

December 16 through December 22, 2021

FREE

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**Clothing drive for refugees p. 10**



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

There are plenty of holiday light displays to look at this year, and Wandering Trail Tours is offering tours of the best displays around Oak Harbor four nights a week through the end of the year.

## Wandering Trail offers holiday light tours

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

It is a holiday tradition for many – loading up the car for an evening of light-gazing. While always fun, satisfaction can sometimes be hit-or-miss, depending on the chosen route and whether folks have decided to deck their lawns with the intricate displays.

Well, one Whidbey Island woman has expanded her new tour business to include a tour of the best holiday lights around Oak Harbor, taking the guesswork out of the search for the best displays and giving people an opportunity to relax and let someone else do the driving.

Elizabeth Schroeder started Wandering Trail Tours in June, after 10 years of dreaming and planning. She does regular, year-round tours of Whidbey’s wineries and distilleries, but decided to add a little something different for the holiday season.

“I do tours year-round, but this time of year there’s not much going on weekdays, so I thought a Christmas light tour would be

something fun to do,” she explained. “People can just relax, enjoy little treats and hot chocolate; it’s a fun, relaxing way of spending time with family.”

Family light tours for those age 5 and up are offered at 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and an adults-only tour is offered Thursday, through Dec. 30. Tours are filling quickly – the bus holds 10 passengers – and Schroeder advises checking the website for availability. (wanderingtrailtours.com) Cost is \$15 per person plus tax and the price includes hot chocolate and snacks. Groups meet at the PNW Vibes store in The Loft in downtown Oak Harbor and last roughly an hour-and-a-half.

“There’s about 10 houses on the tour and some sporadic other lights along the way,” Schroeder described. “We start at The Loft, then basically do a big circle around Oak Harbor and come back to The Loft. People are very excited about it – there are several days booked up already.”



Photo courtesy of Wandering Trail Tours

**The Wandering Trail Tours bus, shown here decked out for Independence Day, holds 10 passengers and is driven by the company’s owner, Elizabeth Schroeder.**

Schroeder said she drove around scoping out the best and brightest light displays before finalizing her route. Passengers on the tours will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite light display and Schroeder will tally the votes at the end of the month. Whichever wins the most votes will also win a gift basket.

“I think people really like it because it’s a whole, encompassing experience,” said Schroeder. “They enjoy having drinks, snacks and the environment of the bus. Besides, the person driving never gets to enjoy the lights. They miss a lot of things because they’re trying to find the sites. There are several big displays, but there are other cool houses, too. I took the time to find the best route and houses, so it gives the whole family time to enjoy it.”

Creating experiences is what Wandering Trail Tours is all about. A U.S. Navy veteran, Schroeder got the idea for doing wine tours while stationed in Australia, where she said she learned about and developed an appreciation for wine.

“I moved to Whidbey Island in 2009,” she said. “Before I was here, I was in Australia. I would go to southern Australia all the time and go on wine tours. When I got here and saw all the wineries, I got really excited. I thought I’d go on tours. They have them, but they’re all self-driving tours. It is far for people in Oak Harbor to get down to the south end of the island, so I didn’t get to go as much as I wanted.”



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Wandering Trail Tours’ Christmas Lights Tour makes a large loop around Oak Harbor and includes 10 large displays and numerous smaller, festive light displays.

See **LIGHTS** continued on page 10



# ON TRACK

With Jim Freeman



Upon reflection, should we change the name of Whidbey to Power Outage Island? How many of you had gassed up generators at the ready? Coffee was available at

Crabby Coffee and PayLess in Freeland.

Caffeinated smiles were abundant.

### Thank you notes

Norma and Sonia were talking about their grandchildren after the holidays. Norma said, "My daughter-in-law stopped making my grandchildren send 'thank you' notes. Each year I sent the grandchildren a card with a generous check inside. I always received a lovely 'thank you' note. However, since my daughter-in-law stopped making the grandkids send thank you notes, I never hear from them."

Sonia said, "My daughter-in-law never made the grandchildren send 'thank you' notes. I, too, sent them a very generous check. However, for the past several years, I hear from them within a week after they receive it. In fact, they each pay me a personal visit."

"Wow," remarked Norma. "I wish mine would do that."

"You can, Norma, you can."

"How?" Norma asked.

"Simple. Do what I do. Don't sign the check."

### Reader humor

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Short.

I've finally told my suitcases there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with the emotional baggage.

If you're not supposed to eat at night, why is there a light bulb in the refrigerator?

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

### Is this true?

Early this year, some Boeing employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. Shortly after they took it for a float on the river, they noticed a Coast Guard helicopter coming toward them. It turned out the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator beacon that was activated when the raft was inflated.

They are no longer employed at Boeing.

### Fact or fiction?

A man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the branch and wrote this, "Put all your munny in this bag."

While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window.

So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to the Wells Fargo Bank. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller.

She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the

brightest light in the harbor, told him she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America.

Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, "OK" and left.

He was arrested a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.

### Vatican

Ever wonder why the Vatican is called the Vatican? I must have missed this class during Presbyterian communion.

"Vatican" is derived from the name of an Etruscan settlement, *Vatica* or *Vaticum*, located in the general area called *Ager Vaticanus*, "Vatican territory." The official Italian name of the city is *Città del Vaticano* or, more formally, *Stato della Città del*.

Vatican city is famous because it is the smallest country (and also world's smallest independent state) in the world by both area and population. It is one of the only three countries in the world which are landlocked by a single country.

### Dogs and chocolate

For my entire life, which fortunately gets longer everyday, I have been told never to give chocolate to a dog, I never asked why. Now I have.

Here are the reasons why chocolate is bad for dogs:

- Chocolate contains an ingredient called *theobromine* (a bit like caffeine), which is toxic to dogs.
- Theobromine mainly affects a dog's guts, heart, central nervous system and kidneys.

There are more reasons, but why ruin your lunch? Glad Mom never told me.

Ever wonder how Tootsie Rolls got their name?

The head honcho named the candy, today a favorite of gaming addicts, after his five year young daughter, Clara, whose nickname was "Tootsie." Have fun with that trivia during the holidays. Play "Stump the Family"

The candy has qualities similar to both caramels and taffy without being exactly either confection. It was the first penny candy to be individually wrapped in America.

Did you know Tootsie Roll candies were parachuted from the sky? Not something we thought about at recess.

Pallets of Tootsie Roll candies were parachuted from the sky to the First Marine Division! While they were not ammunition, this candy from the sky provided well-needed nourishment for the troops.

### More free humor

At a couples counseling meeting, the speaker mentioned couples are so disconnected that 85 percent of husbands do not even know their wives favorite flower.

Mick turned to his wife and whispered, "It's self-rising, isn't it?"

I think Martha White's self-rising flour was a sponsor of the Grand 'Ol Opry. I'll check that after the next paragraph.

To read past columns of *On Track* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com).

# Help Us Grow at Good Cheer Food Bank

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

### Our goal?

- Eliminate food insecurity on South Whidbey
- Address the root causes of hunger
- Raise \$229,000 to reach our goal of \$430,000
- Same mission, but deeper

Please be a part of this transformational effort to improve our community safety net.

To donate, please go to [www.GoodCheer.org/donate](http://www.GoodCheer.org/donate) or mail a check to:

Attn: Building Fund/CCC  
Good Cheer Food Bank  
PO Box 144  
Langley, WA 98260

To learn more, visit:

[www.goodcheer.org/building-project-FAQ](http://www.goodcheer.org/building-project-FAQ)



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# Bits & Pieces

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and well.

Thank you to all who voted for an increase in the hospital levy, helping ensure we can keep healthcare local and sustainable.

The second wave of COVID continues to have a huge impact, but we remain optimistic that together, we will beat this.

To support that vision, WhidbeyHealth Foundation launched its 2021 year-end fundraising campaign, Here for Good, with a goal of making sure WhidbeyHealth continues to deliver quality healthcare across Whidbey.

### Meeting the need

Because of our generous donors, the Foundation has been able to provide funding for essential equipment like several new emergency room and cancer care treatment beds, dozens of new wheelchairs, and state-of-the-art automated CPR machines for use by our EMS team and emergency department.

Healthcare for all every day, the Foundation assists those who cannot afford to obtain their home health equipment, emergency prescriptions and mammograms. We provide S.A.I.L. (Stay Active and Independent for Life) classes to improve balance and prevent falls, free of charge.

The need continues. We ask you to support the "Here for Good" campaign this holiday season and help ensure WhidbeyHealth continues to deliver exceptional care now and for generations to come.

I hope you will consider making a donation this holiday season to help ensure WhidbeyHealth will be Here for Good.

To donate, go to <https://whidbeyhealth.org/hereforgood>, or mail your donation to P.O. Box 641, Coupeville, WA 98239.

