields the best results," she said.

Hines' experience includes five years as a business consultant in Pennsylvania, as well as executive and leadership positions at Pratt & Whitney, a global aerospace manufacturer, Vulcan Capital and Baran Telecom.

Hines earned a master's degree in mass communications from the University of Florida with a specialization in integrated marketing and social/digital media. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in international relations, with a specialization in international political economy. She is also a trained mediator with the Skagit, Snohomish and Island County Dispute Resolution Center.

SBDC business advisors provide technical assistance to address any challenges business owners face, including financial literacy, cash flow management, access to capital,

marketing plans, selling online, strategic planning, business systems or starting an export program.

While SBDC business advisors are located in more than 20 communities across the state, they collaborate frequently to ensure every SBDC client has access to the best expertise in the SBDC network. While one advisor might have special expertise in social media, another might have decades of experience in banking.

All Washington SBDC advisors are currently working remotely and use a variety of ways to connect with clients, including Zoom, other online platforms, telephone calls, and emails. The network includes people fluent in Spanish, Mandarin, French, Swahili, Laotian and Thai.

Washington State University is the statewide host of the Washington SBDC and provides administrative and funding support. The Washington SBDC receives half its funding from state and local stakeholders and the other half from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Hines' position is supported by the Economic Development Council for Island County

To contact Kristina Hines, call 360-678-6889 or email kristina.hines@wsbdc.org.

To contact the EDCIC, call 360-678-6889 or email info@edcislandcounty.org.

[Submitted by Sharon Sappington, EDCIC Executive Director]

Sno-Isle Libraries Joins King County Partnership to Expand Job-Search Help

Sno-Isle Libraries is joining a partnership with The Seattle Public Library and the King County Library System to bring personalized, compassionate job search assistance to Sno-Isle Libraries customers.

The service, Your Next Job, is open to all job seekers who live in any of the three library districts and it does not require a library card to use. It offers free, one-on-one help with job searching and unemployment information using online meetings, email, text messages or phone calls.

The Seattle Public Library launched Your Next Job in July 2020 with the King County Library System (KCLS) and Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) as a community resource to help workers who lost hours or a job as coronavirus restrictions forced many businesses to cut staff hours or eliminate positions. Your Next Job is intentionally designed for workers with barriers to employment, such as lack of digital proficiency, limited English language or work skills, and those with a disability.

Sno-Isle Libraries joined the partnership Dec. 7.

"We're really excited to join this regional partnership in support of job seekers and promoting information literacy skills," said Sno-Isle Libraries Adult Services Coordinator Emily Felt. "It's a great service."

"With the addition of Sno-Isle to this unique partnership, Your Next Job is able to reach even more people who face barriers to finding employment," said Marion Scichilone, assistant managing librarian at The Seattle Public Library, who helped design the service. "We are thrilled to work with fellow library systems and partners like Seattle Jobs Initiative to respond to the devastating loss of jobs in our community as a result of COVID-19."

"The crisis in jobs and employment caused by the pandemic impacts all of our communities, regardless of which library system serves them," said Audrey Barbakoff, Community Engagement and Economic Development manager with the King County Library System. "That's why KCLS, SPL and now Sno-Isle Libraries have come together in an innovative partnership to support job seekers throughout our region with Your Next Job."

The Seattle Public Library's website serves as the entry portal for Your Next Job. Job seekers can access the service at webpages in English (spl.org/YourNextJob), Spanish (spl.org/SuProximoTrabajo) and simplified Chinese (spl.org/YourNextJob-zh). Job seekers can also access

Consider These Year-end Financial Moves

We're nearing the end of 2020 – and for many of us, it will be a relief to turn the calendar page on this challenging year. However, we've still got a few weeks left, which means you have time to make some year-end financial moves that may work in your favor.

Here are a few suggestions:

• **Add to your IRA.** For the 2020 tax year, you can put in up to \$6,000 to your traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older. If you haven't reached this limit, consider adding some money. You actually have until April 15, 2021, to contribute to your IRA for 2020, but the sooner you put the money in, the quicker it can go to work for you. Plus, if you have to pay taxes in April, you'll be less likely to contribute to your IRA then.

• **Make an extra 401(k) payment.** If it's allowed by your employer, put in a little extra to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. And if your salary goes up next year, increase your regular contributions.

• **See your tax advisor.** It's possible that you could improve your tax situation by making some investment-related moves. For example, if you sold some investments whose value has increased, you could incur capital gains taxes. To offset these gains, you could sell other investments that have lost value, assuming these investments are no longer essential to your financial strategy. Your tax advisor can evaluate this type of move, along with others, to determine those that may be appropriate for your situation.

• **Review your investment mix.** As you consider your portfolio, think about the events of these past 12 months and how you responded to them. When COVID-19 hit early in the year, and the financial markets plunged, did you find yourself worrying constantly about the losses you were taking, even though they were just on "paper" at that point? Did you even sell investments to "cut your losses" without waiting for a market recovery? If so, you might want to consult with a financial professional to determine if your investment mix is still appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance, or if you need to make some changes.

• **Evaluate your need for retirement plan withdrawals.** If you are 72 or older, you must start taking withdrawals – technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you must take these RMDs by December 31 every year. However, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act suspended, or waived, all RMDs due in 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

• **Think about the future.** Are you saving enough for your children's college education? Are you still on track toward the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned? Or have your retirement plans changed as a result of the pandemic? All of these issues can affect your investment strategies, so you'll want to think carefully about what decisions you may need to make.

Looking back – and ahead – can help you make the moves to end 2020 on a positive note and start 2021 on the right foot.

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



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Your Next Job by calling 206-386-4636 or emailing jobhelp@spl.org. All Your Next Job services are available for speakers of Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya and Vietnamese.

Applicants submit their contact information, describe the help they need, choose their available days and times, and pick their preferred method of contact. Your Next Job services are available Monday through Saturday.

The core of the service is a one-on-one appointment with a librarian, by phone or online. After assessing a participant's needs, a librarian can offer help with basic technology skills, a new unemployment claim, suggesting new work skills, reviewing resume resources, applying for a new job, finding interview coaching resources, and referrals to community and social service organizations.

Librarians can also suggest a variety of free online classes and self-study resources. All three library systems offer online proctoring and certification in Microsoft and Adobe software programs. Sno-Isle Libraries also offers online proctoring and certification for Quickbooks.

"Your Next Job services are designed to help customers navigate the wealth of information available to them," Felt said.

However, your Next Job can't help customers with existing unemployment claims. The Washington Department of Labor and Industries manages all claims once they are filed.

In follow-up surveys by The Seattle Public Library, job seekers described the support they received as attentive, helpful, tailored to their needs and compassionate, Scichilone said.

Three Sno-Isle Libraries librarians with job-search expertise will help with Your Next Job, Felt said.

"We're looking forward to helping our communities find information and community organizations that can assist Your Next Job participants in finding their next job and reaching their career goals," Felt said.

While each session is limited to 30 minutes, librarians know many customers will need more than one appointment to get adequate attention. It's a relationship that takes time to build, she said, "especially in the vulnerable space of the job search."

"We're really looking forward to working closely with our neighbors in Seattle and King County to support the economic viability of our region as a whole," Felt said.

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

WhidbeyHealth Celebrates the Retirement of a Predominant Provider in Healthcare on Whidbey Island

WhidbeyHealth would like to honor Dr. Tony Bartley as he retires from practice at its Primary Care Clinic at Cabot Drive, in Oak Harbor. WhidbeyHealth would like to celebrate Dr. Bartley's impact on healthcare in our community and organization over the past 35 plus years.

Dr. Bartley was one of the pioneers of healthcare for Whidbey Island. After completing his residency in Charleston, N.C., and different periods of active duty in the Navy, he and Dr. Jerald Sanders opened their practice, Oak Harbor Medical Center, July 15, 1985. In 1990, Dr. Douglas Langrock joined Drs. Bartley and Sanders as the three healthcare providers at the practice. Every day was unique at Oak Harbor Medical Center, as their focus was Family Medicine, but often took on cases based on the needs of the community – late night home visits, partnering with Whidbey General Hospital for special procedures, and generally being available for the needs of the community when an emergency medical situation arose. The care for the community continued for over a decade until the practice evolved and changed into Whidbey Community Physicians, and is now WhidbeyHealth Primary Care, Cabot Drive. The name of the practice may have changed since the start of Dr. Bartley's service to the community, but his compassion never wavered. After years of

dedication and service to the island, Dr. Bartley continually went above and beyond to serve the needs of this community. His dedication, knowledge, mentorship, and patient care will be missed. The WhidbeyHealth family congratulates Dr. Bartley on the next adventure in his life.

WhidbeyHealth is always looking for passionate and talented individuals to join its team for provider, nursing, clinical, support services, or administrative positions. For more information about employment opportunities, please visit: whidbeyhealth.org/careers.

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

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

Private In-Home Providers (PIP) List

Are you looking for help? Not sure who to hire for odd jobs around the house? Or maybe you are in search of a caregiver who is the right fit for your spouse or family member and will provide you with some much-needed respite time. Island Senior Resource's Private In-home Provider (PIP) list might have just the person you need. Each provider on the list has passed a background check and community members are able to give feedback on their experience.

You can download the most current list from www.senior-resources.org/private-in-home-provider/ or call 360-321-1600 or 360-678-3373 to have it sent to you. The list is updated every Friday to ensure that you have access to the most current list of providers available. If you are a provider offering your services to our community, you can use the same link and it will take you to the application for providers.

Please Note: Inclusion on this list does not constitute an affiliation or employment with Island Senior Resources.

