

April 15 through April 21, 2021

FREE

Whidbey Weekly

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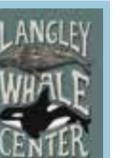
Welcome the Whales!



Welcome the "Sounders" Gray Whales to Puget Sound
Held Virtually Friday, April 16 & Saturday, April 17 on Zoom

Each spring roughly a dozen gray whales stop to feed on ghost shrimp before continuing their migration north to the Arctic. Help us celebrate their return, while learning more about these fascinating whales and the importance of Puget Sound ghost shrimp.

For more details and registration information visit orcaneetwork.org or facebook.com/OrcaNetwork





Planning for Bayview's Future

The Bayview Vision Steering Group is working to identify workforce housing opportunities in Bayview. You are invited to hear about our initial thinking, ask questions, and give input before we develop a master plan.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 4 at 5:30 PM

via Zoom (please download Zoom app before the meeting)

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Are you looking for housing on Whidbey? Please help guide our planning efforts by taking our survey!

REGISTER FOR THE COMMUNITY MEETING OR TAKE THE SURVEY AT
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New Website Out Now!
Goosefoot Community Fund

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



Nature caught up with the calendar. Spring is here. Let the sneezing begin.

Mouth surprise

The other day, I brushed my teeth with arthritis creme. The yellow tube looked toothpaste-y

familiar. The taste was not unlike those taste-free Tom's toothpastes.

I'll have to tell Dr. Perkins of my discovery.

My teeth have never felt better.

Years ago, a friend of mine brushed his teeth with Preparation H. In fairness to him, the lights were off in his cruise ship state room when he was tubing. A couple of benefits to my friend's mistake – Not only did the swelling in his gums go down, he quit smoking at night and on weekends.

Fly over

After too many weeks of trying to terminate flies with fly swatters and fly magnet sticky tape, I discovered the best weapon – 3x5 cards. Unlined and white.

Ever since writing political science term papers in college, 3x5 cards have been a major part of my tool kit. Like Scotch tape and small flashlights, 3x5 cards, for me, are a must.

Yet, until I grabbed a card to nab a fly on the window nearest my caboose desk, I never knew the power.

Swift, sturdy and functional, the 3x5 card does it all. History states the 3x5 card was invented by Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist, zoologist, taxonomist, and physician who was brief and to the point. The lined 3x5 card was initially offered to help people who needed guidance in small areas.

Maybe such an awareness is the 3x5 card seed planted in my term paper years.

I moved to Whidbey because I like small areas, but without footnotes.

Final note on the flies – The window flies love the scent of my hand sanitizer, complete with a fragrance from Decatur, Ala. Maybe sweet magnolias? So, to attract them for our daily 3x5 card rodeo, I spray the windows with hand sanitizer.

It seems to work, plus the flies are social distancing to scale.

Stuff

It almost seems like yesterday when Dad told me he did not need anything for Father's Day. I was beyond my normal state of perplexed.

When Dad responded to my reactions of "Really?" and "Why?" with "I have everything I need," it seemed like an undesirable state to me.

What could it possibly be like to have everything you need?

What, no more DVDs? I just ordered *The Dam Busters* (British, 1954) with Richard Todd and Michael Redgrave. Remember that one? The British drop and skip bombs on the water like skipping flat rocks in order to destroy the Ruhr dam. True story. WW II. I last saw the film in 8th grade when our principal ran movies in the auditorium at lunchtime so we hoods would not leave the grounds to bike to the drug store for candy nutrition.

Sure worked. Look at all the dentists we have. I got Dad a gift anyway. He had everything he needed but the unneeded gift I got him.

The gift—an oil painting of a rainbow trout under water, the fish swimming majestically, seemingly without thought of any possible predators in the form of fly fishermen.

Months later, Dad asked me if the oil painter was also a fisherman.

"The reason I ask, son, is because trout don't swim that way."

There went the autographed photo of Esther Williams.

Looking around in my caboose, I can be thankful I do not have other train cars to fill. Like Dad, I need no more stuff.

Nevertheless, I could sure use a box car for my vinyl records. They would be in the shade and easy to retrieve.

A guy I heard about in Malibu had a diving board on one end of his caboose so he could do a swan dive into his swimming pool, an adjoining, on track, water-filled coal car.

I don't need more train cars. Dumpsters maybe, but no more storage.

For me, getting rid of anything is a challenge. Every item has a story or a function. Every item seems to have possibility. I can sell it, give it away, use it, or figure it out tomorrow.

Good thing I am not a county commissioner. After the first few weeks, I would surely need another file cabinet.

Tag on

To celebrate the renewal of my 1986 Chevy Durango registration, I washed the truck for the first time since Mary Margaret Haugen was our state senator.

The truck looks so nice now, I think I will keep it for the 35th year. Maybe my truck can be the winner of the Whidbey Car Show's *Most Improved Look*, representing the classic division. Or maybe winner of the *Most Miles on a Truck with Single Digit Gas Mileage*. That could be a lock.

To be certain, I better check with Heather and Bruce about those qualifications for registration. Hopefully there will be a meat loaf sandwich somewhere in any needed categorical negotiations.

No mayo will be held.

Reader submission

The Phreeland Fantom has returned with this chortle fest from his email searches. Authentication and verisimilitude have been postponed. We just want to laugh.

An Elementary School Teacher had 26 students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

It's always darkest before.....Daylight Saving Time.

You can lead a horse to water but.....how?

No news is.....impossible.

A miss is as good as a.....Mr.

The pen is mightier than the.....pigs.

An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.

Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.

A penny saved is.....not much.

Two's company, three's.....the Musketeers.

Don't put off till tomorrow what.....you put on to go to bed.

Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded.

You get out of something only what you.....see in the picture on the box.

Children should be seen and not.....spanked or grounded.

You get out of something only what you.....see in the picture on the box.

Reader question

Can I still use the carpool lane if the other person is in the trunk?

According to our limited research, it is necessary for the second person to be seen, even if not heard. Therefore, a trunked passenger would not work. Furthermore, a hearse driver would need to change things around to keep from being pulled over.

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

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Volume 13, Issue 15 | © MMXXI Whidbey Weekly

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Welcome the Whales!

Friday, April 16 & Saturday, April 17
Held virtually on Zoom

Welcome the "Sounders" Gray Whales to Puget Sound

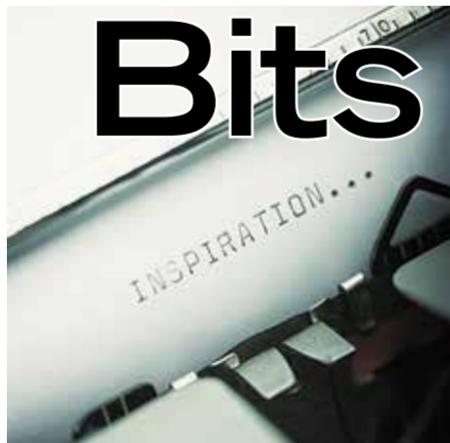
Each spring roughly a dozen gray whales stop to feed on ghost shrimp before continuing their migration north to the Arctic.

Help us celebrate their return, while learning more about these fascinating whales and the importance of Puget Sound ghost shrimp.

<p>Friday April 16th 6:00 to 8:00 pm Art Night Fundraiser Cost -\$25 ~ Make a Zentangle® gray whale with instructor Jeanne Hamilton (Non-"artists" welcome!) ~ Support Orca Network's programs and events</p>	<p>Saturday April 17th 2:00 to 5:00 pm Welcome the Whales Webinar Cost - free ~ Wishing Whale dedication ~ Virtual Parade & Whale Watch ~ Research update ~ Spyhobby Hour</p>
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For more details and registration information visit orcانetwork.org or facebook.com/OrcaNetwork

Questions? Email cindy@orcانetwork.org



Bits & Pieces

April 20: Whatcom and Skagit Counties
April 27: Jefferson, Clallam, and Grays Harbor Counties
April 29: Pierce and Thurston Counties
May 4: King and Snohomish Counties
May 6: Island and San Juan Counties

An interactive online map. Help map Washington's maritime heritage by identifying the places you value along our saltwater shorelines. Use the virtual Maritime Mapper to pin sites and resources, add photos, share stories, and more. The places you add will help develop the plan for the heritage area by identifying the maritime resources that are most important to our coastal communities.

A Maritime Washington Survey. Fill out this short survey to let the Washington Trust know what you value about Washington's maritime heritage, share your thoughts about the challenges and opportunities facing our coastal communities, and lay out your vision for how to best support maritime stories and resources in our state.