With gratitude,

Helen Taylor,  
Executive Director, WhidbeyHealth Foundation

### Sound Waters University 2022 Registration is Live

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

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

### Verna Everitt Departs as Executive Director of Whidbey Island Center for the Arts

Lauded for her pandemic leadership and creative programming

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) announced last week the departure of its executive director, Verna Everitt. "We are

deeply thankful for Verna's many contributions to WICA and our community," said Bobbe Bridge, WICA Board Chair, "especially her leadership during the pandemic."

"It has been my distinct honor to have led this incredible community jewel," said Everitt. "I could not have grown the organization and managed it through a pandemic without my small but very mighty staff. Each and every WICA employee and volunteer stands out as exceptional, creative and caring. With this team at the helm, I leave knowing the future of WICA is in good hands."

Everitt is moving to upstate New York where she has family. Everitt served as WICA's executive director for three years. With Everitt's departure, current Artistic Director, Deana Duncan, will serve as acting executive director. According to Bridge, Everitt will be most remembered for her leadership during the pandemic and the expansion of programming, especially daytime and summer programming that pushed WICA attendance beyond seasonal nighttime performances.

Some of Everitt's accomplishments include:

- Creating an online series called 98260, providing local perspective on the pandemic and featuring local partners, artists and leaders.
- Reconfiguring the theater into a safe, socially-distanced bistro.
- Creating the Summer Nights Series under a tent, providing a safe way for the community to enjoy a night out and opportunities for local artists to perform.
- Seeking and receiving grant funding, helping WICA to weather the pandemic and remain on firm financial footing when many arts organizations were closing their doors or going out of business for good.
- Working closely with Artistic Director Deana Duncan to expand programs and seasons beyond nighttime performances to include daytime and summer programming, art talks, community conversations, comedy, dance and an annual film festival.
- Partnering with community members and organizations to help Langley gain state certification as a Creative District by the Washington State Arts Commission.

According to Bridge, the leadership change provides the WICA board with an opportunity to strengthen the organization. "We are looking at the leadership structures of different successful arts organizations," said Bridge. "Our community is changing and growing. We have just added two new board members and we see this time period as an opportunity to ensure WICA continues to be relevant, inclusive and a powerful organization that makes a difference in peoples' lives."

WICA is Island County's largest arts organization. Based in Langley, it opened its doors in 1996. In 2007, WICA launched a successful capital campaign to double the size of the facility. WICA provides more than 120 days of arts, educational and cultural programming and annually employs more than 600 regional and international artists.

[Submitted by Raleigh Hamilton, Communications + Content Director, WICA]

### Avian Chlamydiosis Update

A pet bird that originated from an Island County bird distributor has tested positive for avian chlamydiosis, a bacterial disease which can also cause illness in humans. The Washington State Department of

Health, in collaboration with Island County Public Health, is collecting the information necessary to contact persons who may have purchased birds from this distributor to share information needed for disease prevention.

Avian chlamydiosis (sometimes referred to as "parrot fever") can cause serious disease in birds, and rarely cause disease in people (psittacosis). Avian chlamydiosis is typically found in cockatiels, parakeets, parrots, macaws, and other parrot-like (psittacine) birds. Symptoms include nasal and eye discharge, green to yellow-green droppings/diarrhea, fever, inactivity, ruffled feathers, weakness, and weight loss. Healthy looking birds can also be infected and shed the bacteria when stressed, causing infection to other species of birds housed in the same environment, like finches, canaries and doves.

Symptoms of psittacosis commonly include fever and chills, headache, muscle aches, and a dry cough. Psittacosis is rare in Washington, with less than a dozen cases reported over the last 20 years. Although the risk of psittacosis is low, persons who have purchased pet birds should take a few steps to protect themselves and their bird.

Use caution for bird owners. People are usually infected by breathing dried droppings or other body fluids excreted from infected birds. To protect yourself when handling sick birds or cleaning cages, bowls and other objects, always wear gloves and use an appropriately fitted mask. Use household bleach (1:32 dilution or 1/2 cup of bleach per gallon of water) or another registered disinfectant when cleaning.

Use caution for birds. Birds do not always become sick. If you are notified your bird was exposed to a positive case or appears sick with noted symptoms, please speak to your veterinarian about getting your bird tested for avian chlamydiosis.

Watch for symptoms. Symptoms of psittacosis in humans include fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and a dry cough. More severe symptoms can occasionally occur, such as pneumonia. If you get any of these symptoms and are aware your bird may have been exposed to this disease or is symptomatic, please consult with your health care provider.

Island County Public Health strives to help the community with disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats. To read more about this disease please see the Washington State Department of Health website at [www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Psittacosis](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Psittacosis).

[Submitted by Keven Graves, Island County Public Health]

### Put Your Name on the Best Seat in the Park This Holiday Season Deception Pass lovers now have the opportunity to leave a little piece of themselves in the park, by purchasing a refurbished bench for the park's amphitheater



The Deception Pass State Park amphitheater is a proud example of the accomplishments of the park's nonprofit foundation. In 2012, Eagle Scout Nathan Wagner built

the amphitheater's 32 benches as a volunteer project. For the last 10 years, amphitheater attendees have sat on these benches for Arts in the Park, and various interpretive programs.

"These programs have steadily increased in popularity, and the amphitheater area, which is meant to seat 250 comfortably, is often far over capacity," says Jason Armstrong, the park manager.

The benches are now a decade old, and they are ready for a face-lift.

"With the park's 100th birthday approaching, we want to celebrate the last 100 years by revitalizing the park for the next 100 years," said Deception Pass Park Foundation Program Manager, Jared Bessett. "You could quite literally have your name attached to a piece of Washington's most popular state park."

The refurbished amphitheater benches will have a backrest, to make sitting for long periods of time more tolerable. Your bench will feature a custom plaque, in honor of your business, your family, or even your favorite inspirational quote.

North Beach's amphitheater sees around 8,500 visitors annually, which means around 250 people will sit on your bench, and read your plaque, every year.

To purchase a bench for the North Beach Amphitheater, email Jason Armstrong at [Jason.Armstrong@parks.wa.gov](mailto:Jason.Armstrong@parks.wa.gov), or call 360-675-3767.

[Submitted by Jared Bessett, Program Manager, Deception Pass Park Foundation]

## Local Business News

### Harmony Health of Oak Harbor Accepting New Patients

Dr. Keith B. Martin, DC is happy to announce the opening of his office: Harmony Health of Oak Harbor at 285 Midway Blvd. #7 in Oak Harbor. Martin, a chiropractor of 40 years, has been treating the whole patient and specializes in extremities adjusting, full spinal adjusting, personal injury and workman's compensation.

Harmony Health of Oak Harbor is accepting both new and prior patients, having been previously affiliated with Whidbey Island Chiropractic and the national company "The Joint" over the past eight years. The clinic takes VA referrals, private insurance, Medicare, and cash patients. The hours of the clinic are 9:00AM to 6:00PM Monday thru Friday and 9:00AM to 12:00PM Saturdays. Walk-in patients can be seen depending on patient load and are welcome.

Dr. Martin, and his wife, Aley, a college professor, are happy to be on Whidbey Island and are excited to serve the area's population. The office is located next to Savi Bank, across from the log cabin building and has plenty of parking. Whether you need a quick adjustment, or a type of maintenance plan, the staff does not require long term commitments. The office is dog friendly and its two Shih Tzus are allergy free animals. If you have any concerns about the dogs, they can be put in the back during your time at the office.

Harmony Health of Oak Harbor can be reached at 360-672-9898, messages are checked over the weekend, or visit [www.harmonyhealthoakharbor.com](http://www.harmonyhealthoakharbor.com). Harmony Health of Oak Harbor is committed to attentive care and works with other doctors and attorneys for accidents and injuries as well as longer term palliative care.

Drop by and see the new office, which is an open concept that feels welcoming.

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Wednesday & Thursday: 12:30pm, 3:40pm & 7:00pm  
**MATRIX (R)**  
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**SING 2 (PG)**  
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**GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERTHOUSANDS (PG-13)**  
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**OHHS Boys' Basketball vs Sedro Woolley - 7:15pm**

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**OHHS Boys' Basketball @ Mount Baker - 7:15pm**

Tuesday, December 21

**OHHS Girls' Basketball vs Mount Baker - 7:15pm**

Stream opens 60 minutes prior to tip-off times.

Pre-game is 15 minutes prior to tip-off for start of every cast.

