

December 22 through December 28, 2022

*FREE*

# Whidbey Weekly

Your Source For "What's Happening" On Whidbey Island

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COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS

And the angel said unto them,  
Fear not: for, behold,  
I bring you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this  
day in the city of David  
a Saviour, which is  
Christ the Lord:

Luke 2:10-11



## Merry Christmas

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**OHMF wins awards p. 12**

Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly  
It is estimated there are over 100,000 lights in the holiday display at Hastie Lake and West Beach Roads.



## WHIDBEY LIGHTS UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

It's that time of the year – the days are short, the nights are long, but folks on Whidbey Island know how to light up the night with the festive twinkle and shine of holiday lights.

For some, self-guided tours of decked-out home holiday lighting displays are an annual tradition. There are decorators who go all out, while some opt for more restraint. Either way, the cheerful lights are a sign of the season.

Oak Harbor resident Carrie Stucky started compiling a map of the best holiday light displays on north Whidbey in 2020.

"Due to COVID closures and restrictions that year, there were few options available for Christmas events and activities," she described. "I spent a lot of time driving around with my family looking at Christmas lights, and there were so many people who had put so much work and creativity into their displays, I decided

it would be great to share some of the displays with the community. It seems that the community has enjoyed having a map of Christmas lights and I am happy to continue the tradition."

Stucky shares her map in several groups on Facebook, and she was kind enough to share it with us at *Whidbey Weekly*. (See below.) In just three years, the number of locations on the map has grown from 15 to 24.

"It seems to me that there have been more and more decorations over the last few years," she said. "People have been growing their displays, and more houses have started to put up lights that maybe hadn't in the past. At this point, I'm sure I am missing some great displays, but I tried to get as many houses and neighborhoods on the map as I could."

Stucky said all the areas on the map either have one large display or several displays concentrated in one neighborhood.



Photo Courtesy of Jaimy Brown

A light display set to music in Clinton features several handmade holiday characters, like the Grinch. Tune radios to 88.7 to enjoy a mix of music and dancing lights. The display by Tracy and Jaimy Brown can be found on Hinman Drive.

"I think there is an excitement and nostalgia about driving around looking at Christmas lights," said Stucky. "For me, it's always one of my favorite things about Christmas time."

Number 24 on Stucky's list is the display at the intersection of Hastie Lake and West Beach Roads. Covering both sides of Hastie Lake, this is a very popular spot for holiday-light-seekers.

The display is the work of Debra and John Sims, with help from their daughter, Lauren, and her husband, Josh Sinclair. As may be the case with many such displays, the project started small and grew from there.

"It's a family project that originally was just our way of celebrating Christmas," said Lauren. "Over several decades, decorations have come, some have gone, and the rest have accumulated."

"Over 30 years ago, Debra decided to make a few decorations to put on our front porch," continued Lauren. "She bought plywood and created the carousel horses. (The same carousel

See LIGHTS continued on page 13

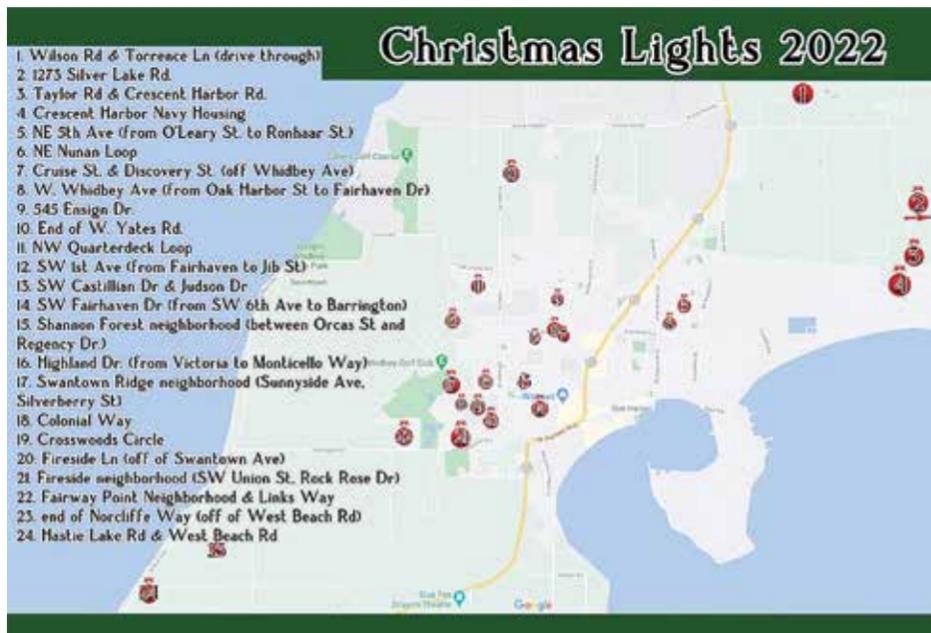
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Map Courtesy of Carrie Stucky

A map of north Whidbey highlights 24 different holiday light displays people can drive to. The map is put together by Carrie Stucky and is shared in several different Facebook groups.

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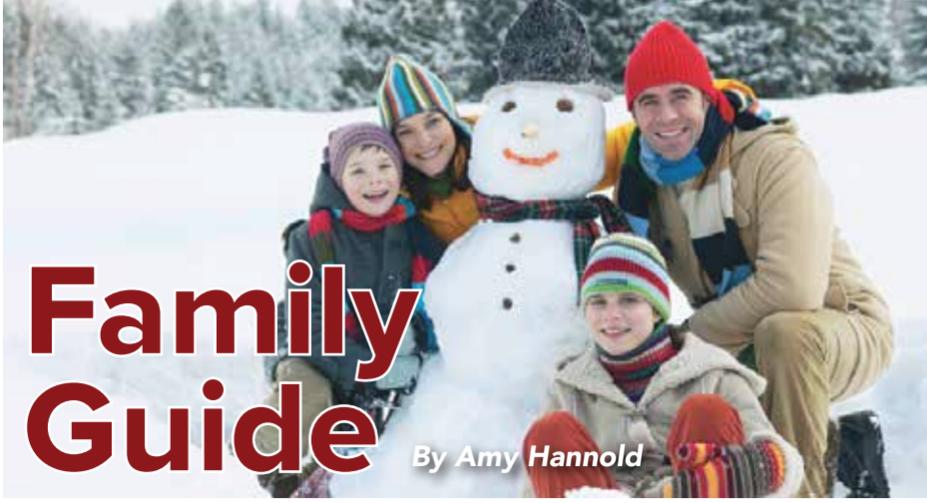


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# Family Guide

By Amy Hannold

**Be 'Cool', With Your Community on New Year's Day:** Join a fun-loving crowd for a bone-chilling dive into 2023. This event at Double Bluff Beach in Freeland has been a New Year's tradition since 2004. Your \$10 registration fee includes coffee, cocoa, cookies, bonfires, music, and festive atmosphere. Proceeds benefit the Island County 4-H Teen Leadership Club. Registration opens at 10:30 a.m., followed by the "splash" at noon. [swparks.org/event/polar-bear-dive/](http://swparks.org/event/polar-bear-dive/)

**Take a Hike New Year's Day:** Jan. 1 is a Washington State Park "Free Day", with no Discover Pass required. There are outdoor adventures planned for all ages, throughout Whidbey Island:

**First Day Hike - History at Fort Casey**  
Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 - 11 a.m. and 2 - 3 p.m.  
Fort Casey State Park, located at 1280 Engle Road, Coupeville:  
What did those big guns defend Washington's coasts from? Join members of the Fort Casey Volunteer Battalion as they host history hikes of Fort Casey and its batteries. Good shoes for walking are recommended as are warm clothing and a raincoat. Recommended for ages 7 and up. To register, email: [CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov](mailto:CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov).