These collaborative planning efforts will culminate in a management plan for the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, which will serve as a framework for how we can work together to celebrate, maintain, and share our state's unique maritime places and heritage. To learn more, visit www.preservewa.org/mwnha. [Submitted by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation]

Goosefoot Launches New Website

After many months of hard work from staff and partners, Goosefoot Community Fund is pleased to announce the launch of its new website. The address remains the same at www.goosefoot.org.

The primary goal with the redesign was to create a more user-friendly, responsive and robust resource across all devices and browsers. The focus was on making the site a useful tool users could return to over and over to stay up-to-date about events, music, and business workshops; apply for or learn more about its annual grant program; discover the rich history of Bayview and its businesses; and keep up-to-date with Goosefoot's programs and mission.

Goosefoot serves many roles in the community—particularly in Bayview. As a 501(c)(3) organization that is often challenging to describe, staff hopes the new site presents their vision and work in an accessible manner.

You are invited to explore the site, stay up-to-date on the latest news and events, and keep in touch. Enjoy Goosefoot's new look at www.goosefoot.org.

For any suggestions, questions, or comments, please contact Goosefoot at 360-321-4145 or info@goosefoot.org.

[Submitted by Sami Postma, Events & Education Coordinator, Goosefoot]

A Whale of a Success Story: Conservation Keys Annual Return



Gray whales, here shown in Saratoga Passage in 2019, wait until high tide then move closer to shore to suction feed for burrowing shrimp in tidelands – Photo by Jill Hein

Nature wows us at this time of year on Whidbey and Camano islands. Each spring, enormous gray whales breach the surface of these beautiful marine waters and send a spray into the air, announcing their highly anticipated arrival.

Members of one group of gray whales known as the "Sounders" have returned to Saratoga Passage for roughly 30 years.

It's a festive occasion – Langley even holds a parade – and there's ample reason to celebrate. Island conservation is key to why these colossal cetaceans make the annual journey home.

The Sounder whales, which number about

12, hold Whidbey and Camano waters in high regard. They'll pause along their coastal migration to detour more than 150 miles inland to feed in the North Puget Sound waters next to Whidbey and Camano. They're mostly seeking the abundant ghost shrimp found burrowed in mudflats. The gray whales wait for high tide and gorge themselves on the meaty crustaceans.

Nearshore habitat and marine conditions found in Saratoga Passage, Port Susan, and Possession Sound are optimal for the thriving ghost shrimp, according to Ralph Downes, enforcement officer with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"We get the largest concentration of gray whales feeding here because of the substrate and the presence of the shrimp," Downes said. "One of the reasons we have so many shrimp is the nutrient-rich water that comes out of the Stillaguamish, Snohomish and Skagit rivers but the most important thing is the beach — the sandy, shallow gradient where burrowing shrimp can live."

Add in the fact the tidal flow and wave action in Saratoga Passage and Possession Sound is mild compared to much of Puget Sound – allowing sediments to settle rather than get carried away – you start to understand why ghost shrimp are so densely populated in this one area. The Sounders eat hundreds of pounds of them a day while hanging out near the shores of Whidbey and Camano between March and May.

This web of interdependence between one of the ocean's largest creatures and one of its smallest illustrates why naturally-functionally shorelines matter – and why preserving them is so vital.

Clean Waters Depend on Healthy Lands

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust has permanently protected roughly 15 miles of natural shoreline and more than 3,000 acres of tidelands in Island County, including a half-mile stretch of beach at Possession Sound Preserve, south of Clinton. Once conserved, stewardship staff lead efforts to restore shorelines to their natural state whenever possible.

In 2015, the Land Trust partnered with the Washington Department of Natural Resources to remove a creosote-treated wooden bulkhead at the Waterman Shoreline Preserve in Possession Sound, which cut off sediment supply to the beach.

Eroding feeder bluffs that provide sediment play a critical role in nearshore habitats. They replenish the beach and tidelands with sand, gravel and nutrients, enriching habitat essential for marine life including crabs, shrimp, endangered Chinook salmon, orca and gray whales.

The health of nearby forests and lands also contribute to water quality in Puget Sound.

"The productivity of the upland areas is an important part of the whole process," said Dan Matlock, Land Trust board member and retired college biology professor. "The shading of beaches for forage fish spawning, the insect rain (insects that fall into the water from nearby shores and vegetation), shorebird nesting and feeding habitat, and water filtration are all part of the whole picture."

Howard Garrett, co-founder of the nonprofit Orca Network, agrees that all of those factors are making a difference in providing healthier habitats for fish and wildlife.

"It certainly does to those dozen or so gray whales that come back every year," Garrett said with a laugh.

Garrett said he takes pride in being part of an island community that is passionate about the well-being of whales and cares so much about the overall environment. His organization is dedicated to raising awareness about Pacific Northwest whales and the importance of providing them healthy and safe habitats.

While resident orca whales are struggling due to dwindling salmon populations, the number

Be conscious of your investment environment

On April 22, we observe Earth Day, an occasion that has inspired millions of people over the decades to take steps to clean up our world. Of course, your physical surroundings are important, but you also operate in other "ecosystems" – social, cultural and political. And you'll need to consider your investment environment, too. How can you improve it?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Avoid "toxic" investment strategies. The dangers of pollution helped drive the creation of Earth Day. As an investor, you also need to watch out for "toxins" – particularly in the form of unhealthy investment techniques. For example, chasing after "hot" stocks can burn you. In the first place, by the time you've heard of them, they may already be cooling off. Second, and probably more important, these hot stocks just may be wrong for the investment mix that's appropriate for your needs. Another toxic investment strategy: trying to "time" the market by "buying low and selling high." No one can really predict when market highs and lows will occur, and if you're always jumping in and out of the investment world, you'll likely waste time and effort – not to mention money. Instead of looking for today's hottest stocks or guessing where the market is heading, try to create and follow a long-term investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Reduce waste. From an environmental standpoint, the less waste and garbage we produce, the better it is for our planet. As an investor, can you find "wasteful" elements in your portfolio? It's possible that you own some investments that may be redundant – that is, they are virtually indistinguishable from others you may have. Also, some investments, due to their risk profile or performance, no longer may be suitable for your needs. In either case – redundancy or unsuitability – you might be better off selling the investments and using the proceeds to purchase others that can be more helpful.

- Recycle wisely. Recycling is a major part of the environmental movement. At first, though, you might not think the concept of recycling could apply to investing. But consider this: If you own stocks or mutual funds, you may receive dividends, and, like many people, you may choose to automatically reinvest those dividends back into the stocks or funds. So, in a sense, you are indeed "recycling" your dividend payments to boost your ownership stakes – without expending additional resources. And, in fact, this can be quite an effective and efficient way to increase your wealth over time.

- Plant some "trees." Planting trees has always been a key activity among boosters of the environment – with the recognition that their efforts will take years, or even decades, to reach fruition. When you invest, you must sometimes start small. By purchasing a limited amount of an investment and nurturing it over the years by adding more shares, you may one day have achieved significant growth. (Keep in mind, though, that there are no guarantees – variable investments such as stocks can lose principal.)

By making these and other moves, you can create a healthy investment environment – one that can help you achieve your long-term goals.

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

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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of gray and humpback whales in Puget Sound are increasing. This is good news for one special group of grays that find the shrimp bounty around Whidbey and Camano is worth taking a detour.

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust is a nonprofit nature conservation organization that actively involves the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands supporting the diversity of life on our islands and in the waters of Puget Sound. For more information, visit www.wclt.org, email info@wclt.org, or call 360-222-3310.

[Submitted by Ron Newberry, Communications Manager, WCLT]

The Birds of Whidbey Island: A New Checklist

Whidbey Audubon Society has issued a new checklist of all the birds people are likely to see on Whidbey Island—an impressive 234 species—available free to anyone interested in birding.

Published in brochure form, the checklist groups the island's birds by families—for example, shorebirds, owls and thrushes—and includes a bar graph for each species showing which months it's been seen here and how common (or not) its appearances are. Using the graphs, people can see that downy woodpeckers are likely to be seen here year around—but the rare snowy owl has been sighted only November through February. Symbols indicate which birds commonly nest here.

Joe Sheldon, one of the leads on the Whidbey Audubon committee that compiled the checklist, said the previous checklist was published in 2016. This new version revises some of the bird groupings as determined by new DNA studies at Cornell University, and updates the sighting frequencies based on local birders' reports. It also refines the birds' appearances down to the month, while earlier versions listed them only by season.