[www.soundsportsnet.com](http://www.soundsportsnet.com)

**THIS WEEKEND AT THE BLUE FOX DRIVE-IN THEATER**

Friday, December 17 thru Sunday, December 19

**ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG)**  
**HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)**

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PAID OPINION

# An open letter to Justin Curb, supervisor, Island County Bldg. Dept. *Consider the Future. Not the Present nor the Past.*

By Joseph C. Coomer, phone 360-929-2397

It is feasible that in the future earthquakes, even major ones, will no longer be considered dangerous or a concern as **most all structures will be designed or modified to be earthquake-proof.** When a major one occurs, there will be few if any casualties and little property damage! **Is this not the world that we all seek?**

But first, one must consider the present as it is the same as for the past. All have deep convictions that all are connected to Mother Earth. When a quake moves the earth, **all must move in sync with the earth. There is no exception.**

What if an individual "discovered" an exception to this conviction? **This exception gives the item a unique ability as it eliminates nearly all dynamic loads as the item would move little if any during a quake.** Because there is little if any movement, the predicted dynamic loads would basically not exist or exist very little. **This exception has a unique ability for the item to survive even a magnitude 10 quake unharmed.**

Now, consider the challenges that the individual, who "discovered" this "exception" faces. It reminds one of a fairy-tale, but **this one is real.** This individual is convinced that **he alone has this unique knowledge, that would allow the present to transition into the future as depicted above.** He knows of no other viable solution that would achieve this goal. He stands alone in a sea of disbelievers. If the earthquake carnage is to end and the future realized, **it is his responsibility to make it happen.** The issue is so important, that he must do all that is humanly possible.

**The world must be apprised of this breakthrough and that requires publication.** But there is a major problem with publishers, who are frozen in their conviction that there is no exception.

**The exception is a suspension bridge!** All suspension bridges are earthquake-proof inherent in their suspension design. Evidence that this is true is found by researching quake records and one will not find a single casualty caused by a quake on a suspension bridge. If recording accelerometers were to be installed on several suspension bridge decks in earthquake country. When one occurs, it will be recorded, but what will the data show? **It will show that the bridge moved little if any.** Why, as many predicted that it would show that the deck would be moving in sync with the quake?

The phenomena is suspension. When an item is suspended, it is not connected to the quake-moving earth. The current concept is the brute-strength one. With it, the strength of the structure depends on both its design and the strength of the materials used. (Engineers have long considered it to be impractical to design for a quake greater than 6.5 as the dynamic loads are just too great.)

Bridge structures are described first and Illustration I is a normal bridge structure. The supports are roughly 300 ft. apart meaning that each column supports 300 ft. of roadway that will weigh tons and with a quake, the acceleration movements will create huge dynamic loads. These huge loads require much steel rebar both in the support column and the roadway too.

An alternative to this design is Illustration II is the same one, but now the roadway is suspended. Nearly all will conclude that this change in design is not justified as it adds cost to suspend a roadway. **What few will realize is that this change is enormous.** As discussed above, a suspended item moves little if any during a quake and this is true for this one too. **Being disconnected from the quake-moving earth, the suspended roadway will move little if any during a quake. With this, there will be few if any dynamic loads generated by a quake. It will survive unharmed by a magnitude 10 quake.**

**Compare this design to the current one in Illustration I, that can survive unharmed by an estimated 6.5 quake. (With public safety and especially liability concerns, it would be wise for the US and a state's DOT's Management to seriously consider the suspension design for all of their bridges.)**

If they can design bridges to be earthquake-proof, they can also design structures to be earthquake-proof. Consider the following.

• Being suspended, the structure moves little if any, so **it can be constructed with masonry products like brick or stone.** (Normally, these products perform poorly as they crack and break when subjected to motion.)

• **Because the structure is suspended, it requires no foundation.** (The savings of no foundation requirement may cancel much of the expense of the suspension system.)

• **A cardinal rule is the suspended structure can have no hard ties that tie the "non-moving" structure to the "quake-moving" earth.** (Hard ties would allow the quake to force movement in the suspended item and cancel all of the benefits of suspension.) This means utilities like gas, water, and sewer lines must have flexibility to absorb this difference in movement. (This flexibility can be achieved by inserting a short hose or designing a special bend in the piping.) Even items like a deck or stairway **cannot be tied to both the none-moving structure and the quake-moving earth.**

There are two basic concepts for suspending a structure, one is a line or termed a link and a coil spring that has the acronym (LS) for link-spring. (See Illustration # III) The other is a "pedestal with a plate, a coil spring, and a plate with the acronym "PSP". (See Illustration # IV) In the PSP design, the spring is designed to absorb both the vertical and lateral motion. In a LS design, the spring absorbs the vertical motion, and the link absorbs the lateral motion. The longer the link, the more lateral motion that can be absorbed. A spring can be inserted anywhere in the link.) For improved aesthetics, the LS assembly, in addition to being installed externally, can be installed in extra thick walls. (Logic is a LS design is near perfect resulting in near perfect isolation.)

**The optimum solution is to use both concepts, LSs and PSPs.** (See Illustration # V) **The result is a near perfect suspension system leaving the suspended structure near perfectly isolated.** The PSPs are installed under the main suspension beams supporting the floor support beams and provide much of the support needed. At each end are installed the LS assemblies that are tied to the main suspension beams. **The combination of both systems makes the suspended structure near perfectly isolated, and it should be able to survive even a magnitude 10 quake unharmed.**

An alternative to the PSP design is an air cylinder inside of a can that provides the vertical support without the suspended structure absorbing little, if any, of the lateral motion of a quake. Instead of a spring, air pressure is used to support the suspended structure. The combination of the cylinder diameter and air pressure can create a force equal to the weight of the structure at that point and they cancel. (See Illustration VI)