[Submitted by Robin Bush, Island Senior Resources]



Dr. Mina Yousef
Hospitalist
(Inpatient Physician)

SOME HEROES GIVE COMPASSIONATELY

"Dr. Yousef is hardworking, kind and compassionate to our patients. He is always responsive and positively supportive to our nurses and ancillary staff. I am so glad he is part of our WhidbeyHealth Team. He is truly a hero in my eyes."

Dr. Yousef is a **real healthcare hero.**

Dr. Mina Yousef is amazing. During our COVID explosion in April, he worked tirelessly. He worked 14 hour days, 14 days in a row and was always in good spirits with his patients as well as our staff. His manner, his passionate care and his smile, even behind the mask, is ever-present. He is the essence of what makes a WhidbeyHealth Hero.

Thank you Dr. Yousef.



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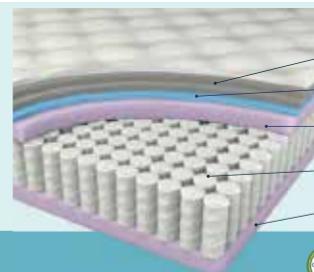
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“The Nutcracker” dances onto the big screen

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Enjoy the magic of Whidbey Island Dance Theatre’s (WIDT) annual production of “The Nutcracker,” a beloved holiday classic with an island twist, from the comfort of home (or a car) this year.

The production, which is normally performed live, will instead be featured as a film at the Blue Fox Drive-In Theater Sunday at 6:30 p.m. (\$40 per carload when purchased in advance at www.widtonline.org, \$50 per carload at the drive-in box office). For those looking to bring the holiday magic home, the play will be available to stream as a 72-hour rental for \$15 on the WIDT website starting Friday through Jan. 5 or on DVD for \$20.

Charlene Brown, co-artistic director at WIDT, said it was important to continue the show – even if it had to be presented in a different format due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“It is especially in times like this we hold on to traditions. It is a time to gather with family and remember why seeing ‘The Nutcracker’ or being in ‘The Nutcracker’ means so much,” she said. “Dancers look forward to their participation in this show. It’s their time to dance a character role and work on their artistry – filming our show made all of this possible!”

Chyler White, who plays the role of Clara, said she knows going to see the holiday special is a tradition for many Whidbey Islanders and she and her fellow dancers are grateful to have the chance to present the ballet this year.

“In the midst of everything that is going on in the world, I think it is really important to still keep those traditions alive because everyone has been stuck at home and we are all not able to do as much as we are normally able to,” she said. “I think this is just a really great way to still have those things in your life.”

Elliauna McLean, assistant artistic director for WIDT, said translating a stage production to a film format brought a number of challenges.

“Filming a show versus performing live are two very different processes; we are so thankful to have had the help of Nick Dubesa’s (videographer) expertise in making our transition to film as smooth as possible,” she said. “When performing live we have more time to practice and perfect each scene, in filming that time is much shorter. This is something that both we and our dancers had to adjust to.”

Brown said the film will feature the classic story of the Nutcracker with a Pacific Northwestern flair. Clara (played by White) is given a magical Nutcracker, and dreamlike adventures ensue.

“For us, as artistic directors, it was important to keep our ‘Nutcracker’ storyline the same,” she said. “Even though our stage space is much smaller and our cast is much smaller (because of COVID times), making the changes presented challenges, but wasn’t overly difficult. We put our heads together on how to adapt this show. The dancers are resilient and our seasoned choreographers made it all possible.”



Michael Stadler Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Dance Theatre
Masks, along with other safety guidelines, were incorporated throughout rehearsals and filming of this year’s production of “The Nutcracker.”

McLean said while “The Nutcracker” is typically performed at South Whidbey High School’s auditorium, this year filming will take place at the Whidbey Children’s Theatre as well as at various local areas.

“Being able to film a portion of our ‘Nutcracker’ at locations throughout Whidbey was something that has been important to us since the idea of a filmed ‘Nutcracker’ was first brought to the table,” she said. “We are hoping seeing local sites sprinkled into our story will make our local viewers feel like a part of the magic.”

In addition to changes in how the production would be presented, safety protocols were also a key piece of preparation for this year’s production. Brittany Falso, co-artistic director, said guidelines including temperature checks, screening questions and the incorporation of masks were all part of this year’s rehearsals and filming.

“We all wore masks during the duration of the filming process,” she said. “Some solo work was able to be filmed with the dancer mask-less. It was definitely different to dance in masks but everyone adapted well and we had masks made and decorated to match the costumes, so it made it fun in some way!”

White, a senior at South Whidbey High School, said in spite of the challenges of putting together a show this year, she and her fellow performers look forward to sharing the final product with others on screens big and small.

“I am really excited for people to see it,” she said. “Although it is different, it is still going to be a really amazing way to be able to watch something like this.”

Falso said the year has presented many challenges for the arts. WIDT is a nonprofit organization and typically hosts a number of fundraisers throughout the year to help support dance on the island. “The Nutcracker” is one of WIDT’s largest fundraisers and Falso encouraged community members to support the performance as well as explore the options to donate on the WIDT website for those interested in doing so.

“We want to continue to keep dance alive on Whidbey Island for many years to come!” she said.

Falso added WIDT is thankful for the opportunity to share a holiday classic with Whidbey Island residents this year.

“We appreciate all the support and excitement surrounding our filmed version of ‘The Nutcracker,’” she said. “We do this so our community has something that sparks joy, imagination and tradition during the holiday season.”

For more information, visit www.widtonline.org.



Michael Stadler Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Dance Theatre

“The Nutcracker” will be featured at the Blue Fox Drive-In Theater Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Viewers can also stream the holiday production via the Whidbey Island Dance Theatre’s website from Dec. 11 to Jan. 5 for \$15 or purchase the film as a DVD for \$20.



What's Going On

All entries are listed chronologically, unless there are multiple entries for the same venue or are connected to a specific organization (such as Sno-Isle Libraries) in which case all entries for that venue or organization are listed collectively in chronological order under one heading.

Holiday Market

Through December 10
www.staugustinesholidaymarket.org

Online store featuring one-of-a-kind crafts and gifts. Proceeds go to local charities. Orders can be picked up at 5217 Honeymoon Bay Road, Freeland. Visit www.staugustinesholidaymarket.org.

Shop Out For Kids

Thursday, December 10, 11:00AM-5:00PM
Aqua Gifts, 2 Front St, Coupeville

Aqua Gifts will donate a portion of its sales to the Coupeville Schools Foundation. The Foundation provides an extra measure of support through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund.

South Whidbey Fire/EMS Santa's Sleigh

Thursday, December 10, 5:30-7:30PM
Friday, December 11, 5:30-7:30PM
Saturday, December 12, 4:30-7:30PM
Bayview Fire Station, Langley

An annual tradition since 1995. Drive up the hill to enjoy lights, music, decorations, goody bags and greetings from Santa. Remain in your vehicle and follow safety guidelines. The Bayview Fire Station is located at 5579 Bayview Road. For more information, visit SWFE.org.

Dine Out For Kids

Friday, December 11, 9:00am-3:00pm
Little Red Hen, 4 Front St, Coupeville

Little Red Hen Bakery will donate a portion of its sales to the Coupeville Schools Foundation. The Foundation provides an extra measure of support through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund. For menu offerings see www.littleredhenbakerywhidbey.com.

Tilth Winter Market

Sunday, December 13, 11:00AM-2:00PM
2812 Thompson Road, Langley

Featuring hot food and beverages, produce, baked goods, swags, wreaths and garlands, soaps, gifts and more. SNAP EBT customers and credit card payments welcome. COVID safety rules are in place, please wear a mask when attending. High wind, snow or ice cancels. For more information, visit www.southwhidbeytilth.org or on Facebook.

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue Santa Neighborhood Tours

Friday, December 11
Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington
Monday, December 14
Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive
Wednesday, December 16
Holmes Harbor, North Bluff
Friday, December 18
Lagoon Pt., Dines Pt, Honeymoon Bay
Monday, December 21
Race Road, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

Neighborhood tours start around 5:30PM each night. All dates are subject to weather conditions. Please see www.cwifr.org to track Santa's whereabouts and more specific route information. CWIFR will be accepting non-perishable food bank donations. Please call 678-3602 or visit www.cwfire.org for further details.

Annual Holiday Food Drive

Through December 16
South Whidbey K-4 Campus, Langley

Bins located at main entrance. Accepting packaged non-perishable food items. Suggested items needed: peanut butter, jam, chili, soups, biscuit mix, tomato products, fruit juice, beans, rice, flour, sugar, canned fruits and vegetables etc. The school is located at 5380 Maxwellton Rd.

Winter Wonderland Drive-Through

Friday, December 18, 5:00-7:00PM
Heller Road Fire Station, Oak Harbor

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue hosts a drive-through holiday event featuring a sighting of Santa Claus and a special mailbox where you can deliver your letter to him, just in time for Christmas. Children who leave their phone number in their letter can expect a special phone call from Santa Claus. Guests are welcome to bring a new, unwrapped toy or gift for a child ages 0-18, there will be a collection for "Toys for Tots." Admission is free, all are welcome. Heller Road Fire Station is located at 2720 Heller Road. Visit nwfr.org for more information.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below

Cost: Free

Craft and Chat: Wool Handwarmers

Friday, December 11, 11:00AM

Craft and Chat is an online social event that offers you the opportunity to skill share, learn about library resources and make connections with fellow crafters. In this Craft and Chat session we will create wool handwarmers. This meeting takes place on Zoom. To get a Zoom invitation, please register. Email address is required.