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Coupeville nomination p. 10

Whidbey welcomes the whales - virtually

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

It is an 18-year tradition that will not be stopped by a world-wide pandemic. The Orca Network's annual Welcome the Whales celebration will go virtual Friday and Saturday and will include several different events sure to appeal to Whidbey Islanders and whale lovers alike.

There two main online events: An art night fundraiser Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. and a Zoom festival from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday. Pre-registration is required for both events at <https://conta.cc/3s7asaE>.

The art night fundraiser Friday evening takes the place of the regular whale watch activity, which was cancelled by COVID last year.

"This is new for us," said Cindy Hansen, education coordinator for Orca Network. "We have never done an art night fundraiser over Zoom before, and we're looking forward to it! We have a wonderful volunteer, Jeanne Hamilton, who is a Zentangle® instructor. She enthusiastically agreed to teach a class as a fundraiser for this event and she will be putting together a special gray whale template for the class."

Hansen said one does not have to be an artist to complete the project – anyone can do it. Cost for the Zentangle® class is \$25 and all proceeds will benefit Orca Network's education programs.

Saturday's Zoom festival features several different elements, including a virtual Welcome the Whales parade.

"In addition to the virtual parade, we are also planning on a tribal blessing, dedication of the Wishing Whale in Langley, a 'virtual whale watch,' educational videos about gray whales and a research webinar with gray whale scientists John Calambokidis, Holly Fearnbach, and John Durban," Hansen said.

According to organizers, it's not too late to participate in this virtual parade, strange as that may seem. Photos can be sent to susan@orcانetwork.org by today to be included.

"We did a virtual parade last year for Welcome the Whales," explained Susan Berta, co-founder and executive director of Orca Network. "After 16 years of parades, we didn't want the



pandemic to stop the parade, so we asked people to send us photos of them in their costumes, and made a video putting those photos over a background of prior parade photos. Last year's parade can be viewed on our YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/YWUM6lbSUrA>. So we are doing another virtual parade this year, our 18th year, the parade will go on!"

Hansen said the group has learned a lot over the past year about putting together virtual events and she feels those who attend will not be disappointed in this year's offerings.

"Welcome the Whales was our first big virtual event after the pandemic began and we have learned so much since then after doing presentations, youth events, and educational webinars all year," she said. "So we're feeling much more comfortable with the platform and are looking forward to adding new elements this year. Welcome the Whales is very different from our other events because the festival and parade are a big part of it, and that's challenging to convert to a virtual platform. But we're happy with what we've created and are looking forward to sharing it with the public."

Guest speakers this year include John Calambokidis, senior research biologist and one of the founders of Cascadia Research Collective. He will discuss the biology and status of the Sounders gray whales and will discuss the current Unusual Mortality Event (UME) affecting the gray whale population. Dr. Holly Fearnbach, a researcher with SR3 (Sealife Response Rehab Research), and Dr. John Durban, a population ecologist with Southall Environmental Associates, will discuss drone photogrammetry studies with both Southern Resident orcas and Sounders gray whales.

Of course, whales are the highlight of the Welcome the Whales festival. The Sounders – a loyal group of gray whales which return to the waters around Whidbey Island every year – have been back in the area since February.

"Recently there have been almost daily sightings of one or more of the local gray whales in Saratoga Passage, Port Susan and Possession Sound," said Hansen, adding our "local" whales have seemed to fare better than others. "Gray whales are amazing animals who are currently going through a very tough Unusual Mortality Event (UME). The Sounders are a really special group of gray whales who discovered the Puget Sound ghost shrimp during times of low prey abundance and have continued to return to the area. The entire gray whale population is going through a very rough time environmentally right now, and it's difficult to watch, but it's encouraging



Photo Courtesy of Orca Network

The Sounders have returned to the waters around Whidbey Island. Learn about these creatures during an online Welcome the Whales Festival Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m., including a virtual parade.

to see our Sounders returning each year. We hope they are finding enough food here to sustain them."

"We are SO fortunate to have this small group of 'Sounders' returning each spring to our area," Berta said. "This is a very unique situation, where the same whales (plus new ones often showing up) interrupt their migration north to return to Puget Sound and stay to feed in one area for several months."

"As far as we know, this doesn't occur anywhere else, and it has given Orca Network and researchers at Cascadia Research Collective a chance to get to observe and study these whales over three decades, and to get to know each individual," she continued. "Through Cascadia Research's work, we have learned more about the social behaviors and interactions of these whales, and how valuable the ghost shrimp beds are to sustaining this small community of grays especially during UMEs or times of scarce food up north."

An informal, SpyHoppy Hour will follow the Zoom events Saturday. Those attending are encouraged to wear costumes and come prepared to swap whale stories.

"Welcome the Whales is our most favorite event of the year, because it is so joyful and fun, and a celebration of how lucky we are to have these grays come to visit us each spring," Berta said. "In these times of so much bad news in the world, we are thankful that we have the return of the Gray whales to celebrate together this spring, even though it can't be in person; and we have hopes that by next April we can once again gather together on the streets of Langley."

Learn more about the Sounders and other whales of the Salish Sea at the Langley Whale Center, 105 Anthes Ave. in Langley, or visit [Facebook.com/LangleyWhaleCenter](https://www.facebook.com/LangleyWhaleCenter) for current hours. Or, schedule a private tour by calling 360-221-7505.

More information about Welcome the Whales is available online at orcانetwork.org. To register for the Zentangle® art event Friday or the Zoom festival Saturday, visit <https://conta.cc/3s7asaE>.



Photo Courtesy of Orca Network

The Orca Network will hold a Zentangle® art night fundraiser Friday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Attendees will create a gray whale work of art similar in style to those shown above. No artistic talent is required. Cost to attend this online class is \$25 and proceeds will benefit Orca Network's educational programs.



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SUNDAY, MARCH 7

1:47 am, Oak Harbor Rd.

Reporting party called earlier about neighbor breaking fence; after law enforcement left, he began throwing rocks at property.

10:09 am, Diane Ave.

Advising neighbor to right possibly damaging reporting party's fence; is out there slamming things and making noise since 8 am. Does not know neighbor's name.

10:58 am, NW Front St.

Reporting party dropped her keys down sewer drain by accident while unlocking her car. Requesting to know if officer might be able to help her at all?

2:04 pm, S Main St.

Reporting party advising female has locked herself in bathroom.

3:59 pm, Madrona Way

Advising white female, dark blue jacket, pink sweatshirt, carrying backpack standing across from her residence on side of road yelling at trees.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

8:58 am, Kringler Rd.

Ongoing issue with subject, now victim of identity fraud. Reporting party used to reside with female; being billed for Netflix monthly by female.

9:13 am, Northgate Dr.

Requesting call regarding brother using identity back in 2018; was jailed under caller's name in Thurston County.

6:08 pm, French Rd.

Reporting party pepper sprayed dog in area of location; owner of dog is furious with reporting party. Owner of dog is threatening reporting party.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

8:18 am, Devries Rd.

Caller advising of one black and one white goat in roadway in front of location, unknown owners.

1:13 pm, E Fakkema Rd.

Gray/white goat with horns, one dark brown and one medium brown goat loose now in her yard.

1:46 pm, Strawberry Point Rd.

Loose large pink and gray spotted pig in roadway last seen 10 minutes ago on Strawberry Hill Ln.

3:47 pm, E Fakkema Rd.

Caller still would like contact regarding goats in her yard.

3:58 pm, Cultus Bay Rd.

Advising was bitten by dog while on job site; no medical need; owner hung up on reporting party when contacted.

4:01 pm, Sunlight Beach Rd.

Requesting call regarding family property being locked up; other family members think they own it all.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

6:15 am, Walker Ave.

Reporting party on line, advising he just wants to talk to someone; he is Christian and very upset about the Rapture, it gives him anxiety. Just wanted to talk to someone and be told it is okay.

11:47 am, Olympic Bay Ln.

Reporting party advising she is having a fence put up and neighbors are harassing

the company installing the fence; there is an ongoing dispute with the neighbors.

1:09 pm, Oak Harbor Rd.

Reporting party advising her ex-husband had a heart attack Monday and law enforcement was involved. Reporting party states her mother and neighbor said it was because she yelled at him. Reporting party states she was never there; states there is an order in place.

8:14 pm, Heller Rd.

Reporting party advising male subject jumped out in front her vehicle while she left; advising he's been doing it with all the other vehicles that pull through; just occurred; did not hit subject.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

9:42 am, Carlie Dr.

Two large, wild boars running loose.

1:05 pm, Oak Harbor Rd.

Subject working under car and car is out into lane of travel on Oak Harbor Rd. Says subject's feet are sticking out into road.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

9:43 am, Fallview Ln.