**First Day Hike - Intro to Biking at Fort Ebey**  
Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Fort Ebey State Park, located at 400 Hill Valley Drive, Coupeville:  
The intro bike ride will start at the battery parking lot loop and go through the park, campground, and old fort entrance trail. Brief breaks will be incorporated for interpretive talks and questions led by Park Ranger Andrew Gonzales. There will be some hills involved. This event is weather dependent. Recommended 8 years old and older. Parents are required to accompany participants under 18 years old. Registration is required. Please email [CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov](mailto:CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov).

**First Day Hike - Medium to Advanced Biking at Fort Ebey**  
Sunday, Jan. 1, 1 - 2 p.m.  
This bike ride is for people who are comfortable riding their bike on the road and on the trail. Brief breaks will be incorporated for interpretive talks and questions led by Park Ranger Andrew Gonzales. There will be some hills involved. This event is weather dependent. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Parents are required to accompany participants under 18 years old. Park roads may be wet, dress for cooler conditions. Registration is required. Please email [CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov](mailto:CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov).

[WhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov](mailto:WhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov).

## A Variety of "First Day" Guided Hikes at Deception Pass State Park:

Meet the Deception Pass interpretive team in the Cornet Bay parking lot at 10 a.m. Jan. 1, where you can choose between a variety of guided hikes. You can learn about the history of Cornet Bay and the Deception Pass Ferry System or explore the old growth in Hoypus Forest. No registration is required. The Cornet Bay Marina is located at 160 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor.

## Little Ones on a "First Day" Hike at South Whidbey State Park:

Sunday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m. - noon  
South Whidbey State Park, located at 4128 S. Smugglers Cove Road, Freeland:  
Want to inspire your little one to love the outdoors? Join us on the trail and we'll help! This hike is for families with young children to help learn the best ways to hike with children and get them to love being outdoors. We'll be hiking on a short stretch of trail and different ideas of how to keep kids engaged while on the trail will be demonstrated. Hiking boots or other sturdy close-toed shoes, dress in layers to stay warm along with a raincoat. To register, please email: [CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov](mailto:CentralWhidbeyInterpretation@parks.wa.gov).

## A Self-Guided Sensory "First Day Hike" at South Whidbey State Park

Sunday, Jan. 1  
This self-guided sensory hike along the Wilbert Trail (east side of the road) of South Whidbey State Park will feature prompts to help you focus on your senses and become aware of things in the forest you might have otherwise missed. Stop by Fort Casey State Park's office (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) with the secret code word from the trail to get your First Hike Day button! Things to bring: Hiking boots or other sturdy, close-toed shoes, dress in layers to stay warm along with a raincoat.

**A Great 2023 Resolution: Visit "New-to-You Parks" in Washington:** There are fun, affordable and informative ways to get excited about exploring the outdoors.

**Hiking Close to Home:** Whidbey Island is home to many great hiking locations. Author and hiking guide Maribeth Crandell and retired Washington State Parks Manager Jack Hartt have a blog that features a "Hike of the Week", with descriptions and details about these locations, including directions, whether you can get there on bus or by bike, accessibility, and other

information to encourage you to take in the beauty that is around us, on foot. They are also the authors of "Hiking Close to Home", a guide to 70 trails for any ability level on Whidbey, Fidalgo and Guemes Islands, available online or at local bookstores. [Hikingclosestohome.weebly.com](http://Hikingclosestohome.weebly.com)

**Washington State Parks Discover Pass:** This annual pass is your ticket to unlimited access to millions of state-managed lands across Washington State and is transferable between two vehicles. Passes are \$30 for the year, available online or at local retailers. Discover Pass Day Passes are also available and are \$10 for a one-day pass into the park. At the park, without a pre-purchased pass, you have the option of purchasing a one-day pass if the park doesn't have an automated station. [Discoverpass.wa.gov](http://Discoverpass.wa.gov).

**Free Parks Days:** Washington State Parks does have several "Free Parks Days" planned for 2023. On these dates, no Discover Pass is required. Early in 2023, there are the following:

- Jan. 1 — First Day Hikes; New Year's Day
- Jan. 16 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- March 9 — Billy Frank Junior's Birthday, in honor of the Native American leader
- March 19 — State Parks' 110th Birthday

**Geocaching Adventure Labs:** Designed like existing geocaching activities, the Adventure Labs app will guide you through the parks as you find clues, solve puzzles and complete adventures one location at a time using physical features within the landscape. It's fun for all ages! To begin an adventure, download the official Geocaching Adventure Lab app for your iPhone or Android phone and create a free account. All 10 Washington State Parks in Island County have their own custom Adventure Labs guides. More information: [Adventureawaits.com/365/Adventure-Lab-31521](http://Adventureawaits.com/365/Adventure-Lab-31521).

**"Would Be Players" Youth Theater Program at Whidbey Playhouse:** Theater training helps your child in many valuable ways. Experiences and skills learned include self-confidence, critical thinking, empathy, problem solving, self-discipline, public speaking and teamwork. Winter Session, for elementary and middle school students, meets twice a week, beginning in February, for 8 weeks. The workshop is \$125, scholarships and additional sibling \$60 discounts are available. Register your child at the Playhouse office, Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. [WhidbeyPlayhouse.com](http://WhidbeyPlayhouse.com)

**See the Eagles:** The months of December and January are peak eagle watching season. Spend some time in the outdoors, witnessing bald eagle migration, birdwatching and catching a glimpse of other wildlife in a gorgeous mountain and forest setting along the Skagit River. Guided hikes, eagle watching stations, and a variety of exhibits are available at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, located at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, in Rockport. The center is open Saturdays and Sundays in December, January and February. For winter school break exploration, the center will be open weekdays Dec. 28-30 and Jan. 16. [Skagiteagle.org](http://Skagiteagle.org)

**Warm Your Winter with Great Memories:** Connect to local events, programs and activities at "Whidbey Island Events and More" on Facebook. Share your events, or favorite Whidbey Island winter fun ideas at [eventsandinfo@comcast.net](mailto:eventsandinfo@comcast.net).

# Passing assets through a trust: What to know

As the year winds down, your thoughts might drift to the future. And, as part of that future, you may be thinking of where your financial assets will end up. You've worked hard to accumulate them, and you'll certainly need some of them to support your retirement, but what about the rest? What's the best way to pass them on to your loved ones?

There's no single path for everyone to follow. But you might consider establishing a trust, which offers some key benefits. For example, your estate can avoid the time-consuming, and highly public, process of probate. Plus, you can be highly specific about how your assets will be distributed.

To establish a trust, you will need to work with a qualified estate-planning attorney. And while you'll discuss many issues, here are three key questions that will certainly need to be addressed:

**Who will serve as trustee of the trust?** As the grantor, or creator, of your trust, you will pick the trustee — the individual or corporate entity that will manage the trust's assets and carry out the purpose of the trust. You could choose a trusted loved one, but this individual might not have the knowledge or experience to manage the responsibilities of a trustee. As an alternative, you could choose a corporate fiduciary, such as a bank or trust company. These entities are typically regulated by outside agencies and provide significant public matter expertise. Of course, they charge for their services and often have account minimums.