Books2Movies: Where'd You Go, Bernadette

Friday, December 18, 2:00PM

Read or listen to the book, watch the movie, then join us online for a lively discussion. Brandon Henry, who works at The Clyde Theater in Langley, leads the discussion. This month's title: *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple is about a misanthropic matriarch who leaves her eccentric family during a crisis and mysteriously disappears. It is set in the Seattle area. This meeting takes place on Zoom. To receive a Zoom invitation, please register. An email address is required.

Meetings & Organizations

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS) Holiday Get Together

Tuesday, December 15, 1:00PM

(sign in 10 mins. early)

Zoom meeting

Join us in member sharing holiday memories/activities. Learn how to build a Christmas Village. Non WIGS members wishing to attend, send an email to whidbeygensearchers@gmail.com no later than December 12 to receive your Zoom invitation. All are invited to join.

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Greenbank Farm Wine Shop
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greenbankfarmwineshop.com
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Little Red Hen Bakery
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prairie-perks.square.site
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Take Out



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There's still time to donate to Toys for Tots

By Alec Brown Whidbey Weekly

Many things have been disrupted this holiday season, but it's business as usual for Toys for Tots on Whidbey Island. Donations are being accepted through Dec. 20, and better yet, what's donated on Whidbey, stays on Whidbey.

Coordinating this effort on North Whidbey are retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Tom Bond, a member of the Oak Harbor Lions Club, and Bobbi Lornson, who is handling volunteers and toy distribution. The collection area stretches from Greenbank to Deception Pass.

Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation became a registered nonprofit in 1991 and helps administer the nationwide program, which is all about providing toys to underprivileged children at Christmas.

Locally, Bond and Lornson have been coordinating this program for a while now.

"I've been doing it for about five years," said Lornson. "Tom has been doing it for longer than that. There used to be a Marine Corps League here in the north end, and it has dissipated—gone away. There's still a Marine Corps league on the south end. So currently we answer to the Marine Corps League in [Washington] D.C. with all the reporting and everything. But Tom and I are the actual sponsors right now."

The toys received will be donated to local children around Whidbey. They provide toys to children from birth to age 18. Donations are sorted by sex and age group and each child receives three gifts and three stocking stuffers.

The process of sorting gifts out for hundreds of kids is exactly as complicated as one would think.

"It's really hard because I don't ask what the



Photo Courtesy of Teresa Addison

Tom Bond and Bobbi Lornson are coordinating Whidbey's Toys for Tots effort this year for the Oak Harbor Lions Club.

child wants when people donate a gift, they just donate a gift," said Lornson. "So the child wants this specific package that I may not have. And rather than disappoint them, you know, if they tell me they like dinosaurs, then I can go in that general area—but if they want a specific thing, I don't want them to be disappointed. It's kinda tough, but I hope nobody is ever disappointed."

Cash donations are used for the more difficult gifts.

"With cash, I have to go out and buy," Lornson stated. "There are certain age groups that people don't think of...We get a lot of trucks and superheroes and all that kind of stuff. But that 14-year-old boy isn't gonna want that. A 1-year-old wouldn't have a clue—he would just want the box, probably.

That's where the money goes. And also for stocking stuffers. Especially for the older ones. Nothing's cheap when you're 16. So I really have to look hard to find things."

Though they have to juggle many expectations, the charity aims to deliver a balanced set of gifts.

"We try to give every family a game and book in addition to what the kids might get," Lornson continued. "Toys for Tots is big on literacy, so books are very important to us, and a game to maybe spend some family time together.

As if it hasn't been said enough, this year is unique. Lornson said they need more toys than ever, and it's been a struggle to continue the charity this holiday season.

"Last week we had what we call 'Stuff the Truck' while we were at Walmart," Lornson said. "They usually let us drive more often because people buy more. We had a good reception over Saturday and Sunday, but overall, I don't believe we got what we've gotten in the past. And this other group that used to participate—did about 400 children—now those children aren't always the same every year, but we're going to have to absorb the same amount of children or more this year. So I'm not sure how all of this is going to work. Holiday House has changed its manner of doing things and is having appointments and people will drive by and pick up their bag of gifts, but there's only so much time. So all the extras, I'm not sure how this is all going to work out."

Despite the challenges, Lornson isn't letting gloom get in the way of anyone's Christmas.

"If there's a child on the 24th that isn't going to get presents, I will deliver them," she stated. "I've been opening presents with my great-granddaughter and my family before and had somebody call and had to leave. I say 'I'll be back!' Tom and I get the toys and drive them out. Can you picture them not seeing anything? I can't. I want a smile on every child's face on Christmas."

Help is still needed this year. Lornson only has one volunteer—and the two of them have to do an entire elf workshop's worth of work.

"I don't get a lot of volunteers," she said. "We're in a shed, we have a heater—it's not the most comfy thing in the world I guess."

In the end, said Lornson, the Toys for Tots effort is a collaboration among groups, not a competition.

"In the past, people thought we were competing, like Holiday House and Toys for

See TOYS continued on page 11

GREEN TICKET CASH GIVEAWAY

Walk, Shop, Dine in Historic Downtown Oak Harbor

NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 18, 2020

Earn a GREEN TICKET for every \$20 purchase* at participating merchants between November 1 and December 18, 2020 and be entered to win \$1000 CASH, \$500 CASH OR A \$100 Main Street Gift Certificate!

Drawing will be held at 4pm on Saturday, December 19.

Must be 18 years older to participate. Do not need to be present to win.

*1 ticket per \$20 purchase with a maximum of 50 tickets per individual transaction up to \$1000.

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Location: Bayview Fire Station, 5579 Bayview Road

Dates: Thursday, December 10, Friday, December 11 & Saturday, December 12

Times: Thursday & Friday 5:30pm-7:30pm • Saturday 4:30pm-7:30pm

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This holiday season sponsor a luminaria for only \$25 to pay tribute to that special person or pet in your life. Your luminaria will light our main lobby at WAIF's Coupeville shelter and help fund vital programs that help light the way to forever homes for Whidbey Island's homeless pets.

Visit www.waifanimals.org/gol to sponsor a luminaria today.



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www.oakharbormainstreet.org between November 28 and December 18
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Each \$20 Purchase = 1 Red Ticket

Red 2020 Ticket Shop Locally

\$1500, \$500 & 3 \$100 PRIZES!
Weekly Drawings for Gift Baskets!

The kick-off for this year's event is Sunday, Nov. 15th
Win cash prizes by participating in our Facebook Live Event at 1pm on Sunday, Dec. 20th.
Tune in to the Live Event through the CHWA or Coupeville Chamber website, or through the CHWA Facebook page in order to win. Must be 18 years or older.
CoupevilleHistoricWaterfront.com • CoupevilleChamber.com



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Slow to Start, Local Man Finds Big Trade Off in Riding Bus

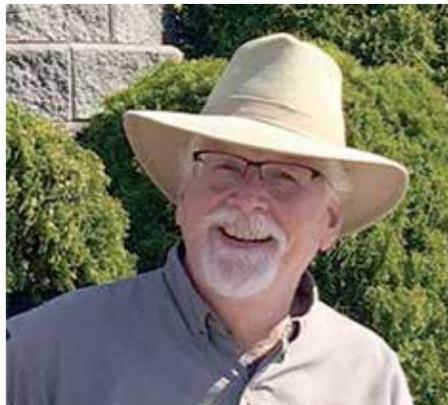
Stinger Anderson absolutely would not get on a bus. He owned a car and it was easy to drive where he needed to go. Now, you can't get Anderson off the bus. He's hooked.

"I was really slow to get introduced to bus service," says Anderson, who manages the Washington State University Extension Office in Coupeville. "I always thought, 'Why would I want to be inconvenienced by the bus when I have a car that will take me anywhere, whenever I want?' But the inconvenience of the bus is only initial. Once you get set up, it's really more convenient than driving a car. Now it's hard to imagine living any other way."

It took a couple of weeks for Anderson to get into the routine, "Then I really started enjoying it. It was like meditation. There was no stress. I wasn't dealing with crazy drivers. I put all electronics away and re-centered myself. I look at the peninsula and the mountains -- it's just a gorgeous drive. I got hooked. I got really hooked."

Anderson still drives his car, occasionally. "But I don't use it much since I started riding the bus." That, says Anderson, has a lot of benefits. "I put less than 1,000 miles a year on my car now. It may be the last car I own. No car payment, less insurance and less gas," he says.

On average riding the bus can save about



\$8,000 each year. Plus, Island Transit is a fare-free system. Passengers do not pay a fee to ride the bus. Anderson says, "That's a bonus. You just hop on and go."

With COVID-19, Anderson says initially he was concerned about riding the bus, but now, "I think I have enough info to know that I'm not going to be in any danger on the bus as long as I follow the guidelines." Those guidelines require everyone wear a mask and social distance.

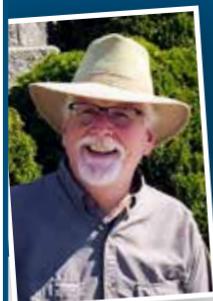
Island Transit recently joined the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) "Health & Safety Commitments Program," making a pledge to take all the necessary measures to operate safely during the pandemic. Recently, the agency installed MERV 8 air filters in all buses to trap COVID-19 droplets and prevent the virus from moving through the HVAC system. Plus, buses are sanitized daily using an electrostatic sprayer to thoroughly cover all surfaces of the bus interior with a bio-chemical disinfectant proven to kill COVID-19.

"I gave riding the bus a chance and it stuck," says Anderson. "It's not what people think it's going to be. It's much more fun. You just need to open your mind to it. It's such a tremendous service."

Read more stories from people who ride the bus and why at www.islandtransit.org/whyiride.



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"It's really more convenient than driving a car."

—Stinger, Oak Harbor

READ MORE: IslandTransit.org/WhyIRide



WEAR A MASK!
We're in this together.