Reporting party states someone has been marking up his property with blue masking tape. Had issue last week with suspicious subject. Available for phone call.

2:15 pm, Westwood Pl.

Reporting party advising having past issues with neighbor's fence; they removed their fence, but in the process, took part of the reporting party's fence. Is calling because he was advised not to confront them last time law enforcement was called.

4:02 pm, NW 6th St.

Requesting call for something about a radiation meter in her house. Says she is being assaulted by electricity.

4:47 pm, Humphrey Rd.

Reporting party advising sounds like someone is shooting a couple properties over and heard a round "buzz by."

11:00 pm, Eveningside Ln.

Reporting party advising someone brought him to location; advising they used a gun; unknown where he is; two male subjects.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

9:54 am, Eveningside Ln.

Caller thinks she may have marijuana joint laced with something. Feels it is related to incident that occurred at location last night.

6:29 pm, Hastings Rd.

Reporting party states subject was on a steep 40-foot slope looking over reporting party's 10-foot-tall wall. States male has order against reporting party but continues to do things to harass reporting party and try and get reporting party in trouble. Subject has now returned home.

6:43 pm, Carl Ave.

Open line on wireless; sounds like a man speaking to himself "Where am I at? Middle of nowhere;" saying a lot of things that don't make sense; sounds like he has been drinking. Unsure if he is speaking to himself.

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

420 at The Green Room



Tuesday 4/20 Doorbuster Deals:

Flower:	Prerolls:	Concentrates:
Mama J's (Top Shelf) Select 7g - \$80 \$40	Boggy Boon Infused 1g - \$5	Old McDonald Farms 1g - \$6
Old McDonald Farms 3.5g - \$5	Cartridges: Regulator Select Strains - \$25	Paris Select Strains - \$12

Happy Hour Everyday

8AM - 10AM (\$20 MIN) 9PM - 11PM

Munchie Monday	20% off all edibles
Vape-It Tuesday	15% off vape products 20% off select brands
Waxy Wednesday	15% off all concentrates 20% off select brands
Thirsty Thursday	20% off Infused drinks
Fuego Friday	30% off all Freddy Products Cake Cannabis & Fire Ass Mids
Stock Up Saturday	15% off half OZ 20% off full OZ
Fairwinds Sunday	30% off Fairwinds Products 15% off all CBD Products

420 Weekend Sale

Friday 4/16 - Monday 4/19

25% Off Storewide (\$20 MIN)

Flower:	Space Face 3.5g-\$15, 7g-\$29, 28g-\$120	Cartridges:
Prerolls:	Falcanna 2pk - \$7	Smokey Point Select Strains 3.5g - \$20
NW Cultivator 14pk-\$18, 28pk-\$35	Phat Panda Select Strains 2g -\$15 3.5g - \$25	Green Rush 1g - \$30
Concentrates:	Regulator Select Nug Run \$12	Double Delicious .5g - \$12
NW Concentrates - \$25	Sticky Frog- \$25	Edibles:
Falcanna- \$25	Falcanna- \$25	Blaze 100mg Infused Soda - \$15
		Mobius 30% off

30% Off Select Brands ALL weekend



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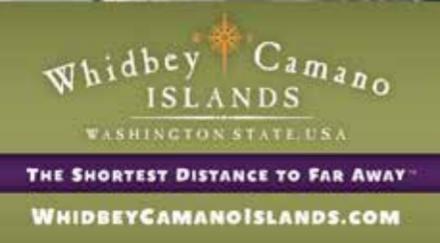
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BITS & PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The checklist "is primarily designed for people who are beginning or intermediate birders," Sheldon said. "If you see a bird on the island, you can look it up with your phone using one of the Audubon birding apps or Merlin Bird ID from Cornell, then look at our checklist to see how likely it is to be here. It's a user-friendly method of identifying birds."

People using the checklist may be surprised to learn just how rich this island is in avian life. Thirteen species of gulls and terns have been seen around our shorelines. Seven types of owls haunt the woods, and nine species of hawks and eagles make life hazardous for their land- and water-based prey. Shorebirds and waterfowl have the best representation on the list—not surprising around islands—with 35 and 34 species respectively.

The checklist can be downloaded at www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org. The printed brochure, also free, will be available at island bookstores, tourist agencies and some lodgings; and from individual Audubon board members.

For membership inquiries, see the Whidbey Audubon website above.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Audubon Society Publicity Chair]

Local Business News

FEMA to Provide Assistance with Funeral Costs for COVID-19-Related Deaths

The staff at Wallin-Stucky Funeral Home want the citizens of Whidbey Island to be aware, beginning in April, families that experienced the death of a loved one due to COVID-19, may be eligible for up to \$9,000 in funeral assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Two pieces of legislation recently passed by congress - the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - authorized FEMA to provide financial

assistance to families that incurred COVID-19-related funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020.

"This has been an extraordinarily difficult year as hundreds of thousands of families throughout the country have unexpectedly had to plan a funeral when a loved one died of COVID-19," said Kelly Davidson, a funeral director at Wallin-Stucky. "Our hearts are with, not only the families we have served, but everyone in this community who is grieving the death of a loved one or friend due to the pandemic. While this assistance cannot take away their pain and grief, it will make a tremendous difference by enabling them to meaningfully honor the life of their loved one and lay them to rest with dignity."

Funeral assistance is intended to help with expenses for funeral and memorial services, and burial, interment or cremation. In April, a dedicated 800-number will be established to help individuals who apply. FEMA encourages families who may be eligible to start gathering the following documentation:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows the death occurred in the United States. The death certificate must indicate the death "may have been caused by" or "was likely the result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.
- Funeral expense documents (e.g., receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) including the applicant's name, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses and dates the funeral expenses were incurred.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance; financial assistance received from voluntary agencies; federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies; or other sources.

If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-appli-

cant(s). Applicants can also apply for assistance for more than one individual who died.

"FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance covers eligible expenses for the services you've already paid for when your loved one died," said Davidson. "And, as our community becomes safer, your family may choose to plan a memorial service in your loved one's honor so all of your family and friends can attend – something many families are finding to be a meaningful experience. Those expenses may also be eligible."

While families can apply for assistance at any time, if they do wish to have a memorial service when it is safe to do so, FEMA recommends waiting until after all services have been contracted to avoid the hassle of amending an initial application.

The FEMA website has complete information about eligibility requirements, documentation applicants will be required to provide, and how to start the application process. Visit www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance.

"If there is anything we can do to assist families with the application process - such as ordering copies of a death certificate or providing copies of receipts or contracts showing the expenses that were incurred - please call us," said Davidson. "Our staff can also speak with families at any time about planning a memorial service for your loved one that all of your loved ones and friends can attend when it is safe to do so."

Families may wish to visit RememberingALife.com, "Planning a Service in the Future - Free Planning Guide" for ideas about how to honor a loved one and other information that may be useful as they continue their grief journey.

Wallin-Stucky Funeral Home, LLC, is the only full-service funeral home on Whidbey Island. Locally owned and operated with two locations to serve you, its funeral directors and embalmers are fully licensed by the State of Washington.



THERE ARE NO TIME-OUTS IN HEALTHCARE

From testing to treatment to vaccine delivery, our healthcare heroes have worked tirelessly to keep us safe and healthy.

However, the financial impact of COVID on our local health system cannot be overstated.

With your help, WhidbeyHealth will continue to meet the needs of our diverse community.

So please **GIVE BIG! Together we can do this!**

Go to whidbeyhealth.org/foundation or mail your donation to WhidbeyHealth Foundation P.O. Box 641, Coupeville, WA 98239

or call the Foundation at **360-678-7656, ex. 6501.**



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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.

Virtual Welcome the Whales Festival

Friday, April 16, 6:00-8:00PM
Saturday, April 17, 3:00-5:00PM

Help celebrate the "Sounder" gray whales' return to local waters while learning more about these fascinating whales and the importance of Puget Sound ghost shrimp. For more information, visit www.orcanetwork.org or email susan@orcanetwork.org.

Coupeville Garden Club Plant Sale

Online orders begin Sunday, April 18

All proceeds from this event are returned to the community through the club's beautification projects. For more information and to place an order, visit www.coupevillegardenclub.org.

Drive thru Fisherman's Breakfast

Saturday, April 24, 7:00-11:00AM
Deer Lagoon Grange, Langley

Join your neighbors for a hearty breakfast burrito with eggs, potatoes, cheese and sausage, a side of salsa and your choice of coffee or juice drink. By donation. Deer Lagoon Grange #846 is located at 5142 Bayview Rd.