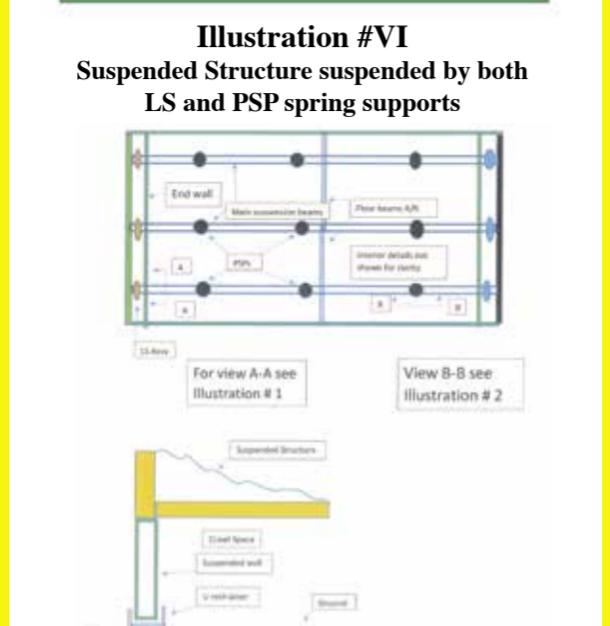
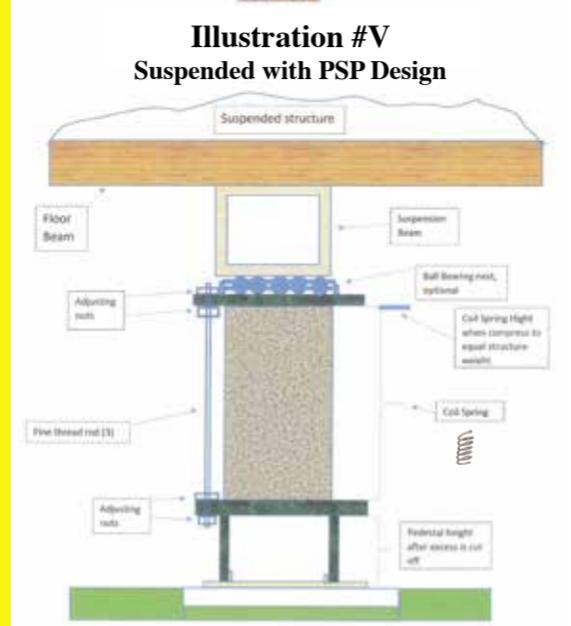
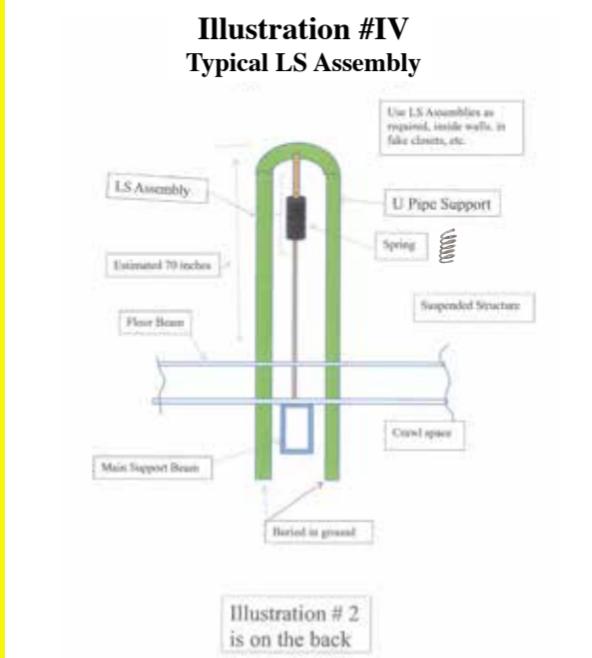
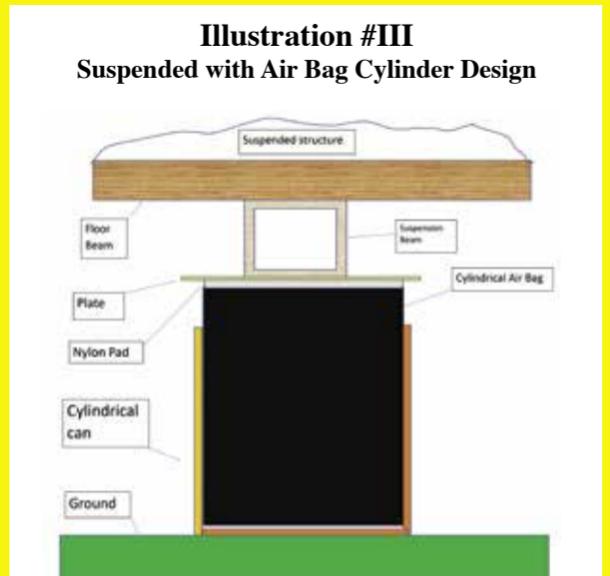
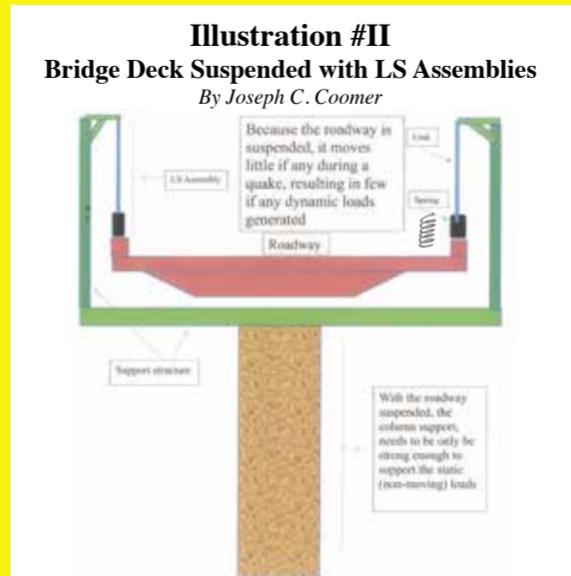
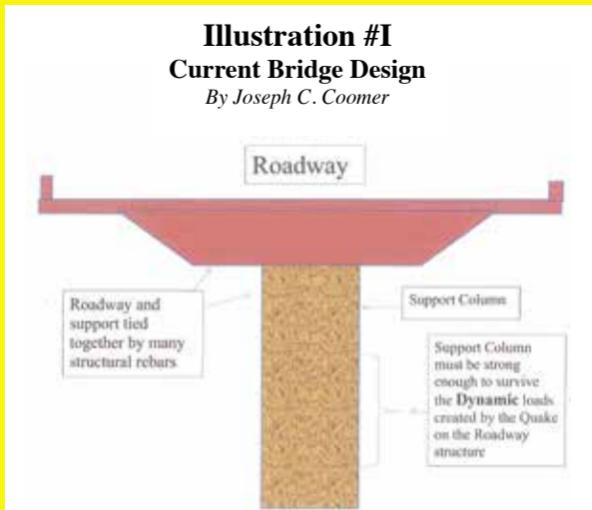
In addition to these ideas, this writer has included two more concepts that are also earthquake-proof. (Consider a houseboat floating free on a body of water is earthquake-proof as the water suspends the vessel.) Using hydraulics, a structure can be designed to be earthquake-proof by floating it on a minimum body of water similar to a moat. Similarly, a structure can be suspended on an item similar to an air mattress, and it too is earthquake-proof. (With these two concepts, the loading is equally distributed eliminating almost all bending moments. Because bending moments dictate the floor structure requirements, it would be logical for the building code folks to reanalyze the floor structure for this concept. That analysis will show that this design can use smaller floor beams than is currently required.)

For practicality for both designs, to provide fail-soft capability, posts are logically installed to temporarily rest the structure during construction or if a float or airbag needs to be repaired or replaced. (As this is temporary, these posts and some beams are designed for a little more than static loads. These posts that are a few inches below the floating structure level. They could be used to weigh the structure with load cells. This weight is used to design the flotation. (Because both concepts are complicated, no illustrations are provided.)

(An advanced and more detailed version plus analysis of this article is available upon request.)

Endorsements are appreciated as they can be used to encourage reluctant publishers to publish this world news.

Donations appreciated and can be mailed to Joe Coomer, 2920 N. Heller Rd. MH E, Oak Harbor, WA 98277



The views and opinions expressed on this page are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.



**WINTER ON THE HOMESTEAD**

As a new farmer on Whidbey Island, I find the short, dark days of winter to be the perfect opportunity to observe and reflect on the landscape of my acreage. While the hay isn't growing, and I'm not breeding my animals, I have the time to observe and appreciate the natural rhythms of the homestead. I know (and depend on the fact) that the long, abundant, and full to the brim days of summer are lurking right around the corner. This is the perfect time to snuggle up with a good book or attend a virtual training and put some dedicated attention towards future plans.

Did you see a great idea on YouTube or social media? Want to jump at the chance every time you see free ducks or pigs listed? You're not alone! Sometimes those spur of the moment projects lead to problems down the road when you find out the location wasn't ideal or you don't actually have the proper environment for your efforts to thrive. That's where some advance thinking and time spent organizing your ideas on paper can really come in handy.

Even if you don't consider yourself a farmer or commercial producer, any rural property can benefit from developing a management plan. Planning saves you money, conserves natural resources, protects water quality, enhances open space, promotes wildlife habitat, makes your place more attractive and promotes the health and safety of your family, animals and plants.

**Tips for Rural Property Planning**

*Look at what you have:* Before developing a plan, look around and make a sketch or take a few notes on your property, noting soil type (look up your soil type at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>), neighboring land uses, topography and water flow.

*What are your goals?* How do you want your place to look in five years? Do you want to raise livestock? Do you have pasture? Are you interested in landscaping with native plants?

*Use the Conservation Concerns Tool at [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov)* to learn about different types of conservation issues that might impact the productivity or resources on your farm, ranch, or forest.

*Check your local Conservation District* for more information and resources. Natural resource planners can give you free, non-regulatory advice and even help you develop a farm plan.

**What's a farm plan?**

A farm plan is a tool developed by you and staff at your local conservation district to help you manage the resources on your land. The plan contains an inventory of your farm or property and outlines actions and a schedule for you to make improvements based on your goals for the property.

Once you decide you want a farm plan, the conservation district planner evaluates your property's natural resources like soil, water, animals, plants and air quality. When possible, they also try to connect landowners with funding to help you implement key improvements.

**Help for Whidbey's Small Farms**

There are many resources available specific to the needs of small, beginning farmers and what the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) calls "historically underserved producers." The USDA's Census of Agriculture shows Island County hosts one of the largest percentages of historically underserved producers compared to surrounding counties: 97 percent small, 50 percent women, 34 percent beginning, 17 percent veteran and 7 percent minority. These producers are eligible for higher rates of financial assistance from the USDA.

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides farmers, ranchers and forest managers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement "conservation practices." Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations.

Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations. Staff at Whidbey Island Conservation District can help you navigate applying for cost-share assistance through two NRCS programs: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a great entry point for beginning farmers. Participating farmers utilize conservation practices to improve their structures, management, and plantings. NRCS provides reimbursement payments for some costs associated with these practices, as well as personalized technical expertise from their staff.

The Conservation Stewardship Program helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, or develop wildlife habitat, NRCS planners can design a plan to help you meet those goals. For example, you can look at ways to mitigate the impact of excess water during rainy seasons; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; improve the cover, food, and water available for domestic and wildlife species; or increase energy efficiency.

Head to [whidbeycd.org/apply-aglandstewardship](http://whidbeycd.org/apply-aglandstewardship) for more information on how to get started with these programs and for more awesome tips and resources!