Island Transit

islandtransit.org



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

1:18 am, Old Goldie Rd.

Reporting party advising male in green Subaru Legacy hit vehicle and drove off towards Ault Field.

6:35 am, SR 525

Reporting party states his three children have gone missing - ground one into a ditch, mother stole car keys. Reporting party would not give name.

12:06 pm, East Harbor Rd.

Requesting call. Advising mother has been closely related to two of the fires that occurred south of the island. Believes mother did it.

THURSDAY, NOV. 5

12:22 am, Paul Ave.

Reporting party advising of fight; states "This guy came into my house and started fighting with son." Reporting party states two subjects are now in front yard physically fighting.

10:02 am, Rhododendron Park Rd.

Reporting party advising electrical socket was tampered with. Has video. Subject looks like person fired from location.

12:43 pm, West Beach Rd.

Female on line stating van threw golf ball at her car, thinks they were mad at her for passing them.

1:36 pm Woodland Cir.

Reporting party advising FedEx driver was at location when male came out half dressed with baseball bat and threatened to hurt reporting party's driver.

2:21 pm, SR 20

Advising reporting party was northbound with white Ford F-150 behind him. F-150 followed reporting party to gas station on corner; driver got out and told reporting party he was going to rape him. Suspect vehicle now in Prairie Center Market.

4:12 pm, Carl Ave.

Reporting party advising neighbor is building fence on reporting party's property.

FRIDAY, NOV. 6

7:49 am, Golf Course Rd.

Caller advising ongoing issue with male subject harassing him and his family over political signs in their yard. Caller is currently following subject who is on his bike on Clover Valley Road near roundabout.

9:06 am, Deception Cir.

Requesting call. Advising FedEx driver found neglected chihuahua in his truck.

10:30 am, Morningtown Pl.

Caller says neighbor continually opens his door and calls him names. Last incident was Monday evening. Requesting call.

2:46 pm, SR 20

Reporting party advising of glass in road from broken toilet; was already in road; no vehicle in area it came from. Glass debris is in southbound lane.

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

10:33 am, Patmore Rd.

States black horse is standing on side of reporting party's yard eating grass. Unknown who it belongs to.

1:20 am, Deception Pass State Park

Advising female stealing rocks from beach. Female still there; vehicle is white Ford 4x4. Female now leaving area.

3:08 pm, Frost Ave.

Reporting party advising male is acting suspicious; he's at storage unit that is unlocked and says he cannot find his lock. Reporting party advising he says it is his storage unit, but he is unsure.

3:58 pm, SR 20

Advising male subject driving new white Ford pickup was walking around, pacing around his car cussing and talking about shooting people.

3:59 pm, NW Coveland St.

Reporting party advising third party reporting dark green Honda CRV stole plants from front of business 15 minutes ago; unknown direction of travel.

6:15 pm, Sunlight Dr.

Caller advising thinks she heard gunshot right outside her door. She is neighborhood watch captain. Heard banging and scraping beforehand. Didn't see anything.

6:36 pm, Deer Lake Rd.

Reporting party advising male lying on side of road. Advising Deer Lake Road behind grocery. Lost connection before gathering further.

11:27 pm, Sealawn Blvd.

Male subject on line stating he is being assaulted. Not responding to call-taker, yelling at subject in background. Got address verified, reporting party continued to yell at other subject in background. Line disconnected.

SUNDAY, NOV. 8

12:24 am, Sealawn Blvd.

Reporting party back on line, advising sister and sister's boyfriend are now having conversations about reporting party and what they going to do with him. Reporting party states this is none of their business and they do not need to be talking.

10:29 am, Shamrock Ln.

Caller states her boyfriend left last night because he had been drinking; caller was hearing strange noises in her house this morning and her daughter's boyfriend went down to check crawl space and discovered him there.

5:12 pm, Nubian Way

Reporting party advising someone is at house; advising there is radio interference; "pirate radio;" "I have bad eyesight."

TUESDAY, NOV. 10

8:21 am, Nubian Way

Reporting party states piracy and pirate channel is occurring at location. States he is in bathroom and people have put up cameras. If he looks at himself in the mirror can see things on his face.

10:23 am, Honeymoon Bay Rd.

Reporting party states someone tried to remove parts from father's vehicle. Removed screws. Reporting party also suspects person may have tried to steal vehicle as screws removed would have allowed vehicle to be towed.

5:54 pm, Nubian Way

Requesting call. Is upset no one called him back from earlier. Pirates and piracy.

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



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





Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
The snowpeople have arrived in Coupeville once more, all decked out in masks to match what everyone else is wearing. But a mask bandit, or bandits, have torn the added accoutrements from several of the town's snowmen.

BAH, HUMBUG!

Mask bandits rip through Coupeville

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

It seems the Grinch has come early in Coupeville, stealing a little holiday cheer right off the faces of some of the town's most popular seasonal visitors.

Every year a "mystery" group of volunteers places about 65 cheerful snowmen around the community, adding a festive flair to holiday events. This year – in a humorous move meant to go with the theme of 2020 – these secret snowmen caretakers added masks to the snowmen.

That move apparently didn't sit well with some, according to Coupeville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynda Eccles, who said someone has ripped the masks off several of the snowmen's faces.

"The masks – some were fabric – were glued on a board and stapled on [the snowmen]," she explained. "They ripped them off, leaving the staples. We found eight around town Wednesday; I don't know if there were more since then.

"My reaction? I was angry on so many levels," Eccles continued. "I don't appreciate vandalism in any form, but snowmen? Really! It is shameful, considering the work that goes into them, cutting them out, the hours of work by the artists."

Eccles and chamber board member, Matt Iverson, said there was no political motivation behind adding the masks to the snowmen, it is just a sign of the times.

See SNOWMEN continued on page 14



Photo Courtesy of Bobbi Lornson
Members of the Combat Veterans Association help roll some bicycle donations into storage for this year's Toys for Tots drive.

TOYS continued from page 8

Tots—we're not," she stated. "We're the backers for these groups and we give toys to everybody. Each toy we give out puts a smile on a child's face, and can there be any greater gift to ourselves than to put that smile on their face?"

Those interested can donate new, unwrapped toys at the Navy Exchange,

Walmart, Country Store, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Navy Federal, Best Friends Veterinary Center and Pacific Indoor Tactical. Monetary donations are accepted and should be made out to Toys for Tots and can be mailed to 2419 Loerland Lane, Oak Harbor, WA 98277. To volunteer, arrange a pick-up, or sign up to receive gifts, call 360-679-4326 or email tombobbi@comcast.net.

Triple Feature!
 Thursday, December 10 thru Saturday, December 12
THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (PG)
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)
HALF BROTHERS (PG-13)

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Life Tributes

JOYCE M. VANCE



Joyce Marlene Vance, 80, Christian, Navy wife, matriarch, and prankster, left this world peacefully to be with God in the early hours of Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020. Her pastors prayed with her while family was at her side.

Joyce was born in Newburgh, N.Y., to Harvey Sarvis and Eva Bates Nov. 5, 1940. She was the second of six children and while growing up, her hobbies included roller skating and ice skating. She had a very close relationship with her grandparents.

A few years after meeting Elmer Vance in junior high, they started dating in high school. In 1958, they married Nov. 30. Elmer had enlisted that same year into the U.S. Navy and their family moved from duty station to duty station. First it was Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey and their family grew when their two sons, Mark and Mike, were born. Maryland and Memphis came next with Alameda, San Diego, and Moffett Field following. Those various posts in California are when their daughters, Robin and Julee, joined the family.

In 1972 Elmer was stationed at NAS Whidbey Island. Reputation said Whidbey Island was going to be a place to settle down – and it was. The island was the first place they decided to plant roots and purchase a house. The Pacific Northwest was now their home.

Five years later, Joyce continued to raise the family in Oak Harbor when Elmer got stationed back to California. The family decided to remain on the island and Elmer retired from the Navy in 1977. Joyce held positions at JCPenney in Mount Vernon, the Navy Exchange hardware/garden department and owned her own consignment store. She also took classes at Skagit Community College.

Joyce had a soft heart for children and babies. She wanted to provide a stable and safe environment for all. But she went beyond that. In addition to her own children, she was a mother to those in need whether in an emergency or not. Each child was made to feel a part of the family. For over 20 years she helped with placement of foster children within the DSHS system. She also taught foster parenting classes for Island County.

Joyce was a religious instructor and officiated Bible study lessons for children and adults at First United Methodist Church in Oak Harbor. She was a prayer warrior and known as the Prayer Lady in Sunday school. Other religious activities included being active in the Walk to Emmaus community, contributing in vacation Bible school, and being a Stephen's Minister.

Pam's Prayer Corner

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

Lord during this Advent season we turn our hearts to the good news of your arrival. The good news that Hope, Love, Joy and Peace have come. You came to a confused and broken world to save us from our sin and lead us into abundant life and joy. We once again welcome your presence among us. Where there is discouragement, we welcome Hope. Where there is uncertainty, we welcome Peace. Where there is fear, we welcome Love and where this is unrest, we welcome your Peace. Guide us by your grace and help us to reflect your goodness to the world. In your name we pray.

Drew Barnhart
Lead Pastor, Living Word Church

"And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:10-12 ESV



Outside of church, she was a member of the Bunko Gals, a Cub Scout Mom, an Ombudsman for NAS Whidbey, and crocheted blankets and procured necessities for Margie's House. Through committees, she contributed to many places like Help House, Christmas in July, and other local charities.

Joyce was a long-standing member of the Navy Wives Club of America Whidbey Island #150. She rose to the rank of president, was on the national board, and was the only lifetime member of the local organization. The Navy Wives Club helped to establish BabyLand inside Maple Leaf Cemetery.