Klompes Canal Races

Saturday, April 24, 2:00-3:00PM
Sunday, April 25, 2:00-3:00PM

Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, 32630 SR 20

Get your klompes shoes and decorate them to enter the Klompes Canal Races! Shoes available at Oak Harbor Chamber for \$5. More info can be found at www.facebook.com/events/435725904193401.

Dine Out for Kids

Sunday, April 25, 8:00AM-3:00PM
Monday, April 26, 6:30AM-4:30PM

Sunshine Drip, 306 N. Main St, Coupeville

A portion of the day's sales will be donated to the Coupeville Schools Foundation. The foundation provides an "extra measure of support" through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund.

Shop Out for Kids

Sunday, April 25, 11:00AM-3:00PM

Madrona Blossom, 13 NW Front St, Coupeville

A portion of the day's sales will be donated to the Coupeville Schools Foundation. The Foundation provides an "extra measure of support" through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund.

Spring Flower Bowl Fundraiser

Through April 25
\$40

OHHS Grad Night Booster Parents have partnered with Greenhouse Florist and Nursery to bring you the Spring Flower Bowl Fundraiser. Proceeds will be used to create a fun and safe grad night for OHHS graduating seniors. Each beautiful 10-inch bowl will be unique and potted with seasonal flowers. Cost is \$40 per bowl. Orders must be picked up at the Greenhouse May 3-8. For more information or to order your Spring Flower Bowl, email ohhsgradnight2021@gmail.com or call 360-929-1353.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below
Cost: Free:

Books2Movies: "Unbroken" by Laura Hellenbrand

Friday, April 16, 2:00PM

This month's title: *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand is a World War II story of survival, resilience and redemption. Register at <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Monitoring Cascade Range Volcanoes

Tuesday, April 20, 3:30-4:30PM

Learn more about the Cascades Volcano Observatory and its mission to monitor "High Threat" volcanoes of Washington and Oregon, and work with monitoring partners and emergency officials to communicate hazard information to the 10+ million people who live in Washington and Oregon. Register at <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Meet Author Steve Olson

Thursday, April 29, 6:30-8:00PM

Meet Steve Olson, award-winning author of *Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens*, and 2017 winner of the Washington State Book Award for history and nonfiction. *Eruption* examines the history and science behind the 1980 eruption with page-turning accounts of what happened to those who lived and those who died. Register at <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Discuss the Classics with Rita Bartell Drum

Thursdays, 12:30 or 7:00PM

Enjoy a pleasant hour of shared wisdom and fellowship as we consider the words and hope of times past and weave a fabric of renewed hope by leaning on the "Classics." Contact: ritadrum777@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Meetings & Organizations

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS)

Tuesday, April 20, 1:00PM
Zoom meeting

Canadian author and genealogist Dave Obee presents "DECODING THE DASH - Build the Stories of their Lives." Explore your ancestors' lives beyond just birth and death dates or just the standard internet sites. Learn how archives and libraries can make it even easier to fully tell your ancestors' life stories. Non WIGS members wishing to attend, send an email to whidbeygenealogical@gmail.com no later than Sunday to receive your Zoom invitation. All are invited to join.

Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum

Wednesday, April 28, 11:30AM
Oak Harbor Elks Lodge, 155 NE Ernst St.

During this monthly luncheon Museum President Wil Shellenberger will address the state of the museum/foundation and describe the upcoming events and challenges to the membership. He will then respond to questions and comments. Following Shellenberger, Dr Jesse Kennedy, of the North Cascades History Museum, will launch a teaser on the loss of a Lockheed PV-1 Ventura from NAS Whidbey over the North Cascades Jan. 14, 1945. The complete story will be told at the luncheon May 26, COVID restrictions permitting. Admission is free but a no host lunch will be offered for \$12.

Classes, Seminars and Workshops

DNR Symposium

Thursday, April 15, 11:00AM-12:30PM

Join Island County staff in discussing the wide range of services provided by your local natural resources team. From soil to stream to shoreline, factors such as noxious weeds, septic systems, and bulkheads can play a significant role in watershed health. During this interactive webinar, panelists will discuss how Island County Public Health is monitoring water quality and taking action to protect you from harmful pollutants in the local drinking water, shellfish beds, and beloved beaches. This event will take place virtually. Please visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGlvL_6w for free registration.

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Friday Evening, April 23 • Saturday, April 24, 10-3pm

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FOOD TRUCK TURNOUT



Saturday, April 24th & Sunday, April 25th

10am - 8pm

Next to Oak Harbor Chamber
<32630 SR 20>

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Coupeville nominated for Best U.S. Small Town award

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Coupeville's charm has landed the town a nomination for the TravelAwaits' "Best of Travel Awards" in the Best U.S. Small Town category.

TravelAwaits is dedicated to providing travel advice, ideas and unique inspiration for the 50+ traveler. This year's "Best of Travel Awards" will highlight a number of categories, and Coupeville will also be eligible in the following sections: Friendliest Small Town, Most Hallmark Movie-esque Small Town, Most Pet-Friendly Small Town, Best Place to Retire, and Most Accessible Small Town. Voting will continue through May 2, with the ability to vote once per day per category by visiting the following link: <https://travellawaits.secondstreetapp.com/TravelAwaits-Best-Of-Travel-Awards-2021/>.

Lynda Eccles, executive director of the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce, said Coupeville has plenty of unique experiences to offer, from the historic Coupeville Wharf, Island County Museum, nearby hiking trails and more.

"Coupeville is a very picturesque small town nestled in a corner of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on the edge of the pristine waters of Penn Cove," Eccles said. "We are rich in history. From the Native Americans who first lived here, to Captain Vancouver, who discovered our Island, to the first settlers. Our historic district is made up of well maintained historic buildings which house unique shops, a wine tasting room, art gallery, deli, tavern and bakeries. Restaurants are scattered throughout the town and use a lot of local produce fresh from our farms."

Missy Glassmaker, vice president of TravelAwaits.com, said the awards aim to help readers celebrate their favorite destinations and share trip inspiration with others.

"While no specific criteria was published with the award nominations, when creating content on TravelAwaits, we tend to consider a town with fewer than 20,000 residents 'small,' although we realize that a 'small town' is often more of a state of mind than simply just a certain population threshold," she said. "It's really that comfortable, warm feeling you get when you visit a town, the friendly people, the unique shops and restaurants and the safe feeling of being able to explore without the crowds."

Eccles said Coupeville has received nominations as a top small town by other organizations over the years. However, this



Rick Lawler Photo Courtesy of Coupeville Chamber of Commerce
Historic Coupeville's quintessential small-town feel and unique activities have helped earn it a nomination in the Best U.S. Small Town category of TravelAwaits' "Best of Travel Awards" for 2021. Voting for the Best U.S. Small Town and other categories will continue through May 2. Individuals can vote once a day per category by visiting travellawaits.com and selecting the "Best of Travel Awards" tab and writing in a selection.

is the first year it has been nominated for the TravelAwaits' awards, which are in their inaugural year.

"I first heard about this latest nomination when I received an email from Sherrye Wyatt of Island County Tourism," Eccles said. "It was a complete surprise and of course I was delighted that we had been nominated by someone but also in these days of COVID, my feelings are mixed. Yes, we are definitely worthy of the recognition, we are a unique and exceptional small town, there are not too many in the United States that sit in the heart of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on a beautiful scenic island, but at the same time we are in the middle of a global pandemic and a part of me is reluctant to shine this bright light on us, even though we rely heavily on tourism dollars."

Glassmaker said TravelAwaits hopes to help highlight a number of destinations in different categories and encourages voters to include both the town's name and state to avoid confusion with other locations.

"For our inaugural year, we are encouraging our users to 'Write-In' their favorite locations so as to make the results more anonymous and to open up voting to additional locations beyond the initial nominations," she said. "2020 was an interesting and difficult year – to say the very least – and we are hoping that these awards will allow people to celebrate their favorite destinations, whether near or far."

Eccles said towns reliant on tourism have faced challenging circumstances due to the impacts of COVID-19. She said the town has restricted the promotion of Coupeville since COVID-19 began, but those visitors who have made their way to the

town have been cognizant of safety guidelines. Eccles said while the town is not promoting as usual or actively pursuing recognition at this time, she and others are looking to the future and the return to more normal travel as it becomes safe to do so, and the community has come together to show resilience and support local businesses.