**When are distributions made?** As the grantor, you can choose when assets will be distributed to the beneficiaries you've named. You could decide to keep the assets in the trust until a beneficiary reaches the age of majority; note that the age of majority is not the same in all states. Or you could choose to "phase in" the distributions at particular ages — e.g., 30, 35, 40 — or after a certain number of years. You could even hold assets in the trust for the lifetimes of the beneficiaries. These types of choices will depend on several factors, such as your feelings for how responsible a beneficiary might be in managing money.

**For what purposes can the trust assets be used?** In addition to choosing when your trust should make distributions, you can decide how these assets should be used. You could designate some broad categories, such as health, education, maintenance and support. A beneficiary's request for distributions in these areas is usually granted. But you could also structure the trust to provide mandatory income, perhaps once a year, or include a provision that provides incentives, such as distributing certain amounts of money once the beneficiary has achieved a milestone, such as finishing a degree or purchasing a first home.

**One final note:** Although you clearly have great control over what your trust can accomplish, its effectiveness will also depend, to a great extent, on its asset level. With this in mind, you'll want to pay close attention to your investment decisions throughout your life and your withdrawal strategy during retirement. The better your choices in these areas, the more options you'll have with your trust — and the greater the potential benefits for your beneficiaries.

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



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**THURSDAY, NOV. 17**

**9:25 am, NW 6th St.**

Advising deputy was going to meet with reporting party tonight for follow up, but reporting party just discovered this was damage from water heater, not caused by a person, so there's no issue. Requesting deputy disregard.

**9:31 am, Stellar Ln.**

Ongoing issues with subject threatening reporting party; requesting contact so she can exchange a battery with him.

**10:22 am, W Sleeper Rd.**

White Suburban, ongoing, for a few days reporting party has noticed in this area; this morning vehicle was very close to reporting party's property and reporting party confronted subject, who said he was parked there in order to do drugs; it's his favorite spot.

**12:29 pm, Silver Lake Rd.**

Deputy driving in area just had a bag fall off their roof; reporting party picked it up and continued to drive; available for call to set up meeting.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 18**

**4:16 pm, S Main St.**

Male subject playing accordion all day long; does not need contact.

**6:16 pm, Zylstra Rd.**

Reporting party states hit and run occurred at location by Door Dash driver; occurred 10 minutes ago; fleeing vehicle last seen eastbound on Zylstra Rd.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 19**

**2:18 am, Nubian Way**

Male on line; "What's the same shit hole as every time;" "dinosaur Utah;" "Yeah, she's in danger;" "You sound pretty smoked out right now, I'm gonna go save her;" line disconnected.

**10:59 am, Monroe Landing Rd.**

Requesting call; says he loaned drone to someone who is now refusing to return it.

**11:56 am, Oak Harbor Rd.**

Reporting party states male subject just came into reporting party's yard, urinated and then walked away; southbound on Oak Harbor Road; just occurred.

**1:23 pm, Deception Pass Bridge**

Advising subjects on bridge were throwing rocks down at kayakers; reporting party has left, saw 10 minutes ago; subjects were all men, unknown further; reporting party is down by the water now.

**4:24 pm, S Main St.**

Reporting party states someone she doesn't know has been looking into her;

has gone to old addresses and now her current address. Reporting party states person is male, older, heavy set, no teeth; seems strung out; is asking for reporting party by name.

**5:27 pm, Haines Rd.**

When asked what emergency is, caller stated the call-taker was the emergency; then stated neighbor is sending a loud whistle into his house.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 20**

**5:27 pm, Double Bluff Rd.**

Caller advising found male hiding under daughter's bed; just found him.

**MONDAY, NOV. 21**

**5:37 pm, SR 525**

Caller advising of chairs in northbound lane; dining room chairs; another call, chair in northbound lane, people swerving to miss it.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 22**

**1:22 am, Harper St.**

Reporting party is not sure of his address; states woke up in his new house and there was a male sleeping in his bed; unknown who this person is; reporting party is away from the house now, at the location provided.

**4:23 am, Green Rd.**

Reporting party advising is at Airbnb and there are chimes going off inside the house; reporting party thinks someone is inside who doesn't belong.

**Wednesday, Nov. 23**

**7:48 pm, Wandering Ln.**

States neighbor's dog keeps defecating in reporting party's yard; neighbor got upset at reporting party when reporting party confronted him about it; neighbor threatened to call animal control and call law enforcement about reporting party burning plastic.

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



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# SEASON'S GREETINGS



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# What's Going On

## Live Music: The Brothers Boyd

Friday December 23, 6:30PM  
Penn Cove Taproom, Coupeville

Residing in the Pacific Northwest, The Brothers Boyd are not just brothers but best friends who share a love for music, the outdoors, boats and beer! Playing an eclectic mix of anything from country, to Ed Sheeran, to oldies and rock. No cover. For more information, call 360-682-5747 or visit [www.penncovebrewing.com](http://www.penncovebrewing.com).

## Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below  
Cost: Free

### Snowflake Science

Thursday, December 22, 10:00-11:00AM  
Coupeville Library

Is it really true no two snowflakes are alike? We'll read a snowflake story and create some of our own to find out. For children ages 5 and up and their caregivers.

## Religious Services

### Prayer Group

Every Tuesday, 4:00-5:30PM  
St. Hubert Catholic Church, Langley  
Charismatic Prayer and Praise group. Everyone welcome. For more information, call B. Moore at 360-320-0937.

### Filipino Christian Fellowship

Sundays, 2:00PM  
Meets at Church on the Rock,  
1780 SE 4th Ave., Oak Harbor.  
[www.ohcfellowship.com](http://www.ohcfellowship.com)

### Healing Whidbey Healing Rooms

Every Thursday, 6:30-8:00PM  
5200 Honeymoon Bay Road, Freeland  
The Healing Rooms are open to anyone desiring personal prayer for physical, emotional, or spiritual needs. There is a team of Christians from several local churches that are dedicated to praying for healing the sick in our community. All ministry is private, confidential, and free. No appointment necessary, first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, leave message for Ann at 425-263-2704 or email [info@healingwhidbey.com](mailto:info@healingwhidbey.com). You may also visit [healingwhidbey.com](http://healingwhidbey.com) or visit the International Association of Healing Rooms at [healingrooms.com](http://healingrooms.com).

### Concordia Lutheran Church

Sunday service, 9:30AM  
Bible Study & Sunday School, 10:45AM  
590 N. Oak Harbor Street

For more information, visit [www.concordiaokharbor.org](http://www.concordiaokharbor.org) or call 360-675-2548.

### Teaching Through God's Word

Sundays, 9:00 & 11:00AM  
Calvary Chapel, 3821 French Road, Clinton  
For more information, visit [ccwhidbey.com](http://ccwhidbey.com).

### Unitarian Universalist Sunday Service

Sundays, 10:00AM  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation,  
Freeland

All are welcome. Values-based children's religious exploration classes and childcare will be provided. Visit [www.uucwi.org](http://www.uucwi.org) for more information. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation building is located at 20103 Highway 525, two miles north of Freeland.

### Unity of Whidbey

Sundays, 10:00AM  
5671 Crawford Road, Langley

If you're one of the "spiritual but not religious" people who question their childhood faith or are looking for something more, Unity of Whidbey may feel like a homecoming. [unityofwhidbey.org](http://unityofwhidbey.org) even offers a Zoom link for attending online.