April Fool's was Joyce's favorite day. She was a calculating, practical joker. Friends and family avoided her phone calls April 1st to escape her pranks.

She loved popcorn, wine, and seafood. She enjoyed doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles, watched *Jeopardy*, and embraced technology that allowed her to communicate with her family. She dabbled in all crafts, decorated cakes, canned foods, took Chinese cooking classes, and ceramics. Joyce loved pets and they were a big part of her life. She was an avid chicken memorabilia collector.

Joyce was a selfless person who lived a full life to help others and was the "glue" of the family; being the example you would want to live by – our superhero.

Surviving Joyce are her four children: Mark (Rose), Mike (Norma), Robin (Ken), and Julee (Chris). Grandchildren: Melissa, Michael John, John, Mark Jr., Matt, Brian, Elizabeth, Lauren, Anastacia, and Gabriel. Great-grandchildren: Anna, Lena, Isabella, Keith, Violet, Jace, Charlotte, Victoria, Liam, Chase, and Emmet. Siblings: Karen, Jim, and Tom.

Preceding her in death are Elmer, husband of 55 years; her parents; her brothers: Richard and Frank; and grandchild: Justin.

Joyce's family suggests donations/pledges be made in her name to: First United Methodist Church of Oak Harbor online at: oakharborfumc.org/give, or by mail to FUMC Oak Harbor, 1050 SE Ireland Street, Oak Harbor, WA 98277; or donations to a charity of your choice.

A private family interment will take place at Maple Leaf Cemetery, where she will be buried in BabyLand next to her two very close friends. A memorial service will take place at First United Methodist Church Oak Harbor at a later date as well as a Celebration of Joyce's life in the summer of 2021.

Arrangements are entrusted to Wallin Funeral Home, Oak Harbor. Please visit Joyce's page in our Book of Memories online at www.wallinfuneralhome.com to share memories and leave condolences.

SHARON K. ZIMMER



Sharon Kay Zimmer was born March 18, 1944 in Denver, Colo., to Hans Christ Jessen and Mildred Hildegard Pekrul. She grew up in Denver with her older brother, Dick, two older sisters, Marlene and Eileen, and twin brother, Mike. She was active at St. John's Lutheran Church in Denver, where she was baptized, confirmed, attended school, and participated in youth group activities. As a teenager she worked as a babysitter, retail clerk, and model. She graduated from Denver's South High School in 1962 and received her Psychology degree from Colorado State University in 1967. After graduation she worked as an executive assistant for Ringsby Truck Lines and later for Martin Marietta, an aerospace firm.

Sharon married Donald Zimmer June 10, 1972 at St. John's Lutheran Church. They lived in Littleton, Colo., where they raised their children and attended Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. In August 1998 they moved to Oak Harbor, Wash., where they retired and attended Concordia Lutheran Church.

Sharon's life centered on her faith, her family, and watching sports. Besides attending church, Bible studies, and fellowship events, she sang in the choir for many years, enjoyed playing hymns on her piano, and prayed for those she knew. Her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were her pride and joy. Every holiday and birthday included at least one social event with extended family and friends as well as games for all ages and too much food. She weathered 50 years of attending everyone's baseball, basketball, and soccer games – usually in the rain. That passion for sports included watching football where she enthusiastically cheered for her Denver Broncos, often in orange apparel from the top of her cowboy hat to the bottom of her cowboy boots.

After battling heart ailments and lung cancer for several years, Sharon passed away peacefully at Summer Hill assisted living facility in Oak Harbor Nov. 28, 2020. She was surrounded by family and preceded in death by her husband, Donald. She is survived by her sons, David (and his wife, Karen) and Kelly (and his wife, Alicia), and daughter, Shannon, as well as her step-children, Chris (and his wife, Patty), Tambrie, Donald Jr., and Timothy as well as 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. In her final weeks, all she wanted was to hold her family's hands and hug them, listen to them read Bible stories, and play Christmas music and church hymns.

Sharon will be missed dearly and remembered for her kindness, words of encouragement, humility, beautiful blue eyes, and simple focus on faith and family. Her last words with family before going to bed, hanging up the phone, or parting ways were always the same, "I love you" – we love you too. ♥

The Zimmer family suggests, donations may be made in Sharon Zimmer's name to Concordia Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor.

A private memorial service for Sharon was held Dec. 5 at Concordia Lutheran Church, followed by a graveside service at Maple Leaf Cemetery, where she was laid to rest next to her beloved, Donald.

Arrangements entrusted to Wallin Funeral Home, Oak Harbor. Please visit Sharon's page in our Book of Memories online at www.wallinfuneralhome.com to share memories and leave condolences.

SHARON ANN BLITCH



Sharon Ann Blitch was born Aug. 4, 1953 to James and Betsy Phillips and passed away Nov. 24, 2020.

She was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother and always lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed the little things in life and especially loved her family. She was very devoted to her husband and children and would do anything for her kids. She loved spending nights out by the fire with her husband, Curt. She thoroughly enjoyed collecting "Whidbey Rocks." She always loved light houses and watching her hummingbirds. She enjoyed playing pool, reading (especially Steven King novels), hot tea, music, and peace and quiet. She really enjoyed doing crafts and always made Christmas ornaments for

her grandchildren. Sharon did not mind telling you what she thought, but always had great advice. She and her sister, Shirley, had an inseparable bond.

Sharon was loved by many and will be missed beyond belief.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at www.whidbeymemorial.com.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of her love for children, donations can be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org/donate or donate by phone at 1-800-805-5856.

OBITS CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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





CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



If you were to write a personal declaration of freedom, thereby ridding yourself of a few things odious and despicable, what would you choose? If you could wipe out taxes, acne and teen-aged angst in a few mighty pen strokes, with enough ink left over to end war, would you? The Founders wrote such a Declaration. The Revolutionary War was necessary to enforce it. A person must really think ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



An ironclad rule of a balanced universe says that for every problem, there exists a solution. The trick is to find it. Lived so, each day is a scavenger hunt, with all the attendant thrills. The jolly search for a metaphoric Easter egg. The high-tech pursuit of the geocache of your dreams. Seeking money? Romance? Relief from a broken heart? All of those and more await you. Follow the clues, follow the clues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



Feeling overwhelmed in the Information Age? You're not alone. Conflicting messages. Contradictory testimonies. Intricate explanations, all calculated to confuse. The sheer volume of data, already unmanageable, continues to grow. Tune out, and soon, you're an unformed rube. Tap in, and you're on information overload. Whose voice can you trust? The voice of your own experience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



Are you holding yourself to a higher standard despite pressures to go with the crowd? That can be a lonely road. The temptation to lower yourself in a weak moment can be strong. The slide into mediocrity, once begun, is notoriously hard to stop. Warren Buffet caught the essence of integrity when he said, "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it." Hold your ground.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



An enduring myth says the way to happiness is to follow the tracks of those who walked life before you. Others' stories about how things are form a welcome map in what is often a perplexing world. But is plodding the well-trod trail satisfying in the end? Rumi warned against it. He said, "Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth." Myth-maker or myth-follower. Which are you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



It's easier for you than for most to see the problem, but seeing the problem doesn't solve the problem. And that's a problem. Unless you lend something to the solution, constant fault-finding only earns you a reputation for being hyper-critical. How does one shift from being problem-oriented to solution-oriented? Keep asking why. The why of a problem leads

to its solution. Why? Good that you asked!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



How do you take the controversy out of things controversial? You don't. You win people over by being so annoyingly, charmingly and irresistibly right, people are helpless to dispute you. In the words of Criss Jami, "If you have to do or say something controversial, aim so that people will hate that they love it, and not love that they hate it." Incontrovertibly, that's a tough bullseye to hit. Can you do it? Of course, you can! You charmer, you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



A Pollyanna is someone who is blindly optimistic in every situation. A Cassandra is the person who just as blindly assumes the worst. Between those extremes, we have the one who resists both the Cassandra's pull into fear and the Pollyannaish rush to complacency. What do we call this astute and hardy soul? Call them worldly. Call them wise or practical. If you can also call them your friend, count yourself lucky. They're an uncommon breed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



What is strength without courage? What is courage without strength? In each case, one is as nothing without the complement of the other. Lao Tzu said, "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." In that one line, we understand that love's power is the power to complete. Is it also clear that whatever your question, love is the answer?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



Is patience a virtue, as the proverb says? Or the couch potato's participation trophy? Depends. The fast and the fleet, who pursue a goal the way a cheetah outsprints an impala, scorn patience. The slow and determined, whose pursuits resemble the 15-year sculpting of presidential faces on Mt. Rushmore, epitomize patience. Which proves it's YOU who decides the game, not patience or the lack.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



We've all seen it. Maybe you've used it. It's called body English, and it's the athlete's secret weapon. You see it in golf. In bowling. In basketball and in billiards. It's that last-instant squirm players unleash on an errant ball that makes the ball go right. The psychokinetic nudge. Here's a tip: Body English isn't limited to sports. Top achievers in every field squirm their way out of tight spots. Try not to be too obvious!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