"In the meantime, if travelers can get inspired to plan their future trip then I don't see the harm in promoting or educating them about the unique and interesting places offered within the U.S. or possibly a place which is close to home," she said. "I cannot change what is already out there, we are a great small town, unique in so many ways, rich in history, scenic beauty, shops, lodging and our community as a whole, so let's embrace it – vote for us!"

Glassmaker said she hopes the awards help support and shine a light on small towns.

"The past year reminded travelers how truly special small towns are as they searched for places to avoid the crowds," she said. "It's a trend we don't see changing anytime soon. Our readers have shown a keen interest in both small towns and national parks, even prior to the pandemic. Further, many national parks and small towns allow for social distancing either because they are in remote areas or simply have fewer people, allowing a great, safe getaway that can be managed using responsible travel practices."

For information on Coupeville's offerings, visit coupeville-chamber.com, and for more travel inspiration for a variety of destinations, visit travellawaits.com.

Bags to Benches: Lions Club project reaps the rewards of good stewardship

By Melanie Hammons Whidbey Weekly

It's more than just a big deal. It's also a good deal for everyone who's involved in the Oak Harbor Lions Club "Bags to Benches" recycling project.

Hold on, can such an "animal" really exist?

Very decidedly "yes", according to Bobbi Lornson of the Oak Harbor Lions Club.

Lions Club organizations of course undertake diverse community projects and always have. Campaigns to provide vision support services, prevent diabetes, and provide educational scholarships to youth are just some examples. The Oak Harbor's Lions Club is also famous for the Christmas tree sale fundraiser it holds each year.



Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Lions Club
The Oak Harbor Lions Club is asking Whidbey Island residents to recycle those plastic grocery bags, which can be turned into durable benches. The club is hoping to collect 2,500 pounds of the plastic bags, which would be exchanged for five benches like the one pictured.

The year-long pandemic, however, motivated the Lions Club's search for an outreach it could promote while staying within CDC health guidelines, said Lornson.

"A USA/Canada Lions' Forum featured what I believed would be a great recycling project for us to sign on for," she said. "For every 500 pounds of plastic sacks people donate, the Lions receive in return a very nice bench from Trex (a manufacturer of outdoor decking and patio furniture)."

According to the Trex website, the benches are constructed of polywood, a blend of reclaimed wood and recycled plastic. The durable material won't absorb moisture, splinter, or rot, and is weather and environmentally resistant. Plus, the benches, along with other outdoor furniture in the product line, is made in the USA.

Since plastic is a major component of polywood, that's where the recyclable plastic grocery bags come in.

"Formerly, many grocery stores provided this recycling service for their customers. But early on, Coronavirus restrictions forced them to curtail operations, which left people with few other options. As a result, shoppers have a lot of plastic bags cluttering up their homes and garages," Lornson said.

It seems more than just a nice touch of irony. A pandemic that shut down one avenue for recycling plastic has resulted in some unexpectedly good benefits anyway. Lornson noted the Lions' recycling effort pays off in multiple ways.

First, it benefits consumers and the public who need a reliable, local point at which to recycle their bags. Second, it provides a source of recycling material to industries such

as Trex desiring to turn plastics into viable, useful materials. And third, best of all outcomes, it prevents a great deal of roadside littering and waterway pollution, which is where many of those plastic bags can unfortunately end up.

Surrounded by water as we are on Whidbey, it's no wonder the recycling idea has been so energetically embraced by island residents at large. According to Lornson, the idea has proven to be a resounding success.

"It's ballooned into a 'Whidbey Island' project," she said. "The response has been just tremendous. We can definitely divert a lot of plastic waste away from landfills."

Organizers of the Bags to Benches effort believe the benches are sure to give welcome respite to many Whidbey Island visitors and residents. The question is, where will they end up being placed?

Not only does the public play an important role in donating plastic bags for benches, they'll also have a voice as to where the benches will be located, according to Lornson.

"We are hoping to see some nominations from the public as to where they would like to see these benches placed," she said. "Perhaps we will eventually have people vote on their top suggestions for placement locations."

People are invited to drop off their plastic bags at one of several convenient collection sites including the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Wallin-Stucky Funeral Home (Oak Harbor and Freeland locations), or the Oak Harbor Lions Club storage facility at 3063 N. Oak Harbor Road. The bags must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue. If



the bags are marked with a number 2 or 4, they are recyclable. Other items that can also be recycled include produce bags, ice bags, Ziploc® and other recyclable bags, cereal liners, bread bags, dry cleaning bags and even bubble wrap.

According to Lornson, the Oak Harbor Lions Club has collected enough plastic bags to exchange for one bench already, and they're aiming for at least four more. She encourages people who'd like to donate to refer to the OH Lions website for more information, but also adds a couple of personal tips of her own.

"Pack as many bags together as you can. And all the bags we accept may be placed inside of other plastic bags," she said.

For many, recycling is a smart, responsible choice anytime of the year. Since April 22 is Earth Day, that may be additional incentive for anyone considering ways to help out.

For more information about the Oak Harbor Lions Club's Bags to Benches project, refer to its website at ohlions.org or find them on Facebook.



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





TINO G.

Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Tino G. joined the Navy, which brought him to Bremerton. When he first visited Whidbey, he was taken with the beauty of the island. The thought of moving here stayed with him while he served on the U.S.S. Nimitz and spent time overseas. In 1998 he got a chance to move his family and finish his Navy career at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Now grown, five out of six kids still live on Whidbey.

After 21 years in the Navy, Tino became a bus operator for Island Transit. His face and knees are a familiar sight all over Whidbey as he wears shorts year round. He dresses up on holidays including a Santa suit at Christmas and a green top hat for Saint Patty's Day. After 18 years at Island Transit Tino knows his riders, where they get on and off the bus, and greets some in Spanish.



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Sat 4/17 – SVC Men's Basketball @ Peninsula, 4pm
Mon 4/19 – OHHS Baseball vs Squalicum, 4pm***
Mon 4/19 – OHHS Boys' Soccer vs Lynden Christian, 7pm
Tues 4/20 – OHHS Baseball vs Mt. Baker, 4pm***
Wed 4/21 – SVC Men's Basketball @ Edmonds CC, 7:15pm

*****-Audio only on SSN**

"DualCast" - OHHS Home events on YouTube – "OHHS Wildcat Media"
"DualCast" - SVC Home events on YouTube – "Skagit Athletics"

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THE LORE OF SPORTFISHING

Island Angler

By Tracy Loescher

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

In the year 1890 the Washington Department of Fisheries was commissioned. This department stood alone with the responsibility of managing the state's wonderful fish resource for all Washington residents; then in 1994, the Washington State legislature merged the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Wildlife. Hunters and fishermen no longer have their own funds to manage, protect, and build upon. This was not the first time political changes have had a negative effect on our state's fisheries resource. Feb. 12, 1974, Federal District Judge George Boldt dramatically altered the Puget Sound salmon fishery. His decision continues to this date to cause more hard feelings between tribal, commercial, and recreational fishermen than this man could have ever imagined.

But not all project decisions have had negative effects. In the early 1980s, The Department of Fisheries, under the direction of Gov. John Spellman and Fisheries Director William Wilkerson, created some wonderful man-made enhancements for recreational angling opportunities in the Puget Sound. Through their successful planning, the department completed nine artificial reefs, available to recreational fishermen and divers. Lingcod, rockfish, cabezon, greenling, and surperch are only a few of the species of fish attracted to these reefs. In the underwater predatory realm of "the fishes," a place to hide can literally be a lifesaver! It's unfortunate these helpful revenue-generating ideas created from people like Gov. Spellman and director Wilkerson are lost with today's Olympia bureaucrats.

Scrap concrete and quarry rock were the building materials for most of the reefs, however, the Possession Point reef fish were lucky enough to also get a 50- by 250-foot boat hull they can call home. The reefs are located in an average of 80 feet of water and are generally located in sandy areas of the sound. If you have ever fished in Hawaiian waters or in the Gulf of Mexico, you know any surface or subsurface structure can be a fishing hotspot. Even a single floating wooden pallet or large grass-matt can quickly turn a fishless day into an unforgettable day of fishing and that night's buttery, pan-seared dinner.

Here is where the nine original artificial reefs are located (unfortunately no latitude/longitude coordinates were given at the time they were deposited):

- Onamac Point
- South end of Gedney Island
- Possession Point
- Point Wells (the trees)
- Misery Point
- South end of Blake Island
- Point Heyer (Vashon Island)
- Toliva Shoal
- Itsami Ledge

Forty years have passed since these reefs were thoughtfully dropped overboard.