## Whidbey Quakers

Sundays, 4:00-5:00PM  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Freeland

Whidbey Island Friends Meeting (also known as Quakers) meet in silent worship and community, with occasional spoken messages, every Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist building. For more information, contact Tom Ewell at [tewell@whidbey.com](mailto:tewell@whidbey.com) or go to [www.whidbeyquakers.org](http://www.whidbeyquakers.org).

## First Church of Christ, Scientist

Worship, 10:00AM  
Sunday School to age 20, 10:00AM  
Wednesday Testimony Meeting, 2:30PM

Christian Science Reading Room  
Tuesday & Wednesday, 11:00AM-2:00PM

The church and Reading Room are located at 721 SW 20th Court at Scenic Heights Street, Oak Harbor. Call 360-675-0621 or visit [cs-oh-wa.com](http://cs-oh-wa.com) for more information. Services and Sunday School are also held at 10:30AM on South Whidbey at 15910 Highway 525, just north of Bayview and across from Useless Bay Road; testimony meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.

## Meetings & Organizations

### Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS)

Tuesday, January 17, 1:00PM  
Zoom meeting

Jean Wilcox Hibben will present "Using Keywords to Unlock Genealogical Doors." Learn how to locate ancestors using database and search engine searching and browsing techniques employing the keyword function. Non WIGS members send email to [whidbeygensearchers@gmail.com](mailto:whidbeygensearchers@gmail.com) by Jan. 15 to receive Zoom invitation. All are invited to join.

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# STILL TALKING

By Eileen Brown, 1941-2014



Christmas...a time to share what we have most of with those who have the least. The story below is part fact, part fiction. It has become a tradition to run it at Christmas. My late mother, also named Eileen, was a beautiful woman with a troubled life. She died at age 40. My late brother traveled around the world as a Navy diver and later, as a civilian diving and oil rig supervisor. What follows is best described as a wished-for dream where we reunite briefly. I clearly recall riding a streetcar to Marshall Field's in Chicago, clutching a too-small coat closer to keep myself warm. It's a story about a family fallen on hard times who, through the kindness of strangers, finds that glad tidings can come to even those without hope.

## The Kindness of Strangers

By Eileen Brown

"Christmas," said the mother to an empty room. She knew there was hardly money to pay the rent and buy groceries, let alone toys or a new coat for her girl.

Outside, a bitter Chicago wind made ghostly sounds as an elevated train rumbled past, its occupants huddled together for warmth.

A single bulb hung over the little girl's bed where she read her book in the dim light, poking her nose under the covers to keep it warm. The radiator was cold.

And where was that boy? She last saw him run through the alley with his friends. She needn't have worried. He had a good head on his shoulders and seldom got into trouble.

Neighborhood children often went through the trash looking for beer bottles to return to the taverns for a few pennies. Maybe he'd earn a few cents today. Still, it would not be enough.

She hated to be pitied, this mother alone with two children and no money in a big city full of families in dire circumstances.

Growing up, she heard her relatives denounce people who took charity, claiming they'd never stoop so low. "We're too proud!"

Perhaps she could take her children downtown to see the pretty storefronts. The boy had collected enough bottles that week to earn streetcar fare, so they bundled up in scarves and hats and headed to State Street.

As it had every Christmas, the star at Marshall Field was a welcoming beacon to shoppers. Angel hair and twinkling lights filled the window displays and reflected in the children's eyes. Not much point going in to see Santa, thought the mother, but the children pleaded, weakening her resolve.

It took some time for the line to wind down and suddenly Santa was asking the little girl what she wanted him to bring her.

"A dolly, please," she said, giving him a shy smile. She blushed as Santa hugged her and said he'd see what he could do.

It was the boy's turn. Surely he'd ask for a BB gun or bicycle, but his answer to Santa's question caught onlookers by surprise.

"All I want for Christmas is for someone to give my mother a job," he said.

This was not the usual response and Santa was silent for a moment.

Then Santa pressed on, asking, "Don't you want any toys or candy for yourself?"

The boy shook his head indicating "No."

"Well, if that ain't the darndest," said a voice from the crowd.

The mother blushed, and at that moment, she had never looked more radiant. Her boy beamed back at her.

"Let's go, children," she called. "We have to get the streetcar home before dark."

"Wait a minute, ma'am," called a man's voice. In his dark suit and wire-rimmed glasses, he looked like an orchestra conductor, his long, slender arms above the shoppers.

The mother did not hear him. The three continued to the escalator down to the main entrance.

"You over there with the boy and girl. Wait, please," came the voice again.

He caught the boy's eye as they were almost at the revolving door. Outside, a small band played, a bell clanged and pocket change clinked into a metal kettle. Then the breathless man was at their side.

"Excuse me, madam, but I am in charge of the portrait studio here at Marshall Field," he explained. "I wondered if you would sit for some photographs for us to use in our advertising. If I may say so, you resemble those classic English beauties portrayed on castle walls."

She blushed and was about to say no.

"There! That's it," he said. "That lovely smile will grace streetcars up and down Michigan Avenue to be seen by people from around the world, if only you'll say yes."

One look at her children told the mother they wanted her to accept the man's offer.

"How much would the pay be," she asked timidly.

When he told her, she flushed again and said, "I'd be proud to accept your offer." The deal was set.

The studio manager took her name and address and told her when to return. Store professionals would do her hair and makeup, and even provide pearls and a gown to wear.

For a moment she was lost in thought, but her mind quickly returned to Christmas.

"When will I get paid," she whispered. The studio manager looked at her and the children and pulled something out of his pocket. He scribbled quickly and handed her a voucher.

"If you will take this to the cashier's cage, you can have part of your salary in advance today," he said. "Will that do?"

The mother hugged him and said, "You've made me very happy."

When the family returned home, a crumpled paper sack waited at their front door. Who left it, they wondered.

"Let's go," she called as the children struggled to remove their boots, clogged with snow and ice. Inside, all eyes were on the brown bag as it sat on the kitchen floor.

"I'll open it," said the boy.

"That's fine," said the mother, "but be careful."

In went his hand and out came a gray sweater with a white reindeer leaping off the chest. It was a few sizes too large for him, but he'd be kept warm for several winters. He laughed at his good fortune as his head popped out of the neck hole.

There was more. He reached in again. The girl got excited when she saw the spine of a book emerge.

"Black Beauty!" she exclaimed. "Is it for me?"

Just as he was about to throw the bag away, the boy heard something rattle as he shook it.

He brought out two tortoise shell hair combs and handed them to his mother.

"Here, mother! These will look fine in your hair when you have your portrait taken."

She hugged him and then the girl. The room became warm and bright with the sounds of their laughter.

The mother's heart felt light as she set on the teakettle. Things do look their darkest before the dawn, she thought.

Humming to herself, she thought of another family long ago who received the kindness of strangers on Christmas Eve.

The promise of Bethlehem, of new hope, was reborn that night in Chicago.

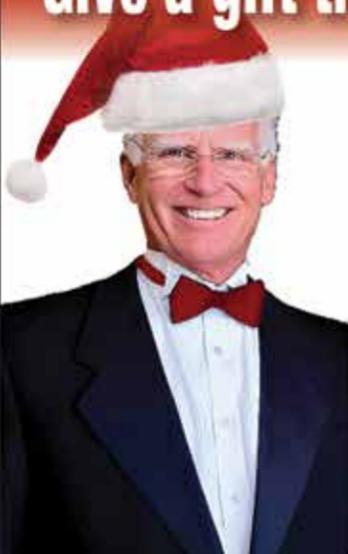
Hold your loved ones close and have a very Merry Christmas.