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### MEET MARTIN

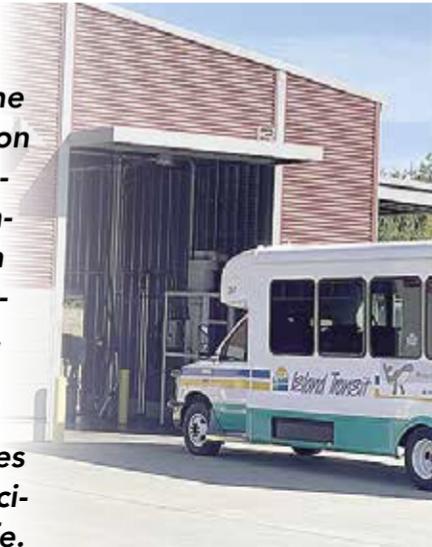
Bus Wash Crew member and most senior employee.

Martin has been at Island Transit for 30 years, longer than anyone else on staff. He has seen a lot of changes in the agency and in the community. He grew up in Manila and moved from the Philippines to the United States when he was a teenager. He didn't speak much English then but now he is bilingual, speaking both English and his native Tagalog. He and his wife met in Mount Vernon and soon moved to the Island. They raised two daughters, who both graduated from Oak Harbor High School. Martin

was hired to clean the buses shortly after Island Transit began bus service on the islands. He and his crew typically wash 24 buses a day, inside and out. This year, his work has been critically important as we strive to protect our passengers and staff from COVID-19.

## Did You Know...

In 2020, Island Transit adopted the American Public Transit Association safety protocol to clean and disinfect our buses to the highest standards. Our crews wipe down high touch surfaces between runs, perform spot cleaning when needed, and take extra measures to clean and disinfect buses at the end of each day. Our bus wash crew takes pride in their work and we appreciate their efforts to keep us all safe.



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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.

### Shop out for Kids

Thursday, December 16, 11:00AM-5:00PM  
Aqua Gifts, Coupeville

Enjoy your shopping knowing you're supporting the Coupeville Schools Foundation which provides an extra measure of support to students through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund. Aqua Gifts is located at 2 Front St.

### Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue Santa Neighborhood Tours

Thursday, December 16  
Holmes Harbor, North Bluff

Friday, December 17  
Lagoon Pt., Dines Pt, Honeymoon Bay

Monday, December 20  
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](http://www.cwifr.org) to track Santa's whereabouts and more specific route information. CWFR will be accepting non-perishable food bank donations. Please call 678-3602 or visit [www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org) for further details.

### The Christmas Village

Friday, December 17, 3:00-7:00PM  
Saturday, December 18, 3:00-7:00PM  
Sunday, December 19, 3:00-7:00PM  
Blue Fox Drive In,  
1403 N Monroe Landing Rd

A free community holiday event. Visit Santa and his elves, petting zoo, holiday crafts, and games.

### Winter Spiral at WIWS

Friday, December 17, 5:00-7:00PM  
Whidbey Island Waldorf School, Clinton

Come celebrate this opportunity to experience the depth and meaning of this turning of the seasons from the deepest darkness out again towards the increasing light. Bring your lantern or candle and walk the Winter Spiral in silence. Live music will accompany some of the evening. Children welcome! You can wait until 7:00PM to collect your lights and lanterns, or come by the next day. In Huckleberry Hall. Age 5+ wearing masks. For more information, call 360-341-5686 or email [enrollment@wiws.org](mailto:enrollment@wiws.org).

### Meet Santa

Saturday, December 18, 10:00AM-4:00PM  
WAIF Thrift Store, Freeland

Every child 12 and under will receive a Santa Buck Voucher to pick out any toy or book priced \$5 or less. There will also be hot apple cider and cookies for everyone to enjoy. Come help celebrate the holiday season. Face masks required. The WAIF Thrift Store is located at 1660 Roberta Ave. For more information, call 360-678-8935.

### Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 18, 1:00-3:00PM  
VFW Post 7392, Oak Harbor

Children up to age 12 are invited to enjoy for crafts, snacks and more! Limited seating for 50. Sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. The Post is located at 3037 Goldie Rd.

### Santa's Holiday Playlist

Sunday, December 19, 7:30PM  
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley

Whidbey Island Orchestra shares classic and contemporary favorites that are sure to delight and inspire some good cheer! "Santa's Playlist" is jam-packed with holiday favorites, from "Charlie Brown's Christmas" to selections from "The Nutcracker," everything from gorgeous carols and Chanukah songs, The Grinch, and Mariah Carey, to pure Christmas nostalgia. For tickets or more information, visit [www.wica-online.org](http://www.wica-online.org).

### Soul-Stice Soiree With Doctor Savage

Tuesday, December 21, 7:30PM  
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley

Some say Doctor Savage is brewing up the funkier chemistry experiment of all time. Featuring the groovy chops of some of the Pacific Northwest's finest musicians, this band will be sure to bring the party and keep it started! Featuring: Joanna Cook, Keegan Harshman, Eric Vanderbilt-Mathews, Grant Neubauer, Josh Collins, Alex Dugdale, William Mapp, and Max Holmberg. For tickets or more information, visit [www.wicaonline.org](http://www.wicaonline.org).

### Meetings & Organizations

#### Al-Anon

Every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30AM  
432 2nd St., Langley

If a friend or relative has a problem with alcohol, you can find solutions for yourself at Alanon.

#### Al-Anon Group

Every Tuesday, 5:30-6:30PM  
Oak Harbor Lutheran Church,  
1253 NW 2nd Ave.

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon group can help. Call Randy at 360-914-8084 for meeting information.

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Day, 12:00 & 8:00PM  
432 2nd Street, Langley

For more information, call 360-221-2070

#### Gamblers Anonymous

Every Tuesday, 6:30PM  
The Senior Center, Mount Vernon

All are welcome. The Senior Center is located at 1401 Cleveland Ave. For further information, please call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous at 1-800-222-5542.

#### NAR-ANON

Every Tuesday, 7:00PM-8:00PM  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Clinton

NAR-ANON family groups are world-wide for those affected by someone else's addiction. St. Peter's Lutheran Church is located at 6309 Wilson Place.

**Your Donations Are Always Needed and Appreciated!**

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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIGHT**

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 the front WAIF's Coupeville shelter and help fund vital programs that help light the journey home for Whidbey Island's homeless pets.

Visit [www.waifanimals.org/gol](http://www.waifanimals.org/gol) to sponsor a luminaria today.



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A Touch of Dutch  
Front Street Grill  
Elkhorn Trading  
Sunshine Drip  
Toby's Tavern  
Aqua Gifts  
bayleaf

Island County Historical Museum  
Pacific NorthWest Art School  
The Seaside Salon and Spa  
The Laughing Admiral  
Whidbey Natural Pet  
The Tyee Restaurant  
The Coupeville Inn  
the Oystercatcher  
Penn Cove Gallery  
Penn Cove Brewing  
Madrona Blossom  
The Honey Bear  
Lavender Wind  
Vail Wine Shop  
Seagull Coffee  
The Cove

Each \$20 Purchase = **1 Red Ticket**

**2021** Ticket

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Drawing held Sunday, December 19th at 1:00pm on Facebook Live.  
Must be at least 18 years old, love Coupeville and be present to win.  
[CoupevilleHistoricWaterfront.com](http://CoupevilleHistoricWaterfront.com) • 360.682.6400  
[CoupevilleChamber.com](http://CoupevilleChamber.com) • 360.678.5434



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**THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IS BACK!**  
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**WHIDBEY ISLAND LIONS CLUB**

**A Free Community Holiday Event**  
Visit with Santa and his Elves  
Petting Zoo, Holiday Crafts & Games  
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Pick up your snowflake passport at Garry Oak Gallery then go find the hidden silver snowflakes at businesses in downtown Oak Harbor!  
Get your passport stamped as you find the snowflakes.  
When you have found at least 10 snowflakes bring your passport back to Garry Oak Gallery and you can enter to win a Holiday Gift Basket filled with items from downtown Oak Harbor businesses and a \$100.00 Oak Harbor Main Street Gift Certificate!

Contest starts December 4 and ends December 17, 2021

For more information, email [director@oakharbormainstreet.com](mailto:director@oakharbormainstreet.com)  
[www.oakharbormainstreet.org](http://www.oakharbormainstreet.org)

**OAK HARBOR MAIN STREET**  
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Drawing will be held at 4pm on Saturday, December 18. 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.

Sponsored by  
OAK HARBOR MAIN STREET, Whidbey Weekly, Whidbey Island Bank



# Whidbey Islanders pitch in for refugee children

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Service. Community. Gratitude. Commitment. Those are just some of the words that come up when one spends even a short amount of time talking with U.S. Navy veteran Clyde Shavers about the fundraising initiative he and fellow U.S. Air Force veteran Maggie Johns have started to benefit Afghan refugee children.

The pair, both board members of the Whidbey Veterans Resource Center in Langley, started a Go Fund Me account in hopes of raising \$5,000 to purchase and send coats, socks, shoes, boots and other cold-weather clothing to refugee children who have been relocated with their families to the New Jersey Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst following their recent evacuation from Afghanistan. As of press time, the effort is rapidly approaching its goal, having raised nearly \$4,000 already.