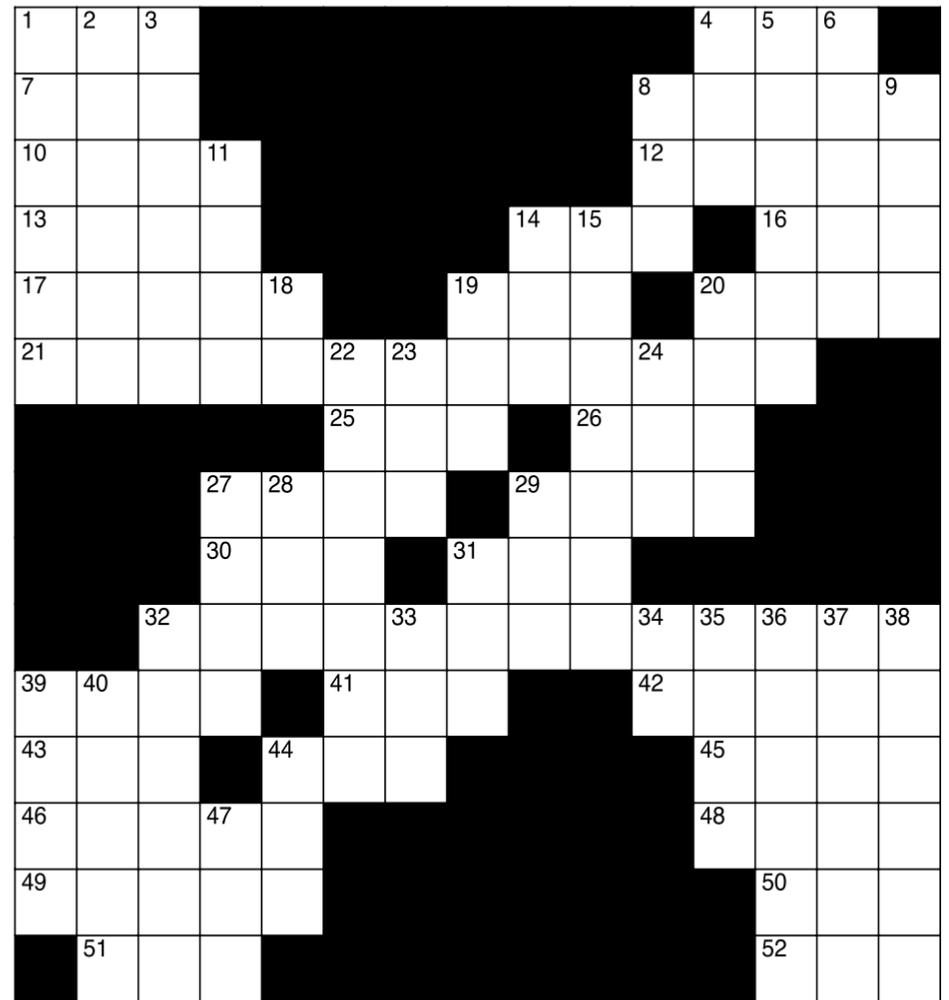
Spending money on self: A down payment on success, or investment in a fool? The highly successful Edgar Allan Poe said, "I have great faith in fools--self-confidence, my friends would call it." Is Poe's witty remark to be taken as financial advice? Only a fool would think so. Is it a wholesale endorsement of the vanity purchase? A reckless embrace of Me Generation narcissism? "Nevermore."

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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.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Crow species
- 4. Partner to flow
- 7. Male offspring
- 8. Sedate
- 10. Orange beverage
- 12. Pair of small hand drums
- 13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
- 14. Former Pirates star Jason
- 16. Computer company
- 17. Made angry
- 19. Beverage container
- 20. Charlize Theron film "___ Flux"
- 21. Localities
- 25. Consume
- 26. Don't know when yet
- 27. Bed style
- 29. Make a low, continuous sound
- 30. Wrath
- 31. Pollinates flowers
- 32. Association
- 39. Prejudice
- 41. Unhealthy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Rear of (nautical)
- 2. He minds the net
- 3. Ring-shaped objects
- 4. When you hope to get there
- 5. Young children
- 6. Beloved hobbit
- 8. Pigpen
- 9. Wish harm upon
- 11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
- 14. Scrooge's phrase "___ Humbug"

- 15. One more
- 18. A ballplayer who only hits
- 19. Once vital TV part
- 20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year
- 22. Advantage
- 23. Type of tree
- 24. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- 27. Life stories
- 28. Vase
- 29. Tiny
- 31. Package (abbr.)
- 32. A photog's tool
- 33. Wood
- 34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 35. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 36. Wild goats
- 37. A way to comply
- 38. Horatio ___, British admiral
- 39. Actress Leslie
- 40. Sir ___ Newton
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Have already done

Answers on page 19

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Dec. 10	Fri, Dec. 11	Sat, Dec. 12	Sun, Dec. 13	Mon, Dec. 14	Tues, Dec. 15	Wed, Dec. 16
North Isle H-49°/L-40° Breezy AM Rain	North Isle H-47°/L-37° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-47°/L-42° Rain	North Isle H-52°/L-44° Cloudy and Windy Rain Possible	North Isle H-52°/L-42° Cloudy and Windy Rain Possible	North Isle H-49°/L-41° Cloudy Rain Possible	North Isle H-50°/L-39° Mostly Cloudy
South Isle H-47°/L-39° Rain	South Isle H-46°/L-38° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-47°/L-42° Rain	South Isle H-50°/L-43° Cloudy Rain Possible	South Isle H-50°/L-41° Cloudy and Windy Rain Possible	South Isle H-49°/L-41° Cloudy Rain Possible	South Isle H-50°/L-39° Mostly Cloudy



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SNOWMEN continued from page 11

"The masks were put on by the artists as a touch of humor, nothing more," Eccles said. "They still make you smile because they are a part of what we are all going through right now. We tell everyone who comes into town they have to wear a mask, why not the snowmen?"

"The snowmen didn't complain when the masks were being stapled on," joked Iverson. "We were just trying to protect them. Have you seen the price of plywood? We didn't want them to get 'Plywood-19.'"

All jests aside, this year an additional 35 snowmen were added to the regular population, in part because they were to be used as substitutes in photos for Red Ticket Giveaway shoppers who are unable to gather in person this year – but who would all be required to wear masks if they were.

"This year the mystery artists made more and added masks so we could spread a few more around the historic district," Eccles said. "Normally new snowmen aren't added; it was only because Matt Iverson and Gwen Samuelson from Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association thought it would be a great idea to show them as the crowd for Red Ticket and for us to use for Home for the Holidays pictures."

According to Eccles, she had received one email and one phone call complaining about the masks on the snowmen by the end of last week but said she and business owners in the historic town are upset and disappointed someone would choose to de-mask the festive holiday mascots in such rude fashion.

"The snowmen are a wonderful addition to the town and they make everyone smile," she said. "More so this year when we need it more than ever. I always look forward to driving into town and seeing them. It's magical."

The vandalism also surprised Eccles because this isn't the first time the town has included masks in its 2020 events.

"We put a masked pumpkin on our Haunting of Coupeville T-shirt this year and people loved it," she said.

For now, the community must continue to put a brave, masked face on and move forward with as much normalcy as possible.

"The chamber has some fun activities we are about to launch," Eccles said. "One involves the snowmen, one involves taking selfies of your purchases and another is a business decorating challenge. They all have opportunities to win great prizes."

The vandalism incident has been reported to local authorities.

"The removal of masks from snowmen could potentially be charged as Malicious Mischief 3rd Degree or Theft 3rd Degree, which is a misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$5,000 and one year in jail," said Coupeville Marshal Shawn Warwick. "It would most likely be handled with communication as to why the person felt it necessary to remove the masks and to emphasize the importance of not removing what does not belong to you, even if you disagree with it."

Eccles said she hopes the incident wasn't politically motivated.

"I hope it was [just] mean spirited; I would hate to think it was politically motivated in our great community," she said. "This is a stressful time for all of us and we are doing our best to bring some joy to the holiday season. Vandalizing snowmen who make our community smile is not the answer for your anger."

To find out more about upcoming activities in Coupeville, visit coupevillechamber.com.



Dining Guide

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KEEP FISHING!

Wintertime can be a slow time for us fishermen, especially without the normal winter salmon season, but it doesn't mean there aren't any fish at all out there to target. Thank goodness the state fish hatcheries are still raising and releasing good numbers of rainbow trout into the local lakes. Island County's Cranberry Lake saw a good number of trout planted in the month of November. The lake had fish released in the beginning and at the end of the month, with the average fish weighing just over one pound.

During the winter months the colder water will keep the fish nice and firm and very good table fare, not to mention a batch of smoked trout is also a hit around Christmas time. Be sure to check the regulations for any engine restrictions; many of our nearby small lakes prohibit the use of any combustion engines. The combination of a high thrust electric trolling motor and a fully charged deep cycle marine battery will keep you trolling around a small lake in search of the biting fish, however, a good set of oars for insurance is always a good backup plan.

If you plan to fish from shore, nightcrawlers, powerbait, (pink or chartreuse) and good old salmon eggs resting on or floating just off the bottom will produce fish; if still fishing gets boring, try casting a medium sized Kastmaster in a 50/50 silver and gold, or a 50/50 silver and orange color combination. These lures cast like a dream and have plenty of fish-attracting flash. Kastmasters, due to their weight and design, will sink towards the bottom quickly so be ready to retrieve the lure soon after it lands in the water to avoid bottom vegetation and snags.

If you plan to troll for trout you can't go wrong with a size F-4 flatfish lure in a yellow,



Brian Haynes holds a beautiful peninsula Chinook.



Zachary with another bright Skagit Coho.

black, bright pink or green color. Full stringers of trout have also been caught using a rig called a "wedding ring." This wiggling, flashing, bladed lure has a trailing hook on one end that when a pinch of worm or a single salmon egg and even a single kernel of yellow corn is attached, will get the trout biting. Rainbow trout are in the lakes so now is the time to try your luck.

Yellow perch: Growing up in Idaho, many trout fishermen thought of the perch as a nuisance, and when the perch were biting two-to-one, I guess they had a point. However, if you are a fish-and-chips lover like I am, a platter full of yellow perch fillets, beer battered and deep fried, will leave you asking "When can we go perch fishing again?" Many fishermen consider walleye the best tasting freshwater fish there is; the yellow perch is cousin to the walleye. Perch typically don't grow as big as walleye but their flesh is very similar and just as tasty.