Heavy storms, swift underwater currents, and time itself have taken their toll on the structures. No doubt shifting sand and silt has partially buried some of the concrete chunks and quarry rock; this could make them harder to locate on our depth finders. However, if you're lucky enough to locate these "fish havens," this could be the ticket to some fantastic bottom fishing. Remember, the chunky reefs were purposely placed in sandy areas, so these rockpiles are all the fish have to escape predators and in turn, the fish will be concentrated.

I have personally searched for the reef near Onamac Point in Saratoga Pass. Using my depth finder, I searched in a zig-zag pattern along the beach where I believed the reef was. It was either completely buried or what was left of the exposed reef was so small I motored right over it without recognizing it and I've not been lucky enough to catch and speak with any divers on the reef. Lingcod, kelp greenling, and cabezon will be the prize fish we can retain off of the reefs. Twelve years ago, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) stopped all retention of the following fish in Marine Areas 5 through 13: Black Rockfish, Blue Rockfish, Vermilion Rockfish, Tiger Rockfish, Copper Rockfish, Brown Rockfish, Widow Rockfish, China Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, and Yelloweye Rockfish. They are still off limits to us recreational fishermen. I spoke with a NOAA representative a few years ago at the Northwest Sportsmen's Show in Puyallup about why there is the broad restriction for one targeted species; the representative told me even though the restriction was primarily focused on protecting the low numbers of Yelloweye Rockfish, it was easier to just blanket restrict all of the others. Catch and release is still fun until you hook a keeper.

Something to think about and prepare for is the state trout opener; April 24 is when all of the seasonal trout fishing lakes that have been closed since Labor Day of last year will reopen. Be sure to check the state fishing regulations for any tackle restrictions and catch limits. Spring is here and summer is just around the corner; fishing opportunities will begin to increase, hopefully without too many new restrictions. Here is my email - tfishmonger@gmail.com. Be safe and good luck fishing!!



Artificial reef

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MILITARY MUSTER



NAS Whidbey Island, Washington

April 15 – April 22, 2021

VAQ-132 "Scorpions" Change of Command

Commander Kerry "Beagle" Hicks was relieved by Commander Marcus "Oompa" Kephart as the Commanding Officer of Electronic Attack Squadron 132 (VAQ-132), April 5.

The change of command ceremony was held virtually at both Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash. and Misawa Air Base, Japan.

The VAQ-132 "Scorpions" fly the EA-18G Growler out of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

Commander Hicks reported to VAQ-132 as the Executive Officer in December 2018 and assumed command in February 2020. During his tenure, Hicks had the difficult task of getting the Squadron ready for deployment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. By following CDC guidelines and taking extra precautions to mitigate COVID transmission risk the Scorpions were able to safely meet their deployment readiness state two months ahead of schedule. Under Hicks' command the Squadron completed the Electronic Warfare Advanced Readiness Program (EWARP), and executed multiple Large Force Exercises to include Red Flag Nellis 20-3, Red Flag Alaska 21-1 and another Red Flag Nellis 21-1. During his tour with VAQ-132, the Squadron also received the Blue "H" and "M" awards for workplace health promotion policies, activities and outcomes.

"It was an absolute honor to have had the privilege of leading this winning team over the past 14 months," said Hicks. "Thank you, Scors, for all the memories... See you all around the fleet!"

Commander Marcus Kephart, an Indiana native born in Fort Wayne and raised in Plymouth, and graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, arrived at the Scorpions in February 2020 as the Executive Officer. Kephart assumes command of VAQ-132 as the squadron finishes



its transit to Misawa Air Base, Japan, for the Squadron's deployment in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility.

"I could not be taking over at a more opportune time as we head out on deployment," said Kephart. "I am humbled to assume command of the Scorpions, a squadron with a rich history and legacy."

The Scorpions also welcomed their new Executive Officer, Commander James "Toadie" Charapich, who reported to VAQ-132 from the Missile Defense Agency at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

Whidbey SAR Rescues Two Near Vancouver, Wash.

A Search and Rescue (SAR) team from Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island rescued two people after their small aircraft crashed northeast of Vancouver, Wash. the evening of March 29, 2021.

The SAR crew launched at approximately 7 p.m., heading to a reported location of the crash five miles east of town of Yakolt. At about 8:15 p.m. the SAR crew began a search over densely wooded landscape with low visibility in the reported crash area. As the search progressed the SAR crew kept in constant coordination with the Clark County Sheriff's Department and the local ground SAR team.

Nearly an hour later the crew spotted broken tree tops and debris from the aircraft wreckage on the forest floor. The SAR crew then saw two people walking in a nearby open area, about 100 feet away from the wreckage. Two SAR crewmembers were inserted and the two survivors were determined to have only minor injuries. The two crash victims were hoisted aboard the SAR helicopter and taken to Yakolt Primary School, where they were trans-

ferred to North County Emergency Medical Service out of Yakolt.

This is the sixth mission NAS Whidbey Island SAR has conducted this calendar year, which includes three MEDEVACs, two rescues, and a search.

The Navy SAR unit operates three MH-60S helicopters from NAS Whidbey Island as search and rescue/medical evacuation (SAR/MEDEVAC) platforms for the EA-18G aircraft as well as other squadrons and personnel assigned to the installation. Pursuant to the National SAR Plan of the United States, the unit may also be used for civil SAR/MEDEVAC needs to the fullest extent practicable on a non-interference basis with primary military duties according to applicable national directives, plans, guidelines and agreements; specifically, the unit may launch in response to tasking by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (based on a Washington State Memorandum of Understanding) for inland missions, and/or tasking by the United States Coast Guard for all other aeronautical and maritime regions, when other assets are unavailable.

Navy Wraps Up Second Sound Monitoring Period

The Navy completed its second week of real-time sound monitoring at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island as directed by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).

Flight activity was monitored at 11 sites in proximity to Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville for seven consecutive days from Sunday, March 28 through Saturday, April 3. Data also continues to be collected in the Olympic National Park at a twelfth site.

The week of monitoring included a range of typical flight activity, including four days of high activity levels, a moderate-level day, and low-level flight activity on the weekends.

The information will be available to the public once the yearlong monitoring effort is complete and the Navy has submitted the final report.

Klompfen Canal Race

Join this Oak Harbor tradition!

Purchase your Klompfen shoes, decorate, and join the races.

Races are
Saturday, April 24 and
Sunday, April 25, 2-3pm



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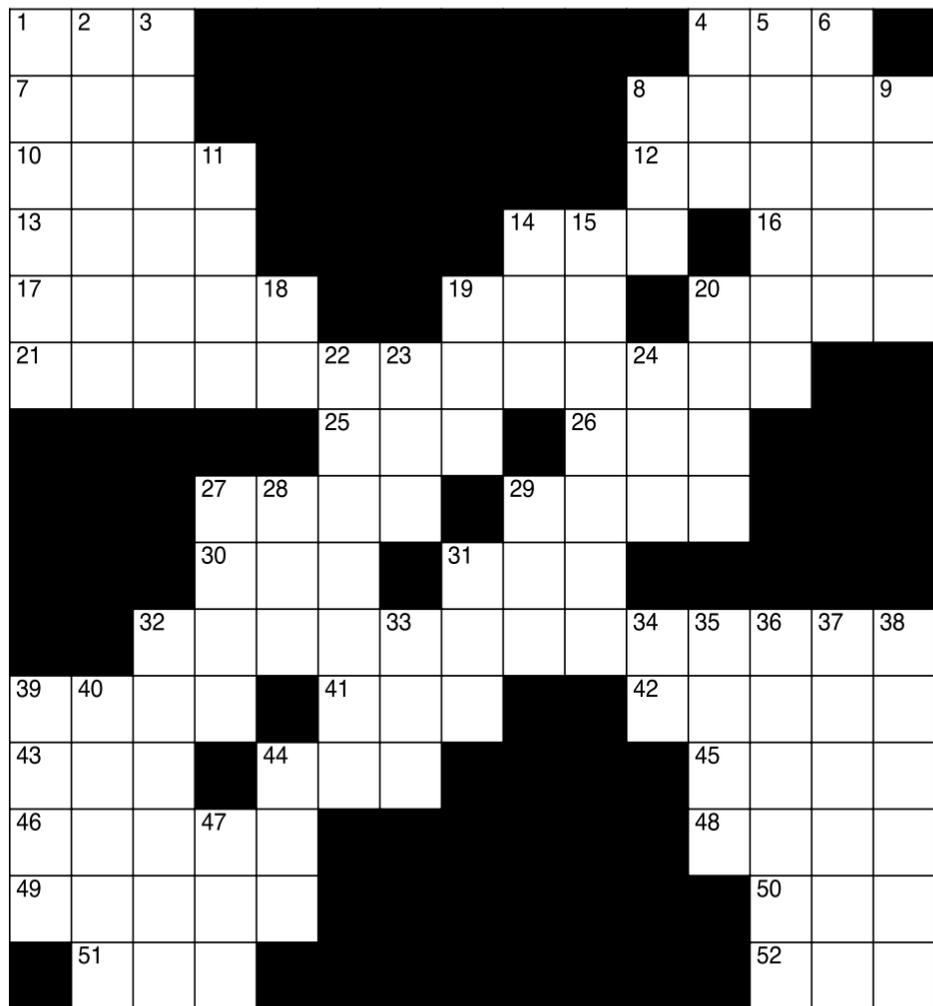
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
- 4. American time
- 7. Satisfaction
- 8. Diving duck
- 10. Very small amount
- 12. Metrical units
- 13. An ignorant or foolish person
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 16. It may sting you
- 17. Turn outward
- 19. Perform on stage
- 20. "CSI" actor George
- 21. Localities
- 25. Make a choice
- 26. Indicates position
- 27. One of Thor's names
- 29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
- 30. "The Raven" author
- 31. Take in solid food
- 32. Legendary QB
- 39. Sorrels
- 41. Organization of nations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make unhappy
- 2. Heard the confession of
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Fiddler crab
- 5. Brazilian dances
- 6. Fit with device to assist breathing
- 8. Brother or sister
- 9. Pastries
- 11. "Lone Survivor" director Peter
- 14. Boat type (abbr.)