Most recently published December 2020  
Whidbey Weekly. God Bless you, Eileen.

We miss you.

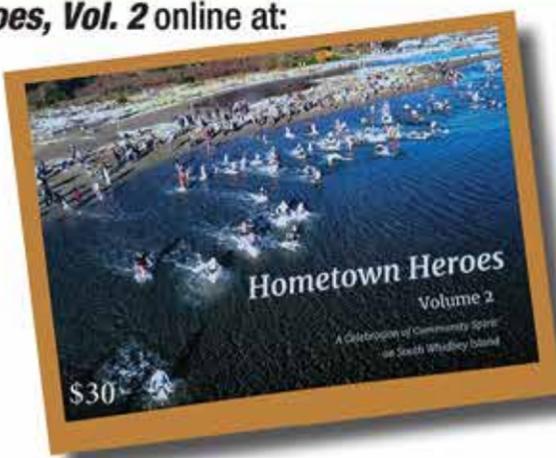
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**THE SALMON TASTE TEST**

The rich oils and tender, flakey texture of a Pacific salmon fillet is just the beginning of why we humans love to eat salmon. Whether it's a simple recipe of salt, lemon pepper and a light drizzle of melted real butter or a well-kept family secret homemade seafood rub, when cooked with care, salmon is at the top of most seafood lovers' list.

Salmon was traded and shared with early pioneers and explorers like Lewis and Clark by Native Americans as early as 1804. It was reported that the salmon of old was just as delicious then as it is today. In the mid 1800s, California's coastline was dominated by commercial salmon fishing operations. The commercially caught salmon boom was on the same level as the gold rush, and soon modern pressure cooking canneries had taken the place of barrels of salted fish for long term preservation. Canneries stretched from California to Alaska, processing and distributing millions of tons of native (wild) salmon. Heavy fishing pressure took a devastating toll on the native runs of salmon.

Today the battle over wild vs. hatchery salmon is big money and under heavy regulations, it is a race between science and sustainability. Some scientific researchers portray wild salmon as far superior over hatchery-released salmon in both stamina and taste. I was raised to believe in science; however, isn't science a series of documented, hopeful experiments, where the final outcome is not always 100 percent correct? To me, wild salmon sustainability is the hard outcome to achieve. The demand for salmon is high here in the United States and around the world, not only for the outstanding taste but the healthy Omega-3 oils the salmon produce.

I took a vacation to Mexico a few years ago and at the Benihana-style restaurant we dined at, in addition to medallion sized chunks of steak and chicken, we were served wonderfully cooked morsels of seasoned salmon. Who would have guessed salmon in Mexico? This leads me to ask the question, was that savory cookie-sized piece of salmon from a wild or hatchery fish? It would not have made any difference; the fish was just plain great.

Here in the Puget Sound, we are blessed to have both wild and hatchery salmon and given a taste test, 99.99 percent of the anglers and seafood lovers would not be able to tell an equally prepared wild sample of fish from the hatchery salmon. Pacific hatchery salmon DO NOT grow to adults in rearing ponds and pens. Hatchery salmon are carefully monitored and fed, then strategically released after 90 days of rearing to give the young fish a fighting chance against predators and avoid interference with wild fish that will be present. I believe there are no true native Chinook salmon in our rivers; unfortunately, their fate was sealed in the mid 1800s. That is the biggest reason I feel the anti-hatchery organizations and groups of people are way off the mark when they condemn hatchery salmon. I do believe varying amounts of native salmon DNA remain in some of our Puget Sound Chinook, but prove it to me, and prove to me that the same varying amount of native DNA is not in some hatchery fish as well.

A huge deal is made each year about the Wild Alaska Copper River sockeye runs and how good they taste, but is it true or is it just good advertising? A minimum of 13 percent of the Copper River Sockeye are returning hatchery fish; 35 million sockeyes are released by the Gulkana River Hatchery that feeds into the Copper River. The majority of the returning Copper River sockeye are caught commercially and sold as wild salmon. Does the word "wild" really make a difference? Could you tell the difference by taste alone? I'm betting not.

For years, hatcheries here in Washington have removed the adipose fin from the young hatchery salmon prior to releasing them into the rivers as a way of identifying hatchery vs. wild fish being caught. RIGHT THERE is enough proof that in the end, hatchery fish are just as precious and appreciated as a perceived wild salmon. Well managed hatchery fish are very sustainable and fantastic table fare!

The wonderful lore of salmon fishing can't truly be explained, it's a fantastic feeling that's caused by hours spent on the crisp-smelling Puget Sound and Pacific Ocean, or navigating a drift boat down the great rivers of the Pacific Northwest and creating lasting memories with friends and family. I feel the disappointment of "no fishing allowed announcements" and the hard truth of low salmon returns, and the burning desire to bring back lost opportunities. Why does it seem we are stalemated on salmon recovery? I think it is because of groups who deny the recovery power of hatchery programs. If the anti-hatchery folks' goal is nothing but wild fish, I'm sorry - you will need to turn back time to the year 1800. However, here are some realistic suggestions from this avid angler: Stop pressuring the non-fishing politicians for hatchery closures by filing lawsuits; stop claiming to be nonprofit when millions of dollars are collected to push lawsuits and from out of court lawsuit settlements; why not fully fund well managed salmon and steelhead hatcheries of your choice? Spend some of your lawsuit winnings to positively prove there are still true native Chinook salmon swimming in the Pacific. Then we can clarify "wild." Why not use some of that lawsuit energy to stop clipping the adipose fins from all hatchery released salmon? "Wild fish" dominance would quickly become what you seek. Be sure to look yourself in the mirror and accept the science: Your anti-hatchery pursuits remove food from the oceans which contributes to the deaths of young orca whales. Hatcheries are not to blame for the loss of native salmon, period. Great numbers of salmon are absolutely possible and could be sustained forever. How to achieve this is what we currently can't seem to agree on.

Cold weather is here to stay for a while so if a weekend trip to the lake is planned, bundle up, go slow, and Good Luck fishing! Have a very Merry Christmas, from my family to yours.

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Entertaining guests is a labor of love. Much effort goes into preparing a home for the arrival of friends and family, and that includes planning a menu that will accommodate as many people as possible.

Hosts and hostesses who are looking to take some of the work off of their plates can explore recipes that are less labor-intensive. Slow cookers are the unsung heroes of the kitchen. While busy families often use them to prepare weeknight meals, slow cookers also can be used when cooking for crowds. In such instances, they free up time for party hosts to tackle other jobs.

This recipe for "Sweet Southern Slow-Cooker Ham," courtesy of the National Pork Board and Yummy, utilizes a fully cooked, store-bought ham and some sweet and savory accoutrements. The ham can be served on its own, or be used to create delicious sliders. Since it serves 12, it's the perfect meal for a crowd.

**SWEET SOUTHERN SLOW-COOKER HAM** (Serves 12)

- 1 bone-in fully cooked ham (about 5 1/2 pounds)
- 1 cup apple cider
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/3 cup bourbon (preferably Kentucky)
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup Dijon style mustard
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme

Place the ham in a large slow cooker. Whisk the cider with the brown sugar, bourbon, honey, and mustard. Slowly pour over the ham. Scatter the thyme sprigs into the slow cooker.

Cook on high for 4 hours or on low for 8 hours, or until very tender. Remove ham to rest on a cutting board. Pass the remaining cooking liquid through a fine mesh sieve into a saucepan. Simmer for 10 minutes or until slightly reduced. Cut the ham into chunks or slices. Brush the cut pieces with the cooking liquid before arranging on a platter. Serve warm or at room temperature.