Shavers said the idea came to him when he was visiting his fiancé, Jodi, who is currently deployed to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst with the U.S. Air National Guard.

"I realized with over 4,000 kids at this base specifically, they were evacuated from Afghanistan

in such a short period of time, all they had was the clothes on their backs," Shavers said. "Little girls in sandals, children in just T-shirts. It gets very cold in New Jersey and as colder weather approaches, children are going to suffer. I thought it was my duty and responsibility to do everything I can to support them. These families served as interpreters, side by side with us."

Support for the project so far has been overwhelmingly positive, according to Shavers. Not only have they nearly reached their financial goal, donations of coats, clothing and other items are pouring in.

"I have pickups lined up every single day," he said. "Just talking with community members, seeing where they come from and their support, it's very humbling. It's so amazing and I'm so grateful this initiative is bringing the community together for an admirable goal."

Shavers has already begun shipping some of the items he's collected so far to his fiancé, who will distribute items directly to the refugee children.

"We just shipped the first wave of clothing with the following items: 352 jackets, coats, sweaters, and shirts; 80 pairs of pants; 180 blankets,



Photos Courtesy of Clyde Shavers/Whidbey Veterans Resource Center

Clyde Shavers and Maggie Johns, both veterans and board members of Whidbey Veterans Resource Center, have created a fundraiser to raise money to purchase coats and warm clothing for Afghan refugee children at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.



Photo Courtesy of Clyde Shavers

Donations of coats, sweaters and warm clothes and blankets to support Afghan refugee children on the East coast have been pouring in, according to fundraising organizer Clyde Shavers. The first wave of items has been boxed up and shipped to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey for distribution.

## Winter Clothing Drive for Afghan Refugees



Team fundraiser  
Clyde Shavers and Maggie Johns are organizing this fundraiser.

Photo Courtesy of Go Fund Me

A Go Fund Me account started by Whidbey Island residents Clyde Shavers and Maggie Johns is quickly approaching its fundraising goal of \$5,000. Money will be used to purchase and ship coats and warm clothing for Afghan refugee children, many of whom left their country with just the clothes on their backs.

scarves, and pairs of earmuffs and mittens; and 13 pairs of shoes and boots," he said.

All funds raised through the Go Fund Me account will go directly to purchase more jackets, sweaters, shoes, etc. In the meantime, Shavers said he is happy to continue picking up donations of new or gently-used items.

"I'm looking forward to continuing this awesome effort and shipping even more clothing (with an end date of Dec. 31st)," he said. "With so many families without warm clothing, we are appreciative of any and all donations, both new and gently-used/good clothing."

Shavers said giving back to the community through service has always been important to him, especially after serving in the Middle East while he was in the Navy.

"This is personal for me and I am happy to do everything I can to speedily give this clothing to the kids," he said. "The outpouring of support has been overwhelming and I'm getting these out as soon as possible. I want to make sure the kids have this clothing."

The positive response to the fundraiser has

been island-wide, something that does not surprise organizers.

"It's not just a Langley thing or an Oak Harbor thing," said Shavers. "Everyone believes in this and it brings communities together."

"These Afghan families, they supported our service members abroad in one of the most dangerous places in the world," he continued. "They were side by side with us, risking their lives. The sad thing is, when [the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan], the Taliban went door to door looking for them. There were many who supported our troops and they need to be protected. I think that motivates all of us. Because when we say 'We have your back,' we've gotta keep that promise. These are families who are not just Afghanistan's heroes, they're American heroes."

Anyone interested in helping Shavers and Johns reach – or even surpass – their goal can go to <https://gf.me/vc/gc5g/winter-clothing-drive-for-afghan-refugees>. To make donations of clothing or other items, contact Shavers directly at 425-394-6765



Photo Courtesy of Elizabeth Schroeder

Elizabeth Schroeder started planning for her business, Wandering Trail Tours, 10 years ago. She opened her business in June and offers tours of Whidbey's wineries and distilleries all year long, plus special seasonal tours like the Christmas Lights Tours currently being offered.

## LIGHTS continued from page 2

"A couple of years go by and I retired from the Navy," she continued. "When I thought about what I wanted to do when I retired, I thought this would be something fun. So I started preparing back then. I saved up for it financially so I could do it more as something fun to do than needing it as my main source of income."

Schroeder said she joined all the wine clubs, started volunteering at the Chamber of Commerce to meet people and network and she went to college, where she is currently just two classes away from earning her bachelor's degree. She officially began Wandering Trail Tours in June, and said she feels all the years of patience and preparation will help her succeed.

"When I started, I really noticed a gap between the north end and south end [of the island]," she said. "It's important to me to bring people together and bring them a way to enjoy all the wineries in a safe manner. I pick people up from their houses or hotels so they don't have to drive at all. When people step on the bus, all the tasting fees, food and water are covered and they do not have to worry about it. It's more an experience than just a shuttle bus. It's really important to me they have a fun, relaxing day."

Wine tours are offered every weekend and include stops at four different wineries and/or distilleries, depending on the time of year and the tour. Schroeder said she has lots of ideas for different tours in the future. For her, it is all about serving up a unique, enjoyable experience.

"My passion is service," she said. "I love serving people and

making them happy. I love doing these tours. I make friends every time I do a tour. It's the whole experience. I love helping make people happy. I'm not doing this to become a millionaire, I'm doing this because I love it."

To learn more about Wandering Trail Tours or to book a spot on a Christmas lights or wine tour, visit [wanderingtrailtours.com](http://wanderingtrailtours.com) or find it on Facebook.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Wandering Trail Tours owner Elizabeth Schroeder thinks passengers will have a "grrr"eat time on her Christmas Lights Tour around Oak Harbor.

# Insurance and You

By Mary Elizabeth Himes

"Insurance is an agreement between parties to transfer risk. That means one party pays another party to provide financial compensation in the event of loss of assets, property or life."

The quote above has been the theme of our interactions for this column over the past several months. We will continue with our focus on serving the community by providing insurance information and education on this platform.

2021 saw an important change in the way insurance rates are reviewed in the state of Washington. On June 20, 2021 a temporary ban (SB 5010-2021-22) was enacted throughout the state that eliminated credit scoring as a rating factor for consumers.

### Credit scoring

"Currently, insurance companies are allowed to use credit information when deciding whether or not to offer someone insurance and to calculate how much to charge them. Credit scores, along with other factors including where you live, your claims history, driving record and age are used by insurers in a secret formula to create an "insurance score" they say predicts the likelihood you will file a claim." (Credit scoring ban | Washington state Office of the Insurance Commissioner)

However, in October, 2021, the ban was overturned by Thurston County Superior Court, which stated the insurance commissioner did not have "good cause" to file the bill as an emergency. The Insurance Commissioner has vowed to appeal and fight for consumer rights. With this uncertainty, some carriers have decided to continue with the current process of not

using credit scoring as they await the final ruling on an appeal. Other companies have returned to credit scoring on renewals and newly written insurance.

These changes have left many insureds unsure of what is happening with their insurance rates, especially not knowing if rates have increased because of credit scoring or are already increasing rates of insurance. 2022 will give all of Washington more solid ground on how insurance rates will be calculated in the future and a better idea on how insureds can advocate and understand their coverages.

This past year we focused several times on property maintenance and proper coverages on your auto insurance. We will continue to advocate for insureds to maintain some level of medical protections within their auto policies that will provide for immediate cash relief in the event of an accident involving bodily injury. In 2021 Safe Harbor Agency dealt with four accidents that involved some injury and only two of those policies had coverage. The other two were required to pay significant out of pocket costs at the time of medical service or were forced to wait weeks for care. We are happy to report our homeowners retained excellent coverage and took advantage of calling our offices in advance of filing claims to get proper consultation. We are available to assist with short consultations or questions regarding general insurance and are happy to point you in the right direction if we cannot assist.

As 2021 ends we at Safe Harbor Agency can only thank the community of Oak Harbor and Whidbey Island for its support in our efforts.

# GUEST COLUMN

## Women have been the driving force behind local quality healthcare in our community for over 50 years.

### Tireless Hospital Advocates

Pauline "Polly" Harpole, the island's first public health nurse, established 'Twill-do' maternity home in 1934 where she delivered over 3,000 babies. She went on to establish multiple clinics, a mobile x-ray unit and a speech workshop as well as her daring 18-minute emergency transports to a waiting ferry.

### In the Hands of Women

When challenging childbirths, sick infants and epidemics like diphtheria and smallpox struck, it was predominately women who stepped in to care for each other's families.