Campbell and Lone Lake are the only places where I have hooked and landed perch; they were not very big so I released them, and I was after trout. My son, Zachary, had a college classmate who lived on Lake Samish just off of I-5 towards Bellingham; he said this lake was full of decent sized yellow perch and they loved nightcrawlers. This is a lake I need to spend some time on. Lake Samish requires a boat inspection and permit to use the boat ramps; it's an aquatic vegetation regulation, but would most likely be worth the time to get if the lake has an abundance of nice sized perch in it.

Fishing for me is a sickness and the only cure is to get a rod in my hand and a lure in the water, so there are fishing opportunities close by that can help ease the pain. Winter fishing requires a little more planning with cold water and slick roads, so give yourself more time to travel and dress warmly. A thermos full of boiling water and some chicken Cup-o-Noodle soup at the water's edge or in the boat is like a warm cup of goodness sent from heaven when you're chilled to the bone. Be safe and GOOD LUCK out there!



Michael and Stephen Haynes with their prize peninsula chinooks.



Zachary Loescher and a Chrome Skagit River Coho.

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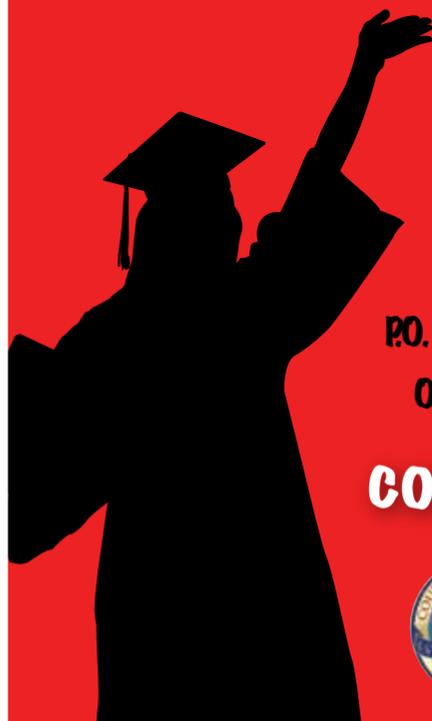
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For Vets Only

Submitted by Dana Sawyer
Whidbey Veterans Resource Center Program Coordinator



The Whidbey Veterans Resource Center (WVRC) is continuing to serve the Whidbey community by providing support and assistance to Veterans and their families. We recently received these heartwarming shares from a couple of Whidbey Veterans who remind us of the value of friendship, community and the bonds we make through making connections.

South Whidbey Vietnam Veteran and Spouse: "Because we have found the people, programs, advice, and friendship offered at the Veterans Resource Center so valuable, I want to pass our experiences on to others. My husband was in the U.S. Navy in the 1970s. We married after he was retired. Until recently, all things military were under his management. Because life takes unexpected turns, I now find myself trying to navigate unfamiliar territory. The WVRC folks helped my family find our way through some very confusing times with useful expertise and kindness. The WVRC helped us get connected with VA healthcare services. Until COVID, we traveled to Seattle VA appointments on transportation provided by the WVRC. The van ride was more than transportation. It offered an opportunity for my husband to swap military stories with fellow veterans on the ride. Weekly meetings at the Langley WVRC, now online, give both my husband and me an opportunity to connect with others in similar circumstances and with common history. Everyone is welcoming and supportive. They care. Besides all the practical help they provide, they find time for regular fun. My husband took horse riding lessons with fellow center goers with the Equestrian Crossings group. We have received masks from a dedicated seamstress; a veteran who has made more than 2,000 masks! We have met veterans with a wide range of military experiences, but a common commitment to each other and country. Veterans who go well beyond just group meeting attendance. They offer their time, attention and help to others where and whenever they can. The Veterans Resource Center has brought hope into my family's trying time. If this sounds like an embellished, over-the-top endorsement for an organization, it is not. The WVRC folks are a group of veterans helping each other with talent and dedication."

Disabled Veteran, U.S. Army: "I feel that the WVRC is helpful in many ways. It is a place, now an online network, where veterans can get together and see how other vets are doing each week. Many of us have formed long lasting friendships. We have a women's group on Mondays, and a mixed group on Tuesdays. The WVRC hosts a counselor who has helped many local vets. We do projects that benefit the community and other vets. We help with set up for telehealth now and sometimes, because of COVID, offer rides for people who need help getting to doctor appointments, and other events. We talk about the military experiences we shared, get together at functions we plan together and we call each other to keep in contact. I have many real friends with the WVRC, and we count on each other. A big piece of what we do is help veterans access VA benefits. We miss our gatherings, but still, we are 'open' for business during the pandemic and definitely practicing social distancing, so call, connect and check us out."

Disabled Veteran, U.S. Army: "I received a scholarship to attend Equestrian Crossings, for horse sessions aimed at involving veterans with horses in the fall of 2019. It increased my confidence, balance and it is comforting to be one with the horse as another being. The bond that forms is priceless. I looked forward to the time each week. I hope to keep doing this for many years to come. The EQX instructors made me feel safe and comfortable. I feel they are the best at what they do! We have a session planned to start weekly in March 2021. I will be there for my third season, time with the horses and riding has become important to me for wellbeing."

Please consider supporting the WVRC. If you would like to donate to support the horses and veterans sessions indicate the donation is in support of Horse Time for Veterans. To donate or send a request for information from the website: www.WhidbeyVRC.org Contact the WVRC at 360-331-8081 or email at WhidbeyVRC@gmail.com

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OBITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

THOMAS D ELLIS



Thomas David Ellis died peacefully Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at Angell's on Whidbey Adult Family Home in Oak Harbor. He was born in Brazil, Ind., April 27, 1945 and was a graduate of Coalmont High School. Tom earned a Master of Electrical Engineering degree from Purdue University in 1968. In 1995, he earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Indiana University.

Tom was employed by the Department of the Navy at Crane for 34 years, where he did research in radiation effects and managed a large, technical staff. Tom retired from Crane in April 2000 and later worked for the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility.

As a child, Tom enjoyed life on his parent's six-acre farm. Tom became the proud owner of a farm in Greene County, Ind., where he raised cattle, horses, sheep and llamas. Tom was active in church and community throughout his life – having served in several positions in the Bloomfield, Ind., First Baptist Church, including chairman of the building committee for a new facility. He was a lifelong HAM radio operator and a member of the Lions Club.

Tom married Loretta Rose Shidler in 1967. Together they had two boys, Scott and David. Tom lost Loretta to cancer Jan. 1, 1988. Soon after, Tom met Teresa Annette Clark Ellis. They were married June 24, 1989 and spent many years on the Greene County farm. They volunteered for the American Red Cross and responded to many disasters, including being part of the management team running the Hurricane Katrina Cajun Dome "Megashelter" in Lafayette, La., in 2005.

After retiring from Crane, Tom and Teresa hiked the Appalachian Trail, completing it in 2001 and the Colorado Trail in 2003. Later Tom supported Teresa's hikes on the Pacific Crest Trail, the Long Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail. Tom and Teresa loved to travel and made numerous trips throughout the United States (including Hawaii and Alaska), Canada, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Australia and New Zealand.

In 2008, Tom and Teresa relocated to Whidbey Island, Wash. He was a member of the Coupeville Lions Club. He became an active member of the Coupeville United Methodist Church, where he was a choir member and chairman of the finance committee.

Tom lived the last 20 years of his life with Parkinson's Disease. For the last year of his life, Tom stayed at Angell's on Whidbey.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Howard Wilkins and Rachel Peavey Ellis; his first wife, Loretta Shidler Ellis; and stepson, Bruce Dayvolt. He is survived by his wife, Teresa; sons Scott Ellis (Rebecca, Isaac, Nathan); and David Ellis (Kate, Clare, Rose); Bruce's son, Lucas and great-grandson, Jettson; and brother, Alan Ellis (Diane).

There will be a Zoom memorial service Sunday, Dec. 13. Private graveside services will be held at a later date.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to Angell's on Whidbey, Whidbey Health Palliative Care and Hospice for the excellent care Tom has received the last two years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's memory to American Red Cross, www.redcross.org (specify disaster relief); American Parkinson's Disease Association Northwest, www.APDAparkinson.org; or Pacific Rim Institute at www.pacificriminstitute.org.

MARIAN M. BOLTE



Marian M. Bolte of Coupeville, Wash., passed away Nov. 27, 2020 at the age of 91. Marian was born in Dunkerton, Iowa to Ella and Walter Ackerman and was preceded in death by her parents and four siblings: Evelyn, Verna, Arlan and Norma. In 1948 she and John R. Bolte were married and this past September they celebrated their 72nd anniversary. Marian and John lived in a number of places throughout John's career – Oklahoma, Lawrence, Kan., Greenbelt, Md., Cedar Falls, Iowa, Iowa City, La Mesa, Calif. and

Maitland, Fla., finally retiring in Coupeville.

Marian was a homemaker and will be remembered as a loving and beloved wife, mom and grandmother. Her family was her pride and joy and she was absolutely devoted to them. The family had many fun times camping in almost every state, enjoying the beauty of national parks and other scenic places. Marian was a talented and creative seamstress and crafter and was skilled at quilting, decoupage, embroidery, needlepoint, rug hooking, and painting. She loved Celtic Thunder, John Sebastian, and Peter, Paul and Mary.

Marian was a member of the Maitland (Fla.) Presbyterian Church. She was active in the University of Central Florida Women's Club in Orlando for many years. That she was voted the club's "most congenial" member is a testament to her gentle and friendly manner, and her always present quiet sense of humor.