**WEEKLY HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Don't fret, Aries. No news is good news while you're waiting around to hear about something important. Give it a few more days and your waiting time will be over.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
If you are thinking about changing careers, you probably should wait until the holidays are over. No one's mind is on the job these days, so waiting is the wiser move.

**GEMINI – May 22/June 21**  
Consider all sides of a situation before you offer your opinion, Gemini. This way you have the facts and will not inadvertently alienate someone.

**CANCER – June 22/July 22**  
When someone turns to you for help, you do not hesitate to do all that you can, Cancer. Just be sure you do not to overwork yourself. Take on only what you can manage.

**LEO – July 23/Aug 23**  
You've bitten off quite a lot lately, Leo. Fortunately, you have a good support system that can help you out when you need a helping hand. Rely on them as much as necessary.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Take a few days to sit back and rest and recharge. It will afford you an opportunity to plan for the future, as this may be a period of unrest for you.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
You've been placed in a new role and you're loving every minute of it, Libra. Enjoy the moments while they last. This may be what you're meant to do.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, you might want to take it easy and stick close to home for the time being. You need to regroup and focus anew. You can do that more easily without distractions.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, your to-do list might be growing longer, but tackle one thing at a time rather than getting overwhelmed. Reach out to a loved one for assistance.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Success is within reach, Capricorn. Do not be surprised if others are a bit jealous of your accomplishments and want to pull you down. Ignore the naysayers.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
You have a plan but others are not falling in line right now, Aquarius. It may take time before others come around to your way of thinking. Be a little more patient.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
It's a fine balance between work and play right now for you, Pisces. You're tempted to forego all responsibilities, but that wouldn't be smart.



**MOVIE SHOWTIMES**  
12-23-2022 thru 12-29-2022

**AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (PG-13)**  
Friday – Thursday: 2:45pm & 6:30pm

**PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH (PG)**  
Friday – Thursday:  
3:15pm, 5:30pm & 7:45pm

**WHITNEY HOUSTON: I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY (PG-13)**  
Friday – Thursday: 3:45pm & 7:00pm

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**Wednesday, December 28**  
**SVC Women's Basketball vs Big Bend - 7pm**

**Thursday, December 29**  
**SVC Women's Basketball vs Wenatchee Valley - 7pm**

**Friday, December 30**  
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# Oak Harbor Music Festival shares awards with city, *Whidbey Weekly*

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

It's one of the biggest annual events on Whidbey Island, and now the Oak Harbor Music Festival is a statewide award-winning event.

At the Dec. 6 meeting of the Oak Harbor City Council, OHMF president, Cynthia Mason, announced the organization had won two awards recently from the Washington Festival and Events Association. The organization was recognized with a Summit Award for its volunteer program, which Mason presented to the City of Oak Harbor. The other award was in the newspaper/tabloid category, which OHMF won for its full-page advertisement and accompanying news article published in *Whidbey Weekly*, which she presented to publisher Eric Marshall, who is a member of the city council.

Mason, who said the music festival had joined WFEA just this year, submitted applications in three categories and won in two of them.

"It's such an honor to be recognized by such a well-rounded, diverse and inclusive organization as WFEA," she told *Whidbey Weekly* via email, adding how pleased she is to be able to refer to the music festival as an award-winning event.

"It makes me feel so proud of what has been accomplished, well, it brings tears to my eyes, literally," she said. "It's amazing."

The Oak Harbor Music Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Mason said she wanted to share the organization's award for its volunteers with the city because it is the community that makes the festival possible.

"The volunteer recognition is the community of Oak Harbor - I couldn't think of a better house to keep it in than City Hall," she said. "It takes a village."

Every year, OHMF recruits more than 200 volunteers to help pull off the three-day event.

"The Oak Harbor Music Festival could not happen without the volunteers that have shown up year-over-year, demonstrating pride in and their ownership not only of the festival, but of their of their home - Oak Harbor, on beautiful Whidbey Island," she said. "It's a magical place and our visitors know how welcomed they are to enjoy historical downtown for the Labor Day weekend."

Winning awards is great, according to Mason,



Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Music Festival

Volunteers are what helps make the Oak Harbor Music Festival happen each year. More than 200 people volunteer each year to help with the three-day event.

but the music festival has seen increasing success over its 10-year history. That has made it both easier to recruit talent to perform at the festival and more difficult to choose among the applicants.

"Larry Mason, director and chair of music and stages, has become so impressed with not only how many submissions he receives but the caliber of talent is such a compliment," said Mason. "The Oak Harbor Music Festival has grown into a wonderful weekend long event - I can't wait to see what the next 10 years brings."

The WFEA is a statewide organization with members who put on events of all sizes. Mason said she is sure there is much to learn from its many members.

"All members of WFEA learn from each other," she said. "They host a three-day conference full of seminars and workshops that bring education, conversation and ideas from all areas of event planning and for all vendors involved."

For now, it's time to start looking ahead.

"The board has wrapped up 2022 and has set a date in January to host its strategic planning session," said Mason. "They've completed two five-year plans and now will look to the future and set goals for the next five to 10 years."

Find more information and learn how to get involved at oakharborfestival.com. To learn more about the Washington Festival and Events Association, visit wfea.org.



Photo Courtesy of City of Oak Harbor

Oak Harbor Music Festival president, Cynthia Mason, shares an award the organization won for its volunteer program with the Oak Harbor City Council.

# Season's Greetings

**Happy Holidays**

Thanks for supporting our small business in 2022  
After Christmas Customer Appreciation Sale

**Monday 12/26/22 - Sunday 1/8/23**

**Week One - 25% Off Holiday Merchandise & 15% off Candles & Handbags**

**Week Two - 30% Off Holiday Merchandise & 15% off Pillows and Mugs**

Open 11am - 5pm. Closed Tuesdays

**SeaGlass Cove**  
221 2nd St. #8 Langley  
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Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

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RETIREMENT & ASSISTED LIVING

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Have A Safe & Merry Christmas

From Safe Harbor Agency

Mary Elizabeth Himes  
360-675-6663  
mary@safeharbor-whidbey.com  
www.safeharbor-whidbey.com

#mamabearinsurancelady

Wishing You A Holiday Full Of Sweet Memories And Traditions!

**Chris's BAKERY**  
A Family Tradition Continues

1025 NE 7th Ave • 360-675-6500 • chrisbakerywhidbey.com



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

A huge holiday light display welcomes visitors from 5 to 10 p.m. every night at the intersection of Hastie Lake and West Beach Roads.

## LIGHTS continued from page 2

horses on our gazebo today.) Each year she would add an additional figure or two. Approximately 10 years ago, we moved the Christmas collection to our home on Hastie Lake. The extra space that we have here has allowed us to continue to expand the display."

While the family has never actually counted the number of bulbs, there are well over 100 lighted displays, so Lauren estimates there are likely well over 100,000 LED bulbs. Depending on weather, it takes about a week to 10 days for the family to set everything up each year. Lights go on every evening from 5 to 10 p.m. starting on Thanksgiving and ending Christmas Eve with a grand finale featuring Santa, his elves and sometimes a special guest, like the Grinch.

One might think the lighting bill for all these blazing bulbs would be astronomical, but that's not the case.