It's no surprise that a group of women lead the charge to build a hospital and bring reliable healthcare close to home. In 1957, a group of 20 tenacious women formed The Parent Group, igniting island wide commitment and the formation of over 20 neighborhood guilds. Together they raised more than \$70,000 to furnish and equip multiple essential patient treatment areas.

The dream of local quality healthcare became a reality when Whidbey General Hospital opened its doors March 10, 1970.

### Critical Roles

Since then, women continue to lead the way; defining innovative programs, protocols, and procedures to meet the needs of the ever-changing healthcare landscape.

Women make up over 74 percent of the WhidbeyHealth workforce. Their diverse roles range from receptionists and admins to physicians and specialists. They're nurses, facilities engineers, clinic and lab managers, maintenance crews, leadership teams and part of our Foundation and our board of commissioners.

### Exceptional Care

Their diverse skills, knowledge and expertise are invaluable in the delivery of quality care in our Emergency Department/Level III Trauma Center, award winning cancer center, and walk-in and specialty clinics, as well as on our surgical, diagnostic, labor and delivery, and EMS teams.

A critical part of our competent, compassionate, and caring team, these women are dedicated to delivering critical and life-saving healthcare, education and the resources needed to support the health and well-being of our diverse community.

TO LEARN MORE about the breadth of services available at WhidbeyHealth visit: whidbey-health.org/services.



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OB/GYN | FAMILY BIRTHPLACE

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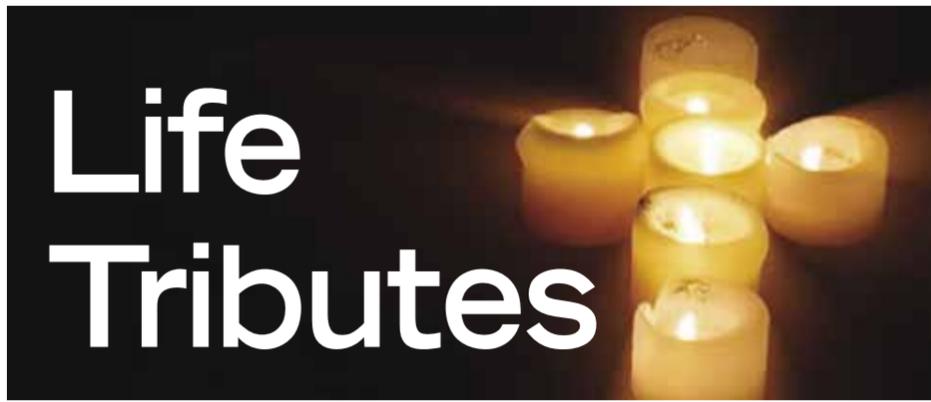
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**Paul R. Fasciano**



Paul R. Fasciano, of Oak Harbor, passed away Nov. 25, 2021 with his loving wife by his side.

Paul was born Sept. 4, 1959, to Ed and Pauline Fasciano in Winchester, Mass. Paul graduated from Suffolk University, in Boston, Mass.

In 2006, he met Teri at the Chamber of Commerce in Newport, Ore. (where they also married). They had been at each other's side since.

Paul's presence was larger than life. He will be missed so very much by all who knew him. Paul had a passion for life that knew no bounds!

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Pauline. He is survived by his wife, Teri.

**Life Tributes can now be found online at [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com)**

**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](mailto:info@whidbeyweekly.com) or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.*

Creator God,

At the start of this New Year, when our thoughts turn again to beginnings starting afresh with new leaves, be with us as we gaze into the distance. Take our fears and turn them into strengths. Take our lack of faith and empower us through the Spirit who breathes life into this world; whose presence is reflected in the icy chill of winter's breath as well as the comforting warmth of a summer breeze. Walk with us into this New Year of opportunity.

Amen.

Matthew Erikson

Hope Church Oak Harbor - Pastor

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11



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**TUESDAY, OCT. 12**

**11:55 am, Smugglers Cove Rd.**

Advising house has been sold and a big white horse is still at location; horse is friendly; house has been cleared out and reporting party concerned horse may have been left behind as everything is empty around.

**8:30 pm, Sun Vista Cir.**

Reporting party advising thinks someone is trying to get into her house; states male subject is at her front porch threatening to kill her. Advising subject is her neighbor.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13**

**11:11 am, Whitney Dr.**

Requesting call referencing couch thrown on his property by neighbor; she is refusing to remove it.

**11:25 am, Main St.**

Male refusing to mask and refusing to leave, would like him removed. No weapons or threats of violence.

**4:10 pm, NE Koetje St.**

Reporting party at location advising friend went into storage area to grab something and hasn't returned in 10 minutes; requesting check on her. Reporting party is in car with children and cannot go check on her. Just expected her back sooner, no specific concern.

**6:20 pm, Goss Lake Rd.**

Reporting party advising has license plates that have been following her everywhere. Upset with subject for blocking her washer and dryer.

**7:08 pm, Stewart Rd.**

Requesting call regarding dog sitting. Will have dog for two days and is concerned if dog is too loud, neighbors might call to complain. Want to speak with officer regarding the hypothetical situation.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 14**

**12:46 pm, Goss Lake Rd.**

Reporting party talking about people all over wearing animal suits with body cams from Amazon; advising to look on Google maps and you will see them all over Island County; advising they have been taking pictures of social security cards.

**7:17 pm, West Beach Rd.**

Naked female walking along road one mile south of Fort Nugent. Reporting party advising this is happening now.

**7:36 pm, Wieldraayer Rd.**

Reporting party is upset that the person who is working there is screaming at her, calling her a dumb ass.

**9:44 pm, SW Heller St.**

Reporting party advising they have cats at location and they get out sometimes; reporting party advising neighbor advised if cats get out again he would get out some traps.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 16**

**5:08 am, Mobius Loop**

Caller advising phone is being jammed. "I have been reading the local newspaper and it is falling apart. I am calling from Oklahoma and it is falling apart. All the

way up to the government. I am going to keep the pressure on and we are going to get things straightened out. How many are not showing up for work?"

**3:26 pm, Goss Lake Rd.**

Reporting party states subjects wearing fake police suits are threatening her with chainsaws on the property; requesting law enforcement go out to location with mics and listen to these people.

**8:59 pm, Hansen Dr.**

Kid on phone advising no emergency; "tried to trick you," "there's no fire." When asked to speak to parent, child advised they are alive and doesn't want ICOM to speak to them.

**MONDAY, OCT. 18**

**12:12 am, Mobius Loop**

States female subject has been following reporting party and taking pictures of her; last occurred four weeks ago but has not reported until now.

**1:33 am, Deer Lake Rd.**

Reporting party advising male subject driving truck, unknown make or model, driving around and doing donuts and honking his horn; vehicle is by the ferry. Reporting party advising subject is looking for her because he saw her get his license plate; unknown who subject is.

**9:53 am, SR 20**

White Dodge 4x4 on Main Street taking right on highway from Main Street; female driving, sniffing rubber glove, stopping and going in middle of traffic.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 19**

**7:33 am, Mutiny Bay Rd.**

Caller advising of motorcycle versus deer off to side of road; motorcycle in ditch; unable to locate driver. Motorcycle pieces all over road.

**8:56 am, Tree Frog Ln.**

Ongoing issue with two subjects just walking in and sleeping at location. Just left.

**12:39 pm, Bonnie View Acres Rd.**

Reporting AT&T won't cancel cell phone plan for subject; advising they keep taking her money; requesting call; subject is reporting party's client.

**2:36 pm, NE Pennington Loop**

Advising has been trying to get a hold of her dog; occupants won't give it back.

**7:15 pm, S Main St.**

Reporting party advising younger male subject at location is asking people for cigarettes; has been at location all day. Advising subject is "kind of weird, no, really weird;" subject just stares at people.

**8:32 pm, Orchard Loop**

Reporting party advising male is outside location yelling about killing someone and hurting dogs.

**9:36 pm, Saratoga Rd.**

Caller states heard what sounded like car crash; screeching heard and then someone screaming "There is blood everywhere."

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



# OUR Community

## An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is your wish for our community this holiday season?



### Jon Lacy

Navy Region NW Fire & Emergency Services

My wish for our community this holiday season is to enjoy this special time with family and friends while honoring the reason for the season. We have ALL been given the greatest Christmas gift in history - Jesus. I would like our community to reflect on this gift and continue to share the love of Christ in our community throughout the year. We are truly blessed to live in a country that allows us to celebrate this momentous occasion. I pray that everyone in our community has a peaceful holiday season, and a blessed 2022.

### Deputy Chief Mike Buxton

Oak Harbor Fire Department

I wish for everyone to have a safe and relaxing holiday season. Also for six to eight inches of snowfall starting the 24th.