- 15. Apertures (biology)
- 18. Suffix
- 19. Creative endeavor
- 20. Icelandic poem
- 22. Spanish dances
- 23. Town in Central Italy
- 24. Cars need it
- 27. Mimics
- 28. Rocky peak
- 29. Cigarette (slang)
- 31. One point south of due east
- 32. Soap actress Braun
- 33. Large domesticated wild ox
- 34. Island nation
- 35. Appear
- 36. Addictive practices
- 37. Loss of control of one's body
- 38. Type of poster
- 39. Greek mountain
- 40. Funny person
- 44. One and only
- 47. Pouch

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Thurs, April 15 North Isle H-63°/L-44° Plenty of Sunshine</p>	<p>Fri, April 16 North Isle H-63°/L-47° Mostly Sunny</p>	<p>Sat, April 17 North Isle H-62°/L-45° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>Sun, April 18 North Isle H-61°/L-46° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>Mon, April 19 North Isle H-60°/L-44° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>Tues, April 20 North Isle H-58°/L-45° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>Wed, April 21 North Isle H-57°/L-45° Mostly Cloudy</p>
<p>South Isle H-65°/L-44° Plenty of Sunshine</p>	<p>South Isle H-66°/L-45° Mostly Sunny</p>	<p>South Isle H-67°/L-44° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>South Isle H-65°/L-45° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>South Isle H-64°/L-45° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>South Isle H-62°/L-44° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>South Isle H-62°/L-43° Cloudy with Showers Possible</p>



OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What would you do if you could be invisible for one day?



Olivia G.

Langley

I would sneak into Disneyland and go on all the rides.

Sky O.

Langley

If I had to be invisible for one day I would drive a car to Snoqualmie Pass and go skiing. I love to ski. When I got there I would go right past the long lines. After I had a full day of skiing I would go to a donut shop and eat lots of donuts- while still invisible.



Owen L.

If I was invisible for one day I would drive a car and take a vacation. I want to meet famous country stars so I would travel to Nashville.

Adele S.

Personally I would not want to be invisible because I would not be able to say hi to somebody, and they would not be able to see me or basically say hi back. But then, if I were to be invisible, I could sleep in, eat peppers, and just go on my new iPad.



CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.9

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

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

Answers on page 15



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Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

AUTO/PARTS FOR SALE



1976 Ford F-100, 4-wheel drive, 4 speed. New brakes, brake lines and carburetor. Runs great. Call for details. 360-682-8621 (0)

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

Sierra Country Club community Yard Sale: Friday, April 16 & Saturday, April 17, 9am-1pm, located near West Beach and Libbey Roads in Coupeville. Yard sale map will be passed out and/or follow signs.



Great Estate Sale: Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18, 9am-5pm, find your new treasures at Terry Mobile Park's Community Center, 204 SW Terry Road, Coupeville (just west of Frontier Building Supply, near Red Apple Grocery). Cookbooks, garden books, gourmet cooking tools, framed art, small quality furniture, CDs, DVDs, art supplies, quality clothing & more! Easy on-site parking available. Masks required, cash only.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Island Shakespeare Festival is seeking new members to join our Board of Directors. We're looking for people who are passionate about high-quality live classical theater and can devote time and energy to support the work of Island Shakespeare Festival's important cultural, social, and fiscal position on Whidbey Island. Our current needs include individuals with backgrounds in the following areas: human resources, donor relations, finance, as well as other skills related to overseeing a performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF,

How'd you do?

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

attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact jeff.natter@islandshake-spearefest.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County (BBBSIC) is actively seeking new member(s) for its Board of Directors. Join the board's exciting array of professionals! BBBSIC is seeking individuals who are committed to defending the potential of youth in our community through their time, skill sets, and influence in the community. To complement the existing board, candidates with expertise in accounting, law, nonprofit management, networking, or fundraising are of particular interest. Committed to diversifying its board to better represent our community, BBBSIC encourages BIPOC and LGBTQIA community members to inquire. Please contact admin@bbbsislandcounty.org for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Island. Volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members with no prior healthcare background. ICMRC utilizes volunteers to strengthen community health, enhance emergency response capabilities, and boost com-

munity resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters such as winter storms, flooding, earthquakes, as well as public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks. If you are interested in volunteering please go to the Island County MRC website for more information or contact s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov. If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat for Humanity of Island County stores, you are helping local families attain decent, affordable housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they pick up donated items using our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

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

Mother Mentors needs volunteers! Oak Harbor families

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

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

JOB MARKET

Island Thrift in Oak Harbor is now hiring one full-time and one part-time position. Please inquire in person to 600 SE Barrington Drive (1)

Hiring IMMEDIATELY for part-time night janitor in Freeland/Langley: \$15 per hour. Monday to Friday, 2 hours per shift, 10 hours per week – flexible hours, clean any time after 6 p.m. Candidate must possess valid state-issued DL or ID, working cell phone (at all times), pass background/drug screening and USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services). E-Verify check to confirm eligibility to work in the U.S. Please reply with your FULL NAME and include your contact phone number and we will phone you to schedule an interview. Resumes welcome. Email susan.valenzuela@ybswa.net or call 425-583-3015 (0)

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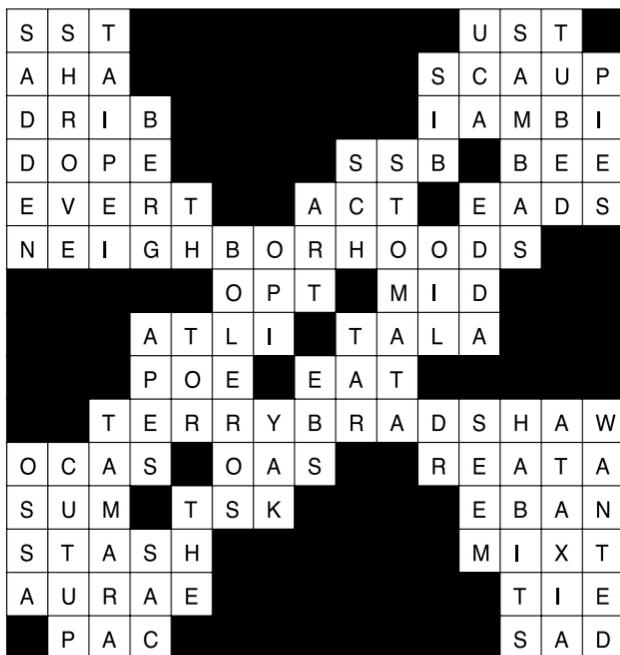
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Pam's Prayer Corner

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.

Precious Lord, bless those around us and bless the beauty on our island that this springtime season has brought our way. What amazing weather you have provided for us! I ask that You continue to keep the weather steady, keep the trees growing strong, and bless all the lovely gardens so that Your fruits of the field may ripen, to nourish our bodies. Let us continually be thankful for the miracles of spring, the charm of nature, and the love You never fail to provide for us.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

Matthew Erikson
Hope Church Oak Harbor - Pastor

"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Isaiah 61:11



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