"The displays that we use are 100 percent LED lights which, besides their bright and colorful appearance, are extremely energy efficient," Lauren said. "Over the Christmas season, our light display uses roughly the same amount of energy as the typical hot water heater. In that respect, the lights do affect our power bill. On the other hand, we like to think of how they affect our neighbors. One touching moment recently, a neighbor with tears in her eyes thanked us for the happiness she found simply strolling through our display. That's the affect that counts."

Each year brings a little something new. There's an added path in the display this year that invites people to stroll through a lighted forest path adorned with hanging globes and whimsical forest creatures – including a peek-a-boo-playing moose. It is well worth getting out of the car and checking out.

"We always try to keep it fresh. A little different," said Lauren. "This leads to growth every year, but we never 100 percent know how things are going to come out until we are out there getting it put together. This year we experimented with a small area for children (and adults) that they could enter and immerse themselves in the display. It's been well-received and will probably become a permanent offering."

Lauren said her mom, Debra, likes to think of their holiday light display as a gift to their neighbors, and based on its popularity, to the

Whidbey community in general. It's a gift the family loves sharing.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their kindness. Each year, we receive more and more expressions of gratitude — some very personal," Lauren shared. "If you stop by and experience something that strikes a chord from your past or perhaps you find a momentary escape from the present, I can assure you that you are not alone."

There are plenty of light displays up and down Whidbey Island. While we don't have a map of prime central and south Whidbey locations at our disposal, we discovered one popular spot in Clinton that not only features lots of lights, but they are set to music.

The display by Jaimy and Tracy Brown is the third house on the right on Hinman Drive, in Clinton. Lights are on from about 4:30 to 9 p.m. each evening. The display features several handmade holiday figurines of characters like Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the Grinch, along with thousands of lights.

"Our display started eight years ago with a 20-foot, Seahawks-themed tree and has grown and evolved over the years," said Jaimy. "My husband, Tracy, started watching the 'Great Christmas Light Fight' and that's how it all began. Together we have made each of the figurines that are in the yard; they are all made out of plywood that we cut out and painted. Our display has evolved from regular Christmas lights to LED and now we have added RGB smart pixel lights."

Music has been a fairly recent development for the Browns. The first several years there was no music at all, then they played music through their stereo speakers which were placed on their deck. Now the lights are set in time to the music, which is being broadcast via radio.

"This year we have it set up to a radio station, 88.7," said Jaimy. "There are currently 14 songs which last about 40 minutes; there is a little country, some rock and good old fashioned Christmas music."

Jaimy told *Whidbey Weekly* they were still making final adjustments to the display last week, even after the lights were on, due to the added complexity of the music.

"It is very complicated to get the lights set to music and this year with the added RGB set up, it took a little longer because Tracy had to get the two different systems to talk," she explained. "The two systems we have are Light-O-Rama and RGB Smart Pixels. He has now maxed out his computer memory so we will probably have to purchase a new computer before next year's display."

Jaimy said her favorite part of all this is putting it together as a family.

"Our adult daughters as well as our two young grandsons help," she said. "Their help consists of stringing lights and running cords to picking songs, which is why not all the songs are Christmas."

No matter how you celebrate the season, there is still plenty of time to load everyone in the car, grab some hot chocolate to sip and explore the sights and sounds of the holidays, Whidbey-style. Drive carefully and enjoy the lights!



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Visitors to the holiday light display on Hastie Lake Road in Oak Harbor can stroll along a wooded path and greet some of Santa Claus' woodland friends.

# Life Tributes

## Eliaser Loera



Eliaser Loera was born Oct. 29, 1963, in Michoacan, Mexico to Rosa Arroyo and his father Eliaser Loera. Eliaser was the oldest of three brothers. He was raised in Compton, Calif.

Eliaser started working at the young age of 8 years old to provide for his mother and his two younger brothers. He was in 9th grade when he left school to work full time in the fields, picking cherries, cucumbers, and broccoli.

He wanted to give his family a better life, so he moved them to Washington state.

A few years later, Eliaser was hired to repair vinyl on yachts. His work would send him to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., to work on boats. One day, one of his coworkers mentioned to him how beautiful Whidbey Island (Oak Harbor) was. He immediately decided he wanted to move his family to Oak Harbor! He did just that! When he first arrived in Oak Harbor, he stopped at a 7-11, bought a newspaper and searched for a home for him and his family. He found and bought a trailer, which Eliaser and his wife repaired.

Eliaser and his family attended a Christian church and met the Tercero family. The Tercero family was a big blessing to us. Shortly after, he started his own detailing business. He was a very hardworking man who knew how to do it all. If he did not know how to fix something, he would learn. His dream was always to open a restaurant.

After being in Oak Harbor for a few years, he bought a taco truck and started his dream with his family! The day before he was going to open his taco truck, he suffered an accident (he was electrocuted) and had to postpone the opening of his taco truck until the week after, as he needed surgery. The day of his surgery he left the hospital and went straight to help his family work at the taco truck.

Soon after, business was booming and after five months Eliaser was able to find a location to open his taqueria. He spent the next three months building everything he needed to open his restaurant. He always wanted to do more and have more for his family. His life was filled with love, adventure, friends, family, community, and service. He had many new ideas and goals!

He loved taking his grandchildren to get ice cream and to the park! He enjoyed doing this very much and loved spending quality time with them. Everywhere he went, he would make new friends; they loved him! He loved helping the community and always gave back to the community. He loved to laugh and tell jokes and was known for always having a beautiful big smile on his face!

He had many dreams to accomplish, yet his time was cut short. He left a GREAT legacy and strong family behind that will continue where he left off.

His heart will always be in Oak Harbor! His laugh, his smile, and his presence filled this community and our family with love!

Eliaser passed away Nov. 16, 2022, at the age of 59 and left behind a beautiful, supportive wife, children, and grandchildren.

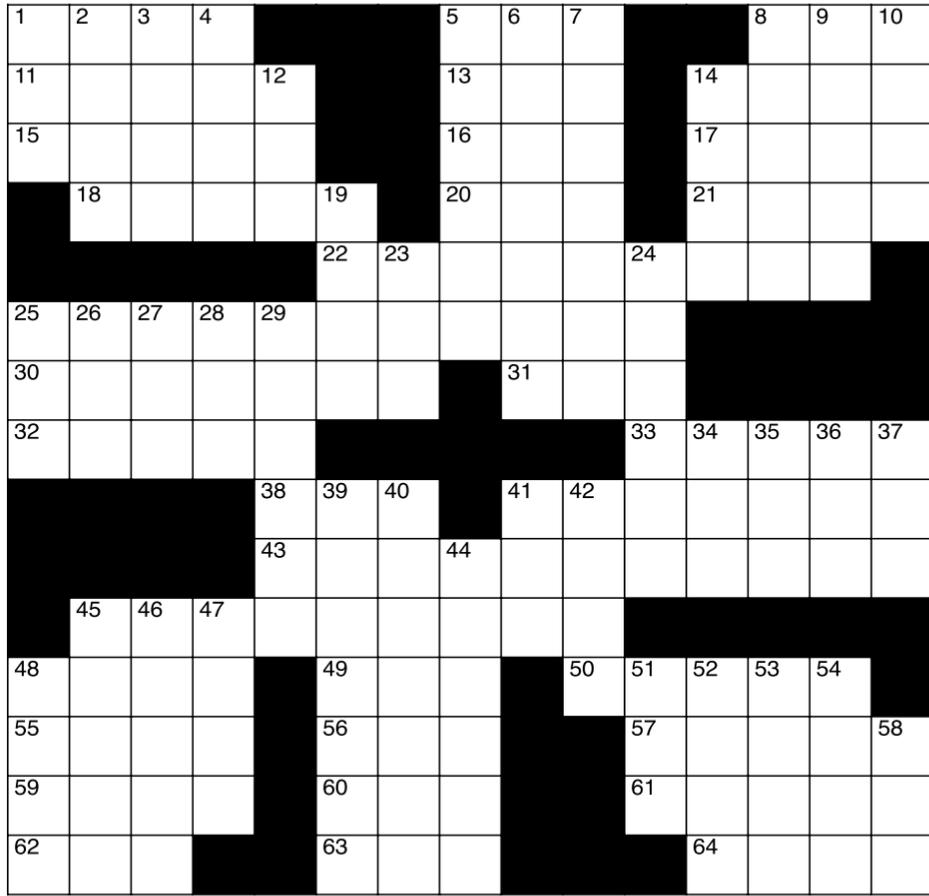
**Life Tributes can now be found online at [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com)**