Since 1997, children and grandchildren gathered at Marian and John's home in Coupeville during summers and holidays for boating, fishing, whale-watching, picnics, pizza, card games, meals together and exploring our local Whidbey parks. For John and Marian's 50th and 60th anniversaries, the whole family traveled to the San Juan Islands to celebrate.

Marian spent her last year well cared for by the staff of Regency Memory Care in Oak Harbor, WhidbeyHealth Hospice Care, with twice-daily visits by her husband, John. The family is grateful for the care and friendship of Julie Bloomhall in the last several years. Marian will be dearly missed by her family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held later in 2021 when family and friends can safely gather to share memories and stories.

Marian is survived by her husband, John, of Coupeville; daughter, Becky, of Oak Harbor; son, Mike, and his spouse, Frances, of Santa Cruz, Calif.; and son, John, and spouse, Ann, of Corvallis, Ore. Marian and John have five grandchildren: Zach, Chris, Matt and spouse, Dani, Kitty, and John; one great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

The Bolte family would like you to please consider a donation to WhidbeyHealth Hospice Care at whidbeyhealth.org/home-health/ in Marian's name. They provided compassionate care to Marian and support for her family in her final months.

Arrangements are entrusted to Wallin Funeral Home, Oak Harbor, Wash. Please visit Marian's page in our Book of Memories online at www.wallinfuneralhome.com/ to share memories and leave condolences.

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



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THERE BY THE GRACE OF GOD GO I

"Life can be so damn unfair," Bobbi Lornson says, thinking of the suffering of humanity across the globe. She reflects that hardships are part of everyone's life. "How can I stand by and do nothing if there is anything I can do to help lessen someone's pain?"

Lornson remembers when she first learned people were homeless in her own community. She says, "I have never been homeless or without food. I had to help in some way. No one deserves to be without at least the very basics. Yes, there is a small percentage of any group or class of people that will take advantage. And yes, some are even dangerous. However, there are a small percentage of unscrupulous people in all social classes of humans. Some people need to be in prison for life, for the safety of others and themselves. As to the guests at the Haven shelter, each demonstrates respect, intelligence, playfulness, and caring."

Mary Williford, a Whidbey Homeless Coalition volunteer, says Lornson has an unbelievable commitment and dedication to helping anyone in need. "Bobbi, along with other unsung heroes like Hap Fakkema, Joann Hoover, Lisa Clark and so many, many others, have made it possible to open an all-island overnight shelter. The shelter opened in 2017 and is called The Haven and is generously housed inside the Christian Reformed church in Oak Harbor. The south end had the shelter at the Langley Methodist church, but most of the guests were coming from the north end, so it was moved north.

"When Bobbi learned of this shelter, she jumped in and engaged her group, the Oak Harbor Lions. From that point forward, Bobbi, Tom Bond, and the Oak Harbor Lions have unfailingly led, coordinated, raised funds, filled shifts, filled the gas tank, managed and paid for van repairs, transported the homeless from the registration site to the shelter, and so much more.

"Bobbi does all this volunteer community service with a happy heart, showing unbelievable commitment and dedication with the Oak Harbor Lions. When I learned of just some of the things Bobbi does, it exhausted me: funds for Lions projects, selling fruit, preparing goodie themed baskets, Toys for Tots, gives rides to homeless, and I don't know what all else."

Lornson says, "There are so many giving people on Whidbey. It's this cooperation of all these people that gets things done, like creating a shelter. There are a lot of misconceptions about homeless people. This week a woman told me she was annoyed about the homeless on

the streets. She said she was walking her two school-age children downtown in midday to go shopping and had to cross the street to avoid a homeless man with a begging sign. I thought, 'What is that teaching her children?' We can't ignore what's in front of us. Maybe that person holding the sign had a family to feed. Certainly he was desperate. Who knows what we would each do if were in that man's circumstance? If the woman didn't feel she wanted to give the homeless man any money or food, perhaps she could say 'Hello,' or 'Bless you,' at least recognize the person. If that person sitting on the sidewalk with the sign could do better, he would. Something has gone terribly wrong in that person's life. If we ignore things in life we don't like, that doesn't make them go away."

Lornson says, "I think of people in the world who did so much for humanity, risking their own lives. People like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King who showed love to all. And yet both these men were murdered. We can't even have goodness in our world. That's not all right!"

She knows she was fortunate to have good role models as parents. "I remember seeing signs saying 'colored' or 'whites only' on bathrooms! I asked Daddy, 'What do those signs mean?' His face turned sad and he said, 'Honey, I guess some people don't understand anyone different from themselves.' I was stymied by this—so was Daddy. As the county judge, Daddy did what he could to try to change racism. When the supreme court passed Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954, my father integrated the public schools that year. Both my parents treated all people as the same; they never showed any discrimination to anyone. Mother sadly died in 1971 from leukemia, and Daddy died in 2005."

Lornson's parents told her not to make up excuses for not doing something she wanted to do. "They said if other people can do something, so can I. Sure there are some things maybe I can't do. For example, I can't be a nuclear scientist," she laughs. "But within reason, we can do most things that others can do. A simple realization for me was after my divorce at age 27, with children ages 2 and 6. I second guessed myself, thinking, 'Can I take



Some of The Haven Shelter volunteers; Bobbi is back row, second from left

Bobbi Lornson

DOB: January 29, 1949

Place: Littlefield, Texas

Education: University of Texas, dual degrees in history and English

Children: Katy, age 50, and Mason, age 46

Grandchildren: 9

Great-grandchildren: 7

Significant other: Tom Bond, for 25 years

Years on Whidbey: Since 1981

Hobbies: Reading, crossword puzzles, University of Texas football fan, woodworking projects

If you could ask God one question? What would you want me to do for the rest of the time I have here?



Bobbi, Tom, Brenda and Bill - all OH Lions members and volunteers

care of my children on my own?' I remember trying a very simple task, to put up curtain rods for my daughter in her room. At first I put them up crooked, and sat on her bed and cried for a while. Then I got myself together, stood up, and told myself, 'Other people can do this; so can I.' That was a turning point for me.

"Divorce is a painful journey. It's an example that even for those of us that do not have to worry about food and shelter, life will still be a struggle at times. I try to imagine how much more difficult it is for those that are struggling just for very minimal needs."

Lornson recounts the most difficult time in her life. "My son, Mason, was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma bone cancer at age 15. This cancer had a high mortality rate. But I had to keep faith and pass that onto Mason. He had five different kinds of chemo, and five surgeries. Anyone could imagine how terrifying this was for a parent. Thank God, he survived and is thriving today with a wonderful family of his own."

Mason Lornson, who lives in Oak Harbor with his wife and children, speaks about his mom. "Mom has always been an inspiration to me. As a single mother, she supported us by working for a child-abuse prevention foundation. She was always there for us. Getting us to band practice and sports events, making our Halloween costumes, and always with a smile. We felt she enjoyed every minute of being with my sister and me. When I was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, not once did she entertain the idea that I wouldn't survive. There is no doubt: without her, I wouldn't be here today. She's always been there for my sister and me. I worked in the emergency room for years, and I don't think she realizes how many people she helped because of the time and understanding she gave me. In my family, we have a motto: 'We Persevere!' She is a testament to that. She is the type of beautiful woman that could make a swimming pool of lemonade from the lemons life has given her and never stop smiling and loving."

Lornson says she focuses on how blessed we are that Mason survived. It's one of those struggles that in the end turned out all right. That doesn't always happen. Lornson says focusing on what she has in life, not what she wants, causes her to feel blessed and makes her want to help anyone suffering even more. "There by the grace of God go I."

What others say

"Bobbi is truly an inspirational person, and much of that comes from her unwavering selflessness and generosity. She goes out of her way to look for ways to help anyone in need, whether through her efforts in aiding persons without housing getting to the shelter or having a meal, organizing blood drives, or collecting toys for children for Christmas. Bobbi cares so much about her community. She and the Lions [provided] a Thanksgiving feast to shelter guests this Thanksgiving, something extra special for our clients. Bobbi is a role model, and someone I believe anyone could learn so much from."

-Krystal Hamlin, Haven shelter manager, volunteer

"We admire her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to volunteering in our community. She works on virtually every project the club has, chairing some of them. She participates in other community activities as well, being deeply involved in Toys for Tots and working with our Lions club and other volunteers to help the Haven, Oak Harbor's night shelter for people with no homes. She has a big heart!"

-Brenda and Bill Cheaqui, OH Lions members and volunteer drivers

"She is a true Lion, as our motto is, 'WE SERVE.' Bobbi steps up any way she can. Our club had a little hiccup in operation a while back, and Bobbi stepped up with her leadership to manage some of our major projects such as Sight, helping people in our community get glasses that could not afford to on their own. Bobbi chaired one of our major fundraiser projects selling fruit and produce during the summer. Bobbi was our Lions Club president for two years. She showed very good leadership skills getting our club back on track as a community asset serving others, not letting disagreement of members get out of hand as previously happened. Bobbi steps up to help on all these projects. She can hold her own with power and hand tools with any on the crew."

-Jim Trask, OH Lions member & volunteer

"Bobbi is one that steps into the breach when the need is identified. She not only offers help but logical, well thought out solutions. Examples: organizing drivers for the Haven, getting a van and making sure it operates. She is a strong voice for the people without a voice."

-Tom Bond, volunteer

Comments about Bobbi from three of the guests at Haven Shelter, gathered by Haven shelter manager Krystal Hamlin:

"She is so nice and always makes me feel like I am important."

"Bobbi always has a smile for all of us."

"Bobbi used to serve us food when SPIN cafe was open. We remember Bobbi with happy thoughts."

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