### A/Sgt. T. Wasser,

Island County Sheriff's Office, South Precinct

I have had the honor and privilege of running our Guild's "Shop with a Cop" program for the last few years. The thing I am constantly amazed by is the selflessness of the children and families involved. My wish is that the selflessness and charity that our community shows each other, continues. We are fortunate to be in this community and to be as supported as we are.

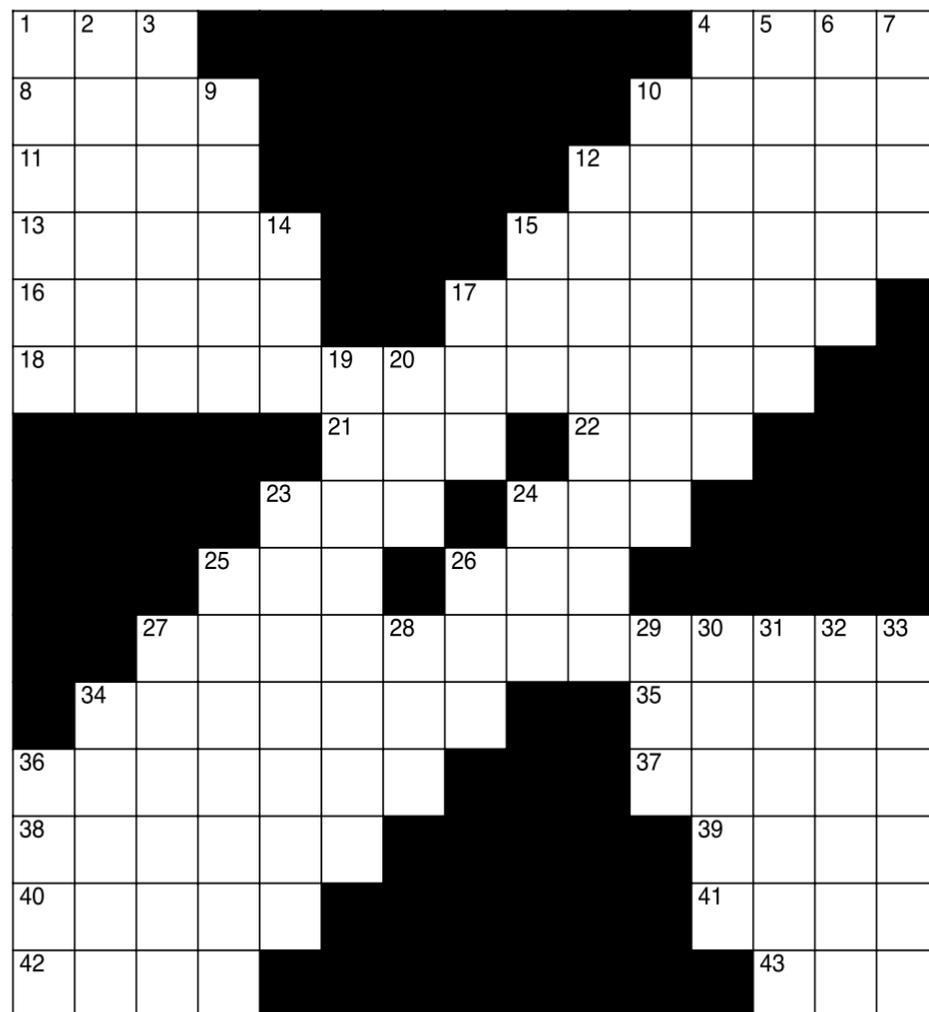
### Sergeant Matthew Krynski

Oak Harbor Police Department

My wish would be we as a community embrace the joy of the season for each other as we take opportunities to reach out to families and friends to check in on their wellbeing. Providing support for one another is maybe the best unexpected gift someone can receive. Oh, with all the milk and cookies by the tree is also great!



# Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. You fry food in it
- 4. Pesky insect
- 8. Gets older
- 10. \_\_ Dern, actress
- 11. Uncouth man
- 12. One who sulks
- 13. Napoleon's king of Naples
- 15. One who swims underwater
- 16. Make amends
- 17. Expressions
- 18. Document format
- 21. What a beaver makes
- 22. Limb
- 23. Photograph
- 24. Golf score
- 25. Moroccan mountain range
- 26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar \_\_
- 27. 20th century sex symbol
- 34. Remedy for all diseases
- 35. Bluish greens

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Town in central Brazil
- 2. Large burrowing rodent
- 3. Nerve cell
- 4. Estimating
- 5. Bakers use it
- 6. Regions
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Environmentalist nun
- 10. More kookie
- 12. Announce officially
- 14. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv

- 15. Title given to friar
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Buildings
- 20. Pouch
- 23. They steal on the high seas
- 24. It's mightier than the sword
- 25. Going off on a tangent
- 26. Monetary unit
- 27. Young woman
- 28. Type of bulb
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. City opposite Dusseldorf
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini necessities
- 33. Elude
- 34. La \_\_: Buenos Aires capital
- 36. An oft-enduring symbol

Answers on page 15

## CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...3.7

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

Answers on page 15

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

### YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Dec. 16	Fri, Dec. 17	Sat, Dec. 18	Sun, Dec. 19	Mon, Dec. 20	Tues, Dec. 21	Wed, Dec. 22
North Isle H-42°/L-38° AM Rain PM Sunbreaks	North Isle H-44°/L-42° Rain	North Isle H-46°/L-38° Breezy and Rainy	North Isle H-43°/L-37° Cloudy and Rainy	North Isle H-44°/L-36° Showers Possible	North Isle H-42°/L-36° Windy with Possible Showers	North Isle H-60°/L-34° Showers Possible
South Isle H-40°/L-37° AM Rain PM Sunbreaks	South Isle H-41°/L-40° Showers	South Isle H-45°/L-38° Rain	South Isle H-41°/L-35° Chance of Rainy	South Isle H-41°/L-34° Showers Possible	South Isle H-40°/L-33° Showers Possible	South Isle H-42°/L-32° Showers Possible

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- ✓ FREE Battery Fluid & Fill

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- ✓ INFLATE Tires
- ✓ VACUUM Interior
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- Inspect Exhaust System
- Check Charging System
- Test Ignition Cables
- Tire Rotation & Balance
- Inspect Suspension
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- Inspect Ignition Cables
- Scope & Scan
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- Road Test Vehicle
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# Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email [classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com](mailto:classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Island Shakespeare Festival is seeking new members to join our Board of Directors. We're looking for people who are passionate about high-quality live classical theater and can devote time and energy to support the work of Island Shakespeare Festival's important cultural, social, and fiscal position on Whidbey Island. Our current

needs include individuals with backgrounds in the following areas: human resources, donor relations, finance, as well as other skills related to overseeing a performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF, attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact [jeff.natter@island-shakespearefest.org](mailto:jeff.natter@island-shakespearefest.org).

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

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Islands. Volunteers primarily include medical and public health professionals but other volunteers who have no healthcare backgrounds are also utilized. MRC responds to local emergencies such as natural disasters and public health emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us at Island County MRC website for application and information.

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of

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the Habitat for Humanity of Island County stores, you are helping local families attain decent, affordable housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they pick up donated items using our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to [www.pnwnam.org](http://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](mailto:wamothermentors@gmail.com) or call 360-321-1484.

## JOB MARKET

Martin's Auto in Oak Harbor is seeking a full time auto technician, Monday through Friday. Wages DOE. Apply in person at 152 NE Midway Blvd. (3)

Island Transit is Hiring! If you are looking for a solid career

with great pay and benefits including two retirement plans, we are hiring. Visit [www.islandtransit.org/employment](http://www.islandtransit.org/employment) to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Moving and need to clean house: Pots and pans, dishes, king and queen beds – both w/linens, bedroom set – bureau w/mirror, 2 kitchen tables – one with 4 chairs, matching chest of drawer, 2 matching table lamps, wooden bench seat w/ storage, computer desk w/ hutch, office two-pedal desk, 4 drawer file cabinet, 4 shelf storage unit, womens clothes & 7.5 shoes, bathroom scale, 2 heavy quilts & many pillows, kitchen stuff – some appliances, HP printer/fax Envy 5644, 4-drawer file cabinet. Call Hank to make appointment, 360-678-7591 (1)

## ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

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## How'd you do?

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

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**Always buying antiques, collectibles, sporting goods, tools, garden equipment, furniture, vehicles, tractors and boats. Cash paid at loading out. 45 years experience. 360-678-5888 or text 360-969-1948.**

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

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

## No Cheating!

P	A	N								G	N	A	T											
A	G	E	S							L	A	U	R	A										
L	O	U	T							P	O	U	T	E	R									
M	U	R	A	T						F	R	O	G	M	A	N								
A	T	O	N	E						I	R	O	N	I	E	S								
S	I	N	G	L	E	S	P	A	C	I	N	G												
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