## Foster Homes Needed!

Family Tails Dog Rescue needs foster homes! We can't save dogs from high kill shelters without homes for them to stay at while they wait to find their forever home. 1 week to 3 months, a fun and rewarding way to be involved with rescue and also have a dog without the full time commitment. We pay for everything, you just provide the love and the home. Please call 360-969-2014 for more info or for an application.



# Crossword Puzzle



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Touch lightly
- 11. Relating to bees
- 13. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 14. Mosuo culture religion
- 15. Italian village
- 16. Stiff bristle
- 17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
- 18. Cause to lose courage
- 20. Examines animals
- 21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Having easily perceived thoughts
- 30. Removed surgically
- 31. Principle underlying the universe
- 32. Popular airline
- 33. Antelopes
- 38. Peacock network
- 41. Utter repeatedly
- 43. One from the Golden State
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Father

49. Popular BBQ dish

- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Atomic mass unit
- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. Indian mythological figure
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Brew
- 63. Doctor of Education
- 64. Impudence

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. State attorneys
- 2. Imitated
- 3. Latvian capital
- 4. Irish goddess
- 5. Taste
- 6. Dried
- 7. Spanish saloon
- 8. Mother of Perseus
- 9. Evergreen coniferous trees
- 10. Refuse to comply
- 12. Negative
- 14. Hyphen
- 19. A way to record
- 23. Not good

24. One who tends the furnace

- 25. Small amount
- 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. The whole quantity
- 28. \_\_ King Cole, musician
- 29. One's opinion
- 34. Holds ashes
- 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
- 36. Side-blotched lizards genus
- 37. Legislator (abbr.)
- 39. Concentrated bombardment
- 40. Took for oneself
- 41. Nigerian City
- 42. Thousands of pounds
- 44. Inspired
- 45. Secret clique
- 46. Expression
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Comedian Carvey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resistance fighters
- 58. Criticize

Answers on page 15

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

<p>Thurs, Dec. 22</p> <p>North Isle H-27°/L-23° Cloudy and Cold</p> <p>South Isle H-22°/L-17° Cloudy and Cold</p>	<p>Fri, Dec. 23</p> <p>North Isle H-38°/L-36° AM Rain with Ice PM Rain</p> <p>South Isle H-35°/L-34° AM Rain with Ice PM Rain</p>	<p>Sat, Dec. 24</p> <p>North Isle H-48°/L-47° Windy with Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-46°/L-42° Windy with Showers</p>	<p>Sun, Dec. 25</p> <p>North Isle H-50°/L-47° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-50°/L-46° Showers</p>	<p>Mon, Dec. 26</p> <p>North Isle H-51°/L-45° Rain</p> <p>South Isle H-48°/L-44° Rain</p>	<p>Tues, Dec. 27</p> <p>North Isle H-52°/L-46° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-49°/L-43° Showers</p>	<p>Wed, Dec. 28</p> <p>North Isle H-51°/L-44° Windy and Rainy</p> <p>South Isle H-48°/L-41° Windy and Rainy</p>
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## OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the coolest gift you have ever given?



**Berkeley P.**, Oak Harbor

I gave roller skates to my mom last Christmas. Now we go roller skating all the time together.

**Olivia A.**, Oak Harbor

The coolest gift that I have ever given is a ginormous KitKat bar because my teacher really liked it, which made me feel really happy on the inside.



**Kiara H.**, 5th grade, Oak Harbor

The best physical gift I have given was when I wrote a poem for my teacher for Teacher Appreciation Day. To give a gift or to receive one is a form of a good deed, but not the only form. Giving a gift is much different from other good deeds. To give something can be done halfheartedly and sometimes not at all. To give, on the other hand, is quite different. It is not exactly something to gloat about, nor is it something to play around and laugh about. Normally, this form of a good deed is under-emphasized or forgotten about. If you don't mean a physical object, then this question is easy to answer. Helping a few friends who are struggling with

schoolwork or yelling at the person who makes fun of one of my friends is not something done in vain. And if people consider that a gift then, sure, that's the greatest 'gift' I've ever given.

**Strummer Z.**, 5th grade, Oak Harbor

The coolest gift I've ever given was to my grandma. It was a Facebook Portal video chat machine so we could stay in touch when we moved.



## CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...4.1

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

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

Answers on page 15

# Community Bulletin Board

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lions clubs are volunteers serving our community through various projects. Come and visit us at one of our meetings – both meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. North Whidbey Lions meet at noon at the VFW Post, 3037 Goldie Rd. in Oak Harbor. Oak Harbor Lions meet at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 155 NE Ernst St. in Oak Harbor. LIONS motto is "WE SERVE." This is an opportunity to help your neighbors and have fun doing it.

Think you may be pregnant? Stop by Whidbey Island Women's Clinic for free pregnancy testing. We are also here to support our community with diapers, formula, baby clothes, and more. All our services are free. Open Tue and Thu, 10am-4pm, and Wed, noon-7pm. Located 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@bbbsislandcounty.org](mailto:admin@bbbsislandcounty.org) for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the

**How'd you do?**

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

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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 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**

Landscaping/Handyman required by elderly couple located in Langley, 2-3 days per week, 8-10 hours per day – you choose the days. Pay is

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D	A	R	D			F	T	C		D	A	B				
A	P	I	A	N		L	O	A		D	A	B	A			
S	E	G	N	O		A	W	N		A	N	I	L			
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						A	B	O	L	I	S	H	E	S		
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A	B	L	A	T	E	D			D	A	O					
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						C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	N
						C	A	M	E	R	A	M	E	N		
D	A	D	A			R	I	B		S	A	B	E	R		
A	B	A	S			A	M	U			A	I	L	E	D	
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A	L	E				E	D	D			S	A	S	S		

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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**

Dried, seasoned firewood for sale, \$130 cord. OH, 360-770-0262 (1)

**ANIMALS/SUPPLIES**

Good quality round bales for horses, \$80; also feeder quality bales, \$70. 360-321-16244  
 If you or someone you know needs help in feeding pet(s), WAIF Pet Food Banks may be able to help. Pet Food Banks are located at WAIF thrift stores in Oak Harbor (465 NE Midway Blvd) and Freeland

(1660 Roberta Ave) and are generously stocked by donations from the community. If you need assistance, please stop by.

**WANTED**

**WANTED: We buy running or not! We recycle cars, trucks, motorhomes, travel trailers, motorcycles, boats, tractors, dump trucks and much more. Free estimates on junk removal and junk vehicle removal. TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363**

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

**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.**

**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

US Postal Mail

**Whidbey Weekly Classified Department**  
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 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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

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

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